Blue Peter goes live from The John Rylands Library
Manchester is recognised not only as the home of the Industrial Revolution, but also as a major player in the cultural Enlightenment which occurred around the same time.

The connectivity between the humanities and sciences in that great leap forward in history was crucial, and it remains just as essential today.

This connectivity is illustrated by the late Steve Jobs, Chief Executive Officer of Apple, who said: “It's in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough – it's technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the results that makes our hearts sing.”

And only last year, Google said that it hoped to recruit around 4-5,000 humanities graduates, because as Vice-President of Consumer Products Marissa Mayer said, they are: “People who are smart and get things done.”

Recently however, it may not have seemed like that, as the humanities have faced difficult external pressures, and have had to engage in serious self-reflection. Furthermore, at times, the external perception of The University of Manchester is of a science-driven institution.

Arguably, the former has been necessary, but the latter is mistaken. To be successful, to deliver our ambitious 2020 vision, we must nurture a broad range of strong disciplines, and to find ways to stimulate interaction between them.

There has been much discussion recently about threats facing the humanities, but much of this debate has been unduly pessimistic.

A spate of books, articles and blogs have proclaimed that universities are in danger of losing their souls as a consequence of an alleged decline of the humanities, evidenced by the closure of a few courses here and there.

There is no doubt that the shift in funding of humanities’ teaching in the UK presents a challenge. From the autumn of 2012, undergraduate students will pay more for their degrees, though fees can be financed by a Government loan scheme.

Initially this shift in policy appeared as a grave threat, but while student recruitment data continues to be volatile, we are confident of recruiting excellent students.

Some disciplines may need to make adjustments to meet student demand, and some may not survive at every university in their current size and shape, but the predicted 'Bonfire of the Humanities’ will not happen – and certainly not here at The University of Manchester.

Several years ago we responded to student demand by expanding student numbers in some areas of the humanities, but an unintended consequence of this has been the impact on the experience of some students and some staff.

We are now working very hard indeed to enhance the student experience and to recapture the learning and teaching culture that is the bedrock of humanities’ disciplines.

We are carefully managing down student numbers on some programmes, and we are investing in additional academic staff. Over 75 new colleagues are being recruited by the Faculty of Humanities in the current academic session, including 20 staff specifically targeted at areas with high ratios of students to staff, and funded by over £1 million of University investment.

In Economics alone, 11 new members of staff will be appointed. Meanwhile, we are engaged in extensive enhancement to the teaching estate and associated facilities. We are about to start the first stage of a major project to refurbish the Manchester Business School, while the new Alan Gilbert Student Learning Commons will open this autumn.

In research, we are responding with energy and imagination to the impact agenda which offers a great opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of the humanities to the world in which we all live.

Our initiatives around ageing (Manchester Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Research on Ageing), and the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute's agenda, are only a small part of the exciting story we have to tell.

Meanwhile, colleagues are continuing to produce an extraordinary range of important and internationally acclaimed books, articles and essays.

The Faculty of Humanities here at this University, is the largest and most diverse community of its kind in the UK, and one of the largest and most talented in Europe.

It spans 36 disciplines, and while we must always focus resources on areas of excellence and distinction, this breadth brings great strengths. We are in the midst of forming the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures which will work more closely with The John Rylands Library, The Whitworth Art Gallery and The Manchester Museum.

Its explicit mission will be to make Manchester one of the great centres of arts teaching and research in the world, which will interact with other areas of strength and impact across the University and with leading centres across the world.

At Manchester we are excited by, and confident in, the future of the humanities.

President and Vice-Chancellor, 
Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell
Professor Keith Brown, 
Vice-President and Dean, Faculty of Humanities
Blue Peter sails in

The BBC's long-running children's TV show Blue Peter celebrated World Book Day by broadcasting live from the University's renowned John Ryland's Library on Deansgate.

The programme was presented by CBBC stars Barney Harwood and Helen Skelton, who waxed lyrical about the Historic Reading Room's amazing interior.

It featured some of the treasures of the Rylands' collection – including a first folio of Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies. Helen leafed through a 500-year-old edition of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and Barney showed off the miniscule 6mm by 6mm Lords Prayer edition.

They also revealed the winner of the Blue Peter Book Award, 'The Considine Curse' by Gareth P Jones, and announced the best children's book of the last ten years, 'Diary of a Wimpey Kid' by American author Jeff Kinney.

University Librarian and Director of The John Rylands Library, Jan Wilkinson, said: “We were delighted to welcome Blue Peter to film here for World Book Day.

“It gave us the chance to experience a live broadcast which was new to us – and very exciting – and to think about our appeal to our younger audience. We were keen to appear as much more than just a beautiful library and to show some of our treasures off.”

To see the show search for Blue Peter at:

www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer

Manchester wins University Challenge

The University of Manchester team has won this year's University Challenge competition, the third time it has lifted the trophy.

The Manchester quartet beat Pembroke College, Cambridge, by 180-135 in a dramatic final and received their trophy from HRH Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, at a special presentation ceremony held at Clarence House to mark the 50th anniversary of the show.

The Manchester team - coached by Stephen Pearson from the Library - includes 24-year-old Luke Kelly, studying for a PhD in History; 21-year-old Michael McKenna from Lytham St Annes, studying Biochemistry; Paul Joyce, 48, from Chorley, doing a Masters in Social Research Methods and Statistics, and their captain Tristan Burke, studying English Literature.

Tristan, 22, said: “It was a great honour to go to Clarence House and we were also given a tour of St James's Palace and the Chapel Royal. The Duchess seemed to know quite a lot about the programme, and said she had enjoyed watching the final.”
Tadpole researcher wins Westminster Medal
Nicholas Love, a post-doctoral researcher at the Healing Foundation Centre, has won the Science Engineering and Technology (SET) for Britain poster competition in the House of Commons.
Nicholas, 29, presented his biology research to dozens of politicians and a panel of expert judges, competing against 170 other shortlisted scientists.
The SET for Britain competition aims to help politicians understand more about the UK’s thriving science and engineering base and rewards some of the strongest scientific and engineering research being undertaken in the UK.

Fiona appointed Australian Government advisor
A University sociologist has been appointed as an international advisor to the Australian Government.
Professor Fiona Devine, Head of the School of Social Sciences, will be a member of the education and human society committee for The Australian Research Council, the statutory authority within the Australian Government’s Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio.
She is one of 147 distinguished researchers to assess and report on the quality of research in Australia as part of the 2012 Excellence in Research for Australia evaluations.

Shedding light on ancient secrets at the Royal Society
The University’s Palaeontology Research Group has been invited to present at this year’s Royal Society Summer Exhibition.
The School of Earth, Environmental and Atmospheric Science team will be showcasing its research exploring how fossils possess secrets encoded in their chemistry.
They have used some of the brightest x-ray light sources in the world to image, analyse and reconstruct the chemical traces of prehistoric life.
You can follow the team’s progress following its blog:
http://x-ray-imaging.tumblr.com/

Bachir nurtures green shoots back home
A PhD student from the Sustainable Consumption Institute has hit the headlines back home in Burkina Faso, thanks to his work educating the country’s young people on environmental issues.
Bachir Ouedraogo, who has been researching the impact of renewable energy and climate change on the built environment in his West African homeland, is also interested in the protection of the environment and education on green issues.

He has founded OPEN, a non-government organisation (NGO) committed to providing online resources such as course work and open software to students who do not have regular internet access.
And he advises Greenschool – another NGO founded in 2011 to promote and develop environmental education – on green technology issues for primary school students.
The 32-year-old, a recipient of a Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin scholarship, who will be one of the first graduates from the SCI’s Centre for Doctoral Training programme, said: “We want pupils to get the right habits of sustainable living while they are still at a young age.”

University academics honoured by the Queen
The Queen presented the University with an award in recognition of the quality of its work in the nuclear field at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.
President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Nancy Rothwell led a delegation of senior academics, senior officers and a group of PhD students to receive a Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education for the Dalton Nuclear Institute – the University’s world-leading nuclear research centre.
The prize recognises and celebrates winners’ outstanding work, which is making a real and practical impact for the benefit of human progress.
The Dalton Nuclear Institute was established in 2005 and boasts a broad range of education programmes, and outstanding nuclear research capabilities alongside more than fifteen strategic partnerships with international industry and academia.
Renowned poet makes his mark

A new mural poem by renowned writer Lemn Sissay – celebrating the virtues of peace and quiet – has been unveiled at University Place. ‘Let There Be Peace’ (Manchester 2012) is part of the award-winning Manchester poet’s ‘Poems As Landmarks’ project. Others poems include ‘Hardy’s Well’, inscribed on to the pub of the same name, ‘Flags’, laid over a mile on Tib Street, and ‘Rain’ on Oxford Road.

The latest addition, which spans 15 metres of wall space, was funded by alumni through the Your Manchester Fund, which supports projects across campus to enrich the student experience.

Lemn Sissay said: “‘Let There Be Peace’ stands with my Landmark Poems as testament to the creativity and pride of a world class city with a world class University.” The Landmark poems can be seen at the web address below:

www.lemnsissaylandmarks.com

Priceless Jewish treasure to cross the Atlantic

A 14th century Jewish religious book, preserved by experts at The John Rylands Library, is to be hand delivered to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where it will go on show.

The masterpiece will feature in a special installation called ‘Rylands Haggadah: Medieval Jewish Art in Context’.

The treasure will be flown to the United States accompanied by Rylands’ conservator Steve Mooney, who spent eight months securing the areas of pigment and gold leaf which had started to crack and flake, working at the microscope only two to three hours a day to maintain the high level of concentration needed.

He said: “This has been a fascinating job – and I got a real sense of achievement when I’d finished. But it was a bit nerve-wracking: one slip of the hand and you could remove a fragment of gold leaf or pigment by mistake.”

The Haggadah will also be available as a narrated eBook facsimile this spring thanks to the Rylands’ digitisation team.
Twelve leading figures from the Chinese gay and lesbian community told how they were free to express their sexuality back home, contrary to popular Western belief, at a University event believed to be the first of its kind in the UK.

The activists, academics and filmmakers shared their experience with European counterparts at the Europe-China Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Exchange organised by Dr William Schroeder from the Centre for Chinese Studies (CCS).

Though homosexuality used to fall under general anti-hooliganism laws in China, it was decriminalised in 1997 and delisted as a mental illness in 2001.

Becky in TV SOS (Save Our Sloths)

A University Zoology student will feature in a TV documentary about her research into the slow-moving, strange – and ultimately mysterious – sloth.

Becky Cliffe, in her final year at the Faculty of Life Sciences, has been studying the creatures at the Sloth Sanctuary in Costa Rica – a small centre dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of the two species of sloth found in the Central American country.

Very little is known about sloths – even the most basic knowledge, such as their natural diet, is still largely a mystery – so the sanctuary has struggled with trying to conserve an animal without knowing anything about it.

The sanctuary invited Becky to carry out research into sloth biology and behaviour in the hope that this would be a first step towards being able to release some sloths back into the wild.

Now Becky has featured in a documentary, ‘Meet the Sloths’, currently running on the Animal Planet and Discovery Channel in the UK.

Becky (pictured) said: “Considering so little is known about basic sloth biology, we were in the lucky position finding out some really exciting things and the secrets behind their slow way of life!”

“It was a fantastic experience that has now paved the way for my PhD on wild sloths which will be starting in September.”

To find out more visit:

www.slothsanctuary.com/welcome/
Whistling tribe rewrites rules of language

A remote Amazonian tribe has rewritten the rules of human language and the relationship between culture, thinking and happiness, according to renowned Professor of Linguistics Dan Everett.

Dan - who spent 30 years with the 400 Pirahã people who live in four villages beside the Maici River, a tributary of the Amazon - told a public lecture at the University how the Pirahã are the world’s only people who lack number words or any concept of counting.

They also have no past tense, no way of describing colours, or concept of the ancient past or distant future, and can communicate by whistling, humming and singing.

Dan, who previously taught at the University before returning to the United States, is one of only three outsiders who can speak Pirahã.

“The Pirahã have no numbers because they don’t need them. It is true they don’t know how many children they have but they know who their children are and how they feel about their children,” he said.

Dan’s lecture was hosted by the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures.

Multimillion-pound health boost for Manchester

Researchers are celebrating after securing £12.5 million of Government funding for clinical research in the city.

Three leading hospital trusts, working closely with the University, have been awarded the money to carry out research into many of the major diseases and illnesses that affect the population of Greater Manchester and the wider North West.

Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will use £5.5 million funding to support studies on arthritis, psoriasis, depression, addiction and diabetes. The Christie NHS Foundation Trust will use £4.5 million funding for early-stage trials of cancer treatments. And University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust will use £2.5 million funding for early-stage trials of treatments for lung diseases such as asthma and also food allergies.

Professor Ian Jacobs, Dean and Vice-President of the University’s Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences and Director of Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC), said the success of the bids reflected the scale of expertise in conducting clinical trials in Manchester’s NHS organisations and the University at MAHSC.

Website gives the word on ancient tomes

A website celebrating The John Rylands Library’s outstanding collection of incunables – books printed before 1501 – has won Best in Class at the Interactive Media Awards.

The First Impressions website – launched in 2011 and funded by the Museums Libraries and Archives Council – makes the Library’s early printed collections more accessible to a variety of audiences.

It tells the story of the ‘explosion of print’ between 1450 and 1500. The invention of movable metal type around 1450 made possible the mass-production of books, which unleashed major social and cultural changes, and was a major factor in the spread of the Reformation. The transformation of information technology in the fifteenth century was just as dramatic as today’s digital revolution.

For more information see: www.manchester.ac.uk/library/firstimpressions

News in brief

Jobs boost for Pakistani students

The University held a careers fair promoting student internships and graduate jobs in Pakistan - one of only four in the UK chosen by the British Council and UK Trade and Investment to host the event.

Organised by the Careers and Employability Division and the International Development Division, the fair attracted more than 350 students from Manchester and featured recruiters like United Energy, L’Oreal, Fatima Group and Siemens.

Head of International Career Development at the Careers Service, Amanda Conway, said: “It was reassuring to learn that employers in Pakistan seek similar qualities and skills to UK employers and that our career messages are therefore relevant to our Pakistani students looking to return home.”

Dan Everett takes a dip in the Maici River

Dan Everett with the different generations of Pirahã
David Miliband grilled by students

Labour MP David Miliband dropped in on University students for a gruelling 90 minute question and answer session.

In an event organised by Politics lecturers and the Politics Student Society, he covered topics as wide ranging as economic policy, the European Union, relations with the United States and the Arab Spring.

He also explained that Labour would not be re-elected until it understood why it lost the General Election and had a clear idea for its future: “Most people say that it wasn’t a great result for the Tories but I think this is dangerous. We need to realise how hard it is to get people to trust you when they voted against you.”

The former Foreign Secretary argued that Britain’s unique position as a ‘global hub’ gives the country leverage to build coalitions in Europe and the United States and warned that military intervention in Syria was a policy fraught with dangers to international stability.

The event was organised by Dr Piers Robinson, Senior Lecturer in politics, and hosted by Professor of Politics Andrew Russell who said: “Our students were given a fantastic insight into the thinking of one of the country’s most important politicians.”

Turing’s sunflowers

Manchester Science Festival is appealing for people to join a mass planting of sunflowers in honour of Alan Turing, as part of a research project led by mathematicians at the University to celebrate his centenary year.

The research aims to continue Turing’s study of mathematical patterns in nature and help solve a riddle that he worked on before his death in 1954.

The project – with growing events at Manchester Museum this month, alongside its ‘Alan Turing and Life’s Enigma’ exhibition – is co-ordinated by Dr Erinma Ochu at the Faculty of Life Sciences, who is working with the Festival team at The Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI).

To find out more contact Erinma at sunflowers@mosi.org.uk or visit:

www.manchestersciencefestival.com
At the helm of UK-China student relations

The University has beaten five top UK universities to continue delivering the Study China Programme, the UK’s largest student mobility enterprise outside of Europe.

The UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) programme was founded as a pilot in Manchester in 2007 and since then has sent over 2,000 students from England, Ireland and Scotland to universities in Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Jinnan and Hangzhou.

Over the years, the focus of the programme has shifted from language and cultural immersion to developing business links and networking, in a bid to promote mobility within the global economy.

Programme Manager Karen Wang said: “Increasing employability is a key factor for students and this new programme, with its emphasis on building business links with China, really reflects that.”

Dental hospital gets a facelift

Manchester’s Dental Hospital has undergone a £2.6 million facelift – with brighter and bigger rooms to make patients feel more at ease during treatment.

The Hospital treats around 90,000 patients a year, including many who do not have access to an NHS dentist.

The majority of the funding has gone on upgrading children’s services with £1.8 million spent in dental paediatrics. A new reception and waiting area has been built, as well as a new sedation suite, recovery room and child-friendly treatment zones.

The casualty unit, which treats emergencies, has new lighting and flooring and refurbished treatment rooms with new dental chairs, while other rooms have been upgraded and air conditioning has been installed.

The overhaul, which has taken two-and-a-half years, was in response to feedback from patients and staff and will mean an enhanced treatment environment for patients and improved working environment for dental staff and students.

Scaling the Devil’s Wall

The Whitworth Art Gallery is hosting the first UK showing of Idris Khan’s new installation ‘The Devil’s Wall’.

The work draws inspiration from rituals and practices of the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca that is one of the pillars of Islam and is undertaken by millions of Muslims each year.

One of the largest pilgrimages in the world, the Hajj is a religious duty that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime by every able-bodied Muslim who can afford to do so.

Khan is exhibiting three new sculptures and a series of drawings based on the ritual until 13 May. Incorporating sculpture, literary texts, drawings and photography, Khan uses repeated actions and texts in his work to explore his own Islamic heritage.

Highlights from the Whitworth’s collection, selected with Idris Khan, are also on display.
Even though the 2012 Olympic Games are taking place in London, their impact is being felt right here in Manchester. Between now and the event this summer we’ll be highlighting the different ways in which the University is getting involved with London 2012.

A heady mix of international art, music, fashion and culture is promised at a series of major events being held in Manchester to celebrate the London 2012 Festival – the finale to the Cultural Olympiad.

The Whitworth Art Gallery and Park, Manchester Art Gallery and Platt Hall (Gallery of Costume) are joining forces to host an exhibition called ‘We Face Forward: Art from West Africa Today’.

The exhibition will include painting, drawing, photography, textiles, sculpture, video and sound work from a wide range of artists whose work is internationally acclaimed, but rarely seen in the UK.

This will be the first time Manchester’s two main art galleries have come together, and with much-loved venue ‘Band on the Wall’ booking the biggest names in West African music, ‘We Face Forward’ promises to be an amazing celebration.

Around 170,000 people are expected to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime cultural extravaganza, with performances in parks and other public spaces around the city as well as at the three host galleries.

The Cultural Olympiad aims to inspire creativity in all forms of art and culture. ‘We Face Forward’ opens on 2 June and runs until 16 September.

To find out more visit:

www.wefacefoward.org

London 2012 beckons for Graeme

University rower Graeme Thomas has emerged as a late contender for the 2012 Olympic Games after an impressive performance at the Great Britain rowing trials.

Graeme finished fifth in the men’s single scull final and now faces further testing before the crews are announced in April, with seven places up for grabs in the men’s sculling squad.

Third-year Biomedical student Graeme, 23, was joined at the trials by another University student, 21-year-old Zak Lee-Green, who finished eighth overall in the 1,900 metres time trial.

Zak, a third-year Dentistry student from Cardiff, said: “In terms of London 2012, I’ll be a spectator of the rowing as opposed to a competitor, but it was a great experience to go out and race against some of the best British athletes.”

Former Manchester student Mike Rock has booked his place at London 2012. At the recent Olympic swimming trials in London, the British record holder made it through in the 100 metres butterfly in a time of 52.02 seconds.
Medical students are being given the chance to hone their bedside manners at a new training facility unveiled at Manchester Medical School (MMS).

The Consultation Skills Learning Centre will give first and second year medical students the chance to train in a variety of clinical settings including hospitals and general practice.

It also features ‘simulated patients’ and patient educators, who tell the students about conditions they may come across in their work.

All of this is aimed at improving consultation skills, as students see the impact illness can have on people's lives and witness good practice of healthcare professionals.

Both students and medical practitioners alike have been inspired by the new Centre. One nurse commented: "I really appreciated the opportunity to tell my story; it was therapeutic for me, and it was worth the emotional effort, as I was very aware of the impact that it had on the students. It was a privilege."

Students on the Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) are on track to raising £3,000 for a range of charities, as part of 'Great Fundraise', a new initiative developed by the Careers and Employability Division.

Students have worked in teams on a variety of sponsored events, including a 24-hour bike ride, a speed dating event and a sponsored leg-wax – on willing male volunteers.

One group raised over £400 for the Genesis Breast Cancer Appeal by hosting a pink-themed club night and a street collection in Fallowfield.

Dentistry student Gemma Chapman said: "This experience opened my eyes to how fun charity work and volunteering can be. I developed good relationships with the charity and will be doing more work with them in the future."

‘Mini hospital’ gives lesson in bedside manners

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How to give your career a kick

More than 250 science students heard how to give their career a kick start at a new employability initiative.

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences students were told to boost their employability and prepare for the job market by gaining work experience and getting involved with programmes such as peer mentoring and volunteering.

Professor Tony Brown, Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, opened ‘Stand Out from the Crowd’, which featured advice from the Careers and Employability Division and Student as Partners Programme. Student feedback was very positive and it is likely the event will be repeated next year.

Slides and videos from the event can be found on: www.eps.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/stand-out-from-the-crowd/
Salford is home to a world first

Salford – once made famous in the Ewan MacColl folk song ‘Dirty Old Town’ – could breathe easy again, thanks to a large-scale drug trial by the University, drug company GlaxoSmithKline and the NHS.

The study will compare a new medicine for lung diseases such as asthma, with those already on the market.

The Salford Lung Study – thought to be the first time people living in one place have been involved in a trial – will involve about 4,000 patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and 5,000 with asthma.

Remains of Manchester tube system unearthed

A mysterious space underneath Manchester’s Arndale shopping centre has been identified as the initial stages of a long forgotten underground railway through the city centre.

The space – forgotten for decades and closed off to the public but rediscovered by Dr Martin Dodge and his co-researcher Richard Brook from the Manchester School of Architecture – is under Topshop, about 30 feet below the surface.

Three underground stations below the Central Library, Whitworth Street and the Market Street-Cross Street junction would have been built, and the mainline train stations of Piccadilly and Victoria would have been connected for the first time, while moving walkways, would have joined Piccadilly Gardens, St Peter’s Square and Oxford Road station.

However the plan was eventually turned down in August 1973 due to a £500 million reduction in public expenditure by Chancellor of the Exchequer Anthony Barber.

Body clocks may hold key for treatment of bipolar disorder

Scientists have gained insight into why lithium salts are effective at treating bipolar disorder in what could lead to more targeted therapies with fewer side-effects.

Bipolar disorder is characterized by alternating states of elevated mood, or mania, and depression. It affects between 1% and 3% of the general population. These ‘mood swings’ have been strongly associated with disruptions in circadian rhythms – the 24-hourly rhythms controlled by our body clocks that govern our day and night activity.

For the last 60 years, lithium salt (lithium chloride) has been the mainstay treatment for bipolar disorder.

For researchers, Dr Qing-Jun Meng, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, said: “Our study has shown a new and potent effect of lithium in increasing the amplitude, or strength, of the clock rhythms, revealing a novel link between the classic mood-stabiliser, bipolar disorder and body clocks.”

Women who fall pregnant while dieting are more likely to have a child that could become obese or diabetic in later life, new research has found.

The study, carried out by University scientists with colleagues in New Zealand and Canada, may also have found a reason why human twins are more likely to develop Type-2 diabetes in adulthood, after the team studied twin lambs.

While the work was carried out in sheep, they suspect the findings may hold true for humans as well, as it revealed a non-genetic way in which the DNA of offspring can be altered.

“We found changes in the structure of DNA in the region of the brain that regulates food intake and glucose resulted in an increased chance of diabetes in adulthood,” said Anne White, Professor of Endocrine Sciences.

“Our findings provide a reason why twins are more likely to get diabetes, but we have also shown that mothers who don’t have enough food around the time of conception may have a child who grows up with an increased risk of obesity.”

Acne drug hope for schizophrenia

An antibiotic for acne is to be tested as a treatment for the symptoms of schizophrenia.

Professor Bill Deakin, from the School of Medicine, is leading a £1.9 million trial of minocycline, which aims to recruit 175 patients in the UK from next month and use brain imaging to find out how it works.

His research follows case reports from Japan, in which the drug was prescribed to patients with schizophrenia who had infections, and led to dramatic improvements in their psychotic symptoms.

Ashley Woodcock, Professor of Respiratory Medicine, said Salford was the ideal place to carry out the study: “This is a world first. For the first time we are going to have an important measure of the lungs of Salford, we are going to see if we can impact on that in a real measurable way, to see if there are any benefits in this type of study.

“Salford is a good place to do a study like this because it has a stable population, so you can monitor people for a long time. Also, asthma and COPD are very common here, it’s generally an urban environment and there has been a lot of pollution.”

Research in brief
Fearsome bite of the T. rex

The Tyrannosaurus Rex had the most powerful bite of any living or extinct terrestrial animal, research has claimed.

Palaeontologists from the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences teamed up with the University of Liverpool, to artificially scale up the skulls of a human, an alligator, a juvenile T. rex and an Allosaurus to the size of an adult T. rex.

In each case the bite forces increased as expected, but they did not increase to the level of the adult T. rex, suggesting that it had the most powerful bite of any terrestrial animal.

Rethink climate change, say top environmental economists

Governments have done so little to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, they should consider investing in the research and development of large scale geo-engineering – that is, climate intervention – projects, say 26 of the world’s leading environmental economists.

Examples could include firing sulphates into the atmosphere, iron fertilisation of the oceans or oceanic ‘heat pipes’.

A ten point consensus, published this month in a book edited by Professors Alistair Ulph and Robert Hahn from the University’s Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI), argues that policymakers should ‘think outside the box’ to tackle climate change.

The power of love

Legal rights and protections play second fiddle to the power of love for younger gay and lesbian couples who have formed civil partnerships, according to a three-year study by University researchers.

Based on in-depth interviews with 100 civil partners below the age of 35, the study finds couples mostly enter into civil partnerships to express the loving nature of their relationship and long-term commitment to each other, their families and friends.

“People’s personalities can change considerably over time, a new study has found, suggesting that leopards may be able to change their spots after all.”

Psychologists from the University and London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) also showed that small positive personality changes may lead to greater increases in happiness than external factors, such as income, marriage, or employment status.

“People’s personalities can, and do, change over time – something that was considered improbable until now – and that these personality changes are strongly related to changes in our wellbeing.”

Previous studies have shown that personality accounts for up to 35% of individual differences in life satisfaction, compared to just 4% for income, 4% for employment status and between 1% and 4% for marital status. However, because it was believed our personalities were fixed, policies to improve wellbeing have focused on these lower-impacting external factors.

Nearly a third of looters punished for taking part in the Manchester and Salford riots in 2011 came from areas with high levels of social deprivation.

University researcher Carly Lightowlers said there was evidence of a ‘clear association’ between poverty levels and the likelihood of being involved in the riots. The proportion of residents involved in the riots was almost five times as high in more deprived areas than in less deprived areas.

Carly, of the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research, found that not a single rioter came from the richest 10% of areas Greater Manchester. In contrast, 26 of those sentenced – just under a third of the study – came from the poorest 10%.

She said: “This does not excuse the behaviour of any individual, they committed a crime and need to be brought to account for that. But we are looking forward at how we prevent this happening again. After all, if you haven’t got a lot to lose, it might seem like less of a risk to join in with rioting and looting.”

Looters were ‘from deprived areas’
Proudlove Graham with his forceps yet another small glass tube containing a specimen from a bottle of alcohol. He’s a happy man and an enthusiastic worker. Everything. Back in the 1970s, he wanted to do postgraduate research after graduation, but only discovered that research was not for me,” he says cheerfully “Getting a 2:2 was the best thing that ever happened to me.”

He probably got a 2:2 because of his passion for caving – and all those fascinating subterranean creatures – fish, beetles, spiders, springtails, flies and, of course, millipedes. That was positive, too. Even now, he is working on a book on British Subterranean Biology, as a follow-up to the book he published in 2006 on the subterranean fishes of the world.

Within six months of leaving in 1979, he was back at the University – as a technician in Zoology with Dr Roger Wood. “I arrived expecting an interview, but I was just introduced to the chief technician, who asked me when I could start,” he says. “I was incredibly lucky. That’s the way they did things then.”

He was also lucky because he got involved in research into mosquito genetics to help combat yellow fever. “That was great for me, because I always wanted to work with insects,” he says. He was “captivated” by them as a schoolboy at Darwen Grammar School and after an A level field course at Malham Tarn in 1974.

“The big difference then, compared with now, is that there were several separate departments in biological sciences,” he says. “There was very little communication between them. Now, after a lot of reorganisation over the years, there’s just one – the Faculty of Life Sciences, which is an amazing place.”

In 1986, computers started to arrive in the University and Graham found that he had an aptitude for them. He was taught the basics by Dr Mike Housman, Keeper of Zoology in the Museum, as it happens (another bit of luck for later). Graham was then working in Environmental Biology and he persuaded Professor John Lee to let him network the department’s computers for the first time.

He evolved in the ’90s into a computer support technician for researchers in Life Sciences and, after a lot of negotiation over a long period, managed to gain recognition and become a Computer Support Officer at UMIST. “I’d been doing the work of a Computer Officer but as a Technician, but with that formal appointment my salary increased by half overnight,” he says. In 1996, he moved from the Computer Support Unit to the Department of Language and Linguistics.

In 2007 he took early retirement, but later he re-connected with the Museum, and the Curator of Arthropods Dmitri Logunov, hence the exciting millipede project. He works in an honorary capacity one day a week. What does he do the rest of the time? Well, at home in Todmorden, where he lives with his long-term partner Silvia Dacre, he can be found happily working on subterranean biology for his new book.

He is a University of Manchester man through and through. “Even when I was applying for university, it had to be Manchester for some reason – I applied for three different courses here, just to make sure,” he says. “Now, it feels a fantastic place to be. The whole place seems much more vibrant and go-ahead since the merger and it really feels like a world class institution. Just walk down Oxford Road to experience this.”

He has made a significant contribution to it – he is credited with coming up with the name University Place for the campus’s iconic building. That’s some legacy.
We often say that the work which takes place at the University makes a difference to the lives of people right across the globe – and Manchester graduate Ethel Nakakawa is living proof of this.

Ethel, who is from Uganda, was a student here at Manchester in 2009, when she completed her MSc in Medical and Diagnostic Virology.

Now she’s returned home and is teaching at Makerere University, where she’s training a new generation of people who will be able to cope with outbreaks of viral diseases in the country.

Said Ethel: “There are a limited number of virologists here so outbreaks of viral diseases usually mean importing expertise, but now I can help reduce this need by training people. I hope to have an impact not just on individuals, but on my whole nation.”

Ethel is just one of those who have been able to make this difference, thanks to the University’s Equity and Merit Scholarships, which help talented students from some of the world’s poorest nations take postgraduate degrees which are unavailable in their home countries.

The scheme was set up by the late Professor Alan Gilbert, the inaugural President and Vice-Chancellor of the University. He believed passionately in education’s role in helping to address ingrained issues of poverty and inequality.

“Producing graduates who will be responsible global citizens is now more critical than ever,” he said in 2009. “So it’s right and proper to invest in skills, knowledge and educational opportunities in the most needy parts of the world.”

Now 83 Scholarship students have undertaken full-time or distance learning Masters degrees, with all successfully completing their courses and several obtaining funding to progress to PhDs.

More than 290 students have also completed undergraduate and postgraduate courses in their home countries, from a healthcare management BSc with HIV/AIDS care charity Mildmay in Uganda, to the first MA in Counselling in Kenya.

They scheme’s success stories include Toufiq Hasan, who now develops education programmes in Bangladesh.

He says: “Leadership skills are very important in achieving qualitative change in education, so I applied for Manchester’s MA in Educational Leadership and School Improvement.

“My class includes students from 12 countries, making it rich in knowledge and experience, and I’m really learning from my teachers’ expertise. I feel privileged to have this Scholarship and have clear plans to use my new knowledge when I go back to my country, to initiate innovations which can also be a model for other organisations.”

The University’s Senior International Officer Joanne Jacobs says: “Students gain knowledge and skills unavailable to them at home, an international perspective and networks for the future. Crucially, they can make a long-term contribution to their home country when they return.

“When students qualify at home, they’re part of a ready-made cluster of people, eager to implement what they’ve learned.”

The University aims to fulfil the aspirations of Professor Gilbert, who died in 2010, and offer 750 Scholarships by 2015. The Alan Gilbert Memorial Fund, donated by alumni, friends, staff and students, now funds an additional scholarship for the most outstanding African applicant each year.

With the scheme’s alumni acting as ambassadors and helping interview new candidates in their home countries, the Scholarships are clearly a two-way street.

“The University gains dedicated students, with significant life experience, who would otherwise be unable to study here,” Joanne concludes. “They enhance the richness of our academic community.”

To donate email: yourmanchesterfund@manchester.ac.uk
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What’s On

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre offers a great day out for all the family. Come and explore the planets using our model of the Solar System. Find answers to the wonders the Universe, listen to the sounds of the Big Bang and discover what the scientists are researching ‘live’ in our interactive Space Pavilion. The glass-walled cafe offers spectacular views of the iconic Lovell telescope and fantastic homemade cakes!

EVENTS

Thurs 19 April, 7.30 – 9pm
Lovell Lecture - Universes
with John D Barrow FRS
Einstein allowed scientists to study entire universes for the first time. Remarkably, every solution of his famous equations describes an entire universe. We will look at some of the unusual universes that Einstein’s equations allow to exist and see which of them is most like the one we see expanding around us today.

Tickets: Adults £7.50 / Conc £5.50 (suitable for 15+)

Tickets from
w w w .internationalsociety.org.uk
allow to exist and see which of them is most like the one we see expanding around us today.

Tickets: Adults £7.50 / Conc £5.50 (suitable for 15+)

Openings times
10am-5pm
For more information and prices please visit our website
Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre
Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DL
01627 571766
www.jodrellbank.net

Gig Guide

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Mon 2 April
Steve Aoki - £14 adv

Tues 3 April
Flux Pavilion – sold out

Wed 4 April
Rick Ross - £30 adv
Ben Montana - £8 adv

Thurs 5 April
Orbital - £24 adv
Other Lives - £10 adv
Endeavours - £6 adv

Fri 6 April
Cher Lloyd – Sold Out

Tues 10 April
Parkway Drive – £14 Adv Doors 6pm
OVER 14s ONLY

Wed 11 April
The Rock Sound Impericon
Exposure Tour - £10 adv
Oli Brown - £12.50 adv

Thurs 12 April
Laibach - £18 adv

Fri 13 April
Andrew UK - £15 adv
Hanky Park - £6 adv
Alyssa Reid - £8 adv

Fri 14 April
The Sunshine Underground - £14 adv

Sun 15 April
Chameleons Vox - £14 adv

Mon 16 April
Dellahl - £9 adv
Twin Atlantic - £12 adv

Tues 17 April
Johnny Get The Gun - £5 adv

Wed 18 April
Philip Sayce - £12.50 adv

Thur 19 April
Dry The River - £8 adv

Fri 20 April
Lost Prophets – Sold Out

Sat 21 April
We Are The In Crowd - £10 adv
Sway - £10 adv

Sun 22 April
Young Jeezy - £33.50 adv
Little Comets - £10 adv
Futures - £8.50 adv

Tues 24 April
Deaf Havana - £10 adv

Wed 25 April
Foster the People – sold out
The Used (moved to HMV Ritz - original tickets still valid)

Thurs 26 April
Miles Kane – sold out
Tracer - £8 adv

Fri 27 April
Paradise Lost - £14.50 adv

Sat 28 April
Marcus Bonfanti - £8 adv
The Clone Roses - £12 adv
Sun 29 April
Mindless Behaviour - £12 adv

Tue 1 May
Tribes - sold out

Fri 4 May
The Rainband - £10 adv
Yelawolf - £12.50 adv

Sat 5 May
Blood Red Shoes
Twenty Twenty - £10 adv

Mon 7 May
Howler - £9.50 adv

Tues 8 May
Friends - £9 adv
Reverend and the Makers – sold out

Tickets from
Students’ Union, Oxford Road
Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Café (ctc)
0871 2202626
Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (ctc)
Students’ Union
Oxford Road, Manchester, M3 9PL
0161 275 2930
www.manchesteracademy.net

Music and Drama at Manchester

Thurs 19 April, 1.10pm
Walter Carroll Lunchtime Concert Series
Simon Turner (cello)

Fri 20 April, 1.10pm
MUMS Classical Works

Thurs 26 April, 1.10pm
Walter Carroll Lunchtime Concert
Gamelan Degung

Fri 27 April, 7.30pm
Manchester University Baroque Orchestra

Sat 28 April, 7.30pm
The University of Manchester Chorus and Symphony Orchestra
Tippett’s Child of Our Time

Thurs 3 May 2012, 1.10pm
Walter Carroll Lunchtime Concert - Cafe Mozart
presents: Haydn à l’anglaisee
The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama
Bridgeford Street, Manchester, M13 9PL
0161 275 8951
email boxfordoffice@manchester.ac.uk
www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

Internationalsociety

Visit some of the most beautiful and interesting locations around England, Scotland and Wales. There are visits taking place almost every weekend throughout the year.

Sat 7 April
Lake District (inc Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway, a cruise on Lake Windermere and a visit to the Lake District Visitor’s Centre)
Sun 8 April
Tatton Park “Alice in Wonderland”
Sat 14 April
North Wales (Bodnant Gardens and Penrhyn Castle)
Sun 15 April
Oxford (with guided tour)
Sat 21 April
Peak District (visiting Chatsworth House and the Food and Drink Fair)
Sun 22 April
Blackpool
For more information, please visit our website
Internationalsociety.org.uk

Openings hours
Mon-Fri 9.30am – 7pm (during term time)
Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm (during vacation)

Small World Café opening hours
Mon-Fri 11am – 3pm
327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)
0161 275 4959
email int_soc@anchester.ac.uk
www.internationalsociety.org.uk

Chaplaincies

St Peter’s House Chaplaincy
11am Holy Communion
12.15pm Bible Study
12.45pm Lunch (1st Sun)
6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)
FOYER 10am – 5pm
An area where student’s and staff can relax and meet friends. A teacoffee machine is available.

RC Chaplaincy Avila House
Mass Times (term-time only)
Sun, 7pm (in the Holy Name Church) next door to the Chaplaincy
Mon, Tues, Thurs and Friday, 5.30pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel
Weds, 1.05pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel

The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue
Hilfe House, Greenheys Lane
0161 226 1139
Email rabbiby@hotmail.com
www.rabbiby.com

Muslim Chaplaincy
South Campus Mosque, McDougall Centre
Jammaat (Group Prayer) Daily
Juma Prayer Friday 12.30pm
Honorary Imam: Imam Habeeb, h_chat@hotmail.com

North Campus Mosque
Basement of Joule Library, Sadville Street Building
Jammaat (Group Prayer) Daily
Juma Prayer Friday 12.30pm
The role of Volunteer Muslim Chaplain is to provide pastoral support, guidance and a listening ear to Muslim staff and students
Chaplains’ email: a.samii9@yahoo.co.uk,
mntb141@hotmail.com, assia_shah61@yahoo.co.uk,
hawwah@hotmail.com
The Whitworth Art Gallery

EXHIBITIONS
COTTON: Global Threads until 13 May
A new exhibition telling the global story of the production, consumption and trade in cotton.

Idris Khan: The Devil’s Wall until 13 May
The Devil’s Wall draws inspiration from rituals and practices of the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca that is undertaken by millions of Muslims each year.

Tues 3 April, 6-7pm, Free, no need to book
Artist’s Talk: Idris Khan
Idris Khan will be at the Whitworth Art Gallery to talk about his work (receipt from 5.30pm).

ADULT EVENTS
Every Thurs, 8.30 – 9.45am, Free
Yoga
A fantastic way to start your day. Please bring your own yoga mat.
Wed 18 and Sat 21 April, 1 – 3pm, £5
Crafternoon Tea
Monthly social art and craft workshop. Enjoy a cuppa and try your hand at art and craft techniques.
Thurs 5 April, 6pm, £7 (E5 Conco)

Stranger Magic: Charmed States and The Arabian Nights
with authors Marina Warner
Wed 18 to Sat 21 April, 10am – 5pm and Sun 22 April, 12 – 4pm, Free, drop-in
Action Weaving
Learn to weave and participate in a weaving ‘race’, supervised by Travis Meinolf, Action Weaver.
Sat 21 April, 1.15pm, Free
COTTON: Global Threads, Tour with curator Jennifer Harris.
Sat 21 April 7.30 – 10.30pm, Free
After Hours
An evening of interesting and unique performances.

The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS
Unearthed: Ancient Egypt until Sept 2012
Travel back to 1902s and enter the storeroom of our Egyptologist, played on film by Terry Deary, author of Horrible Histories and Egyptian Tales.
The Museum Allotment until Autumn 2012
Our allotment has been inspired by our new Living Worlds gallery which shows how we can all shape the future by the choices we make.

Alan Turing and Life’s Enigma until 18 Nov 2012
Inspired by 1950s design and combining Alan Turing’s notes with museum objects, this exhibition documents Turing’s investigation into one of the great mysteries of nature: how complex shapes and patterns arise from simple balls of cells.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES
Most activities are free and drop-in. Some activities may need to be booked on the day and may cost up to £1.50. All ages
Sat 14 April, 11am – 4pm, drop-in, Free, all ages
Wondrous Whitworth Wildlife Big Saturday
Join us in Whitworth Park for a festival of fun and help us create a wildlife area.
Fri 27 April, 11am – 12pm
Magic Carpet: Minibeasts
Storytelling and activity session for under 5s and their families/carers.
Sat 28 April, 11am – 4pm
Big Saturday: Minibeasts and Us
Activity session for under 5s and their families/carers.
TALKS, TOURS AND WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS
Wed 2 May, 3 – 4.30pm, drop-in, free, adults
Showcase Lecture: Hacking the Museum with Chris Speed, (The University of Edinburgh). This talk will reflect upon the temporal characteristics of the emerging phenomenon known as the Internet of Things.
Every Tues and Thurs, 12-1pm
Tours of the Vivarium
Book on Manchester Museum Vivarium@gmail.com, free, 13+ Monthly tours in Spanish and French.
Sat 28 April, 2 – 4pm, £3
Museum Meets: Urban Naturalist
Urban Naturalist is a programme of friendly, practical workshops for adults run by leading naturalists. This month is a spring wild food walk with Jasper Launder.

Opening hours
Open: Tues-Sat 10am - 5pm
Sun-Mon (all bank holidays) 11am - 4pm
Free Admission
Book events on 0161 275 2648
The Manchester Museum
Oxford Road, Manchester
0161 275 2634
www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Centre for New Writing

Tues 8 May, 6.30pm, £10/£5
Colm Tóibín and Paul Durcan
Colm Tóibín and Paul Durcan will read from new work at Professor Tóibín’s final Manchester event. Please note that this event takes place at the Anthony Burgess Foundation (see www.anthonyburgess.org)
Website: www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting
Online journal: www.themanchesterreview.co.uk
The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama
Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL
0161 275 8951/8950
email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk
www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

Kindle until 29 April
Nicola Dale presents her new installation Kindle - thousands of unwanted book pages transformed into candles, covering every surface of the Library’s Map Room.

St Bartholomew’s Day 1662: The Triumph of Bigotry and the Birth of Toleration until 1 July
This exhibition commemorates the 350th anniversary of the events of St Bartholomew’s Day 1662 - a turning point in the history of religion in England which saw approximately 2000 ministers expelled from the Church of England.

EVENTS
Fri 13 April, 2.30 – 3.30pm
Unusual Views: Library Tour for Photographers
Take the opportunity to photograph the Library building from spectacular viewpoints not normally open to the public!
Thurs 19 April, 11.15am – 12pm
Network Choir
The Network Choir perform their annual project/performances based on the The John Rylands Library.
Thurs 19 April, 12 – 1pm
Tour and Treasures
Enjoy a closer look at material from the Library’s world famous collections and find out more about this magnificent building with one of our curators.
Sun 22 April, 1 – 4pm
Dragons Unleashed! A Family Fun Day
Our dragons are taking over the Library!
Mon 23 April, 12 – 1pm
Happy Birthday to the Bard!
Join us to celebrate Shakespeare’s 448th birthday
Wed 25 April, 1 - 3pm
Whimsical Wednesday Workshop: Illuminated Initials
These sessions offer the opportunity to dip your toes into a creative activity, in a comfortable and supportive workshop.
Sat 28 April, 12 – 1pm
Here be Dragons!
The walls and ceiling of the Library are full of strange and mysterious creatures - join our tour to seek them out!
Sun 29 April, 2.30 – 3.30pm
Explorer Tour: A Peek Behind the Scenes!
Here be Dragons!
The walls and ceiling of the Library are full of strange and mysterious creatures - join our tour to seek them out!

The John Rylands Library
150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH
0161 306 0555
e-mail jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk
www.manchester.ac.uk/library
Training and Information Day for University Event Organisers  
Wednesday 20th June 2012  
9.15am – 3.00pm

The Conference Sales and Events team are running a training session for anyone who books meetings, conferences, events or accommodation on behalf of the University.

You will have the opportunity to see the University’s principal venues and understand fully the services the University offers to support meetings and events with the chance to meet the teams involved and ask any questions.

The itinerary for the day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Arrival tea/coffee with continental breakfast, welcome presentation and tour of Sackville Street campus venues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.45am</td>
<td>Coach pick up to Oxford Road campus for tour of key venues</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>Depart for Chancellors Hotel and Conference Centre for tour and lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>Optional visit to the ‘Taste Manchester’ Central Processing Unit or The Armitage Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Depart for Victoria Park campus for tour and presentation from the conference sales and events team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.55pm</td>
<td>Coach departure back to Oxford Road and Sackville Street campuses</td>
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Book now to secure your place for this important training session at www.manchester.ac.uk/kioc
GET IN SHAPE FOR SUMMER WITH FITNESS MANCHESTER

‘Be Active’ Courses start 16th April and are available to book online at www.manchester.ac.uk/sport/health-and-fitness

EXPRESS – Short On Time?
Introducing the 30 minute express classes.
The fast pace and quick moves will have you working up a sweat in no time!
Prices start from just £16.00
New technology is opening up the special collections at The John Rylands Library to a whole new generation of users.

The SCARLET ‘app’ (Special Collections using Augmented Reality to Enhance Learning and Teaching), means students can study early editions of Dante, for example, while at the same time viewing catalogue data, digital images, webpages and online learning resources on their tablets and phones.

This is the first time ‘augmented reality’ has been used to enhance the experience of using special collections material for teaching and learning.

SCARLET addresses one of the main obstacles to students using special collections – the fact that they have to consult rare books, manuscripts and archives within the controlled conditions of library reading rooms.

This means that they are isolated from supporting materials – many of which are now online – a totally new experience for students used to the web to support their learning.

The development project – funded by a JISC Learning and Teaching Innovation Grant and a three-way partnership between Mimas, the Library and academics within the Faculty of Humanities – involves three award-winning teachers, Guyda Armstrong (Italian), Roberta Mazza (Classics) and Jerome de Groot (English and American studies).

To see SCARLET in action visit:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uzl1dtSQ7ac
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vf0KoH05Acw.
http://teamscarlet.wordpress.com/