

staffupdate

Exclusively for staff at The University of Manchester



UNDERGRADUATE OPEN DAY

The Student Recruitment and Widening Participation Team would like to thank all of you who were involved in the successful Open Day on Saturday, 6 October.

The campus was alive with thousands of excited prospective students who were eager to explore what our University has to offer.

Many of the subject sessions were full, with students keen to find out more about their chosen courses, whilst the campus tours were busy throughout the day.

It was also great to see the newly refurbished Students' Union open, with some of the clubs and societies offering exciting taster sessions. Visitors were also able to take in the amazing space at the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons.

Feedback on the day was extremely positive, thanks to the tremendous efforts made by all staff and students involved in the preparation and delivery of the event.

EMPLOY A UNIVERSITY INTERN

Offering a work experience opportunity to a recent Manchester graduate could help you meet your staffing needs.

Over the summer, the University's Manchester Graduate Internship Programme (MGIP) team has been busy helping our graduates to find short-term opportunities - both here at our University - and with external businesses and organisations.

Internships can last anything between four and 12 months and graduates can start any time between now and February 2013.

For more information about how MGIP could help meet your staffing needs:

- Contact Anne Milligan, Careers and Employability Division, tel 54041 or email anne.milligan@manchester.ac.uk

or

- Visit www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/staff/employingstudents/mgip

COFFEE MORNING'S BEAN A GREAT SUCCESS!

The University's first co-ordinated Macmillan Coffee Morning raised nearly £2,000 for a very worthy cause.

Staff and students who'd never met before, worked together to organise events ranging from a homemade cake sale in University Place and a cake competition in the Alan Turing Building, to a dedicated Coffee Morning at Christie's Bistro.

FoodOnCampus also donated money from its drinks sales on the morning of Friday, 28 September.

Liz McLroy, University Wedding Coordinator, won a magnum of Prosecco after guessing that

a glass biscotti jar in Christies Bistro held 9,225 beans – hers was the closest guess, but still some way off the actual count of 8,775.

11 lucky raffle winners (announced on StaffNet News/eUpdate) scooped prizes including a champagne afternoon tea and a seven-day-gym pass.

Adam Woof, Manager of Christie's Bistro, who was one of the Coffee Morning organisers, said: "On behalf of all the organisers, I'd like to thank everyone who donated, baked cakes and helped out. We've raised a fantastic amount for a great cause."

You can see photos from the Coffee Morning on the following Facebook pages:



www.facebook.com/ChristiesBistro



www.facebook.com/MacmillanCoffeeMorningatTheUniversityofManchester

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Each month in Staff Update we publish a summary of the President's weekly message, for staff who don't have access to email or the internet at work.

20 September

This week saw the President give a warm welcome to some of the thousands of new international students from more than 120 countries. She also attended the welcome for PhD students who have won 'President's Scholarships', which provide additional funding, mentorship and opportunities to discuss their studies with the President or one of her Vice-Presidents.

27 September

Today's message highlighted our performance in the National Student Survey (NSS) which showed that the University has moved up from 79% overall satisfaction to 83% - a major achievement and a real testament to the hard work of many of our staff.



4 October

The President visited the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons, which opened this week and already seems to be a great success. She hosted a Civic Dinner attended by senior figures in Manchester, at which the discussion focused particularly on the relationship between our University and the City and on how we can better promote the great strengths of Manchester.

11 October

The President reported that the Board had approved the recommendations from Planning and Resources Committee on our Estates Master Plan, an ambitious and important plan for our University which aims to facilitate delivery of our Manchester 2020 Vision (see November's UniLife for more details).

NEW START FOR NETWORK

The University's network group for black, minority and ethnic staff chose Black History Month (October) to re-launch itself.

A lunchtime discussion about ways of making the group more visible and active, was followed by talks from Christian, disabled and LGBT staff network groups on their development, activities and events.

This gave much food for thought and inspiration for the next steps in the development of the BME staff network group.

Anyone can be involved in the BME staff Network Group – to find out more visit:

- www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/equality-and-diversity/staff-network-groups/bme-staff-group



CAREERS FAIRS IN NOVEMBER

There are two remaining careers fairs in the autumn programme, organised by the Careers and Employability Division for our students and graduates.

The Law Fair

Tuesday, 20 November 2012 (12.30pm - 4pm)
Manchester Central (formerly the G-Mex).

Postgraduate Study Fair

Wednesday, 21 November 2012
(10.30am - 4pm) Manchester Central.

- www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/students/events

NEW FLEXIBLE WORKING POLICY

The following Human Resources policies have all been incorporated into one policy:

- Flexible working policy
- Temporary increased flexible working arrangements
- Job share policy

You can view the new policy at:

- <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=9>

STUDENT SCOOPS TOP WITNESS PRIZE

Eagle-eyed student Andrei Constantin scooped the top prize in an observation test run by our Security team during Welcome Week.

Visitors to the Security stand at the Start of Year Fair were challenged to answer questions after watching a four minute clip of video footage. Andrei, from the School of Social Sciences, was the best 'witness' out of around 300 staff and students who took part.

Dr Tim Westlake, Director for the Student Experience, presented him with his prize of a mountain bike.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Did you know that the University offers staff an opportunity to work together on work-based issues through the 'Professional Development Network'?

Open to everyone, this peer support network consists of a number of small groups which meet regularly to discuss issues and agree appropriate actions with which to address them.

If you are interested in joining or hearing more about the network, you are invited to the annual 'Professional Development Network' event on Thursday, 15 November from 9.30am until 2pm at Chancellors Conference Centre (lunch is provided).

For more details and an application, visit:

- www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training/personal-development/groups-networking-mentoring/display/?id=MS54

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The University has developed a Research Data Management (RDM) policy and is consulting with academic staff to implement the supporting Research Data Management Service.

The new policy and service are the University's response to increasing demands from funding bodies for researchers to demonstrate good practice in the management of data acquired through public funding.

The RDM Policy, which provides a broad set of principles and expectations for good practice, is online at:

- www.miss.manchester.ac.uk/?page_id=425

During November, the Associate Vice-Presidents will talk to Faculty Research Committees and ask them to nominate academic staff to take part in the consultation on a Research Data Management Service (RDMS). This process will be repeated in School Boards and other committees.

The outcomes from the consultation will be used to develop an interim RDM Service to provide practical

support for researchers, which will be launched in January 2013, evolving towards the full RDM service over the next year. The interim service will feature:

- A single point of contact for Research Data Management enquiries;
- A website to provide a single location for RDM information and resources;
- Support materials and resources for data management planning;
- Details of procedures and guidance on the RDM policy;
- Support staff who can give advice and training on Research Data Management.

The RDM policy will be implemented over a period of time and there will be further communications about the implementation timetable.

If you would like more information about the RDMS, email:

- researchdata@manchester.ac.uk

JODRELL BANK DISHES UP GREAT GRUB

The Planet Pavilion Café at Jodrell Bank has been named by The Guardian as one of Cheshire's ten best budget restaurants.

The Pavilion was featured in an article marking the Cheshire Food Festival. Writer Tony Naylor commended the food as "good, varied stuff" and added that the radio telescopes made him feel that he was "eating on the set of a Cold War spy drama."

The café is open from 10am to 4.30pm and has just published an enticing autumn menu.



Read the full Guardian article at:

- www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2012/sep/27/cheshire-best-budget-restaurants

A NEW TOY FOR EVERY CHILD ON CHRISTMAS DAY

The Wood Street Mission Christmas Project 2012 invites your donations of toys, children's books, food and money.

Wood Street Mission has been planning the 2012 Christmas Project for months, to ensure that no child goes without a new toy on Christmas Day, but it needs your help to achieve this.

You can support the Christmas Project by donating any of the following:

- Brand new toys and gifts for children up to the age of 16
- New or second hand children's books
- Non-perishable food items
- You can also make a cash donation

Make your donations by Thursday, 29 November 2012.

For full information about the Christmas Project and how to donate, see:

- www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/news/display/?id=8700

KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND CAMPUS

Staff brushed up their knowledge of the campus in readiness for Welcome Week, by joining tours designed to help them answer questions from new students.

The six one-hour tours led staff around all of the main buildings on campus giving general information on their history and the work which goes on in them.

150 members of staff signed up for the sessions and 80% of respondents to the post-tour survey said they would recommend them to others.

One said: "The tour and the guide were excellent, full of information and very useful. They really helped me to get my bearings."

Further tours will be arranged for the coming months, so watch this space for more dates.



COMMEMORATING JEAN'S LIFE

Staff are invited to a special event to celebrate the life of former University Head of Nursing, Jean MacFarlane.

Jean, Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff, was Head of Nursing between 1971 and 1989. She died earlier this year.

The ceremony will take place in the Whitworth Hall on Monday 3, December, starting at 2.30pm and ending at 3.30pm.

If you would like to attend, contact:

- daniel.macauley@manchester.ac.uk

In your email, state:

- The number of tickets you require
- The email address you would like your e-ticket to be sent
- Whether you intend to stay for refreshments after the celebration

STEP OUT WITH THE LUNCHTIME STROLLERS

Here's the walks schedule for November - put the dates in your diary and turn up on the day.

The Lunchtime Strollers meet just inside Dover Street Building - come rain or shine! Please wear appropriate footwear and bring your brolly.

- Friday, 9 November (12pm) with Vanessa
- Tuesday, 13 November (12.30pm) with Betty-Ann
- Friday, 16 November (12pm) with Vanessa

For more information about the Lunchtime Strollers, go to:

- www.facebook.com/pages/Lunchtime-Strollers-at-The-University-of-Manchester/118870224841847

RUBY STEALS THE SHOW

Ruby the schnauzer took an exhibition opening in her stride when she jumped over a pink ribbon to launch 'Breed: The British and their Dogs' at The Manchester Museum.

Ruby's owner, Museum Director Nick Merriman, said: "Breed is a great example of the way the Museum is bringing the University's academic work to a popular audience. The opening night exemplified this, with a speech from Professor Mick Worboys who led the research, and Ruby's opening of the exhibition!"

Around 300 people came to the launch, along with representatives of each of the six breeds featured in the exhibition. Treats for humans were served in dog bowls and drinks included beer from the Black Dog Brewery.

For more information visit:

- www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/whatson/exhibitions/breedthebritishtheirdogs



DAN POWER

Drama Technician

**The Martin Harris Centre
for Music and Drama**

The Martin Harris Centre has gained a reputation for offering a diverse programme of arts events, and behind the scenes, a team of technicians provide audiovisual, lighting and professional support.

Dan Power is one of a team of three technicians, who between them, as well as supporting teaching and research, will be looking after more than 150 events this academic year.

These include classical and contemporary music concerts, drama productions and literature events.

Each event requires careful planning and Dan says: "There are always two of us rostered for each event as we also have front of house responsibilities such as health and safety and managing stewards." With lunchtime concerts, conferences and seminar rooms to set up, the team has a full schedule to look after.

It's been a busy time for the team over the summer too, as new sound, lighting and video equipment was installed.



"It was quite hectic getting everything in place, but with this new equipment we can now do so much more. Students can design and create multimedia projects offline in the sound room and video editing suite and then send completed projects to the control room of the theatre for live playback.

"All of the audio in the John Thaw Studio Theatre is now controlled by digital desks which is a big change in the way we work. It's a multi-function facility and we can save settings for different events and applications. We can now cater for the more complicated requirements of students and visiting companies with relative ease."

Helping students is one way that Dan can test his skills more creatively – and for the past three years he's taught a module for first year drama students, which looks at the use of technology in performance.

He says: "It's a six-week module looking at how to use cameras, the use of light and sound, creating videos and storyboards, and it's a really good way for students to acquire more practical skills.

"The industries they're trying to break into are all really competitive, and the feedback we've had suggests that it's easier for them to get work experience if they have some technical knowledge."

There's also been increasing interest from outside organisations in using either the John Thaw Studio Theatre or the Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall. Dan says: "I think that's one of the things I like best about my job – there's a great variety in the technical requirements for each event.

"Setting up for a classical music concert is vastly different from a poetry performance. Manchester Pride love the venue and have now used it for several years running. They always have something new and interesting each time they visit.

"Also, the Young Vic Company visited a few years ago with their play 'Sus' – which required a complicated lighting design and set. This was a real challenge to accommodate and a lot of work to put in but well worth it in the end."

Dan adds: "We're always looking forward to what's coming up next, and I'm hoping next year we will maybe see some familiar faces return."

You can find the full programme of events for the Martin Harris Centre at:

• www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

or



Twitter: @MHCentre

CONTACT US

If you have any news or story ideas, you can contact us via: uninews@manchester.ac.uk or 275 2112.

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