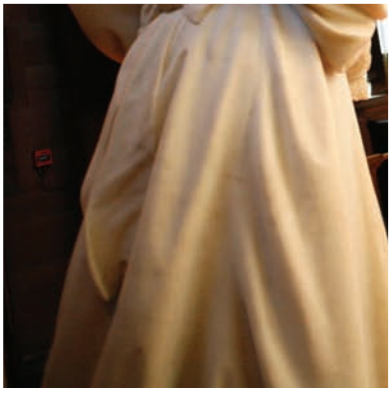
MANCHESTER 1824

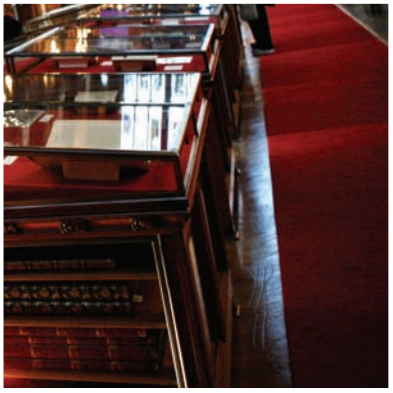
The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester

Annual Review

2006-2007





Introduction by Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor

This third edition of the *Annual Review for The University of Manchester*, highlights some of the major activities and achievements of the University during the 2006-07 academic year.

Reflecting on the past three years, it is remarkable what the University has achieved. Although the merger was a massive undertaking, it is in most respects now well and truly over and the energy of the campus community is focused on achieving the ambitious goals identified in our strategic plan, the *Manchester 2015 Agenda*.

The journey to 2015 was never going to be easy, and we are at present at perhaps the most testing stage of the entire process. But had I been told in October 2004 that the new University would by October 2007 have reached the position we are now in, I would have been delighted. On most of the key measures we adopted for charting the progress of the University, we have actually exceeded our challenging targets.

Our progress has also been recognised and acknowledged by many observers outside the University. In September 2006 we were named 'University of the Year' by the *Sunday Times* and our position continues to improve in what is considered to be the only credible international league table of universities, the 'Academic Ranking of World Universities' produced by Shanghai Jiao Tong University. In successive years, our position has improved from 78th in 2004 to 53rd in 2005, 50th in 2006 to 48th in 2007.

The appointment of distinguished novelist Martin Amis as Professor of Creative Writing and Robert D Putnam as a Visiting Professor to head a new joint project between Manchester and Harvard on Social Change are covered elsewhere in this Annual Review. Alongside the appointment last year of Nobel Laureate Professor Joseph Stiglitz, these two further 'iconic' appointments made in the 2006-07 session reflect the boldness and ambition of the 'step change' transformation laid out in the *Manchester 2015 Agenda*.

A step change in the University's ambitions and performance is perhaps best illustrated in the research field, where research grant and contract income has grown by over 40% in just three years, and where we are beginning to witness the world-leading impact that our

Research Institutes are having in fields as diverse as cancer studies, poverty reduction and nuclear science. Indeed, the University is emerging as a genuine research powerhouse, with total research expenditure during the first three years growing from £269 million in 2004-05 to an anticipated £398 million in 2006-07.

This research success was confirmed in the league table compiled recently by the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and based on the number of awards received from the five major research councils. It showed Manchester in first place having been awarded 163 research grants, followed by Cambridge with 158. In a similar vein, the widely read *Research Fortnight* published its own 'Research Success Rankings' and stressed that, "in terms of sheer volume, both of applications and awards, there is a clear break between the 'Big Five' (Imperial, Cambridge, Manchester, University College London and Oxford) and the rest".

One notable success in the research field occurred in September 2007, when we were able to announce the successful outcome of a competitive bidding process to Tesco plc to create a Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) in partnership with the University. The investment from Tesco will be at least £25 million over five years and will lead to the establishment of a Research Institute of genuine international significance that will help tackle climate change and deliver a revolution in 'green consumption'.

Without in any way diminishing the importance that it attaches to fundamental research, the University has, since its inception, sought to place equal weight on knowledge and technology transfer. In the past two years, there has been a 100% increase in the number of 'declarations of discovery' identifying intellectual property (IP) of potential commercial value. In other key areas, Renovo, one of our spin-out companies has become a national good news story in knowledge and technology transfer, and there has been substantial year-on-year growth in third party investment in our spin-out companies more generally.

In the teaching and learning field, applications to study at the University remain buoyant. The 2006-07 session saw record levels of enrolment by international students and students enrolled on programmes relying predominantly on online and distance learning. There has also been a continuing programme of investment in study facilities and support services.

All that said, this University, like all other large comprehensive universities around the world, faces a real challenge in addressing the urgent need for quality improvement in the undergraduate learning experience in an age of 'mass' higher education. I am currently chairing a major strategic review that is examining this important issue. Although the Review is at an early stage, I am optimistic that when it reports its findings to the Board of Governors early in 2008, it will recommend far-reaching changes of benefit to students and perhaps even establish a distinctive 'Manchester' approach to undergraduate study.

The University achieved the major successes described above in part through a dramatic net growth of some 2,800 staff since in the 30 months following its foundation in October 2004. Achieving such growth required a deliberate strategy of deficit-funding in the run up to the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). This growth meant that 2006-07 was always going to be a year of consolidation and slower growth. Two other factors added to this deficit. Mergers always create duplication and we knew on 1 October 2004 that we were carrying forward around £10 million of additional costs after bringing VUM and UMIST together, a legacy complicated by a necessary agreement with the campus trade unions obliging us not to begin to tackle this structural deficit for at least two years. These two elements have been compounded by higher than expected salary increases in 2005 and 2006 across the UK higher education system. All in all, these developments meant that we started the 2006-07 financial year with an operating deficit of around £30 million.

As planned, we introduced a range of decisive measures in February 2007 to improve our efficiency and to eliminate the deficit, including an early retirement/voluntary severance scheme for staff. These measures never involved a staffing freeze, but did mean managing both pay and non-pay costs with real stringency. By the end of the 2006-07 academic year, we had already signed-off more than 500 voluntary severances/early retirements. Taken together with the number of posts lost through the rigorous control of vacancies these measures are having the desired effect. Yet when the University's operational 'running rate' returns to surplus late in 2008, the University will have reduced staff numbers by little more than a third of the net growth experienced in the previous 30 months.

The University's bold financial strategies have included the completion of the largest capital programme ever undertaken in UK higher education. Having secured important sales of property which was either surplus to requirements or no longer fit for purpose during the present year, we are in the excellent position of having fully funded Phases One and Two of the Capital Programme, which together amount to £401 million worth of new state-of-the-art buildings and facilities. This programme is described in detail elsewhere in this *Annual Review*.

Transforming our very good university into a world leader in higher education was never going to be an easy task and building sustainability into our ambitious agenda was always going to present the greatest challenge. But due to the commitment, creativity and hard work of our staff we are firmly on track. I hope that the highlights that we have chosen for the pages of this *Annual Review* will provide a flavour of our successes over the past year, and demonstrate the very real progress that we are making towards meeting the ambitious goals of the *Manchester 2015 Agenda*.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

New look campus takes shape

One of the most visible signs of progress at The University of Manchester has been the hugely ambitious Capital Programme, which is now nearing the end of Phase Two.

Both Phases One and Two have been fully funded at a cost of £401 million and even at this halfway stage we have already completed the largest building programme ever undertaken at a UK university.

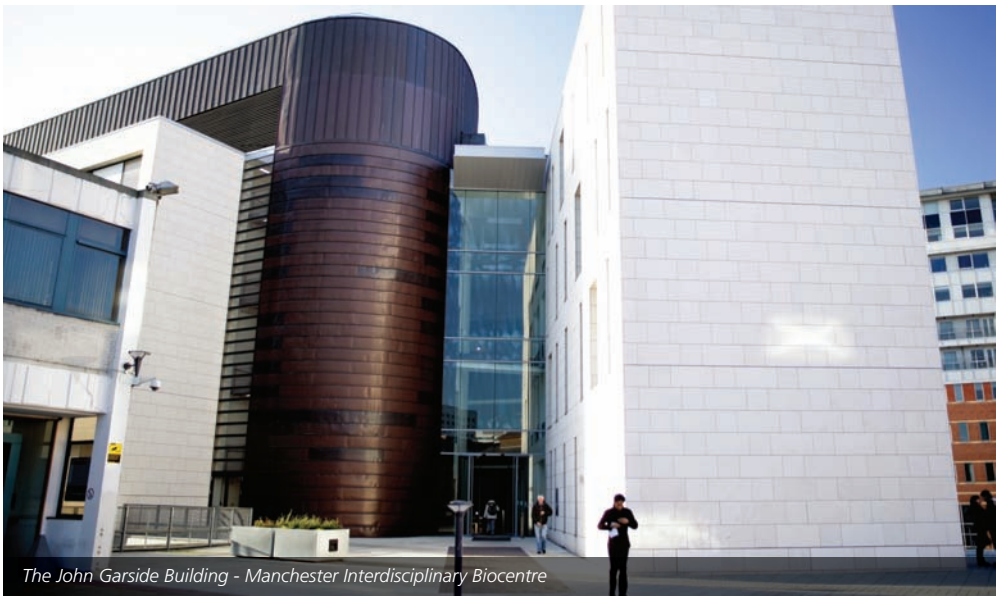
A dedicated team of University staff have been working hard to deliver our bold plan and a number of projects are completed. These include the Stopford teaching labs, Functional Biology, the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre, Smith Building, the Chemistry Building, the new multi-storey car park, the spectacular – and already award-winning – John Rylands refurbishment on Deansgate, the Alan Turing Building (Astronomy, Mathematics, Physics and Photon Science) and the Arthur Lewis Building (Humanities).

University Place, the new £65 million flagship building for the University with its distinctive rotunda on Oxford Road, will become a focal point for major events and a point of first contact for prospective students and members of the public. It will house Student Services, Catering, the School of Nursing, the Institute of Health Sciences as well as 300 student bedrooms. The handover is scheduled to take place in March 2008, soon to be followed by the £39 million Smith Extension.

Phases Three and Four will be completed by 2015. Over the past twelve months we have secured important property sales, which have put us in a strong financial position to continue bringing new world-class facilities to Manchester at a total cost of £650 million.

The Directorate of Estates has explored the property market and, in the first instance, the University has offered for sale buildings closest to the city centre or in desirable residential areas that are likely to command the highest market price.

Our new-look campus will attract the best international scholars and students to Manchester, as well as providing state of the art facilities for research and high quality learning environments.



The John Garside Building - Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre

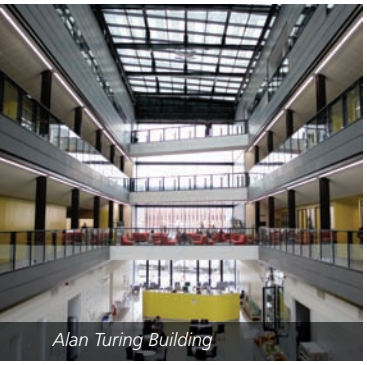
The Smith Extension

Multi-storey car park

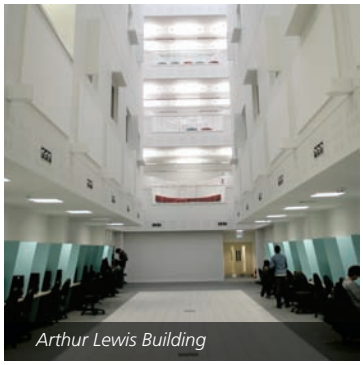
University Place

Alan Turing Building

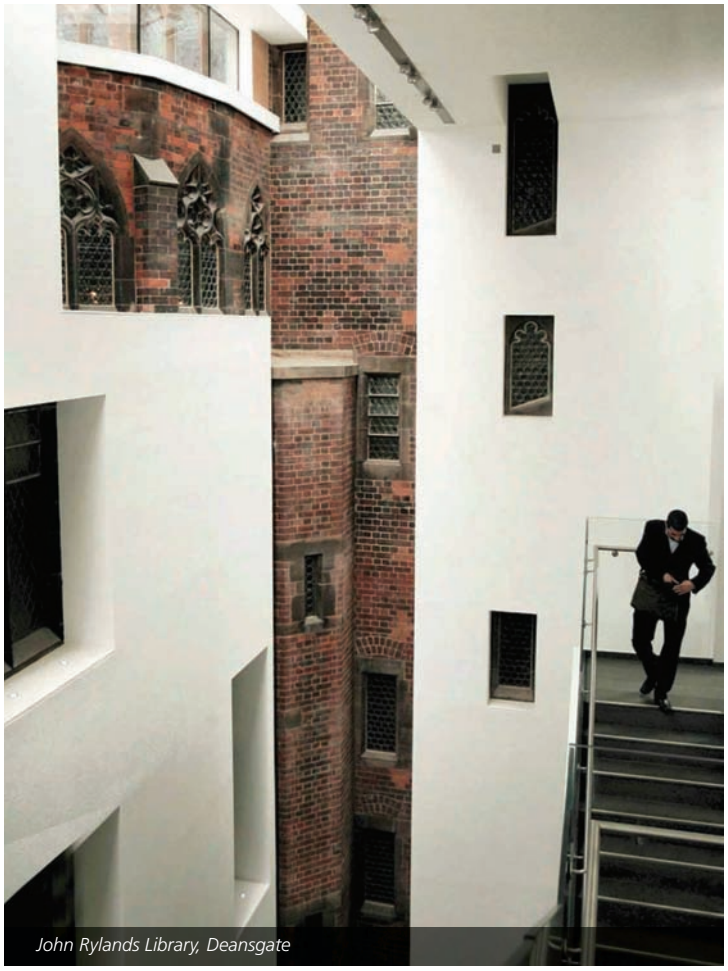
John Rylands Library, Deansgate



Alan Turing Building



Arthur Lewis Building



John Rylands Library, Deansgate

Arthur Lewis Building

Martin Amis appointed to Centre for New Writing

Martin Amis, arguably the leading novelist of his generation, has been appointed Professor of Creative Writing at the University.

Based in the School of Arts Histories and Cultures, Amis will run postgraduate seminars at the Centre for New Writing and will also participate in four public events each year, including a two-week summer school. This is Martin Amis's first academic post.

His reputation, established over three decades, has been built on a constant flow of significant, often controversial, novels.

Amis (pictured right) commented: "I feel ready for a fresh milieu and I think I may have something to offer as a teacher. It has always been a quiet ambition of mine. I have written a lot of fiction and a lot about fiction, so I'll be bringing a dual perspective to it."

The Centre launched with a debate on the state, role and future of contemporary literature. Amis was joined by fellow literary heavyweights Will Self and John Banville.

Scientists use pixels to ease amputees' pain

Academics from the School of Computer Science and School of Psychological Sciences are using 3D computer graphics to combat the pain suffered by amputees, by developing a virtual reality system that gives the illusion that a person's amputated limb is still there.

Amputees can be immersed into a life-size virtual reality world by the computer system, created by Dr Stephen Pettifer and Toby Howard. They are able to use their remaining limb to control the movements of a computer-generated limb, which appears in the 3D computer-generated world in the space of their amputated limb.

Project leader, Dr Craig Murray of the School of Psychological Sciences, said: "One patient felt that the fingers of her amputated hand were continually clenched into her palm, which was very painful. After just one session using the system she began to feel movement in her fingers and the pain began to ease."

Sunday Times 'University of the Year'

The University of Manchester won the coveted *Sunday Times* 'University of the Year' title in 2006.

Students and parents see the *Sunday Times University Guide* as an invaluable first reference point on the path to finding a university place. The league table also revealed that Manchester is well thought of by head teachers and academics.

Official assessments of teaching quality showed no university in the country has more subjects rated 'excellent' for teaching - 36 in all.

President and Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alan Gilbert, said: "This is a reassuring indication of the extent to which observers outside the University continue to be impressed by the progress that the new University of Manchester is making".

T.rex quicker than Becks

Researchers at the University have discovered that *T.rex* may have been quicker than previously believed. Their study used a powerful supercomputer to calculate the running speeds of five meat-eating dinosaurs including a six-tonne *Tyrannosaurus*.

The research – believed to be the most accurate ever produced – puts the *T.rex* at speeds of up to 18mph, quicker than a sportsman such as a professional footballer.

Biomechanics expert Dr Bill Sellers commented: "Our research involved feeding information about the skeletal and muscular structure of the dinosaurs into the supercomputer to work out how the animals were best able to move. The accuracy of results is due to the computer's ability to use data relating directly to each dinosaur".

Collaborating palaeontologist Dr Phil Manning, from the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences said: "Although not incredibly fast, *T.rex* was certainly capable of running and would have little difficulty in chasing down footballer David Beckham, for instance."

Women are best at being buddies

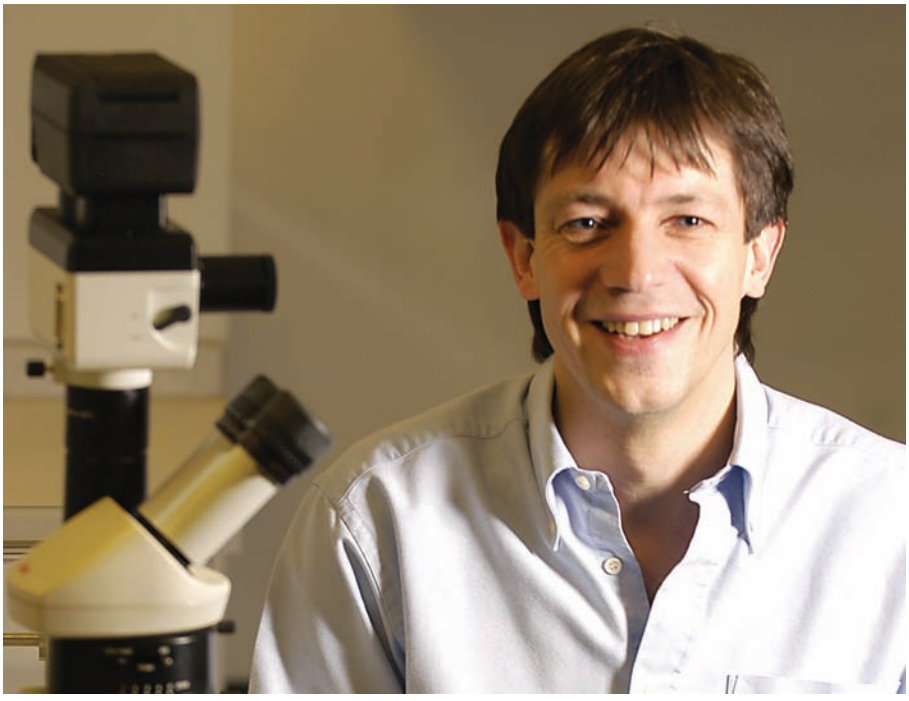
A four-year study by sociologists from the University's Research Centre for Socio-Cultural Change found that women are more likely to make deep and lasting friendships than men.

The investigation found that men are more fickle and calculating about their friends, but women stand by their friends. The study also confirms the stereotype that men are likely to base their friendship on social drinking.

The study, drawing on data from the 1992 to 2002 *British Household Panel Surveys*, also found that single people, older people and white-collar workers are good at pairing up, and that middle class people are more likely to cast their net of friendship far wider, whereas the working class tend to stick to working class friends.

Dr Gindo Tampubolon, from the School of Social Sciences, said: "Friendship between women seems to be fundamentally different to friendship between men. It's much deeper and more moral: it's about the relationship itself rather than what they can get out of it."

Research could lead to new treatments for birth defects



University researchers uncovered the causes behind two genetic conditions that lead to facial anomalies including clefts, where the lip and often the roof of the mouth, or palate, fail to form properly. Mike and Jill Dixon, with Rebecca Richardson, identified the role of the gene IRF6.

Professor Mike Dixon (left), a dentist based in the Faculty of Life Sciences commented: "We had previously shown that a mutation in the IRF6 gene causes Van der Woude syndrome - a rare inherited form of cleft lip and palate. It has also been found that defects in this gene are responsible for a significant number of other cleft lip and palate disorders".

Further research by the Manchester team has uncovered the cellular processes involved in Treacher Collins syndrome. "We identified the gene associated with this disorder some time ago, but we have now established the reason for the anomalies," said Dr Jill Dixon.

Focus on China

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

Headed by Professor Hong Liu (pictured left), the Centre for Chinese Studies brings together researchers from across the University to create a platform for research into contemporary China and the Chinese-speaking world. It offers both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

The University also became host to the second Confucius Centre in the UK, in partnership with the Office of Chinese Language Council International and Beijing Normal University. The Institute acts as a centre for the dissemination of Chinese language and culture, and will carry out this work specifically within the North West region.

In October 2006, the University's Foundation Day was celebrated with a lecture by the world's leading authority on the Chinese diaspora. Director of the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore, Professor Wang Gungwu spoke about 'The Chinese Pursuit of Higher Education'.

New chapter for John Rylands Library

The John Rylands Library officially reopened this year after a £17 million transformation.

The magnificent neo-gothic building, which is part of The University of Manchester, is a major visitor attraction as well as a world-renowned research library. The Library was built in the 1890s by Mrs Enriqueta Rylands in memory of her husband John, Manchester's most successful cotton tycoon.

New facilities include a purpose-built Reading Room, a Conservation Studio and state-of-the-art storage areas for the collections. New exhibition areas display some of the Library's famous collections, including the St John Fragment- the oldest known surviving piece of the New Testament, dating from around 125AD.

Bill Simpson, University Librarian and Director of the John Rylands Library, said: "This library is one of the most important rare book and manuscript libraries in the world. This project has enabled the University to keep the collections in the building created for them, and to make these treasures accessible to all."

£8 million was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Library was named Best Iconic Building in Manchester at the MCR Awards ceremony in October. The award was voted for by the people of Manchester, and the Library won against stiff competition provided by Afflecks Palace, the Beetham Tower, the Imperial War Museum North and Urbis.

University Co-Chancellor, Anna Ford at the launch of the Library

Winning ways

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) in the North West chose the University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert, as its business leader of the year, and Renovo, a University spin-out company, as its emerging business of the year.

Professor Gilbert (pictured right with his award) was recognised by the CBI for his work in launching and leading the University since its establishment in October 2004 following the merger of the Victoria University of Manchester with UMIST.

The judges acknowledged Professor Gilbert's role in launching the University's ambitious and overseeing the largest campus rebuilding programme in British higher education.

Renovo, based at the Manchester Incubator Building, was set up and managed by Professor Mark Ferguson (pictured above with his award) of the Faculty of Life Sciences. The company develops drugs to prevent scarring. Renovo floated on the London stock exchange in April, raising some £50 million, valuing the company at more than £200 million.

Rolls Royce Partnership

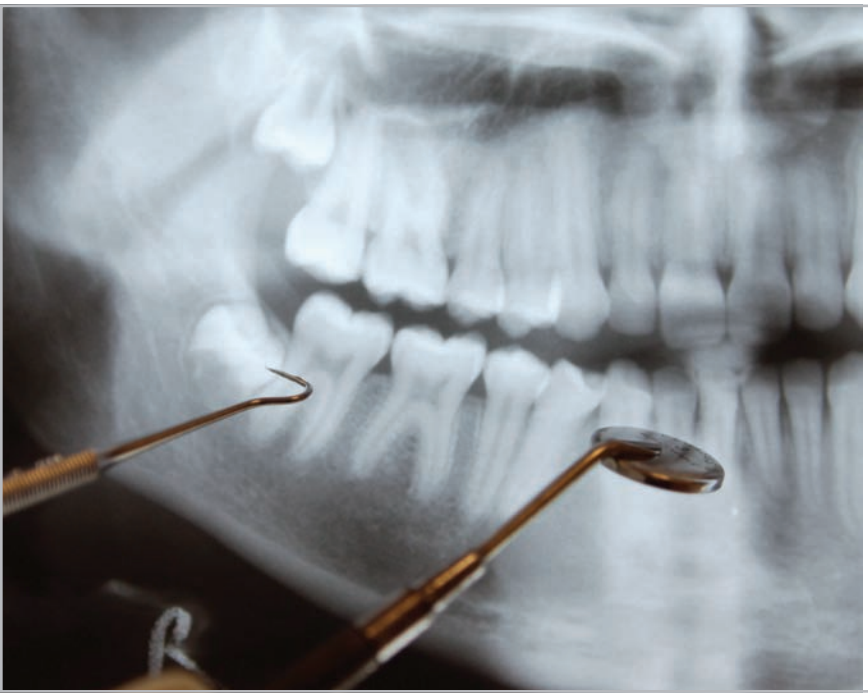
The University and Rolls Royce unveiled a new £1 million experimental facility, which will boost the development of high-tech electrical systems for planes, ships and energy generation.

It will complement the existing Rolls Royce University Technology Centre (UTC) and will develop and evaluate ultra-compact and intelligent electrical networks for use in a range of products including Uninhabited Autonomous Vehicles (UAVs).

Housed in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, the facility is being jointly funded by Rolls Royce and the Systems Engineering Autonomous Systems Defence Technology Centre (SEAS-DTC) programme co-ordinated by BAE Systems, and sponsored by the Ministry of Defence.

Professor John Perkins, Vice-President and Dean of The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, said: "This latest development will allow further exchange of skills between the University and Rolls Royce and will provide fresh opportunities for training and development."

Diagnosing osteoporosis from dental x-rays



Researchers in the University's School of Dentistry have created a unique way of identifying osteoporosis sufferers from ordinary dental x-rays.

Professor Keith Horner and Dr Hugh Devlin coordinated a three-year, EU-funded collaboration to develop the largely automated approach to detecting the disease, which affects almost 22% of the population in their sixties and 38.5% in their seventies.

The team has developed a software-based approach to detecting osteoporosis during routine dental x-rays, by automatically measuring the thickness of part of the patient's lower jaw. 'Active shape modeling' technology, developed by the Division of Imaging Sciences, automatically detects jaw cortex widths of less than 3mm – a key indicator of osteoporosis.

Professor Horner explains: "This cheap, simple and largely-automated approach could be carried out by every dentist taking routine x-rays, yet the success rate is as good as having a specialist consultant on hand."

The team hopes an x-ray equipment company will now step in and integrate the software with its products. Around two in five sufferers undertaking routine dental x-rays could be identified if the approach were adopted within the NHS.

Manchester and Harvard join forces

Harvard University and The University of Manchester have joined forces to help better understand the challenges of contemporary society.

'Social Change: A Joint Project of Harvard and Manchester' is 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'. Putnam, who is pictured right with Professor Alistair Ulph, has also been appointed as a Visiting Professor at this University for five years.

Researchers will investigate what drives social change through a series of transatlantic comparative studies on topics such as inequality, immigration, religion, the changing workplace and civic engagement.

Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor, said: "Professor Putnam's appointment is one of a series of iconic appointments intended to reflect the University's commitment to become one of the top 25 research universities in the world".

Millions for new nuclear research centre

A major nuclear research facility is being built in Cumbria with £20 million of initial funding from the University's Dalton Nuclear Institute and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

The two signed an initial collaboration agreement, each investing £10 million over a seven-year period. The total investment will be around £50 million over this period.

The money will be used to provide specialist research equipment and facilities, and to drive forward research into radiation sciences and engineering decommissioning.

The new laboratory will include accelerators and experimental equipment to study the irradiation damage and effects on materials and chemical systems used in nuclear environments, as well as cutting-edge computational modelling and simulation tools.

Professor Richard Clegg, Director of the Dalton Nuclear Institute, said: "This agreement is an important development in our ambition to make the University one of the world's most prestigious nuclear research and education centres."

Whitworth Art Gallery wins prestigious award

The Whitworth Art Gallery at The University of Manchester is now a Quality Assured Visitor Attraction, having achieved the British Tourist Authority's official endorsement of high standards.

The prestigious award was given following a detailed assessment of the quality of service and attention to the needs of visitors throughout the venue.

The Whitworth was described as 'lively and entertaining' with particular praise reserved for the remarkable variety of artwork on display, and its iconic RIBA award-winning sculpture court. The highly popular award-winning café was also commended, as were the hands-on activities for children within the galleries.

The Whitworth's Director Dr Maria Balshaw said: "It is essential that the Whitworth's international reputation for its unique collections is matched by the quality and service offered to visitors. That our standards have been recognised in this way fully endorses our continued commitment toward the visitor experience."

Manchester moves up academic world ranking

The University's ranking in the recently published 'Academic Ranking of World Universities' carried out by the Institute of Higher Education at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University has risen to 48th (from 50th in 2006, 53rd in 2005 and 78th in 2004).

The improvement is largely down to a measured increase in the number of articles published in *Nature* and *Science* (one of the criteria for the ranking) and an increase in the volume of the University's research included in the main citation indices.

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert said: "The improvement in the University's positioning 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".

New centre offers hope to burns survivors

Falklands war veteran and burns survivor Simon Weston, OBE (pictured right), officially opened a major research centre dedicated to improving treatments for survivors of burns, trauma and other disfiguring conditions.

The Healing Foundation Centre at the University is a £10 million initiative with the Healing Foundation, a national charity supporting research into disfigurement and visible loss of function.

The Centre, led by the Healing Foundation Professor of Tissue Regeneration, Enrique Amaya, will focus attention on the 'regenerative' abilities of frogs, salamanders, zebra fish and animal embryos, to learn how certain animal models are able to repair wounds without scars or, in some cases, regenerate amputated limbs.

It is hoped that these lessons can then be used to benefit future human survivors of trauma, disease or congenital deformity.

Commenting on the work of the Centre, Simon Weston said: "I am proud to be involved at the start of such an exciting initiative."

Photo courtesy of MEN

Lovell Telescope celebrates fifty years

The Lovell Telescope, Jodrell Bank's 'Big Dish', celebrated its 50th birthday in 2007.

Building work began in 1952, when Sir Bernard Lovell joined forces with the engineer Charles Husband to create the world's largest radio telescope. It was completed in 1957, and was the only instrument on earth capable of tracking the flight of Sputnik 1- the first artificial satellite, and the dawn of the space age.

Fifty years on it is still the third-largest fully steerable telescope in the world. It is at the heart of MERLIN, the UK's national radio astronomy facility run from Jodrell Bank.

The celebrations launched a three-year series of events funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council in anticipation of the new Centre for Visitors planned at Jodrell Bank.

University and Tesco team up for green consumption

Supermarket Tesco has teamed up with the University in a £25 million investment that will bring together the world's leading experts to tackle climate change and help deliver a revolution in green consumption.

The Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) will explore vital areas of research such as how to increase consumption of green products and services and how to train the next generation of environmental leaders and experts.

Projects include research into low carbon lifestyles and the role of new technologies in delivering them, and outcomes could range from making paper from chicken feathers and fuelling delivery vans with plastic milk bottles.

The SCI will also become a focal point for the next generation of researchers, policymakers and advisers in the area of sustainable consumption through extensive postgraduate training.

Tesco Chief Executive Sir Terry Leahy, (pictured left), said the Institute is one of the key elements of Tesco's climate change strategy.

NVQ successes for STARS staff

More than 50 staff from the University's Directorate of Sport Trading and Residential Services (STARS) successfully completed National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in 2006-07.

Work-based National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) allow staff to fit training in with their work and home commitments, as well as ensuring that they are as ably equipped and motivated as possible.

The successful STARS staff achieved NVQs in a wide range of subjects, mainly across catering and domestic services under the guidance of South Trafford College.

Pictured are: back row from left - Sandra Proverbs, Debbie Lees, Val Stewart; middle row from left - Caron Briggs, Julie McGlone and Hilary Campbell; front row - Gloria Wilson, Andreas Bolger and Jacqueline Smith.

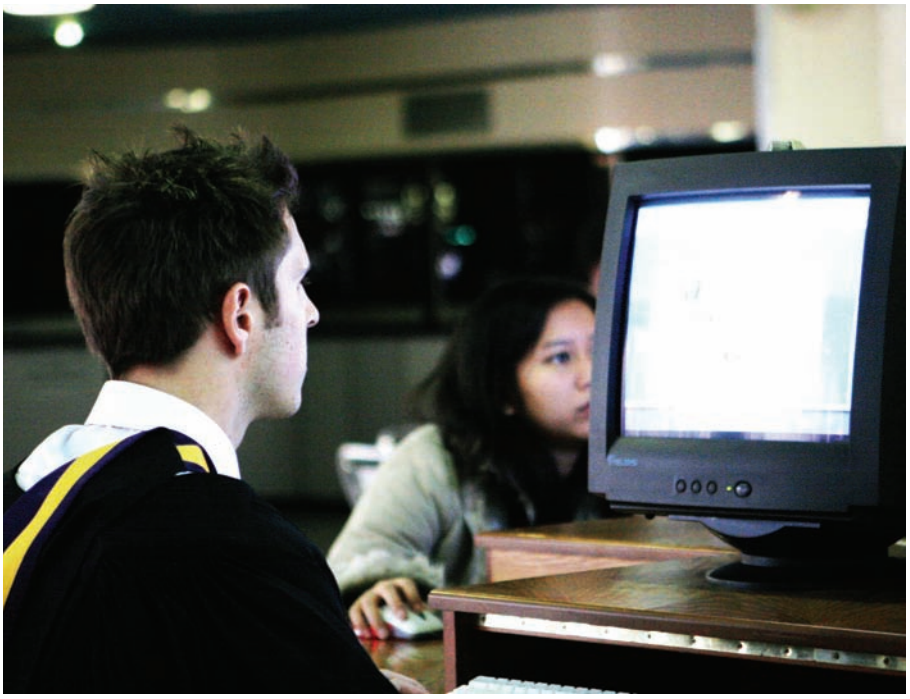
First online PhD developed

The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work has developed the University's first fully online PhD.

Also known as a Distributed Learning (DL) PhD, all components of the PhD programme can be conducted online.

A core component of the DL PhD is online supervision using webcams, enabling videoconferencing to be combined with document sharing and text chat. Web logs (blogs) are used to keep an online record of supervisions and have to date proved very popular with students and supervisors.

Dr Gunn Grande, Programme Manager, says: "The development of the programme was driven by the profile of our students who often have family or clinical commitments and so therefore cannot spend time on campus, as well making it more accessible to international students".



University strikes executive education deal with BP

The University is to deliver executive education programmes for global giant BP as part of a multi-million pound strategic partnership.

The two parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marking their intention to establish a closer working relationship across recruitment activities, research, education and the application of scientific knowledge.

The University was selected to host 'Managing Projects' and 'Engineering Management' education programmes, after competing against other leading UK universities.

Managing Projects will draw on expertise within Manchester Business School and the School of Mechanical Aerospace and Civil Engineering to provide world-class project management education to professionals in the BP Group. The Engineering Management programme will be delivered by academics from the Schools of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science and Manchester Business School.

Manchester Leadership Programme making a difference

The innovative Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) went from strength to strength this year. MLP helps students understand the importance of leadership that promotes social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Participants engaged in a wide range of activities as part of the programme. These included volunteering at a football tournament held for primary school children across Manchester. Students volunteered their time as referees, and as coaches, hosting football skills sessions for all the children.

Eight MLP students interviewed the Rt Hon Hazel Blears (pictured left), Cabinet Minister and Salford MP, as part of their Leadership in Action unit, which forms part of the Programme. The participation of high profile speakers in MLP, such as Hazel Blears, provides students with a unique opportunity to meet and interact with a variety of leaders from business, academia, government and the local community.

More than 100 students took part in a range of local community activities as part of Student Volunteering Week. The students planted trees, made and took hanging baskets to a children's nursery and an elderly persons' home, built bird boxes and participated in the annual North West Regional Beach Clean.

332 students took part in the 2006-07 MLP. The course has been expanded for 2007-08 and now has 500 registered students.

Dinosaur day stampede

'Dinosaur Day' at The Manchester Museum, organised as part of National Science and Engineering Week, proved a great success and attracted a record-breaking 2,000 visitors.

The day included fossil identification and rubbing, dinosaur drawing and stories, and visitors were invited to take part in Plesiosaur reconstruction activities, as well as to handle museum artefacts. There was also a gallery tour and family talk with Dr Phil Manning, Lecturer in Palaeontology.

The week-long programme of events also showcased 'Brilliant Bird Boxes', run in association with the BBC and the Wild About Manchester team of the City Council, and part of the BBC Nest Box Challenge/BBC Breathing Places. 'Big Blast Off Saturday' also drew large crowds with packed out planetarium shows and physics tricks for kids sessions.

University honours world leaders

The University awarded honorary degrees to:

Professor Alex Markham, former Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK, the largest cancer research non-governmental funding body in the world.

Professor Dr Werner Hildenbrand, Emeritus Professor of Economics at Bonn University. Professor Hildenbrand is an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Bob Herz, chairman of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), one of the most influential figures in the accounting profession, and a University graduate in economics.

Tom Bloxham MBE, Chairman and Co-Founder of property development company Urban Splash studied politics at the University. He chairs Arts Council England (North West) and has advised the Government on property matters. Tom Bloxham is also chair of the new Manchester International Arts Festival and chair of the IPPR Centre for Cities Think Tank.

Facts and figures

Students

Of the 34,458 students registered at the University, 25,656 are undergraduates and 8,802 are postgraduates.

	Home/EU	Overseas	Total
Undergraduate	23,029	2,627	25,656
Postgraduate (taught)	3,409	1,956	5,365
Postgraduate (research)	2,249	1,188	3,437
Total	**28,687**	**5,771**	**34,458**

Staff

The University is one of the largest employers in Greater Manchester with more than 5,700 academic and research staff.

Breakdown of staff	
Academic (including 1,600 teaching only staff)	3,787
Research	1,916
Administrative/Management	1,240
Clerical/Secretarial	1,754
Academic Support	1,461
Manual/Craft	1,055
Other	486
Total	**11,699**

Headcount figures at 31 July 2007.

Income

The University has an annual income of £637 million.

Funding Council Grants	182
Tuition Fees and Educational Contracts	138
Research Grants and Contracts	174
Other Operating Income	129
Endowments and Investments	14
Total	**637**

Figures rounded to the nearest £1 million.

The University of Manchester at a glance

Mission and vision

'To make The University of Manchester, already an internationally distinguished centre of research, innovation, learning and scholarly enquiry, one of the leading universities in the world by 2015'

Senior Officers

Co-Chancellor	Miss Anna Ford
Co-Chancellor	Sir Terry Leahy
Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Governors	Mr Norman Askew
Pro-Chancellor	Admiral Sir John Kerr
President and Vice-Chancellor	Professor Alan Gilbert

Estate	300 buildings 299 acres

Undergraduate applications per annum	64,000
Alumni	212,000 in 200 countries

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