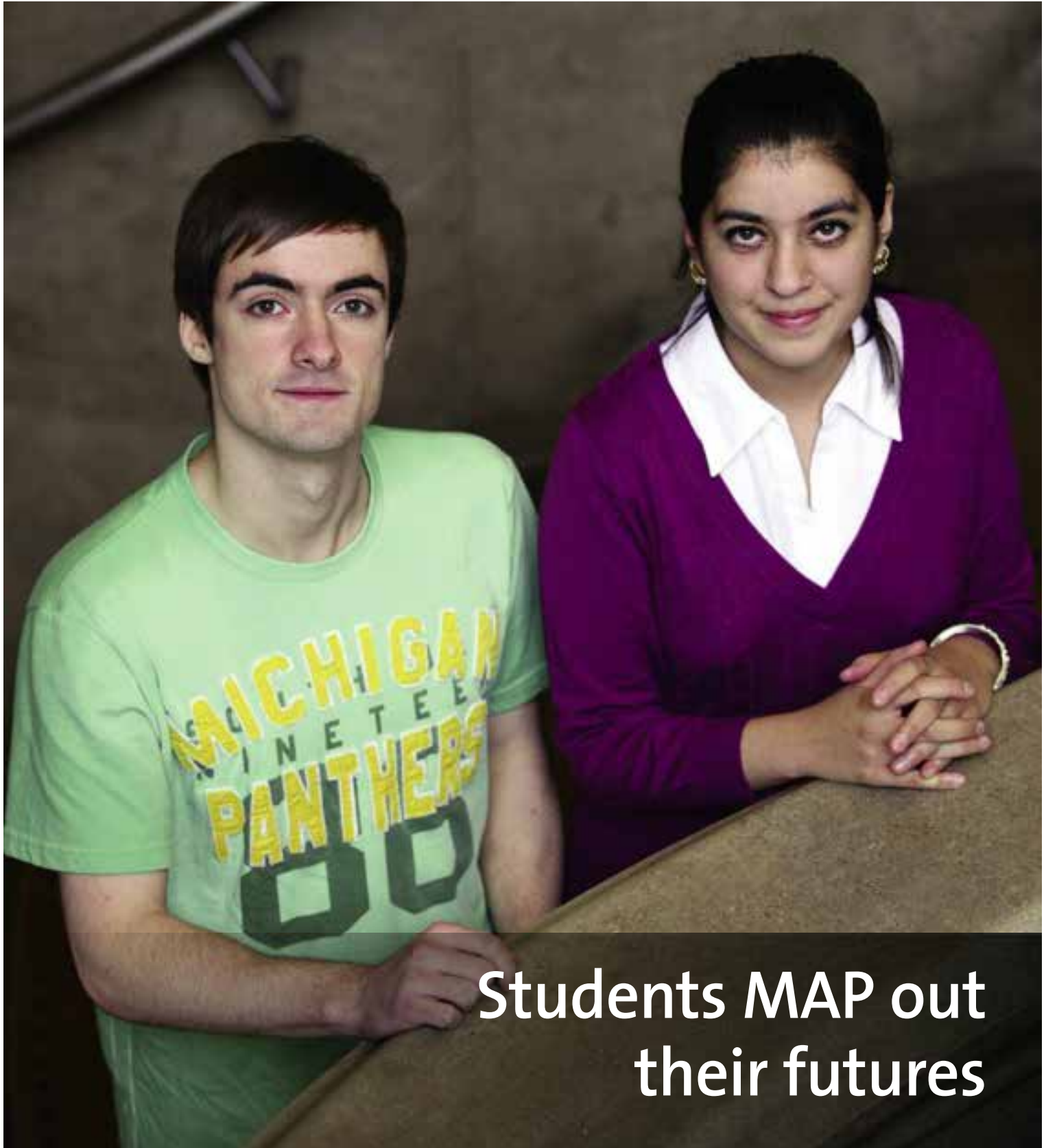


# UniLife

5 October 2009

Issue 1 Volume 7



Students MAP out  
their futures

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## Letter from the President

Given that my monthly *UniLife* pieces should probably reflect what is at the top of my own personal agenda, I will keep returning to the urgent need for the University to give the utmost priority to improving the quality of the learning experiences offered to undergraduates here in Manchester.

Manchester's performance in undergraduate education is patchy.

In some Schools undergraduate students enter a supportive, intellectually rewarding learning environment enriched by frequent, meaningful interactions with teachers, both formally (in small groups) and informally, through timely, informative feedback on their work and through other forms of constructive personal engagement.

Such Schools and programmes are exemplary.

But although the academic community cares deeply about undergraduate learning, and all Schools contain individual teachers whose dedication, creativity and passionate commitment to their students are beacons of excellence, Manchester, as an institution, falls well short of what any of us should regard as satisfactory.

According to the most recent National Student Survey (NSS), Manchester is still ranked embarrassingly low in terms of overall student satisfaction.

When all the excuses have been made and all the statistical shortcomings of the NSS highlighted, the fact remains that we have a problem.

It is not a uniquely Manchester problem, although it is magnified for us by the sheer scale of our undergraduate activities. It is a problem of scale created by the emergence over half a century of mass higher education.

The highly inconvenient truth – already upon us - is that *for too many of our undergraduate students, the learning experiences we provide are inconsistent with the kind of university we want to be.*

We know that the richest learning experiences are highly interactive, personalised and purposeful. We know that they provide students with formal and informal opportunities to engage in meaningful learning relationships with other students and with teachers, testing ideas, challenging assumptions, heightening appreciation of the difference between fact and opinion, and developing skills of critical inquiry and expression as well as analysis and synthesis.

We understand, at least in principle, that formative assessment along the way is devalued by the absence of accompanying feedback that is detailed, considered, helpful and timely. All of us who have taught very large undergraduate classes (one of 800 in my own case) understand the frustrations of trying to maintain interactive, personalised learning in the face of daunting student:staff ratios.

We *must* turn such frustrations into transformational creativity, for the unthinkable alternative is mediocre undergraduate education in a country famed internationally for the quality of its graduates.

In Manchester, the UK's largest single campus university, the results of thinking creatively will mean doing things very differently. It will demand on-going changes in undergraduate curricula. It will mean a shift from lecturing to mentoring. It will require academic teachers to learn that personal engagement with the "Facebook generation" of students may happen as meaningfully in cyberspace as face-to-face.

Reflecting on the sheer importance of re-personalising the undergraduate learning



experience, I was struck recently by the relevance of an article that Derek Rowntree wrote about his own institution, the Open University (*THE*, 25 June - 1 July 2009).

How was it, he wondered, that a University with student:staff ratios of 150:1 could achieve a higher level of student satisfaction in the NSS than "any other publicly funded university in Britain"?

His answer was simple and compelling. "Excellent course materials" were supported by "personalised teaching".

"Someone needs to interact personally and frequently with *each* student, confirming or correcting their developing understanding, leading them on to new insights and assuring them that they have a supporter who cares about their learning."

Rowntree recognised, significantly, that these personalised learning relationships could be conducted "from telephone, e-mail and web contact" as well as "face-to-face sessions".

By this means, he concludes, "Each OU student [my emphasis] is provided with far more written feedback from his or her tutor than are most students on similar courses in other universities – perhaps even 50 times as much."

We don't want Manchester to mimic the OU; indeed, our campus-based learning community gives us immense comparative advantages to exploit. But we do need to face up to the arresting fact that the OU's students are more satisfied than ours in critical respects.

In particular, we need to reconsider the balance between the breadth of our curriculum (and all the direct and indirect workload demands that breadth entails) and the fundamental importance of making sure that we have time to devote to providing all our students with *personal* learning support and feedback.

As a university we should be giving priority to helping colleagues become educational innovators, and to encouraging students to become informed champions of interactive, personalised, purposeful learning.

Professor Alan Gilbert  
President and Vice-Chancellor

# Chemical engineering gets £30 million building boost

**Plans have been announced for a new £30 million state-of-the-art facility for the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science.**

The proposed five-storey building will accommodate research facilities and teaching laboratories for post graduates and undergraduates, as well as enquiry based learning facilities (EBL) and academic offices.

The construction, measuring around 11,500 square metres is set to take place in two phases. Work is scheduled to start on a £11.5 million initial phase in May 2010, to be completed by Summer 2011, followed by an £18.5 million second phase.

The building, which will house a sophisticated industrial pilot plant, is part of the University's overall £650 million construction programme – considered to be the biggest ever carried out within the UK Higher Education sector.

The new structure will stand on the corner of Booth Street East and Upper Brook Street – just a short distance south of the site where the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science is currently located.

It is planned that the current pilot plant and teaching laboratories will relocate first, followed by the remainder of the School.

The new building will accommodate 70 academic and professional services staff.

Professor Mike Sutcliffe, Head of the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science (CEAS) said: "The recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) confirmed our position as one of a small



group of elite Chemical Engineering departments within the UK.

"Our success capitalises on the synergies between chemical engineering and bioscience, chemistry, mathematics, and analytical and measurement science.

"Our broad research base enables us to study the design, operation and integration of different

complex systems – particularly industrial, biological, and instrumentation – and apply chemical engineering in a 21st century context.

"We are delighted to be embarking on a journey – underpinned by an excellent RAE result – that will provide the fit for purpose facilities required for outstanding chemical engineering research and education."

## Project aims to adapt cities to climate change

**A project which aims to protect Greater Manchester against the impacts of global warming was launched in the summer by The University of Manchester.**

The Eco Cities Project has transpired due to a partnership between the University and office provider Bruntwood and will provide a blueprint of how Manchester can successfully adapt to climate change.

A joint commitment has been signed by the University and Manchester City Council promising to find ways for urban areas to change.

Professor Simon Guy, Eco Cities Director, said: "Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century and, as home to over half the world's population, our cities and towns must be prepared to adapt.

"Eco Cities is an international initiative that recognises the need for local adaptation responses to climate change impacts. Work in Manchester will provide a living laboratory to test adaptation methods and develop transferable research findings."

President and Vice-Chancellor of The University Professor Alan Gilbert said:



From left: President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert; Micahel Oglesby; Sir Richard Leese, Manchester City Council

"I am delighted to support the Eco Cities initiative, which embodies the shared objectives of The University of Manchester, Manchester City Council and our funders Bruntwood and The Oglesby Charitable Trust, to develop a robust response to the impacts of climate change."

Experts predict that within cities, the next 50 years will see a rise in extreme weather patterns, a 6°C increase in summer temperatures and up to a 35% increase in winter rainfall.

Eco Cities will explore how to modify the City to use trees, parks and green roofs to intercept and store rain to avoid flooding, heat stress and ground instability which will be caused unavoidably by global warming.

Excitement surrounding the project was expressed by everyone at the launch as it could prove to be vital in dealing with climate change in a viable and functional way.

Bruntwood and The Oglesby Charitable Trust are funding the project.

## Alan Turing apology

Prime Minister Gordon Brown issued an apology last month to the Second World War code-breaker and brilliant mathematician Alan Turing, recognising the 'appalling' way he was treated due to his sexuality.



Turing worked at The University of Manchester from 1948 to 1954 and made significant contributions to the emerging field of artificial intelligence and computing. While at Manchester, Turing wrote programs for the Manchester Mark 1, one of the first recognisable modern computers.

In the statement Brown said: "Turing was a quite brilliant mathematician, most famous for his work on breaking the German Enigma codes. It is no exaggeration to say that, without his outstanding contribution, the history of World War Two could well have been very different. He truly was one of those individuals we can point to whose unique contribution helped to turn the tide of war."

Turing was convicted of 'gross indecency' in 1952 and underwent chemical castration as part of his punishment.

Gordon Brown's statement, which can be seen in full via the link below, came in response to a petition posted on the Number 10 website.

[www.number10.gov.uk/Page20571](http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page20571)

## Ewan McColl

A memorial concert for Salford folk hero Ewan McColl will also celebrate the re-issue of a revised edition of his autobiography 'Journeyman' by Manchester University Press.

The concert at Peel Hall, Salford University on 27 October at 7.30pm will commemorate McColl's life and work, much of it inspired by his Salford childhood, with a strong-line-up of artists including his partner Peggy Seeger.

The new version has been re-edited from his original manuscript and includes a new introduction by Peggy.

Tickets cost £10 and can be bought from Manchester University Press on 0161 275 7746, from [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com) or on the door.

Ticket holders will be able to purchase 'Journeyman' at half-price.

## Tanks on the A56: Soviet invasion plan on display

A collection of maps, including one showing the route Soviet tanks would have taken during an invasion of Manchester is, one of the most popular John Rylands Library exhibitions in recent years.

The free exhibition of 80 maps, plans and models, called 'Mapping Manchester: Cartographic Stories of the City', curated by two Manchester geographers, runs until 17 January 2010 in The Historic Reading Room.

The Soviet mapmakers used colour codes to describe targets: black for industrial sites and purple for public buildings. They also added secret information left out of Ordnance Survey maps of the time, such as Strangeways Prison.

University of Manchester Geography Lecturer and exhibition curator Chris Perkins said: "This and other maps reveal a very different side to this city. It shows the roads - familiar to many Mancunians - which the Soviets felt were wide enough to carry tanks including Washway Road, the Mancunian Way, and Princess Road.

"They even transliterated place names - such as Urmston,



Salford and Stretford into Russian. Quite unnerving really as the map - and their intelligence - is only 35 years old."

Other highlights of the Mapping Manchester exhibition include a 1945 map shows how the city centre was slated for transformation into a modernist utopia along the lines of inner

city Birmingham. A 1914 "isochron" map, produced by Manchester Council, shows how long it took to commute to the city centre.

The exhibition is a collaboration between the School of Geography, the John Rylands map library with the City Library, Chetham's Library and Manchester Geographical Society.

## Picture perfect



Picture by Simon Bray

The University's contracted graduation photographers - Tempest Ltd - sponsor an annual student photography competition which is co-ordinated by the Students' Union through the student newspaper, *Student Direct*. This year the standard of entries was particularly impressive and the Tempest judging panel were really enthused by the short listed entries.

They chose the following as winners who received a cash prize from Tempest: Simon Bray (£250); Joe Sheffer (£150); Daniel Leach (£100)

Alastair MacGregor, General manager of the Students' Union said: "I think the winning entries show a remarkable depth of talent from amongst our student population which both the Union and the University should be proud."



## George Kenyon Building

**University Place hall of residence has been re-named the George Kenyon Building in honour of the late Sir George Kenyon, a leading figure in the business and public life of Manchester and the development of the University.**

Sir George who died last year aged 95, studied Engineering at the Victoria University of Manchester (VUM), gaining a Trevithick scholarship and the top first-class honours degree of 1932. He played rugby for the University and was social secretary of the students' union.

He was a member of Court and Council of VUM and became chairman of its building committee in 1962, presiding over a huge expansion programme and the conception of Manchester's higher education "precinct", which includes what is now Manchester Metropolitan University, the then UMIST campus and the Royal Northern College of Music.

A plaque was unveiled by Sir George's son, Christopher Kenyon, himself a former Chair of Council (VUM) (pictured).

## Meet the doodle bugs

**Hundreds of maggots were rescued from their fate as fishing bait to take the art world by storm, thanks to two Manchester biologists.**

The blowfly larvae were the stars of Festival – the international insect arts festival at London's South Bank – when Drs Matthew Cobb and Cathy McCrohan held workshops in maggot painting.

Dr Cobb is a scientific consultant for Festival, and he and Dr McCrohan use fruitfly maggots to study how the sense of smell works, watching how they respond to different smells. It was a simple step to use large blowfly maggots from an angling shop to make some amazing paintings.

Dr Cobb, of the Faculty of Life Sciences, said: "We wanted to show children – and grown-ups! – that maggots are cute and not scary, and that they can make amazing patterns. We just put the maggots in



non-toxic paint, and they did the rest, leaving wriggling paint trails behind them that look a bit like Jackson Pollock's famous "action paintings".

"The children had great fun, and could even learn what colours maggots can see – by using torches producing different colours of light they could direct the maggots around the paper.

The maggot art team also involved two University of Manchester Zoology graduates, Becki Lockyer and Steph Landymore, and two London-based artists, Floss Cobb and Louise Ashcroft.

At the end of their glittering careers, the maggots were released unharmed into a compost heap.

To see more images, visit

## Darwin specimens on display

**Specimens collected by Charles Darwin on his legendary voyage on The Beagle feature in a new exhibition which opened at the Manchester Museum this week celebrating the 150th anniversary this autumn of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*.**



Featured objects

include the sextant he used to navigate with and carried in his pocket throughout the voyage of the Beagle (1831-36), letters he wrote about insect-eating plants and packets of moss he collected in Tierra del Fuego in 1833, rediscovered in the Museum's collection earlier this year.

Many of the objects on display in the exhibition have been sourced from the Museum's own collection. Others are on loan.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/museum](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/museum)



## A day at the Museum

**Staff at The Manchester Museum recently welcomed a delegation from the Wuhan Municipal Government, Manchester's twin city in China.**

The delegation was led by Mr Zhu Yi, Senior Councillor and Chief of Public Promotion, and included Mr Wan Jianxin, Vice Director of the Wuhan Provincial Museum.

Welcomed by Bryan Sitch Head of Human Cultures and Stephen Welsh, Curator of Living Cultures, the members were shown Chinese exhibits in the recently opened Manchester Gallery and Living Cultures Gallery.

The Museum is hoping to exchange exhibits on a temporary or long-term loan basis as part of an international partnership with the Wuhan Provincial Museum.

## Gorillas are new source of HIV, scientists reveal

**Scientists have discovered that gorillas are a source of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1), having diagnosed a Cameroonian woman living in Paris with a strain that is different to those previously found to cause HIV-1 infections. This is the first human infection of HIV that is clearly linked to gorillas and not chimpanzees.**

HIV-1 is responsible for the AIDS pandemic that currently affects 33 million people worldwide. HIV-1 originated as the result of cross-species transmissions of Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV) found in chimpanzees, which is presumed to be a result of people coming into contact with infected bush meat. HIV/AIDS was first recognised by the scientific community in the 1980s, while the first introduction into the human population is estimated to have been near the beginning of the twentieth century in the region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Now a French team, in collaboration with David Robertson and Jonathan Dickerson in the Faculty of Life Sciences, have found the first definitive transfer of HIV-1 from a non-chimpanzee source, a gorilla. The unusual HIV-1 infection was found in a 62-year-old Cameroonian woman living in Paris. It probably represents a new human lineage that is distinct from those previously identified.

Dr Robertson, whose study was published in *Nature*, said: "The discovery of this novel HIV-1 lineage highlights the continuing need to monitor closely for the emergence of new HIV variants. This demonstrates that HIV evolution is an ongoing process. The virus can jump from species to species, from primate to primate, and that includes us; pathogens have been with us for millions of years and routinely switch host species."



## Why elephants have a bigger spring in their step than mice

**Large, lumbering animals such as elephants move much more efficiently than small, agile ones such as mice, Manchester scientists have shown.**

Dr Robert Nudds and colleagues Drs Jonathan Codd and Bill Sellers in the Faculty of Life Sciences have found that bigger animals move three and a half times more efficiently than smaller ones.

"The difference is down to having a more upright posture," says Dr Nudds.

"We believe the tendons in the legs of larger animals have better elastic storage than those in smaller ones. Tendons act as a spring. In larger

animals such as an elephant, the tendons may be springier returning more energy into the next step, by pinging the leg off the floor.

"In addition there is a step change in the difference between large animals such as elephants and small animals such as mice. Analysing the data, we found that the gradient between them was not smooth. This is down to their posture - elephants are 'uprights', while mice are 'crouchers'.

"Standing up straight does have an impact."

Humans, which are also upright walkers, also have an efficiency rating of around 26%.

## Humidity points to healthy nails

**Maintaining normal humidity around you could be the key to attractive and healthy fingernails, according to new research.**

Natural material scientists and biomechanics experts have joined forces to examine how nails cope with various stresses under different environmental conditions.

Dr Stephen Eichhorn from The School of Materials and Dr Roland Ennos (See Profile page 10) from The Faculty of Life Sciences performed tests on a large number of fingernail clippings provided by healthy young adult volunteers.

The results suggest that fingernails resist damage such as splitting and shearing most strongly in environmental conditions of 55 per cent relative humidity.

They found that at higher levels of humidity nails are more flexible.



But nails are more brittle when humidity is lower, the researchers report.

It's thought that when moisture is present, changes occur in the material that binds together the fibrous components of the fingernail.

Researchers say this seems to explain why it's easier for people to cut their nails after a bath or shower – and may give clues to

how our nails have evolved for use in ambient conditions.

Dr Eichhorn and Dr Ennos are also interested in the possibility of mimicking the 'self-maintaining' properties of nails, with a view to creating similar materials for use in everyday life.

The research was presented in a recent issue of *The Journal of Biomechanics*.

# New clues in Easter Island hat mystery



Dr Colin Richards with the axe

**A team of archaeologists has come one step closer to unravelling the mystery of how the famous statues dotting the landscape of Easter Island in the Pacific acquired their distinctive red hats.**

Dr Colin Richards from The University of Manchester and Dr Sue Hamilton from University College London are the

first archaeologists ever to have excavated Easter Island's statue hat quarry, known to the locals as 'Puna Pau'.

The discovery of a road and a ceremonial axe by the team, who are the first British archaeologists to work on the island since 1914, has thrown new light on the mystery.

"We now know that the hats were rolled along the road made from a cement of compressed red scoria (volcanic rock-like pumice) dust with a raised pavement along one side," said Dr Richards.

"It is likely that they were moved by hand but tree logs could also have been used," he added.

"The mint condition of the ceremonial axe-like tool used for squaring up logs or hollowing out timber, perhaps in canoe construction - suggests that it was not a quarry tool but an offering left by a worker."

Dr Hamilton said: "The hat quarry is inside the crater of an ancient volcano and on its outer lip. A third of the crater has been quarried away by hat production.

"So far we have located more than 70 hats at the ceremonial platforms and in transit. Many more may have been broken up and incorporated into the platforms.

The team examined the way the hats, each weighing several tons, were moved by Polynesians between 500 and 750 years ago.

The axe and the way the road is lined with hats along one side suggests, say the team, that the road was a ceremonial avenue leading to the quarry itself.



# Going underground

**A new tool developed by sensor scientists at the University will allow farmers to see under the soil to check how efficiently crop roots are using water and nutrients.**

The research could have a strong impact on food security – the subject of the Government's recent announcement that it is consulting on how it can ensure that the UK's food supply remains safe for future generations.

"Climate change means that the ability to rapidly identify new plant varieties tolerant to drought and other stresses is going to be critical to breeding the food crops of tomorrow.

"Our technology will help do that," said Dr Bruce Grieve (pictured), head of the Syngenta Sensors University Innovation Centre in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE).

Dr Grieve said: "This project will deliver a new visualisation tool for farmers which will provide them with a 24/7 signal from each and every plant in a screening programme indicating how efficiently the roots are drawing upon the water and nutrients in the soil.

"These subsoil sensor systems are novel but founded upon established low-cost body scanner technologies, which exploit the bending of electrical fields within the subject.

"This new tool will not simply provide a picture of the size and shape of the root structure but rather a non-destructive, quantified and real-time indication of how well they function".

In coming months the team will implement and characterise a next generation of electrical imaging instrumentation which has been designed to meet the specific needs of subsoil imaging for plant root function.

Dr Grieve welcomes your comments and suggestions on this work and the other food security research being undertaken by the group. Comments may be posted on the group blog (web link below).



### Embryonic stem cells to treat osteoarthritis

A team of Manchester biologists are testing the effectiveness of human embryonic stem cells in repairing cartilage worn or damaged by osteoarthritis.

Dr Susan Kimber and her team at the Faculty of Life Sciences have won a £190,000 Arthritis Research Trust grant to perform a series of laboratory experiments to test whether embryonic stem cells can generate the cells needed to repair cartilage in joints. Their research could have enormous potential in treating osteoarthritis, which affects millions of older people in the UK.

## Cell discovery opens new chapter in drug development

**Scientists have uncovered new details about how the cells in our bodies communicate with each other and their environment: findings that are of fundamental importance to human biology.**

Cells 'talk' to each other through a complex process called 'signalling'. When these signals go wrong, it can lead to all kinds of diseases, including cancer, diabetes and arthritis.

Scientists have long been able to see how cells send and receive signals at their outer skins, or membranes, but much of what happens afterwards has not been fully understood. As a result, many drugs on the market work without scientists knowing precisely how or what consequences they have for cell function.

Researchers at The University of Manchester have now developed a technique that will allow scientists to understand how these signals pass from the cell membrane into the cell itself, triggering a complex set of biological processes that have never been fully understood.

The research, published in the prestigious journal *Science Signaling*, will spark intense interest among the global scientific community, as they will hopefully lead to better drug design and faster drug delivery times. In addition, the findings will also provide biologists with a completely new insight into how our bodies work.

"Cell signalling is a fundamental biological process that is essential for life and when it goes wrong, disease results," said Professor Martin Humphries, lead researcher on the project in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"Signals allow cells to 'taste' their environment in a similar fashion to how we taste food and drink. Our findings explain how cells might interpret these various flavours at a molecular level to generate an overall signal or taste.

## Manchester Science Festival returns

**Staff from across the University will once again be supporting the Manchester Science Festival, which takes place from 24 October to 1 November.**

Now in its third year, the Festival is packed with over 150 events designed to enthuse and inspire young people and adults alike about science, technology and engineering.

This year's event, which is supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), MOSI and Siemens, is based around four main themes; 'Manchesticity', 'Mind & Body', 'Our planet and beyond' and 'Bright ideas'.

One of the highlights of the programme will be the Bright Ideas lecture in University Place to mark the launch of the Royal Society's Local Heroes events programme in the Northwest.

Taking place on Thursday 29 October, Professors Nancy Rothwell, Stephen Furber and Andre Geim will give fascinating insights into the latest developments and innovations in their respective fields.

Dr Andrew Russell, a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Dynamical Meteorology



research group in the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences will be looking at whether it does actually rain more at weekends and encouraging the public to get involved by making their own rain gauges.

Meanwhile, physicist Professor Fred Loebinger will be heading for the Pitcher and Piano in Didsbury to give an insight into the strange sub-nuclear world of quarks, gluons and leptons and the future of particle physics.

And the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine in the Faculty of Life Sciences will be running a

number of events, including one on the scientific understandings of alcohol since 1600 – held, naturally, at the famous Lass O'Gowrie pub.

The Manchester Museum is also hosting a wide range of events including the Green Paper Aeroplane Challenge and The Beagle Has Landed – a comedy performance based on Darwin's voyage on HMS Beagle.

The Festival brings together universities, organisations and key cultural partners from across the region.

For more information and the full programme see the web address below.

[www.manchestersciencefestival.com](http://www.manchestersciencefestival.com)

## Proud parents' celebrate birthday of breakthrough technology

**A Salford sustainable power company has joined forces with the University to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its global combined heat and power (CHP) business.**

ENER-G was launched in 1984 following pioneering research and development work by University of Manchester academics.

Founded as Manchester's first spin-out business, Combined Power Systems (CPS) has since become part of Salford-based ENER-G, which turns over £90 million and employs more than 700 staff worldwide.

The groundbreaking R&D work which developed remote monitoring and control systems that made low carbon CHP



technology viable on a global industrial scale.

Since then, ENER-G has sold some 1,200 CHP units, reducing its customers' carbon emissions by more than one million tonnes, and is a major

player in the UK and European CHP market.

Its Salford-designed and manufactured systems are used in hospitals, hotels, leisure centres, supermarkets and factories worldwide.





From left: Salma Aziz, NWDA; Colin Sinclair, MIDAS; Professor Paul O'Brien; Masashi Inoquchi, Murata

## Nanotechnology research boosted by Japanese link-up

**Professor Paul O'Brien and his research team in the School of Chemistry are joining forces with Japanese manufacturer Murata Manufacturing Co. Ltd to drive forward research on nanotechnology.**

Murata, the world's largest global manufacturers of electronic devices, has signed a deal with the University to work on a research and development collaboration in the field of nanotechnology. Murata is a major employer in Asia and currently employs over 33,000 staff.

After detailed discussions with the North West Development Agency (NWDA) and Professor Paul O'Brien, the company has selected the University as

the academic institution with which they wish to form this partnership.

Yukio Sakabe, Senior Corporate Advisor of Murata, said: "I am convinced that new technology and business in the field of nanotechnology are realised in future from this project collaborating with basic science of the university and engineering of Murata."

Professor O'Brien, Professor of Inorganic Materials at The University of Manchester, said: "I very much welcome this collaboration with Murata, which provides access to skills and equipment in Japan and training for a Japanese scientist in some leading edge aspects of nanotechnology in my laboratories."

## Unlocking the body's defences against cancer

**Scientists have discovered a way of allowing healthy cells to take charge of cancerous cells and stop them developing into tumours in what could provide a new approach to treating early-stage cancers.**

University of Manchester researchers found that a special type of the chemicals known as 'kinase inhibitors' opened up communication channels on the surface of cells that enabled healthy cells to 'talk' to the cancer cells.

"When we added the chemicals to a mixture of healthy and cancerous cells in a flask the diseased cells stopped

multiplying and began acting like normal cells again," said Dr Ian Hampson, based in Manchester's School of Cancer and Imaging Sciences who carried out the research with wife Dr Lynne Hampson.

"Further tests revealed that the chemicals helped the cancer cells form connections with surrounding healthy cells that allowed these normal cells to take charge of the mechanism by which cancer cells divide and grow out of control."

Cell division occurs naturally and continuously in human organs and tissue as part of the body's normal repair processes to combat wear and tear but in

cancer the cells divide in an uncontrolled way.

Dr Hampson says the findings, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*, are all the more exciting because the chemicals, which were developed with colleagues at the University of Salford, appear to be relatively non-toxic and the positive effect on the cancer cells persists even when the chemicals are withdrawn suggesting that a potential drug based on these chemicals could be given as a short course of treatment and any drug that was developed would be likely to have fewer side effects.

### In brief

#### Search for Alzheimer's cause

Scientists from the Faculty of Life Sciences have been awarded £30,000 by the UK's leading dementia research charity, the Alzheimer's Research Trust, to uncover the causes of Alzheimer's disease.

The team, led by Dr Cathy Tournier, aims to discover what is happening to brain cells during the disease. Their findings could pave the way for new treatments.

Dr Tournier said: "We will be studying how nerve cells in the brain die during Alzheimer's. We think that the cells experience a specific type of stress which can damage them, and we will test our theory. At the moment, the causes of Alzheimer's are not well understood, and this is a major obstacle for the design of new drugs to treat dementia. Our studies will increase understanding of Alzheimer's and what is happening to nerve cells in the brain."

More than 77,000 people in the North West have dementia and that number is set to rise as the population ages.

## Historians celebrate GPO Film Unit's seventieth birthday

**Historians have paid tribute to a series of renowned films produced by the General Post Office Film Unit – best known today for the film 'Night Mail', which aired one of W H Auden's best known poems - 70 years after its work was cut short by war.**

The Unit, established in 1933, collaborated with some of the greatest artists and writers of the age - including Auden and composer Benjamin Britten - to document modern life.

Media historian Dr Scott Anthony, from The University of Manchester, says that not only are the GPO's eclectic mix of curios and masterpieces entertaining, but 'amazingly relevant' today.

"The influence of these films can be seen in so many places, from Coronation Street to reality soaps, Ealing Studios and The Green Cross Code Man.

"They have an immense cultural importance to this country," he said.

Dr Anthony and Dr James Mansell – also from the University's School of Arts, Histories and Cultures – hosted academics and experts from around the world last month to give their take on the Unit's work.

The films pioneered the use of genres such as comedy, the musical and abstract art in their quest to inform the public.



# Roland's Roots

How do flies fly? How do trees and plants stay up? Why do we have fingernails? And fingerprints? What is the role of trees and grasslands in climate-proofing our cities? How significant is man's relationship with wood?

Getting to the roots of natural problems is Roland Ennos's speciality. If you want to know how roots anchor trees, from the cityscape of Manchester to the rainforests of Borneo, he's your man.

But that is only one aspect of his wide-ranging work in the biomechanics of plants and animals. He has an enquiring mind and an engaging enthusiasm for new research projects. He applies his expertise to solve the mysteries of nature.

"I have always been fascinated by two things – the natural world and physics," he says. "So I am extremely lucky to work

in biomechanics, investigating the engineering of organisms. One great advantage of lecturing is that you can learn and teach all sorts of things and the need to come up with research projects means you can open up all sorts of new areas."

He is also enthusiastic about interdisciplinary collaboration. When he first arrived here as a young Lecturer in Ecology nearly 20 years ago, he was a one-man band, albeit the leader in his field. "One disadvantage then and for many years to come was the lack of collaborators in biomechanics, but recent appointments and the

merger have changed all that, although there's still a lot of work to do," he says. "Forming strong interfaculty links, basically legging it round the campus, are essential if we are to harness Manchester's greatest strength, its sheer breadth of knowledge, to enable us to unlock our potential in critical interdisciplinary areas."

The appointments of Bill Sellers and Jonathan Codd enabled a proper biomechanics group to start and "legwork" around the place has revealed a number of people with interests in biomechanics across the campus, particularly in the schools of



Materials, Earth Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, Computer Science, and Medicine, and throughout the region.

The North West Biomechanics group has been established and an MSc in Biomechanics launched successfully. "The influx of bright young students who needed projects has kick-started all sorts of new collaborations all over the university and with our neighbouring universities," he says.

Ironically, Roland got into the field in the first place because he couldn't cope with the maths needed to become a physicist, like his father. At Cambridge he switched to Zoology – and later Botany - and discovered the delights of linking organisms and physics. "I was very lucky to find my dream subject in biomechanics," he says

He looked at the biomechanics of flight for his PhD at Exeter, applying structural engineering to flies' wings. Having dealt with that particular

design problem, he naturally looked for something different to explore – that's the sort of man he is.

He realised that very few people were looking at how plants were designed. He decided to start at the bottom – the roots. And he started developing theory about how roots should anchor plants.

That was to be the start of the work that would make his reputation. In 1988, he moved to York with an NERC Fellowship to work with Alistair Fitter, a world expert on roots, and John Currey, a world leader in the biomechanics of bones.

In essence, he made up all the theory about how roots anchor trees and plants. Indeed, he invented the field and was the only person in Britain doing it when he came to this University in 1990.

Since then, he has continued to research root anchorage, concentrating on how to stop crop plants like wheat and corn from falling over – a significant boost to crop growers – and looking at why tropical rainforest trees develop buttresses to support themselves in shallow soil. And, of course, all the other fascinating projects. "Teaching and supervising many talented project and PhD students has allowed me to develop several other lines of research," he says.

He has written textbooks in areas as disparate as environmental problem solving and plant science – and a popular book on trees, for which he has a passion. He was science consultant for the Whitworth Art Gallery's exhibition on trees in art, *Deep Rooted*.

Currently, he is writing a book on Structural Biomechanics for Princeton, as well as the third edition of *Statistical and Data Handling Skills in Biology*. And he is itching to write a book about wood.

"Our relationship with wood has been a critical one throughout our evolution and history," he says. "I believe that in order to survive in the future, we must once again go back to the wood age."

And then we come back to trees – and their role in the cities. With Professor John Handley of the School of Environment and Development, he has produced influential research quantifying the effect of green space, especially trees, not only to improve the environment, but to climate proof cities like Manchester. Their evidence that trees cool cities down and reduce storm flooding is now being used by policy makers.

"Again, we can do much more by developing links right across the University, with SEAES, the Tyndall Centre, the Joule Centre, and the Sustainable Consumption Institute, to produce truly joined-up research showing how we can adapt our cities to climate change," he says.

As an enthusiastic adopted Mancunian, he really cares about and enjoys the City. He also enjoys the countryside. He and his partner Yvonne, whom he met at York, live in Buxton and love exploring the Peak District and tending their garden. Yvonne matches Roland's passion for trees with her fondness for ferns and is a leading light in the organisation for fern enthusiasts, The British Pteridological Society, founded in 1891 in the Lake District. So, there's no questioning their green credentials.

**Name**

Dr Roland Ennos

**Position**

Reader in Ecology,  
The University of Manchester

**Education and Qualifications**

1973-1980  
Hampton School, Hampton, Middx.

1981-4  
BA Cambridge Natural Sciences (Zoology)

1984-7  
PhD Biomechanics, Exeter University

**Career History**

2004-Present  
Reader in Ecology,  
The University of Manchester

1996-2004  
Senior Lecturer in Ecology,  
The University of Manchester

1990-1996  
Lecturer in Ecology,  
The University of Manchester

1988-90  
NERC Research Fellow, York University

# MAP to success

The University of Manchester has long been at the forefront of widening participation activity to encourage students to apply for university regardless of their educational and social background.

One of the most successful of these is the Manchester Access Programme (MAP) which this year saw a record number of students go onto higher education, 92 of whom are starting at The University of Manchester.

Organised in the Student Recruitment, Admissions & International Development (SRAID) Division, the scheme was developed to allow the University to identify and support outstanding students from the Greater Manchester area, many of whom wish to study locally.

Julian Skyrme, Head of Undergraduate Recruitment and Widening Participation, oversees its development and explains: "Each year we launch a huge local campaign to recruit students across Greater Manchester who are from backgrounds

where there is little tradition of higher education participation. When they join the scheme, MAP gives them the chance to demonstrate their potential and academic curiosity through a series of campus-based activities and tasks completed during the sixth form. These include an academic assignment, produced with the support of an Academic Tutor at the University, 1:1 mentoring and a three-day University Life Conference where students get a chance to stay in our Halls."

We will be featuring two of the new starters in the magazine throughout this academic year so that you follow their progress during their first year at Manchester and share in their successes.

We spoke to Aisha and Ashley as they were about to start their courses.



## Aisha Akhter

Aisha Akhter studied at Oldham Sixth Form College and achieved grades AAB in Biology, Chemistry and Maths A-levels. She has just started a Medicine degree.

"When I started at college I heard about the Manchester Access Programme from friends who had been on the scheme; it sounded so exciting so when the coordinator visited our college to tell us about it I couldn't wait to apply as I have always wanted to go to university especially The University of Manchester. I knew that I definitely wanted to study close to home and that Manchester was a great place to study.

"The thing I enjoyed most about being on MAP was that it allowed me to meet lots of different people from colleges all across Manchester.

The activities we took part in and the group work also helped to build my confidence.

"Before completing the Manchester Access Programme I thought university was a very big place and that there were too many people there to get to know and I felt that it would be quite daunting to actually go to university and do a degree.

"After spending so much time on campus it now feels very familiar to me and I know so many other

students through the programme who are also starting, so I don't have any worries about being on my own and not knowing anyone.

"MAP taught me to manage my time effectively and how to prioritise my work, which is useful as a life skill and will help me when I begin my degree. The help and specialist advice that I gained through the one-to-one guidance interview assisted me in making the right course choices.

"I think the first year will be very busy and it will be a huge jump from college, as I know I will have to be independent and keep on top of my workload. I am most looking forward to studying Medicine and making new friends. Ever since I made the decision to apply for Medicine and was accepted I've been very excited!

"I have always wanted to pursue a career where I can help people. For a while I wanted to do Dentistry but then I decided I would be more suited to a career in Medicine as my long-term career goal is to work as a paediatrician. Being the eldest of six children I have always helped to look after my brothers and sisters and this helped me to decide that I wanted to work with and help young people.

"I'll be living at home while I study as I want to stay close to my family and it's great that the University has a special Scholarship for students like me who come through the Manchester Access Programme."



## Ashley Wallis

Ashley Wallis was at Winstanley College in Wigan and achieved grades ABC in Business, Maths and Computing. He will be starting a degree in Computer Science.

"I first heard about MAP when the MAP Co-ordinator came into our college and gave a presentation. I had never heard of any type of programme like this before but it seemed like a really good opportunity and I was really pleased when my application was successful and I was able to join the programme.

"The thing I enjoyed most about being a MAP student was meeting other like-minded people of my age who also wanted to go to university. I remember visiting the campus for the first time and it was great to get a real insight into university life and how things work.

"I really enjoyed doing the academic assignment. I had never written a report like it before; it was structured very differently to the work I was doing at college and it gave me a real insight into university study. My MAP Academic Tutor was really helpful as he helped me to research, structure and learn how to produce a university standard piece of work.

"Before I joined the Programme I wasn't sure about whether I wanted to go to university after college. My parents did not attend university but had always wanted me to. MAP made me realise just what a great opportunity studying at university was and I decided I was going to apply to Manchester. Initially I thought about studying

Accounting but my real passion had always been computing. I have a real interest in computers so once I found out more about these types of courses I decided to apply for Computer Science!

"My perception of university had always been that it was very formal and strict and that there wasn't much help once you got there, but my experiences on MAP have definitely changed my perception and I have learnt about the different support for students, like wardens in the halls of residence and support that you can receive from your course tutors. I have also learnt how to find things in the University library and how to use e-journals which I know will help me a great deal when I start my course.

"I cannot wait to learn more about computers and expand my knowledge in this area. I am also really looking forward to meeting and working with other students who are interested in the same thing as me. I think student life will be very busy and I know there are a lot of activities planned during Freshers' week, which will be fun! I'll be living in Hulme Hall of Residence during my first year, so that will be a good way to meet new people who are not on my course. I was really lucky to be one of the students to receive the Hulme Hall Bursary which is an award given to local students from the Trustees of the Hall. This is a massive help.

"My ambition for the future is to work in America, specifically California. I want to work on developing new hardware/software and hopefully become a project leader."

# Distinguished Achievement Awards 2009

This year saw a record number of recipients receive Distinguished Achievement Awards. The awards are in recognition of outstanding achievements made by researchers, teachers and postgraduate and undergraduate students alike from across the University.

## Researchers of the Year

### 1. Professor Alex Molassiotis

#### School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work

Professor Molassiotis is an international expert in the management of treatment-related nausea and vomiting in patients with cancer, and has been involved in the development of clinical antiemetic guidelines which are currently international practice standards. His work on home delivery of chemo-therapy has led to important changes in practice, both locally and nationally.

### 2. Dr Julia Hegewald

#### School of Arts, Histories and Cultures

Although Julia only joined the University in 2007 she has already made a major impact within her subject area of Art History and Visual Studies and also in the wider School. The School's aim to broaden its research into areas of World History and Non-European Art is realised in her breadth of research experience and continuing success.

### 3. Dr Stephen Taylor

Since joining the Faculty in 1998 as a principle investigator, Stephen has had a major impact in developing Cancer Biology as a research theme and has played a prominent role in bridging activities in this area with activities in the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences and the Paterson Institute.

### 4. Professor George Thompson

#### School of Materials

Professor Thompson leads the University's Corrosion and Protection Centre which is one of the world's premier academic-based activities that examines and disseminates precise understanding of corrosion and degradation processes, and promotes effective control measures.

## Postgraduate Students of the Year

### 1. Dr Steven Shaw

#### School of Translational Medicine

Dr Shaw has been described as an outstanding talented and innovative researcher and has developed his own ideas and researched and subsequently published these high quality findings this year in major cardiac/transplant journals. He has published (or had accepted) 13 articles in peer reviewed journals in 2008. He has also had a book chapter published by the Oxford University Press this year.

### 2. Diana Simpson

#### School of Arts, Histories and Cultures

Diana Simpson was recognised for her outstanding work both directly towards her PhD in Electroacoustic Composition in the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, and her more broader contribution to activities within her School. Diana has achieved the highest levels of international

distinction with her PhD compositional work and research.

### 3. Dr Karen Gascoigne

Karen has been an exceptional student throughout her career in Manchester and obtained her First Class BSc and MRes at the University. She then undertook a PhD in the field of cancer cell biology. Right from the outset she became expert in a variety of experimental techniques as well as developing new approaches to the work. She has secured a post-doctoral position at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

### 4. Debrapriya Mondal

#### School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Science

Debrapriya is currently in her final year of her PhD programme funded by a Dorothy Hodgkins Scholarship. During the past year, she has taken part in a short-term research exchange visit to the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology in Kolkata carrying out field work to support her studies of probabilistic risk assessment of arsenic in well waters in West Bengal, India. Debrapriya has published two significant papers in 'Applied Geochemistry'.

## Undergraduate Students of the Year

### 1. Rachel Derby

#### School of Dentistry

Rachel has done considerable amounts of work with both the British Dental Association and its student arm, the British Dental Student Association winning the bid to host and organise the national BDSA Conference here on campus. The Conference has been described as an unqualified success in large due to Rachel's hard work; She has been asked to be the body's student representative for the newly-established Publications Board.

### 2. Charlotte Irvine

#### School of Education

Charlotte has completed the BA (Hons) Management and Leisure programme. She is the student representative on the School of Education undergraduate committee and has been described as the heart and soul of the student cohort, organising regular socials for the whole course. She has acted as a mentor to all first year students on their pre-registration field trip.

### 3. John Denton

#### Pharmacology

John Denton has completed his Pharmacology degree and is described as having made a huge contribution to the Faculty, most notably in his role as a Peer Assisted Study Support (PASS) leader and as a student representative on the Staff Student Liaison Committee while attaining top-level academic success.



### 4. Shahzia Hussain

#### School of Mathematics

Shahzia was nominated for her fundamental role in setting up The Galois Group, an undergraduate Mathematics society that organises regular general audience lectures and has enhanced the sense of community significantly in the School and has benefited everyone who attends. The Institute of Mathematics and its Applications have asked Shahzia to write about her passion for the subject have also invited her to be a Representative of University Mathematical Societies (RUMS), to share news, ideas and inspiration.

## Teachers of the Year

### 1. Dr Sally Freeman

#### School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr Freeman is described by her students as an excellent lecturer who presents the information she is charged with imparting in an understandable and stimulating manner. Clearly she loves to teach and interact with her students and this, along side a passion for her subject, makes her the sort of teacher we all benefit most from and whom, when looking back, we feel are most influential.



**2. Dr David Bamford  
Manchester Business School**

Dr Bamford is a Senior Lecturer in Operations Management at the MBS. He is described as unique in his School for his ability to pro-actively engage and transfer knowledge enthusiastically across all teaching levels. David has also facilitated seminars at the Harvard Medical School and is author of numerous journal and conference publications.

**3. Dr Caroline Bowsher**

Dr. Bowsher is described as a consistently excellent and innovative teacher who has been enthusiastic and inspiring in the way she has led major teaching initiatives. She has developed new courses, provided bespoke tutorial materials to students and used novel teaching methods to inspire students in a wide range of subjects, from Bioethics to Biotechnology. She has served as a highly active, effective and compassionate Programme Director and Tutor whose attention to pastoral care is second to none.

**4. Simon Perry  
School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science**

Mr Perry's contribution to teaching and learning has been described as outstanding and throughout his career he has constantly strived to

improve the learning experience of his students. The scope of Simon's innovations is truly impressive, from the use of student-centred, problem-based sessions to the development of the 'virtual lecture' for distance learning and Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The quality of Simon's teaching and innovative approaches have been recognised internationally.

**General Category Winners**

**1. Dr Amanda Bamford**

Amanda joined the University in 1994 as a part-time teaching fellow and has progressed through the ranks due to what is described as her 'simply excellent' teaching. Her teaching in biology and environmental science are becoming increasingly important to our students as their awareness of global issues increases and her skill as an educator cannot be questioned. What really makes her stand out is her commitment to promoting the University in the wider community and her tireless work in establishing and maintaining the highly successful Life Sciences Foundation Year which is delivered through Xaverian College.

**2. Claire Desborough  
School of Education**

Claire began her studies in the School of Education in July 2007 as a recruit to the Teach

First programme and is described as a first class teacher and an outstanding new entrant to the teaching profession. She was placed in a special measures school and successfully gained Qualified Teacher Status receiving the highest possible grades. Claire is now continuing her studies part-time for an MA.

**3. The University Challenge Team:  
Matthew Yeo (Captain) (School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures), Simon Baker (School of Arts, Histories and Cultures), Henry Pertinez, (School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences) and Reuben Roy, (School of Medicine).**

The four students, won the competition this year after Corpus Christi College, Oxford were disqualified. Just as impressive as their performances in the studio were their faultlessly diplomatic performances when dealing with the media interest which arose a few days after the final was broadcast. The team, who had already won plaudits for their magnanimity in defeat, gained further praise for the dignified and gracious attitude displayed in what was described as their reluctant and self-deprecating acceptance of the title.

# What's On

## Music and Drama at Manchester

Thursday 8 October, 1.10pm

### Juice

This a cappella female trio present a programme of experimental music, including works by Meredith Monk, Elizabeth Lutyens, Gabriel Prokofiev and Manchester-based composer James Stephenson.

Thursday 8 – Friday 9 October, 7pm

### 5.30

Rob wants to be Tim's friend. He doesn't care how Tim feels about this. A new comedy about childhood.

Friday 9 October, 1.10pm

### Friday Lunchtime Concert

Manchester University Music Society

Thursday 15 October, 7.30pm

### Back to Broadway

A staged selection of hits from musicals both old and new.

Thursday 15 October, 1.10pm

### Quatuor Danel Lunchtime Concert

Thursday 15 October, 2.30pm

### Quatuor Danel Seminar

The Secret Art of String Quartet Playing

Friday 16 October, 5.30pm

### Back to Broadway

A staged selection of hits from musicals both old and new.

Friday 16 October, 7.30pm

### Quatuor Danel Evening Concert

Some of the most sensuous chamber music ever composed: the two great classics of the French string quartet repertoire, with a deliciously tuneful but rarely heard, Mendelssohnian predecessor.

Wednesday 21 October, 7.30pm

### Mark Gwynne Jones and the Psychibread

Combining voice, rhythm, roots music and poetry Mark Gwynne Jones and the Psychibread offer a captivating show that leaves a lasting impression.

Thursday 22 October, 1.10pm

### Steve Plews Jazz Quartet

Ed Jones (Sax), Winston Clifford (drums), Julie Walkington (bass) and Steve Plews (piano).

Friday 23 October, 7.30pm

### The University of Manchester Chamber Orchestra

Thursday 29 October, 1.10pm

### Rivoli String Quartet

Stravinsky's brilliant quartet miniatures, plus Haydn Op.54 No.2 and Five Pieces by the exciting and highly characterful early Twentieth Century Czech Jewish composer Erwin Schulhoff.

Thursday 29 October, 5.30pm

### Stand Up Comedy with Kelly J Roberts and Guests

Beat the Rush Hour. Got an hour to spare? Fancy laughing so much your face will ache? Then start your weekend early and get down to this event!

Friday 30 October – Sunday 1 November

### MANTIS presents 4 Concerts of Electroacoustic music.

A weekend of electroacoustic music concerts featuring Denis Smalley, Theodore Lotis and new works by MANTIS composers.

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama  
Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL

0161 275 8951/8950

email [boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk)

[www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre)

## Gig Guide

### MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Tues 6 Oct - £13.50 Adv

### The Maccabees + Peggy Sue

Fri 9 Oct - £18.50 Adv

### Daniel Merriweather

Sat 10 Oct - £10.50 Adv

### Go:Audio + Attack! Attack! + Twenty Twenty

Sun 11 Oct - £16.50 Adv Doors 6.30pm

### Papa Roach & Madina Lake + Heaven's Basement

Mon 12 Oct - £16 Adv

### Enter Shikari + The Devil Wears Prada

Tues 13 Oct - £15 Adv

### Jamie T

Weds 14 Oct - £17 Adv

### Bat For Lashes + Yeasayer

Thurs 15th Oct - £15 Adv SOLD OUT

### The All-American Rejects

Fri 16 Oct - £18.50 Adv SOLD OUT

### Editors + Wintersleep + The Joy Formidable

Sat 17 Oct - £25 Adv Doors 10-2am

### Joe & Ginuwine

Sun 18 Oct - £15 Adv Doors 6pm

### Eastpak Antidote Tour feat. Alexisonfire, Antiflag, Four Year Strong and Ghost of a Thousand

Mon 19 Oct - £18.50 Adv

### The Dead Weather

Thurs 22 Oct - £11 Adv Doors 6pm

### Chipmunk + Ironik + Mz Bratt + Egypt + Tinie

### Tempah + Aggro Santos + Kid British

Fri 23 Oct - £14 Adv SOLD OUT

### Bring Me The Horizon + A Day To Remember + August Burns Red

Sat 24 Oct - £14 Adv SOLD OUT

### Calvin Harris

Sun 25 Oct - £16.50 Adv

### Bowling For Soup + Zebrahead + The Leftovers

Mon 26 Oct - £15 Adv

### Billy Talent + Cancer Bats + Canterbury

Tues 27 Oct - £12.50 Adv

### Fightstar + Saving Aimee

Thurs 29 Oct - £12 Adv

### Reverend & The Makers

Fri 30 Oct - £35 Adv

### Maxwell

Sat 31 Oct - £30 Adv Doors 10-2am

### Sir John Holt and The Temptations feat Richard Street

Wed 4 Nov - £12 Adv

### Shinedown + Soil + Counterpoint

Tickets from:

Students' Union, Oxford Road

Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Café (c/c)

0871 2200260

Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

### Students' Union

Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

0161 275 2930

[www.manchesteracademy.net](http://www.manchesteracademy.net)



## International Society

### WINTER TRIPS

Sat 10 Oct

Oxford with Guided Tour

Sun 11 Oct

North Wales visiting Chirk Castle and Erddig

Sat 17 Oct

York

Sun 18 Oct

Fountain's Abbey and Harrogate

Sat 24 –

Sun 25 Oct

Bath and Stonehenge (overnight)

Sat 24 Oct

Liverpool (guided coach tour)

Sun 25 Oct

Peak District visiting Poole's Cavern and Hardwick Hall

Sat 31 Oct –

Sun 1 Nov

Edinburgh (overnight)

Sat 31 Oct

Alton Towers Halloween Scarefest!

Sun 1 Nov

North Wales visiting Conway Castle and Penrhyn Castle

### Opening hours

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

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

### Small World Café opening hours

Mon-Fri 11am – 3pm

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959

email [int.soc@anchester.ac.uk](mailto:int.soc@anchester.ac.uk)

[www.internationalsociety.org.uk](http://www.internationalsociety.org.uk)

## Centre for New Writing

Monday 12 October, 6.30pm, £5/£3

### Martin Amis Public Event

### Manchester Literature Festival Preview Event:

### Literature and Sex with Will Self.

Professor Amis will be joined by novelist Will Self for a discussion of literature's perennial preoccupation with representing and understanding sex and sexuality. *Cosmo Roswald Concert Hall, Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama*

Monday 19 October, 6pm

### Michael Longley and Tom French

Michael Longley is a multi award winning poet and Tom French won the 2002 Forward Prize for Best First Collection for his book, *Touching Bones* John Thaw Studio, *Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama*

Thursday 22 October, 6pm

### MJ Hyland and Nick Laird

M J Hyland's third novel, *This is How*, was published in July and is one the Guardian's treats of 2009. Nick Laird's second collection of poetry, *On Purpose*, was published in 2007 and his second novel, *Glover's Mistake*, is published this year.

John Thaw Studio, *Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama*

Website: [www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting)

Online journal: [www.themanchesterreview.co.uk](http://www.themanchesterreview.co.uk)

### The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL

0161 275 8951/8950

email [boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk)

[www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre)





## The Manchester Museum

### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

**The Evolutionist: A Darwin Extravaganza of events and exhibitions** including Charles Darwin: evolution of a scientist opening 3 October

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

**Big Saturday: Ancient Egypt** 17 October  
Join in this Ancient Egypt themed family fun day with object handling, storytelling, talks and tours.

**Half-term holiday:** 26 – 30 October  
Lots of fun family activities linked to Darwin and Manchester Science Festival.

### TALKS AND TOURS

**Darwin: A Life in Poems** Thurs 15 October, 7.30-9pm  
Acclaimed poet Ruth Padel reading from her most recent collection, Darwin: A Life in Poems, a poetic biography of her great-great-grandfather. Book on 0870 428 0785

**Evolving words** Thursday 22 October, 7.30-9pm  
Poetry about Charles Darwin's work written by young people working with scientists and creative writers. Book on 0870 428 0785

**Café Scientifique: Walking with robots**  
Tues 27 October, 6.30-8.30pm  
Discuss the current issues in robotics with scientists working on current robotics projects. Drop-in, Free

**The new IQ – working memory**  
Thurs 29 October, 12.30-1.30pm  
Understand how the brain works with Dr Tracy Alloway, University of Stirling. Book on 0161 275 2648, Free

**The Beagle has landed!** Fri 30 October, 7.30-9.30pm  
Comedy about Charles Darwin's voyage around the world. £3

**Primate communication** Sat 31 October 2-3pm  
Discover how human language evolved and compare human to primate communication. Presented by Dr Katie Slocombe, University of York. Book on 0161 275 2648, Free

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

**The Manchester Museum**  
Oxford Road, Manchester  
0161 275 2634  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/museum](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/museum)



## Jodrell Bank

Saturday 24 October, 11am  
**Behind the Scenes with an Astronomer**

Join a Jodrell Bank Astronomer on a tour of the Observatory, taking in the other telescopes Jodrell has and the Control Room followed by lunch. Early booking is essential. Tickets £25.00. SOLD OUT

26 to 30 October, 2pm  
**Ask an Engineer/Astronomer**

Ask a Jodrell Bank Astronomer or Engineer all those burning questions you have about the telescope or Jodrell Bank. No extra charge.

Wednesday 28 October, 11.30am  
**Trees in Autumn, a guided walk of the Arboretum**  
Join the Arboretum Curator on a guided walk of the Arboretum and see our fantastic National Collections in spectacular autumn colour. This walk is suitable for children. Normal admission charge applies, no extra charge for this event.

Please call 01477 571339 to book tickets or to get further information. Throughout the year you can view the telescope on the Observation Pathway, take a Journey to Mars or tour the Solar System in the 3D theatre. You can also discover the history of Jodrell Bank in the small indoor exhibition area, or take a walk in the tranquil setting of the 35 acre Arboretum.

**Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre**  
Macclesfield, Cheshire  
01477 571339  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/viscen](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/viscen)

## John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

### EXHIBITIONS

**A Natural Selection: The Life and Literature of Charles Darwin** until 29 November  
Charles Darwin is arguably one of the greatest scientists of all time, and this year marks a double Darwin anniversary - the bicentennial of his birth in 1809 and 150 years since the publication of his most famous work, *On the Origin of Species*, in 1859. *A Natural Selection* is an exploration of Darwin's life and published works.

**Mapping Manchester: Stories of the City** until 17 January 2010  
Maps can tell us many different stories about the places where we live and work. This exhibition shows how mapping is particularly ingrained into urban life; it demonstrates how maps work and how they have evolved over time - reflecting changes in technology, society and economic conditions.

**Collection Close-Up with Library** Tour every third Thursday in the month, 12.15pm  
With one of our curators, enjoy a closer look at material from the Library's world famous collections and find out more about this magnificent building.

**Public opening hours**  
Mon 12-5pm, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12pm-5pm  
**Reader opening hours**  
Mon-Wed 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-7pm, Fri-Sat 10am-5pm  
FREE ADMISSION

**The John Rylands Library**  
150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH  
0161 306 0555  
email [jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk)  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/library](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library)



## The Whitworth Art Gallery

### DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

**Putting on the Glitz, wallpapers and wall coverings with that extra something** until Nov 2009  
Traditionally, wall coverings incorporating precious metals could only be afforded by the wealthy. For those aspiring to wealth, such luxury was highly desirable. Putting on the Glitz explores how this desire has been (and can still be) satisfied, both by the real thing and extremely effective imitations.

**The American Scene: Prints from Hopper to Pollock**, until 13 December  
**A British Museum Tour**  
Printmakers in the United States between 1900 and 1960 produced some of the most exciting, original and defining images of modern American life. This exhibition pictures a time of remarkable social and political change. It covers the rise of the hard time of the Depression, the political engagement of the 1930's, America's involvements in the Second World War and the advent of abstract expressionism. Featuring 106 prints by 60 artists, including works by John Sloan, Edward Hopper, Josef Albers, Louise Bourgeois, Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock.

**Events**  
Tuesday 13 October, 6pm  
**American Cinema and the American Scene**  
Talk by Monica Pearl.

Tuesday 20 October, 6pm  
**The Light Angelic Mills: Florence Mills and Images of American Race Relations in Britain between the two World Wars.**  
Talk by Brian Ward

Wednesday 4 November, 6pm  
**Black GIs in Britain in the Second World War**  
Documentary film and commentary by Alan Rice

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

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

**Collection Exhibitions Archive Now Online**  
The Whitworth's online 'Collections Catalogue' now allows you to browse and search selected exhibitions held at the Gallery over the past 10 years. Follow the link from homepage:  
[www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk)

**The Whitworth Art Gallery**  
Oxford Road, Manchester  
0161 275 7450  
email [whitworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:whitworth@manchester.ac.uk)

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### 2-for-1 LUNCHTIME VOUCHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1) Offer is valid until 25th October 2009 and is only intended for staff of University of Manchester. 2) Limit of one free meal, per voucher, per visit with one full paying meal. 3) Offer unredeemable without presenting original voucher. Photocopies (including colour photocopies) will not be accepted. 4) Voucher cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotion. 5) Offer does not include drinks. 6) Voucher to be kept by call as proof of payment.

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# Discover the Whitworth

## How does your gallery grow?

Five teams of architects are competing this month to create grand designs for what each hopes will be their winning vision of a Whitworth Art Gallery for the future. One of the five shortlisted firms will be chosen to work with the Whitworth on the design of a new second entrance and extension for the gallery, connecting it directly into Whitworth Park at the southern gateway to the University campus.

The gallery has already made a start by removing the wire fence that had separated it from the park (pictured), and the park itself has seen fresh landscaping, seating and planting. Plans for the new development include a relaxed outdoor area, a second informal cafe and a new ground floor study area allowing visitors and researchers to get closer to the collections even when they are not on public display.

There has been enormous interest in the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) architectural competition so far and the five shortlisted firms were selected from over 130 initial entrants.

A longlist of ten was whittled down to five: Amanda Levete Architects, Edward Cullinan Architects, Howarth Tompkins, MUMA, and Stanton Williams. Each firm will be invited back to give a presentation about their ideas and design to the panel of judges, chaired by Chancellor Tom Bloxham, before the final decision is made. The winning design will form part of the Gallery's stage two Heritage Lottery Fund bid which will be submitted in autumn 2010.

You can see all five competition designs on display at the Gallery throughout October and give feedback on what you think. All feedback will be gathered in and will be considered as part of the final judging of the competition which takes place early next month.

The event and the competition are supported by the Friends of the Whitworth. If you are interested in becoming a Friend or would like to find out more about how the Friends are getting involved in supporting the Gallery's ambitions for the future, please call on 0161 275 7496 or email [fow@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:fow@manchester.ac.uk)



[www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth)

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## News Contact

### News and story ideas

Internal Communications Office

tel 0161 275 2112

email [uninews@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uninews@manchester.ac.uk)

online [www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news)

Deadline 14 October 12 noon

## Events Contact

### Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead

tel 0161 275 2922

email [unievents@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:unievents@manchester.ac.uk)

Deadline 14 October 12 noon

## Adverts Contact

### Ads

Janice Drew

tel 0161 275 2113

email [uniads@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uniads@manchester.ac.uk)

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