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The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester

Annual Review

2008 - 2009

A Message from the President and Vice-Chancellor

Welcome to this fifth Annual Review of The University of Manchester, which highlights some of the major activities and developments at the University during the academic year 2008- 2009.

It is now more than five years since the inauguration of the new University and we are continuing to make encouraging progress towards our goal of positioning the University as one of the world's leading universities by 2015.

The most reassuring measure of our progress in the last academic year was the University's performance in the independent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), conducted by the Higher Education Funding Councils and announced in December 2008. The University's performance was outstanding, with two-thirds of our research judged to be "world-leading" or "internationally excellent". This outcome truly establishes the University, alongside Oxford, Cambridge and London, as one of the UK's premier research universities. Many of us had thought that the 2008 RAE may have come a little too early to demonstrate the impact of the dramatic changes that have taken place here since the merger – but we were wrong, and the evidence is now there for all to see in terms of research quality and research power.

Manchester's position as a world-leading research centre in the field of nuclear science was confirmed earlier this year, when a consortium of Serco, Battelle and the University took over the running of the UK National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL). The Lab will play a central role in cleaning up the UK's nuclear waste legacy and developing a 21st century capacity for civil nuclear power generation that is likely to prove vital in the transition to a sustainable low-carbon economy.

In the field of health care, the University's research strength was recognised by the Government earlier this year when the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) – a new partnership between The University of Manchester and six local NHS trusts – was awarded official national status. We are one of just five national centres, and the only one outside London and Cambridge. MAHSC will play a key role in ensuring that advances in medical science are more rapidly translated into improvements in patient care and wellbeing.

While profoundly committed to fundamental research and curiosity-driven discovery, the University has, since its inception, also sought to place an equal weight on applied research, knowledge and technology transfer and wealth creation. In this context, the most important recent development was the launch last year of a unique £32 million late-seed venture fund designed to boost investment in intellectual property generated by research at the University.

Following the completion of a "root and branch" review of undergraduate education in 2007, we have devoted considerable time and energy over the past year to the implementation of a major teaching and learning reform agenda. We have made major strides in making a state-of-the art online learning environment, *Blackboard*, available to all our students and we have begun construction of a major new student learning facility at the heart of the campus. Despite these recent initiatives, Manchester is still ranked embarrassingly low in terms of overall student satisfaction in the 2009 National Student Survey (NSS). This is not a uniquely Manchester problem, although it is magnified for us by the sheer scale of our undergraduate activities. We are now proceeding to make radical changes in order to offer students more purposeful curricula and to re-personalise the student learning experience. Much remains to be done in our efforts to transform student learning, but transform it we must.

Over the past few months, we have been revising our *Manchester 2015* Strategic Plan to take account of the progress that we have made so far and to clarify our Goals and Objectives now that we are at the midpoint of our journey between 2004 and 2015. The new document can be seen on the University website at: www.manchester.ac.uk/2015

Looking forward to that evocative date, *2015* – a date that we have turned into a metaphor for the hopes and dreams of the new institution that emerged from the Manchester "merger" of 2004 – the University faces the sobering reality of having to prepare for a considerably more

challenging external operating environment in the years ahead. In retrospect, however, we can simultaneously take pride in the good progress that has been made in the relatively benign operating environment that UK higher education has experienced since 2004.

Maintaining strategic direction in an environment of public funding stringency unparalleled in the UK in peace time will be the major challenge for the University over the next five years, and probably for longer. But the background against which the University will tackle such challenges is one of remarkable success since October 2004. Inevitably, there will be a premium on heightened levels of efficiency, effectiveness and disciplined prioritisation in the years ahead. But the commitment, creativity and hard work that the University community has demonstrated over the past five years will stand us in good stead in such straightened times.

Alan Gilbert

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

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The University is at the forefront of efforts to transform the National Health Service by linking advances in medical science to patient treatment.

The Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) is a partnership between six Greater Manchester NHS trusts and the University. Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced in March that Manchester was one of just five national centres to have been designated as an Academic Health Centre – and the only one outside of London and Cambridge.

The Centres will speed up the time it takes the NHS to make use of research breakthroughs because of the unique partnership between scientists and NHS staff – bringing huge benefits to patients.

Manchester is already leading, nationally and internationally, in areas such as cancer, cardiovascular medicine and respiratory medicine. The new partnership will also include the full range of health research undertaken in hospitals, mental health services and in the community.

Professor Alan North, Director of MAHSC and Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, said: "We are delighted to have received formal designation from the Secretary of State for Health, which followed scrutiny of our application by an eminent international panel of experts. It is recognition that our member trusts and the University have the expertise, the motivation and the vision to lead the delivery of innovation into health care."

"Most importantly, it is good news for patients and the public in Greater Manchester and the North West, who can expect advances in medical science to be more rapidly introduced into patient care."

MAHSC aims to establish a number of internationally competitive health research programmes by 2013, together with a world-class research infrastructure. By 2020, it aims to ensure that Greater Manchester will have become one of the world's leading health research centres.

An innovative new jobs advice service, joint-funded and led by The University of Manchester and private sector partner A4e, and supported by Corridor Manchester, is helping people living in the Oxford Road area of Manchester to progress into work.

Anyone living in Hulme, Moss Side, Ardwick, Longsight and Rusholme can take advantage of the new Pathfinder initiative for free, regardless of their benefit and job seeker status.

Pathfinder works with people on a one-to-one basis to direct them either to job opportunities, or to relevant training and education. The team's outreach workers are based in existing community centres.

Launched in July at the Hideaway Youth Project in Moss Side, the project got off to a flying start, with 80 people signed up to the service, several of whom have already got jobs or are undertaking relevant training courses.

Local resident Shamaz Iqbal was out of work for five months, but recently started a new job in customer services through Pathfinder's help.

"The support I've had from Pathfinder has been great," Shamaz said. "They suggested I attend a jobs event held by CIS, then they helped me with my CV. The next day I sent my CV off for a few jobs and just a few days later I was offered a job."

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, said: "The Pathfinder project makes real the University's commitment to taking our jobs and training opportunities to people living in our neighbouring communities. I know there is untapped talent within those communities, which will make a valuable contribution to the University."

The University has been awarded £20 million as part of a national drive to train a new wave of scientists and engineers.

The funding, from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), is part of a £250 million initiative, which will establish 44 centres for doctoral training across the UK over the next five years.

Its aims are to develop clean renewable energy, fight high-tech crime, assist in reducing carbon emissions, and discover new healthcare solutions for an ageing population.

The centres are also set to provide a radical alternative to the traditional 'lone scholar' PhD route, creating communities of researchers working together on current and future challenges.

The University will lead three of the training centres – including one devoted to nanoscience, an industrial training centre for Nuclear Engineering and a training centre for nuclear fission research – which will all be run in partnership with other universities. A training centre for advanced metallic systems led by the University of Sheffield will also be linked to The University of Manchester.

Professor Nigel Vincent, Associate Vice-President for Graduate Education at the University, said: "The linking of world-class research and world-class doctoral education is key to The University of Manchester's vision.

"Our success in the doctoral training centres competition both recognises and advances that ambition. It will allow us to build stronger and better links at graduate level both with other leading national and international institutions and with industry."

The University's new web-based virtual learning environment is officially a 'hit', delivering course materials to more than 15,000 students who are making over 200,000 hits per hour at peak times.

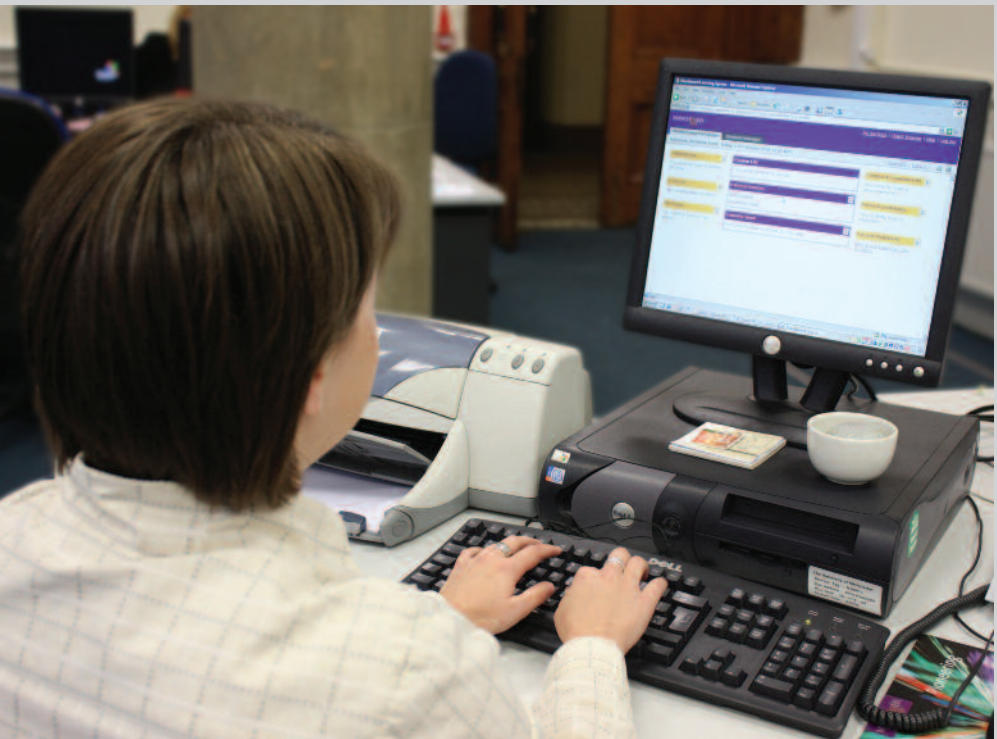
The Blackboard Learning System offers Manchester students access to teaching, learning and assessment materials and activities, as well as providing interactive discussions with teaching staff and other students.

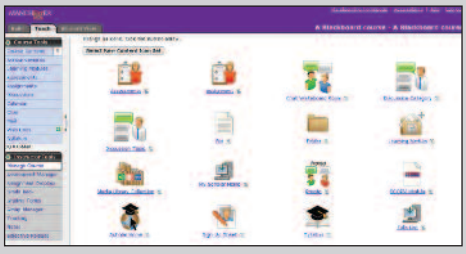
With students often juggling their studies around employment and social lives, Blackboard is popular because it provides flexible access to resources at any time of the day or night.

The University stresses the importance of eLearning as a key complement to face-to-face learning in its undergraduate teaching and learning culture, being a convenient and contemporary means of providing one of the richest possible learning environments for students.

Blackboard's range of tools can be used for both summative and formative assessment – offering everything from interactive online self-test materials that give the student instant feedback, to sophisticated teaching support tools that enable students to easily submit their assignments through Blackboard.

An announcement tool enables staff to communicate with students in a targeted and timely manner, while information such as course materials can be either viewed online or downloaded, depending on the individual student's preference.





University takes key role in

The University has been awarded a key role in running the UK's National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL), which will be at the centre of work to underpin the renaissance in the civil nuclear sector.

A consortium of Serco, Battelle and the University formally took over management of the NNL in April, on behalf of the Department for Energy and Climate Change, following a competitive process to appoint a new managing contractor.

The new management team includes Paul Howarth, Executive Director of the Dalton Nuclear Institute, who is acting as Director of Science, Technology and Project Delivery for the NNL. The team aims to place the lab at the centre of research and development in the nuclear sector, as part of the drive towards a low-carbon economy.

President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert, said: "The University has a long tradition of being at the forefront of nuclear research, and we are delighted to be part of the consortium. Working with our consortium partners, we are committed to ensuring the NNL becomes a world-renowned centre of nuclear science and technology."

Originally launched in July 2008 by John Hutton, then Secretary of State for Business, the NNL provides customers such as the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and British Energy plc with tailored solutions to issues such as nuclear waste management and new build by applying appropriate technical innovation and intellectual support.

Families living in east Manchester now have access to free legal advice from University students.

The School of Law opened a new legal advice clinic in Openshaw this year, in conjunction with New East Manchester and the charities LawWorks North and Manchester Settlement, which was founded by the University in 1895.

Based at Manchester Settlement on Ashton Old Road, the pro bono clinic is staffed by students working under the supervision of legal practitioners. The centre is co-ordinated by an administrator, funded by New East Manchester and employed by the Manchester Settlement.

The new clinic complements the University's existing Legal Advice Centre, which has been offering free legal advice to the public from its base in the University Precinct Centre since November 2000.

Director of the Legal Advice Centre, Dinah Crystal, was involved in setting up the new centre. She said: "We're delighted with this new venture, which allows our staff and students another opportunity to participate in clinical education and to put something back into the local community."

Manchester scientists have turned back the clock 500 years to reveal the original splendour of a faded 16th century tapestry.

Professor Chris Carr, Dr Huw Owens and Ruth Perkins, from the University's School of Materials, spent three years scrutinising every thread of 'The Oath and Departure of Eliezer', which was commissioned by King Henry VIII and now hangs at Hampton Court Palace.

This year they completed a groundbreaking 'virtual restoration' of the work, which uses tiny beams of specially calibrated light to show the fine wool and silk threads in their original colours.

"For the first time in centuries, people can see what the tapestries would have originally looked like," said Professor Carr.

"Because they were made using natural dyes, these tapestries tend to fade in sunlight relatively quickly – but many colours would originally have been bright and vibrant. They also had gold and silver threads, which would have had a massive visual impact, but which tarnished and corroded with time."

The 'virtual restoration' is the result of years of painstaking work at the University, which began with recreating the original 16th century dyeing methods and artificially ageing dyed fabrics to determine how individual dyes were affected by light over time.

PhD student Ruth Perkins spent three months at Hampton Court Palace carefully measuring the colour of yarns on the back of the tapestry, where the thick fabric and lining had slowed the fading process. This data – linked with the research on the dyes – was used to determine the original colours of the tapestry.

Project lecturer Dr Huw Owens then worked out how tiny, specially calibrated beams of light could be used to shine onto two million separate sections of the tapestry to temporarily 'restore' each of the yarns to their original colour.

The 'virtual restoration' formed part of the Palace's plans to mark the 500th anniversary of the King's accession to the throne.

For the first time ever, John Rylands University Library gave students the opportunity to study within the Main Library walls at any time of the day or night in two trial periods during this year's examinations.

The first trial of 24/7 opening hours began immediately after the 2008 Christmas break in semester one and lasted several weeks. It proved to be immediately popular; within a week, staff had to extend the opening from just two floors to all four floors of the modern extension.

The second trial, lasting seven weeks in semester two, was even more popular, with occupancy peaks of 545 students at midnight, 413 at 2am and 216 at 5am.

Katy Woolfenden, head of customer services at the JRUL, said: "These trials took place in response to student feedback that they wanted to access the library for extended periods, especially during exam periods.

"The feedback has been so positive that we have undertaken to continue opening on the same basis for 2010, and will explore the potential for extending the opening into the spring term."

The University has confirmed its place as one of the UK's top-rated research institutions, bringing to an end the dominance of the so-called 'Golden Triangle' of major universities in Oxford, Cambridge and London.

The results of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), published in December 2008, reveal that the University has one of the most outstanding records for research in the country, confirming that the University is firmly on course to meet its ambition of becoming one of the top 25 research-led universities in the world by 2015.

The University ranks third in the country in terms of "research power", with more staff conducting research judged to be world-leading or internationally excellent – graded 4* or 3* – than at any other university, excluding Oxford and Cambridge.

In a wide range of areas – including cancer studies, dentistry, sociology and nursing and midwifery – research in Manchester ranks as the best in the country. The RAE also highlights significant levels of world-leading research areas, such as the biological sciences, engineering, development studies and music and drama.

The University submitted research in 53 'Units of Assessment', more than any other UK university. It is now one of only a handful of UK universities with an internationally significant research profile over a very wide range of subjects.

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert said: "The very best international teaching and learning universities are great research institutions, so the excellence in research demonstrated in the RAE is good news for our students."

Since the merger, the University has achieved a net growth of close to 1,000 new researchers and invested more than £403 million in new and refurbished facilities. The RAE results will have a future impact on the levels of funding awarded by the funding councils.

A table based on 'Research Power', which is a measure of quality and volume combined, puts Manchester in third position.

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Oxford
2	University of Cambridge
3	**The University of Manchester**
4	University College London
5	University of Edinburgh
6	Imperial College London

A ranking which looks at the volume of research activity judged to be 'World-Leading' (4*) and 'Internationally Excellent' (3*) shows Manchester in third position, behind Oxford and Cambridge.

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Oxford
2	University of Cambridge
3	**The University of Manchester**
4	University College London
5	University of Edinburgh
6	Imperial College London

A table of the major research universities according to quality alone places Manchester in sixth place.

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Cambridge
2	University of Oxford
3	London School of Economics
4	Imperial College London
5	University College London
6	**The University of Manchester**


The University

University researchers have produced a groundbreaking new material, graphane, which has been derived from graphene.

Graphene, discovered at the School of Physics and Astronomy in 2004, is a one-atom-thick crystal with unusual highly conductive properties, which has been tipped to revolutionise the world of microelectronics.

But new research published by pioneering physicist Professor Andre Geim FRS and Dr Kostya Novoselov, who led the group that first discovered graphene, suggests its uses could be even greater than first thought.

The scientists used hydrogen atoms to modify graphene into a new two-dimensional crystal – graphane. Instead of being highly conductive, like graphene, graphane has insulating properties.

These findings demonstrate that graphene will react with other substances to form new compounds with different properties – meaning further graphene-based chemical derivatives may be discovered.

Graphene's capacity to be modified into new materials, fine tuning its electronic properties, has opened up increasingly rich possibilities in the development of future electronic devices from this versatile material. It not only promises to revolutionise semiconductor, sensor, and display technology, but could also lead to breakthroughs in fundamental quantum physics research.

Professor Geim recently received the highly prestigious 2009 Körber European Science Award in recognition of his graphene discovery. The Award supports European scientists who are pursuing particularly innovative research projects.

The €750,000 prize was presented to Professor Geim by the Körber Foundation at a plush ceremony at Hamburg's city hall in April.

Professor Geim said: "The modern semiconductor industry makes use of the whole period table: from insulators to semiconductors to metals. But what if a single material is modified so that it covers the entire spectrum needed for electronic applications?"

The 'pay penalty' endured by Britain's working mums is one of the biggest in Western Europe, according to a recent report by sociologist Dr Vanessa Gash.

Dr Gash, who works at the University's Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research, says inadequate state support is a root cause of Britain's gap in pay between mothers and women who are childless – the highest among six countries studied.

The countries examined were Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands and the UK. Out of the 38,600 women in the sample, British working mums were half as likely to work in high-earning professional occupations and eight times more likely to work part-time than women who are childless.

"The tendency for mothers to earn less than non-mothers is generally significant in all the countries, but most pronounced in the UK," said Dr Gash.

"This penalty is strongly linked to low levels of support for working mothers in the UK: Britain offers the shortest parental leave entitlement of all six countries and little access to affordable childcare.

"UK mothers in full-time employment also clearly earn higher pay penalties per hour when compared with non-mothers in similar posts."

She added: "Not only does the UK have the shortest leave arrangements, the leave is unpaid, so mothers in wealthy households are most likely to make use of these policies. This is because public childcare services in the UK are underdeveloped and often prohibitively expensive when purchased in the private sector.

"Mothers, therefore, are most likely to negotiate working motherhood by obtaining often poorly paid part-time work, which allows them to both earn and care for their children."

Cold sore virus linked

University researchers have revealed that the virus behind cold sores is a major cause of the insoluble protein plaques found in the brains of Alzheimer's disease sufferers – raising hopes for the future development of treatment, or even a vaccine.

Characterised by progressive memory loss and severe cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease (AD) affects over 20 million people worldwide; however, the underlying causes are unknown and current treatments are ineffectual.

Now, following investigations into the role of herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV1) in AD, Professor Ruth Itzhaki and her team at the Faculty of Life Sciences believe that the herpes simplex virus is a significant factor in developing the debilitating disease.

Evidence of a viral role in AD would indicate the use of antiviral agents to stop progression of the disease – such as acyclovir, which is already used to treat cold sores and other diseases caused by the herpes virus.

Another future possibility is vaccination against the virus, to prevent development of the disease altogether.

Another Life Sciences team recently received £30,000 from the Alzheimer's Research Trust to fund research into the causes of AD. Dr Cathy Tournier's team aims to discover what happens to brain cells during the disease in order to pave the way for new treatments.

Dr Tournier said: "We will study how nerve cells in the brain die during Alzheimer's. We think that the cells experience a specific type of stress that can damage them.

"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."

Manchester scientists have discovered that gorillas are a source of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1), after diagnosing a woman with a strain that is different to those previously found to cause HIV-1 infections.

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.

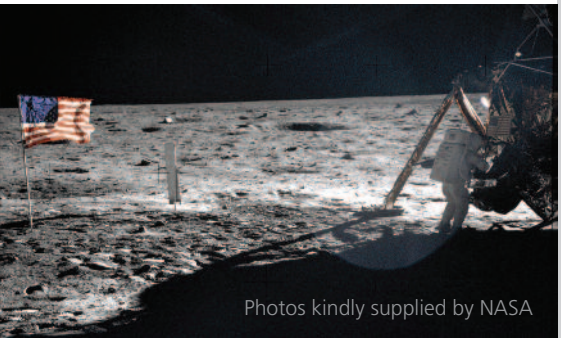
David Robertson and Jonathan Dickerson of the University's Faculty of Life Sciences worked with a French team to find the first human infection of HIV that is clearly linked to gorillas and not chimpanzees.

The unusual HIV-1 infection was found in a 62-year-old Cameroonian woman living in Paris. It is thought to represent a new human lineage that is distinct from those previously identified.

Dr Robertson 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."

HIV/AIDS was recognised by the scientific community in the 1980s. Its first introduction into the human population is estimated to have been near the beginning of the 20th century, in the region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Photos kindly supplied by NASA

Apollo 11 astronaut pays tribute to Jodrell Bank

One of the first men to walk on the Moon paid tribute to the University's Jodrell Bank Observatory at a special 'Moonbounce' event, held at the Observatory in July to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landings.

Legendary astronaut Buzz Aldrin recorded a message thanking Jodrell Bank radio astronomers for paving the way for "a small step for some of us and unknown progress for all the rest of us". This final line of his message was bounced off the Moon in front of 200 members of the public who attended the sell-out event.

The 'moonbounce' was created by turning the message into radio signals, which were transmitted towards the Moon using Jodrell's 32-metre telescope at Cambridge and reflected off its surface. After travelling through space at the speed of light, the returning echoes were caught a few seconds later using Jodrell's giant Lovell telescope and relayed back to the audience.

Professor Stephen Hawking, theoretical physicist and author of the best-selling book *A Brief History of Time*, also recorded a special 'moonbounce' message, saying: "The Moon landings were a giant step for mankind's spread into space."

Sir Bernard Lovell, Founder and first Director of Jodrell Bank, spoke about Jodrell's role in the space programme, while Bob Pritchard, who was responsible for carrying out much of the space tracking work at Jodrell during the 1960s, told the story of what happened on that amazing night of July 20th/21st 1969.

Five winners of a special Moonbounce competition run by Jodrell Bank and the Government's 'Science: So what? So everything' campaign, in collaboration with the Metro newspaper, also got to bounce their voices off the Moon, speaking words that they would have used in place of Neil Armstrong's when he first walked on the Moon.

Lottery go-ahead for Whitworth Art Gallery

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has given the green light to the University's Whitworth Art Gallery to work up plans to open its collections up to more local people and re-connect the Gallery to Whitworth Park. Development funding of £152,000 was awarded to help progress their plans.

The HLF first-round pass means that the Gallery can now progress to the second stage of the application process. It has up to two years to submit more detailed plans and apply for the £6 million of HLF support that it is seeking for a £12 million project.

The Gallery plans to create a second, park-facing entrance that will house a Centre for Landscape Study, a fully accessible study room, a new shop and an informal café, created using sustainable building materials and cutting-edge 'green' technologies. The entrance will open out onto a new artist-designed outdoor environment for relaxation and play.

The aim is to offer better facilities for schools and informal learners in a new workshop space; to improve access for disabled visitors and enable bigger, more ambitious exhibitions in additional exhibition space.

Children in one of the poorest countries in the world now have access to thousands of textbooks, thanks to the efforts of a group of students from the University.

Six final-year students collected more than 27,000 disused textbooks from secondary schools across Greater Manchester. As well as persuading the schools to part with the books, the students found storage for them, catalogued them and boxed them ready for distribution, while juggling the demands of their courses.

They also raised the £7,500 needed to ship the books out to schools in the Kagera region of Tanzania.

The books, worth an estimated £300,000, have now been delivered to 20 schools, where the syllabus is broadly the same as in the UK.

Grace Boyle organised The Manchester Book Project, alongside fellow students Ben Jeffery, Natasha Galilee, Joshua Gallimore, Amy Guest and Mariana Pavlovic.

"The whole project was absolutely fantastic," said Grace. "Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world. Quite aside from the waste of burying these textbooks in a landfill, it makes far more economical sense to ship them over to Tanzania."

The team spent three weeks in Tanzania overseeing distribution of the books to schools, meeting with government officials, collaborating with local and national media, organising community events and dealing with the logistics of distribution over 1,000 kilometres.

The Manchester Book Project was one of 11 similar projects run across the country by READ International.

Grace – who has just completed an MSc in Chemistry – is now working with READ as part of their central fund-raising committee.

Award-winning Museum touches on a

The success of a volunteering project at the University's Manchester Museum has been recognised in two national award schemes this year.

The 'In Touch' project won the National Opening Doors to Adult Learners Award as part of National Adult Learners Week, as well as the regional groups category of the Nationwide Community and Heritage Awards.

As part of In Touch, the Manchester Museum and the Imperial War Museum North recruit a number of volunteers who are at risk of social and economic exclusion; who may, for example, have been unemployed for a long time, have outdated or low-level skills, or be at risk of offending.

The volunteers receive training and skills development via a 10-week cultural heritage course, which includes basic literacy skills. On completion, they can help out in the Museum's galleries, getting involved with all aspects, from caring for collections and supporting educational visits, to running object-handling sessions for gallery visitors.

Many project participants have gone on to secure employment in the cultural sector, to pursue further learning, or to take on further volunteering projects.

In Touch volunteer Gary Jaye won the 'Regional Individual Award' as part of National Adult Learners Week. He said: "Learning in the Museum is fantastic – it really doesn't matter what age you are, or what your background is. These awards recognise the hard work that everyone puts in."

Property developer and Manchester alumnus Tom Bloxham MBE was installed as Chancellor of the University in January, at a ceremony in the Whitworth Hall attended by hundreds of staff, alumni and community representatives.

Tom is the first Chancellor to have been installed at the University since its inauguration in 2004. The role was previously jointly held by Co-Chancellors Anna Ford and Sir Terry Leahy, who had been Chancellors at the Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST respectively.

Tom, who was recently appointed as a Tate Trustee and who also serves on the board of the Arts Council England and chairs the Manchester International Festival, spoke at the Ceremony about his hopes of representing the University on a local and national level.

He said he wanted to "let the world know that Britain has more than two world class universities – and one of them was not in the South East".

Introducing Tom at the ceremony, Deputy President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell said: "Tom brings to the role of Chancellor an immense pride in the city of Manchester and surrounding regions and in the role the University plays in the city's social and economic development, leaving a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

"I have no doubt that Tom Bloxham in his role as Chancellor will be a hugely valued friend and ambassador for the University as it seeks to realise its ambition to become one of the top 25 universities in the world by 2015."

L-R: Edward Gregson, Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Sir Bernard Lovell and Eddie Davies]

Some of the world's leading minds from the world of science, music and business have been honoured by the University.

At the ceremony held to mark the installation of new Chancellor Tom Bloxham, the University also awarded honorary degrees to Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Eddie Davies, Edward Gregson and Sir Bernard Lovell.

Director of the World Wide Web Consortium, Professor Berners-Lee is credited with having invented the World Wide Web in 1989. Both of his parents worked on the Manchester Mark 1 – the offspring of the famous Baby computer, first demonstrated at the University in 1948.

Also honoured was composer Edward Gregson, who was principal of the Royal Northern College of Music for 12 years, until retiring in the summer.

They were joined by philanthropist Eddie Davies OBE, who is involved in several businesses throughout the world, has been chairman of leading manufacturing company Strix and is the owner of Bolton Wanderers Football Club.

Pioneering radio astronomer Professor Sir Bernard Lovell commanded a lengthy standing ovation after accepting his award. Now aged 95, Sir Bernard has been spearheading research at Jodrell Bank since he first went out to the site in 1945.

Under Sir Bernard's leadership, scientists at Jodrell Bank have used his groundbreaking 250ft Lovell Telescope – named after him – to make a number of fundamental discoveries, including the structure of the Galaxy and the discovery of quasars in the field of pulsar research.

Sammy Gitau, who came to Manchester after rescuing a university prospectus in a pile of rotting garbage on the outskirts of Nairobi, has been continuing his work with the young people of Mathare, Kenya.

Sammy first hit the headlines two years ago, after rising from his roots in a Kenyan slum to realise his dream of graduating with a masters degree from the Institute of Development Policy Management.

Fifteen months later, he was back in the notorious slum where he became his family's breadwinner at age 13, when his father was killed in a hammer attack. After he was beaten by angry mobs for thieving, Sammy became a drug dealer in 1997, hitting rock bottom when he overdosed on drugs soon after, ending up as a 'street boy'.

Sammy has now put his postgraduate learning to good use at his community resource centre, which operates out of four painted containers on the edge of the slum. Each container offers something different: a library of books rescued from a waste paper tip, a rudimentary recording studio and a sewing machine used to train young people.

The centre organises a range of activities, including judo, football, fashion shows and traditional dancing. Sammy's work is paying off: musicians and actors, who might otherwise be caught up in the brutality that occurs every day in Mathare, are fast becoming celebrities of the slum. His latest project – thought up during his studies – is Mathare community radio, which he hopes will have the greatest impact on the locality.

Sammy claims he will never forget Manchester and what it helped him achieve. "Manchester is like the waters in a well," he said. "You get to drink the water because you're thirsty, but my thirst grows daily.

"The people from The University of Manchester showed me so much love. I would like one day to return."

Staff make the

Five University professional staff members took centre stage at Stockport College when they graduated from a series of management courses earlier this year.

The staff members attended regular weekly classes at the University that addressed topics such as leadership, managing change, professional development and communication.

They were ultimately rewarded for their hard work with BTEC Professional Certificate in Management Studies and BTEC Advanced Professional Certificate in Management Studies.

Staff Development Adviser, Denise Fieldhouse, said: "The aim of the qualifications is to help managers and aspiring managers to develop the skills they need.

"These are demanding courses, which staff have to balance with the challenges of their jobs and other commitments. We are proud that so many staff have taken the opportunity to continue with their development."

Tyrrell, Roz and Caroline completed the BTEC Professional Certificate in Management Studies. Catherine and Alison completed the BTEC Advanced Professional Certificate in Management Studies.

Pictured are Tyrrell Basson, Roz Dutton, Catherine Barrow, Caroline Connolly and Alison Howard.

The University of Manchester won University Challenge 2009, following a fantastic run through the competition and a controversial final against Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

The Manchester team progressed through the series with a high degree of success, beating Bristol University by 285 to 70 in round one, York University by 280 to 80 in round two, London School of Economics in the quarter-final by 210 to 165 and Lincoln College, Oxford, by 345 to 30 in the semi-final.

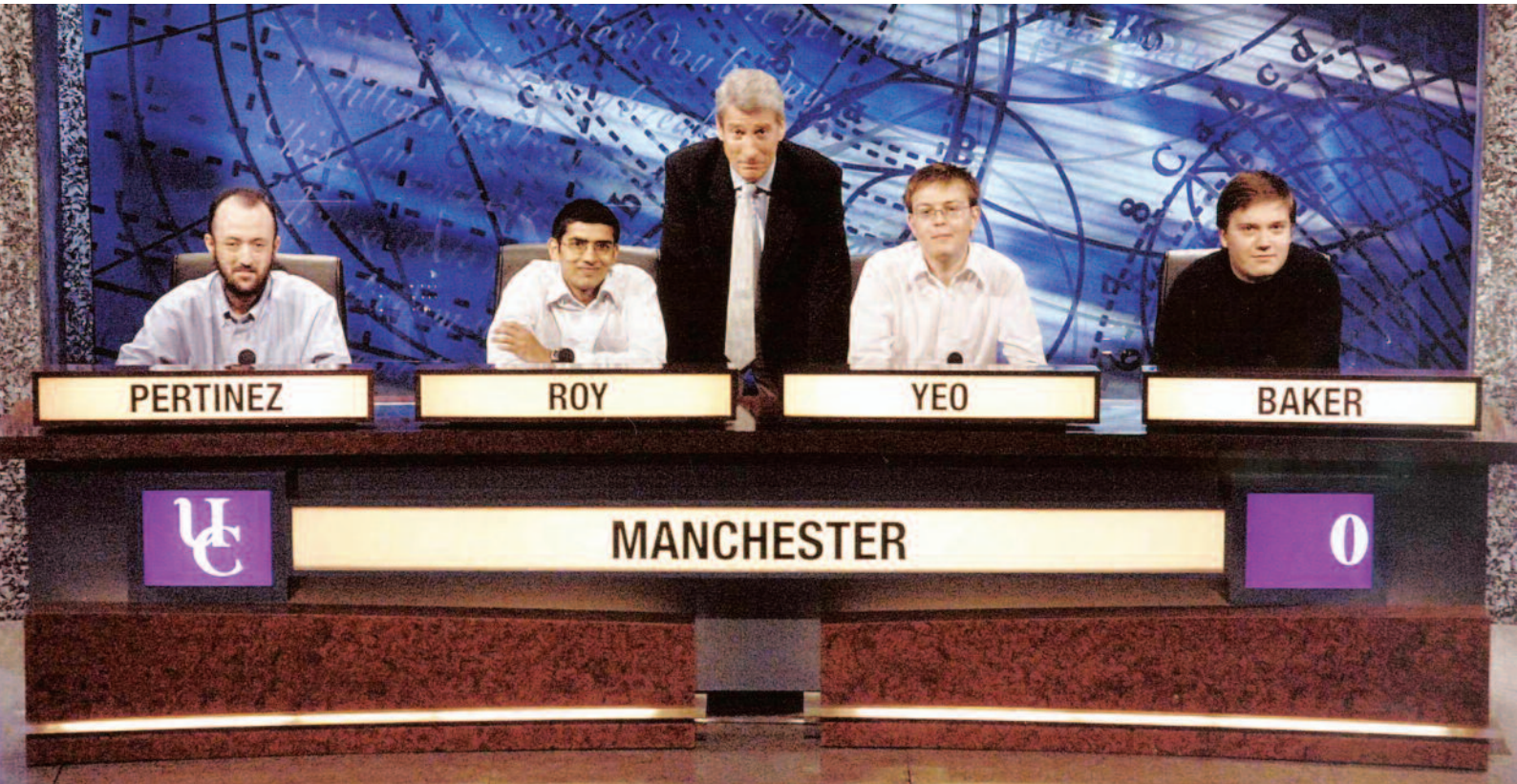
Corpus Christi College, Oxford, scored 275 to Manchester's 190 in the final, but were later stripped of their title following an investigation into the eligibility of one of their competitors.

In a joint statement issued on 2 March, the BBC and producers Granada concluded that the original winners had unintentionally broken the rule that contestants must be registered at their university or college for the duration of the recording of the series. This meant that The University of Manchester was ultimately awarded the title.

Manchester's team consisted of captain Matthew Yeo (PhD in the History of the Book), Simon Baker (Politics and Modern History), Henry Pertinez (PhD in Pharmacokinetics) and Reuben Roy (Medicine).

Matthew said: "While we accept the decision of the University Challenge judges, we are saddened to have been awarded the trophy under such circumstances.

"As far as Simon, Henry, Reuben and I are concerned, the final was a great experience and we believe Corpus Christi College were outstanding opponents."



Manchester graduate Karen Buckle not only secured a First Class Honours degree this year, despite being autistic, and a mother of three – she also achieved the highest mark on her course, and won one of only five Wellcome Trust Studentship Bursaries to study a masters degree in Health Care Ethics and Law.

The 34-year-old even found the time to start up and chair Autscape, a European self-help organisation that runs an annual conference for autistic people in the UK – for which she won second place in the University's Student Volunteer of the Year awards.

Karen, who has high functioning autism known to some as Asperger's syndrome, had a long journey to graduation. Canadian-born, she was believed to be severely autistic and mentally retarded. Unable to speak properly until six years old, she was re-'diagnosed' as gifted at eight.

She was bullied throughout her school career until she won a private school scholarship at 16. But, without a diagnosis and support for her Asperger's, and with family problems, she failed to apply for university and fell apart upon leaving the routine and security of school.

Several tough years followed, in which she was hospitalised with depression, fell pregnant with her first daughter, Kendra, then fought to get her back when they took her into care.

At 23, she was finally diagnosed correctly with high-functioning autism. She also met her husband online, moved to Britain to be with him and had two more daughters, Antonia and Erin. When Antonia was a baby, she passed a university access course and applied to Manchester.

Karen chose her course because she wanted to know more about her condition and was interested in psychology generally.

"I have spent my whole life trying to figure out people – I hoped that studying psychology would help," she explained.

It was a good choice – Karen learned how the brain works and, while helping with a research project, got her brain scanned to "show off" to her tutorial group.

Still, Karen had much to overcome due to her Asperger's. Her sensitive senses made it hard to concentrate in lectures amid buzzing speakers, microphone feedback and flickering fluorescent lights – likewise in noisy labs, where students worked in groups.

"There is a fine line between first class degree and complete failure for me, and a number of times I have teetered on the edge," she said. "Only the support of significant people in my life, including my autistic friends, my Disability Support Officer Bryan Coleman, National Autistic Society advocate Norman Darwen and personal tutor Liz Sheffield at the University, kept me from failing completely.

"I have found my home in academia," Karen concluded. "So much of my life has been focussed on what I can't do, and now I am in a place where I am good at something. I feel proud and terrified and amazed. I made it."

Students

Of the 37,021 students registered at the University, 27,194 are undergraduates and 9,827 are postgraduates.

	Home/EU	Overseas	Total
Undergraduate	23,949	3,245	27,194
Postgraduate taught	3,768	2,539	6,307
Postgraduate research	2,295	1,225	3,520
Total	**30,012**	**7,009**	**37,021**

Staff

The University is one of the largest employers in Greater Manchester, with more than 5,800 academic and research staff.

Breakdown of staff	
Academic	3,972
Research	1,857
Administrative/management	1,103
Clerical/secretarial	1,718
Academic support	1,431
Manual/craft	1,121
Other	289
Total	**11,491**

Headcount figures at 31 July 2009

Income

The University has an annual income of £755 million

Funding council grants	207
Tuition fees and educational contracts	206
Research grants and contracts	191
Other operating income	130
Endowments and investments	21
Total	**755**

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

Chancellor	Tom Bloxham
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	341 buildings 418 acres
Undergraduate applications per annum	53,900
Alumni	230,000 in 200 countries

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