

UniLife

Pride of Manchester: Lenox Green



This month, the President wishes our graduating students all the best for the future and discusses the secrets of achieving a fulfilling career.



Visiting the Electroacoustic Studio



Meeting students at the Language Centre

The degree ceremony season is almost upon us. This is a time of celebration for our students, their families and friends, and also for our staff. A great deal of hard work, and probably some hardships, finally come to fruition in the awarding of a degree.

As a University, we value our degree ceremonies and hope that all our graduating students will stay in contact with us through our large and ever expanding Alumni Association.

This is also a time when our graduates step into the world of employment or further study and embark on their future careers. Over 90% of our graduates are in employment or further study six months after completing their degrees, which is reassuring, especially in the current tough economic times.

But rather fewer are in what is referred to by many (with various definitions) as 'graduate-level employment', although we know that by 18 months to two years after graduation, most of our students are in graduate jobs.

It seems that some of our students like to take a little time to consider their future careers and many like to stay in Manchester or the surrounding region. Of course we have to question why this is the case, and whether these are important factors in employment statistics.

The employability of our graduates is going to become increasingly vital as students take out larger loans to pay for their undergraduate education and given the harsh economic climate.

Some may make their choice of university on the basis of published data on graduate destinations, which is currently taken at six months after graduation, so may not paint a true picture of long term employment. But this is a fact that we as a University must recognise and respond to.

We know that employers value our graduates and our Careers Service, which has often been voted the very best careers service in the country. At graduate recruitment fairs, many representatives from large

companies whom I meet are clear that Manchester is a key target for their recruitment programme.

We also know that in addition to a good degree from a leading university such as ours, employers of our students value not just their academic capabilities, but skills in communication, critical thinking and team working to name but a few.

A growing challenge for students and staff alike, is striking the right balance between the depth and detail of knowledge and experience in the core discipline of a degree, which often includes a quite intensive research element, and the opportunity to gain wider experience and transferable skills.

Our University College, which will be launched this September, will offer a range of credit bearing modules which are available to undergraduate students to augment these more generic capabilities.

Some of the first course proposals include 'The Art of Enterprise'; 'The Challenge of Ageing'; 'Becoming Global'; 'Creative Encounters' and 'Madness and Society'.

The Manchester Leadership Programme and our Enterprise Training courses also offer excellent opportunities for gaining wider skills and improving employability. Many Manchester students take part in volunteering activities which have benefits not only for them, but also for our local and wider communities. To get a flavour of some of the great work our students are taking part in see the feature on pages 18 and 19.

Also, our award-winning Manchester Gold programme links students with working professionals who take on the role of career mentors. This year we have matched 350 students in one-to-one partnerships with professionals from a wide range of sectors and organisations including Unicef, Goldman Sachs, Sony Music, The Home Office and of course professionals working at our own University and many of our alumni.

It is clear that work experience is a major factor in improving the employability of our students. Some of our degree programmes include an obligatory year of work experience or study abroad, and we are developing and expanding the opportunities that we provide for shorter term work placements and internships.

I am often asked to give talks on careers in research, and invitations seem to have been on the increase just recently. I think I must always disappoint my hosts as I begin by saying that I am not a good role model to give advice on careers, because my own career certainly hasn't followed any of the paths that I envisaged (including becoming Vice-Chancellor).

However, I can say that I have certainly benefitted from seizing diverse opportunities and identifying excellent mentors who have supported, advised and often criticised me. I've also tried to think of new ways to tackle difficult problems and adopted a general 'do-as-you-would-be-done-by' approach, which of course involves always welcoming constructive criticism.

I have generally found that passion and commitment are critical factors in any career. It's easier to work hard and succeed in activities that you really enjoy. Hence, I worry that as students face greater debt on graduating, and are ever more concerned about future employment, they may be likely to select degree programmes which they believe will increase their chances of getting jobs, rather than choosing subjects that they are truly passionate about.

In an interview for 'New Scientist' a few years ago, I was asked for one piece of career advice. My answer ended up being the title of the article and is to be one of the quotes featured in the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons, our fantastic new building for students which is due to open this autumn: "Listen to your head, but follow your heart."

**President and Vice-Chancellor,
Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell**



Looking at some of the collections at The John Rylands Library



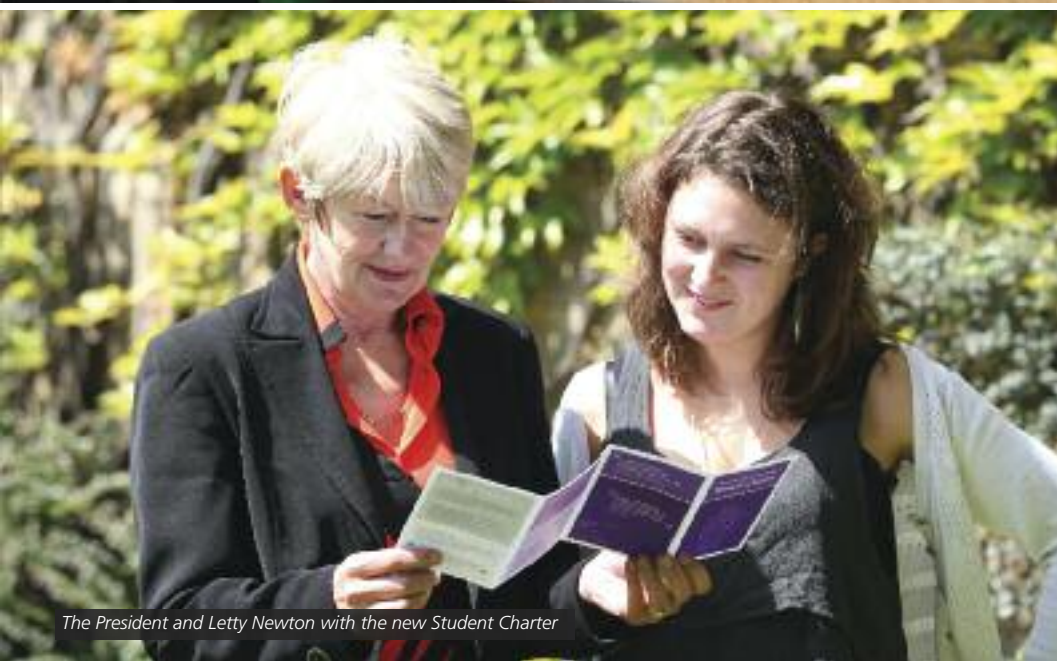
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The President and Letty Newton with the new Student Charter

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Promising partnership set out in new charter

The University and Students' Union have launched a Student Charter to clearly demonstrate our commitment to our students – and their commitment to us.

The Charter – a copy of which is enclosed in this issue of UniLife – aims to support one of the University's key goals: to provide a superb higher education and learning experience to our students.

Signed by the President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell and the Union's General Secretary Letty Newton, and approved by Senate last month, it provides an overview of the

Manchester experience and refers to regulations, policies and procedures.

Vice-President for Teaching and Learning Professor Clive Agnew said: "The Student Charter sets out what we can expect from each other as partners in a learning community. It is confirmation of our commitment to provide an excellent student experience through working together with a shared set of values."

The Charter will be distributed to current and prospective students in the new academic year.

Front cover:
Lenox Green. Photo by Chris Foster

News in brief



Former UN adviser to join Manchester Medical School

Manchester Medical School has appointed former UN adviser Mukesh Kapila CBE as Professor of Global Health and Humanitarian Affairs.

Professor Kapila (pictured) has extensive experience in the policy and practice of international development, humanitarian affairs, and diplomacy.

He said: "What has attracted me to Manchester is its cosmopolitan outlook, its enterprising spirit, and its openness to work across disciplinary boundaries to find innovative solutions to some of the greatest problems that confront our shared humanity. I am honoured to be part of the team."

National charity role for kidney disease expert



A UK charity which funded a promising young kidney disease researcher back in 1992, has now invited him to join its Board of Trustees.

Kidney Research UK has appointed Professor Adrian Woolf (pictured) as a trustee, recognising his pioneering work

in investigating and treating kidney problems in children.

It was Kidney Research UK who gave Adrian, Professor of Paediatric Science at the University and an honorary consultant at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital (RMCH), his first major break in kidney research 20 years ago.

Cities must adapt to our changing climate, say leaders

UK cities must take more urgent and integrated action to adapt to our changing climate, according to some of the region's leading businesses and public sector representatives.

Property company Bruntwood and the University hosted the symposium to discuss the first phase of their EcoCities project, a long-term partnership looking at how cities should adapt to the changing climate.

www.adaptingmanchester.co.uk

University staff help kids get ahead

The University enjoyed an injection of young blood when 15 local youngsters were invited to take part in a total work cycle – from writing their CV to getting a job to even getting paid, albeit in iTunes vouchers – each mentored by a member of staff.

It was our third and most ambitious school mentoring scheme yet, run by the Human Resources Directorate in conjunction with Manchester Academy School. Founded in 2010, the schemes aim to raise work levels and address employability within the 'walk to work' area by getting schoolchildren to view the University as a place of work not just of study.

The youngsters learned a lot. Giuliana Kyeramaten said: "The



Frank Thompson talks to student Ariful Islam

experience was great. All these skills I've learnt I can now put on my CV – which I also know how to write."

And it was just as much a revelation for the mentors. Helena Edwardson, IT Training, said: "I really enjoyed the whole process

as not only did the students get a lot out of it, I did too."

This year's scheme – led by Fiona Coll and Paul Marks-Jones from the Directorate of Human Resources – saw 15 mentors matched with 15 Manchester Academy students.



Degree Day, July 1949, students queuing in the quad

Spotlight on our own history

Distinctive changes to the national higher education system, dramatic realignments in politics and the dire consequences of economic depression. Sound familiar?

No, it's not today's news, but the landscape the University found itself in between the two World Wars.

These 'years of crisis' are recounted in detail in a new book, 'The University of Manchester, 1918–50: New Approaches and Changing Perspectives'.

The book, commissioned by the University and written by Alex Robertson and Colin Lees, also reveals how Manchester was the first university to hold an open day for prospective students – 75 years ago this month – a concept now copied by virtually every other university in the world.

The book is available at a special price of £20 for staff, students and alumni if purchased from The John Rylands Library, Deansgate, or the Customer Services Desk at the Main Library on campus.

News in brief

University lecturer scoops writing award

A creative writing lecturer has won one of science fiction's most coveted awards for his novelette 'What We Found'.

Geoff Ryman, who is based at the University's Centre for New Writing, won the Nebula award whose previous winners include Brian Aldiss in 1966 and Arthur C. Clarke in 1973.

'What We Found' is about a scientific breakthrough by a Nigerian scientist, and the deep personal impact it has on how he understands his own family history from independence to the future in 2030.

Ryman (pictured) is one of six of the UK's top science fiction writers are calling for scientists and the creative community to work more closely together to improve the credibility of their work.

He, Dr David Kirby and others signed a letter in the influential online arts journal *The Manchester Review*, calling for efforts to balance scientific practice and knowledge with the demands of story telling.

Ryman said: "Getting the correct balance is hard, but worthwhile, because credibility is important to audiences and scientists."



Jamie Phillips

Music students hit high note

Manchester music students are celebrating success on the international stage.

Third-year Jamie Phillips has signed up with one of the world's leading music agencies Intermusica and has also been invited to conduct a concert at the 2013 Salzburg Festival - one of classical music's most prestigious events.

He will also be one of the finalists in auditions to find Sir Mark Elder's new assistant conductor of the Hallé Orchestra.

Duncan Ward, who graduated in 2010, is to assist the world's best known conductor Sir Simon Rattle

in a concert performance of Wagner's *Die Walküre* with the Berlin Philharmoniker.

Both Jamie and Duncan are products of the University's elite conducting programme taught by Mark Heron.

Jamie said: "The conducting opportunities at the University are unrivalled anywhere else in the UK – the chance to have so much contact time with ensembles with the guidance of expert teaching is fundamental to developing skills required to stand in front of musicians with confidence."

Winterson becomes Manchester professor

One of the country's best known literary figures, Jeanette Winterson OBE, is to become a professor of creative writing at Manchester.

The 'Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit' author will begin a two-year stint at the University's Centre for New Writing in October, succeeding Colm Toibin and Martin Amis.

Winterson, originally from Manchester, will have a busy teaching schedule, including a postgraduate MA workshop, MA seminar, undergraduate lectures and four public events a year.

She said: "The Centre for New Writing at Manchester is a serious and exciting place where students are carefully selected and where there is a deep interest in what writing can do at an individual level and for the wider culture.

"I am from Manchester and the north is part of me; how I write as well as who I am. Let's see what happens next."

Winterson was adopted by Pentecostal parents who brought her up in the mill-town of Accrington.

Her first novel, the semi autobiographical 'Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit', was published in 1985 when she was just 25. It went on to become an international bestseller and inspire a popular BBC television adaptation.



Jeanette Winterson

News in brief



Award for lifetime of discovery

A University scientist has won a lifetime achievement award from the Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARS).

Osteoarthritis, a painful disorder in which joint cartilage is lost and bone around the joint is remodelled, affects around eight million people in the UK.

Professor David Felson (pictured), who divides his time between Research in Osteoarthritis Manchester and the University of Boston, was the first to find that obesity was a cause of the disease, as well as the first to study the nutritional factors that can lead to osteoarthritis.

He said: "It was great to receive the award but it sounds like an end-of-career prize and I'm not at the end of my career."

"Here in Manchester I have a wonderful multidisciplinary team – engineers, imaging specialists, physios and rheumatologists – and a terrific staff."



From L-R: Vicky Irving, Maria Marsh and Vicky Plane from the Dalton Nuclear Institute

A right Royal celebration

Industry leaders, local dignitaries, staff and students came together at an event to celebrate the Dalton Nuclear Institute's Queen's Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education.

The prize, awarded at a reception at Buckingham Palace earlier this year, recognises and celebrates outstanding work within UK higher and further education institutions and the impact they have on society.

Institute Director Professor Andrew Sherry said: "It was tremendous to celebrate the Queen's Anniversary Prize with so many academic friends and colleagues from industry who have all contributed to the development of nuclear research and higher learning at the University."

Brought to book

University academics have taken part in a study looking at their scholarly reading habits – and given a big thumbs up to their own library resources.

They and their peers at five other UK universities answered questions on what type of material they read, where they sourced the material and the value they attributed to this activity.

The report, co-ordinated by The University of Manchester Library, included feedback such as "Manchester is very fortunate to have such a great library resource."

To see the full report visit:

www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/reports/ukscholarlyreadingreport/

Casken string quintet gets UK premiere

The University's resident string quartet premiered a major work of one of the UK's leading composers, John Casken, in an audience including the man himself.

Casken, a Professor Emeritus at the University, heard his composition 'Inevitable Rifts' for string quintet performed for the first time in the UK by Quatuor Danel - joined by renowned cellist Petr Prause.

'Biggest ever' computer conference to honour Alan Turing

The University is hosting the biggest event in the history of Computer Science to celebrate the centenary of Alan Turing, the father of the modern computer.

Leading speakers from all over the world will descend on Manchester later this month to honour the renowned code-breaker, mathematician and computer scientist. The event will feature two public lectures.

The Alan Turing Centenary Conference will also feature Google Senior Vice-President Dr Vint Cerf, chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov, ten Turing award winners, the physicists Sir Roger Penrose and George Ellis, and Dr David Ferrucci from IBM.

Alan Turing joined the University in 1948, the same year that Tom Kilburn and Freddie Williams built 'the Baby' here – the world's first computer with memory stored programs.

Although his genius was most recognised in the UK for his work breaking German codes during the Second World War, Turing was very much the father of the modern computer.

He envisaged a machine that could effortlessly be transformed from word processor to desk calculator to chess opponent.

To find out more about the event visit: www.turing100.manchester.ac.uk/



Alan Turing

News in brief

University adds power to electronics

The University has joined the UK Electronics Skills Foundation, which seeks to reverse the decline in the number of UK graduates entering the electronics industry by linking talented electronic engineering degree students with companies for scholarships with work experience.

Manchester is ranked as the top university for electronic engineering by the Sunday Times and is the eighth university to join the UKESF, alongside Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Imperial College, Southampton, Surrey and York.

UKESF was established to help reverse the 47% decline in UK students enrolling on electronic engineering courses between 2002-2008. This reversal poses a significant risk to the future of the UK electronics industry which employs 250,000 people and is worth an estimated £23 billion a year.

Professor Andrew Gibson, head of Manchester's School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, said: "We're among the largest engineering schools in the country and our industrial links help to ensure that our students excel after graduating.

Indro Mukerjee, CEO of Plastic Logic and chairman of the UKESF strategic advisory board commented: "The addition of Manchester to the list of UKESF partner universities will help us ensure the best students are given the opportunities they need to develop with world-leading companies in the UK; and this is a solid step in maintaining the UK electronics industry's global competitiveness."

The science of poetry

University science and engineering students have been showing their poetic sides by turning their hands to verse.

An Engineering and Physical Sciences poetry competition at the University attracted more than 150 entries from students, more used to equations and experiments than sonnets and stanzas.

Organiser Dr Peter Fenn, a Senior Lecturer in the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, teamed up with John McAuliffe, Reader in Creative Writing from the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures to shortlist 166 entries down to 35.

These were then judged by poets Wendy Cope and Lachlan Mackinnon. The winning entry came from Physics with Theoretical Physics undergraduate Peter Thompson.

To find out more visit:

www.eps.manchester.ac.uk/science-for-all/science-poetry/

www.soundcloud.com/sciencepoetry



Britain's oldest battlefield?

Detective work on skeletons has helped Manchester Museum experts uncover the earliest known battlefield in the UK.

The skeletons were excavated at Heronbridge, near Chester, in 1931 but have lain in store at the Museum since the 1950s.

Recent radiocarbon-dating work shows that it's likely they are the remains of men who died in the Battle of Chester in AD 616.

The evidence of trauma – severe injuries inflicted by swords, axes and other weapons – on the

skeletons, shows that the men died in extremely violent circumstances.

A literary reference to a major battle of the early 7th century can be found in Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People. A Northumbrian army, led by King Aethelfrith, defeated a force of northern Welsh Britons at Chester.

With the assistance of the University's Dr Robert Stoddart and other experts, the Museum is examining the remains (pictured) and putting together a more detailed picture of events on the battlefield.

Buzz for energy boosters

A group of students aiming to "revolutionise the way people energise their lives" with a new food product has won the 2012 Venture Further competition.

Kaffeination Ltd, a business led by four MSc Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship students from Manchester Business School, beat five other finalists to the coveted £4,000 prize in the annual business enterprise competition hosted by Manchester Enterprise Centre (MEC).

The competition is open to students from across the University and is designed to encourage students to become more enterprising.

Matthias Schmid, from Kaffeination Ltd, said: "Winning



From L-R: Professor Luke Georghiou, Matthias Schmid, David K. Reetz, Lynn Sheppard and Dr Martin Henery

first prize increases our momentum, adds immense credibility to our business idea and we are very much looking forward to launching our game changing product in autumn this year."

Other entries included Love Meat, an online butcher; Beach

Bacchanal, a company specialising in plus size swimwear; and The Social Action and Research Foundation, a social enterprise aiming to empower local communities to tackle poverty.

For more information visit: www.mbs.ac.uk/mec

Research in brief

Call to widen laws to combat labour abuse

The Government should act urgently to stop the widespread abuse of foreign workers, say University crime experts.

Professor Kauko Aromaa and Dr Jon Spencer, from the School of Law, say legislation drawn up after the 2004 Morecambe Bay disaster in which 21 people died could be widened to include other employment sectors.

New research by Professor Aromaa reveals forced labour is widespread within sectors including construction, food processing, catering, cleaning and agriculture.

Professor Aromaa, who joined the University last month, is a lead member of the European Expert group working on the Crime and Criminal Justice European Sourcebook. He was also Director of the UN affiliated European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control from 2000 – 2011.

He said: "Though these people are technically protected under section 71 of the Coroners' and Justice Act 2009, which has provisions against forced labour, the core issue is the narrow remit of the Gangmaster Licensing Authority."

Nancy joins life sciences big hitters

Professor Nancy Papalopulu has been elected a member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO).

Nancy (pictured) said: "Science knows no borders and I am looking forward to working with EMBO in promoting scientific excellence in Europe and beyond."



Sir Bobby Charlton visits landmine area

MPs visit Sir Bobby to learn more about Find A Better Way

'Find A Better Way', the charity founded by Sir Bobby Charlton to improve the lives of people around the world affected by landmines, hosted a visit of prominent Westminster MPs at the University.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Landmines visited the headquarters of the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and the University to discover more

about research into better methods of detecting landmines.

The University's research teams are hoping to develop smarter equipment that can distinguish between the tiny bits of metal in a landmine and all other sorts of metallic debris and rubbish buried in areas where landmines are found.

Bacteria discovery could lead to antibiotics alternatives

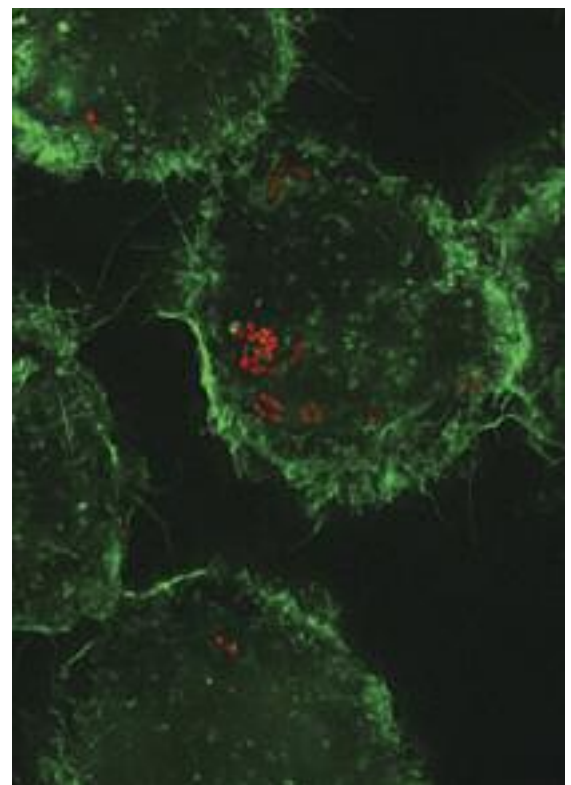
Scientists have discovered an Achilles heel within our cells that bacteria are able to exploit to cause and spread infection.

The researchers say their findings could lead to the development of new anti-infective drugs as alternatives to antibiotics whose overuse has led to resistance.

University researchers studied *Listeria* – a potentially deadly group of bacteria – and found they are able to spread infection by hitching a ride on a naturally occurring protein called calpain.

"Bacteria produce a number of chemicals that allow them to invade a host and to establish an infection," said lead researcher Dr David Brough, at the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"We discovered that without the host's protein calpain, the bacteria cannot move within the cell and so do not grow. This discovery highlights the possibility of using drugs against these host proteins to block infections, potentially reducing the need to use antibiotics."



Research in brief



Biologists face up to the future

More than 250 PhD students from universities across the North West took part in the first ever Manchester Life Sciences PhD Conference.

Topics discussed ranged from cancer and stem cell biology to the immune system and environmental sustainability.

For more information visit:

www.pgrconference.ls.manchester.ac.uk/

New findings in mental health

Suicides by psychiatric in-patients have fallen to a new low, a University study has found.

The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness shows the rate of suicide among psychiatric in-patients fell by between 29% and 31% between 1997 and 2008, with nearly 100 fewer deaths per year.

But the research also revealed that the risk of suicide for those recently discharged from hospital may have increased over the same time period.

And another University study has shown that older people who self-harm are at much greater risk of suicide than both the general population and younger adults who self-harm, a new study has found.

University researchers studied 1,177 people over the age of 60 who presented to six general hospitals in Oxford, Manchester and Derby after self-harming. They found that the risk of suicide among those who self-harmed was 67 times greater than the risk among older adults in the general over-60s population – and three times greater than the relative risk of suicide among younger adults who self-harm.



Devastation in Haiti

Haiti quake unearths medical issues

Some foreign medical teams need to improve the way they respond to future disasters, according to an analysis of the devastating January 2010 Haiti earthquake.

The need for better medical record keeping was highlighted by research carried out by the University's Humanitarian Conflict Response Institute (HCRI).

An estimated 220,000 people died, 300,000 were injured and 105,000 houses destroyed in the disaster that struck the capital Port-au-Prince.

HCRI Deputy Director Professor Tony Redmond, who led the research, said: "Patients sometimes had no way of finding out the name of their doctor.

"Health care workers who turn up uninvited in another country are obviously not registered to



Medics in makeshift operating theatre

practice there, and if they do treat patients we have to find ways of making them accountable to those patients and the local authorities.

"Because record keeping by some was minimal or non-existent, there was no way of

knowing if proper standards of care were followed.

"In the UK, we have the International Emergency Trauma Register to ensure that those wishing to volunteer in the future are accountable and trained."

Research in brief



Health researchers hailed with fellowships

Stem cell researcher Dr Lisa Mohamet has been awarded an Enterprise Fellowship Grant from The Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

The one-year grant will enable Dr Mohamet, from the School of Dentistry, to develop a business plan to support the commercialisation of her research and establish a spin-out company over the next 12 months.

And Professor Nicky Cullum (pictured), from the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, has been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

The award is one of the highest academic achievements and has been given for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of medical and health science.

Obesity affects job prospects for women, study finds

Obese women are more likely to be discriminated against when applying for jobs and receive lower starting salaries than their non-overweight colleagues, a new study has found.

"Participants viewed a series of resumes that had a small photo of the job applicant attached, and were asked to make ratings of the applicants suitability, starting salary, and employability," said psychologist and lead researcher Dr Kerry O'Brien.

"We found that strong obesity discrimination was displayed across all job selection criteria, such as starting salary, leadership potential, and likelihood of selecting an obese candidate for the job."



Azadeh Dindarian at work

Saving the planet, one microwave at a time

The vast majority of the millions of microwave ovens thrown away every year could be easily fixed and reused, according to research by an engineering PhD student.

Making simple repairs like replacing fuses and plugs could save the UK millions of pounds.

Azadeh Dindarian and her team examined 189 microwaves and found that 54% in a single year were thrown away for cosmetic reasons, or because they had a simple to repair fault.

Finding ways to re-use discarded microwaves could help to prevent thousands of tonnes of waste every year.

Azadeh, 29, who is in the final year of her PhD in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, was shortlisted to present her research at the House of Commons.

She said: "Our research shows that the vast majority of dumped microwaves and other white goods could easily be re-used."

New 'bible' for researchers

The University has launched four Research Handbooks – one for each Faculty – detailing the wide range of information and support available to researchers.

Available to download, the handbooks are designed to help those involved in research access opportunities in skills training, career planning, funding and other areas.

Associate Vice-President for Research Professor Matt Lambon-Ralph, who led the Research Staff Development Working Group behind it, said: "We have a vibrant research community at the University and we are committed to putting in place effective procedures and practices, both locally and institutionally, to support their career development."

The University's support for its research community has been recognized internationally by the European Commission who, in 2011, awarded the University its HR Excellence in Research badge.

To see the handbooks visit:

MHS: <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=12975>

EPS: <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=12976>

HUM: <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=12977>

FLS: <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=12978>



Francesca Snell

Photo by Alex Broadway SW Pix

Water star!

A Research Office administrator has swapped her desk for the Olympic Park swimming pool in her bid to join Britain's female water polo team at London 2012.

Francesca Snell has been training with the Manchester-based team for three years. She had travelled to London from her home in New Zealand to visit family, a connection which allows her to compete for Britain, and moved to Manchester to work with the squad. She will learn if she has made the team on 25 June.

"I was a swimmer first then got a little bored with swimming up and down in straight lines," the 25-year-old centre back recalls.

She adds: "Every child dreams of going to the Olympics, so it's a dream come true and to compete on home turf will be brilliant."

"The team are not the favourites, but we are used to competing in front of a few hundred people, and now will have a home crowd of thousands cheering us on. I hope they all get behind us and create the sort of atmosphere which will help us against such top opposition."

"The University has been so supportive to me, accommodating my training and wishing me well. I am very grateful for that."

Celebrating Britain's black Olympians

A new book celebrates Britain's black Olympians and their contribution to the country's success in the year it hosts the Games.

The book – published by the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust – features art and writing from over 300 primary school pupils in Manchester. They tell the life stories of sports stars such as Kelly Holmes, Denise Lewis, Kriss Akabusi and Darren Campbell.

The Trust's outreach co-ordinator Jackie Ould said: "It has proved to be a great project for showcasing the talent and enthusiasm of Manchester's children. Their lovely biographies of the athletes highlight just how much they were inspired by these sporting stars."

To buy 'Britain's Black Olympians' visit: www.racearchive.org.uk



Children at work on the book

Timbuktu – the very name is synonymous with somewhere far distant and mysterious. But for Tim Insoll, whose tireless travels in search of ancient civilisations read like something out of *The Boy's Own Paper*, Timbuktu is real, exciting and the source of the sort of historic findings that have made his reputation.

Insoll's Insight



He is Professor of Archaeology, with a thirst for knowledge and adventure. His specialist area is West Africa, currently Northern Ghana. Timbuktu lies in the troubled country of Mali, an oasis on the banks of the Niger River. Together with the ancient city of Gao, it holds secrets which tell of camel caravans and the rise of commerce in medieval Mali.

Exciting stuff – and Tim has pioneered archaeological investigation in the region, crossing the Sahara in a caravan guarded by Malian soldiers.

He started his research at Cambridge in the early 1990s. But he can trace his interest in archaeology back to when he was a six year-old in Richmond, Surrey. "Initially, I confused dinosaurs with archaeology," he says. "But my parents were interested, which helped." He became the youngest-ever member of the Young Archaeologists Club, based in York.

As an adventurous teenager, he spent two months travelling on a cheap Inter-rail ticket, sleeping

rough and eating little, to go to places like Istanbul, before going to Sheffield University, where he got a First in Archaeology and Pre-History.

A British Academy scholarship then took him to St John's College, Cambridge, and, in 1991, he had his first excavation experience in Africa, in another place that sounds exotic to most of us, Zanzibar.

In 1992, he started his Timbuktu and Gao work, with such success that it attracted the attention of the British Museum, who put on an exhibition of his finds – pottery, glass, beads, semi-precious stone. "That early recognition certainly helped my career a lot," he says.

What also helped him was meeting a fellow-doctorate archaeologist, Rachel. They married "as impoverished grad students" in 1993. They complement each other rather neatly, since her specialist area is East Africa. And their 14-year-old daughter reflects their profession in that she is called Freya, after Freya Stark, the famed explorer of Arabia.

Tim had a happy and productive time at St John's, and was rewarded with a three-year Research Fellowship in 1995 to continue his work. "West Africa was very little known," he says. "The archaeology of the Islamic period had not really been looked at using modern methods. And I was attracted by the adventure and the lure of the desert."

In 1999, he moved to Manchester, encouraged by the late Barri Jones, a charismatic Professor of Archaeology. "Barri was very instrumental in helping me on," he says. At the same time, his seminal book "The Archaeology of Islam" was published by Blackwell.

One adventure followed another. In 2001, he turned his attention to the Arabian Gulf. With Rachel and Freya, he lived there for a year and with Rachel co-authored another book: "An Archaeological Guide to Bahrain."

He also worked in Gujarat, Western India, particularly on the provenance of bead material,

**Name**

Professor Tim Insoll

Position

Professor of Archaeology, School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, The University of Manchester

Professional memberships

Fellow, Society of Antiquaries
Fellow, Royal Asiatic Society

Education

PhD, University of Cambridge, 1996
BA Hons, University of Sheffield, 1992

Career

1995-1998

Research Fellow in Archaeology, St John's College, Cambridge

1999

Lecturer, The University of Manchester

2004

Reader and Senior Lecturer,
The University of Manchester

2005 – date

Professor of Archaeology,
School of Arts, Histories and Cultures,
The University of Manchester

Major field projects

2010 – date

Excavations ongoing since 2010, Yikapongo, Koma Land, Northern Ghana.

2004-2009

Excavations, Tong Hills, Northern Ghana.

2000

Survey, Gujarat, Western India.

1998

Excavations, Timbuktu, Mali.

1996

Survey, Dahlak Islands, Eritrea.

1993-1996

Excavations, 1993-1996, Gao, Mali.

carnelian, and in the Dahlak Islands off the coast of Eritrea, appearing in a special report by Jon Snow on Channel 4 news along with the Eritrean President, Isaias Afewerki.

In 2004, he turned to yet another region – northern Ghana, and, working with colleagues from the University of Ghana, excavated intensively. Important finds there included hundreds of ancient clay figures, of human and animal form, between 800 and 1,400 years old. The work showed that a forgotten society once existed there. Human remains were also unearthed from hundreds of mysterious mounds.

“The finds help to fill a significant gap in our scant knowledge of this period in West Africa,” he says. In 2008, he attracted funding from the Wellcome Trust to support his work on the archaeology of healing and medicine shrines. A book on this research is in press.

The collaboration with the Ghanaians, including student exchanges, and living and teaching at the

University of Ghana for six months, gives Tim particular satisfaction.

“I’m very keen on developing collaboration,” he says. He enjoys working closely with The Manchester Museum here: “They have an exceptional collection of African masks and other artefacts.”

He stresses the importance of collaboration with other subject areas, like Classics and Ancient History, and Social Anthropology. And he loves teaching – again, very important to him.

How he fits it all in can only be put down to his energy, enthusiasm and good humour.

For their current major exhibition on “HAJJ, Journey to the Heart of Islam”, the British Museum turned to him to co-curate the African section. And we can look forward to a major exhibition at The Manchester Museum of figurines, pulling together eight years of research findings, next year. Mind you, by that time he will have had more adventures. His next project is in Mozambique.

In brief

Young ones show off old treasures

Final year students have been working with The John Rylands Library to put together a range of exhibitions and education programmes.

The students, who are from Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, were able to combine their research skills with new opportunities like exhibition design and public speaking.

The programme was part of their assessed coursework, and one of the students Alice Cohen commented: "It has been an extremely fun and unique experience. I am excited to deliver our presentation to a school group!"

Rachel Beckett, Head of Special Collections, said: "This is an excellent example of the opportunities to enhance the student experience that our Special Collections and The John Rylands Library can provide."

Senior Lecturer in Latin American Cultural Studies Dr Patience Schell agreed: "It has been extremely satisfying to observe the students' enthusiasm and seriousness of purpose."



New kid in the corridors of power

A politics, philosophy and economics student has become Greater Manchester's youngest councillor.

Liam O'Rourke, 19, was elected to the Heywood North seat for Labour – demolishing opposition in the former Lib Dem-controlled ward.

Liam (pictured above with Rochdale Council Leader Colin Lambert) put his success down to knocking on almost every door in the ward.

He said: "Most people weren't bothered about my age. They wanted to hear what I had to say about local issues and how we could get people more involved. A lot of people saw it as a positive thing that someone young with lots of enthusiasm wanted to represent them."

"Doing politics, philosophy and economics has certainly given me the confidence to stand for an election as I feel it's given me all the tools I need to do a good job as a councillor. I think that the role will fit in very well with my studies, especially considering that most councillors have to hold down a full time job!"



Students cheer on their buggies

'Wheely' good work!

Anyone passing the Kilburn Building recently may have taken some persuading that a formal teaching assessment was taking place.

A packed lecture theatre full of students, cheering buggies racing round a track while invigilators timed them with stopwatches – not the usual characteristics of 'official' assessments!

The event involved students from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, all competing in 'Race Day' trials of the buggies they had designed as part of their second-year studies.

The project involved students working in partnership with technical staff from the Professional Support Services and technology company Microchip.

Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences Professor Colin Bailey attended the session and said: "It was great to see the creativity and enthusiasm of the students. There was a real sense of community about the event."

Ian Pearson of Microchip commented: "We believe it's important to help the next generation of engineers, and events such as this help them to develop and grow their skills in preparation for an exciting career ahead of them."

The overall result? A new partnership agreement with Microchip, as well as a win for Team 33.

Champions get their reward

The dedication and commitment of over 1,500 students involved in the 'Students as Partners' programme was recognised at the annual Awards Evening, now in its 14th year.

Students as Partners, run by the Teaching and Learning Support Office in liaison with the Faculties, is a series of student mentoring, consultation and training schemes to aid their learning and development and improve their University experience.

Watched by a record attendance of staff and students, sponsors, PricewaterhouseCoopers presented certificates to students who had taken part in their prestigious 'Personal Development and Effectiveness Training' course, Professor Clive



Agnew, Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students, gave certificates to students from almost 70 different Peer Support schemes, who had volunteered to support their fellow students.

An increasing number of students have been acting as 'Student Consultants' and 'Project Consultants' to inform key areas of policy and practice

such as the University College, the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons, My Manchester, welcome and induction and the international student 'journey'. Dr Tim Westlake thanked the students involved, who have so far racked up more than 400 student hours of commitment.

For more information visit: www.tlso.manchester.ac.uk/students-as-partners/

We have many members of staff who have dedicated almost all of their working lives to the University. Here we take a look at some of these people and the contribution they have made to our University over the years.

Dennis Lowe

The University's longest-serving staff member Dennis Lowe has retired after 46 years on the payroll – and said goodbye with his first ever visit to the Oxford Road Campus and a chat with President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell.

Outside Leisure Attendant Dennis had always worked at the satellite campus sites, beginning his career brewing up for the groundsmen at the Firs, the University's sports fields.

"I absolutely loved it," he said. He was 16 years old and spending all day in the open air - what could be better for a lad from Gorton?

By the end of his career, he was Outside Leisure Attendant at the University's 100-acre sports facility at Wythenshawe. And, guess what, he loved that job too!

He walked to work and back, 45 minutes each way, every day – including stops to talk to people on the way. "I'll talk to anybody, me," he said cheerfully.

He left school not knowing what to do, except that he was very interested in gardening and farm work. He went to the Job Centre and was sent to the Firs at Fallowfield, where he met Billy Roberts, the head groundsman. He was taken on - and stayed there for 28 years. In fact, years later, he and his wife, Joan, lived very happily on the site at the Firs Villa.

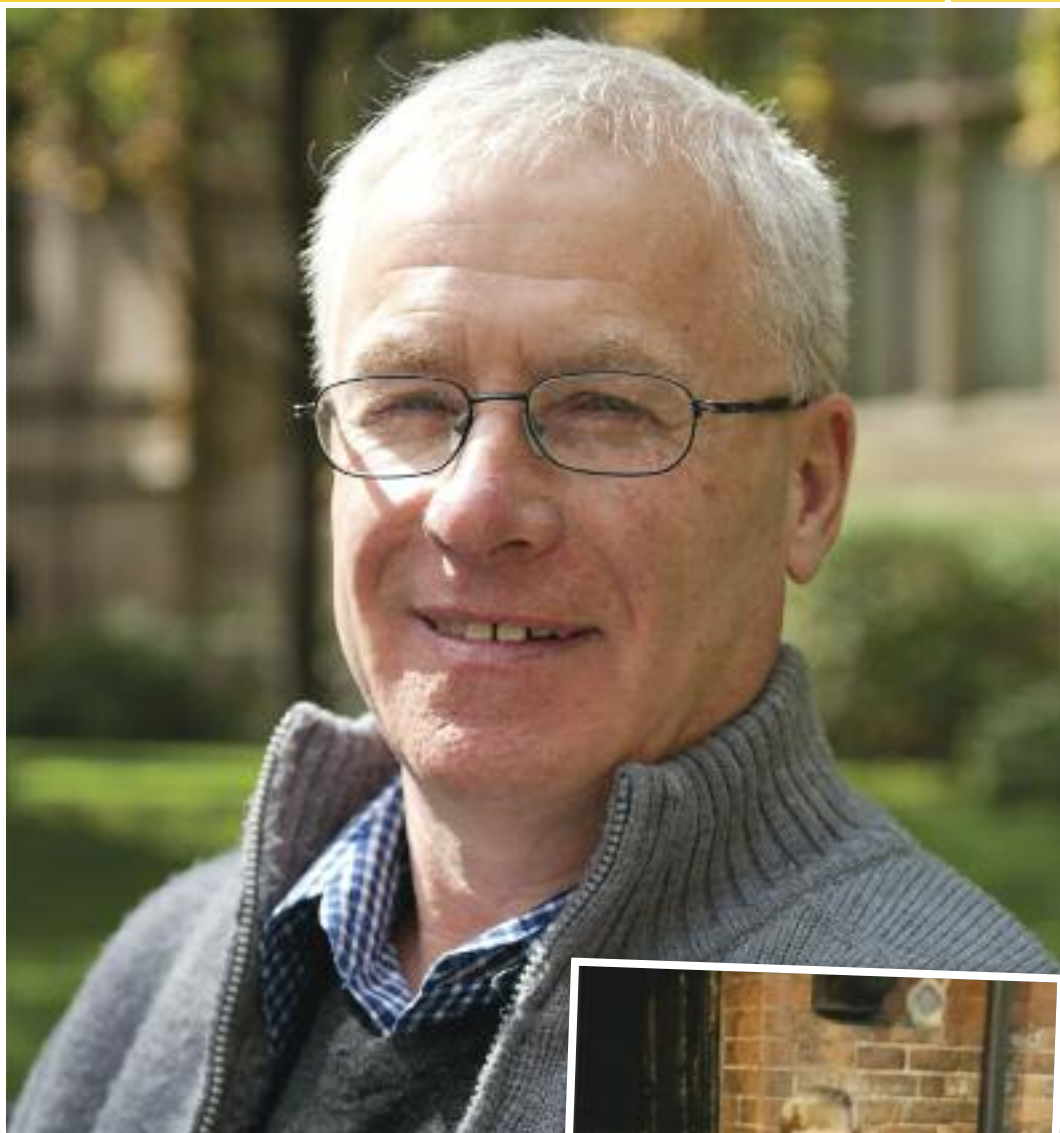
He settled into the job, learning all the things a groundsman has to do – and some you might not expect. "I had to clean out two big coke boilers and clean the players' communal bath," he recalled. Wednesday afternoons were the sporting highlights - pitches had to be marked out, goalposts put up, nets put in place and shale tennis courts brushed.

"It's so different now," he said. "In those days we used to have to mix lime by hand to mark out the pitches. The goalposts were heavy wooden ones, not like today's lightweight aluminium posts. But it was all enjoyable. We just got on with the job."

There was also fun to be had with the big old diesel roller, even though it used to pack up going up a slope.

After 28 years, came the move to Wythenshawe. Again, he and Joan and, by then, their daughter Joanne, lived on the site in the old steward's house. At Wythenshawe Dennis was one of four groundsmen looking after the 100 acres, comprising 26 well-used football pitches and a rugby pitch.

Dennis's only sadness is that Joan passed away six years ago. But he has his three-year-old grandson, Samuel, to dote upon. And, when he's not working, he enjoys his bus trips to Bury and Bolton markets.





United we stand

The University of Manchester Students' Union (UMSU) is a hive of activity and support for students. Here we take a look at UMSU – what it does and how it is changing to reflect the needs of all our students.

The past couple of years have seen huge changes in higher education. The increase in student fees, which come into effect this September, and the increasingly competitive graduate jobs market, along with an increased focus on the experience our students have during their time at university, have created a very different landscape for both staff and students.

Letty Newton, General Secretary of UMSU, thinks despite the huge challenges and that the University has a long way to go, we are moving in the right direction.

"In the past three years, the Students' Union has massively improved and both the Union and University are much better at working together," she says.

"Some people will naturally feel that the kick-start to these changes was a reaction to the University's recent National Student Survey results, but that's not the case – they would have happened anyway.

"The Union is working more closely with the University to make sure that what the University does reflects what students actually want, and that the Union is the representative body for students."

What the Union does

As well as its crucial role of ensuring the student voice is heard, the Union's traditional fare of societies, entertainments and community outreach projects make it a well used, and much loved part of student life.

The Union has more than 200 societies taking in all manner of cultural, political and religious interests, from circus skills to course subjects, from tai chi to ecosocialism. There are also a host of student-led events, the biggest being the Pangaea Festivals – a 4,600 person all night party run twice a year.

The Manchester Academy, the Union's famed music venue, boasts four stages and a Hall of Fame that includes David Bowie, The Who, Pink Floyd, The Drifters, AC/DC, The Ramones, Sister Sledge, Bjork, Blur, Oasis, Elbow and Florence and the Machine and (of course) Half Man Half Biscuit.

In addition the Union hosts the biggest student-run newspaper in the UK, The Mancunion, and the student-run radio station Fuse FM.



Meanwhile, Student Action supports student-led volunteering, from looking after the elderly to teaching sports in primary schools, while through Manchester RAG students organise a host of fun events to raise money for charity – close to £500,000 this year. The annual Bogle Stroll – in which students walk a 55-mile circuit around Greater Manchester, taking an average 21 hours – started in 1961, this year raising around £50,000 for charity.

And there's a helping hand to its own members when needed. The Union runs the Advice Service, offering confidential and independent advice and information on a range of issues including academic appeals, housing and student funding, helping to develop appeals and attending hearings. In addition Nightline is a confidential listening and information service run for students by students, taking calls from stressed and anxious members or just giving general information such as bus timetables, from 8pm to 8am every night of term.

How the Union is changing

As successful as it has been over the years, the Union is changing to make sure it meets the needs of its members in a new higher education landscape.

This includes a change to the sabbatical team and the Union's democratic structure, following a referendum held in 2011.

Said Letty: "We still have eight full-time sabbatical officers, but some of these positions are changing

to reflect what the main areas of work are, and where key areas of representation are needed."

Letty refers to the new positions of Activities and Development Officer (which incorporates employability for students), Community Officer (to strengthen the Union's work with the local community), Wellbeing Officer (responsible for mental and sexual health and other related issues), and Diversity Officer (supporting ethnic minorities and different cultural backgrounds).

She continues: "We also have a completely new communications department. So that's a massive change for us. We can now actually start telling students what we're doing and what's on offer.

"These changes are about putting people power behind the areas of work that we know we need more capacity for, and that we need more leadership in. It also helps to create a more natural link to the work of the University."

How the Union works with the University

Working in partnership with the University means both organisations are better able to meet the students' needs.

Director of the Student Experience, Tim Westlake, gives a good example of just how the Union and University are working closely together: "Over the last year we've developed My Manchester, a single portal on the web for students to go to for information.

"Although the University delivers the technology behind the site, it is the students themselves who voice their wants and needs regarding content."

Other examples include the Ask Me? programme, where student ambassadors were trained to help new students in Welcome Week, which was developed in partnership with UMSU, and the Students Charter, fully reported on page 3 of this edition.

Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students Professor Clive Agnew is also enthusiastic about the way the University and UMSU are working in partnership.

He says: "We have been working together to develop the Teaching, Learning and Student Strategy which identifies the actions required to deliver the University's vision and ambitions for 2020. This has already led to the Student Charter, a demonstration of this partnership and a shared commitment to providing an excellent student experience.

"We are particularly focused on understanding and responding to student expectations which has featured in meetings of staff, student reps and UMSU representatives to discuss how areas within Schools can be improved."

Letty summarises, "The Students' Union goal is to improve life for the students and to improve the experience of being a student in Manchester – it's a shared aim with the University."

Meet the pride of Manchester

The University celebrated the amazing staff, students and alumni who not only lead busy lives but also go the extra mile for those less fortunate at the Social Responsibility and Volunteer of the Year Awards.

President and Vice-Chancellor Dame Nancy Rothwell – who presented the awards – said: “You give up the most valuable thing to all of us and that is time. At a staff lunch I asked people what they wanted from the University and they said to feel proud – I should have brought them all here today.”

Staff winner Lenox Green with his wife Heather re-mortgaged their house to set up a children's centre in Hulme, where he has spent six evenings a week for the past eight years helping local young people have fun in a safe environment, get good advice on a range of issues and achieve their potential.

Lenox is so well loved that when a local burglar broke into the centre, his mates made him take the look back.



Winners Lenox, Jack and Estelle with the President

“They’re good kids,” he says. “And I get a lot out of it too – every month I get one of those magic moments. It’s as simple as that really.”

Lenox, a postgraduate office administrator in the School of Mathematics, started in his teens by helping with youth projects, summer camps and soup runs in Chinatown then progressed to inviting homeless people round for meals. Then 19 years ago when he met and married Heather they started running a drugs rehab centre from their home, as well as supporting recovering addicts in rehab centres and youth hostels.

They opened the Rainbow Christian Centre in 2003 to help addicts but, after speaking with locals,

focused their attention on preventing addiction and the associated behaviour that led to it. Available 24 hours a day – Lenox has only taken one five-day holiday in 19 years – their projects include a gym for adults, youth groups, food handouts, court appearances, family liaison and advice on housing, benefits, education and debt. And in August of each year, he takes a week off work to run a play scheme.

The kids’ testimonies say it all. Danni: “He would do anything for us and has worked so hard to make the centre what we want it to be.” Antony: “He is a father figure and the kids respect him because he is genuine.” And James: “To tell the truth, before the

Community volunteering

The University has announced six ‘flagship’ projects which really show the difference its staff and students are making to local, national and international communities. Here we take a look at community volunteering.



Lucy Nightingale in Sri Lanka

Our students, staff and alumni really do make a difference to people’s lives in a very practical way – thanks to the voluntary work they carry out.

Since 2005, our students have completed over 160,000 hours of voluntary work – which equates to a monetary value of around £760,000.

The Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) is just one of many University schemes which help students work with local people. Students taking part carry out 60 hours of voluntary work.

Once such participant is Elizabeth Stapley, who has been working with a local charity supporting isolated people. She said: “I helped organise a Christmas party for Crossroads Care. It was great fun and an excellent opportunity to make

a difference for a vulnerable group, and we received fantastic feedback.”

English student Rachel Boyce, who volunteered for two Manchester charities and now runs her own youth project, agrees: “Volunteering helped me develop communication, leadership, public speaking and budgeting skills, improve my time management and develop my confidence, which I’ve found essential in the job market.”

Psychology graduate Lucy Nightingale was so inspired by taking part in MLP that she set up SL Volunteers, which has taken over 100 students and graduates into Sri Lankan children’s homes and special needs centres to teach English, sports or extra-curricular subjects.



Estelle Goodwin and friends



Lenox Green

centre was opened I was a pretty bad kid – getting arrested, going to jail – but I dropped the bad stuff and as I got older started helping out with the kids.”

Student winner Jack Burke not only runs the Student Action soup kitchen, he has fought for its very survival.

BA History student Jack and his team prepare and deliver fresh food and drinks in a safe place where the homeless can share their concerns and problems. His detailed knowledge of the services available – obtained by various means including meetings with members of the City Council – makes a huge difference to those he helps. When the

service was told to move, he spent his own time looking at other possible venues.

And he has successfully completed the BOGLE Stroll 55-mile walk twice to raise funds to enhance the soup kitchen.

Alumni winner Estelle Goodwin, who studied for her MA in Ancient World Studies here, founded the charity KIN (Kibera in Need) which supports projects in the vast Kibera slum in Kenya, which is home to up to one million people suffering poor housing and sanitation, high unemployment, HIV/Aids and low school attendance.

KIN started out helping the Kenyan NGO Riziki fund its small feeding programme, in which 50 Kibera residents got their main weekend meal every Saturday.

It has now developed an Education Support Scheme, a Child Guardianship Scheme, Microfinance and a series of seminars giving guidance on parenting, reproductive health and career choice; funds vocational training for around 220 children and young people; helps 800 plus small business clients; and is about to start a solar lighting project.

And the feeding programme has grown to 200 children and caregivers every week.

Students can also work as volunteer Student Ambassadors, going into schools to work as classroom assistants, mentors and positive role models.

And the Students’ Union has long volunteered in local communities via Student Action Manchester, whose 30 plus projects include supporting homeless people, helping older people with shopping and social activities for adults with learning difficulties.

But it isn’t just students who get involved – our staff do too. The University’s Sports Volunteer Scheme has staff volunteers who work with local schools, sports clubs and other organisations, help run festivals and tournaments and assist behind the scenes at national events.

And the University doesn’t only go out into communities, its multi-award-winning In-Touch programme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has brought over 180 people to The Manchester Museum as volunteers.

60% of those completing the programme went on to further learning or

employment, with similar numbers saying In-Touch altered their self-perception.

Shaun Bennett took part following redundancy in 2008 and is now a Museum Front of House supervisor: “There are so many activities I enjoyed, and the training helped me gain back my confidence and prepared me for my role as a volunteer,” he says.

Social Responsibility Manager Suzanne Spicer explains how volunteering makes a difference: “Volunteering gives our students and staff rewarding opportunities to make a positive impact in the wider community, interacting with people of diverse ages and backgrounds and gaining valuable skills and experience, which contribute to their development and that of the University.”

According to Suzanne, however, many people’s motivation for taking part is more straightforward. “Simply ‘giving something back’ is the explanation most volunteers give,” she smiles.

www.manchester.ac.uk/volunteers



Shaun Bennett at the Manchester Museum

What's On

International Society

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 9 June* **Lake District (Windermere and Holker Hall's Garden Festival)**
- Sun 10 June* **Peak District (Chatsworth House and its Summer Food Fair)**
- Sat 16 June* **North Wales visiting Snowdon Railway, Swallow Falls and Betws-y-coed**
- Sun 17 June* **Tatton Park's Medieval Fayre**
- Sat 23 June* **Robin Hood's Bay and Scarborough**
- Sun 24 June* **North Wales visiting Bodnant Gardens and Penrhyn Castle**
- Sat 30 June* **Liverpool**

Opening 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

Mondays 5 – 6pm, £1.50 per session

Rush Hour Choir

Open to all staff and students, no singing experience necessary. Come along and relax by singing in a group. New members always welcome.

Sunday, 11am Holy Communion

12.45pm Lunch (1st Sun)

Sunday, 6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)

FOYER 10am – 5pm, weekdays

12.15pm Wednesdays Eucharist

An area where students and staff can relax and meet friends. A tea/coffee 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

Hillel House, Greenheys Lane

0161 226 1139

Email Rabbi Mati Kos: rabbikos@mychaplaincy.co.uk

Muslim Chaplaincy

South Campus Mosque, McDougall Centre

Jammat (Group Prayer) Daily

Juma Prayer Friday 1.15pm

Honorary Imam: Imam Habeeb, h_chatti@hotmail.com

North Campus Mosque

Basement of Joule Library, Sackville Street Building

Jammat (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.sami99@yahoo.co.uk, assia_shah61@yahoo.co.uk

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 café offers spectacular views of the iconic Lovell telescope and fantastic homemade cakes!

EVENTS

Wed 6 to Fri 8 June, 11am, 12pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm (booking essential), 5+

Science Shows

The shows explore the atmosphere on the planet Venus through a range of scientific experiments.

Weds 6 - Fri 8 June, 1.30pm

Ask an Expert

Now's your big chance to ask an expert all those burning questions!

Weds 6 June, Transit of Venus with Dr Tim O'Brien,

Thurs 7 June, Dr Georgina Harris

Fri 8 June, Dr Clive Dickinson

Thur 14 Jun, 7.30pm – 9pm, £7.50/£5.50, 15+

Lovell Lecture

e-MERLIN: Zooming in on the Radio Universe

with Simon Garington

Opening times

10am-5pm

For more information and prices please visit our website

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DL

01477 571 766

www.jodrellbank.net

Gig Guide

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Fri 8 June - £10

Sat 9 June - £15

Tues 12 June - £15

Sat 16 June - £14.50

Tues 19 June - £8

Weds 20 June - £20

Thurs 21 June - £8

Mon 25 June -

£27.50 / £60 VIP

Fri 29 June - £12

Sat 30 June - £6

Sat 30 June - £8.50

Tue 3 July - £27.50

Tue 3 July - £12.50

Sat 7 July - £13.50

Sun 8 July - £8.50

Wed 11 July - £9.50

Fri 13 July - £14

Thurs 19 July - £7

Sat 21 July - £18

Sat 21 July - £11

Thur 26 July - £14

Tickets from

Students' Union, Oxford Road

Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Café (c/c)

0871 2200260

Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

Students' Union

Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

0161 275 2930

www.manchesteracademy.net

Music and Drama at Manchester

Tue 5 – Fri 8 June 2012

Manchester University Music Society (MUMS) presents **ESTIVAL**

Manchester's biggest student-run Arts Festival

*Tue 5 June, 7.30pm, *£10/£6/£4/MUMS members free*
Church of the Holy Name

Solem Chamber Choir

*Please note: tickets for this event will be sold on the door at the Church of The Holy Name and not via the Martin Harris Centre box office.

Weds 6 June, 1.10pm, FREE

Wind and Brass Ensembles

Weds 6 June, 5pm, £5/£3/£2/MUMS members free

Grade One Orchestra

Weds 6 June, 7.30pm, £10/£6/£4/MUMS members free
Manchester University Wind Orchestra

Thurs 7 June, 1.10pm, FREE

Opera

Thurs 7 June, 5pm, £5/£3/£2/ MUMS members free
Beat the Rush Hour - Vocal Showcase

Thurs 7 June, 7.30pm, £10/£6/£4/ MUMS members free
Manchester University Big Band

Fri 8 June, 1.10pm, FREE

Brass Band

Fri 8 June, 5pm, £5/£3/£2/MUMS members free

String and Chamber Orchestras

Fri 8 June, 7.30pm, £10/£6/£4/ MUMS members free
The University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra

Tues 26 June, 7.30pm, £10/£5

Julian Jacobson – Beethoven Piano Recital

Fri 29 June, 12am-5pm

NOVARS Research Centre presents:

Interactive Audiogames Showcase

Mon 16 July, 7.30pm, £9/£6

Halle Youth Orchestra

Tues 17 July, 7.30pm, £9/£6

Halle Youth Choir

Fri 27 July, 7.30pm £7/£5

Carpet Burns

Book launch - with Tom Hingley (Inspirar Carpets) and Mike Joyce (The Smiths)

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Bridgeford Street, Manchester, M13 9PL

0161 275 8951

email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre





The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

All exhibitions at The Manchester Museum are FREE

We Face Forward: Anansi Stories, until 16 Sep 2012
Anansi the Spider is a trickster and a popular character in West African and Caribbean folklore. The Museum has worked with the African Caribbean Carers Group and artist Alan Birch to develop a re-interpretation of the Anansi Spider stories.

Unearthed: Ancient Egypt, until 6 Sep 2012
Travel back to the 1920s and enter the storeroom of our Egyptologist, played on film by Terry Deary, author of *Horrible Histories* and *Egyptian Tales*. Help him investigate and record the objects he's found.

Alan Turing and Life's Enigma, until 18 Nov 2012
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.

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.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Most activities are free and drop-in, some activities may need to be booked and may cost up to £1.50, all ages

Mon 4-Fri 8 Jun, 11am-4pm

June Half-Term: Living Worlds and Manchester Anansi Spider

Make sock pets and Anansi Spiders, inspired by our We Face Forward: Anansi Stories display and Living Worlds gallery.

Weds 13 June, 12.30-1.15pm

Behind the Scenes Tour of the Palaeontology Stores

Explore the Manchester Museum's fossil stores. Booking essential on museum@manchester.ac.uk

Fri 29 Jun, 11am-12pm

Magic Carpet: Spiders

Sun 1 Jul, 11am-4pm

Anansi the Spider

Weave a web of stories about spiders and add your story to our giant spider book.

Sat 14 Jul, 11am-4pm

Big Saturday: Volcanoes

See mini volcanic eruptions, make your own volcano and find out what it is like to be in an eruption! Look at amazing evidence of Britain's volcanic past and objects from Pompeii.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Mon 23 Jul - Fri 31 Aug, 11am-4pm

Unearthed: Ancient Egypt

Create your own archaeological treasures

Wed 25 Jul, 11am-4pm

Skulls, Death and the Dark Ages

Watch a battle re-enactment and make your own sword and shield.

Wed 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 Aug, 1-3pm

Manchester Anansi Spider

Create your own Anansi Spider stories

Fri 27 Jul, 10.30am and 11.30am

Magic Carpet: Rocks

Story telling and activities for the under 5's

Sat 4 Aug, 11am-4pm

Big Saturday: Nature Discovery

Opening hours

Open: Tues-Sat 10am-5pm

Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11am-4pm

FREE entry

The Manchester Museum,
Oxford Road, Manchester
0161 275 2648

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

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John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

EXHIBITIONS

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.

EVENTS

Tues 12 June, 12 - 12.45pm, (booking essential)

Explorer Tour: A Peek Behind the Scenes!

Ever wondered where some of the Library doors and staircases lead to? Then this is the tour for you!

Fri 8 June, 12 - 1pm

What the Dickens? Collection Encounter

Explore the Library's fascinating collections of Dickensiana – signed letters, first editions and contemporary serials such as *Household Words*.

Sun 10 June, 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.

Wed 13 June, 12 - 12.45pm

St Bartholomew's Day 1662 Exhibition – Curator Tour and Collection Encounter

Take this opportunity to discuss the Robert Donat archive with the curator of this exhibition.

Sat 16 June, 11am – 12pm (booking essential)

Enchanting Tales

Join the Library's storyteller in one of our beautiful book-lined rooms, for tales of magic, mystery and mayhem!

Sun 17 and Wed 20 June, 1pm - 2pm

The Man in the Moon: One Hour/One Object

Take an hour out to discuss *The Moon: Considered as a Planet, a World and a Satellite*, published in 1885,

Wed 20 June, 1 - 3pm (booking essential)

Whimsical Wednesday: Textile Exploration

Part of a series of sessions offering the opportunity to dip your toes into a creative activity in a comfortable and supportive workshop.

Thurs 21 June, 6pm - 7pm

1662 and After: The Book of Common Prayer and the Creation of Global Anglicanism

With Professor Jeremy Gregory.

Thurs 21 June, 12 - 1pm (booking essential)

Tours and Treasures

With one of our curators, enjoy a closer look at material from the Library's world famous collections and find out more about this magnificent building.

Sat 23 June, 11am - 4pm, children 5-12

Fun and Games: Family Fun Day

To celebrate the arrival of the Olympic torch in Manchester, join us for a day of game playing and creative fun.

Thurs 28 June, 5.30pm - 7pm (booking essential)

Summer Evening Specials: Creative Writing

Escape into the world of fiction. Whether you are a first time writer or an old hand, enjoy writing with others as we investigate what makes a good story.

For further details of our events, please our website

Public opening hours

Mon 12-5pm, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12pm-5pm

Reader opening hours

Mon-Wed 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-7pm, Fri-Sat 10am-5pm

FREE ADMISSION

The John Rylands Library

150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH

0161 306 0555

email jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk

www.library.manchester.ac.uk/deansgate/events



The Whitworth Art Gallery

EXHIBITIONS

We Face Forward: Art from West Africa Today until 16 Sept

We Face Forward is a season of contemporary art and music from West Africa, celebrated across Manchester's galleries, museums, music venues and public as part of London 2012 Festival. For more info visit: www.wefaceforward.org

Building on Things: Images of Ruin and Renewal until Jan 2013

This exhibition looks at the themes of ruin and creation. Featuring works by Piranesi, Canaletto and Whistler alongside Tacita Dean, Patrick Caulfield and Anne Desmet.

ADULT EVENTS

Every Thurs, 8.30 – 9.45am, £3, (booking is essential)

Yoga

A fantastic way to start your day. Please bring your own yoga mat.

Sat 9 June, 1 – 4pm, Free (booking essential)

Art Social

Artist Led drop-in workshops.

Sun 10 and 24 June, at 12.30 – 1.15pm, Free

Performance by RNCM students

Enjoy music and art together in the Whitworth's regular series of gallery concerts.

Sat 16 June, 11am – 1pm, £5

Alternative Camera Club

Explore the work of artists who use photography to highlight particular themes.

Sun 24 June, 1 – 2.30pm, Free

English Corner

Use the We Face Forward exhibition to practice speaking English with others.

Sat 23 June, 10.30am – 1pm, Free

Focus on West Africa: History, Art, Culture

Lecturer Nirvana Romell discusses history and artistic traditions.

Sat 30 June, 7.30 – 10.30pm, Free

After Hours

Featuring exciting live musicians exploring West African connections.

FAMILY EVENTS

Weds 6 and 20 June, 10.30 – 11.30am, Free (booking essential)

Art Baby

Creative sensory, discovery and play sessions for babies and their grown-ups.

Every Mon, 10.30 – 11.30am or 11.30am – 12.30pm, Free (booking essential)

Toddlerastic

Bring the artworks to life through hands-on workshops.

Tue 5, Weds 6, Thur 7 and Fri 8 June. All sessions 1 – 3pm, Free

Artist Skills: Collage, Screen-printing and Music

Enjoy a collision of art and music.

Sun 17 June, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Free

Drumming Dads - Father's Day Special

Come along for a lively afternoon of drumming.

Sun 24 June, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Free

Power Dance - Refugee Week

Become warriors with words and movement in energetic, dance and craft workshops.

Every Sun, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Free

Colourful Sundays

Join friends and family for fun drop-in creative workshops.

Opening hours

Mon-Sat 10am – 5pm, Sun 12 – 4pm

FREE Admission. Booking line 0161 275 7450

The Whitworth Art Gallery

Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 7450

email whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth



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Cocoa pod coffin

We Face Forward: Anansi Stories

2 June-16 September 2012

A popular character in West African and Caribbean folklore, Anansi the Spider, is a trickster who started life as a man, but due to his mischievous ways, was turned into a spider by his father, the Great Sky God.

Because of his small size, Anansi uses his intelligence to survive and stories of his adventures have a lot to teach us.

Using its natural history and ethnographic collections, The Manchester Museum has worked with the African Caribbean Carers Group and artist Alan Birch to develop a re-interpretation of the Anansi Spider stories.

The group's resulting artworks, printed stories and Museum objects – including a cocoa pod coffin – are displayed in the Museum's reception area.

There are also family and adult events featuring storytelling, live music and other performances, which is part of We Face Forward, a season of contemporary art and music across Manchester this Olympic summer for the London 2012 Festival.

www.wefaceforward.org



Artwork by The African Caribbean Carers Group, Alan Birch

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News Contact

News and story ideas
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Deadline 12 September 2012

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Deadline 12 September 2012

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Deadline 12 September 2012

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