

unilife

The free magazine for The University of Manchester

Meet our
new people's
historian



Message from the President

I was asked the other day if I had any regrets about taking up the position of President and Vice-Chancellor. The answer was: "Remarkably few." But one was that I am no longer able to be the lead supervisor for PhD students.

One of the greatest joys of my career as an academic has been supervising PhD students - in fact I have been the main supervisor for more than 50 of them.

Each one has been very different, with varied skills, approaches, aspirations and worries. I am thankful that all apart from three completed their PhD in the designated time, one had a serious accident, another decided that research was not for her and another experienced a major family tragedy.

I am in contact with very many of my former PhD students, who have gone on to varied and very successful careers (only about 10% are in academic careers), and we try to have a reunion about every five years.

PhD students are critically important to our University for many reasons. They are the potential researchers of the future, are major contributors to our current research and contribute to many aspects of our teaching and supervision. PhD students are the life blood of a research group, but can also present significant challenges and place major responsibility on their supervisor.

My first PhD student (as a primary rather than secondary supervisor) started in 1987, just as I moved to Manchester. She was soon joined by others, and before I knew it, I had six students; quite a challenge for a relatively junior member of staff and actually very bad planning on my part.

I later learnt to take PhD students only when I had the time to supervise them, or had other academic



Life Sciences interview day

staff or post-docs to share in the day-to-day supervision, which, in science in particular, is essential.

Back then there were no advisors, no additional training, no checks on progress or support for students who were struggling. Now, of course, all of these are in place.

Nowadays, some staff complain about the additional requirements on PhD students and their supervisors, including the courses that they have to attend and regular checks on progress. I see this training as vital, because it means that students receive broader training which is relevant to their likely careers and have support from a wider range of people, rather than all of the responsibility falling onto the supervisor.

I am very aware though, that we cannot make training too generic and it must be seen as relevant to each student and their supervisor. Ensuring good progress through a PhD is essential, but we have to make sure that our monitoring systems are simple and quick.

I also welcome our system whereby each PhD student has an advisor or a second supervisor, or in



Visiting the Armitage Centre

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With Professor Brian Cox at the Wonders of Life screening

some areas, a supervisory team. This takes a huge burden off supervisors and provides diversity of expertise. I wish I had benefited from this level of support back in 1987 when I had six PhD students!

Things have certainly improved in terms of support, but have also become more complicated and regulated in every area of our academic lives.

As a PhD student myself (very many years ago), I barely considered issues like conflicts of interest; ownership of research and intellectual property; authorship of publications; PhD completion dates; collaboration with industry (part of my PhD was in industry); let alone the more controversial areas of research or any aspects of the 'politics' of research and funding.

But I was very lucky. I had a fantastic supervisor who, like many academics at that time, had rather limited pressures on his time, so could always find time to chat. He had a passion for all of the wide-ranging issues in science. He persuaded me to read books well outside the area of my PhD, to consider public communication of science, to broaden my experience in teaching and to take a course in the philosophy of science.

Fast forward to 2013, and we see a very different picture, of academics balancing numerous pressures and challenges, yet still anxious to provide the very best inspiration, training and leadership for their PhD students. We all want our students to graduate on time, with great publications and a glittering career ahead of them. Yet it doesn't always work out that way.

The best advice on PhD supervision that I ever received was that completion of a PhD begins on the day the student starts; that every result matters - even if it wasn't what was expected; to look for the unexpected and to stretch every PhD student as much as they can manage. But there is no formula for successful PhD supervision - each student is unique - which is part of the real pleasure!

We have an aspiration in our University to increase the number of PhD students. This is an important goal but also a real challenge - not because of lack of excellent applicants (applications are up by over 30% this year), but because of limited funding.

External funding for PhD students seems to be ever decreasing. We are committing our own funds, for example through our 'President's PhD Scholarships'.

This scheme is just in its first year, but it already looks to be very successful with more than 100 award holders so far. Recruitment of the next cohort is now underway with some truly outstanding applications.

Most funding bodies are now moving towards Doctoral Training Accounts, which means that a block grant is provided for us to decide how we spend it. The flexibility here is good, but it raises many challenging questions, such as how many students do we recruit and for how long? For example, we could accept more students for three years or fewer students for four years; how do we allocate student funding and how do we select the best students for the best projects and the best supervisors?

I hope we will increase the number of PhD students in the University, but the quality of our students, the supervision they receive and the research they conduct is so much more important than quantity.

I am reminded - that it's time for another reunion.

Professor Nancy Rothwell
President and Vice-Chancellor



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Professor Michael Wood.
Photo by Russell Hart

Top honour for equality champion

Emerita Professor Katharine Perera has received the University's most prestigious medal, its Medal of Honour.

Katharine, who was once described as representing everything which is intended by the phrase 'academic leadership,' is a former Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Victoria University of Manchester.

Even when she officially retired from the University, she continued to make an impact, directing the 'Women in Leadership' project and identifying ways to increase the proportion of women in leadership positions at the University.

She also played a huge part in establishing the Athena Swan awards at the University, which focus



Professor Aneez Esmail, Associate Vice-President for Social Responsibility with Emerita Professor Katharine Perera and the President and Vice-Chancellor.

on the career advancement of female academics in science, engineering and technology.

The Medal of Honour is bestowed on people who have made an exceptional contribution to the work of the University, the city or the region.

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell said: "It was a great pleasure and a privilege to recognise Katharine's enormous contributions to the University by the award of the Medal of Honour. She has been a true role model for many staff – men as well as women."

New role for Julian

Julian Skyrme has been appointed as the University's first full-time Director of Social Responsibility.

He will lead our social responsibility strategy, following a public consultation earlier this year.

Prior to his new role, Julian (pictured below) led our widening participation and undergraduate recruitment activity for a number of years, where he helped take Manchester to the top end of the Russell Group for our intake of students from under-represented backgrounds.

Julian said: "World-leading universities of our scale have exciting opportunities to create significant social impact through our teaching, research, operations and engagement activities."



Professor Tracy Hussell in the lab

Unique partnership with pharma giants

Patients suffering from inflammatory diseases like asthma and arthritis are set to benefit from the opening of a ground-breaking centre dedicated to investigating these conditions.

The Manchester Collaborative Centre for Inflammation Research (MCCIR) – a unique partnership

between the University, GlaxoSmithKline and AstraZeneca – aims to deliver more effective treatments for a range of conditions such as asthma, arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease.

The Centre's Director Professor Tracy Hussell said: "Bringing together academia, industry and

clinicians in one centre creates the real possibility of innovation.

"The ideas that spring from this partnership will fuel the treatments of the future and provide the ideal platform to transfer scientific progress into clinical benefit."



Professor Michael Wood at work

People's historian comes to Manchester

One of the country's best loved historians is to become Professor of Public History here at the University in September.

Michael Wood, who has been a regular face on our TV screens for over three decades, will teach undergraduate and postgraduate students, lead historical field trips and give four public lectures a year.

Originally from Moss Side, Michael has made well over a hundred documentary films and is known for his work with community historians across the UK. He is also the author of numerous best-selling history books and will be based at the University for three years.

Over the next couple of years, he will be writing and presenting a major BBC series exploring the history of China, a country with which the University has strong and growing ties.

Michael says: "I am thrilled to be involved in such an exciting project in History and the Humanities, in such a dynamic and forward-looking university, and especially in my home town Manchester, one of the world's great historic cities."

Fellow historian, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Keith Brown said: "Michael Wood is the UK's leading public historian. He has had a huge popular impact, and we are delighted to announce his appointment."

British Election Study finds new home

The Economic and Social Research Council has announced that the next British Election Study will be hosted by a consortium led by our University in collaboration with the Universities of Oxford and Nottingham.

The leadership team for the 2015 Study will include Professor Ed Fieldhouse, Dr Jane Green and Professor Hermann Schmitt, of the Faculty of Humanities.

Professor Fieldhouse said: "The British Election Study is one of the longest running election studies world-wide and is an invaluable resource for political scientists. It's a great responsibility and privilege to oversee the direction of the study during such an interesting political period."



Michael Wood comes to Manchester



Photo by: London News Pictures / Rex Features



University's winners at awards ceremony

Our women are winners

Eight colleagues did the University proud when they were honoured at the Manchester International Women's Day Awards, with five winning their category and three making the shortlist.

Professor Kathryn Else, Dr Sheena Cruickshank and Dr Joanne Pennock, of the Faculty of Life Sciences, won the women and science category; Director of the Whitworth Art

Gallery and the City Gallery Maria Balshaw won the women and art category; and Emerita Professor Katharine Perera won the valuing older women category.

Dr Gill Green from the Institute of Population Health, Alison Odell who is Director of SPORT and Manchester Enterprise Centre student Christina Rehana-Taylor were all shortlisted.

Kathryn Else, Sheena Cruickshank and Joanne Pennock were nominated for their mobile 'Worm Wagon' workshop which encourages school children to find out more about worms and the effect they have on world health.

Maria Balshaw, one of the Cultural Leadership Programme's Fifty Women to Watch in 2010, has transformed the Whitworth Art Gallery in recent years by

both increasing visitor numbers and making better connections with the local community.

Despite retiring from the University in 2004, Professor Katharine Perera has continued to make her mark on University life by championing equality projects. More can be read about Katharine and her career on page 4.

Bravery award for armed robbery heroes

Eleven University security officers have been honoured for their bravery after they helped apprehend a gunman who robbed a student.

Paul Greenlees, Gerard Darlington, Martin Turner, Michael Collinge, Alan Somers, Robert Ryan, Kenneth Clay, Kenneth Birkett, Barry Barraclough, Simon Raistrick and Kishor Patel all received a Greater Manchester Police Branch Commander's Certificate at a special ceremony.

They played various roles in the incident on campus last June. Paul Greenlees, who is Deputy Security Manager, said: "You don't really think about what might happen when you are in the middle of an incident. We come from all walks of life and have a lot of experience under our belts, so we work well as a team."

Chief Superintendent John O'Hare said: "All 11 are worthy recipients. The fact the offender was armed makes their actions all the more heroic and they are a credit to their colleagues, family and friends."



Chief Superintendent John O'Hare presents awards to (l-r) Barry Barraclough, Simon Raistrick, Paul Greenlees and Ken Clay

Huge funding boost for graphene

The University has received confirmation of £23 million of funding from the European Regional Development Fund towards the £61 million National Graphene Institute (NGI).

This is the largest sum of funding awarded this year by the North West European programme and allows the University to build the world's leading centre of graphene research.

The NGI will be the UK's home of research into the world's thinnest, strongest and most conductive material, providing the opportunity for researchers and industry to work together on a huge variety of potential applications.

It is hoped the centre will initially create around 100 jobs, with the long-term expectation of many thousands more in the North West and more widely in the UK.



Graphene researcher in the clean room

In addition a £50,000 enterprise competition encouraging students to come up with ways of using graphene has been launched.

The Eli and Britt Harari Graphene Enterprise Award was unveiled at a packed University event where more than 500 students and staff found out more about the wonder material.

The award is co-funded by the North American Foundation for The University of Manchester,

through the generous support of one of the University's former students, Dr Eli Harari and his wife Britt, and the UK Government's Higher Education Innovation Fund.

It is open to final-year PhD students and postdoctoral research associates. More details can be found by emailing: ivan.buckley@manchester.ac.uk



Professor Kostya Novoselov on the unearthed cobbled street

Revolutionary roots

A fascinating glimpse of Industrial Revolution life has been revealed at the site of the National Graphene Institute (NGI).

Cellars from rows of 1830s terraced houses and the remains of the Albert Club have been unearthed at the new £61million NGI site.

Friedrich Engels became a member of the Albert Club in 1842. It was while in Manchester that he experienced the horrific conditions people worked in, which inspired his book 'The Condition of the Working Class in England.'

Professor Kostya Novoselov, who along with Professor Andre Geim won the Nobel Prize in 2010 for the discovery of graphene, hopes to include an intact sink salvaged from the remains in the Institute when it opens in 2015.

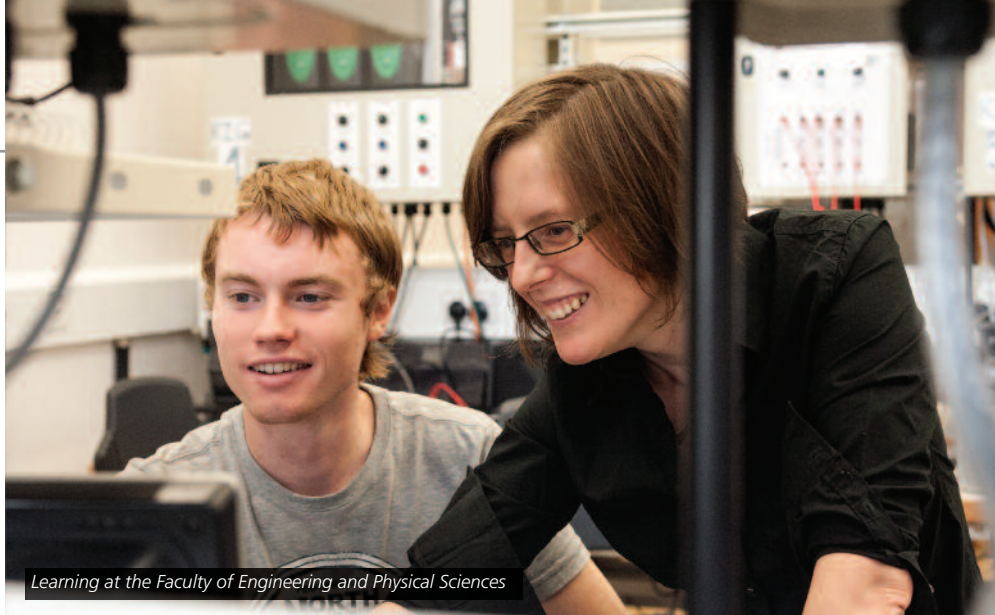
Entering the Dragons' Den...

Projects competed for cash in a Dragons' Den-style competition – with the winners sharing £1,200.

Nine public engagement projects were involved, covering topics as diverse as helping mothers in developing countries to public campaigns about healthy hearts.

Dr Ceri Harrop from the Faculty of Life Sciences organised the event, alongside colleagues from the Faculties of Engineering and Physical Sciences and Medical and Human Sciences.

She said: "We were really impressed with the incredibly diverse range of projects and the different areas of the community that staff wanted to engage with."



Learning at the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Strong foundations

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences is celebrating success with a rise in applications for its Foundation Year.

The EPS Foundation Year gives students who are planning to take a degree in the Faculty further educational support before they embark on a demanding science or engineering course.

They may have taken all arts subjects at A level and have done well but want to change track; have physics to A level but not maths; have vocational qualifications but want to move onto degree level; or are international students who have completed their education at home but only to Year 12 (our first year entry demands Year 13 is completed).

The Foundation Year programme is unusual as it considers applicants from all backgrounds and the course is very much part of the University – all teaching is on campus, taught by University lecturers, and all undergraduate facilities are available, including accommodation. Most foundation years are taught at further education colleges.

As the programme is part of the undergraduate portfolio, the Faculty has complete control over the quality and standard of delivery. The strength of delivery shows in its high retention rate – 80%.

Director Dr Claire Nedwell says: "Its popularity is due to the reputation of Manchester, not just the University, but the Engineering and Physical Sciences here; it's recognised as one of the best in the world. The level of service is also very attractive."

"One of the things I get the biggest buzz from is seeing our students when they graduate and getting emails from them, saying thank you."

Nuno Alves Martins Palma, now a third year MEng student in Civil Engineering, says: "The knowledge I gained was very helpful. It prepared me very well in maths and physics, which are very important in engineering degrees."

"It also gave me a good basis in other areas, such as communication skills, the ability to write reports correctly and deliver presentations."

Sally Lusher, who did arts-based A levels and whose intended degree is Mathematics, agrees: "It has enabled me to develop a wide range of skills in order that I am fully prepared for the first year on my chosen course, and although I experienced a steep learning curve in the first semester, the support was there to ensure I did well in my examinations."



Olympic runner comes to campus

A 100% electric vehicle used at the London 2012 Olympics is the most recent addition to the University's motor fleet.

The Goupil G3 utility vehicle, which was delivered to the Environmental Services Unit depot last month, is not only incredibly sustainable, but is also recycled. It was previously used to keep the Olympic Park clean and shipshape during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

During its new life at the University, the G3 will be used to empty recycling units and litter bins on campus.

With running costs of around 2p a mile, the G3 is around 80% cheaper to run than its diesel predecessor, which cost 12p a mile, and should yield annual fuel savings of over £500.

It can be re-charged easily overnight from a standard three-pin socket. There will be no vehicle tax to pay because the G3's CO2 emissions are below 100g/km.

VIP visit

The Consul General of Pakistan, Ehsan Ullah Batth (pictured), visited the University recently to meet our Urdu language students.

It was just one of many interesting lessons on the course, which also include shopping and going for a curry in Rusholme!

Urdu is one of the 20 language courses currently available to our students, staff and members of the public.

During his visit, Mr Batth spoke to the students in Urdu about their experience of the class and their reasons for choosing to study Urdu.



Consul General of Pakistan meets tutor John Morley and student Joanne Whiteside



(l-r) Sam Sportun, Ray Warburton and John Miller lift Demetria onto the scanner

Museum mummies take after-hours trek

Two Manchester Museum mummies have taken an after-hours trek down Oxford Road – with a film crew in tow!

But this was not the set of some horror movie – the mummies were taken for a CT-scan at the Manchester Children's Hospital. And the film crew was from the BBC's 'The One Show'.

All of the Museum's 24 mummies will be making the trip to be scanned in the evenings, when the scanners are no longer used by patients.

One of the mummies involved was Demetria, who died in the First Century AD and was discovered in Egypt in 1910.

Tens of thousands of images were taken which will need to be studied carefully to see what they reveal.

Curator of Egypt and the Sudan at The Manchester Museum, Dr Campbell Price, said: "Because of the radiation, you wouldn't normally do a full body scan of a living patient. But with mummies that's not a problem and we expect they will generate lots of useful information."

"We will be relying on staff at the Hospital, including Professor Judith Adams, to interpret the findings and give us a medical opinion about their age, cause of death and any signs of illness or disease. It will allow us to put flesh on the bones about how they lived."

- You can see a film taken from one of the hospital scans in the Museum's new Ancient Worlds Gallery – bit.ly/mummiesscan



One of the scans

"Repeat of 2011 riots a real danger"

A University academic and former Chief Probation Officer has argued that a repeat of the devastating August 2011 riots is a 'real danger.'

Steve Collett, who was Cheshire's chief from 2001 to 2010, told a public lecture that Government policy towards correctional services alongside the impact of the austerity programme on the poorest, will fail to deal with a 'powder keg' which could reignite at any time.

Giant slayer's golden goals

The 'Road to Wembley' is over for Manchester graduate Matt Smith, but his fairy tale still made national headlines along the way.

The former University football captain scored four goals in this year's FA Cup competition for his team Oldham Athletic, all against Merseyside giants - Everton and Liverpool.

Matt joined Oldham Athletic just days after completing his degree in International Management with American Business Studies.

Slaying the dragon myth

GP receptionists are not simply powerful and formidable 'gatekeepers', according to a University study.

Analysis of over 200 hours of interactions between 45 GP receptionists and patients found those in the role faced a difficult task prioritising patients, but fulfilled an essential role in shaping access to health professionals.

Lead author Jonathan Hammond, from the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, said: "It might be the case that what are portrayed as individual failings on the part of receptionists are actually due to systemic problems within GP practices."

€12 million study into bowel disease

Professor Werner Müller from the Faculty of Life Sciences is leading a €12 million project to identify better treatments for Inflammatory Bowel Disease such as Crohn's Disease.

SysmedIBD includes universities and companies from the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Israel and New Zealand.

The aim of the five-year project is to better understand the disease, identify risk genes, investigate how diet can affect IBD and develop new ways to predict the best treatment for a patient.

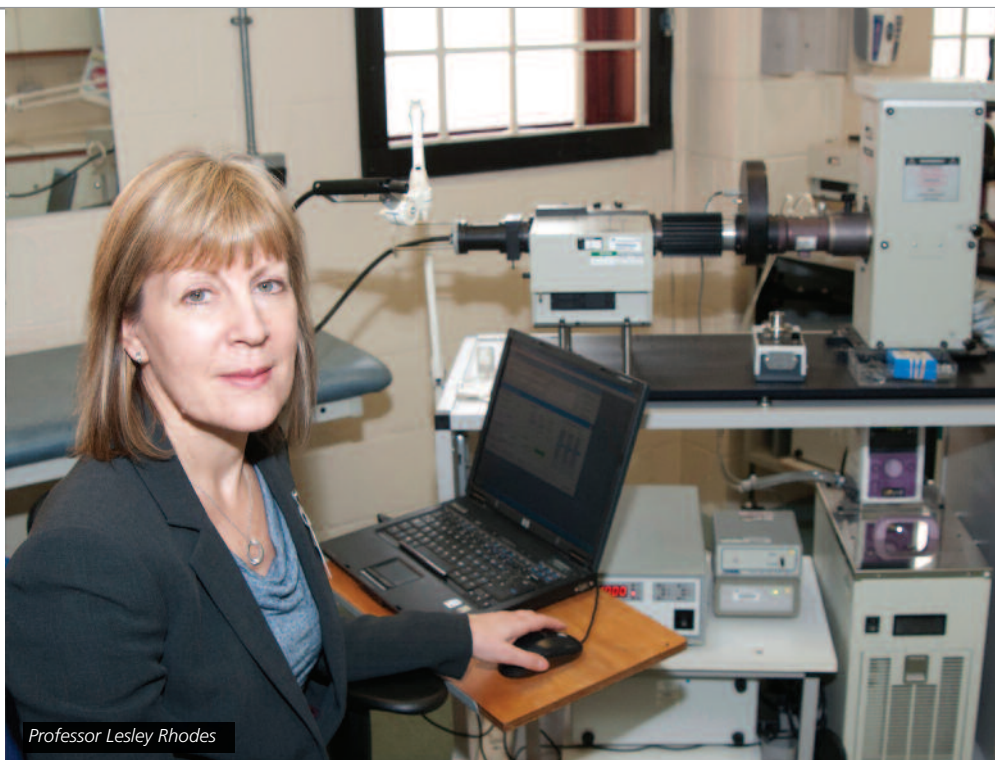
Professor Müller said: "This approach will lead to a better personalised diagnosis and treatment of patients with inflammatory bowel disease."

Mapping our metabolism

Manchester scientists are part of an international team that has produced an instruction manual for the human genome which helps to better understand the relationship between a person's genetic make-up and their lifestyle.

The researchers say their study provides the best explanation yet as to why people react differently to environmental factors like diet or medication.

"If the sequencing of the human genome provided us with a list of the biological parts then our study explains how these parts operate within different individuals," said Professor Pedro Mendes, from the School of Computer Science.



Professor Lesley Rhodes

Fish oils aid cancer fight

Taking omega-3 fish oils could help to protect against skin cancer, Manchester researchers have found.

They analysed the effect of taking omega-3 on healthy volunteers and found a regular dose boosted skin immunity to sunlight.

It also reduced sunlight-induced suppression of the immune system, which affects the body's ability to fight skin cancer and infection.

Professor Lesley Rhodes, from the Photobiology Unit Dermatology Centre based at the School of

Medicine and Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Although the changes we found when someone took the oil were small, they suggest that a continuous low level of chemoprevention from taking omega-3 could reduce the risk of skin cancer over an individual's lifetime."

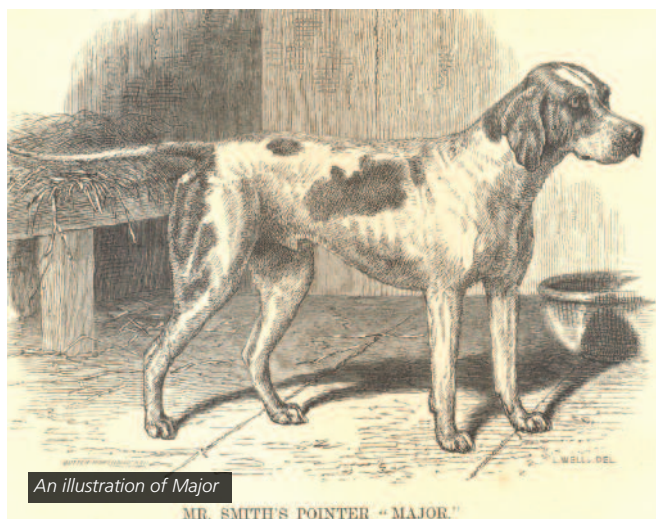
She added omega-3 was not a substitute for sunscreen and physical protection, but should be regarded as an additional small measure to help protect skin from sun damage.

Man's best friend – from 1865

University historians have identified the first modern dog - a Pointer called 'Major'.

A description of the animal, found by the team in an 1865 edition of a Victorian journal called 'The Field', was the first attempt to define a dog breed standard based on physical form.

John Henry Walsh, who wrote under the pseudonym of 'Stonehenge', took the system of giving scores for different parts of the body from pigeon fanciers, paving the way for the pedigree dog breeds we know today.



An illustration of Major

MR. SMITH'S POINTER - MAJOR.



Illustration of High Arctic camel on Ellesmere Island by Julius Csotonyi

Extinct giant camel found...in the Arctic!

Scientists have discovered the first evidence of an extinct giant camel in the High Arctic.

The three-and-a-half million year old fossil was identified using a new technique on bone fragments unearthed on Ellesmere Island – Canada's third largest island. It's the furthest north a camel has ever been found.

Dr Mike Buckley, from the University's Manchester Institute of Biotechnology, found out which species the bones came from by using 'collagen fingerprinting' to build a collagen profile.

He found that the profile was almost an identical match to the modern day Dromedary.

Dr Buckley says: "This is the first time that collagen has been

extracted and used to identify a species from such ancient bone fragments. These results unlock the huge potential collagen fingerprinting has to better identify extinct species from our preciously finite supply of fossil material."

Dr Roy Wogelius, from the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, analysed the mineral content of the bones.

A study with bite

A project has begun to see whether dental hygienists, therapists and nurses improve the productivity of the dental team when they take on more of the jobs currently done by dentists.

Paul Brocklehurst, from the School of Dentistry, has secured a £230,000 grant to carry out further research. It takes his total grant income in this area to over £1 million.

New way to fight tropical diseases

Scientists have developed a new way to speed up the development of drugs to fight a range of tropical diseases, including malaria.

The unique screening method uses genetically engineered yeasts to express parasite and human proteins to identify chemical compounds that target disease-causing parasites, but do not affect their human hosts.

Every year, malaria alone infects over 200 million people, killing an estimated 655,000.

The ability to treat malaria has been made harder by the emergence of parasites that are resistant to the most commonly used drugs.

Professor Ross King, from the School of Computer Science, said: "We have created strains of yeast that in a test tube mimic a human infected with different tropical diseases."

Warm welcome in question

The warm British welcome for Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis in the 1930s is a myth, according to research by a University historian.

Bill Williams, from the Centre for Jewish Studies, has cast new light on the way Britons responded to the desperate plight of Jews fleeing Germany after the Nazis came to power.

The migrants were, he says in his new book published by Manchester University Press, neglected across all sections of British society.

Bill says: "Though both the British and Mancunians have strong humanitarian traditions, they were often undermined by self-interest, government policy, the failure to challenge it and anti-semitism.

"So these findings have a critical bearing on the notion of how in Britain we regard ourselves as a tolerant society. Lessons should be learned from remembering how it really was."



Mothers' Day card sent by Ruth Schneider

Improving healthcare

Manchester researchers have created a new software system to help GP practice managers improve healthcare for chronic illnesses including strokes, Alzheimer's and cancer.

The computer programme, called COMPACT, analyses how many patients in a practice have suffered from different conditions over a particular time period and identifies those who might require hospital treatment in future.



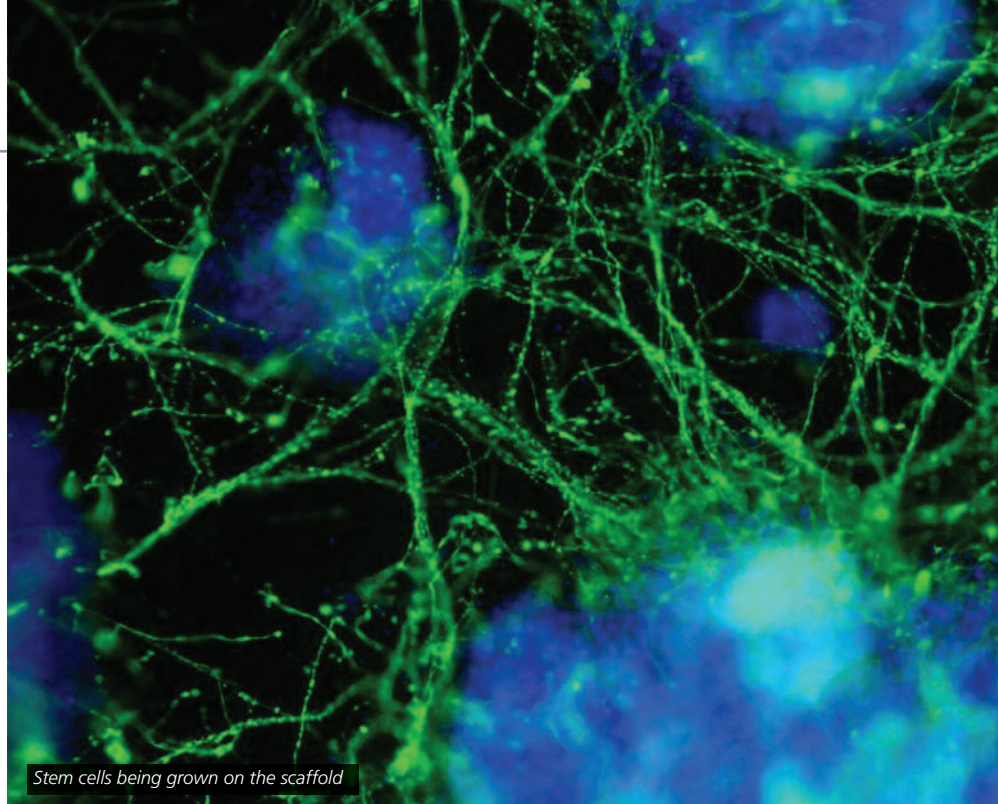
Senior Research Fellow John Ainsworth (centre) with software engineers Emma Carruthers and Colin Davies

Cancer risk from arsenic in rice

Manchester scientists working with colleagues in India have proven a link between rice containing high levels of arsenic and cell damage in humans.

The researchers discovered that people in rural West Bengal eating rice as a staple with greater than 0.2mg/kg arsenic showed higher frequencies of damaged cells.

The study was led in Manchester by Professor David Polya from the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences.



Stem cells being grown on the scaffold

Sweet news for stem cells' Holy Grail

Scientists have used sugar-coated scaffolding to move a step closer to the routine use of stem cells in the clinic and unlock their huge potential to cure diseases from Alzheimer's to diabetes.

Stem cells have the unique ability to turn into any type of human cell, opening up all sorts of therapeutic possibilities for some of the world's incurable diseases and conditions.

The problem facing scientists is how to encourage stem cells to turn into the particular type of cell required to treat a specific disease.

But researchers in the School of Materials and Faculty of Life Sciences have developed a web-like scaffold, coated with long-sugar molecules, that enhances stem-cell cultures to do just this.

Dr Catherine Merry, from the Stem Cell Glycobiology group, said: "By combining the sugar molecules with the fibre web, we hoped to use both biochemical and structural signals to guide the behaviour of stem cells, in a similar way to that used naturally by the body.

"This is the Holy Grail of research into developing new therapeutics using stem cell technology."

Letter and envelope together again

A 165-year-old letter to one of the Victorian era's greatest writers has been reunited with its envelope, which was unexpectedly discovered by an American academic.

The items, dated 8 November 1848, were intended for 'Cranford' author Elizabeth Gaskell (pictured) and were penned by another influential Victorian figure, Thomas Carlyle.

The letter, in which Thomas praises Ms Gaskell's first novel 'Mary Barton,' and its envelope are now reunited at the John Rylands Library, Deansgate.

David Southern, from Duke University Press in North Carolina, spotted the envelope in a random search on the internet.



Investing in Success

Investing in Success is a £1 million initiative to boost staff development. It has resulted in a fascinating array of projects which show just how passionate our people are about their work here at the University. Unilife throws the spotlight on some of the success stories so far...



'Sometimes It's Cancer'

A nationwide campaign to make students, teenagers and young adults under 30 more aware that cancer can affect them has been boosted by an IIS award to Dr Kate Vaughan.

The strapline of the campaign is: "Sometimes It's Cancer."

"It is commonly acknowledged that cancer mainly affects older groups," says Kate. "But about 2,500 young people in the 13-24 age range are affected by cancer every year. We have to make these young people more aware of the common signs to look out for."

Kate's role as Manchester Teenage Cancer Trust Programme Manager supports research, led by Professor John Radford, into cancer in young people.

As Kate is based in the Young Oncology Unit at The Christie, she is only too aware of the struggles that patients in this age group and their families go through every

day, especially if diagnosis has been delayed.

But she and the "brilliant team" she works with get out and about, talking to students across the country in schools and universities to spread the word.

Key to their message is: "Look for five symptoms" - a lump, bump or swelling; pain; fatigue; changes in weight; and changes in appearance of a mole.

Sometimes it's cancer. But only sometimes. "We're not scaremongering," says Kate. "Most of the time it will be nothing at all to worry about."

"We have a long way to go," she says. "But the Investing in Success award is a real boost at the right time."

For more information, see:

- www.cancer.manchester.ac.uk/sic
- www.facebook.com/CancerSymptomsinYoungPeople

Reunited on record

Professor Philip Grange has used his IIS funding to complete a CD of music that has been many years in the making.

Philip – a music industry award-winning Professor of Composition and Head of the Division of Art History, Drama and Music in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures – has used the funding to record the third of three wind pieces and put the finishing touches to a CD performed by members of the National Youth Wind Ensemble of Great Britain.

This third piece, a wind quintet entitled *Bacchus Bagatelles*, is a divertimento inspired by the process of getting drunk – "something some wind players are renowned for!" It is performed by the former Ensemble members who are now fully-fledged professional musicians, and can command a fee. Chris Richards, on clarinet, is principal of the London Symphony Orchestra; Claire Robson, flute, now plays for the Northern Sinfonia; Verity Gunning, oboe, works in Sweden; Mike Kidd, horn, and Lully Bathurst, bassoon, are both freelancers.

The other two pieces are for full symphonic wind band. The first, *Cloud Atlas*, prompted by the David Mitchell novel given to him for Christmas by colleague Camden Reeves, who knew it would inspire him, was premiered in 2009. The second, *Sheng Sheng Bu Shi*, inspired when Philip learned Chinese for a British Council exchange programme, was written in 2000.

You have to be committed to your art to keep the faith on such a long and winding journey, and Philip is – thanks to the work ethic instilled in him by his mentor, Master of the Queen's Music Sir Peter Maxwell Davies CBE. Davies was "intense, demanding but also very generous; he did not accept anything but the highest possible standard."

"Composing is very hard because when you have written a piece that everyone says is a success that you can feel proud of, you have to move on to the next one," Philip says. "And the next piece can't repeat what the last piece did or you simply undermine it."

The CD, entitled '*Cloud Atlas: Wind Music by Philip Grange*', will be released on the Prima Facie label (PFCD019) in May and available at www.primafacie.ascrecords.com



Widening horizons

Studying and working abroad not only benefits our students but the University itself. Here UniLife throws the spotlight on the Study Abroad Unit - and the experiences had by a student and a member of staff...

The chance to study or work abroad is central to delivering our University's international strategy and is part of the Manchester 2020 vision as it plays an essential role in developing a truly international University and in enhancing our students' experience.

It can also have a great impact on the individual student's future career, academic advancement and personal development.

A period abroad broadens students' academic experience through immersion in a different academic culture; many students come back with strengthened academic performance and out-perform their peers at graduation.

And it typically has a positive psychological impact on students' confidence and independence and also enhances their employability.

A number of recent national and international reports have highlighted the value that employers place on international experience.

Language skills, intercultural experience and an insight into international business environments are crucial to the success of our graduates.

Professor Kersti Börjars, Associate Vice President (Teaching, Learning and Students), says:

"Having been Head of a School in which the majority of students spend a substantial period abroad, I have seen what a positive experience it is for students.

"They generally have a very good time abroad, but they also learn so much and develop as students and as people.

"The Study Abroad Unit is an excellent resource for the University, and it's great that through it we can offer so many students from all disciplines the opportunity to spend time in another country, studying or working.

"It would be great if more of our students could benefit from an international experience, and we are hoping to expand this provision."

- For photographic reflections on time spent abroad – and details of a photographic competition for students – see: www.studyabroad.manchester.ac.uk/students-abroad/competitions/studyabroadphotocompetition
- If you work with students and would like to find out more about opportunities for them to study abroad, contact Study Abroad Unit on 0161 275 3053 or goabroad@manchester.ac.uk



Oliver Reynolds at a temple overlooking the Plains of Bagan, Burma



Will Spinks (inset) with friends in Georgetown, USA

Will Spinks Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer

Studied abroad at Georgetown University, Washington D.C., USA, 1978/1979

The UK course I was pursuing had very little, if any, choice of options within it and I was feeling very constrained in what I could study.

The year abroad in the USA gave me an opportunity to branch out into a much wider range of courses unrelated to my UK degree.

It was highly unusual at that time to study abroad. In fact, I was the first person from my University School to do so.

The highlights of my time in the USA were living, working and travelling in a different culture. I had only been outside of the UK

once previously (on a secondary school trip to France) and here I was living in the USA for a year.

This experience has impacted hugely on my personal development, career and my life more broadly. Living in another culture forced me to examine both what I disliked and valued about UK culture.

It broadened my thinking and outlook. I'm convinced it helped develop transferable skills which were attractive to my subsequent employer.

Fifteen years on, I ended up working back in the USA accompanied by my family. I should also probably mention that I met my wife during that study abroad year - and we're still together 35 years later!



Will Spinks

Oliver Reynolds Geography with International Study

Studied abroad at the National University of Singapore, 2011/2012

I had the time of my life out there, and studying abroad was one of the best decisions I have ever made!

The year abroad not only influenced my decision to study in Manchester but also persuaded me to take geography.

I made tonnes of new friends, and not just temporary ones: some of my fellow exchange students from that year are now among my best friends, with whom I have developed strong bonds.

The benefits of this exchange are manifold: I have a desire to do more travelling, an appreciation and understanding of Singaporean/ Southeast Asian cultures, new skills (including language!) and cross-cultural exchange.

International experience stands out on my CV and I have used the skills and knowledge of other cultures as a selling point in various job applications.

Not only would I recommend it, I would insist on anyone interested to seize the moment and study abroad: you will not regret it.



Oliver Reynolds

International warning on agricultural fungicides

An international warning has been issued on drug-resistance from agricultural fungicides, following research by University scientists.

The European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) is investigating the origin of drug resistance in a group of lung diseases known as Aspergillus infection.

Researchers have found that the fungus has been able to mutate, making treatment ineffective and the ECDC is now recommending increased assessment of the risks of using triazole fungicides for crop protection in Europe.

David Denning, Professor of Medicine and Medical Mycology, said: "The medical and public health communities need to be alerted to this resistance problem and look at possible means of dealing with it."

Photo by: Bruce Adams / Associated Newspapers / Rex Features



Sir Peter Fahy

Chief Constable makes diversity pledge

The Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police (GMP) has said he will ensure his staff are treated fairly and that he will build a diverse workforce, following research carried out by our University.

Sir Peter Fahy has accepted the recommendations of a report by Dr Graham Smith, from the School of Law, which found that ethnicity was a factor in internal misconduct and counter-corruption investigations involving police officers and staff.

Dr Smith's study revealed that Asian officers in GMP were more likely than white officers and staff to be investigated for corruption, and that ethnic minority GMP officers felt they were more likely to be formally investigated for wrongdoing.

Sir Peter said: "GMP is totally committed to ensuring all our staff are treated fairly and that we have a diverse workforce reflecting the nature of the community we police. We believe it is better that this issue is openly debated and welcome further research and discussion with other employers."

Meet...

Sarah Potts Office Manager, Car Parks Permit Office

What is the best part of your job?

Working with a great team of people, every day is different and always a new challenge.

What is the hardest part of your job?

Sometimes not being able to accommodate all the requests that come through.

Which teacher inspired you the most at school?

Mrs Myers, my primary school teacher, who always said anything was possible no matter how hard it seems.

What's your favourite karaoke song?

'Like a Virgin', by Madonna. It reminds me of a girls' holiday.

What's the one gadget you can't live without?

My mobile phone, although I lose it about five times a day!

If you could give any advice to your 16-year-old self, what would you say?

Take a minute, have a good look around, think about what's really important and never give up on your dreams.

What's your favourite film?

Rocky IV.

What's on your iPod?

Everything - classical, hip hop country, pop and much more - and a few books.

Your bookcase?

Dust!

Your TV?

X Box games Fifa and Modern Warfare, and the usual soaps and dramas.

Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?

Nelson Mandela, Marilyn Monroe, Margaret Thatcher and David Attenborough.



What law would you repeal?

Parking tickets - they have cost me a fortune over the years!

What's your favourite holiday destination?

Thailand and Borneo.

What three things would you need if you were stranded on a desert island?

A knife, a pan and the dog.

What's your biggest vice?

Sweets and cake!

How would you like to be remembered?

As a nice person, who was kind and considerate.

Tell us the secret to life - in six words.

Justice, mercy, humility oh, and booze.

If you could have any job in the world, what would it be?

I would love to be a racing car driver!

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taste
Manchester



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Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

All exhibitions at The Manchester Museum are FREE

NEW GALLERIES

Ancient Worlds

Three new galleries – **Discovering Archaeology**, **Egyptian Worlds** and **Exploring Objects**

EXHIBITIONS

Breed: The British and Their Dogs until 14 April

Nature's Library until 27 Apr

All Other Things Being Equal until 2 June

Looping and Linking until 26 May

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

Every other Tuesday, 16 and 30 Apr, 10.30-11.15am, 12.30-1.15pm and 1.30-2.15pm, Free

Baby Explorers

Sensory play for babies

Mon 1-Fri 12 Apr, Easter Hols, 11am-4pm

Breed

Make a puppet of your pet or favourite animal

Sat 6 Apr, 12-3pm

Discover Bangladesh

Fri 26 Apr, 10.30-11.30am and 11.30-12.30pm, Free

Magic Carpet: Nature

For under five's and their carers

Sat 27 Apr, 11am-4pm, Drop in

Big Saturday: Nature's Library

TALKS

Weds 3 Apr and 1 May, 1.15-2pm

Collection Bites

Weds 24 Apr, 1-2pm

The Confucius Institute China Talks: Tibetan Buddhism in Contemporary China

Tues 30 Apr, 6-8pm

A sustainable future for Manchester

MUSEUM MEETS

Weds 17 Apr, 11.30am-12.30pm

Looping and Linking: Herbarium Tours

Tues 23 Apr, 5.30-6.30pm

Manchester Museum Book Club

Sat 27 Apr, 2-4pm, £3 (booking essential)

Urban Naturalist: Water Life

Every Tues and Thurs (except school holidays), 12-1pm

Tours of the Vivarium (live animals)

Every Weds and Thurs, 1pm

Taster Tours

Opening times

Open: Tues-Sat 10am-5pm

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

FREE admission

The Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Manchester
0161 275 2648

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Follow us on Twitter @McrMuseum

www.facebook.com/ManchesterMuseum



Callum Innes Exposed Painting Green Lake, 2012 (Detail: Oil on linen, 160 x156cm) Courtesy Frith Street Gallery, London

What's On

Whitworth Art Gallery

EXHIBITIONS

John Piper: The Mountains of Wales until 7 April

Michael Landy: Four Walls until 16 June

Richard Long until 16 June

Callum Innes until 16 June

Beryl Korot: Text and Commentary 20 April until 16 June

ADULT EVENTS

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

Yoga

Fri 5 April, 12.30-2pm, £7 (booking advisable)

Talk: The Art of Keith Vaughan and Patrick Procktor

Sat 6 Apr and 4 May, 1-3pm, Free

Textile Art Now

Sun 7 Apr, 12.30-1.15pm, Free

Performance by RNCM students

Sat 13 and Weds 17 Apr, 1-3pm, £5 (booking essential)

Crafternoon Tea

Sat 27 April, 11-4pm, Free

Saturday Supplement: Land Art

Sat 27 April, 1-3pm Free (booking essential)

Alternative Camera Club

FAMILY EVENTS

Weds 3 and 10, Thurs 4 and 11 and Fri 5 and 12 April, 1-3pm, Free

Great Outdoors

Every Weds, 10.15-11.15am or 11.30-12.30pm, Free (booking essential)

Art Baby

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

Toddlerstastic

Every Sun, 1.30-3.30pm, Free

Colourful Sundays

For more information on our exhibitions and events, please visit our website.

Opening times

Mon-Sat 10-5pm, Sun 12-4pm

FREE Admission

The Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road, Manchester
0161 275 7450

Booking line 0161 275 7450

email whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

The John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

EXHIBITIONS

Tony Dyson: A Hidden History of Gay Rights Campaigning until 30 June

An Inventory of al-Mutanabbi Street Weds 6 February until 29 July

Burning Bright until 23 Jun

While Dreams Sleep until 23 Jun

EVENTS

Sat 13 Apr, 1-4pm (Free but booking essential)

Portrait Workshop

Tues 9 Apr, 12-1pm, Free

Fit for a King

Tues 9 Apr, Promenade Story-telling

12-4pm, Static shows 12pm and 2pm, Free

Gacko the Strolling Troubadour

Fri 5 and Thurs 11 Apr, 10am-12pm and

1-3pm, Free

Burning Hot Off the Press!

Sun 14 Apr, 2.30-3.30pm, Free

Unusual Views: Library Tours for Photographers

Sat 20 Apr, 12-1pm (Free but booking recommended)

Here be Dragons!

Sat 20 Apr, 11am-12pm (Free but booking recommended)

Enchanting Tales

Weds 24 Apr, 1.30-4pm, Free

Whimsical Wednesday Workshop: Scrap-tastic

Fri 26 Apr, 1-4pm, Free

Build-a-Book

Every second Sat, 12-4pm, Free

Visitor Portraits, until May 2013

Every third Thursday in the month, 12-1pm, Free

Tour and Treasures

For further details of our events, please visit our website.

FREE ADMISSION

Public opening times: Sun-Mon 12-5pm, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm

Reader opening times: Mon-Weds, Fri-Sat 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-7pm

The John Rylands Library
150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH
Visitor/Event Enquiries: 0161 306 0555
General/Reader Enquiries:
0161 275 3764

www.library.manchester.ac.uk/specialcollections/

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 6 Apr **Peak District visiting Poole's Cavern, Buxton and Hardwick Hall**

Sun 7 Apr **Cheshire Oaks and Chester**

Sat 13 Apr **Oxford**

Sun 14 Apr **North Wales visiting Bodnant Gardens and Penrhyn Castle**

Sat 20 Apr **Stratford-upon-Avon for Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations**

Sun 21 Apr **Blackpool**

Opening times

Mon-Fri 9.30am – 7pm (during term time)

Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm (during vacation)

Small World Café opening times

Mon-Fri 11am – 3pm

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959

email int.soc@manchester.ac.uk

www.internationalsociety.org.uk

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy

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 available.

RC Chaplaincy Avila House

Mass Times (term-time only)

Sun, 7pm, Holy Name Church

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri, 5.30pm,

Chaplaincy Chapel

Weds, 1.05pm, Chaplaincy Chapel

The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

07817 250 557

Email Rabbi Mati Kos:

rabbikos@mychaplancy.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:

assia_shah61@yahoo.co.uk

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Thurs 18 Apr, 1.10pm

Quatuor Danel

Fri 19 Apr, 1.10pm

Manchester University Baroque Orchestra

Thurs 25 Apr, 1.10pm

Gamelan Degung

Thurs 2 May, 1.10pm

Helen Tonge and Richard Whalley

Fri 3 May, 1.10pm

Opera Scenes

EVENING CONCERTS

Fri 19 Apr, 7.30pm, £13.50/£8/£3

Quatuor Danel

Sat 27 Apr, 7.30pm, £12/£9/£3

The University of Manchester Chorus

and Symphony Orchestra

LITERATURE

Mon 22 Apr, 6.30pm, £10/£5

Jeanette Winterson "in Conversation" with Kamila Shamsie

WE WELCOME

Mon 22 Apr, 8pm, £8/£5

The Comedy Network Presents Iain Stirling and Special Guests

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

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

Thurs 11 Apr, 7.30 pm (sold out)

Lovell Lecture:

The Square Kilometre Array

Tues 2 to Fri 5 and Mon 8 to Fri 12 Apr,

11.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm

(booking recommended)

Easter Trail and Science Shows

Sat 27 Apr, 11am and 2pm, £9/£7.50

Laika the Spacedog

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 5 Apr **The Wildhearts – Earth Versus The Wildhearts 20th Anniversary Tour + Eureka Machines** - £20

Fri 5 Apr **Bluey Robinson** - £8.50

Mon 8 Apr **Imagine Dragons** - £11 (upgraded to Manchester Academy. Original tickets remain valid)

Weds 10 Apr **James Blake** - £10

Fri 12 Apr **Peace-** £8

Sat 13 Apr **Emmure** - £13

Sat 13 Apr **Naymedici + Turrentine Jones + The Hymek Manoeuvre + David Liversidge** - £8

Mon 15 Apr **Sonata Arctica** - £17

Weds 17 Apr **Frank Turner and The Sleeping Souls** - £18.50 (sold out)

Thurs 18 Apr **Lower Than Atlantis + Dinosaur Pile Up + Blitz Kids** - £12.50

Thurs 18 Apr **Patent Pending + Erik Chandler (of Bowling for Soup)** - £10

Fri 19 Apr **And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead** - £12.50

Sat 20 Apr **The Feeling** - £18.50

Sat 20 Apr **And So I Watch You From Afar + Gallops** - £9 (rescheduled date, original tickets remain valid)

Sat 20 Apr **Atonement Fest 2012** - £10 (rescheduled date, original tickets remain valid)

Sun 21 Apr **KMFDM + Sheep on Drugs + Resist + Deadfilmstar** - £15

Mon 22 Apr **Mallory Knox** - £9

Weds 24 Apr **Hadouken** - £12.50

Weds 24 Apr **Bleed from Within + Heart of a Coward + Silent Screams** - £7.50

Thurs 25 Apr **COMA UK 2013** - £18

Fri 26 Apr **Rudimental** - £11 (moved from Gorilla, original tickets remain valid)

Sat 27 Apr **The Clone Roses and Clint Boon** - £12

Mon 29 Apr **Bring Me the Horizon** - £15 (sold out)

Mon 29 Apr **Minus the Bear** - £11

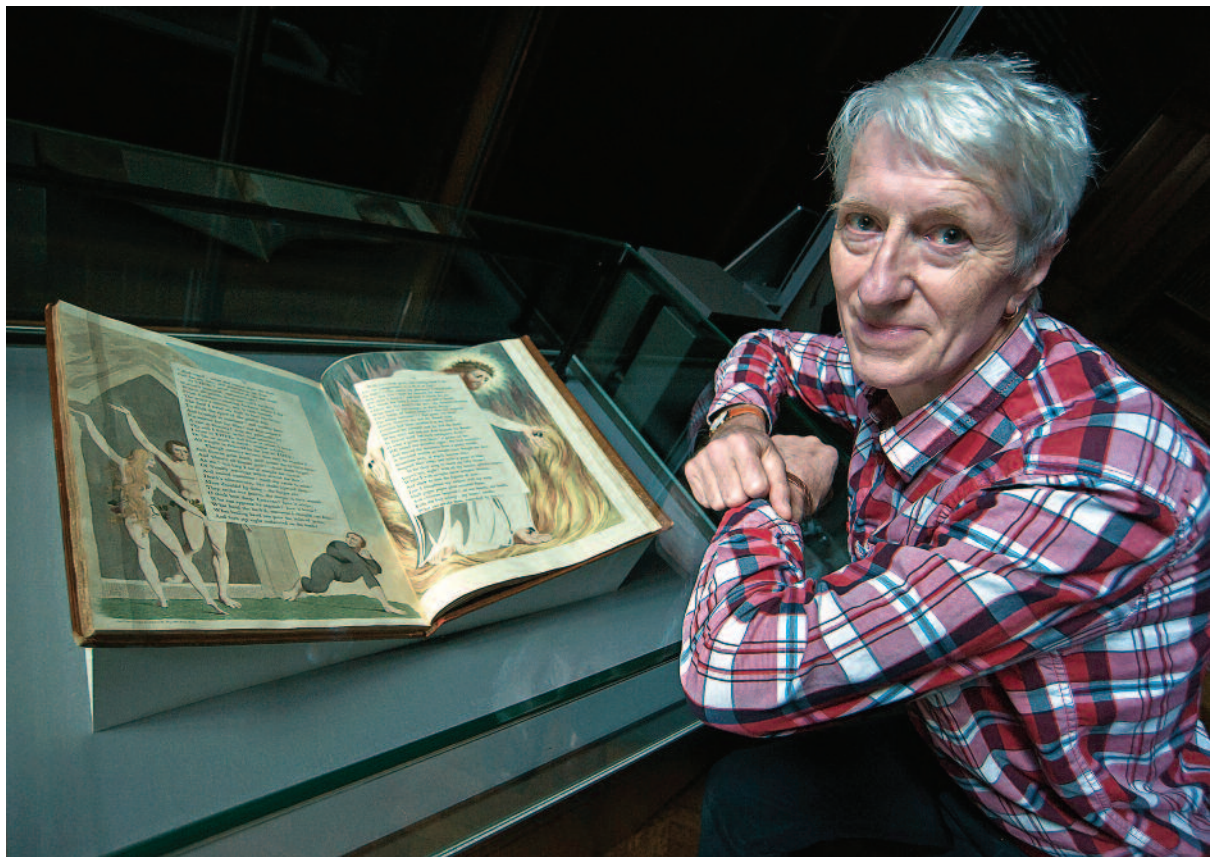
Tues 30 Apr **Hatebreed + Demoraliser** - £14

Thurs 2 May **The Last Carnival + Fluorescent Hearts** - £7

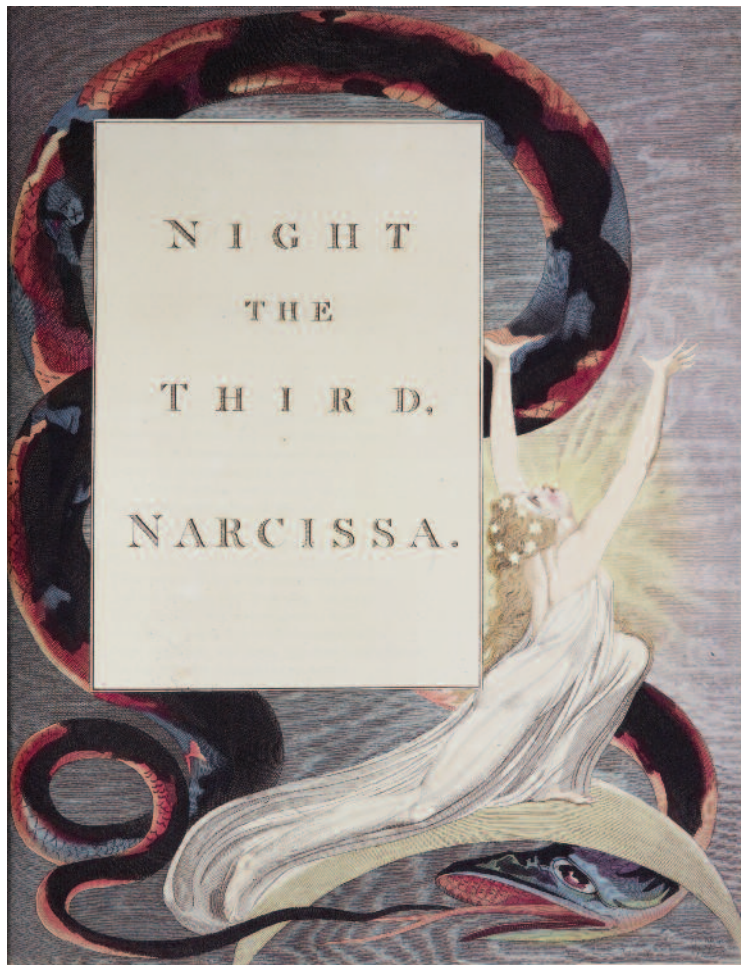
Fri 3 May **From the Jam (The Greatest Hits) + Virgil & The Accelerators** - £20

Sat 4 May **Trailer Park Boys** - £22/£24 (seated show)

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



Night Thoughts come to life



The University is home to some amazing objects. Each month in UniLife we ask someone to share with us one of their favourite fascinating artefacts.

A priceless treasure of a book, with large-scale hand-coloured illustrations by William Blake, is Professor Grevel Lindop's choice. It was printed in 1795 and, uniquely, the John Rylands Library holds the original.

"I have long been interested in Blake," says Grevel. "This is one of his finest, yet least-known works."

The subject of this beautiful, large, folio-sized volume is a long poem by the 18th-century writer Edward Young: *Night Thoughts*.

"It's a fairly dull poem in the genre of Graveyard Poetry, but Blake turns it into an exciting visual experience," says Grevel, former Professor of Romantic and Early Victorian Studies here at Manchester and now a freelance writer who uses the John Rylands Library for research.

The illustrations, some in monochrome, but mostly water-coloured by Blake, surround the text with characteristically

flowing and florid images, often humorous and witty. And the colours are as bright today as they were more than 200 years ago.

Night Thoughts sprung from Young's grieving at the death of his step-daughter, Narcissa. There are four sections in the book: Life, Death and Immortality; Time, Death and Friendship; Narcissa; and The Christian Triumph.

Usefully, an asterisk against a line indicates the trigger for Blake's wonderfully imaginative illustration on the page.

Young died in 1765, when Blake was eight years old, but 50 years after its first appearance, bookseller Richard Edwards commissioned Blake's illustrations. It was neither a commercial nor a critical success.

The Rylands' copy came from the Althorp Library of the second Earl Spencer, which Mrs Rylands bought in 1892.

Ironically, little is remembered now of Edward Young or his *Night Thoughts* except that he coined a phrase that lives in the language: 'Procrastination is the thief of time'.

But this treasure is timeless – and priceless.