Manchester and Harvard join forces
News

A few weeks ago I confronted the 2006 Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) class with the provocative thesis in Martin Rees’s Our Final Century? like any small book, causing profound and complex issues, Our Final Century? is neither uniformly authoritative nor tactfully argued. It wasn’t meant to be. But it is a deeply troubling book, not least because the author, the current President of the Royal Society, estimates at no better than fifty-fifty the odds of human civilization surviving beyond the end of the 21st Century.

The MLP students were a superb audience, intelligently engaged with the issues, thoughtful, informed, bursting with questions and comments. (If only all my history classes had been like this in days gone by!) They were also a remarkably diverse group. Many were from black and minority ethnic communities in the UK. Overseas students from Africa, South Asia, Southeast and North Asia were probably over-represented, while few of those present seemed to be from Latin American and Eastern European countries. There were many students whose accents told of homes in the US, Canada and Australia as well as the UK. I cannot remember a South African or New Zealand accent, and I sometimes fail the acid test of differentiating between Canadians and Americans. But my overwhelming impression was of an audience genuinely global and complexly multicultural in the perspectives it was likely to bring to global issues.

The young men and women in our MLP programme seemed to me a beacon of hope in a world where the young may, in certain circumstances, be mobilised around alienation rather than hope, and drift towards violent extremism instead of becoming mobilised around alienation rather than hope, and drift towards violent extremism instead of becoming champions of constructive, sustainable solutions. But I do know this. The danger and the hope alike should be met with a firm resolve to ensure that our university remains an open, rational, informed, inclusive community able to engage people from all the world’s races, cultures, beliefs and epistemological traditions in a common pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. That is the raison d’être of a university, and it has never been more important.

If the next 100 years turns out not to be humankind’s final century, it may well be because universities around the world have succeeded in producing graduates not only competent to address the great scientific and technological challenges ahead, but also capable of transcending the deep cultural divides that threaten global security and vitiate genuinely global problem solving.

In saying that I am not blind to the real and present danger that engaged, impressionable, high-minded young people may in certain circumstances, be mobilised around alienation rather than hope, and drift towards violent extremism instead of becoming champions of constructive, sustainable solutions, but I do know this. The danger and the hope alike should be met with a firm resolve to ensure that our university remains an open, rational, informed, inclusive community able to engage people from all the world’s races, cultures, beliefs and epistemological traditions in a common pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. That is the raison d’être of a university, and it has never been more important.

As part of the project, Putnam will take up a part-time Visiting Professorship at the University for five years. His activities will include a series of collaborative projects, graduate summer school coursework and postgraduate programmes.

“Social Change: A Joint Project of Harvard and Manchester” will be directed by Professor Robert Putnam, Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, who is renowned for his influential research into community ties known as “social capital.”

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“Social Change: A Joint Project of Harvard and Manchester” will be directed by Professor Robert Putnam, Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, who is renowned for his influential research into community ties known as “social capital.”

The work has been the subject of heated debate among politicians and commentators – including Tony Blair, Bill Clinton, and George Bush – since it was published in 2000.

Researchers from the two universities will conduct a series of transatlantic comparative studies on topics such as inequality, immigration, religion, the changing workplace and civic engagement.

They will investigate what drives social change, how it relates to the well being of members of society and the implications for policy makers – issues which confront political leaders on both sides of the Atlantic.

The University’s ranking in the recently published “Academic Ranking of World Universities” carried out by the Institute of Higher Education in Shanghai Jiao Tong University has risen to 50th (from 53rd in 2005 and 2006) in Nature and Science (one of the criteria for the ranking) and, to a lesser extent, an increase in the volume of the University’s research included in the main citation indices.

The research will be conducted by academics from Manchester and visiting academics from Harvard.

Professor Putnam said: “There is a long and fruitful history of collaboration between British and American scholars in learning across our similarities and differences in order to tackle important social issues.

“It builds on a foundation of exceptional expertise in both Manchester and Harvard, as well as elsewhere in our two countries.”

He added: “We will be able to tap the scholars at both of these universities who have done terrific work on immigration, diversity, social networks, inequality, to name only a few fields.

“Manchester historically has been heavily involved in bringing the best scholarship to address problems of practical importance to politicians, industrialists, leading citizens, and the working class, and this project returns Manchester to those roots.”

Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester said: “I’m delighted that Professor Putnam has agreed to join the University in connection with this new initiative.

“His appointment as a visiting professor is the latest in a series of sonic appointments intended to reflect the University’s commitment to become one of the top 50 research universities in the world.

“I am particularly pleased that Professor Putnam and his team will be addressing some of the key social challenges facing our community.

“We already host a number of centres of excellence specialising in the exploration of social change and are home to the £3.5 million Economic and Social Research Council Funded Centre for Research on Socio Cultural Change.”

The University of Manchester is one of the top 50 research universities in the world. The methodologies of many ranking systems are in their infancy, though the “Academic Ranking of World Universities” is one of the more defensible and balanced in terms of its validity and integrity. In my view it is the international ranking in which we can place the greatest confidence.

In particular, this ranking system remains a useful basis for monitoring the University’s progress from year to year.

“The improvement in the University’s position is encouraging and the gap between this University and those ranked above it is narrowing, but there is no scope for complacency. There remains a long way to travel to get to our 2015 goal!”

Other criteria used the calculate the ARWU ranking include alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals and highly cited researchers in 21 broad subject categories.

Speaking at a recent meeting with heads of Schools, the President said, “I would like to see a strategy to improve the number of Manchester academics cited in key research publications (bibliometrics) would improve our performance in this and other tables.”
unique properties, graphene will be an easy way to separate graphite apart into single sheets. Because of its flexibility, among them is graphene made from splitting matter or material physics research, for his work on graphene. ProfessorAndre Geim of the School of Physics and Technology at the University of Manchester, has won the Queen's Prize for science and technology based businesses to the region and serviced land available for development. Science and technology based businesses to the region and serviced land available for development. This follows, amongst others, an investment of over £50 million by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA). The University's annual Harry Street lecture as the latest in the series of talks - organised by the School of Law - which brings prestigious speakers to the University.

Professor Colin Talbot of Manchester Business School has been appointed Specialist Adviser on public spending issues to the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee. Professor Talbot has already acted as a Specialist Adviser to the Public Administration Select Committee for a specific report and has given evidence numerous times to Select Committees, Professor Talbot said: “I am delighted and honoured to accept this role and hope I can enhance the work of the Committee and Parliament in effectively scrutinising the government.” Professor Talbot holds the chair in public policy and management, is co-director of the Centre for Public Policy & Management and is the Director of the newly-formed Herbert Simon Institute, a University-wide collaboration on public sector scholarship.

Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus (DSIC) was officially opened by Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science and Innovation recently. Building on the worldwide reputation of CCLRC Daresbury Laboratory, one of the UK’s major research facilities, the development of this strategic national site has included: The Cockcroft Institute, a National Centre for Accelerator Science; Daresbury Innovation Centre, a state-of-the-art facility designed to attract science and technology based businesses to the region and serviced land available for development. This follows, amongst others, an investment of over £50 million by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA). The University of Manchester alongside representatives from NWDA, the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CLRC), Halton Borough Council, and the Universities of Lancaster and Liverpool - has helped to establish the site’s current assets.

The creation of the Cockcroft Institute, by the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC), also launched on the same day, will lead the way in designing the next generation of particle-accelerators, which will put the UK at the forefront of international efforts to build machines to discover the innermost mysteries of particle physics and recreate the earliest moments after the Big Bang. This will allow mankind to better understand how the Universe was formed and what it is made of. At the opening, Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science and Innovation (pictured); said: “I am delighted to be opening one of the UK’s two strategic centres of science and innovation. This outstanding campus will help generate economic growth and jobs and support the Government’s drive to build and sustain world leading knowledge based companies.”

Professor Keith Macer, CEO of PPARC said: “Locating the Cockcroft Institute within the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus will enable UK particle physicists to collaborate with high technology industrial partners to design cutting-edge solutions in accelerator science and exploit RT applications more rapidly.”

The University of Manchester has launched a major initiative in its drive to become a leading research institution on modern and contemporary China.

The Centre for Chinese Studies will bring together research from across the University to create a platform for research into contemporary China and the Chinese-speaking world. It will offer single and joint honours degree programmes in Chinese Studies, two Masters programmes in Contemporary China and Translation Studies and a PhD programme. It is headed by Professor Hong Liu (pictured) who joined the University recently from the National University of Singapore. The Confucius Institute is a partnership between the University, the Office of Chinese Language Council International and Beijing Normal University. Based on the model of the British Council and Goethe Institute, the Institute is one of 106 being set up world wide to inform people who want to find out more about China and to learn the Chinese language.

The University’s second Foundation Day was celebrated in style earlier this month (Wednesday, 20th October, 2005) with a lecture by the world’s leading authority on the Chinese diaspora.

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Professor Wang Gungwu spoke about “The Chinese Pursuit of Higher Education”.

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The Foundation Day lecture, delivered in front of an invited audience, including the President and Vice-Chancellor and three of the founders of this University, traced the history of higher education in China from ancient times, to the present day.

Professor Wang Gungwu (pictured), who began his own studies in nationalist China in 1943, described how the rigid nature of education in Imperial-China survived in the countries’ universities until well into the 20th century.

Attempts to remodel Chinese universities on the American model did not survive the Communist victory in 1949 and the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s. Since the 1980s, however, there has been a drive for dramatic growth in the number, status and quality of Chinese universities to the extent that they now have in excess of 20 million students and will produce four million graduates next year.

Professor Wang Gungwu studied at the University of Malaya, Singapore and the Universities of London, Cambridge and Oxford. He is a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, and since its foundation in 1991, he has been President of the International Society for the Study of the Chinese Overseas.
Well love a duck!

Professor Matt Lambon-Ralph of the School of Psychological Sciences hit the headlines recently, when he gave the British Association for the Advancement of Science’s Charles Darwin Award Lecture. Entitled ‘Investigations of concepts and meaning; the case of the four-legged duck,’ his presentation described how his team has identified the part of the brain that forms and processes concepts.

Using brain scans and careful neuropsychological investigations from people suffering from Semantic Dementia – his team discovered that the brain’s temporal pole seems to be critical in encoding concepts and storing meaning.

Although patients with damage to this area are able to carry out other aspects of forms of higher mental activity, they gradually lose the knowledge that underpins concepts. For example, one patient was only able to draw an accurate picture of a duck when shown a photograph of one, sketching a hybrid, four-legged creature within a minute of it being removed.

“It’s not that these patients know what a duck is one minute and don’t the next,” Professor Lambon-Ralph explained, “but, in order to reproduce a picture at a later time, we use our conceptual knowledge. In this case, the underlying concepts of birds and animals had become so fuzzy that they had become confused.

By artificially slowing down the temporal pole’s activities in volunteers with normal brains, the team demonstrated that people were slowed by about 10% when required to make judgements of meaning.

“This really reinforces the idea that the temporal lobe is where these concepts are encoded,” Matt said. “The process had previously thought to be linked to an area further back in the temporal lobe.”

The team is now working with therapists to see if a form of speech training for patients could help counter temporal lobe damage.

Eating spinach could protect your eyes from the leading cause of blindness in western society, says experts at the University’s Vision Centre.

With the aid of a new eye instrument they have launched a study to see if the vegetable that endorses Popeye with his super-human strength could also explain why the 77-year-old sailor has no need for spectacles.

Spinach and some other vegetables, like kale and broccoli, are rich in a chemical called lutein, which forms an oily yellow substance at a central point of the retina known as the macula.

This oily macular pigment is thought to protect the macula from age-related macular degeneration or AMD, a disease that affects up to 15% of men and 25% of women over the age of 75.

Dr Ian Murray, who is leading the research in the Faculty of Life Sciences, said: “Our work has already found strong evidence to suggest that macular pigment provides protection against AMD but we want to discover whether eating vegetables rich in lutein will have a direct impact on the disease.

“Lutein and a related chemical, zeaxanthin, are derived wholly from our diet, so this study on volunteers with early-stage AMD will test that idea.”

In collaboration with Tinsley Optometric Instruments, Dr Murray and David Carden have developed a lightweight, portable instrument that can measure macular pigment. This instrument, which has US and international patents pending, will be used in the Manchester study if you are aged between 50 and 70 years old and would like to have your macular pigment measured, contact Sue Ritchie on 0161 200 3862 or email Simritchie@ao.com.

Nocturnal existence for early mammals?

A gene that makes cells in the eye receptive to light is missing in humans, researchers have discovered. They say that whereas some animals like birds, fish and amphibians have two versions of this photoreceptor, mammals, including humans, only have one.

The findings reveal how our experience of the light environment may be imposeshioned compared to other vertebrates and fits with the suggestion that early mammals were at one time wholly nocturnal creatures.

“The classical view of how the eye sees is through photoreceptors in the retina,” explained Dr Jim Bellingham (pictured), who led the research at the University.

A new approach to reading mammograms with increasing accuracy.

Scientists in the University’s Division of Imaging and in some cases even more so.

The team has now started a new study to confirm that the results of using CAD are still as good when used in real-life decision-making in the breast screening programme. It will involve 30,000 women in the Harpurhey, Eccles, Royton, Stalybridge and Withington areas of Greater Manchester.

Why Popeye only has eyes for spinach?

A new approach to reading mammograms with the help of a computer could free up hundreds of medical man-hours, as well as speeding up the breast screening process and potentially increasing accuracy.

Scientists in the University’s Division of Imaging Science, working with The University of Aberdeen and Cancer Research UK, have found that the workload of radiologists could be halved by using a new computer-aided detection (CAD) system to help read breast x-rays and detect cancer.

Scientists could enable more face-to-face consultations, and all women to be screened as read using the latest CAD technology, which is successful as readings by two expert radiologists, and in some cases even more so.

Comparison across tasks Drawing (delayed copying)

Immediate Copy 10 second delay 60 second delay

Successful as readings by two expert radiologists, in some cases even more so.

Research

Dr Caroline Boggis said: “The results of the first trial are very encouraging, and we really hope that local women will take part in the new study. It is an opportunity for women to have their mammograms read using the latest CAD technology, which is already available in America and some European countries.”

Screen saver

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With CAD only one expert is needed to look at each mammogram, rather than usual two. Using the system could enable more face-to-face consultations, and all women to be screened as recommended.

CAD searches mammograms and, if it finds anything unusual, indicates it on a screen for a radiologist to look at. The team’s findings from a trial on mammograms taken in 1996 showed that this approach can be as useful in real-life decision-making in the breast screening programme. It will involve 30,000 women in the Harpurhey, Eccles, Royton, Stalybridge and Withington areas of Greater Manchester.

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A gene that makes cells in the eye receptive to light is missing in humans, researchers have discovered. They say that whereas some animals like birds, fish and amphibians have two versions of this photoreceptor, mammals, including humans, only have one.

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New research to cut animal testing

Researchers at the University have been awarded £150,000 to develop new techniques to reduce the need for animals in drug testing.

Current checks to establish whether a new drug is carcinogenic can be unreliable and require further testing on live animals to establish whether they are harmful or not.

Dr Richard Walmsey and colleagues at the University’s spin-out company Gentronix, have developed techniques using cultured human cells to more effectively weed out cancer-causing compounds.

“The current pre-animal tests that are used are highly sensitive and so most carcinogens are identified,” said Dr Walmsey, who is based in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

“Unfortunately, such tests have poor specificity and specificity and are also wrongly identified as potential carcinogens. This means that animal testing is still carried out, in case such compounds turn out to be safe.”

“The testing process developed at Gentronix has proven very reliable at telling us whether a drug will cause cancer but some chemicals, called promutagens, only become carcinogenic once they have passed through the body’s liver.”

“This grant will help us develop new non-animal experiments to identify these other toxic compounds and so reduce the need for animal testing.”

The funding, awarded by the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), will help the scientists develop new genotoxicity tests using cultured human liver cells.

In brief

Prehistoric pottery conference

The 3rd International Conference on Prehistoric Pottery entitled ‘Breaking the mould: Challenging the Past through Pottery’, was held recently by the Department of Archaeology on behalf of The Prehistoric Society and the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG) at The University of Manchester.

The conference organised by Dr Ina Berg attracted more than 50 delegates from Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Sweden, Italy and the Republic of Macedonia who presented papers on interdisciplinary ceramics research across the globe.

I know what I like...

How children develop an appreciation of art is the subject of research at the University which features in the current Annual Report of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) which funded the study.

Professor Bill Lionheart of the School of Mathematics said: “I am always excited about working on projects like this, where I can tackle a theoretical challenge and see the results being practically employed.”

Rapiscan Systems’ UK Managing Director, Frank Davidson, said: “The OCR machine is faster because it uses multiple x-ray sources that are switched, rather than the traditional source on a rotating gantry.

“We have developed specialised computer hardware and software to process the information, but we need to achieve the fastest, most accurate results possible. We called in experts from the University to help us develop the novel maths and computer algorithms required.”

The project is being funded jointly by the UK-based Rapiscan Systems and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Maths solution to airport security

Air travelllers will enjoy faster and safer travel in the future, thanks to mathematicians at The University of Manchester and airport security specialists Rapiscan Systems.

The two parties are joining forces for a £750,000 research project to provide fast, accurate 3D X-ray images of baggage. The aim is to maximise the effectiveness of an innovative new 3D scanner developed by the company’s research subsidiary CCISR Ltd.

The current breed of airport scanning machines give security staff a flat, one-dimensional view of the contents of a bag, whereas the new equipment will produce a comprehensive and probing 3D image.

Although hospital-style CT scanners have been developed by the company’s research subsidiary CCISR Ltd, Air travellers will enjoy faster and safer travel in the future, thanks to mathematicians at The University of Manchester and airport security specialists Rapiscan Systems.

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The Centre for Digital Printing of Textiles can output computer designs onto a range of fabrics, allowing Design and Fashion Retailing students to turn their creative ideas into reality quickly and at a relatively low cost.

www.ahrc.ac.uk

Stylish launch for new textile print centre

It boasts around £100,000 worth of cutting-edge equipment, including two large Alpha inkjet printers and six powerful computers featuring software, which is used by designers working in major fashion design houses.

Professor Chris Carr of the School of Materials said: “These digital printing facilities will allow our students to fully exploit their design creativity and be trained to the highest commercial standards. Speaking about his appointment at the University, Nigel Cabourn (pictured) said: “I am really looking forward to it. I have always had a fantastic interest in fabrics, which has developed over the years. I’m very excited about the project. I believe it will be a good marriage and there will be huge benefits for myself and the students.”

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Research in the news

A report by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change at the University says that the Government must draw up a comprehensive action plan within four years if Britain is to play its part in cutting carbon emissions.

The report commissioned by Friends of the Earth and the Co-operative Bank says Britain needs to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 70% over the next 30 years. The report received widespread regional and national coverage.

Times Educational Supplement

Academics from The University of Manchester have concluded that significant numbers of schools are ‘borrowing’ impressive teachers to get through Ofsted inspections, after a familiar face seemed to reappear in different schools -- always on inspection day.

Professor Mel Aviscoe from the School of Education said he believed it was a result of the pressure from the government on schools to raise standards.

Daily Telegraph

Fathers are not being encouraged by their employers to take time off to look after young children, pushing the burden on to women who then face career death, according to a report for the European Commission. Professor Colette Fagan from the School of Social Sciences, who wrote the report, said that men were able to take parental leave in all the countries in the study, but in most countries there were no incentives for fathers to use their entitlement.

The Times (Career)

‘Bad week’ -- a study has found that nine per cent of women would prefer to work for a female boss, while 28 per cent would rather take orders from a man. Professor Marilyn Davidson from Manchester Business School carried out the study.

Research spotlight

This latest research builds on previous work by Dr Simpson that has challenged prevailing wisdom that Britain’s ethnic minorities are statically concentrated and segregated. He says that the UK’s increased ethnic diversity has had no impact on levels of cultural segregation. His work also reflects claims that the unemployment gap between whites and other groups is greatest in inner-city areas.

Last month Dr Simpson presented his latest review of evidence across the UK at the Labour Party Conference where he spoke at the National Assembly Against Racism Fringe Meeting. He has also been invited to give evidence to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion initiated by Communities Secretary Ruth Kelly MP and will take part in a debate on segregation at the CRE’s Race Convention later this month.

www.gentronix.com

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Question time for MP

STUDENTS on the Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) recently interviewed the Rt. Hon Hazel Blears, Cabinet Minister, Chair of the Labour Party and Salford MP, as part of their Leadership in Action unit, which forms part of the Programme.

Students submitted their questions prior to the event, and the eight chosen were invited to put them to the Minister during an interview filmed at the television studio’s in the University’s Media Centre. The students are studying a range of disciplines, including management, law, English and drama, electrical engineering, economics and philosophy.

The interview was recorded onto DVD and shown during a lecture on ‘Leadership for Community Engagement’. Questions related to the importance of empowering local communities, the difficulties of engaging with young people, and how student volunteers can enrich the life of the city, as well as specific questions about the leadership challenges she faced in her own job, and her motivation to enter politics.

The Minister spent over an hour in the interview and talking informally to the students. She said: “I am extremely envious of any student who has access to the speakers, academics and people with practical experience [participating in the MLP], if I had more time, I think I’d like to sign up myself!”

“It’s fantastic for the students, but it’s also a tremendous opportunity for our community to benefit from some of the brightest, sharpest and most caring and compassionate students who have chosen to come and volunteer in our communities.”

MLP manager, Colette Cooke, said: “We welcome the participation of Hazel Blears, and of many more high profile speakers, on this year’s MLP. It’s a unique opportunity for our students to meet and interact with a variety of leaders from business, academia, government and the local community, giving them a real insight into the issues that matter in contemporary society.”

An edited version of the interview is available to view at: www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/mlp For further information, contact colette.cooke@manchester.ac.uk

Knowledge and Technology Transfer

Are you sitting comfortably?

Master of Enterprise graduate Dr Phil Worthington has turned his Master’s project into a product which could rid the workplace of health problems caused by poor posture.

PostureMinder is the first Intelligent Posture Reminder system, developed to encourage good posture and working habits. Describing the product Phil said, “PostureMinder uses a webcam to continuously check the user’s posture. If it notices them slumping or leaning for a significant period, it pops up a friendly reminder on their screen, in effect acting as their posture conscience.”

Phil began developing the PostureMinder concept in late 2003. In May 2004, the concept won the UACIT Information Technologies Venture Centre (IT-VC) Ideas Competition, leading to a place on the Manchester Science Enterprise Centre’s Master of Enterprise Programme (MEnt). The MEnt enabled Phil to develop the concept into a new technology start-up.

PostureMinder Ltd is now based at VentureSpace, One Central Park, a unique business development and training facility run by Manchester Science Enterprise Centre and VenturePoint Ltd. For details contact Phil phil@postureminder.co.uk

Intellectual party

Representatives from innovation centres, science parks and universities around the globe gathered in Manchester last month to consider how science parks will look in the future. The event, entitled ‘Third Generation Science Parks’, was organised by Manchester Science Park (MSP) with support from Policy Research in Engineering, Science and Technology (PREST) at The University of Manchester.

The group included representatives of science parks from Tucson, Qatar, Zurich and Oslo, as well as expected representatives of the UK’s science park scene.

The event coincided with a farewell to MSP Chairman Professor Allen who retired at the end of September after six years as msp Chairman, preceded by seven years as Chief Executive. John said: “It seemed to me that the best way to mark my retirement as Chairman was to look forward rather than backwards. I am delighted that so many distinguished colleagues in the world of innovation agreed to share their experiences and thoughts for the future. We have a lot to take on board, but I’m sure that msp, which was one of the first science parks in the UK, will continue to be in the vanguard of world science parks”.

Venture Capitalist, Peter Folkman, will take over the position of Chairman. Previously Peter was on the Council of the University of Manchester and Chair of The Manchester Federal School of Business and Management. He remains Chair of the Manchester Technology Fund.

Spin-out success

Professor Mark Ferguson, Chief Executive of Renovo which began as a University biotechnology spin-out company, has been awarded Manchester Director of the Year at the Institute of Directors North West Director of the Year Awards in association with the Manchester Evening News.

Renovo is the world leader in scar prevention and reduction research and is developing pharmaceutical products to prevent and reduce scaring in the skin, blood vessels, eyes, nerves, internal organs, tendons and ligaments.

Got an idea for a business? The University’s Venture Competition is now open. For more information visit www.manchester.ac.uk/venturecompetition or email venturecompetition@manchester.ac.uk

Branching out

The Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL), has launched its third regional centre, the latest being in Liverpool.

The centre, hosted by The University of Liverpool, was officially opened by Bob Scott, International Director of Liverpool Culture Company. Sir Bob, was invited because of his links to both cities playing a major role in successful bids for the 2002 Commonwealth Games and Capital of Culture 2008.

Brendan Madden, director of CEL Manchester said: “I am delighted that CEL has opened its fourth centre in the North West with The University of Liverpool, strengthening links between these two great cities and their major universities.

Photo caption: The launch of CEL Liverpool. L-R Brendan Madden, Director of CEL, Sir Bob Scott, International Director of Liverpool Culture Company, Dr Anne Merry, Director of Lifelong Learning, The University of Liverpool, and Professor Kevin Fenton, pro-vice-chancellor at The University of Liverpool.

www.postureminder.co.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/venturecompetition

www.manchester.ac.uk/venturecompetition
Having spent 25 years of his career as an education leader & project director in places like Oman and Ecuador, Colombia and Panama, collecting an MBE in recognition on the way, Paul Barry has returned to base. He is now Convenor of the MGD Group (Management and Governance in Development Teaching and Research Group) in IDPM, the Institute for Development Policy and Management Development, passing on his field experience of development management in difficult circumstances in the public and third sectors to Masters and PhD students from a wide range of contexts. And he is still travelling ... for UNESCO, most recently in Pakistan. It enjoys the ongoing cooperation of EPS, Pakistan. It has led, has considered the effectiveness of the management of the 194 UNESCO Chairs in Social and Humane Sciences around the world. These academic chairs aim to enable North-South and East-West linkages and cooperation for integrated research, policy-making and public action. This initiative emerges as a stepping stone to a new cooperative role for MCD-IDPM to facilitate transfer of knowledge between these chairs.

You get the impression that Paul Barry is a man who is, as they say, ‘driven’ – someone who needs the challenges, the demands and rewards of globe-trotting assignments. He loves all that is the natural world and has been personally concerned since childhood in environmental education and the now-current debate on the environment and environmental decision-making processes (EDM). He has a residence since 1978, and serves as Deputy Chair of the Governors of St Paul’s School and as member of the Parish Church Council.

He says that his present personal mission includes continuing to serve a range of local and overseas communities. He aims to do this by working on his own personal development programme, by strengthening the MCD-IDPM as an effectively and equitably managed World Centre of Excellence for International Development Management, by contributing to major projects in education and development, by researching these processes and sharing a distillation of 35 years’ experience and practice in development leadership and management and education.

In his home life he enjoys to enable his four bilingual children to continue to develop themselves and to be prepared to make some kind of useful contribution to the societies they find themselves in, to find himself spiritually, to keep his plants watered, take his wife out more often and get to the gym once in a while.

No wonder he got an MBE!
Reaching Out

Magic comes to the Museum!

From the Near East to the ancient Mediterranean and to the contemporary museum collections, a plethora of objects associated with ancient rituals and religion unfold fascinating stories about how people experienced magic. In ancient Egypt for example dwarves embodied magic powers and symbolised good luck and eternal life. The dwarf God Bes (pictured here) protected women and children from evil forces by making ugly faces, sticking his tongue out, playing music or beating a drum!

Chinese recruiters descend on Manchester

The North West’s first-ever Chinese Graduate Recruitment Fair is to take place at the University next month with representatives from the Chinese media, flying in to report on the event.

Organised by the MLP, Careers & Employability Division, in collaboration with the Northern Consortium UK (NCluS), the fair is aimed at over 2,000 students from The University of Manchester and surrounding universities who can work in China and are Chinese speakers.

A total of 26 organisations, from both China and the UK, will exhibit China graduate programmes and some summer internships, including: Hewlett-Packard Global Solution Center, Fujitsu (China and Hong Kong), Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance, Ogilvy & Mather Shanghai, Beijing Guoti Energy Investment Co Ltd, and Bosch Automotive Products (Shanghai). The British Council and Chengdu European Chamber of Commerce will also attend.

Amanda Wood, Head of International Career Development, said: “The 2006 Student Satisfaction and International Student Barometer surveys highlighted our international students’ demand for more targeted support, including information on graduate opportunities in their home countries. This fair is one of the many initiatives we are developing as part of our commitment to this growing community.”

The fair will take place at the Renold building on Wednesday 6 December, 2006, 12.00 – 4pm. It will be followed by a dinner in which the Chinese delegation will meet with University colleagues, local business representatives and other organisations with an interest in China.

Record year for career fairs

The University’s programme of Career Fairs is enjoying a bumper year, with record numbers of exhibitors and thousands of students keen to attend.

The Fairs are organised by the MLP, Careers & Employability Division, with media sponsorship from The Independent.

The first-ever Part-Time Jobs Fair, held in the Renold Building in October, was a massive success, attracting over 4,000 students eager to earn money and gain useful work experience. Exhibiting companies were kept busy all day and were delighted with the student turnout.

Scott Foley manages the Division’s WorkPlace programme, which provides guidance and vacancies for students seeking work experience and part-time work. He said: “We were overwhelmed by the number of students at the Fair; its success reflects the substantial rise in demand for part-time work that we have witnessed in recent years from students seeking to supplement their finances, following the introduction of tuition fees.”

Record numbers of graduate recruiters have also been attracted to the larger Career Fairs held each year at G-MEX, with some Fairs selling out. The Science, Engineering and Technology Fair on 26 October attracted 91 exhibitors; The Finance, Business & Management Fair on 25 October had 80 exhibitors; The Postgraduate Study Fair, to be held on 21 November, has 90 University and education providers, and The Law Fair, to be held on 23 November, has 99 exhibitors.

Jan Hewitt, a member of the Employer Liaison Team, which organises the Fairs, said: “The record number of exhibitors, attending reflects the national and international status of the Manchester fairs and they are now viewed as an essential part of the graduate recruitment process by many employers. They are also a great way for our students to find out more about career and study opportunities, with a wide range of blue-chip organisations and leading universities.”

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/fairs

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**What’s On**

### The Whitworth Art Gallery

**DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS**

**Concrete Thoughts: modern architecture and contemporary art from 7 Oct to 17 Dec 2006.**

**Contact Theatre**

**Booty Call** Thu 7 Nov - Sat 11 Nov

**Tangle** a detective story. It’s about the search for a lost brother, missing uncle, a dead wife and an unremembered love.

**Deadye** Wed 8 Nov - Thu 9 Nov

Deadye is a good daughter. Whilst her mum nurtures Kunothi plants in her Birmingham garden, her dad has dreams of mantis in the Cotswolds. On the streets, her beloved brother Tangi goes from bad to worse.

**Kaunhi** Thu 21 Nov - Wed 22 Nov

Esha is in football and dreams of winning the cup. Her best friend, Farioo, dreams of girls and hanging out at ‘Juceu’. See the past merge with the present and destroy until Kaunhi’s secret.

**The World in Pictures** Tue 28 Nov - Sat 2 Dec

Somewhere amid the frequent disasters of fire-proofed theatrical scenes, the ragbag assortment of doggy costumes, swirling music and improvised scenery and a couple of caveman in bad wigs who are taking their performances a bit too seriously, there’s a bold attempt to tell the History of Mankind!

A limited number of tickets are available from just £4 on the day from the Ticket Office between 11am and 3pm.

Contact, Oxford Road, Manchester
Tickets/info on 0161 234 2000
For information on other events please visit our website: contact-theatre.org

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### International Society

**Sat 11 Nov**
Day Visit to York

**Sun 12 Nov**
Day Visit to Chesterfield

**Sat 18 Nov**
Day Visit to Edinburgh (with guided tour)

**Sun 19 Nov**
Day Visit to the Yorkshire Dales. Bolton Abbey and Haworth, home of the Bronte Family

**Sat 25 Nov**
Day Visit to Windermere in the Lake District

**Sun 26 Nov**
Day Visit to the Peak District - Christmas at Chatsworth House and Bakewell

**Sat 2 Dec**
Day Visit to Warwick Castle and its magical ice rink

**Sun 9 Dec**
Day Visit to Lincoln Christmas Market

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### John Rylands Library

**The John Rylands Special Collections Library.**

The Centre is being re-opened for a period of approximately two years, until 2008, 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 Floor Purple Four, Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm.

Readers may find it helpful to contact us on 0161 275 3742. Further information can be found on our website: www.rylib.wm.ac.uk/rlpcc

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### Courses for the Public

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) runs a large and varied programme of courses designed to meet the needs of students and the general public. The Centre runs courses in all major subject areas, including Business and Management, Science and Technology, Health and Social Care, and Arts and Humanities.

**Important note:**

Programmes are subject to change and can be altered at the discretion of the University of Manchester. For further information, please visit the University’s website: www.manchester.ac.uk/cce

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### The Manchester Museum

**SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS**

**Wild Britain** until 25 Feb 2007

Ben Radcliffe, a rapid environmentalist, explores the most genial of Beethoven’s piano concertos in his latest photographic project. This is his first major photographic project, which aims to capture the outstanding quality of his pictures of Britain’s wildlife. It is a celebration of the wonderful world of nature photography.

**EVENTS**

Some of the highlights for November include:

- Sat 11 Nov 11am to 4pm
  - Bug Saturday
  - Celebrating Islam in Muslim Culture. All Ages
  - Sun 12 Nov 12pm to 3pm
  - Manchester Remembers
  - Stovies from the Great War brought alive through object handling, poetry reading and the composition of a public Book of Remembrance: FREE 5+
  - Sun 12 Nov 2.15pm
  - Victorian Gentleman
  - Collect an ‘I’ve spied Mr Pye’ Esquire, somewhere in the museum today. FREE Admission
  - Thu 16 Nov 2.15pm
  - The Feeling
  - John Peel’s Birthday
  - Thu 16 Nov 7.30pm
  - Any Winehouse (bbit)
  - Fri 17 Nov 7.30pm
  - Hodgson Dooze
  - Sat 18 Nov
  - The Complete Stone Roses
  - Mon 20 Nov 7.30pm
  - The Wonder Stuff
  - Fri 24 Nov 7.30pm
  - The Meters
  - Thu 29 Nov 7.30pm
  - Paolo Nutini
  - Fri 30 Nov 7.30pm
  - The Feeling
  - Thu 23 Nov 7.30pm
  - Neneh Cherry
  - Sun 26 Nov 7.30pm
  - Chakrabongse
  - Sun 26 Nov 8pm

For more information, please visit the Manchester Museum website: www.manchestermuseum.org.uk

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### Gig Guide Manchester Academy

**The Manchester Academy 1, 2 & 3**

**Shaggy 9 Nov**

- MTV Spanking New Music Tour
- Reelin' Fresh
- TV on the Radio

**Ozzy & Paradise Lost 10 Nov**

- Ugly Duckling
- The Haunt

**Tina Arena 11 Nov**

- Little Shop to Watch Tour
- Mandy (bbit)
- Gary Mulehole
- Clocks
- CC
- BB
- Ben Rawlence
- U2

**The Feeling 18 Nov**

- John Peel’s Birthday

**Any Winehouse (bbit) 19 Nov**

- The Complete Stone Roses
- Mon 20 Nov 7.30pm
- The Wonder Stuff

**Paolo Nutini 23 Nov**

- Fri 24 Nov 7.30pm
- The Meters
- Thu 29 Nov 7.30pm
- Paolo Nutini
- Fri 30 Nov 7.30pm
- The Feeling
- Thu 23 Nov 7.30pm
- Neneh Cherry
- Sun 26 Nov 7.30pm
- Chakrabongse
- Sun 26 Nov 8pm
- The Meters

For more information, please visit the Manchester Academy website: www.manchesteracademy.co.uk

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### Tabley House

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Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0HB
0161 275 3793
email inquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk

www.tableyhouse.co.uk

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### Jodrell Bank

The facilities at Jodrell Bank are going through a period of redevelopment. The Visitors Centre currently has a cafe, an exhibition space and a 3D theatre open, and visitors can still explore the various trails and the natural habitats of the Arboretum’s 35 acres with its 2000 species of trees and shrubs and National Collections.

**Jodrell Bank Observatory**

Macclesfield, Cheshire 0162 577 5199
www.jb.manchester.ac.uk

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### Courses for the Public

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) runs a large and varied programme of courses designed to meet the needs of students and the general public. The Centre runs courses in all major subject areas, including Business and Management, Science and Technology, Health and Social Care, and Arts and Humanities. **Most are open to beginners and no prior knowledge is assumed unless stated. Concessions are available to staff and graduates of the University of Manchester. Brochure/application forms available.**

CCE, 1st Floor, Humanities Doves Street
0161 275 3793
www.manchester.ac.uk/continuingeducation

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### Compensation

Contact, Oxford Road, Manchester
Tickets/info on 0161 234 2000
For information on other events please visit our website: contact-theatre.org
Manuscripts matter

The John Rylands University Library (JRUL) played a major role in an international conference held at the British Library last month to discuss the importance of UK institutions acquiring the archives of living writers.

‘Manuscripts Matter’ was organised by the UK Literary Heritage Group, of which University Librarian Bill Simpson is a member. This working group, chaired by Labour peer Chris Smith, has been established to develop and implement a national strategy to ensure that more archives are made accessible to UK audiences. Bill also chaired one of the sessions and Stella Halkyard, JRUL’s Head of Modern Literary Archives, spoke at another.

Increasingly, manuscripts of modern and contemporary UK authors are being sold abroad, despite the efforts of UK public institutions and funding bodies who are unable to compete with organisations abroad in terms of funds. The UKLHG aims to ensure that authors know that UK funds may be made available if enough time is given and that they should approach UK libraries and archives to discuss the sale of their works.

Bill Simpson said: ‘The cultural benefits of retaining the archives of pre-eminent UK authors within the UK for research, educational and creative use are significant and wide-reaching. As well as national collections, regional and university libraries collect papers with local connections and international reputations. The acquisition of significant modern literary papers enhances the reputation of collecting institutions throughout the UK, raises their profile worldwide, and in turn encourages new writing as the nation is seen to value its writers.’

The conference, which was addressed by Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, was an opportunity for authors, publishers, dealers, funders, academics and collecting institutions, and other experts to discuss a range of issues including the value of manuscripts as a research resource and preservation and access to archives both nationally and internationally.

JRUL has also played a leading role in setting up a national group, GLAM (the Group on Literary Archives and Manuscripts), which now has 100+ members from 20 collecting institutions across the UK and Ireland. GLAM also played a major part in this Conference.

The conference included a session focussed on the modern world, co-chaired by University Librarian Bill Simpson and Stella Halkyard, Head of JRUL’s Modern Literary Archives, which was addressed by ordinary public and scholars who had worked closely with famous authors. This session was followed by a roundtable discussion with the authors themselves.

The conference was an opportunity for the authors to discuss their experiences and their work, as well as to discuss the challenges they faced and the benefits they gained from having their work preserved.

The conference also included a session on the future of the modern writer, which was addressed by a panel of experts who discussed the challenges faced by modern writers and the steps that can be taken to support them.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion on the future of the modern writer, which was addressed by a panel of experts who discussed the challenges faced by modern writers and the steps that can be taken to support them.

The conference was a great success and was attended by a large number of people, including authors, publishers, dealers, funders, academics and collecting institutions.

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Prayer book, (with leather carrying case), from Nigeria, late nineteenth century.

This book contains various prayers and religious quotations as well as notes on mystical subjects. The page presented is a quote from the Koran, or Qur'an (which translates as ‘recitation’). The Arabic text of the Qur’an is viewed by Muslims as the Word of God. It contains the speeches delivered in the seventh century AD by Gabriel, the Messenger of God, to the prophet Mohammed, about Islam (or ‘submission to God’s will’). Each Qur’an is considered to be something powerful, beautiful and sacred in itself. It is the source of all truth and guidance for a Muslim’s spiritual and social behaviour.

The prayer book is currently on display in the Living Cultures Gallery at the Manchester Museum. It is part of the festival of Muslim Cultures Trail which is highlighting objects from five venues across Manchester that reflect Muslim heritage. Other objects that are on show at the Museum include an embroidered quiver from Northern/Central India from the 19th century and an Egyptian bronze bowl with incised decoration from the 11th or 12th century.