Clay figures reveal forgotten African society
There is no more empowering insight than the realization that human beings can play a real, if limited role in shaping the future. With a clear sense of what they want to achieve, and consistency in pursuing their goals, determined people can work towards futures they prefer instead of just drifting powerlessly into the unknown.

Creating a preferred future takes vision, knowledge, skill, careful contingency planning and dogged hard work.

Such insights are highly relevant to the circumstances currently facing The University of Manchester.

As we scan the future possibilities and probabilities facing UK higher education, we are rightly concerned. Some of the possibilities are downright draconian. None of the probable scenarios is going to be easy for UK universities. It seems virtually certain that managing severe public funding stringency is going to be the day-in-day-out reality for university communities for several years.

Yet no-one knows which possible future will actually materialise. That remains contingent on decisions, events and circumstances that will not manifest themselves this side of a UK General Election.

That is where contingency planning comes in. It means preparing for possible futures most of which will never arise. It does not commit the University to any particular course of action, but rather it prepares the institution to respond intelligently however events unfold.

That is the essential difference between contingency plans and plans of action, whether strategic or operational. The latter describe what we actually intend to do. They are necessarily public documents for the very good reason that all our stakeholders, internal and external, have a right to know where their institution is going, and why, and how. No one can be expected to understand and support a plan of action about which they have been kept in the dark.

Contingency plans, on the other hand, have to be treated with caution. Disseminating widespread information about hypothetical threats, most of which will never eventuate, is a recipe for confusion, consternation and misunderstanding.

Rather than do that, we have concentrated on keeping colleagues across the University community informed of what has already been announced (by funding bodies) or determined by our own Board of Governors.

The Board, for example, has identified a few fundamental principles that the University will seek to adhere to even if worst case scenarios materialise.

First - The University will under all circumstances remain committed to managing its financial resources so as to guarantee continuing annual budget surpluses. However draconian public sector funding cuts become, we will pursue revenue and cost control strategies allowing us to operate in the black.

Secondly - The University will not accept surplus budgeting merely as an end in itself, but rather as a prerequisite for continuing to operate strategically during the difficult years we are now anticipating.

Finally - The University's reactions to financial adversity will themselves be strategic, not ad hoc. If we must get smaller (and that may be the fate of all UK universities) we are determined to do so in ways that simultaneously make us stronger. That means rejecting pro rata approaches to cutting costs, and commits us – should cost cutting become a regrettable necessity – to do so in a strategic, targeted way.

The Government, meanwhile, has removed a substantial measure of uncertainty about the future by announcing actual cuts of around £1 billion in the funding of UK higher education over the next three years.

We have just been informed by HEFCE about how the first third of the total amount will impact on The University of Manchester, and we can make reasonable assumptions about the remaining £600 million. In addition, we can not forget that like all other universities we face substantially escalating pension costs.

All the evidence about the state of the UK's public finances suggests that cuts already announced will be only a first instalment, with more severe cuts likely to follow after the General Election. That remains in the realm of contingency planning.

But with just under £1 billion of cuts contingent no longer, but rather real, serious and irreversible, we are now developing detailed action plans based on the three strategic principles summarised above.

Once the Board has endorsed the general approach we are proposing, presumably at its March 2010 Conference, we will develop detailed operational plans and engage in appropriate consultation. While according high priority to non-Government revenue growth and non-pay savings, such plans must inevitably address the University's payroll, including the escalating pension costs.

It is much too early to talk about details and specific targets, but it would be foolish not to acknowledge the general scale of the problems we are facing. Even in relation to the tranche of cuts already announced, tight vacancy management and controls over part-time and casual work will not provide the payroll savings we need. The Board will almost certainly have to consider introducing further opportunities for flexible working and some kind of voluntary severance arrangement, designed and targeted to meet our agreed strategic objectives.

We will have to face up to the implications of further cuts should these eventuate. Naturally, like any good employer must, we will try to tackle extremely difficult circumstances in the least disruptive ways consistent with the essential interests of the University. But while we are in a strong position to weather this storm, it is hard to be sanguine about the challenges that may emerge.

Yet we should remind ourselves that in the hardest of circumstances, when commitment, endurance and competence are tested to the limit, strong, strategically focused institutions still find opportunities to grow stronger and more competitive.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

Letter from the President

Front cover photo of Professor Tim Insoll and a Ghanaian clay figure. Photo by Howard Barlow

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Photo by Howard Barlow

Photo by Howard Barlow
A find of 80 ancient clay figures by archaeologists at The Universities of Manchester and Ghana has shown that a forgotten society once existed in West Africa. They are the latest - and most impressive - batch of the beautifully sculpted human and animal figures, between 1400 and 800 years old, unearthed from a series of mysterious mounds in a remote region of Northern Ghana.

The mounds, which also contain human skulls, are thought by Ghana’s Dr Benjamin Kankpeyeng and Manchester’s Tim Insoll, Professor of Archaeology, to be the sites of ancient shrines.

The archaeologists think the number and extent of the mounds indicate that a sophisticated society with its own belief system lived in the area - filling in a gap in our knowledge of that period in Africa. Hundreds of mounds are densely packed in an area only 30km square: it took just two weeks to excavate the 80 figures in January.

But illegal excavation of the treasures by looters means the archaeologists are in a race against time to ensure they are safely removed.

“These finds will help to fill a significant gap in our scant knowledge of this period before the Islamic empires developed in West Africa,” said Professor Insoll.

“They were a sophisticated and technically advanced society: for example some of the figurines were built in sections and slotted together.

Dr Kankpeyeng said: “The relative position of the figurines surrounded by human skulls means the mounds were the location of an ancient shrine.

“The skulls had their jaw bones removed with teeth placed nearby - an act of religious significance.”

Professor Insoll is to carry out analysis funded by the Wellcome Trust to find provide more clues about the society.
BP and Manchester team up

BP has announced the launch of a major research collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and The University of Manchester.

BP and the universities will work together on materials and corrosion research, as it applies to oilfield applications. The initial investment from BP is $2 million, with the Company intending to match this for up to a further four years.

The initial emphasis of the research collaboration will be on materials and corrosion science — including corrosion and corrosion-fatigue modelling, environmental cracking, novel coatings and new monitoring technology. This will extend over time to other mechanical integrity and reliability related subject areas.

“ This further investment by BP significantly advances our long standing relationship with the company across a wide range of engineering and management programmes” said Professor Colin Bailey, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences at Manchester. “It also recognises the importance of the research underway at the University and will support the consolidation of the University’s position as a world leader in corrosion control and materials research in extreme environments, which is relevant across the entire energy sector.”

As part of this long-term relationship, BP will also fund curriculum development at the two universities in order to help build a higher profile for oilfield materials and corrosion science in undergraduate and graduate education.

Students clinch new role for Queen’s composer

Manchester music students have appointed one of the world’s leading composers as patron to their society.

Maxwell Davies, who is a University of Manchester alumnus, was appointed Master of the Queen’s Music by Buckingham Palace in 2004 – the 21st composer to take on the role since it was created in 1625.

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies visited the University to mark his new role at The University of Manchester Music Society. During the visit the students played a concert in his honour, and he listened to their compositions and gave a masterclass, as well as hearing them perform one of his most important pieces from the 1960s, ‘Ecce Manus Tradents’. Salford born Maxwell Davis is a prolific composer over 40 years. He lives in the Orkney Islands off the north coast of Scotland, where he writes most of his music.

China space race exhibition launched

A new exhibition which showcases China’s space race and the history of aerospace exploration from ancient China through to the present day has opened for the first time in the UK at MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry), in association with the Confucius Institute at The University of Manchester.

From gunpowder to space rockets: The China Space Programme, which runs until 7 August 2010 in MOSI’s Air & Space Hall, includes models of ancient rockets, as well as recent satellites (including the Dongfanghong series), rockets (including the Long March series), space ships and a lunar rover.

The exhibition, tracks China’s history in space, from the development of the first rockets and early attempts to fly, through to the launch of the first carrier rocket in 1964, development of satellites and the launch of the Chang’e-1 lunar probe satellite in 2007, as well as future plans.

Professor Alistair Ulph, Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at The University of Manchester, chairs the Board of Directors at the Confucius Institute. He said:

“This is a fitting way for us to celebrate the links between University’s Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics, the Confucius Institute and the Chinese National Observatory. We hope that visitors to the exhibition—and especially young people – will enjoy finding out about this fascinating area of Chinese culture and learning.”

Manchester has UK’s most popular science festival

Over 100,000 people flocked to the 2009 Manchester Science Festival – making it the most popular event of its type in the UK.

The University of Manchester was a key partner in the 2009 programme, delivering a number of successful events.

Only launched in 2007, Manchester Science Festival is one of the UK’s newest and freshest science festivals – and last year’s event saw attendance increase by 56 per cent from 85,691 in 2008 to 102,288.

Packed with over 300 events taking place across Greater Manchester, the Festival focuses on the relevance of science to our everyday lives, its history and the work taking place in the region today.

Events were held in 48 public, cultural, community, academic, educational, social, indoors and outdoors locations.

In total, 43,112 people attended events, 58,374 visited exhibitions and 802 took part in the schools programme.

Roddy Doyle’s love for writing – and Didier Drogba

One of the world’s best known authors has talked frankly of his life, the attitudes of his readers, his love of writing – and a Chelsea footballer – in a revealing interview with online arts journal The Manchester Review, published last month.

“I’ve met women who’ve told me that ‘The Woman Who Walked Into Doors’ changed their lives; it’s a humbling, wonderful, embarrassing experience,” he told University of Manchester lecturer and novelist MJ Hyland.

Though he added: “At the moment I think the best gift given to human beings, or at least, me, is Didier Drogba.”

Also in the Review, published by The University of Manchester’s Centre for New Writing, an excerpt from the new Martin Amis novel the Pregnant Widow and a rare short story from one of Manchester’s Centre for New Writing event.

Manchester - launched the Pregnant Widow at Amis - who is a Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Manchester. Also in the Review, published by The University of Manchester’s Centre for New Writing, an excerpt from the new Martin Amis novel the Pregnant Widow and a rare short story from leading English poet Craig Raine.

Amis - who is a Professor of Creative Writing at Manchester - launched the Pregnant Widow at a special Centre for New Writing event.

The Manchester Review appears each spring and autumn offering a mix of new music, public debate, visual art and video as well as fiction and poetry.

www.themanchesterreview.co.uk
Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visited the University’s John Rylands Library on Deansgate on Thursday, 4 February to view some of its most historic collections.

The Royal visitors were welcomed to the magnificent neo-gothic building by the University’s Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, the University Librarian and Director Jan Wilkinson and Deputy University Librarian Dr Stella Butler.

The Royal guests were able to see the £17m restoration and conservation work undertaken during the recent three-year transformation project called ‘Unlocking the Rylands’, conserving the Grade I listed building and its collections.

During the visit, their Royal Highnesses met Library staff and viewed some of the most significant books and manuscripts ever produced including the St John Fragment, the oldest known surviving piece of the New Testament, dating from around 125AD. They were also shown exquisite medieval illuminated manuscripts, the earliest example of European printing, the 1423 St. Christopher Woodcut, and the personal papers of distinguished historical figures including Elizabeth Gaskell.

Jan Wilkinson said: “We are truly honoured that The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall chose to visit the John Rylands Library We are very proud of the redevelopment of the Deansgate building, which has won a string of awards including a prestigious 2008 RIBA Award.

“The John Rylands Library was founded by Enriqueta Rylands in memory of her husband John Rylands, and we feel that the building is once again true to what Mrs. Rylands intended to achieve all those years ago. It is a powerful acknowledgement of her tremendous vision and determination, and of her unrivalled generosity in furnishing a library for the city of Manchester and the wider world."

While at the Rylands, their Royal Highnesses also met with a team of Greater Manchester firefighters who recently returned from assisting the rescue effort in Haiti.

Earlier in the day, the Prince met with key members of staff from the University’s Joule Centre, a world-leading centre for research in sustainable energy, led by its Director, Professor Peter Crossley.
Suicides preventable, says report

Preventing patients from leaving psychiatric wards without staff agreement could avoid up to 50 suicide deaths every year, say University of Manchester researchers.

A new report by the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness suggests that the ward environment may play a part in the level of patients leaving the ward, and that attempts should be made to optimise it. It also urges mental health services to improve awareness among staff of the antecedents of suicide among high-risk groups.

The study, published in the journal BMC Psychiatry, collected data on 50,352 people who had died by suicide or unexplained causes in England and Wales between 1997 and 2006. During this 10-year period there were 13,331 suicide deaths in individuals who had been in contact with mental health services in the year prior to death, of which 14%, were suicides by current psychiatric patients - the majority of these occurred off the ward. The report noted that patient deaths had fallen sharply over the course of the study period.

“Our findings have confirmed previous studies that a substantial proportion of in-patient suicide deaths occur after absconding from the ward,” said Dr Isabelle Hunt, who led the research in the University’s Centre for Suicide Prevention.

The researchers suggest that improving the ward environment to provide a more supportive and less intimidating experience may contribute to reduced risk.

Gene discovery helps green goal

Scientists have identified the genes that make plants grow fatter and plan to use their research to increase plant biomass in trees - thus helping meet the need for renewable resources.

Professor Simon Turner, one of the researchers, said: “The US has set the ambitious goal of generating a third of oil liquid fuel from renewable source by the year 2025. Estimates suggest to reach their goal they would need 1 billion tonnes of biomass, which is a lot.”

The work has identified the two genes that make plants grow outwards. The long, thin cells growing down the length of a plant divide outwards, giving that nice radial pattern of characteristic growth rings in trees. So you get a solid ring of wood in the centre surrounded by growing cells.

Simon says “Now we have identified the process by which the cells know how to grow outwards, we hope to find a way of making that plants grow thicker quicker, giving us the increased wood production that could be used for biofuels or other uses.”

“And there is an added benefit. There are concerns that the growing of biofuel products competes with essential food production. However, the part of the plant we have studied is the stalk - not the grain - so there will be no competition with food production.”

Professor Turner and Dr Peter Etchells studied the plant Arabidopsis, and found that these two genes directed the amount and direction of cell division. They found over-expression of one caused a greater amount of growth in a well-ordered fashion, thus increasing wood production.

The team are now growing poplar trees in the lab - to see if they fit the Arabidopsis model. They will use these results to develop a system of increasing wood production.

Sight charity looks to Manchester

A team led by Manchester experts has been awarded funding of £500,000 by the Fight for Sight charity for a new research programme to develop UK wide, high quality care services for patients with inherited retinal diseases.

Genetic disorders account for over half of childhood visual impairment and one in 3,500 of the population are affected by inherited retinal diseases. Although there is no effective prevention or cure, research has identified many of the genes that cause inherited retinal disease and a free national service for genetic testing exists in the UK. However, access to the testing and the standard of support available to patients varies throughout the country.

The five-year programme will be led by Professor Graeme Black, Director of the National Institute for Health Research Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, supported by Professor Tony Moore of Moorfields Eye Hospital and Miss Susse Downes of Oxford Eye Hospital.

Working with patients and health professionals, Professor Black will examine existing programmes of care for families with genetic retinal diseases and will use the findings to develop a widely available clinical and diagnostic care service. The research programme will also investigate the potential of new technologies in DNA sequencing to identify patients with faults in genes known to cause eye disease and to identify new genes.

University wins bid for MaDAM

A new partnership of biomedical researchers, the John Rylands University Library, IT Services and the Manchester eResearch Centre (MeRC) has won funding from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).

The project which has been named MaDAM (Manchester Data Management) runs until March 2011, and will develop a pilot infrastructure to support research data management in selected areas within biomedicine. The project will be led by the University Library, and involve close collaboration with colleagues in the faculties of Life Sciences and Medical and Human Sciences.

The project provides the opportunity to take a first step in introducing a University-wide data management service – encompassing data capture, data storage and data curation – designed to add value by integrating data management in the full life-cycle of research projects and also by making data readily available for re-use within the originating research group and beyond.

www.library.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/projects/madam/
Glaciers discovered in 'cursed' mountains of Albania

A team of geographers from the University have discovered a group of uncharted glaciers in one of Europe’s most inhospitable places.

Drs Philip Hughes, Jeff Blackford and PhD student Rose Wilkinson, from the University’s Quaternary Environments and Geoarchaeology Group, found four glaciers in the ‘cursed’ mountains of Albania last year.

They were following up Dr Hughes’ 2006 expedition, funded by the Royal Geographical Society, to a nearby spot in Montenegro researching features carved into the landscape by past glaciers.

But he got more than he bargained for when he stumbled upon the real thing - a glacier which was until that point completely undiscovered. In 2009, they found four more in Albania.

The glaciers are at the relatively low level of 2,000 metres - almost unique for such a southerly latitude. Most glaciers at this latitude are usually much higher, and many only survive on higher mountains further north, such as the Alps.

The Prokletije mountains - known as the ‘cursed’ mountains in Albanian - extend from northern Albania and Kosovo to eastern Montenegro in the Western Balkans.

The glaciers - the largest of which is currently the size of six football pitches - vary in size every year according to the amount of winter snowfall and temperatures during the following summer.

Physical Geography lecturer at the University’s School of Environment and Development, Dr Philip Hughes said: ‘We were amazed that - as far as we know - no-one, apart from local shepherds, were aware of the existence of these glaciers and it was tremendously exciting to find them.

“The fact that the mountains were until only recently surrounded by war and lawlessness might explain why they have proved so elusive.

Dr Jeff Blackford said: “The reason why these glaciers can form at such a low attitude - and so far south - is that there are sufficient quantities of windblown snow and, in particular, avalanching snow.”

Ethnicity and past pregnancies determine breastfeeding rates

A University of Manchester study has found that ethnicity and the number of previous births can predict the length of time a woman breastfeeds her child.

The researchers say the findings are important since the UK has one of the lowest breastfeeding rates worldwide. The UK Government recommends that infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life based on World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

Yet, in 2000, the UK ranked the second lowest among 32 countries in a WHO report, with a breastfeeding rate at six months of just 21%. Dr Arpana Verma in the School of Translational Medicine, and colleagues at the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust set out to determine the reasons for this, and to examine the effects of maternal factors and hospital infant-feeding practices on breastfeeding.

The group examined the effects of maternal socio-demographic factors, maternal obstetric factors and hospital feeding practices on breastfeeding discontinuation in mothers supported by a peer-support programme.

The results showed that ethnic group mothers who had already given birth more than once, and hospital infant-feeding practices were the most important factors associated with length of breastfeeding period.

The study revealed that about 50% of the mothers supported breastfed for more than 27 weeks. White mothers were 69% more likely to stop breastfeeding compared with non-White mothers; they also breastfed for shorter durations compared with mothers from other ethnic groups.

Dr Verma said: “The results suggest that infant feeding practices associated with maternal ethnicity and previous experience of having children may be more difficult to influence by peer-support interventions.

“Peer-support programmes, particularly those in multi-ethnic settings, will need to identify the needs of their various client groups in order to appropriately support them to breastfeed longer.”

Institute for Cultural Practices Launch

The University’s School of Arts, Histories has launched a new research centre: The Institute for Cultural Practices (ICP).

The Institute is a centre for engagement between the University and the cultural sector, focusing on collaborative research, postgraduate study and continuing professional development. It is designed to bridge the gap between the worlds of education and professional life across a range of disciplines including Applied Theatre, Arts Management and Cultural Policy, Museology, Music Composition, New Writing and Screen Studies.

The launch of the Institute was marked by a Symposium at The Manchester Museum, followed by an evening reception at the Martin Harris Centre, which was opened by Tom Bloxham MBE, Chancellor of The University of Manchester.

Dr Helen Rees Leahy, head of the ICP says “This is an exciting new initiative for the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures. The Institute will promote knowledge exchange and collaboration between the academy and the cultural sector, and we look forward to developing our external partnerships in education, practice and research.”
Early years devoted to working in a deprived inner-city area of Liverpool, where every day he saw kids coming in with what he knew to be preventable dental problems, informs Martin Tickle’s commitment to preventative care.

“Through seeing those kids, the light dawned,” he says. “I thought ‘We need to stop this’. There are only two basic dental problems – tooth decay and gum disease. The first is in theory preventable and the second manageable, yet they cost us £450 million a year in the North West alone.”

It sounds so simple, but since those years in Liverpool, fresh out of dental school, he has had to work hard, show a lot of determination and fight many a battle – and still does – to pursue his mission. Now, as our first Professor of Dental Public Health and Primary Care, and dental lead for the North West Strategic Health Authority, he is hopefully in a position to achieve it.

He has also built up a reputation for challenging many accepted routines and assumptions in dental practice, attracting substantial research funding to underpin his questioning of key issues, ranging from whether or not toddlers’ teeth should be filled to the effectiveness (or otherwise) of school dental screening.

The latter project resulted in a change in government policy – the national screening programme was scrapped. “We found it was having no effect,” he says. His latest project, backed by a £1.7 million grant from the Health Technology Assessment funding stream of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), reflects his central concern – prevention. “We need to find out whether prevention in general practice works,” he says. The research will be based across Northern Ireland, which has the highest levels of tooth decay in the UK.

The combination of practical research and public health policy, of caring about people and improving their access to dental health, of operating between his NHS and university posts, clearly bring together the threads of his experience and sense of mission.

He had a sense of vocation from early days, wanting to work with people and patients. He was born in Ormskirk and came from a family particularly interested in arts and crafts – his father was a designer with an art school background. “Perhaps that’s why I chose dentistry rather than medicine – I liked the hands-on appeal of the job,” he says.

After the local comprehensive, he went to the local university, Liverpool. “I wasn’t particularly happy as an undergraduate,” he says. “I felt a bit like a square peg in a round hole. I even wondered if I’d made the right decision.” However, he graduated in 1981 – and moved into general practice in the deprived inner city area.

“I had a social conscience and I was idealistic,” he says. “I enjoyed the patient contact, but there was still something missing and I was still unhappy.” He found the career structures too rigid – a choice between general practice, hospital work or academe. So, after eight years in practice, he decided to leave and take a big drop in salary in order to work for his Fellowship, as a gateway to specialist training. He did Part I by correspondence. Part II required hospital experience, so he spent a year working as a Senior House Officer in maxillofacial surgery at the Royal Liverpool.

“I was on call all the time and it was very hard work, but I learned a lot,” he says. Significantly, he learned about the emerging field of Public Health Dentistry, which seemed to answer a lot of his personal needs.

Having successfully achieved his FDS and invested a lot in finding his calling, he began work in 1992 in community dentistry in Liverpool. “It wasn’t a fashionable area to work in, but it attracted me and the job carried with it the funding to do a Master’s,” he says.

And it happened to create a set of circumstances which proved to be life-changing. The Director of
Community Dental Health was Margaret Robinson. “She was a big influence on me,” he says. “And she pointed me in the direction of Manchester to do my Masters. That was the turning point.”

In 1994, he was successful in getting an NHS training post in DPH under Tony Jenner, a former deputy Chief Dental Officer and another important influence. He also linked up with another trainee, Dr Keith Millsom, who continues to be a very good friend and a research collaborator.

But it was doing his Masters and coming under the spell of Professor Andy Blinkhorn here that proved to be life-changing – and gave him the research bug.

He was awarded his MSc in Dental Public Health in 1994. So, here he was, aged 37, still working on his qualifications and building up his specialism. He started to work for his PhD part-time under Blinkhorn, looking at another of his concerns – how dental disease and utilisation of dental services are distributed, geographically and socio-economically.

He completed his specialist training in 1998 and was awarded his PhD the following year. “I was looking for a job again,” he says cheerfully. For a person turned 40 that could be quite daunting. But, fortunately, he had a new speciality and the University, together with Manchester and Salford & Trafford Health Authorities, capitalised on it.

In 2000, he was appointed Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Dental Public Health – the first such consultant in Manchester Health Authority.

“It really suited me, because I wanted to be an academic, but with hands-on responsibility,” he says. With the NHS restructuring in 2002, creating the Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority, his consultancy was moved.

In 2003, he became the first dentist to receive a prestigious Department of Health Public Health Career Scientist Award, and two years later awarded a personal Chair.

He now also leads Health Sciences Research for the School of Dentistry and the Oral Health Unit of the National Primary Care R&D Centre.

One way or another, he is particularly grateful to the Manchester Dental School and his friends and colleagues for their ready support: “From the start, I have found people here genuinely very warm and there is a tremendous collegiate spirit, which plays a large part in making this one of the most successful dental schools in the world. But we could do with better accommodation.” Anyone who visits him in those prison-like corridors of Coupland 3 will testify to that.

But Martin Tickle is not one to gripe. He’s the sort of man who gets on with the job. He is also a happy man. He and his wife, Ellen, met way back in Liverpool and have been happily married for 25 years. She is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at Salford. They commute daily together from their home in Chorley, where they are known for entertaining – and Martin’s cooking.

He also maintains his family interest in art. He enjoys nothing more than going off to Italy to look at those wonderful old fresco paintings.

His roots are firmly in the region. Naturally, he moves easily between Liverpool and Manchester, seeing them as friendly rather than rival cities, although he does admit that when it comes to football his allegiance still lies with the Merseyside reds.
University is a whole new environment and I have had to become more independent. I’ve enjoyed meeting new people and the experience of making new friends. Even though I am living at home I feel that I do not have to depend on my parents. I sometimes drive to university to attend my lectures and classes but I also have a travel card so I sometimes get the bus or train as finding a place to park can be difficult! I can come onto campus whenever I want, and although it can be a bit difficult in the mornings when you want that extra hour’s sleep I am glad that I chose to live at home while studying, as being at home with my family is my stress relief.

I really like my course; it is something that I have always wanted to do. When you are learning about something you are interested in it’s very enjoyable. I think if you don’t enjoy what you study you become de-motivated. I have been doing lots of practical work; for example checking blood pressure, and taking part in the dissection once a week. When on placement I get to meet and talk to patients which has really enhanced my communication skills and helped me to gain medical knowledge. With the patient’s consent I have had the opportunity to observe procedures and on occasion have been able to get involved on a practical level, helping at a diabetes’ clinic.

Meeting with the patients gives you an insight into real life and I have to act professionally at all times. I can’t rely on my teachers anymore to tell me what to do and to feed me information. It is really up to me to learn and observe and do my own research. I attend my lectures which give a general overview of each topic and I follow this up with individual research in the library, using books and the internet.

When I first started my course a few friends who were in their second year showed me around the library; helped me to find things and took me through the self service system. This was very useful and I spend all of my personal study time in the library as it’s where I work best.

The academic work is so different to the work I did during my A-levels as it’s a lot broader and Medicine really is a never ending subject. At college everything was more specific; you knew what you had to learn and what you were going to be tested on. There are no past papers at university and so many things to learn! Every time I am introduced to a topic I am excited and interested to find out more. After lectures we do Problem Based Learning (PBL) group sessions and I have friends in my group doing the same things so we regularly meet before and after lectures. If I have a problem or can’t find something I speak to the tutor.

Initially I didn’t know what to expect but I can honestly say that I love university! There is so much going on and so many things to get involved in. I have registered as a Student Ambassador and I am also an Aimhigher Associate. As an Associate, I visit Oldier Hill School in Rochdale once a week. I talk to them about university life and share my experiences with them which is really rewarding and is helping to develop my skills in working with young people.

I don’t have a student loan but I received the MAP scholarship and the Manchester Guarantee bursary. These bursaries have helped immensely with the cost of university, particularly with travel costs. I’ve purchased a lot of books during my first term, but these are materials I will continue to use throughout the year so definitely a worthwhile investment.

Manchester was my first choice and I’m really glad I got to come here; I know it was the right choice for me.
I have enjoyed my time at university so far; I’ve made lots of friends and learnt a lot. My course is a mixture of examples classes, where we work through things like Maths calculations, lab work, where we do object oriented programming and lectures.

We’ve looked at the schematics of different things like finite state machines and simple processors and I’ve really enjoyed the object oriented programming, especially because I have always been interested in this but never looked into the programming side of things. It’s powerful when you learn how to do something like this and you learn it very quickly.

I have 23 hours of contact time a week and we are expected to do 20 hours outside of that; doing coursework and learning. My work requires design and implementation. I work on design in my room or in a quiet place on campus and then implementation takes place in the lab. I spend a lot of my time in the Kilburn building but I am also able to sign into the computers when I’m in halls and this enables me to work on implementation from there.

When I’m in the lab, if I don’t understand I always ask and someone comes over to help, but you are not spoon fed as much you were in college. It’s up to us to dig a bit deeper and find answers to some of the questions that we have.

I did Computing at college which didn’t involve looking at the practical side of things and so I couldn’t see how everything fitted together. The course at university covers hardware and software and allows you to learn about how everything is interconnected so you can relate one subject to another which brings a whole new depth to your understanding. I didn’t tap into this college, simply because at A-level we didn’t cover things in as much detail. The lecturers here are experts in what they’re teaching.

I’m living in Hulme Hall of Residence and have met lots of new people. I definitely socialise more at university than I did before. I used to go home after college but now I go out with people in my block regularly during the week and we often sit in the student bar or common room which is cheaper than going into town. There is always someone to chat to and I am in a catered hall so going down to dinner and eating with others is also a sociable occasion.

My Hall is pretty quiet so I find I can usually get on with my work at any time if I choose to do it there. I do also have an out of hours pass for the Kilburn building so I sometimes work in there in the evenings.

I’m a lot more independent now and even though I don’t live far away I spend most of my time on campus.

I joined a Computer Gaming society during Fresher’s week which involves playing tournaments and is a good way to meet new people with similar interests. I have also joined the dancing society and had dance lessons at the Sugden Sports Centre last term!

Finance wise, I am managing quite well. I was awarded the MAP scholarship, the Manchester Guarantee Bursary and the Hulme Hall Accommodation bursary. The Accommodation bursary has really helped and meant that I do not need to find a part-time job while I study.

I’m glad I came to Manchester as I have fitted in well and the course is even better than I thought it would be.
Music and Drama at Manchester

What’s On

Jodrell Bank

Thursday 4 March, 1.10pm
Northern Harmony

Hailed for their ‘sheer agility, vitality and power’, these brilliant young singers have a remarkable command of thrilling world music traditions and their performance is a treat not to be missed.

Friday 5 March, 1.10pm
The Unify City of Manchester Baroque Orchestra

A concert of chamber music, vocal and instrumental, by Handel, Telemann and contemporaries

Thursday 11 March, 1.10pm
Quatuor Daniel Lunchtime Concert

A quartet, sometimes known as ‘The Frog’, from Haydn’s matchless maturity, coupled with more early- Schubertian geniality.

Thursday 11 March, 2.30pm
Quatuor Daniel Seminar

Doctor’s and Philosopher’s of Composition

Friday 12 March, 7.30pm
Quatuor Daniel Evening Concert

Sergey Tanevsky’s 1912 Piano Quintet is a monument of the Russian repertoire: in effect the piano-chamber masterpiece that neither his teacher Tchaikovsky nor his pupil Rachmaninov managed to write.

Friday 12 March, 1.10pm
Winds at One - MUMS Lunchtime Concert Series

This exciting lunchtime concert blows away any remnants of Winter, with two 21st century wind masterpieces.

Saturday 13 March, 7.30pm
Manchester University Wind Orchestra (MULO)

The Easter concert from the University’s award-winning wind orchestra features pieces with a distinctly minimalist feel, including a landmark performance of Terry Riley’s iconic in C.

Thursday 18 March, 1.10pm
Rivers of Babylon


Friday 19 March, 1.10pm & 7.30pm
VAGANZA: Italians Dead or Alive

We all know Morricone’s brilliant film scores, but how many of us know his concert music? Plus music by Ivan and many of us know Morricone’s brilliant film scores, but how many of us know his concert music? Plus music by Ivan

Saturday 20 March, 7.30pm
University of Manchester String & Chamber Orchestra

Soloist Thomas Thorp combines saxophone with tape recording, alongside the cunning genius, that Haydn finds in his 60th Symphony.

Monday 22, Tuesday 23, and Wednesday 24 March, 7.30pm
UMDS Festival Show: ‘Self Portrait’ by Henry David

The creative arts allow people to think they can turn BSO into fame, fortune and recognition; ‘Self Portrait’ is simply an exaggerated perception of this fact.

Thursday 25 March, 1.10pm
Student Showcase

A recital featuring the talents of undergraduate and postgraduate students from the University.

Friday 26 March, 7.30pm
Ad Solem - University of Manchester Chamber Choir

An elite group of Manchester student singers perform a selection of Bruckner motets and Mozart's passionate Requiem.

Sunday 28 March, 3.30pm
Hallé Youth and Children’s Choirs

The Hallé Children’s Choir was formed in September 2008, and is now celebrating its second season with 87 young singers aged 8-13 years from across Greater Manchester and beyond.

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL

Email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

Gig Guide

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Tues 2 Mar - £14.30 Adv
Wed 3 Mar - £23.50 Adv
Fri 5 Mar - £11.75
Sat 5 Mar - £20 Adv
Sun 14 Mar - £20 Adv
Wed 17 Mar - £12.26 Adv
Sat 20 Mar - £23.50 Adv
Thurs 1 April - £20.50 Adv

Tickets from:

Students’ Union, Oxford Road
Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Café (o/c) 0871 2200260
Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (o/c)

Students’ Union
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL
0161 275 2930
www.manchesteracademy.net

International Society

WINTER TRIPS

Saturday 6 March
North Wales visiting Anglesey with guided coach tour
Sunday 7 March
Peak District Caves and Caverns
Sat 13-14 March
OVERTURN VISIT to Bath and Stonehenge
Saturday 13 March
Lake District visiting Air Force Waterfall and Ambleside
Sunday 14 March
Whitby
North Wales visiting Snowdon Mountain Railway and Betws-y-Coed
Sunday 21 March
Fountain’s Abbey and Harrogate
Saturday 27 March
Alton Towers
Saturday 28 March
Castle Howard
Saturday 4 April
Blackpool
Sunday 4 April
Lake District visiting Keswick

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

11am Holy Communion
12.15pm Bible Study
12.45pm Lunch (1st Sun)
6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)
FOYER 10am – 5pm
An area where 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, Wed, Fri, 6pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel
Tues, Thurs, 12.15pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel

The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

Hilfe House, Greenhorns Lane

Tel: 0161 226 1139
Email rabbiby@hotmail.com

www.rabbiby.com

Muslim Chaplaincy

South Campus Mosque, McDougall Centre
Jamaat (Group Prayer) Daily
Juma Prayer Friday 1.15pm
Honorary Imam: Imam Habeeb, h chanting@hotmail.com
North Campus Mosque, Basement of Joule Library, Sackville Street Building
Jamaat (Group Prayer) Daily
Juma Prayer Friday 12.30pm
The role of the Volunteer Muslim Chaplain is to provide pastoral support, guidance and a listening ear to Muslim staff and students.

Chaplains’ email: a.sam199@yahoo.co.uk, nlm1411@hotmail.com, assia_shah61@yahoo.co.uk, hawwah@hotmail.com
The Manchester Museum

As well as our permanent galleries, the Museum has a varied programme of temporary exhibitions.

The Evolutionist
Who was Charles Darwin and what’s all the fuss about his theory of evolution? All will be revealed during our Darwin Extravaganza. Part of Darwin 200, a national programme of events honouring his scientific ideas and their impact.

After Life
As well as discovering the ancient Egyptians’ beliefs about the after life, find out about some personal reflections, and potential options, for funerals and remembrance today. The After Life exhibits are displayed within the Ancient Egypt gallery.

EVENTS
Mon 8 March, 12-30-1.15pm
Suffragettes, Science and Seaweed
Celebrate the work of Lydia Becker, suffragette and botanist, and Kathleen Drew-Baker, whose scientific research saved the Japanese seaweed industry.

Mon 8 March, 6-8pm
Ideas Café: Faith and Fact
Explore issues arising from Charles Darwin’s work in this discussion about faith and fact. Part of The Evolutionist, a Darwin Extravaganza at The Manchester Museum.

Thurs 18 March, 12.30-1.15pm
The Peppered Moth, Manchester and Evolution
Discover the story of the Peppered Moth, Evolution and Manchester. Part of The Evolutionist, a Darwin Extravaganza at The Manchester Museum.

Sat 20 March, 11am-4pm
Big Saturday, Chocolate
A day bursting with chocolate activities for all ages! Handle cocoa plants, indulge your taste buds with our chocolate fountain and join in experim ents with smarties.

Mon 22 March, 6-8pm
Ideas Café: Tarantula
If you dare, enter the world of the tarantula with spider expert Richard Gallon.

Wed 24 March, 3-4.30pm
Showcase Lecture
Museums Avatars: The Digital Lives of Objects
Kostas Arvanitis, Museology at The University of Manchester.

Fri 26 March, 11am-12pm
Magic Carpet: Chocolate
Get comfy on our magic carpet and enjoy stories and activities.

Sat 27 & Sun 28 March, 2-3pm
Victorian Gentleman Tour
Discover the wonders of the world with our Victorian gentleman’s guide, Graeme Pye Esquire. Ask him for an “I’ve spied Mr Pye” sticker.

EASTER HOLIDAYS
Mon 29 March-Thurs 1 April & Tues 6-9 April, 11am-4pm
Animal Mania
Discover how animals adapt to their surroundings and how we preserve the Museum’s animals.

Most activities are free and drop-in. Some activities may need to be booked on the day and may cost up to £1.50. All ages, book on 0161 275 2648

Openings hours
Open: Tues-Sat 10am - 5pm
Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11am - 4pm
FREE Admission

The Manchester Museum
Oxford Road, Manchester
0161 275 2634
www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

EXHIBITIONS
Kings and Heroes: The Shahnama of Ferdowsi
18 Feb to 27 June
The Shahnama, or Book of Kings, is an epic poem written by the Persian poet Ferdowsi. The national epic of Iran, it tells the mythical and historical past of Iran from the creation of the world up until the Arab conquest of Persia in the 7th Century. The John Rylands Library holds a significant number of illustrated Shahnama manuscripts, and this exhibition celebrates the millennium of the poem’s completion in 1010 CE.

Historic Reading Room run extended to 28 March
This exhibition has proved so popular that we have extended the run until March. In response to visitor requests! Mapping Manchester explores the growth of the city, road networks and public transport. Manchester as the industrial powerhouse of the nineteenth century, the social geography of housing, changing moralities illustrated by statistical maps, and leisure mapping such as plans of Belle Vue – arguably the world’s first theme park.

EVENTS
Explorer Tours: A Peak Behind the Scenes!
10 March, 17 April & 19 May
Ever wondered where some of the Library doors and staircases lead to? Then this is the tour for you! Guided by members of Library staff, you will be taken behind the scenes and given the chance to look at parts of the building normally hidden from view...

Spelling binding & 20 March
Over a period of thirty-five years, through purchase and commission, Anthony Dowd acquired one hundred book bindings by some fifty leading makers. This session will look at highlights from this collection of beautiful modern British bindings – one of the finest and most representative collections of its kind.

Unusual Views: Library Tours for Photographers
20 March, 27 April & 8 May
Take the opportunity to photograph the Library building from spectacular viewpoints not normally open to the public! Guided by Library staff you will be given unique access to the gallery in our magnificent Historic Reading Room, the cupola above the Historic staircase and other hidden gems.

Curator Tour and Close-up 19 June
Join the curator of Heroes and Kings for a tour of the exhibition and take the opportunity to have a closer look at related material not included in the exhibition. Booking essential.

Collection Close-Up with Library Tour every third Thursday in the month, 12.15pm
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.

Booking essential.

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 jl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk
www.manchester.ac.uk/library

The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAY/COLLECTIONS
The Manchester Indian: Thomas Wardle and India until summer 2010
This exhibition celebrates the century of the death of Sir Thomas Wardle (1831-1909). Still perhaps best known for his collaboration with William Morris, the exhibition focuses on Wardle’s efforts to reinvigorate the silk industry in India as well as the impact that India had on his work.

Deep Rooted, How Trees Shape Our Lives until May 2010
What do trees mean to you? Drawing from the Whitworth’s internationally important collection of watercolours and drawings, this exhibition explores how trees and wood have shaped our lives.

The Complete Roberta Breitmore: Lynn Hershman Leeson until summer 2010
In San Francisco in the mid-Seventies, Lynn Hershman Leeson’s character Breitmore and performed this persona as a work of art over a four year period, documenting it through artifacts, photography, film and sound. This extraordinary body of work, which raises questions about the complexities of identity and the nature of the work of art, has been purchased by the Whitworth in its final edition and is shown here for the first time in its entirety.

EVENTS
Every Sunday 1.30pm - 3.30pm, Family Friendly, Free
Colourful Sundays
Drop into the gallery any Sunday afternoon for free and fun creative activities at Colourful Sundays. Suitable for all ages, no need to book.

Every Tuesday 11am -12.30pm, Free
Tuesday Talks
Each week an artist, thinker or critic talks about their work, influences and inspirations.

Collection Exhibitions Archive Now Online
The Whitworth’s online ‘Collections Catalogue’ now also allows you to browse and search selected exhibitions held at the Gallery over the past 10 years. Follow the link from homepage.

www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk

The Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road, Manchester
0161 275 7450
email whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

Centre for New Writing

Our unique events bring the best-known contemporary novelists and poets to Manchester to discuss and read from their work. Everyone is welcome, and ticket prices include a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink.

Monday 22 March, 6.30pm, Whitworth Art Gallery
Jenn Ashworth and Jen Hadfield
Jenn Ashworth’s first novel, A Kind of Intimacy was published by Arcadia in 2009. Jen Hadfield’s second poetry collection, Night-No-Place, won the TS Eliot prize in 2009.

Website: www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting

Online journal: www.themanchesterreview.co.uk

The Marten Harris Centre for Music and Drama
Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL
0161 275 8951/8950
email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/martinheitscentre
Café on the Park

A stylish place to come for breakfast, lunch, or a relaxing drink.

The menu includes a daily selection of freshly prepared hot dishes using fresh locally sourced ingredients, with an extensive selection of homemade soups, salads, paninis, snacks and much more.

To request a menu or further information about our other services, tel: 0161 232 6063 or email cafe@mspl.co.uk

We are just across the road from the University behind John Rylands Library at Manchester Science Park, Enterprise House.
The sky’s the limit for academic conferences
Your contacts, plus our experience and facilities, make a powerful formula for success.

Our ConferCare service can organise every detail, from delegate registration to website updates and social activities, leaving you free to concentrate on the programme.

For more information contact Sarah Evans on:
0161 306 4108
or visit www.meeting.co.uk

*when paying by an internal account code (except Chancellors Hotel & Conference Centre)
The University’s Whitworth Art Gallery builds on its contemporary art credentials this spring with a series of bold new exhibits. One of the UK’s rarest and perhaps quirkiest collections is right here on campus – wallpapers.

Walls Are Talking is the first exhibition devoted to artists’ wallpapers, with work by over 30 artists including Andy Warhol, David Shrigley and Damien Hirst. This critically acclaimed show turns kitsch ideas of home decoration upside down as artists subvert the stereotypes of wallpaper to hit home messages about warfare, racism, cultural conflicts and gender.

The British Museum’s popular touring exhibition Takhti has also just arrived at the Gallery. It showcases a remarkable work by Khosrow Hassanzadeh, one of the leading artists in Iran’s vibrant contemporary art scene. The centrepiece is a large assemblage portrait of Gholamreza Takhti (1930-1968), one of the country’s national heroes renowned for his Olympic wrestling medals and for his social activism. An icon for today, he follows in the tradition of Iranian cultural heroes going back 1000 years to the legendary stories of the Shahnameh (Book of Kings). Linked with this, John Rylands Library is also displaying its collection of beautiful Shahnama illustrated manuscripts.

The Gallery’s own contemporary art collection continues to grow and one of the latest to look out for is Tracey Emin’s Travelling Chess Set (pictured). There is a long tradition of artists producing chess sets and using the imagery of the game to express ideas about love, war and play. Using pieced-together fabric squares for the board the work Emin also makes a feminist comment, playing with the notion of needlework as ‘women’s work.’ This new work from one of the UK’s most important artists is now on display at the Whitworth.

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

News Contact
News and story ideas
Internal Communications Office
tel 0161 275 2112
email uninews@manchester.ac.uk
online www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news
Deadline 17 March 12 noon

Events Contact
Events and listings information
Philippa Adshead
tel 0161 275 2922
email unievents@manchester.ac.uk
Deadline 17 March 12 noon

Adverts Contact
Ads
Janice Drew
tel 0161 275 2113
email unia ds@manchester.ac.uk
Deadline 17 March 12 noon

Next Issue Monday, 6 April 2010
J2793 02.10 The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL Royal Charter Number RC000797