Research responds to flood warning
Researchers in Manchester are taking part in a £5.5 million programme to provide solutions to the flooding problem in the UK which may become worse because of climate and land use change.

The Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) have formally approved £20m for the merger of the two universities. The funding was officially ratified by HEFCE’s board at their recent meeting in Manchester.

A European Space Agency mission has carried a UMIST experiment into outer space to monitor astronauts’ exposure to radiation.

More than 40 staff from House Services (VUM) have passed their NVQ Level 1 course, fitting in the training alongside their work.

A major interdisciplinary conference in June will focus on the highly topical issue of how research is portrayed in the media.
The fear that the UK may be subject to increasing large scale flooding because of climate and land use change, has led to the creation of a new research programme involving VUM and UMIST-based researchers to predict and manage the risk of flooding.

As widely reported in the media, the £5.5million programme - called the Flood-Risk Management Research Consortium (FRMRC) - will bring engineers, scientists, planners, government agencies and private companies together for the first time to provide solutions for this potentially devastating problem.

And £250,000 of this funding has come to Dr Joe Howe, who is a Lecturer in Environmental Management in the School of Landscape and Planning at The Victoria University of Manchester.

Said Dr Howe: “This is the first time such a wide diversity of organisations have come together to look at the very real problem of flooding - it’s a ‘joined up’ way of thinking about the issue.”

According to Dr Howe, this new approach is urgently needed, as the frequency and severity of flooding is set to increase. It has been estimated that around two million homes are already at risk from river, coastal or sewer flooding in the UK. And the problem is set to be exacerbated by the increasing pressure to build more homes. In the next 10 years, more than two million new homes will need to be built in the UK, so increasingly homes are being built on flood plains and alongside canals and rivers.

Said Dr Howe: “Waterside living like that which has sprung up in Manchester along the River Medlock is fine, but such developments don’t allow for rainwater to escape or to be absorbed, so it runs straight down drains into rivers and increases the risk of flooding.

“We need to think about how we get rid of this surface water. For example, green spaces with trees and grass in city centre development would greatly help – trees are nature’s defence against flood – they intercept rainfall and absorb water through their roots. We need to work with the environment, not against it.”

But flooding is not just an urban problem. Rural areas are increasing experiencing flooding, mainly due to the increased pressure farmers are put under to produce crops. Fields are now commonly ploughed and planted during the winter months whereas in the past they would have been left fallow. This ‘winter cropping’ means that it is more likely that flood water and snowmelt will run off ploughed fields straight into rivers, causing flooding.

Given the dilemma between the need for housing and threat from floods, Dr Howe is determined to elevate the importance of landuse planning in the flooding debate. In the past, flood prevention has been the preserve of engineers, so the fact that Dr Howe has such a high profile role to play in the FRMRC shows that there is a step change going on.

Dr Howe is leading one of the main groups of the FRMRC – called ‘Stakeholders and Policy’ and will be coordinating work among several other universities in the UK. He hopes that by the end of the four year project there will be a more consistent and integrated approach to flood policy.

“At the moment there are a lot of contradictions between different organizations and even between them. We also need to take into account local variations – you can’t just produce a national plan for flooding and hope that it applies to the whole country because it won’t. This means it’s vital that local agencies work alongside national organizations.”

Dr Howe’s bid to lead part of the FRMRC’s work was the result of much work and planning by the School and the University’s Research and Graduate Support Unit, led by Neil Ferguson. In addition, Daniel Spagni from ARP Consultants based at UMIST has been employed as a management consultant to the FRMRC.
A total of 23 schools and colleges across Greater Manchester were able to fly their own paper aeroplanes (‘Science of Flight’), discover how lasers are used in healthcare (‘Blood, Guts and Lasers’), and gasp at the demonstrations and video clips in ‘Good Vibrations….or not so good’.

The ever-popular ‘Son et Lumière’ experience certainly generated the ‘WOW!’ factor amongst the 250 students who attended, with an exciting finale when all the students lit up the darkened lecture theatre with differently coloured light sticks (pictured).

One of the effects of EU enlargement will be that students from the new member states will be eligible for home fee status, rather than paying the overseas tuition fees.

As a result, this year’s exhibition was busier than ever, attracting interest from both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Both universities’ stands were visited by Cyprus’ Minister of Education and Culture, Perikios Georgiades who opened the exhibition and Director of the British Council, Peter Skelton (pictured with Pam Smith of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law and Liz Wilson, International Office, VUM).

Liz, International Officer for Europe, VUM, said: “Manchester is one of the most popular destinations for Cypriot students. We can only expect that following EU enlargement, the applications will continue to increase.”

Dr John Salthouse

Both universities attended the recent education exhibition in Nicosia, Cyprus during a momentous year as the EU expands with the addition of ten new countries as member states.

The campus was buzzing during National Science Week (15-19 March) when more than 650 young people aged between 13 and 18 – and around 70 teachers and visitors - enjoyed a range of sessions, run by UMIST and VUM staff designed to enthuse and inspire.

Celebrating Science

Widening Participation Officer for the Faculty, Barbara Grundy said: “We are very grateful to the academic staff who delivered these sessions and to the staff and students who volunteered to help out in organising and meeting groups throughout the week. Initial feedback has been extremely positive and we hope that the event will lead to even more worthwhile science, engineering and mathematics links with our local schools and colleges in Greater Manchester.”
Administrators’ Conference

This was the first year the Conference was open to all central administration staff, and it was an excellent opportunity to discuss topics around Project Unity.

The opening and closing sessions were delivered by Registrar and Secretary, Dugald Mackie and President-designate, Professor Alan Gilbert respectively, with the main part of the day offering a wide range of topics including forward-looking sessions on External Relations, Business/Industry relationships, Research Management, Academic/Administrative partnerships and Branding, with a range of more ‘special interest’ sessions on, for example, Equality and Diversity and Training and Development.

Speakers, drawn from both institutions, included senior academics, representatives of the two Student Unions (sharing perceptions and issues on the student “experience”) and lead managers from the administration.

Doug Minhall, who organises the event, said: “There is a real buzz when so many colleagues have the opportunity to meet together, network and share ideas and I know it has contributed to a clearer understanding of the Unity agenda and its impact on the administration. I was delighted that so many speakers, with hefty workloads and key Unity responsibilities, were so willing to find time to support the Conference.

“The event has grown and developed since we started in 2002 and we will of course be contacting delegates to get their feedback and suggestions for improvement that can inform the planning of any future event.”

Almost 300 administrative staff from VUM and UMIST attended the annual “Administrators Conference” 27 April, hosted at Hulme Hall and St Gabriel’s Hall

HEFCE Approves £20m for Manchester Merger

The Board of HEFCE formally agreed to grant £10m towards the development of the new merged university, plus a further £10m in the form of a repayable grant.

The funding package was officially ratified at HEFCE’s Board which met at the Manchester Conference Centre.

The grants form part of an additional £65m of public funding to dissolve the Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST in order to create the new single university in October 2004. The Government has provided resources to support the proposal, which closely reflects the priorities outlined in their White Paper “The Future of Higher Education”.

The President-designate, Professor Alan Gilbert, said: “We are delighted that together, network and share ideas and I know it has contributed to a clearer understanding of the Unity agenda and its impact on the administration. I was delighted that so many speakers, with hefty workloads and key Unity responsibilities, were so willing to find time to support the Conference.

“The event has grown and developed since we started in 2002 and we will of course be contacting delegates to get their feedback and suggestions for improvement that can inform the planning of any future event.”

HEFCE have provided this financial support to help realise the vision of a truly world class research university here in Manchester. This significant funding will help us to achieve our goal.”

HEFCE Chief Executive Professor Sir Howard Newby said: “We warmly welcome and support this development. The merger will create a university in the North West capable of competing on a global basis in the delivery of world class research, scholarship and teaching across a broad range of subjects. We now look forward to Professor Gilbert and his team delivering on this exciting vision.”

Professor Sir Howard Newby and Professor Alan Gilbert
Voices from China

Twenty-four university teachers from all over China made up the fourth group participating in the joint programme by China Scholarship Council (CSC) and the Teaching and Learning Support Centre at UMIST (TaLSC). The group, all from differing academic backgrounds, attended a series of taught sessions and tutorials over 19 weeks.

Rosemary Warner, TSEE Programme Director at TaLSC, said: “We are privileged to be the only university in the UK which was chosen by the CSC on the basis of our very successful Academic Practice course for new lecturers.

“There is the expectation that our Chinese colleagues will teach in English when they return to China and that they will have learnt about the UK culture of education. They observe teaching in their host departments and prepare assessed teaching observations and reflective portfolios in order to attain the UMIST Certificate.”

Li Hong (Sylvie) from Shanghai University said: “I have been a teacher in Shanghai University for twelve years; however, this is the first time for me to reflect on my teaching in a way that ensures future improvement.

Kuo Honghong (Sunny) from Xidian University, Xian City, said: “Having attended the lectures in my host department, the differences have deeply impressed me. For example, students are regarded as learning partners and interaction is especially emphasized in classes.”

Kou Ge (Grace) from Nanjing Institute of Science and Technology said: “UMIST has many international students and I had the chance to make friends with people from many different places. Taking part in the TSEE programme is a really special experience and I enjoy it.”

Manchester Masterclass

Turning innovations into commercial success – technology transfer - was the topic of the recent masterclass organised by Manchester Innovation.

The masterclass in Intellectual Property and Commercialisation, aimed at life scientists and attended by researchers from the Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST and the NHS, provided an insight into what is involved in protecting ideas and innovations and their subsequent commercialisation.

More than 60 people took part in the workshop, sponsored by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, which covered a broad range of topics including protection of intellectual property, legal issues and how innovations are managed in the NHS. Speakers included Dr Ian Hampson from St Mary’s Hospital and Dr Sharon O’Kane of Renovo Ltd. Both highlighted the differences between academic and industry and the dynamic nature of life in a start-up company.

Dr Maire Smith, Chief Executive of Manchester Innovations, said that Project Unity would increase the opportunities for researchers to interact enhancing the pipeline of exciting prospects for knowledge transfer.

For further information about IP and commercialisation, please contact Jan Hilton at jan.hilton@maninv.com

www.maninv.com
The awards aim to identify and promote innovation and innovative practices in the NHS to bring about improvements in the delivery of healthcare, and the ceremony provided an excellent opportunity for ideas to be shared across the region.

David Woolley from Oncoprobe Limited, a VUM spin-off company based at Central Manchester and Manchester Children’s University Hospitals NHS Trust, was awarded the joint first prize for his entry, a technology to facilitate the selection of anticancer drugs specific to individual cancer patients. David’s innovation is a technology that listens to cells much as a stethoscope listens to the body. He commented: “What we try to see is which drugs will be effective for a particular cancer. Many people are familiar with combination chemotherapy- what we try to do is eliminate those drugs that will not work and identify those that will”.

Dr. Shaheen Hamdy from the VUM Department of Medicine (and based at Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust) was also joint first prize winner of the innovative device category with a medical device to promote the rehabilitation of swallowing problems in stroke patients. Dr Hamdy commented: “We’ve got clinical trials on board and the results are very promising. The prize money will be used to help develop the device with our industrial partners.”

All winners received a financial award to help further development or completion of their innovation and the intention is to develop a bedside, portable version of the device.

Scientists at UMIST are helping Manchester sculptor Michael Trainor to go down a storm - his next dramatic installation will have as its centrepiece a lightning conductor. His latest works will become the focal points for Cornwall’s first university.

Michael’s ‘Power Plants’ are sculptural plant forms, which will spring into life in response to the changing temperature and climate, powered by renewable energy sources.

To achieve this, Michael sought help from a physicist to put them into practice. He contacted KnowledgeNorthWest, the service which helps businesses find expertise from within the region’s universities. As a result he is now working with UMIST to test different materials and technologies for each of his three pieces.

Among his sculptures will be The Lightning Seed, on the roof of the new campus, in the shape of a large seedpod which will attract lightning, causing it to ‘germinate’ and grow when it strikes.

The work is being carried out at UMIST’s National Grid Transco High Voltage Centre, which can create its own ‘lightning strike’ and which will be used to test the Lightning Seed sculpture.

Michael said: “Power Plants acknowledges the unique mix of arts and technology courses that the new campus will offer. To put the project into practice I recognised I would need some serious scientific input but I struggled to find specialists who could help. Finally I called on KnowledgeNorthWest, who were able to track down the right academics within five days of my call. Now I am looking forward to working with UMIST to develop and test my ideas.”

http://www.knowledgenorthwest.com/
Planet Suite

The Manchester Cosmochemistry and Isotope Geochemistry Research Centre was officially opened on Tuesday 27 April by Professor Sir Keith O’Nions, who is the Director General of the Research Councils.

Researchers in the Centre, based in the School of Earth Sciences, will measure the isotopes (atoms of an element that differ in their mass) that occur in rocks from the Earth, Mars, Moon and Meteorites.

This information can be used in many ways. It provides a time-scale for all geological events from the formation of the Earth to the present day. Isotopes are used to investigate the last moments of a star’s life by studying the remnants of supernovae trapped as dust in meteorites.

On Earth they tell us about climate change, how oil and gas migrate in sediments, and where we can safely store the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

These and many other applications are now possible in the new Centre that houses a suite of laboratories equipped with state-of-the-art equipment for the analysis of naturally occurring isotopes in the environment and the cosmos.

A new £2 million research centre focusing on the formation, history and structure of the Earth and other planets has opened at the Victoria University of Manchester.

Professor Grenville Turner, who is the leader of the Isotope Geochemistry group, said: “The new laboratories will put us in a great position to apply our expertise in understanding the nature of the solar system to the problems of our environment here on the Earth”.

The Centre has been built thanks to a £2.1 million grant from the Science Research Infrastructure Fund. The Isotope Geochemistry Group was established at the VUM in 1989 and currently comprises of 19 researchers and students.

Boost For Brain Sciences

Researchers based at the Victoria University of Manchester have been awarded almost £1.25 million by the Medical Research Council as part of a major initiative aimed at strengthening brain sciences research in the UK.

Of the seven awards, five were awarded to the School of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, one to the School of Biological Sciences and another to the Department of Psychology.

All of the projects are aimed at building foundations for future work to help tackle major mental health problems.

The innovative projects chosen cover a wide variety of scientific approaches to address major disorders and diseases such as depression, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and schizophrenia.

The awards range from basic studies of genetics and mechanisms of disease to creating new packages of care for mental health and future development of clinical trials.

The awards were split into two categories – ‘pathfinders’ – projects which promise ‘high risk high payoff’ research which will act as a springboard for future research bids; and ‘trial platforms’ which aim to build the capacity for future proposals for clinical trials in mental health.

The awards made to the School of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences were as follows:

Professor Alistair Burns, based at Wythenshawe Hospital, was awarded £168,000 for research into the way Alzheimer’s disease develops.

Professor Christine Barrowclough was awarded £180,000 for her collaborative work with the University of Liverpool on preventing relapse in people diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Dr Linda Gask and Professor David Richards (School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting) were awarded £165,000 to look at the case management of depression in primary care.

Dr Richard Gater, who is based at the MRI, was awarded £204,000 for work looking at persistently depressed Pakistani women.

Dr Adrian Wells, in collaboration with University College London, was awarded £199,000 to look at ways of improving depression with modular treatment.

From the School of Biological Sciences, Professor Risto Kauppinen was awarded £206,000 for magnetic resonance methods for imaging certain types of stroke.

And from the Department of Psychology, Professor Matt Lambon Ralph, was awarded £207,000 for understanding the neural basis of semantic impairment in certain types of dementia.
It was blast off for the ‘space age canary in the mineshaft’ developed by a team of UMIST scientists as it took off from the Russian Space Agency’s launch site, at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, for the International Space Station last month.

The UMIST experiment codenamed FORRAY (Fluorescence Orbital Radiation Risk Assessment using Yeast) – which contains living yeast cells engineered with jellyfish genes so that they become increasingly fluorescent as they repair chromosomes damaged by the radiation – was carried aboard a Soyuz rocket that took off in the early hours of 19 April.

Astronauts are exposed to 100 times the radiation level received on Earth and this increases their risk of cancer. Radiation intensity is quite simple to measure. However risk of exposure to cosmic radiation is not really understood – the FORRAY device investigated this. The astronauts pressed a plunger every day mixing millions of dormant yeast cells with nutrients, forcing them into two compartments: one exposed to the damaging space radiation, and one shielded by aluminium. There were six plungers, one for each day of our mission aboard the ISS. The rocket returned safely to Earth on 30 April.

Back in Manchester, the team are measuring cellular fluorescence in the exposed and unexposed yeast, allowing them to link radiation levels to DNA damage. The same yeast, trademarked as GreenScreen, is used by UMIST spin out company Gentronix Ltd in products designed to detect potential DNA damaging agents in drug development and environmental samples.

The team were not rocket scientists at the start, and the challenge was enormous. To satisfy the exacting standards of the European Space Agency (ESA), FORRAY needed to withstand the shock of lift off with its associated extremes of vibration and G forces, as well as vacuum stress in space. It also had to be easy to use and weigh less than 0.5 kg.

Project Director Dr Richard Walmsley from Biomolecular Sciences said: “The team worked incredibly hard – long hours of micromilling, early leaks, frustrations, not to mention the four-way phone link ups between NASA, UMIST, ESA and the Russian Space Agency– but final take off was a tremendous achievement for the whole team.”

The design and construction team were Project Manager Dr Andrew Knight, Professor Peter Fielden and Dr Nick Goddard from the Department of Instrumentation and Analytical Science (DIAS), Biotechnology Specialist Dr Nick Billinton, also at BMS, with engineering support from Ian Smale.

/wwww.esa.int/SPECIALS/Delta_Mission/index.html

The DELTA Mission Astronauts get a lesson in UMIST’s FORRAY
More than 40 staff from the Directorate of Estates have completed the course by working for an hour and a half each week over 15 weeks since June last year, fitting in the course alongside their shifts. The course covered areas such as building maintenance and cleaning.

Dave Lomas from Estates, who organised the training, said: “This was part of raising the standard and professionalism of House Services. The staff have all had a lot of in-house training but to have externally recognised qualification is even better. They have all taken pride in their achievement.”

The certificates were presented at a special ceremony in Staff House.

Nobel Prize Winner, Clive Granger, whose work has fundamentally changed the way economists think about financial and macroeconomic data, gave a personal account of his ‘Nobel Experience’ in an open lecture at the Victoria University of Manchester on Monday 26 April 2004, organised by the Schools of Economics and Accounting and Finance.

Professor Granger, who has worked closely with academics at the University, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences in 2003 (with Professor Robert Engel) for their discoveries in the analysis of economic time series data. These are sequences of numerical observations over time, such as the levels of stock prices each day or the levels of national income each year.

Professor Granger’s great breakthroughs concerned the relationships between these variables and showed that traditional statistical methods could be misleading if applied to variables that tend to wander over time, without returning to some long-run resting point.

Professor Granger is pictured with President-designate, Professor Alan Gilbert.

Building attendants from House Services (VUM) had their own graduation ceremony recently when they received their NVQ Level 1 certificates.
Despite reaching three finals in the British trials, and swimming two personal bests, Sarah was edged out in some titanic world-class races. Sarah came fourth in the 400M Individual Medley, fourth in the 200M Individual Medley and seventh in the 400M freestyle. She equalled her personal bests in both of the Individual Medley events with times of 4.51.7 and 2.19.1 respectively.

But despite reaching three finals, Sarah was disappointed with her performances. She said: “I was training really well up to the trials and was the fittest I’ve ever trained and training the fastest I’ve ever trained, but at the end of the day it just wasn’t meant to be.”

UMIST swimming sensation Sarah Heyes has narrowly missed out on her dream of going to the Olympic Games this summer.

Another Opening...

Drama student Benji Sperring has proved to be a match from Anne Robinson on the show The Weakest Link, by walking away with £2,970, and spending it on a production at the Palace Theatre.

Benji, a budding actor and member of VUM’s drama society, decided that the best way to spend the cash was to stage a production of the drama group’s latest work, Stephen Sondheim’s ‘Assassins’. Benji is producing, directing and starring in the stage show, and it will be no ordinary show as it’s the first amateur production ever to be staged at the Palace Theatre.

Benji commented: “It’s been a great experience and, with the money I have won, we are helping to increase people’s involvement in theatre, by bringing this particular show to the Palace. I really couldn’t think of a better way to spend the money!”

The production runs from 6 May to 8 May and tickets are £15 (£10 for students). To book call 0870 060 768.
The highly topical issue of how research is portrayed in the media is the subject of an interdisciplinary conference at the Victoria University of Manchester Mis/Representation in Media on 17 and 18 June 2004.

Dr Peter Lawler, Lecturer in International Relations, Department of Government, VUM who is chairing one of the sessions, said: “This timely conference addresses one of the central political, cultural and social issues of today. The politics of ‘spin’ and the representation or misrepresentation of such things as terrorism and armed international intervention are only the most visible faces of a complex relationship between the media, politics and daily life.

"Today’s publics are confronted by a maze of words and images whose claim to authority are increasingly contested and contestable. Against this backdrop, a conference which endeavours to make some sense of the global media circus and which bridges the various levels of the academic community has to be warmly welcomed."

VUM Chancellor Anna Ford, who has lent her support to the conference, said: “I’m glad to say a few words about the Media Conference at the Victoria University of Manchester. I believe more strongly than ever that we have never been in greater need of a free robust, intelligent, well-informed and independent press who will continue to “shine a light” into the darkness. And I include in that a free and independent BBC.”

There will also be a media workshop that will comprise a series of short question and answer sessions and presentations by professionals and advisers in the media sector. These will include representatives from Manchester University Press, the Careers Service and the academic sector.

The event is free but attendees are asked to contact the organisers in advance. If you would like further information or would like to contact those involved please visit the website below or e-mail pgconference@man.ac.uk.

The postgraduate organising committee consists of Jasem Tarawneh (Law), Oxana Poberejnaia (Government), Carrie LeBlanc (Art History), Alex Berratta (English), Marcus Brittain (Archaeology) and Tim Clack (Archaeology).
Several members of staff have commented on the need for two-way communications within Project Unity, in order to ask questions or to simply comment on the process.

Since the inception of the Project Unity website it has been possible for staff to comment using the e-mail address projectunity@lists.man.ac.uk. This e-mail address is still in use for those who wish to pass comment or ask a question, and it will continue to be in place as a means of communication until October 2004. It is for all communications and feedback except Human Resources (HR) - a separate system of communications for HR is detailed below.

Once the single institution is fully operational the External Relations Directorate will commission a full audit of all internal communications, and further avenues of communication will be implemented where necessary.

Human Resources Communications

Many of you will have specific Human Resources questions that you would like answered. The Project Unity website contains useful guidance information and access to up-to-date new and ring fenced posts, as well as a list of the Human Resource representatives who, in addition to your current or future line managers, are available to answer your questions. The document is available in the Human Resources folder, which is located on the left hand side of the Project Unity website homepage at http://www.projectunity.man.ac.uk/
Contact Theatre

Tue 25 May 2004 - Sat 29 May 2004, £9/£16
Paines Plough in a co-production with Drum Theatre, Plymouth and Hampstead Theatre

THE STRAITS

The Straits tells the story of four teenagers, living in Gibraltar as children of the British Forces during the summer of 1982. But for the sons and daughters of the British Forces, another war beginning in the South Atlantic will soon bring a dark heart to their games.

Following the smash hit GAGARIN WAY, for his second play Gregory Burke draws on his experiences growing up in a family stationed in Gibraltar during the Falklands War.

Contact Theatre, Oxford Road, Manchester
Tickets/Info: 0161 274 0600
from 15 May 2004
Fri 28 May, 2pm, £2 (students FREE)
Uni-Curator's Tour,

TOURS AND EVENTS

Every Saturday at 2pm there is either an Exhibition Tour or an Eyepopper Tour.

Susie MacMurray - Susie and students from City College Manchester will discuss their experience of working together at the studio, and the kinds of materials and techniques they have been experimenting with. Fri 21 May, 2pm, FREE

Blasting the Future! - Curator's Tour, Tues 25 May, 2pm, FREE

Vorticism and the War - Lecture by Dr Jonathon Black, Fri 28 May, 2pm, £2 (students FREE)

CONCERTS

The Coupland Brass Quintet
Sat 15 May, 3pm, FREE

Whitworth Art Gallery Oxford Road, 0161 275 7450, www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk
Opening hours Mon to Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 2pm - 5pm FREE Admission

Gallery Cafe - The café sells a selection of drinks and light meals. 0161 275 7497

Gallery Shop - The bookshop stocks a range of art and design books, cards and gifts. 0161 275 7498
Jodrell Bank

The facilities at Jodrell Bank are going through a period of redevelopment. The Visitors Centre currently has a café, an exhibition space and a 3D theatre open, and visitors can still explore the various trails and natural habitats. It is essential to pre-book strolling through a period of redevelopment. The facilities at Jodrell Bank are going through a period of refurbishment and the construction of a new visitor and interpretative centre.

EVENTS

Tuesday 1 June to Friday 4 June, 2pm
Meet an Astronomer
Find out the answers to all those astronomical questions you have always wanted to ask. Meet on the Observational Pathway, under the pagoda.

Wednesday 2 June, 2pm
Children's Guided Walk of the Arboretum
This walk will give children a chance to explore and find out about trees and their natural habitats. It is essential to pre-book for this walk; we would also suggest that parents accompany their child.

Jodrell Bank Science Centre & Arboretum
Macclesfield, Cheshire
01625 730280 www.jb.man.ac.uk

Manchester Museum

Saturday 15 May
(Adult Learners' Week), 2.00 - 4.00pm
Beloved and Forsaken
Following a public tour of the exhibition, join Spring Hurlbut and Jane Wildgoose as they engage in a public conversation on the themes of processes involved in creating “Beloved and Forsaken.” Jane Wildgoose is an artist, writer, and lecturer at the Winchester School of Art.

Saturday 15 May 1.30 - 4.00pm
A Dip in the Mersey
Explore the River Mersey with the Mersey Basin Trust. Find out about the weird and wonderful life found there and create your own incredible creatures. FREE

Saturday 15 & 29 May,
Sunday 16 & 30 May, 2pm
The Grand Tour
Graeme Pye, our very own Victorian gentleman, is back again to guide you on this special tour around the Museum. Meet at reception. FREE

Tuesday 18 May (Adult Learners' Week), 1.00 - 2.00pm
Dinosaurs of Patagonia... The Real Lost World!
Patagonia has recently been the centre of attention for the world’s biggest dinosaur discoveries. Join Dr Phil Manning for a lecture on his work in South America, featuring some of the most desolate dinosaur-hunting grounds in the world. FREE

Thursday 20 May (Adult Learners’ Week), 1.00 - 3.00pm
From Dinosaurs to DNA
A chance to explore the techniques used for genetic research. There will be the opportunity to 'cut' sections of DNA and, otherwise stated. For group bookings please call 0161 275 2630, www.museum.man.ac.uk

Manchester Museum Oxford Road, 0161 275 2630. www.museum.man.ac.uk
Opening hours, Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sun 11am - 4pm
Free admission, booking is essential for all programmes

Chaplaincies

St Peter’s House Chaplaincy
SUNDAY WORSHIP
10.30am & 6.30pm (Evening Worship Term-time only)
FOYER 10am-4pm. An area where students and staff can relax and meet friends. A tea/coffee machine is available.

Avila House RC Chaplaincy
(next to the Holy Name Church)
Mass Times
Mon - Fri 1.05 pm
(Term-time only)
Oxford Road
0161 275 6999/273 1456
Mass every Sunday at 10am

UMIST Chaplaincy
Chaplains on UMIST site
Monday to Friday
Floor B, Room B 25
Renold Building UMIST
0161 236 3311 Ext 2522
Mosque: Main Building
Prayer Room:
Renold Building B26

John Rylands Library

The John Rylands Special Collections Library, Deansgate, will be closed for a period of approximately 2 years, until 2005, for essential refurbishment and the construction of a new visitor and interpretative centre. Access to all the special collections is available through the main University Library on campus. A Special Collections Reading Room is open on Purple Four, Monday to Friday 10am - 5.15pm and Saturdays 10am - 1pm. Readers may find it helpful to contact us in advance on 0161 275 3764. Further information can be found on our website www.jrlweb.man.ac.uk/spcoll/

Manchester University Library

Opening hours, Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sun 11am - 4pm
Free admission, booking is essential for all programmes

International Society

TRIPS

Sat 15 May
Day visit to Knutsford and Little Moreton Hall

Mon 17 May
Trip to see Carmen performed at the Opera House

Sat 22 May
Day visit to Oxford.

Sat 29 May
Day visit to Robin Hood’s Bay and Scarborough

EVENTS

Sat 15 May
National Evening
Every Tuesday 8pm until late
The Melting Pot @ The Thirsty Scholar
(next to Oxford Road Station).

THEATRE AND MUSIC

For details about the availability of tickets for various theatre and music performances, please visit our website.
Monday 10 May

Tuesday 11 May
CCSR: “Occupational segregation and part-time employment in Britain and the United States: the benefits of a multi-group measure of segregation”. Jane Elliott (Liverpool). 4pm, 1st Floor Studio, Old Dover St Bldg. All welcome.

School of Planning and Landscape: Contemporary Issues in Urban and Environmental Research: Research students’ Poster Session. 4pm, Hanson Room, Architecture and Planning Bldg.

NPCRDC: “Empowerment and modernisation in a Primary Care Trust”. Ruth McDonald. 2pm, Seminar Room 2, 5th Floor Williamson Bldg.

Wednesday 12 May
Manchester Business School Vital Topics talk: Turning a passion for food into a successful family business. Nighat Awan, Chief Executive, Shere Khan Group. Email Sue Huzar to reserve a place: s.huzar@mbbs.ac.uk

Tyn dall Centre for Climate Change Research: “The climate impacts of aviation (specifically on the fuel trade-offs and air space congestion issues associated with restricting cruise altitudes to avoid contrail formation)”. Dr Victoria Williams (Imperial College). 4pm, Room C16, The Pariser Bldg, UMIST.


Dept of Physics and Astronomy Manchester Centre for Nonlinear Dynamics: “Granular avalanches in fluids”. Dr Sylvain Courrech du Pont (Bristol). 4pm, Blackett Lecture Theatre, Schuster Laboratory.

Manchester Contemporary China Seminar: “Uyghur nationalism in Xinjiang and the War on Terror”. Dr Michael Dillon (Sheffield). 4pm, Room A12, Arts Bldg.

Dept of Chemistry: “Molybdenum hydrogenases: relatively to thin-mo chemistry”. Prof Charles Young (Melbourne). 2pm, Room G.33, Chemistry Bldg.


SERA-Labour Environment Campaign: “Nuclear clean up: how safe are we in the North West? With the heart of the nuclear industry in the North West, should the industry now lead in the decommissioning of nuclear plants and ensure best practice in nuclear waste management?”. 7.30pm, Manchester Town Hall, Albert Square. For information contact lydia Meryll 0611 249 0943.

Thursday 13 May
Manchester Medical Society joint meeting with Research into Aging: “Inflammation in acute stroke - taking science from bench to bedside”. 5pm, LT2, Stopford Bldg.

Faculty of Medicine – Imaging Science and Biomedical Engineering: “Recent advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cerebral aneurysms”. Dr D G Hughes (Manchester). 5.15pm, LT3, Stopford Bldg. All welcome.

Dept of History: “Masters or subjects? The difficulties of writing a history of the Irish and the British Empire”. Dr Donal Lowry (Oxford Brookes). 5pm, Room A13, Arts Bldg.

Friday 14 May

Tuesday 18 May
Manchester Medical Society – Imaging – Gray Hartley Lecture: “The atom, the electron and radiology in Manchester - an historical perspective”. Prof I Isherwood CBE. 6pm, Health Sciences Postgraduate Centre, Manchester Royal Infirmary.

NPCRDC: “Translating Policy into Research: Primary care research, PCIs, and the new NHS”. Frederick Chen (University College London). 2pm, Seminar Room 2, 5th Floor Williamson Bldg.

Wednesday 19 May
CHSTM: “Curare - The Flying Death”. Professor Ove A Nedergaard (University of Southern Denmark). 4pm, Room 3.29, Maths Tower.

Dept of Physics and Astronomy - Manchester Centre for Nonlinear Dynamics: Title to be announced. Dr Olivier Pouliquen (IUSTI, Marseille). 4pm, Blackett Lecture Theatre, Schuster Laboratory.


Thursday 20 May

Dept of Chemical Engineering: “Challenges in batch process performance monitoring”. Prof Julian Roberts (Newcastle). 12pm, Room C63/64, Jackson Mill, UMIST.

School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting: “As the yellowness of a lemon is from its acidity, so badmanner and gender in nursing”. Jane Brooks (Leeds). 4pm, Rooms 28-29, Couland 3 Bldg.

Friday 21 May
Dept of Religions and Theology - Media and Contextual Theology: “Reimaging radio in Rwanda”. Jolyon Mitchell. 10am, Room A4, Faculty Committee Room, Arts Bldg.

Dept of Physics and Astronomy Condensed Matter Physics Group: Title to be announced. Prof David Khmelnitskii (Cavendish Laboratory). 4pm, Moseley Lecture Theatre, Schuster Laboratory.

Monday 24 May
Dept of Chemistry: “Title to be announced”. Prof Shu Kobayashi (Tokyo). 4pm, Room G.51, Chemistry Bldg.

Tuesday 25 May
CCSR: “Schedules of work and family life in Britain - towards a typology using qualitative data”. Collette Fagan (Manchester). 4pm, Seminar Room 2, 5th Floor Dover Street Bldg. All welcome.


NPCRDC: “A nurse practitioner to support general practice? Does substitution of care result in an increased quality of health care and a decrease of the workload of GPs?” Miranda Lauendent (University of Nijmegen). 2pm, Seminar Room 2, 5th Floor Williamson Bldg.

Wednesday 26 May
Tyn dall Centre for Climate Change Research: Title to be announced. Dr Mark Pelling (King’s College). 4pm, Room C16, The Pariser Building, UMIST.

Jodrell Bank Observatory: Title to be announced. Tom Muxlow. 4pm, Lecture Room, Jodrell Bank.

Centre for Philosophy: “Collective goods and public health”. Angus Dawson (Keele). 4pm, Room OG16, Old Dover St Bldg. All welcome.


Thursday 27 May
Faculty of Medicine - Imaging Science & Biomedical Engineering: “Developing a musculoskeletal ultrasound service in the District General Hospital”. Dr G M Hoadley (Blackpool). 5.15pm, Lecture Theatre 3, Stopford Bldg.


Dept of Chemical Engineering: “A loaf less ordinary: bubbles, bran and bread during a New Zealand sabbatical”. Dr Grant Campbell (UMIST). 1pm, Room C63/64, Jackson Mill, UMIST.

Friday 28 May

For further info or to list seminars contact unievents@man.ac.uk
Aerial Shot of UMIST and City Centre, 1962

This aerial photograph shows a developing UMIST campus and its proximity to Manchester city centre as the Renold Building rises beside the railway line.

To the far right, you can see the glass canopies over Piccadilly Station’s platforms, then follow Piccadilly Approach to Piccadilly Gardens before reaching the large white department store Debenhams (then Paulden’s) at the bottom of Market Street. Further ahead is a smut-darkened Manchester Cathedral. To the top left hand side is Manchester Town Hall with its white clock face and next-door Central Library.

Many of the buildings across the city are now long-gone, including those on Granby Row, back on the UMIST campus.

Architect WA Gibbon designed the Renold Building in 1962. Following major refurbishment, it now boasts a 500-seat theatre, two 300 seat theatres, five 140-seat theatres, 20 flexible seminar rooms and 1200 square metres of exhibition space, with a high specification of audio-visual aids and professional technicians on-site.

Noticeboard

TRDN ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
Tuesday 18 May, 9.30am - 4pm, Council Chamber
The University of Manchester
The Teaching, Research and Development Network is a University of Manchester/UMIST network to support scholarship and research in teaching and learning. The theme of the sixth annual symposium is ‘Linking research and teaching’. Opening keynotes will be followed by four parallel workshops and poster presentations, closing with a panel-led discussion.
To book a place please email trdn@man.ac.uk or visit the TRDN website for more information: www.intranet.man.ac.uk/rsd/ci/profess/trdn/index.html

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ACCOMMODATION TO LET
West Didsbury. Tidy non-smoking female prof/PhD student to share 2 bed flat. Bright, airy, dble glazed, 2nd flr in purpose built block, parking, bus stop right outside. 5mins walk from restaurants, shops. Didsbury Village 10 mins. Rent £75pw or £300pcm + bills.
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2 traditional styled Breton holiday gites in Southern Brittany, France. Open all year round. www.oak-tree-cottages.co.uk

Georgian country hse on Shropshire/Welsh border. About an hour from Manchester. Private gdns, lovely trees. Sleeps 16 in 8 beds, 6 baths. Luxury. Ideal for family gatherings. Email: george.dowswell@man.ac.uk

Holiday cottage in W of Ireland to let. Unusual, highly scenic coastal pos in County Donegal. Sleeps 6. Full details email: b.carroll@fumist.ac.uk

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Karl Spencer
Chief Technician, Department of Drama

With some of the best facilities of any Drama Department in the country at his disposal, Chief Technician Karl Spencer is enjoying the benefits of working in the new School of Music and Drama building. Karl played an important role in the final stages of the planning of the building – he was there before the builders had left - and advised on the purchase of the new lighting and sound room equipment.

He’s very much a behind-the-scenes person, which is where he prefers to be. His main role is working with Drama students, helping them with the technical aspect of staging performances as part of their studies in the John Thaw Studio. There are currently 180 undergraduates and up to 20 postgraduate students – nearly all of them come to him for help and advice.

“There’s a lot to do but I’m here for the students, they’re my priority. It’s the best part of the job. If I can think they leave the university having learnt something from me then I’m happy.”

It is his commitment to the students that earned him the inaugural John Owens Award for Teaching and Learning in 2001, for which he was nominated by alumni who had benefited from his support. Karl is also involved in planning course content.

Although his job title may be Chief Technician, as the Drama facilities have expanded, so has his role.

The state-of-the-art facilities mean that the Department now has a full performance licence (before they were limited to eight performances per year) and the performance space is in demand from visiting professional companies, the BBC and Granada.

The building is also often booked for conferences and meetings and he is responsible for timetabling all of these and making sure all the rooms are prepared.

Karl started out helping to stage productions at school in Heywood. He went on to do a BTEC Diploma in Electronic and Electrical Engineering (Theatre Studies) at Grange Arts Centre in Oldham and came to the University 18 years ago where he has worked ever since. “I only intended to come here for a couple of years to get some practical experience but I got promoted and stayed. I really enjoy it, there is not a day when I get up and think ‘I’ve got to go to work’ - every day is different.”

A typical day for Karl could be liaising with a visiting theatre company about their needs for a forthcoming production, training students on video camera techniques, building a set for a production, making a sound tape or planning a course.

The Department is involved in a lot of outreach projects including work with Manchester-born actor John Thaw’s former school Ducie High. The John Thaw Foundation funded the new drama studio which bears his name. Karl also visits prisons with students through the work of the Department’s Theatre in Prisons Centre.

“To come to this from the facilities we had before has exceeded all our hopes. The possibilities are endless, we can do things we would never have thought possible before. Other universities are coming to us to see what we have here.”