

World First As New Scanner Arrives



NewsDigest

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Front cover photo by CP Media

A summary of the key news in this issue of UniLife:



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The University has taken delivery of a new scanner at Hope Hospital, Salford, the first of its kind in the world to be installed, which will be used to by researchers working across a range of illnesses and conditions.



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Both universities have held a number of workshops with local schools as part of the annual international Brain Awareness Week which aims to advance public awareness about the benefits of brain research.



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The Manchester Museum has launched an artist-in-residence project called 'Alchemy' which will see four North West artists with university links use the museum's collections to create dynamic, contemporary art around the building.



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University researchers have revealed a link between smoking and blindness. Evidence shows that quitting smoking slows the development of the most common cause of adult blindness. Their findings were published in the British Medical Journal.



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Botany graduate Doris Duncan is 105 this month and recalls some of her memories of her time at the Victoria University of Manchester where she studied from 1917-20, including a lecture from Ernest Rutherford.

News

World first as scanner arrives

A state-of-the-art scanner which will provide world-class imaging facilities for researchers and clinicians was delivered to Hope Hospital, last week

The Magnetic Resonance (MR) scanner, the first of its kind in the world to be installed, has been purchased by the Victoria University of Manchester (VUM) and will allow it to maintain and enhance its international profile by expanding the frontiers of high field magnetic resonance imaging.

A crucial component of the scanner is a magnet which measures 1.57m by 1.88m and weighs in at around 5.5 tonnes. It is capable of achieving higher quality images and quicker scanning times.

The University has made a multi-million pound investment in human MRI facilities culminating in this, the arrival of the 3T (Tesla) Intera-Achieva magnetic resonance (MR) scanner from Philips Medical Systems, which will be based on the Hope Hospital site and will be in operation in the summer.

Building upon its continuing success, high profile in MR imaging and strong partnership with Philips Medical Systems, the University was "cherry picked" to become a development site for this new generation of MR scanners. The reputation of Hope Hospital, a teaching hospital of the University, as a centre of excellence for neurological, musculoskeletal, and oncology provides an excellent location in which to site the scanner.

Professor of Imaging Science, Steve Williams, has been heavily involved in the selection and purchase of the scanner which has come from Holland will allow research across a number of fields to take a major step forward.

"My main interests in using the scanner are to study areas of the brain which undertake certain tasks and also imaging recovery from brain damage following a stroke."

Professor Williams and his colleagues are also investigating people with anti-social personality disorder and how they process information differently.

The new 3T scanner will become integrated into the existing fleet of MR research scanners at the University joining a dedicated research 1.5 Tesla Philips Intera scanner based at the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility on the University campus and a 1.5 Tesla, Philips MR scanner (used for research two afternoons a week) also based on the Hope Hospital site.

The human MRI research programme is overseen by the University's Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy (MDNP) through the newly-created Translational Imaging Unit (TIU) as reported in the last issue of UniLife. It provides a 'one stop shop' for those carrying out research in imaging. This new facility will be available to researchers at VUM, UMIST and in the associated teaching hospitals.

Professor Colin Sibley, Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of MDNP and Chair of the TIU, said: "The new scanner will be invaluable for research leading to new advances in diagnosing and treating stroke, mental illness, cancer and a range of other diseases. It will ensure that the University remains at the forefront of such research worldwide."



Professor Steve Williams at the delivery of the scanner to Hope Hospital



News



'Brain Awareness Week' is organised by the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives to advance public awareness about the benefits of brain research, both Universities ran several workshops culminating in 'Brain Discovery Day', at the Manchester Museum's Discovery Centre on 20 March. Here children got involved in activities with 15 researchers from VUM and UMIST to discover more about the brain, how it works and current research here in Manchester.

Brain Awareness Week

Both universities took part in the annual 'Brain Awareness Week' last week - an international event - with a series of school workshops.

Dr Ellen Poliakoff, a Lecturer in Psychology at the Victoria University of Manchester, commented: "We don't normally think about how useful it is to have a brain! It was a great chance for us, the researchers, to leave our laboratories and computers and to pass on our enthusiasm for the subject."

During the week, six postgraduates from the VUM's Division of Neuroscience showed 90 schoolchildren just how clever our brains are in sensing our environment but also how our senses can sometimes be tricked. 'You know it makes sense!'

used a dramatic re-telling of the Little Red Riding Hood story and hands-on demonstrations to give 8-11 year olds a better understanding of the senses and how they work.

The workshops, sponsored by Astra Zeneca, are part of the Neuroscience Science Communication programme within the School of Biological Sciences led by Professor Nancy Rothwell, and co-ordinated by University science communicators, Dr Erinma Ochu and Dr Michelle Lockwood, who trained the postgraduates.



http://www2.umist.ac.uk/optometry/neuroscience/Brain_Awareness.htm



Vice-Chancellor (VUM) Professor Sir Martin Harris (second left) and Jane Ratchford, Careers Service (centre), with guests

Rolls Royce, Citigroup, BP, Accenture, Morgan Stanley, and Eversheds were among more than 60 blue-chip companies who recently came to Manchester for an inaugural conference designed to promote partnerships between business and the new merged University.

Corporates Target Manchester

Organised by the joint Careers Service,, "Target Manchester," was aimed at companies who most actively engage with, and who have a special relationship with both universities.

Morning workshops provided an opportunity to inform delegates about Project Unity; to network with academic staff and discuss future collaboration. The topic of graduate recruitment, dominated afternoon discussions and while most were very happy with the current relationship with the Careers Service, several guests suggested

expanding activities with both pre-Higher Education students, as well as with alumni.

Jane Ratchford, Director of the Careers Service, said "The feedback from corporate clients was excellent. Target Manchester has provided a first class platform on which we can build future partnerships between the new merged university and major companies."

For further information contact Tammy Goldfeld at tammy.goldfeld@man.ac.uk or tammy.goldfeld@umist.ac.uk.



www.graduatecareersonline.com

Funding Announced

Next year's funding allocations for English universities have been announced with VUM and UMIST attracting a combined total of £146.8 million for teaching and research.

HEFCE will distribute £5,993 million in 2004-05, an increase of 9.3 per cent compared with 2003-04. Funding for teaching has increased by 5.6 per cent (just over 3 per cent in real terms), allowing provision for an additional 20,000 full-time equivalent student places for 2004-05, including 5,000 foundation degree places. Funding for research has increased by 3.9 per cent (in cash terms). In addition, there has been a 60 per cent increase in funding for capital, including support for research capital, to £584 million.

The breakdown is:

The Victoria University of Manchester

Teaching £65,952,484

Research £45,558,330

UMIST

Teaching £20,111,925

Research £15,050,424

plus an additional £134,054

Research money is allocated on the basis of the Research Assessment Exercise results and the number of staff engaged in research. Funding is weighted with laboratory and clinical subjects receiving more than social sciences and humanities. Universities also receive funds for supervising research students.

Teaching money comprises core funding and money for widening participation activity. Core funding reflects the number of students, WP funding reflects the educational attainment by ward for others, entry qualifications are also recognised.

www.hefce.ac.uk



Campus Walks

Staff at UMIST are being invited to get to know the Oxford Road campus by taking one of the Campus Walks. The walks were originally set up by the Directorate of Sports as part of a health and fitness initiative for staff at the Victoria University of Manchester.

Organised walks are held on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 12.15pm in the main quad. The walk takes about 16 minutes at a brisk pace and takes in the main points of the campus.

If you prefer you can go in your own time, an accompanying leaflet is available to guide you around the

campus and tell you about the buildings. For further information, or if you would like to volunteer as a 'guide', contact Gail Heathcote-Milner, Sports and Recreation Officer, on 275 5985, gail.heathcote-milner@man.ac.uk

The campus walk leaflet can be downloaded from the web address below.



<http://sport.man.ac.uk/healthandfitness/campuswalk1.pdf>



Kevin Malone

The project, entitled 'Alchemy', will give the artists involved the chance to use their specific talents to explore the collections and archives at the Museum, which is home to more than six million objects from around the globe.

The aim of the 'Alchemy' project is to 'rejuvenate the Museum with a fresh spirit of discovery, revealing the humour, creativity and personalities within The Manchester Museum.'

This is the first sustained research programme by artists at the Museum and during the project, visitors will be able to see and hear dynamic contemporary art emerging around the building.

The four artists involved in 'Alchemy' are:

Kevin Malone – a Senior Lecturer in the School of Music and Drama at the Victoria University of Manchester, whose compositions have been performed throughout the world.

Kevin has expressed an interest in re-classifying the specimens on show at the Museum, by the sound-potential inherent in their structures or cavities as well as the patterns on their surfaces. Kevin's interest in sound will make for an intriguing avenue of research at the Museum, an institution whose main form of engagement is visual.

Antony Hall graduated from the Manchester Metropolitan University with an MA in Art as Environment in 2002. Last year he won an Arts Council research and development grant for a self-directed research project at UMIST's Fluid Dynamics laboratory.

Fully immersed in lab life, Antony works alongside scientists to create a dialogue

Artists Take Up Residence at Museum

Four artists from the North West with university links have been selected to take part in an exciting new research project centred around The Manchester Museum.

between science and art; demonstrating the beauty and inspiration inherent in science.

The other artists are Louise Brookes, a part-time lecturer on the Visual Art BA at The University of Salford and Pavel Büchler a Research Professor at MIRIAD, (Manchester Institute for Research & Innovation in Art & Design at Manchester Metropolitan University).

In addition to the work by these four artists, two major installations are being developed by North American artists Mark Dion and Spring Hurlbut.

Commenting on the project, Tristram Besterman, Director of The Manchester Museum, said: "As a part of the Victoria University of Manchester, the Manchester Museum is well placed to forge strong

links with higher education and between universities and wider society. I look forward to working with Kevin Malone, Tony Hall, Louise Brookes and Pavel Büchler as they work their own brand of alchemy for our visitors at The Manchester Museum."

'Alchemy' is being managed by Project Co-ordinators Rebecca Duclos and Bryony Bond and New Media Co-ordinator David Ross. All three are working alongside the Museum's Exhibition and Design Manager Jeff Horsley.

'Alchemy' is funded by Arts Council England North West, and the two international residencies have financial support from the Arts and Humanities Research Board and the Arts Council of Ontario.



Antony Hall

Jodrell Creates Its Own Space

Jodrell Bank is to take part in 'Spaced Out' - an innovative project to create the world's largest scale model of the Solar System, organised by the North West Development Agency (NWD).

Models of the planets will be built in nineteen locations across the UK at scaled distances from Jodrell Bank Science Centre, to accurately reflect the planets' locations within the Solar System.

Jodrell Bank will be the 'centre' of the solar system, and will be host to the sun. The planets, Halley's Comet and some asteroids, nineteen objects in total, will be situated at various locations across the UK including primary and secondary schools and visitor attractions.

The educational project will be carried out over the next 12 months and aims to create stimulation and excitement in the world of astronomy amongst the UK's

youth. It also marks the start of National Science Week in the North West.

The launch event was hosted by Jodrell Bank Observatory's Ian Morison who introduced Dr Nigel Marshall, the director of the project, who outlined the plans for the model and for an associated website. Attendees of the launch event had the opportunity to view a mock-up model of one of the planetary sites.

Ian commented: "We are delighted and excited to be part of this project, and proud to be at the centre of the Solar System model. It is hoped that as several of the planets will be hosted across schools in the country, it will give children the opportunity to discover astronomy and science in general.

www.jb.man.ac.uk



Pupils from Lancaster Girls Grammar School at the 'Spaced Out' Launch

Looking Back

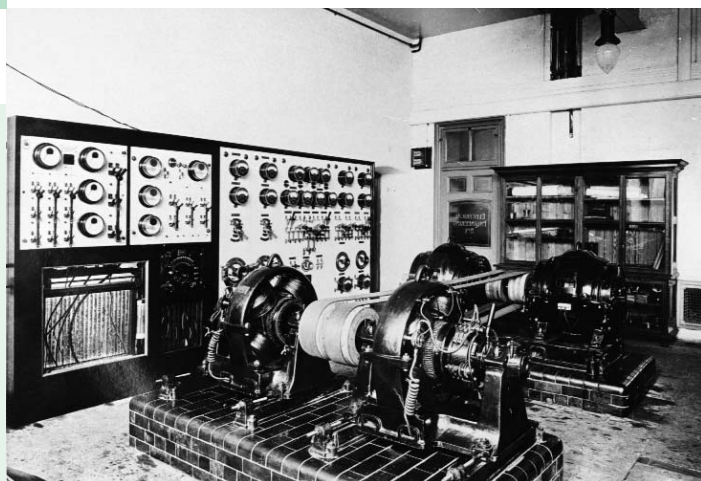
UMIST Electrical Engineering Lab 1920

UMIST was an emerging higher education force to be reckoned with when this picture was taken of Electrical Engineering Laboratory No 1 in 1920, when the University was known as the Manchester Municipal College of Technology. The lab may look somewhat old fashioned now, but back then it was state-of-the-art and a sign of impressive things to come.

One of the Electrical Engineering Department's graduates Sir John Cockcroft was to win the 1951 Nobel Prize

in Physics for pioneering work in transmuting atomic nuclei. Sir John was knighted in 1948 and also served as Chancellor of UMIST.

Today it is one of the largest departments of Electrical and Electronic Engineering in the country, boasting well-equipped laboratories. The Department offers some of the best teaching and research facilities to be found in any university with strong links to industry, including well-known electronics companies such as MITEL, Siemens, Phillips, FUJITSU, Pilkington and Brother.



Research



Smoking Linked to Blindness

Smokers are up to four times as likely to become blind in later life from age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the most common cause of adult blindness, than non-smokers. But many remain largely unaware of this risk, according to research from the Victoria University of Manchester and Bolton Hospital NHS Trust published recently in the *British Medical Journal*.

AMD results in severe irreversible loss of central vision. One in five cases may be attributable to smoking. This represents around 54,000 people over 69 years of whom nearly 18,000 are blind.

Evidence also shows that quitting smoking slows the development of AMD, whereas continued smoking can affect the long term response to treatments such as laser therapy.

The research team included Judith Thornton, honorary research fellow, Georgios Lyratzopoulos, lecturer in public

health and Richard Edwards, senior lecturer in public health in the Evidence for Population Health Unit, School of Epidemiology and Health Sciences.

A sustained public health campaign in the UK is warranted to raise awareness of the link between smoking and blindness, say the authors. This should include offering smoking cessation support to people attending eye clinics and more novel, varied, and specific pack warnings of the impact of smoking on eyesight.

"Smokers are three to four times as likely to develop AMD. This is yet another large public health problem caused by smoking. It is another reason for smokers to think about quitting," said Richard Edwards, who says that the evidence should be used in smoking education material.

"The fact that smokers realise they are at higher risk of going blind due to smoking could be a powerful stimulus for those attempting to stop."

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/328/7439/537>



Health on the Farm

Researchers at the Victoria University of Manchester are conducting a study of farmers to identify any factors which may have adversely affected their health.

the latest part of a study called SHAW (Study of Health in Agricultural Work), which has been designed to look at the long-term health effects of farm work.

Participants are being asked to co-operate by filling in a short confidential questionnaire which asks about their working history and their current and past health. From this the researchers may be able to identify certain factors that have adversely affected their health.

Lead Investigator Dr Andrew Povey, commented: "There has been widespread

concern about the extent of ill-health amongst farmers and whether certain farming activities might affect health in the long term. We feel the best way of looking at this is to try and contact those people who have been identified as farmers in the 1970s."

This study has been supported by the National Farmers' Union and the Farmers' Union of Wales. It is funded by the Department of Health and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health is sending out questionnaires to approximately 20,000 men and women throughout the UK who were farmers in the early 1970s. This is

www.cseh.man.ac.uk/research/shaw

Employers – Cash in on Equality

Promoting diversity in the workplace isn't just a "nice" thing to do. From Britain to Russia, from nursing to building, it makes economic sense. That is why Professor Lyn Davidson and Dr Sandra Fielden, of the Manchester School of Management, have founded the Centre for Diversity and Work Psychology.

Professor Davidson explained: "Customers out there are diverse and you should represent them, if you want to be successful. Plus, with a very diverse workforce, you utilise all the talents of your individuals to the full.

"Evaluations in the US have shown that organisations lose out if they don't do this. They have even found that organisations that adopt a policy of diversity in the workplace see an increase in profits and productivity."

The Centre's research has a lot to offer employers, covering a wide range of subjects and areas. It has worked with

the NHS, the North West Development Agency (NWDA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and boasts 24 worldwide academic associates.

Current research projects include Female Access to Small and Medium Business (SME) Finance, which looks at the barriers stopping would-be female entrepreneurs setting up their own businesses.

In Female Black Minority Ethnic Entrepreneurs in the North West, Dr Azura Omar investigates financial barriers faced by women from ethnic minorities in particular.

Career Development and Mentoring for Mental Health Nurses, funded by the NHS, involves six Trusts. Project Officer Helen Woolnough is looking at PhD data showing the career and personal development of nurses and matching them to mentors, then investigating the effect both on the nurses and their mentors.

Research Assistant Carrie Hunt is carrying out a literature review on the effectiveness of coaching. Other PhD and MSc students are studying a range of subjects such as stress, gender and age in the Russian workforce.

www.umist.ac.uk/departments/management

ExPERT Advice

The Department of Chemical Engineering at UMIST is inviting applications from candidates for 15 PhD positions beginning in September 2004 funded by the European Commission.

The scheme, known as ExPERT, aims to train pre-doctoral researchers to PhD level who will subsequently pursue research careers within Europe. Upon completion of their training packages, these Marie Curie Fellows will be capable of producing innovative and original research and be able to communicate scientific ideas effectively in both an academic and industrial setting.

Applicants are expected to hold an excellent first degree in one of: Chemical Engineering (including bioengineering); Biological Sciences; Chemistry; Physics; Mathematics; Materials Science; any related subject.

Applications must be submitted to expertadmissions@umist.ac.uk by 30 April 2004, interviews for candidates short-listed in the first round will be held in June 2004.

For more information log on to the website below:

www.ce.umist.ac.uk/ExPERT



Research

UMIST is sharing in one of the largest awards ever announced by the UK Research Councils' Basic Technology Initiative.

Basic Technology Project

A multi-million pound award is being made to a consortium of seven universities, working alongside the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology (Cambridge), Imperial Cancer Research (Royal Marsden Hospital) and the national Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory (CCLRC). The four-year £4.2 million programme will be led by Professor Nigel Allinson (Electrical and Electronic Engineering, UMIST).

The programme will exploit the continuing advances in microelectronic active pixel sensors to provide new imaging capabilities across a wide range of science – from scientific space missions and high-

energy accelerators probing the fundamental structure of matter, to seeing the internal details of individual cells and safer and more sensitive medical instruments. Using these new imaging sensors, it is estimated that their use in regular x-ray screening for breast cancers will save 2,000 lives per year across Europe.

Professor Allinson said: "Active Pixel Sensors are revolutionising the world of commercial cameras. If you buy a high quality digital camera, it will most likely have at its heart an active pixel sensor. The consortium, which contains the leading research groups in the UK, takes on the responsibility of developing and exploiting these sensors for

the whole of UK science. We will develop a sensor that can see not only in the visible part of the spectrum but in the x-ray, ultraviolet and infrared regions as well.

"The ever-reducing costs of modern electronics and the increasing power of these sensors means that in a few years it will be possible to walk into your GP's surgery and have a full analysis of your DNA profile and exactly what proteins and other molecules are, say, present in your blood."

UMIST will lead the project, working alongside academics from Liverpool, York, Leicester, Glasgow, Surrey and University College, London.



www.rcuk.ac.uk/basictech/

University Goes To The Movies

Researchers in the Department of Computer Science at the Victoria University of Manchester have been helping to produce Hollywood blockbusters, with the aid of new imaging software originally designed to construct environments of scenes of crimes.

Dr Simon Gibson (RA), who wrote the software, Jon Cook (RA), Toby Howard and Professor Roger Hubbard have worked on the project.

The three-year EPSRC - funded research project, looked at how to construct virtual environments of scenes of crime and was undertaken in collaboration with Greater Manchester Police. It has resulted in the development of ICARUS, a software suite that allows researchers to capture an image, say a room, and build a 3D computer model of it.

Using camera tracking, video images of the scene can be used to work out the three-dimensional locations of objects visible in the scene, and then to capture their geometry. Once a model has been

constructed, novel viewpoints can be generated, and measurements taken from the virtual objects.

The scene can also be manipulated by moving objects to new locations and even by adding new objects. Although developed for exploration of scenes of crime, the software has many other applications, in the film and broadcast industries, and for architectural planning.

Currently the University owns the intellectual property rights, but the software is licensed to The Pixel Farm, who have re-branded it (and added to it) as PTrack, and other products.

PTrack, has been used in the post production of the Oscar winning film

Cold Mountain, to replace backgrounds and seamlessly composite them into the film.

Roger Hubbard, Professor of Virtual Environments, commented: "The software was used for some sequences in the film *Cold Mountain*. Sales of licenses by The Pixel Farm are just starting to take off, and the University gets royalties on those.

The team is currently working on another project called ARIS, which captures the lighting in a room using a camera. When combined with the reconstruction of geometry, this opens up a broad range of other applications, such as allowing users of the software to explore how a room looks with different lighting and furniture.



<http://aig.cs.man.ac.uk>

Project Unity

Final General Assembly Election Results

Elections within the existing institutions for the relevant categories of membership of the new merged university's General Assembly have now been completed.

The responsibilities of the General Assembly will be:

- To present the University and its achievements to the wider community and to receive views from the community
- To receive from the Board [of Governors], and to discuss, comment and express an opinion on an annual report on the working of the University and the audited annual financial statements of the University
- To appoint the Pro-Chancellor of the University on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee
- To scrutinise and express an opinion on proposals from the Board for the amendment of the Charter and the Statutes
- To discuss and declare an opinion on any matter whatsoever relating to the University, on reference from the Board or otherwise, and to transmit such opinion to the Board, whose duty it shall be to consider the same
- To be a constituency in the election of the Chancellor

The following are declared elected effect from 1 October 2004 to 31 August in the year indicated:

In Category 11 [Members of the Senate, nominated and elected by the Senate] (20 places)

Professor Patrick D Bailey (2007)
Dr Michael C Birse (2006)
Professor Raymond F Bishop (2006)
Dr Wiebke G Brockhaus-Grand (2007)



Dr Peter J Eccles (2006)
Dr Judith A McGovern (2007)
Dr Gale R Owen-Crocker (2006)
Professor Richard A D Patrick (2007)
Dr Robert S Quayle (2007)
Professor Colin P Sibley (2006)
Professor David G Thompson (2006)
Professor Ann M Thomson (2007)
Dr Alan J Williams (2007)
Dr George M Wilmers (2006)

In Category 12 [Members of staff holding paid, superannuable appointments in the University, elected by the staff] (20 places)

-Academic and research staff (4 places)

Professor Alistair S Burns (2007)
Dr Malcolm D Gray (2008)
Professor Linda A Macaulay (2007)
Dr Angelia R Wilson (2006)

-Academic-related (excluding research) staff (6 places)

Dr Margaret T Barrow (2008)
Ms Sarah J Beer (2006)
Dr Jeffrey S Brider (2008)
Mr Stewart Grace (2006)
Dr Paul C Harness (2007)
Dr Adel G Nasser (2007)

Other staff (10 places)

Mr William T Allan (2007)
Mr Norman W Bradburn (2006)
Mr Anthony Crowther (2008)
Ms Debra J Dickson (2006)
Mrs Rosalind C Dutton (2007)
Mrs Eileen J Gallagher (2007)
Mrs Jean Johnson (2008)
Mr David M Jones (2008)
Mr Gavin Park (2007)
Mrs Lynda Rowlinson (2006)
Note: lot has determined the duration of initial appointment.

Profile

“

I just happened to be in the right place at the time

”

Munn's Momentum

Being known as "a good listener" is an invaluable attribute, but teaching other people how to be good listeners is even more so. Yet that is what Bob Munn does, practising what he preaches. To an extent, he owes the development of that natural aptitude to his wife, Tricia, because training people to lend an alert and sympathetic ear to other people's problems is part of her work with the Christian charity Acorn.



That special skill is clearly valuable at work – and Bob has had a lot of practice over the years. He is now in his third stint as Head of the Department of Chemistry at UMIST; he was Vice-Principal for Finance during the Millennium Campaign, which raised around £10 million; he was the first Dean of UMIST at a time of delicate restructuring; and he has sat on just about every committee there is "except parking and catering – the really important ones".

He has packed an awful lot in, academically (more than 230 scientific publications on optical and electrical properties of molecular materials) and administratively, often through difficult times.

Ironically, for a man who is now at the centre of Project Unity, he had a key role in establishing UMIST's independence in the mid-90s, when the new Charter enabled the Institute to manage its own affairs. In 1994, he was made the first

Dean of UMIST, charged with seeing that through. He's the sort of man you can trust with a major project of that kind – calm, reassuring, well-organised, unassuming, persuasive and, of course, a good listener.

"I just happened to be in the right place at the time," he would say. But, of course, it is more than that. Obviously, timing plays its part. Very soon after he arrived in 1971 as a Lecturer at UMIST, he was elected to the University Senate, which gave him an early insight into and taste for how things were run. And he does always seem to have been manning the barricades at critical times.

In the mid-70s, for instance, Chemistry recruitment plummeted. "We had to be much more proactive," he says. "We went out to give talks in schools – and we brought sixth-formers in for residential courses." Naturally, he did his bit, travelling the country, communicating his

enthusiasm for Chemistry everywhere, from comprehensives to public schools.

Then in the early 80s, a time of cutbacks and early retirements, he was not only awarded a promotional Chair in 1984, but made Head of Department, still in his thirties. Again, the job was to rebuild, reorganise and modernise the department, putting in new systems, such as devolved budgets. "It doesn't seem very sophisticated now, but it was radical then," he says. "I listened to so many competing pleas for money, that I decided to give each fund-holder responsibility for their own budget."

So, with all that experience, the best part of a decade effectively as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, he is extraordinarily well-equipped for his role as Vice-President for Teaching and Learning. He has a long record of looking to academic standards at all levels, from chairing UMIST's Educational Standards Committee to work



as an auditor for the Quality Assurance Agency. And ever since Project Unity was operational, he has been involved, helping to set the academic framework and structures and serving on the Interim Academic Advisory Committee.

It may all sound a bit bureaucratic, but Bob is a flesh-and-blood champion of the cause – and he is very much looking forward to helping to build the new merged University. And amidst all this activity, as Professor of Chemical Physics, he manages to sustain a steady stream of publications.

Born and bred in Somerset, he went to grammar school in Taunton, where he won all the prizes, then read Chemistry at Bristol, where he was joint top of the year – and met and married Tricia, then a Law student. He also had the distinction of appearing on University Challenge. So, his first visit to Manchester was courtesy of Granada TV: "We won one round, but only one."

Encouraged by Dr Hugh Barron, his mentor, his path turned to theoretical chemistry. He got his PhD in 1968 – and a Research Fellowship at Canada's National Research Centre took him and Tricia to Ottawa for two happy years. Indeed, they nearly stayed there – he was offered a job at Carleton University, but he applied for a job at UMIST, spending a few months in Edinburgh in between.

It's funny how things turn out. Happily, he and Tricia came – and settled in Bramhall. They have two now-adult children, Nicholas and Philippa. They are stalwarts of the Parish Church, where Bob exhibits other skills, as a chorister (tenor) and electric guitarist at services. He also sings in the UMIST choir and St Ann's Hospice Choir, which takes him into the splendour of the Bridgewater Hall.

So, clearly, there are times when he hopes other people will do the listening.

CV

Name :

Professor Bob Munn

Position:

Vice-President for Teaching and Learning, The University of Manchester

Education:

Bristol University: BSc Chemistry (1962-65)

PhD Theoretical Chemistry (1965-68)

The Victoria University of Manchester D Sc (1982)

Career History

National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa; Division of Pure Chemistry: Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1968-70

Edinburgh University, Department of Natural Philosophy: ICI Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1970-71

UMIST: Lecturer in Chemistry, 1971-80

Reader in Chemistry, 1980-84

Professor of Chemical Physics, 1984 to date

People



Professors Murray Pittock and Richard Hogg

No Ordinary Fellows

Three professors from the Victoria University of Manchester are among only a handful of academics outside Scotland to have been awarded 'Ordinary Fellowships' of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) this year.

Professors Murray Pittock and Richard Hogg from the Department of English and American Studies who are both from Scotland, were among only six academics out of 50 from outside Scotland to be made 'Ordinary Fellows'.

Murray Pittock is Professor of Scottish and Romantic Literature & Head of the Department of English and American Studies, at the Victoria University of Manchester. Richard Hogg is Smith Professor of English Language.

Professor Tom Mullins, from the Centre for Non-Linear dynamics in the Department of Physics, was also honoured.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) is Scotland's National Academy of Science & Letters. It provides a forum for informed debate on issues of national and international importance and provides independent, expert advice to key decision making bodies, including Government and Parliament.

Fellowships are awarded to academics of national and international standing, based on the quality of innovative contributions to their field, or professional standing and achievement in public service. Crucially, Ordinary Fellows must have a connection with Scotland.

 <http://www.ma.hw.ac.uk/RSE/>

Equality Chair



Dr Giga (right) with Dr Hoel

UMIST's Equality and Diversity Unit has elected a Chair, Dr Sabir Giga, a research fellow at Manchester School of Management (MSM), who will represent the unit at committee level in a bid to influence management and develop the equality agenda at senior level.

He says: "One of the things I would like to do is improve transparency in terms of Human Resources policy – people need to be assured that the systems in place are open and fair.

"Apart from existing legislation which states that we should be monitoring our equality and diversity policies, and ensuring representation for women, ethnic minorities and the disabled, the

new merged university needs to set examples for others to follow. We should therefore be proactive in promoting new legislation to cover equal opportunity on the grounds of sexual orientation, age and religious belief."

Dr Giga's latest research with Dr Helge Hoel for the British Occupational Health Research Foundation includes identifying interventions to deal with bullying and harassment in organisations, including NHS Trusts, Police Forces and the Civil Service. The pair have addressed the All Party Committee on Dignity at Work and meet regularly at the House of Lords with their Advisory Board in relation to their current research.

Students

Making Music

UMIST's Music Scholarship programme will continue in the new merged university after October 2004. The news has come as a major boost to the organisers of the scholarship scheme, designed to encourage musical scientists to continue playing their instruments to a high standard.



The scheme is the brainchild of Prof Tom Millar, the Head of UMIST's Astrophysics Group. He said: "The awards are now in their fourth year and it's proved to be a very rewarding experience for the students."

Students selected to benefit from a UMIST Music Scholarship receive an hour's specialist tuition every fortnight at the Royal Northern College of Music, as well as help and support from UMIST's Music Fellow Hazel Buckley.

Professor Millar said: "We are delighted that to hear that the scholarships will continue in the new merged university."

UMIST Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Garside said: "We've been very impressed with the talent that has come through this scheme and allowed the students to pursue their musical interests. And, yes, we will continue in the new university, where there will be a much broader range of opportunities for musicians, of course."

One of this year's Music Scholars is through to the final of the BBC's Young Musician of the Year competition. Tenor horn player Chris Pannell successfully qualified through the brass quarterfinals at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance in Glasgow. The final will be screened on BBC2 on May 1.

19-year-old Chris, a first year Civil and Structural Engineering student from Haverhill, says he is keen to fulfil his musical ambitions: "I would like to continue and play with one of the top orchestras in the country. The UMIST scholarship has been very useful especially in my preparations for the BBC competition."

But for another of the UMIST Music Scholars, this year has been much more traumatic. In fact, 20-year-old bassoon player Tim Ward, a first year neuroscience student is lucky to be alive after being involved in a serious road accident.

He hasn't been able to play the bassoon since, but UMIST were keen to award him

a scholarship and now Tim can see some light at the end of the tunnel. He said: "The healing is ongoing, I don't know how it's affected me yet but the doctors are very optimistic."

"The scholarship is a brilliant scheme – I studied at Chetham's School of Music for seven years and wanted to do a degree as insurance in case I couldn't fulfill my musical ambitions, and that's proved now to have been a good decision."

You'll get the chance to see all of the UMIST Scholars in action at the next concert of the UMIST Symphony Orchestra, on Wednesday 5th May at 7.30pm. The orchestra is also looking for new members, especially brass and strings – if you are interested, or want to know more about forthcoming events, please email hazel.buckley@ntlworld.com

The full list of 2004 UMIST Music Scholars is: Kelly Shen, Tim Ward, Richard Osbourne, Louise Hulme, Jer Shiow Ng, Chris Pannell, Sam Murray and Tom Race (pictured).

Advertisement



Renovo

Help!

We need your help....

Renovo is an exciting new company that is developing medicines that minimise scars and promote the healing of wounds.

We are running a photographic assessment at Renovo involving a group of volunteers coming in to grade photographs of minor surgical scars varying in their degree of severity.

We will give you all the training you need and pay you £25 for 2 hours of your time in addition to assisting with your travel expenses. Bonus payments are also available for coming in for multiple sessions.

This assessment is due to run between March and May 2004.

Volunteer today!

If you are interested please call 0161 603 7638 or visit www.renovo-assessors.com for more information

Graduate News

Doris Duncan, Botany (1920)

When Doris Duncan came to Manchester as a Botany undergraduate in 1917, the world was at war, George V was on the throne and Rutherford was carrying out his research at Manchester which led to the splitting of the atom. Next month, Doris is 105 but still recalls many fond memories of her time at Manchester.

Doris came from Kent, and although London might have been the obvious choice for study, she was discouraged from going there because her teacher thought it would be "too limiting".

She says: "Botany is a subject where there is an exactness and I liked that because I like to know my stuff and it had become a rather fashionable subject. I had an excellent teacher who encouraged me to come to university."

And so with the support and encouragement of her family and teachers, she arrived at Ashburne Hall. By this time, Botany was thriving at Manchester, Professor Frederick Weiss was Professor of Botany, a post he held for 38 years.

Weiss was key in expanding the Department's facilities and for setting up the Botanical Experimental Grounds in Fallowfield (see back page).

Doris is also one of few people who can say they had a lecture from Ernest Rutherford himself: "He was a tip top scientist and a very nice man, we were very lucky to have him, but as for the lecture, well I wouldn't like to say what it was on!" she says.

One of Miss Duncan's contemporaries was Kathleen M Drew (later Baker) one of the few women in the early days to get a First (in 1922). Her work on the edible seaweed "nori", a staple food, enabled the Japanese to develop artificial seeding techniques resulting in a ten-fold increase in its production.

For Doris, adjusting to academic life was a challenge: "It was quite intensive for me, the first term I thought I would not survive because the workload was very heavy. I wasn't used to all the exercises I had to do. Half way through second term I managed to revise and get used to things."

Life outside lectures focused on Halls and she became Senior Student at Ashburne. Each room had its own fire and she recalls that her father would bring her sticks for the fire when he visited. Other students' families would send different things such as fruit and they would share their goods between them.

Although there was a food shortage and rationing had been introduced in Britain, Doris says that little of this affected the students. "It didn't seem to touch us much if one may say so. In Halls you were a bit separate. We were well fed and the food was quite good – even in wartime!"

As a female undergraduate, Doris was not in a minority, she says: "It was a very good time for women and things were changing. I was lucky to be alive at that time and women were being given a certain amount of leisure."

W A Charlton and E G Cutter's publication, '135 years of Botany at Manchester' reflects her experiences:

"About two thirds of the (Botany) students were female, and, in the earlier years (up to about 1930), the excess of females over males was more marked."



Graduation Day 1920

"Looking back, it appears that Botany was a nice, socially acceptable subject for a young lady to study at University. There is the impression that quite a high proportion of the young ladies went into school teaching."

Like many of her peers, Doris spent a year in Manchester doing her teacher training before returning to Kent and spent 20 years in the profession, eventually becoming Deputy Headmistress at a school in Chertsey.

Doris never married and today lives with family in Devon and will soon celebrate 50 years of retirement.



What's On

Manchester Museum

EXHIBITIONS

Transformation

17 Jan - 18 April

Through the work of five specially commissioned artists, and including objects from the collections of The Manchester Museum and The British Museum, Transformation looks at the characters we adopt and the roles we play, how we adopt and how we see ourselves and how are seen by others, how we are changed by time, events and emotions.

FAMILY EVENTS

The Magic Carpet

Fridays 11.00-12.00pm

Literacy programme of storytelling and story making for under 5's and carers, based on the Museum's collections. Book large groups in advance. £1 per child.

Sat 27 March, 11.00 - 2 pm (with break 12-1pm)

A Building Transformed

A guided tour around The Manchester Museum of the past and present.

Sun 28 March, 12.00 - 3pm

Mythical Masks

Ancient Greek mask-making session. 50p per child.

Sat 3 April, 1.30 - 4.00pm

Telling Tales

Find out how many of the creatures in our Vivarium have adapted to deal with everyday life. Followed by an art and craft workshop.

Sat 10 April, 12.00 - 3pm

Eggs-travaganza

A special egg painting session for Easter. 50p per child.

Thurs 15 April, 7.00pm - 9am

Museum Sleepover, Animal Adaptations

Our sleepover explores how animals have evolved and adapted. Find out about animal camouflage and make a spectacular mask to transform yourself. Please call 275 2630 for details.

Sat 17 April, 1.30 - 3.30pm FREE

Mummies and Medicine

Find out more about the Ancient Egyptians and the process of mummification in this unique workshop.

Sun 25 April, 12.00 - 3pm

Mask-erade

Create your own paper costume mask based on the Museum collections. 50p per child.

Manchester Museum Oxford Road, 0161 275 2630, www.museum.man.ac.uk

Opening hours, Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sun 11am - 4pm

Free admission, booking is essential for all programmes

Gig Guide Manchester Academy 1, 2 & 3

Mon 22 March - £8
Raging Speedhorn

Mon 29 March - £8
The NME Britpack Tour

Tue 23 March - £6
Hawksley Workman

Sat 24 March - £8
Space

Fri 26 March - £10
Roni Size

Fri 26 March - £9
The Webb Brothers

Sat 27 March - £12
The Seeds

Sat 27 March - £16
John Squire

Sun 28 March - £8.50
Good Riddance

Mon 29 March - £12.50
Obie Trice

Wed 31 March - £13
String Cheese Incident

Fri 2 April - £6
South

Sat 3 April - £7
The Beatsteaks

Sun 4 April - £9
Scissor Sisters

Sun 4 April - £8
The Bees

Wed 7 April - £7
Madrugada

Tue 13 April - **SOLD OUT**
The Yeah Yeah Yeahs

Thur 15 April - £7
Million Dead

Fri 16 April - £12
The Men They Couldn't Hang

Fri 16 April - £10
The Get Up Kids

Sat 17 April - £12
Nick Harper

Mon 19 April - £7
The Shins & The Stills

Wed 21 April - £12
The Willard Grant Conspiracy

Students' Union Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

Tickets from: Piccadilly Box Office, easy Internet Cafe, (c/c) 0871 2200260

Online @ www.manchesteracademy.net Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

Students' Union 0161 275 2930



The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

Walter Crane to 23 May 2004

In May 2002, The Whitworth Art Gallery and the John Rylands University Library jointly acquired a major archive of material from Walter Crane's (1845-1915) studio. A selection of the archive will be displayed alongside work already in the Whitworth's collection, providing an insight into Crane's prolific and wide-ranging career.

The Dazzled Eye: Envisioning Britain 1750 - 2000 5 March to 18 April 2004

This exhibition explores the enduring significance for British artists of representing the landscape, both at home and abroad. The central theme of the show is the depiction of Britain's changing rural scenery and the urban fabric since the mid-eighteenth century. Taken together, the exhibition constitutes an evolving and compelling vision of the nation.

Rembrandt Rediscovered and Anne Desmet To 19 May 2004

This collection display focuses on printmaking and features a large group of etchings and drypoints by Rembrandt, as well as wood engravings and collages by the contemporary printmaker Anne Desmet, seen together with her personal selection from the Gallery's print collection. Rembrandt Rediscovered is the culmination of a project to conserve all the prints by the Dutch artist in the Whitworth's collection.

William Morris: Ministering to the Swinish Luxury of the Rich 10 April to December 2004

An exhibition by David Mabb. Mabb recycles familiar images from the Gallery's holdings of William Morris material to produce a new installation.

TOURS AND EVENTS

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

Double Take: Two Lectures on Landscape Art:

Greg Smith, Writer Fri 19 March, 2pm

Mariele Nevdecke, Artist Fri 26 March, 2pm

The Dazzled Eye - Half Term Drop-in Activities, Tues 6 & Wed 7 April, 2-4pm

The Dazzled Eye - Curator's tour. Tue 30 March, 1.15pm FREE

The Walter Crane Archive - Curator's tour. Tue 20 April, 1.15pm FREE

CONCERTS

Lashmore Ensemble. A recital featuring wind quintets by Poulenc, Lingeti, Francaix, Darnase and Faure. Sun 28 March, 3pm FREE

Whitworth Art Gallery

Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, 0161 275 7450 www.whitworth@man.ac.uk

Opening hours Mon to Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 2pm - 5pm FREE Admission

The Gallery shop stocks a wide range of greetings cards, postcards, art books, magazines and prints. Tel: 0161 275 7498



International Society

TRIPS

Sat 27 March Day visit to Alton Towers

Sat 27 - Sun 28 March Weekend trip to Lake District visiting Keswick and Ambleside

Sat 3 April Day visit to the Isle of Anglesey, North Wales

Sun 4 April Day visit to the Yorkshire Dales visiting the Ingleton Waterfalls Walk and the White Scar Caves

Sat 10 April Day visit to the Peak District visiting Hardwick Hall and Buxton

EVENTS

Every Tuesday 8pm until late

The Melting Pot @ The Thirsty Scholar (next to Oxford Road Station).

THEATRE AND MUSIC

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

International Society, 327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar) 0161 275 4959 www.internationalsociety.org.uk Monday - Friday 9:30am - 5pm

Jodrell Bank

The facilities at Jodrell Bank are going through a period of redevelopment. The Visitors Centre currently has a café, an exhibition space and a 3D theatre open, and visitors can still explore the various trails and the natural habitats of the Arboretum's 35 acres with its 2000 species of trees and shrubs and National Collections. In January 2004 Jodrell Bank completed a 180 degree observational pathway close to the base of the world famous Lovell radio telescope.

EVENTS

Weds 14 April, 2pm

Children's Guided Walk of the Arboretum.

This walk will give children a chance to explore and find out about trees and their natural habitats. It is essential to pre book for this walk, we would also suggest that parents accompany their child

Jodrell Bank Science Centre & Arboretum Macclesfield, Cheshire 01477 571339 www.jb.man.ac.uk

John Rylands Library

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

John Rylands Library, 150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH 0161 834 5343 www.rylibweb.man.ac.uk/spcoll/

Department of Music

Friday 26 - Sunday 28 March

HARPSICHORDFEST

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Festival of Extravagant Music for Multiple Harpsichords. Harpsichordists: *Gary Cooper, Jane Chapman, David Francis, Pamela Nash*

Three days of concerts and workshops the likes of which Manchester has never seen! Tickets available from the Box Office 10am - 3pm (0161 275 8950). Festival ticket available £20/£9 conc. for all five concerts (workshops free of charge, for full details visit www.opusmalone.com/indexhpschd.

Supported by Arts Council England, Awards for All, Hinrichsen Foundation, Holst Foundation, Women in Music and Ida Carroll Trust.

CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

Thursday 25 March, 7.30 pm

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

University of Manchester Brass Ensemble

Andrew Gourlay Conductor

Programme to include

Vivaldi *Double Trumpet Concerto*

Altenburg *Concerto for Seven Trumpets and Timpani*

Friday 23 April, 7.30pm

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Johnston String Quartet

Britten *Quartet No3*

Schubert *Quartet in A minor (Rosamunde)*

Hadyn *Quartet Op20 tbc*

THE WALTER CARROLL LUNCHTIME CONCERTS AND RECITALS

1.10pm Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Thursday 25 March

Robin Ireland *Viola*

David Fanning *Piano*

Prokofiev *Extracts from Romeo and Juliet*

Shostakovich *Sontana for Viola and Piano*

Thursday 22 April

The Lindsays

Mozart *Quartet in C K.465 ('Dissonance')*

Debussy *Quartet in G minor Op10*

Department of Music

School of Music and Drama, Coupland Street

0161 275 4982 www.art.man.ac.uk/MUSIC



Contact Theatre

Naked SubCulture

HOUSE

Tue 23 Mar 2004 - Wed 24 Mar 2004, 8pm, £7/£3.50

Manchester University Drama Department

ANARCHIE IN BAYERN

Wed 24 Mar 2004 - Sat 27 Mar 2004, £6/£4

Performed by members of the German Society and completely in the German language.

Theatre Of Colour

DANCIN' IN SEPIA DREAMS

By Tina Tamsho-Thomas

Fri 26 Mar 2004, £3

Kali Theatre in association with Tara Arts

CALCUTTA KOSHER

By Shelley Silas

Sat 27 Mar 2004, £9/£6

Chantal Arts and Theatre in association with Soho Theatre Company

PUGILIST SPECIALIST

By Adriano Shaplin

Mon 29 Mar 2004 - Sat 3 Apr 2004, £9/£6

CANDOCO DANCE COMPANY

Thu 1 Apr 2004 - Fri 2 Apr 2004, £9/£6

CandoCo, the world's famous integrated dance company of disabled and non-disabled performers, has joined forces once again with the best choreographers to create a world class double bill, Microphobia and The Human Suite.

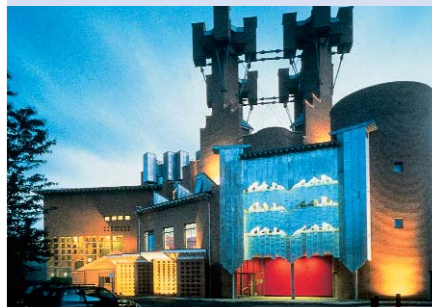
Contact Theatre

Oxford Road. Tickets/Info 0161 274 0600 www.contact-theatre.org.uk/

Tickets/Info: 0161 274 0600

For information on other events please visit our website www.contact-theatre.org

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



Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10.30am & 6.30pm (Evening Worship Term-time only)

FOYER 10am-4pm. An area where students and staff can relax and meet friends. A tea/coffee machine is available.

Precinct Centre

0161 275 2894

sph.reception@man.ac.uk

Avila House RC Chaplaincy (next to the Holy Name Church)

Mass Times

Mon - Fri 1.05 pm

(term-time only)

Oxford Road

0161 275 6999/273 1456

UMIST Chaplaincy

Mass every Sunday at 10am

UMIST Chaplaincy:

Chaplain's Office

Chaplains on UMIST site

Monday to Friday

Floor B, Room B 25

Renold Building UMIST

0161 236 3311 Ext 2522

Mosque: Main Building

Prayer Room:

Renold Building B26

Seminars & Lectures

Monday 22 March

Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies: "Translatability assessment in a controlled language environment". Sharon O'Brien (Dublin City). 2pm, Room A201, Arts Bldg. All welcome.

Institute of Innovation: "Intellectual property rights as strategic assets: European patent opposition in the telecommunications industry". Mario Calderini (Politecnico de Torino). 4pm, Room 10.05, Harold Hankins Bldg (refreshments from 3.45pm).

Tuesday 23 March

School of Planning and Landscape: "The widening agenda of urban capacity". Susannah Gunn (Newcastle). 4pm, Hanson Room, Architecture and Planning Bldg. All welcome.

CCSR: "Evaluating low intensity interventions: persuading school children not to smoke". Andrew Pickles (Manchester). 4pm, 1st Floor Studio, Old Dover St Bldg.

NPCRDC: "Communicating risks - illusion or truth?" Dr Adrian Edwards (Swansea). 2pm, NPCRDC, 5th Floor, Williamson Bldg.

Latin American Cultural Studies: "Histories of the Virgin: the secular knowledge of objects of religious devotion". Trevor Stack (Aberdeen). 5pm, Room 3.5, Roscoe Bldg.

CHSTM: "Strange reactions: Clemens von Pirquet and the meaning of allergy". Mark Jackson (Exeter). 4pm, Room 3.29, Maths Tower.

School of Art History and Archaeology: "Drawing on the past: medical art in archaeology". Caroline Needham (Manchester). 5.15pm, Room 1.70, Architecture and Planning Bldg.

The Cultural Theory Institute in conjunction with the Goethe Institute and the Raymond Williams Memorial Trust: "Overrating culture at the expense of politics: a German problem?" 5pm, Arts Lecture Theatre, Arts Bldg. By ticket only - contact vivienne.farnell@man.ac.uk

School of Art History and Archaeology: "Drawing on the past. Medical art in archaeology". Caroline Needham (Manchester). 5.15pm, Room 1.70, Architecture and Planning Bldg.

Wednesday 24 March

Dept of Physics and Astronomy Manchester Centre for Nonlinear Dynamics: "Non-exponential rotation dynamics of dipoles in amorphous media". Dr David Binks (UMIST). 4pm, Blackett Lecture Theatre, Schuster Laboratory.

Dept of Chemistry: "Multinuclear luminescent complexes: from mixed f-f arrays to d-f hybrids". Dr Simon Pope (Manchester). 2pm, Room G.53, Chemistry Bldg.

Dept of Chemistry: "Triple helices in DNA sequence recognition". Prof Tom Brown (Southampton). 4pm, Room B104, Faraday Tower, UMIST.

Dept of French: "The Marquis de Sade: 'philosophe' or antinomian?" Bob Gillan (Manchester). 4.14pm, Room 2.03, Mansfield Cooper Bldg.

Dept of Electrical Engineering and Electronics Control Systems Centre: "Immersion and invariance: a new tool for stabilization and adaptive control of nonlinear systems". Dr Alessandro Astolfi (Imperial College). 2pm, Room D39, Main Bldg, UMIST. Enquiries contact t.breikin@umist.ac.uk

Jodrell Bank Colloquia: "Cooling flows: implications for galaxy formation". James Binney (Oxford). 4pm, Lecture Room, Jodrell Bank (refreshments at 3.45pm).

Thursday 25 March

Dept of German Research: "Wie wir uns heute gewöhnen, Sprache zu gebrauchen, so wird sie morgen aussehen! Zum Bruch mit der präskriptiven Tradition in volkslinguistischen Stillehren in der jungen DDR". Claudia Law (Manchester). 4.15pm, Room S1.4, Arts Bldg. All welcome.

Manchester Medical Society Public Health Forum: "Infrastructure requirements for coupling genomic strategies to large populations based disease studies". Prof W E R Ollier (Manchester). 6pm, LT4, Stopford Bldg (tea from 5.30pm).

Dept of History: "Building Utopia at the Uruguayan seaside? Francisco Piria and his earthly paradise". Prof John Walton (Central Lancashire). 5pm, Room A113, Arts Bldg.

Faculty of Medicine - Imaging Science and Biomedical Engineering: "Some aspects of immunological lung disease". Dr C S Keeling-Roberts (Manchester). 5.15pm, LT3, Stopford Bldg. All welcome.

Human Communication and Deafness Group: "Speech-to-text services for access to classrooms for deaf and hard of hearing children (ASL and BSL interpretation available)". Prof Mike Stinson (Rochester Institute of Technology, USA). Room A2.16, Humanities Bldg. All welcome.

Dept of Religions and Theology: "Jews and Judaism in early Shiite religious literature". Dr Meir Bar-Asher (Centre for Jewish Studies). 4pm, Room A18, Arts Bldg.

Friday 26 March

Dept of Physics and Astronomy Condensed Matter Physics: Title to be announced. Prof Igor Shvets (Trinity College Dublin). 4pm, Moseley Lecture Theatre, Schuster Laboratory.

Tuesday 30 March

Manchester Medical Society Surgery: "The anatomy of Doctor Tulp". Dr S P J Reid FRCS. 8pm, Chancellors Conference Centre (coffee from 7.30pm).

NPCRDC: "Just like herding cats - controlled trials in uncontrolled settings: issues in the evaluation of a new chronic disease self-management programme in England". Speakers: Anne Kennedy, Vicky Lee, Pete Bower and David Reeves (Manchester). 2pm, NPCRDC, 5th Floor Williamson Bldg.

Wednesday 31 March

SERA-Labour Environment Campaign Programme "Biotechnology: nightmare or new industrial dawn? Is investment in these technologies wise?". 7.30pm, Manchester Town Hall.

Thursday 1 April

Faculty of Medicine - Imaging Science & Biomedical Engineering: "Paget's Disease of bone - CT and MR imaging". Dr RW Whitehouse, Consultant Radiologist. 5.15pm Lecture Theatre 3, Stopford Bldg.

School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting: "The missing germ: The aetiology of syphilis, 1870-1905". Michael Worboys (Manchester). 4pm, Rooms 28-29, Coupland 3 Bldg.

Monday 19 April

Social Anthropology "Interconnected and interinfected: DOTS and the stabilisation of the tuberculosis control programme in Nepal". Dr Ian Harper (Edinburgh). 4pm, Room 5.1 Roscoe Bldg.

Tuesday 20 April

Latin American Cultural Studies: Title to be announced. Vivian Schelling (East London). 5pm, Room 3.5, Roscoe Bldg.

School of Planning and Landscape: "Auditing and environmental impact assessment". Graham Wood (Oxford Brookes). 4pm, Hanson Room, Architecture and Planning Bldg.

Manchester Medical Society (Imaging) Symposium: "Adult Cystic Fibrosis - challenges for the radiologist". Speakers: Prof K Webb, Dr M Greaves, Dr R Ashleigh, Dr S Sukumar and Dr C Haworth. 6pm, Postgraduate Health Sciences Centre, MRI.

CHSTM: "The influential general practitioner". Rhodri Hayward (Wellcome UCL). 4pm, Room 3.29, 3rd Floor, Maths Tower.

Wednesday 21 April

Centre for Philosophy "Deontic Reasons and the Euthyphro Objection to Scanlon's Contractualism". Philip Stratton-Lake (Reading). 4pm, O.G.16 Dover Street Bldg.

Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research: Title to be announced. Prof Dennis Anderson (Imperial College). 4pm, Room C16, The Pariser Bldg, UMIST.

Jodrell Bank Colloquia: "Copernican heliocentricity: the wrong answers to the wrong question (a thoroughly heretical view of Copernicus's model)". Piers Bursill-Hall (Cambridge). 4pm, Lecture Room, Jodrell Bank (refreshments from 3.45pm).

Manchester Medical Society (Pathology) Symposium: "Politics and Pathology". Speakers: Prof J Underwood, Dr W Kenyon, Prof P Quirke, Dr M R Haeny. 2pm, Chancellors Conference Centre.

School of Art History and Archaeology: "Fez beyond the postcard". Simon Renick (UCLA). 5.15pm, Room 1.70, Architecture and Planning Bldg.

Transport Seminar: Title to be announced. 5.30pm, Lecture Room G33, Architecture and Planning Bldg.

Dept of Geography: "Performance matters: theatre, business and the staging of creative alliances at work". Clair Pearson. Room 2.02, Mansfield Cooper Bldg.

Manchester Materials Science Centre: "Direct strip casting of metals - control of microstructure and texture". Dr Michael Ferry (New South Wales, Australia). 2.15pm, Room D13, Manchester Materials Science Centre.

Dept of Chemistry: "Adventures in natural product synthesis". Prof Richard Taylor (York). 4pm, Room B104, Faraday Tower, UMIST.

Thursday 22 April

Manchester Medical Society (Public Health Forum) Chadwick Lecture: "Tackling health inequalities in primary care and in ethnic minority groups". Lord Michael Chan of Oxtown. 6pm, MANDEC.

Dept of History: "The conundrum again: the population of England and the fetal mortality problem". Prof Bob Woods (Liverpool). 5pm, A113, Arts Bldg.

Friday 23 April

Dept of Religions and Theology: "Just how popular can religion be?: An examination of the 'Film as Religion' proposal". Clive Marsh. 10am, Room A4, Faculty Committee Room, Arts Bldg.

Noticeboard

Monday 26 April

Dept of Social Anthropology: "Anthropology of networks: from myth to new technologies". Dr Barbara Glowczewski (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique). 4pm, Room 5.1, Roscoe Bldg.

Manchester Medical Society (Odontology)

Guest Lecture: "Implant failure - prevention and treatment". Prof R Palmer. 6pm, Chancellors Conference Centre.

Tuesday 27 April

Manchester Medical Society (Surgery)

AstraZeneca Surgical Registrar's Prize Evening. 6.30pm, Chancellors Conference Centre.

CHSTM: "Butter and mercury: towards a history of tacit knowledge in early modern Europe". 4pm, Room 3.29, Maths Tower.

School of Art History and Archaeology:

"Interlacings: Burne-Jones and William Morris". Dr Caroline Arscott (Courtauld Institute of Art). 5.15pm, Room 1.70, Architecture and Planning Bldg.

School of Planning and Landscape: "Modelling voter preferences". Ed Fieldhouse (Manchester). 4pm, Hanson Room, Architecture and Planning Bldg.

Wednesday 28 April

Dept of Chemistry: "Nano-rheology of soft materials". Dr Paul Bartlett (Bristol). 2.30pm, Room G.54, Chemistry Bldg.

Faculty of Arts: "Peer assessment/feedback". Thea Cameron and Bill Hutchings. 1pm, Faculty Committee Room, Arts Bldg (refreshments provided). Enquiries 0161 275 3429.

Manchester Materials Science Centre:

"Materials challenges for future reactors". Dr Walter Weaver (BNFL). 2.15pm, Room D13, Manchester Materials Science Centre.

Jodrell Bank Colloquia: "Broad iron lines revealing strong gravity of black holes". Andy Fabian (Cambridge). 4pm, Lecture Room, Jodrell Bank (refreshments from 3.45pm).

Manchester Medical Society (Psychiatry)

Symposium: "Post traumatic stress disorder". Speakers: Prof N Tarrier and Dr G Turnbull. 2pm, Undergraduate Centre, Phase 2, Hope Hospital.

Dept of History: "Merchants and marvels". Dr Pamela Smith (CHSTM). 5pm, Room A113, Arts Bldg.

Manchester Medical Society (Anaesthesia) out of town meeting. Speakers: Dr A P Vickers, Dr L J Williams, Dr A F Smith. 7.30pm, Ashton Memorial, Williamson Park.

School of Geography: "La géographie du spectacle: the Paris International Expositions, 1889-1931". Mike Heffernan. 4pm, Room 2.02, Mansfield Cooper Bldg.

Thursday 29 April

Human Communication and Deafness Group:

"Use of research and critical appraisal in speech and language therapy services: the results of an evaluation study". Hazel Roddam (Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Primary Healthcare Trust). 4pm, Room A2.16, Humanities Bldg.

SEMINARS AND LECTURES

Details of seminars can be emailed to unievts@man.ac.uk

Dept of Social Anthropology

Wednesday 24 March

Public Lecture by Prof Nancy Scheper-Hughes (Visiting Simon Professor).

"Beyond bio-ethics: global justice and the traffic in human organs".

4pm, Lecture Theatre B, Roscoe Bldg followed by a wine reception. All welcome.

e-Learning Week

29 March - 2 April 2004

What is it?

One week in which the aim is to raise participants' awareness in the application of e-learning at UMIST and Manchester and develop practical skills in e-learning.

Who is it for?

The sessions are primarily aimed at academics and educational designers at both Universities. But people involved in support roles are also welcome.

What is the programme format?

The week is made-up of 10 sessions of 3 hours each. For more information visit our website: www.umist.ac.uk/e-learning

20% Discount on Spectacles in the Student Optometry Clinic

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Manchester University School of Law Legal Advice Centre

The Legal Advice Centre is currently taking appointments. The Centre operates during term-time and provides free, legal advice to both students, staff and members of the public. Clients are advised by law students supervised by local lawyers and professionally qualified teaching staff. *Precinct Centre, Oxford Road. Opening times: Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm*
Tel: 0161 275 7977. Fax: 0161 275 7976. Email: free.legal@man.ac.uk

The Centre for the Cultural History of War in conjunction with European Review of History/Revue européenne d'histoire
War, Culture and Humanity from Ancient to Modern Times

15-17 April 2004

An interdisciplinary conference to be held at The Victoria University of Manchester, Hulme Hall, Oxford Place, Manchester, M14 5RR
Keynote speakers: Jay Winter (Yale), Jacques Semelin (CADIS/HESS), Hans van Wees (UCL), Liz Stanley (Newcastle), Guy Halsall (York).
For further information, details of tickets and accommodation please email Rebecca Gill warculturehumanity@hotmail.com.

Are You a Golfer?

If you are employed by, or retired from, UMIST or the Victoria University of Manchester, you are most welcome to join in the Manchester University Staff Golf Society's handicap Stableford competitions which are held monthly from May to September. We also run a knock out match play event. This year we have weekday afternoon Meetings at Knutsford, Northenden, Davenport, Stockport and Mellor, each followed by a meal in the early evening. For more information and/or an invitation to 'guest' at our events this season please contact Ken Leigh on 01925 762551 (anytime) or at kmleigh@aol.com

The University of Manchester
Department of Drama presents
Oh What A Lovely War!

23 - 25 March 7.30pm/2.30pm Saturday

John Thaw Studio Theatre, School of Music and Drama, Coupland Street.

For further information please contact Chris Grimshaw 0161 275-3358 (office hours 10.30 - 4 every day except Wednesday) or Saira Shaikh on 0161 275-4982.

Café Scientifique

Café Scientifique...a place where, for the price of a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, ANYONE can come to explore the latest ideas in science and technology. CaféMuse, Oxford Road (Manchester Museum). Free entry - booking essential. To book a place email cafe.scientifique@man.ac.uk or use the booking form at <http://www.business.man.ac.uk/cafe-scientific/Cafe-web.htm>

VACANCIES

Please find below details of vacancies within existing structures at both The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST. For all other vacancies please refer to both universities' internal websites:
www.man.ac.uk/news/vacancies and
www2.umist.ac.uk/university/jobs/

UMIST DEPARTMENT OF BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCES

SUPPORT SERVICE TECHNICIAN

A Support Service Technician is required to assist with the testing of electrical equipment, routine care and maintenance of centrifuges and other equipment in the Department. GCSE science (or equivalent) is required as is the ability to undertake minor repairs to equipment and change gas cylinders. Experience in electrical testing of equipment is desirable.

Salary will be within the Technician Grade C scale up to £15,131 per annum.

For an application form and further details please write to: The Personnel Office, UMIST, P O Box 88, Manchester M60 1QD (website: www.umist.ac.uk/university/jobs), enclosing a self-addressed envelope. The closing date is 31 March 2004. Please quote reference: BMS/NA/33. An equal opportunity employer

Classifieds

HOUSE FOR SALE

Chorlton. 3 bed terraced. Modern Inge, kit/din & bathrm. Gd sized bedrms. Lrge, sunny gdn. Close to amenities & transport routes. £122,000 ono. (27)55182 or email: elaine.beaulieu@man.ac.uk

ACCOMMODATION TO LET

West Didsbury. Tidy non-smoking female prof/PhD student to share 2 bed flat. Bright, airy, dble glazed, 2nd flr in purpose built block, parking, bus stop right outside. 5mins walk from restaurants, shops. Didsbury Village 10 mins. Rent £75pw or £300pcm + bills. Email: sunnysunshine41@hotmail.com

Heaton Moor. F/F s/c luxury lifestyle aparts situated in det Victorian villa conversion. Quiet, safe, conv area. Fully equip 1 bedrm (dble) & studio (dble) aparts, with private parking. Rent neg includes water rates. 0161-432 4885 or 07816 618 280 to view.

Bramhall/Cheadle Hulme Area. F/F 2 bed bungalow. GCH, newly decorated throughout in very pleasant loc. Close to train & bus services to Stockport/Manchester. To let April 04. Prof staff only. 0161-485 3112.

Mottram Via Hyde. Ground flr 2 bed unfurn stone apart. Approx 150 years old corner position. Desirable area. A well maintained property with lots of character. Garage also off-rd parking for 1 car. Dec throughout. GCH, dble glazed. Close to M67 & open countryside. 1st to view will take. Dept & refs reqd. £550pcm. 0161-480 8583.

Glossop. 2 bed stone cottage. New kit, gd bathrm, dec throughout, stone fireplace. Gd carpets, exc cond, small gdn to rear. Close to town centre, train station. Dep & refs reqd. £475pcm. 0161-480 8583.

Glossop. 1st flr 2 bed purpose built furn apart. Well maintained property, rec dec, gd carpets, exc cond. Spiral staircase. 5 mins walk to station, direct line to Piccadilly. Close to town centre, open countryside gd walks. Dep & refs reqd. £475pcm. 0161-480 8583.

City Centre, Tib St. Lrge dble rm avail in friendly f/f flat. GCH, all mod cons, 2 mins walk Piccadilly. To share with owner who is there 3 nights pw mid wk. Non-smoking female prfd, couple ok. £75pw exc bills. Avail April 04. 07855 481 721. Email: e.griffiths@umist.ac.uk

Didsbury Village. Comfort 2 bed Victorian cottage in quiet cul-de-sac for rent for 6mths initially, poss longer. F/F & mod with gch. Close to shops & transport. No pets & non-smokers only. £850pm + bills & dep. (27)54003 or 07717 171 779.

Withington. Outstanding f/f 2 bed flat avail to rent between 1 April & 30 June 2004. Located just nr Christie Hospital. F/F to a high standard inc liv rm, sep kit with w/machine & d/washer. 2 dble bedrms, entry phone & garage. £580pcm. 07776 364 544.

A newly con luxury 1 bed duplex sit 1 mile from City Centre with brand new furn. F/kit/bathrm. Videophone entry & satellite points. Vide suit prof. Avail now. £550pcm. 07957 458 312 or 07919 038 608 or email: kassimi_y@yahoo.co.uk or adesida@man.ac.uk

Burford Court, Cotterdale Close, M15. Spac, mod, new 2 bed apart. GCH, DG, f/kit, entry phone. Allocated parking in gated dev, part furn. £550pcm. 0208 979 7508.

Heaton Mersey. Quiet 1st flr, f/f s/c glat with sep entrance. Comp bed/sit rm with study area & tel. Bathrm with shwr, also f/kit containing cooker, microwave, f/freezer, w/drier. Suitable for a mature non-smoking pg or staff member. £300pcm + bills. 0161-432 9626.

Whalley Range. Very lrg rm to rent in quiet, well furn & newly dec shared hse. Gd bus routes to univ & easy parking. £300pcm. Email: msr55bb3@man.ac.uk

Levenshulme. Dble rms avail in beautiful, newly furb hse. Stripped wooden flrs, lrg kit & gdn. Dble glazed. 2 mins walk from railway station & bus stops. Non-smoking prof. Rms from £210-220pcm exc bills. Email: kfielding@domo1.mbs.ac.uk

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Tuscany holiday cottage to let. Superb setting near mountains. Florence, Siena, Arezzo easily accessible. Ideal walking, sight-seeing etc. 0208 699 8883. Details and photos on website: <http://freespace.virgin.net/gp.ck/> Email: gp.ck@virgin.net

West Coast Scotland holiday cottages nr Oban. 18th Century listed buildings by Loch & mountains, pub, tearooms within walking distance. Great walks from hse. Extensive website www.bonawehouse.co.uk or 01866 822 309.

Brittany. Hilltop farmhouse. Self-catering. Simple, natural, tranquil, organic produce, walks, rides, woods, rivers, menhirs. South coast beaches 25mins. 01453 860 058. Email: susie.gloster@virgin.net

2 traditional styled Breton holiday gites in Southern Brittany, France. Open all year round. www.oak-tree-cottages.co.uk

Traquair - Scottish Borders. Delightful 4 star s/c cottage for 2 located in beautiful quiet rural surroundings. Furn & fully equipped to high standard. Ideal for walking, fishing, golfing or just complete relaxation. 01896 831 227 for a brochure or to check availability or www.orchardwalls.co.uk

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

Self-catering Holidays in France: Vienne/Charente Farmhouse. Sleeps 5 & 2 Gites each sleeps 4. Peaceful, secluded, well appointed comfort. Good cycling, bike-friendly owners. 01298 815 092 or email: laviellegorce.co.uk

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

Holiday Apart in Rojales, Nr Alicante. Lovely private holiday apart for rent with swimming pool, accommodates a family of 4. Close to golfcourses & Aqua Park. Murcia & Alicante airport 30mins, Benidorm 1hr. Owners will pick up from airport. (27)55041.

Bembridge, Isle of Wight. 3 bed luxury caravan sleeps 8. a "home-from-home". Short walk to beach. Ideal of exploring. On site shop & launderette. Quiet site bus access to neighbouring complex with swimming pools & bars etc. 0161-256 2599 or email: tony.walker@umist.ac.uk

Chamonix. A lovely apart that is luxury for 2, very comfort for 4 & can sleep up to 6. 2 bathrms. Stunning views of Mont Blanc from lrg sun terrace. Covered garage. 2 mins walk of the centre of Chamonix & railway station. 0161-483 2596 or email: stephen.j.davies@man.ac.uk

Abersoch, North Wales. 6 berth caravan to let on quiet family site. (School summer hols already taken). UMIST 63625 or email: helen.davies@umist.ac.uk

CAR FOR SALE

Fiesta 1.1i K Reg. 5 speed manual gearbox. Regularly serviced & maintained. V Gd runner. Taxed until June 04, MOT Dec 04. £350. (27)55540.

WANTED

Car share Chester-Manchester daily. Usual office hrs. Share car/driving or fuel contribution if non-driver. 01244 679 710 after 7pm.

Do you have expertise in designing & creating Crystal reports? Email: julian.tomlin@man.ac.uk

Lrge holiday hse in England for extended family's holiday during Aug 04 pref mid-Aug. Group comprises 10 adults, 8 children. Comfort but not luxury reqd. Prefer out of town, village, rural or seaside location. 029 20 238 930 or email: e.griffiths@umist.ac.uk

A gd home for either/both of our cats while in USA on sabbatical May 04 to Jan 05. 0161 718 9800 or email: peter.knight@man.ac.uk

Acc req/for exchange. Canadian researcher couple with small child, require flat, hse-share, close to Univ from April for short/med term let. Also on offer is an exchange fir their lrg apart in central Vancouver. Email: joe.ravetz@man.ac.uk

Drum kit teacher need in South Man area. Intermediate level at present but needs grade 5 for Univ entry. 0161-434 2558 or email: pamelavenning@man.ac.uk

MISCELLANEOUS SALES

Upright Piano, Bell of London & Canada. V gd instrument. Sale due to house move. £195. Will deliver locally. 0161-480 8181 or 07966 060 733.

Habitat kit table. Canadian pine, sturdy construction. H76, W90, L200cm. Seats 8. £60. 0161-432 6108 after 6pm.

Small Falcon acoustic guitar, carrying case & shoulder strp £20. Jujitsu suit, vgc £10. Skylark violin 1/4 size with bow, case & shoulder rest £20. (27)56513 or email: jackie.fisk@mbs.ac.uk

Solid pine 3ft wide bunk beds with ladder. Antique pine finish. VGC. No mattresses. Buyer to collect (Stalybridge). £50. UMIST 63625 or email: helen.davies@umist.ac.uk

Lillput cot top changer in antique pine in exc cond. Fits across the top of cot, making sturdy platform to support changing mat. Fits cotsbeds between 59.5cm & 77cm wide. L86cm x W59.5cm x H7cm. £20. (27) 52102.

Durst Photographic Enlarger M370Bw with trays & dev tanks etc. Any reasonable offer. (27)52071 or email: kate.jelen@man.ac.uk

Upright Piano, Albert Wagstaff, walnut with intricate inlay pattern on front. Needs a little TLC & turning. Buyer to collect. £990. (27)53192.

Dark wood writing bureau with fold-down front & 6 drawers £40. 4 dark wood din chairs (high backs) in need of some re-upholstery. £10 each or £35 for all. (27)52828, 0161-429 6729 or 07812 990 429.

Triple fronted mahogany corner cabinet, 2 glass shelves, illum. VGC £95. Long mahogany display/wall unit. 3 bevelled glass display cupboards. Solid mahogany framing & glazing. VGC £120. A pair of 2 seater sofas. Dark green rouched leather & lrg leather footstool. 18mnths old. Exc con £300 the lot. JVC Stereo system, silver, remote control, very powerful, 18mnths. £75. Nest of 3 mahogany tables with red leather & glass tops. VGC £50. (27)52340 or 01942 831 154.

SERVICES

Counselling/Psychotherapy -Sandra Gregson. Diplomas in Counselling/ Psychotherapy; Stress Management & Reflexology. Sandra is a well-respected Therapist/Trainer, with 10 yrs' experience of therapeutic care. From a safe, nurturing & professional approach - Sandra works with individuals in addressing a wide range of issues affecting their general wellbeing and quality of life. Appt's in Central (close to universities) and South Manchester. For further info - contact Sandra on 0161 747 8103.

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Just The Job



“
There's always something to do, its not totally seasonal work by any means because of the variety of plants we have here
”

For most of us gardening is either a chore or something we don't have enough spare time for, but for Thurston Heaton it is his job and one he loves. But as Manager of the Botanical Experimental Grounds in Fallowfield, it's not just about mowing lawns and trimming hedges, for the grounds serve an important scientific purpose.

Thurston Heaton

The Botanical Experimental Grounds



The Grounds on this site were established in 1922/3 by the Botany department, in what was part of the Firs estate, bequeathed to the University by Manchester engineer Sir Joseph Whitworth. You could be forgiven for not knowing of its existence, bordered by the Owens Park student village, Chancellors Conference Centre, Richmond Park and the Armitage Sports Centre; it's not visible from the road.

Its purpose then, as now, was to grow plants for teaching and research at the VUM in the fields of plant sciences, biochemistry, and medicine. Today it is part of the School of Biological Sciences and continues to grow plants at the request of academics at the University and occasionally UMIST and MMU. Undergraduate and postgraduate students make use of the grounds and the expertise of the staff for teaching projects and research.

"We grow whatever academics require for research or teaching purposes. One of the longest ongoing experiments concerns starch biosynthesis in wheat".

The 1.5 acres are home to a collection of plants gathered over the last 80 years from around the world, probably the most impressive are the 80-year-old cacti standing some six metres tall.

Thurston's job involves the daily maintenance and upkeep of the grounds, sourcing seeds and materials from specialist suppliers, but he is keen to point out that it's a team effort with invaluable assistance from horticultural technician David Newton, who has worked at the grounds since 1976 and trainee Thomas Ironmonger who joined the staff in April 2003.

Thurston arrived at the grounds in 1990 having worked as a horticultural technician at several colleges within his native West Midlands but relocated to Manchester to take up the post.

"There's always something to do, its not totally seasonal work by any means because of the variety of plants we have here, it's a 365 day job keeping the grounds up to scratch".

One of his major contributions has been to establish the Schools Outreach Project – a programme of school visits and Thurston has been successful in attracting grants from trusts to help with the activity. "We have had tremendous support from a number of sources including the John Spedan Lewis Foundation, The Royal Botanical Society of Manchester & the Northern Counties, and The Manchester Guardian Charitable

Trust." This has enabled them to turn an old laboratory into a classroom.

Since the first visit in 2001, hundreds of children from several dozen schools ranging from nursery schools to sixth form colleges have come to the Grounds. "They get to see plants which they would not normally see including, coffee, banana, sugar cane, tobacco, and papyrus and are made aware of the importance of plants to the world around them" says Thurston.

The many beautiful and unusual plants and flowers have also become popular subjects for art students and, since a highly successful widening participation project run last year called "The Big Draw", more and more budding artists from local schools are coming in.

"I thoroughly enjoy everything about my job but the school visits are the most rewarding, especially the thank you letters they write, these make it all worthwhile"

Despite his evident enthusiasm for his job, (even working outside in winter), Thurston leaves it all behind once he finishes for the day. "I haven't got a garden at home, just a small yard," he says.



www.biomed2.man.ac.uk/firs/

Next Issue Monday 26 April

News Contact

News and story ideas

Lisa McCarthy

Telephone 0161 275 2112

Email uninews@man.ac.uk

Next deadline Thursday 16 April

Events Contact

Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead

Telephone 0161 275 2922

Email unievents@man.ac.uk

Next deadline Friday 17 April

Adverts Contact

Ads and distribution queries

Lorraine Harrop, Susan Howard

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Next deadline Friday 17 April