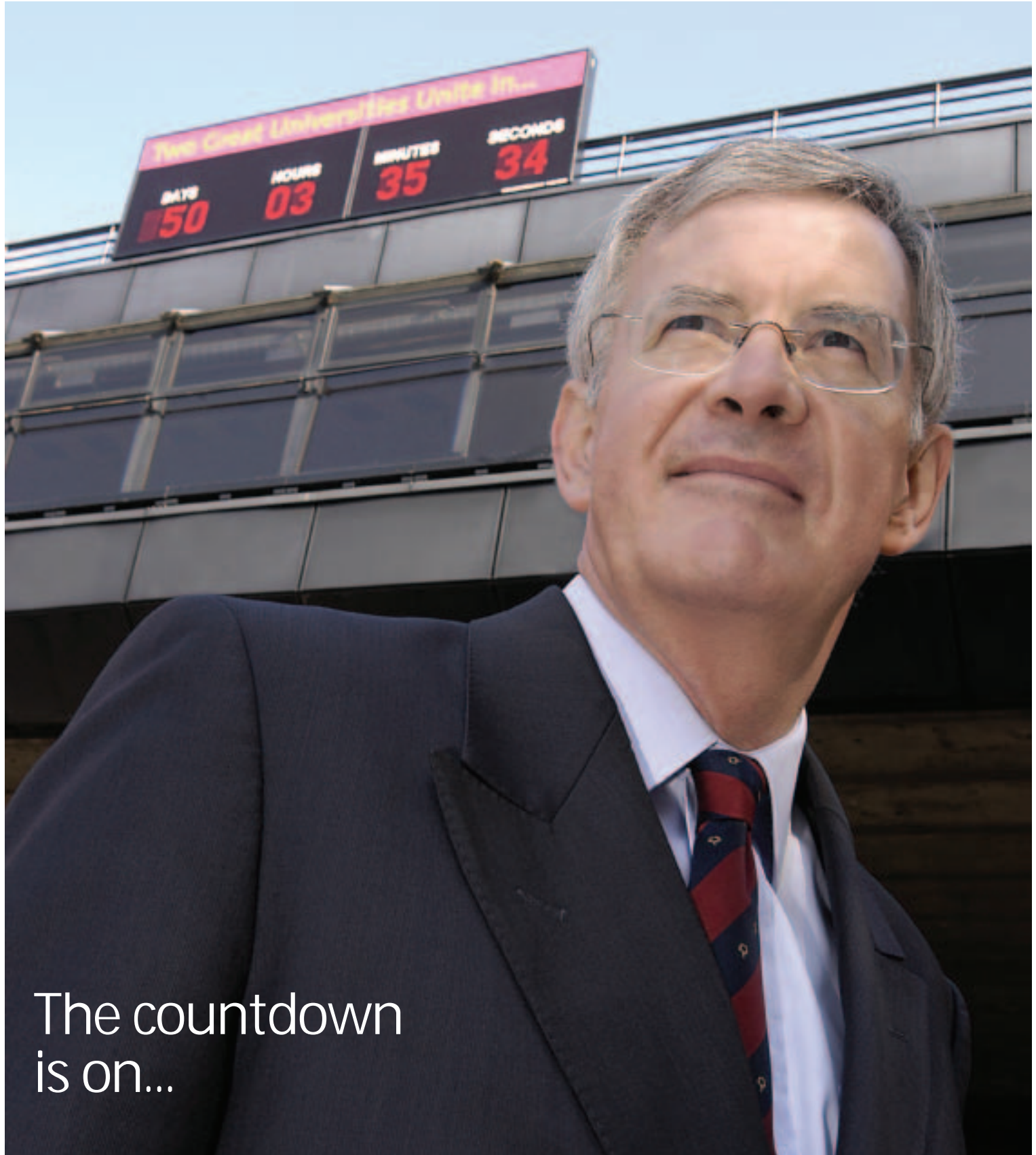


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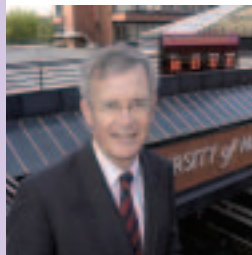
The countdown
is on...

NewsDigest

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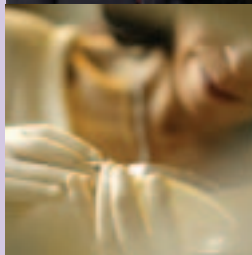
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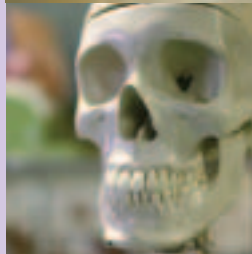
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The countdown clock has been unveiled on the University Precinct bridge over Oxford Road to provide staff, students and the wider community with a visible reminder of the merger of the two universities on 1 October.



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The world's first Chair in adolescent cancer care is to be funded at the University and Christie Hospital where a multidisciplinary research and clinical team will target all aspects of the disease.



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Staff in the Clinical Radiology Unit are carrying out a major study into the cause of bone disease by examining skeletal development in children and young adults.



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The outstanding contributions of the Vice-Chancellors of VUM and UMIST are to be recognised with honorary degrees from both institutions at special ceremonies in September.



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Project Unity update on the transfer of staff, the appeals process and the support available for staff during the period of change brought about by the coming together of the two universities.

Clocking On



THE countdown is on to the creation of a powerful new force in British higher education...and now everyone can see exactly when it will happen.

Two huge countdown clocks have been suspended over Oxford Road at the heart of the University campus, building up to the launch of the new, merged University on 1 October 2004.

The University's External Relations office worked closely with LED Systems Ltd of Poulton in Lancashire to give pride of place to the new digital clocks.

At exactly midnight on 1 October, the clocks will tick down to zero, to signal the changeover from UMIST and the Victoria University of Manchester. New signage will also be unveiled all over the campus and

staff will officially become members of the new merged University of Manchester.

The countdown clocks were officially switched on by the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester, Professor Alan Gilbert, in front of press photographers and broadcast media from across the North West.

Professor Gilbert said: "Over the coming weeks, the clocks will be a visible reminder to staff, students and the community of Manchester of the exciting future that beckons and challenges the new University".

News



Virtual reconstruction of the mummy

Return of the Mummy

An Egyptian mummy almost 3,000 years old has been recreated using the latest in 3D virtual-imaging know-how. The forensic investigation into the mummy included a facial reconstruction by means of a new computerised system developed by the Victoria University of Manchester's Unit of Art in Medicine.

Uniquely, the technology allows those viewing the mummy's head to 'feel' the skull and clay depicted on the computer screen.

Unit manager Dr Caroline Wilkinson explained: "The system uses virtual sculpture employing a touch-based application of 3D design known as 'haptic feedback'. Essentially, you have an arm with a tool you hold that sends back signals to your hand that correspond to the image on screen. It's like you're

touching the skull with a stick – you can 'feel' the surface."

The image is of one of the British Museum's most remarkable mummies – Nesperennub, a priest from the temple of Khons who lived in 800BC – and is currently on show at the London museum. The 3D virtual mummy was created using data from a CT scanner and visitors to the exhibition can unwrap the body layer by layer on screen until left with only the skeleton on display.



Education Hub

Work is underway on a joint venture between Manchester's universities, MANCAT and Manchester Science Park, which will provide an access point for all that further and higher education in Greater Manchester has to offer.

One Central Park will become the educational hub of Central Park - the UK's first large-scale, mixed-use urban business park. The £18 million development in East Manchester is expected to be open by September 2005.

Activity will be based around six core activities: MANCAT Learning Centre, New Technology Institute, Research and Graduate Centre, Business Creation Unit, Incubator and Manchester Science Park. It will act as an economic catalyst stimulating the

creation of jobs, investment and opportunities in the community.

One Central Park is also expected to play a significant role in Manchester's future as a Knowledge Capital.

UMIST Professor David Auckland, who will be Chief Executive of One Central Park, said: "I'm thrilled to see a tangible start to what is arguably the UK's most exciting regeneration and education project. On completion it will act as the interface between the local residents, the academic

community of Greater Manchester, and the emerging Central Park industrial and commercial complex. It will also be a place where people and ideas come together to create opportunities and wealth for surrounding businesses, and the immediate community.

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) has provided £8.4 million towards the project, with additional funding from the European Regional Development Fund (£4.9 million) and other public and private sources.

News

Cancer Chair

The money, donated by the Teenage Cancer Trust, will fund a multidisciplinary research and clinical team at the University and the world-renowned Christie Hospital over a ten-year period. All aspects of the disease, which affects 2,000 young people in the UK each year, will be targeted, from its molecular basis to its psychological impact.

"There is so much we don't know about teenage cancer and so many areas where

we need to improve," said Tim Eden, Professor of Paediatric Oncology at VUM, who led the bid for funding.

"Teenagers show less survival improvements than children or adults, they have different types of cancer and there has not been any proper classification of their cancers up until now. Now, for the first time, there will be a team dedicated entirely to this 13 to 24 age group. That is a major step forward."

A £2.5 million grant to create the world's first chair in adolescent cancer care has been hailed "a major step forward" in the fight against the disease.

Jill Birch, Professorial Research Fellow at Manchester, added: "Compared with our knowledge of the causes of adult cancers, we hardly know anything. Why do these young people get cancer at all when they have had little exposure to environmental factors? We have to be looking at different mechanisms in this age group."

The hunt is now on to find a top international candidate to fill the chair, who should be in post by next year.

<http://www.teencancer.com/>

School's in for Summer

School children who might not otherwise consider higher education were given a taste of university life during the first summer school to be organised jointly by UMIST and the Victoria University of Manchester.

Two-hundred-and-thirty young people from across the North West descended on both campuses in July for a weeklong adventure designed to let them experience what university has to offer, both academically and socially. The initiative, was the largest of its kind in the UK.

Sam Dale, the University's Widening Participation Co-ordinator, said: "Widening participation in higher education will be one of the key objectives of the newly merged university.

"The summer school encourages young people from families with little or no experience of higher education to see university as a realistic option for them."

During the event, the youngsters lived in halls of residence and took part in a variety of research projects across university departments.

This included being city traders for the afternoon in a 'mock-up' stock exchange which was set up in the refectory at VUM.



Selling higher education to students

News



From left: Professor Andrew Downes (Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Economic and Social Research, University of the West Indies), Professor Colin Kirkpatrick (IDPM), Professor Gustav Ranis (Yale University), Professor Robert Tignor (Princeton University), Professor Mark Figueroa (University of the West Indies)

Economic Excellence

The Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) organised an international conference over the summer to mark the contribution of Sir Arthur Lewis in establishing VUM's international reputation as a centre of excellence for teaching and research in development economics.

Sir Arthur Lewis was Stanley Jevons Professor of Political Economy at the University from 1948 to 1958. Lewis is widely acknowledged to be one of the founding fathers of development economics as an academic

discipline. In 1979 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics for pioneering research in economic development.

The conference marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of Lewis's most influential work 'Unlimited Supplies of Labour' in the Manchester School, and attracted a large number of distinguished development economists from the UK and abroad. A selection of the papers presented at the conference will be published in a special issue of the Manchester School later this year.

www.idpm.man.ac.uk

ProFaNE Network

ProFaNE, The Prevention of Falls Network Europe, based within the School of Nursing, hosted its first major conference in June at Chancellor's Conference Centre.

ProFaNE is a thematic network with 25 partners focusing on the issue of prevention of falls. It was set up to look into effective methods of preventing falls and resultant fractures, which are a major public health challenge, with 30-40% of community dwellers aged over 65 years falling each year. Annually in England there are some 190,000 fractures, including 60,000 hip fractures.

The conference began with an opening speech from Professor Chris Todd and Dr Dawn Skelton, which detailed the work of ProFaNE to date. Delegates were able to

take part in workshops to gain consensus and exchange knowledge and experience.

More than 100 delegates attended from across Europe, Dawn Skelton commented: "Health care policy for fallers across Europe varies considerably. This is the first time that we have been able to address the issue of potential European guidelines for clinical and psychological care of older people who fall. "The Network allows effective communication between members that ultimately aims to run a multi-centre randomized controlled trial into falls prevention across Europe."

www.profane.eu.org

News

Keeping it in the Family

The Family of Companies Network, which brings together companies that have been established by or supported by UMIST Ventures Ltd, VUMAN or Manchester Innovation Ltd has been launched. The network will also include Manchester Incubator tenants, Manchester Business School incubates, Manchester Science Enterprise Centre incubates, Manchester Technology Fund supported companies and Science Park tenants.

The network brings together 87 companies, who collectively, contribute products of the universities research into the economy whilst generating substantial

social and financial wealth. It will give members the opportunity to meet with like-minded individuals, and benefit from business-to-business opportunities, joint marketing and mentoring activities as well as create access to graduates and University facilities.

The first Network event saw CEOs, Directors, Managing Directors, Chairman, and senior staff from companies associated with both universities, gather for an informal evening of discussion about the development of future relations between the Family of Companies Network and the new merged university.



Dragonfly takes off at UMIST

UMIST has played host to a "Dragonfly" event as part of a pilot scheme run by Headstart, part of the Royal Academy of Engineering's Best Programme.

Year 10 girls were invited from local schools to undertake a fun day of science and technology based projects. The girls were accompanied by their teachers and were mentored by team leaders. The event was masterminded by Keith Waddams of UMIST and Fiona Burton at Headstart.

The aim of Dragonfly is to ensure that girls are better informed about opportunities from careers in Science, Engineering and Technology, to knowing what subjects they should be taking at

A-level. It provides a step along the way for those who want to know more about technology based careers.

Headstart summer schools are held in the Engineering departments of 26 leading universities each year. Designed for male and female students interested in technology based careers, the students engage in design, build and test projects and attend lectures and seminars, and meet young employees of major organisations.



Research



Arts and Humanities Windfall

Five Manchester academics have been awarded funding totalling £70,000 to carry out research in a wide range of arts and humanities subjects each receiving 'research leave' awards of just over £14,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB), in its latest round of funding.

The 'research leave' scheme funds replacement teaching costs, which means that academics can take periods of three or four months research leave to carry out, or complete, a significant piece of research.

The recipients are:
Professor Mona Baker, Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies -

research for her book: 'Translation and conflict: Mediating competing narratives.'

Professor John Casken, Head of the School of Music and Drama - original musical composition for string quartet and symphony orchestra.

Lecturer in the School of History and Classics, Dr Emma Griffiths - the role of children in Greek tragedies.

Dr Anthony Lappin, Department of Spanish and Portuguese - questions of authorship regarding the works attributed to the 13th century Spanish poet Gonzalo de Berceo.

Professor Dee Reynolds, Department of French Studies - rhythmic subjects and changing economies of energy in dance – focusing on Mary Wigman, Martha Graham and Merce Cunningham.

 www.ahrb.ac.uk



Battling bone disease

Researchers at the Clinical Radiology Unit (VUM) hope a major study of skeletal development in children and young adults will help them understand how bone growth can be optimised.

Osteoporosis, which affects one in three British women and one in 12 men, is fast becoming an epidemic with reported cases up 10% each year. Sufferers of the condition, commonly referred to as 'brittle bone disease', develop thinner, weaker bones that are more prone to breaking. The result can be permanent disability and, in some cases, even death.

During childhood and adolescence the skeleton increases in size, continuously accumulating calcium, and reaches peak levels at about 30 years of age. Ensuring the maximum possible

amount of bone is accumulated during this time, experts believe, may reduce the likelihood of developing osteoporosis in later life.

"Osteoporosis has been described as 'a disease of childhood'," explained Judith Adams, Professor of Diagnostic Radiology. "The years of youth are vital to the skeleton, as this is the period that bone is banked ensuring a healthy and strong skeleton throughout life."

The team is looking for volunteers to take part in the study, which uses special state-of-the-art scanners to

measure the strength and amount of bone in the skeleton. The results from these non-invasive, painless scans should provide a better understanding of the normal pattern of bone growth and the factors that can influence it.

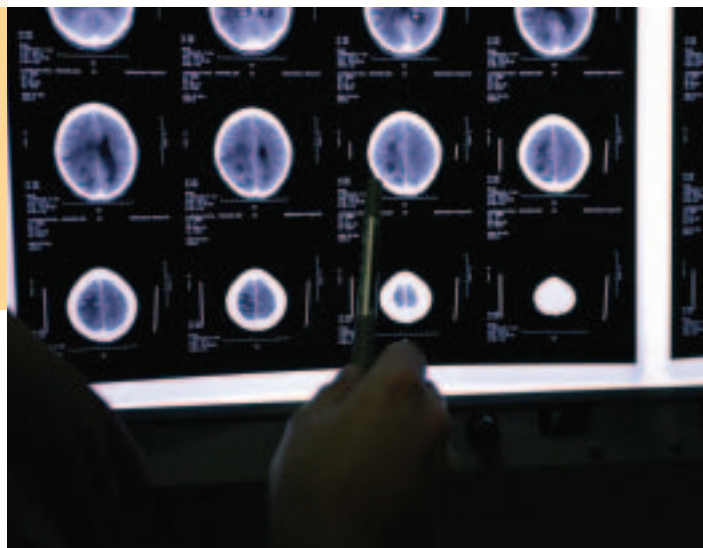
Two groups are required: young people aged 5-18 and males aged 19-24, whose critical period of bone accumulation goes on for longer. Volunteers will spend about an hour at the Unit and travelling expenses will be reimbursed.

For further information contact 275 5297 or email kate.ward@man.ac.uk

Research

Brain Activity

Pioneering research looking at the brain activity of individuals as they carry out simple psychological tests could give scientists a greater understanding of behavioural problems like compulsive gambling and antisocial behaviour.



Using recent advances in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which have allowed the brain to be visualised like never before, researchers in the Neuroscience and Psychiatry Unit (VUM) will investigate whether the reaction of volunteers to the tests can be explained by chemical activity in different parts of the brain.

Known as functional magnetic resonance imaging or fMRI, the technique has already shown that by temporarily altering the neurotransmitter 5-hydroxytryptamine (5HT), the behaviour of a healthy volunteer can be influenced in a predictable way.

Professor Bill Deakin and his colleagues at the Unit are gathering evidence that

suggests behavioural problems could also be caused by the 5HT neurotransmitter.

"The pattern of fMRI activations of people with behavioural problems related to impulse control, like compulsive gamblers or individuals with an antisocial personality disorder, is different to those of healthy volunteers," said Professor Deakin. "Additional evidence is now accumulating to suggest this may be related to subtle disturbances in parts of the brain's 5HT system.

"At the same time, it is becoming clear that excessive worry coupled with over-sensitivity to punishment, both traits seen in some anxiety disorders, may represent the opposite end of the behaviour spectrum."

Having completed two preliminary studies, the team is about to start on the main project and is looking for healthy volunteers to undergo the psychological tasks. Individuals suffering from anxiety and antisocial personality disorders will be recruited from special facilities and form the other two test groups. Volunteers that are chosen to take part could receive upto £115 to attend three consultations. They will also be entered into a prize draw and all travel expenses will be paid.

Anyone interested can call 275 7670/7432, or email npuvols@fs1.scg.man.ac.uk

Centre of Excellence



Chemical Engineering staff at UMIST have made "significant progress" in setting up the Centre of Excellence in Biocatalysis, Biotransformations and Biocatalytic Manufacture (CoEBio3). The Core Research Facility will occupy the top floor of the new five-storey Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB) building in state-of-the-art facilities for 60-80 of the Centre's researchers.

Other scientists in the £35M MIB building will be world-class experts in many areas of direct interest to CoEBio3, such as microbiology, genomics, proteomics, materials science and bioinformatics. A full range of analytical techniques, including state-of-the-art mass spectrometry will be available to the CoE researchers. The biocatalysis research effort in Manchester will be spearheaded

by Professor Nick Turner and Professor Sabine Flitsch.

In addition to the Manchester Core Facility, the CoEBio3 will include other important components including a Biocatalytic Engineering Consortium, involving universities in Scotland. The Facility will also interact with other UK experts in biocatalysis to link complementary efforts in this area of science.

Research


Amazed by science this summer

Both universities showcased some of their most exciting research at the Royal Society's Summer Science Exhibition last month. The exhibition is held annually at the London headquarters of the Royal Society, the UK national academy of science.

The joint Manchester exhibit, entitled 'Shooting Cancers' showed how technology has enabled the delivery of genes to cells to replace absent or defective genes. A VUM/UMIST team are developing a new electromagnetic means of delivering genes. If successful, this new delivery system will permit research on suspensions/detached cells, reduce cell death and damage, and lead to in vivo applications for cancer treatment.

The academics involved include Dr Bin Wang and Professor Steve Reid from UMIST and Professor David Garrod from VUM.

This year's exhibition featured a total of 25 exhibits from universities and companies throughout the UK. Each one presented cutting-edge science, engineering or technology through interactive displays seen by more than 3,500 people.

 www.royalsoc.ac.uk



From left: Professor Aasha Kapur (Indian Institute of Public Administration), Mr Charles Lwanga Ntale (Development Research and Training, Uganda), Hilary Benn, Chancellor Gordon Brown, Professor David Hulme (IDPM), Manchester.

Poverty Report


"A landmark report... a challenge to complacency." That's how Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown described research carried out by the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (VUM) into the plight of the world's most vulnerable people.

The Centre's director, Professor David Hulme, of the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), has called for a "greater focus on social protection for the poorest" and for the "wealthy countries to honour their aid commitments".

The report, launched in the House of Commons in May before the Chancellor and Secretary of State for International Development Hilary Benn, examines the

causes that keep an estimated 300 to 420 million people worldwide in chronic poverty.

The report states that overcoming chronic poverty requires policy-makers to reorder their priorities and set their sights higher than the current consensus on poverty reduction policy. Chronically poor people need more than 'opportunities' to improve their situation. They need targeted support and protection, and political action that confronts exclusion.

 www.chronicpoverty.org

Research

Managing Change

A master class on how to lead during times of change was held by the Centre for Educational Leadership (VUM). More than 70 head teachers and local authority advisers attended the first 'Change in Organisations' annual conference to hear Gerard Egan, emeritus professor of organisational development and psychology at Loyola University, Chicago, and renowned international consultant and writer.

Setting the scene at the conference was Professor Katharine Perera, Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor, who described the transformational change underpinning Project Unity.

The centrepiece of Professor Egan's work is an integrated framework that managers and consultants can use to identify, organise and implement the

best ideas emerging from today's transformational change agenda.

The Centre for Educational Leadership, is planning a further conference in June next year for management teams wishing to apply Professor Egan's framework to the challenges and opportunities they are facing in their own organisations.



From left: Professor Brendan Murden, Ann Derring, Professor Gerard Egan and Professor Katharine Perera

<http://www.man.ac.uk/leadership/>

Spider Man

Tracking down creepy crawlies in the remote wilderness of Siberia might not be everyone's ideal way of spending the summer but for Dr Dmitri Logunov it's a naturalist's dream.

As Curator of Arthropods at the Manchester Museum, the Russian-born scientist is both a taxonomist (identifier of species) and systematist (studier of relationships between taxa), and says this vast Russian territory is a 'terra incognita', a remote land full of virgin natural habitats.

"There are lots of rare and unique plants and animals that we know about but the complete biodiversity has not been inventoried. It's therefore an attractive region for those who are keen on real adventures and discoveries."

Indeed, Dr Logunov, who has been carrying out research in the region for the past 15 years, is currently in one of the remotest parts of the territory, no doubt hoping to add to his tally of more than 40 new species of spider that he has so far discovered.

"The need for continuing field trips such as this is dictated by our poor knowledge of the planet's biodiversity," he told UniLife before leaving on his latest expedition. "Some 950,000 insect species have been described to date, but that figure makes up no more than 12% of their actual, undiscovered diversity."

Stretching from the Ural Mountains in the West thousands of miles to the Bering Strait in the East, Siberia is rich in natural resources and minerals, while 40% of the land surface is covered by woodland. Dr Logunov's last trip took him to the far eastern part of the territory, close to the Bering Strait. There, he collected and studied spiders and insects.



Dr Dmitri Logunov

News

Vice-Chancellors Honoured

The end of September will bring with it the end of an era as Professor Sir Martin Harris steps down as Vice-Chancellor of The Victoria University of Manchester and Professor John Garside steps down as UMIST's Principal and Vice-Chancellor on the coming together of the two institutions.

To mark their outstanding contributions, they are to receive honorary degrees from both universities on their respective days of celebration on 7 and 8 September.

Sir Martin came to the University in 1992 from the University of Essex where he was Vice-Chancellor from 1987. Prior to that he had been an academic at Salford University becoming Professor of Romance Linguistics and then Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Sir Martin was knighted in 2000.

For his part, Sir Martin says he is proud of what has been achieved at the University in recent years, which includes major awards for research and teaching as well as the University's involvement in the Commonwealth Games.

Sir Martin will be leaving his mark on the campus. The University's new Music and Drama building has been renamed the 'Martin Harris Building' in honour of his sterling work spearheading fundraising towards the £6 million project.

And early this summer a portrait of Sir Martin was unveiled at the Whitworth Gallery. The painting was created by artist Peter Edwards who has also painted portraits of Sir Bobby Charlton and Baroness Blackstone. It will hang alongside paintings of former Vice-Chancellors in a tradition dating back 100 years.



"I have very much enjoyed my twelve challenging years at the helm of this great University, and I wish even greater success to the new University which comes into being in a few weeks time," said Sir Martin.

Key figures at UMIST will have the chance to pay tribute to Professor Garside, when they attend a celebration dinner on Wednesday 29th September at the Weston Building. Invited guests will get their first glimpse of the specially-commissioned portrait of UMIST's last ever Vice-Chancellor, painted by the renowned London artist Michael Noakes, who also created a portrait of the late Sir Roland Smith.

But there will also be more private occasions for Professor Garside and his colleagues to share their memories of

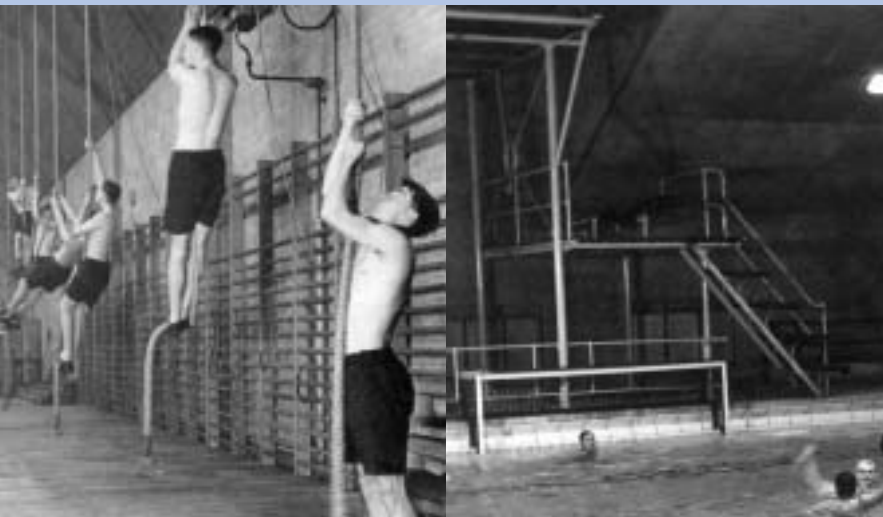
UMIST, such as on Wednesday 15th September when members of UMIST Council will attend a dinner to mark the end of the University's governing body.

Professor Garside said: "I have been involved with UMIST for more than 20 years now and I am sure that it will be a sad moment when I close my office door for the final time. But I would like to thank all of my colleagues over the years who have helped me so much, for their kindness, advice and guidance.

"But, whilst it is tinged with sadness, I believe the merger with the Victoria University of Manchester will give us an outstanding opportunity to build a truly world class university that will continue to attract the best students, the most talented staff and significant research funds from around the world."

Looking Back

The McDougall Centre



The McDougall Centre which has provided the University community with sporting facilities for 65 years closed its doors at the end of July. When it opened in 1940 it was one of the few multi-purpose sports centres in the UK but the history of the two buildings which made up the facility goes back even further.

The building which housed the squash courts was once Barkers Riding School, where horses were sold and broken to saddle and harness, let out for hire and ladies and gentlemen were taught the art of riding. The School was voluntarily wound up in 1906 and it wasn't until 1937 that the University purchased it for £2250.

The main body of the Centre was a Drill Hall, donated to the University in 1936 by Sir Robert McDougall and cost £9,000. The first mention of its use as a military establishment was in 1860 when it was the headquarters of the 4th Volunteer Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. Following the Great War it was amalgamated with the 6th Battalion the Manchester Regiment and moved to Stretford Road premises.

The vacant Drill Hall was allotted to the newly formed 42nd East Lancs Divisional Signals of the Territorial Army who moved in in 1922. This unit rapidly grew in

strength and by 1930 three full companies were based at the Drill Hall and the move to motor vehicles from horse drawn wagons prompted a relocate to a new Drill Hall at Brooks Bar in 1932.

Four years later the University acquired this building and the old drill hall was divided to house the swimming pool. The large gymnasium was named in memory of Sir Edward Holt who had provided a former gymnasium in Burlington Street in 1909, the original one was built in 1878 on the site of the Christie Building.

Almost as soon as the Centre was ready for use, a large delayed action bomb dropped on the building and went through the side of the swimming pool, burying itself 12 feet down and emptying out all the water. Fortunately it did not explode and the superintendent enlisted the Royal Engineers to diffuse it.

* From this autumn, the University community will be able to make use of a newly-extended Sugden Sports Centre, operated in partnership with MMU. This major indoor facility will boast a second double-size sports hall, increased changing provision and a 100-station fitness suite in keeping with Manchester's world-class sporting tradition.

Noticeboard

Want to Receive an Extra £30

We are looking for males to take part in a research study at the Department of Psychology. You will first be asked to fill in some questionnaires which we can send to you. You will then be asked to meet with us at the University to complete some small computer tasks.

Anybody can take part - we only ask that that you have no history of mental health difficulties and that you have never been convicted of a violent act against another person.

If you think you would like to take part or would like further information, please contact me at:

Dr Jayne Taylor EXT 52569/52554 or email at Jayne.L.Taylor@man.ac.uk

2nd Conference of the Consortium for Post-Genome Science

International Convention Centre
Manchester

1 – 3 September 200

"Post-genomic technologies and their impact on scientific, healthcare and ethical issues". Further information and on-line registration can be found at: www.postgenomeconsortium.com/conference_2004

British Computer Society in Manchester

Monday 13 September

"New European rules for software licensing". Dai Davies (Head of IT North and Consultant at Nabbaro Nathanson). 6.45pm, Reynold Bldg, UMIST (Buffet 6.15pm).

Profile

“ We have a very large, very diverse Faculty now, where we can pull our expertise together, often for the first time. ”

Alistair's Aims

Not everyone can claim to be connected to King Canute, albeit tenuously, but with an unusual surname like Ulph you might expect something special. There was an Earl Ulf (earlier spelling) who came over from Scandinavia with King Knut (earlier spelling also). And there's a priceless drinking vessel in York Minster named Ulph's Jarl. Professor Alistair Ulph, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, is not at all one to stand on ceremony – he's a genial Scot - but it's as well to know.



Another interesting fact is that Alistair has an identical twin brother, David, and they both studied at Glasgow University, won postgraduate scholarships to Oxford (Balliol) and became Professors of Economics. However, David has recently vacated his Chair to become Head of Policy and Research at the Inland Revenue. So, Alistair not only has friends in high places (economists get everywhere), which he certainly does, but a brother in high places too.

More seriously, he has a remarkable record of achievement in his chosen field of environmental and natural resource economics – he was President of the European Association for Environmental and Resource Economists for 2000 and 2001 - and in academic management. Achievement can be difficult to measure, but assessment exercises and league tables certainly give a clue. And as Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southampton, working with the

Director of Planning and scrutinising every submission, he masterminded their last RAE strategy – and in the UK league tables Southampton leapt from 20th in 1996 to 10th in 2001. “It was an exciting and challenging time,” he says, “and a tremendous team effort.”

Carving policy out of research and developing operational strategies is what he enjoys. As a resource economist, he has his finger on the pulse of the relationship between supply, pricing and government policy. And today, of course, there is no hotter topic. Even we non-economists have some sense of how a natural resource like oil can affect our lives – from government action to the price of a litre of petrol.

Ironically, Alistair became an economist pretty much by chance, as did his brother. At school they had studied Maths and Languages, not Science, but the only way to study Maths at Glasgow University outside the Science Faculty was to do

a joint degree with Economics. “It was just a coincidence,” he says. “But I found that I had a natural interest in the subject.” In 1968, he went on to do a BPhil in Management Studies at Oxford, where he made a geologist friend, Ted Eadie. “He really sparked my interest in natural resources,” he says. The dye was cast – the resource economist was born, you might say. He did his thesis on the economics of the mining industry.

He taught at the Oxford Management Centre for a couple of years and then, in 1972, got a lectureship at the new University of Stirling, as did David. Again, exciting and challenging times, not least, he recalls, the notorious event which got the place a bad name for a while – the visit of the Queen, where some students, rather the worse for drink on a day when lectures were cancelled, did not behave with due respect. “It was unfortunate, but it wasn't as bad as it seemed,” says Alistair. “Still, we certainly got a bad press.”



In 1976, he went to Australia – as a Research Fellow in the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra. It was an important – and fruitful – time. “We were experiencing oil price crises and I was interested in how we might model markets for non-renewable resources such as oil in which there are cartels like OPEC, to understand how oil producers would set their pricing strategies over time,” he says. “Not very many economists were working in this area at the time and we produced some of the early papers applying dynamic game theory to such markets, with some surprising results.” He also established a lasting link with one of the other leading figures in the field, Tony Scott at UBC.

After three years, he returned to the UK to take up a lectureship at Southampton, where he has built his reputation. His work has expanded to embrace new technologies and innovation, environmental policies in a globalised world, how uncertainty and its resolution affect climate change policy. His influential book, *Environmental Policy, International Agreements and International Trade*, was published by OUP in 2001.

Having been Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, he served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor to Sir Howard Newby for six

years, before returning to the Faculty as Director of Research.

And now Manchester. “It’s a very exciting opportunity for us all,” he says enthusiastically, “We are doing something original. We have a very large, very diverse Faculty now, where we can pull our expertise together, often for the first time. There are a number of areas which were separate and by bringing them together into a critical mass we can allow them to take off. This gives us real strength. There are also lots of exciting prospects for innovation and knowledge transfer.”

The Faculty has 15,000 students and eight different Schools: MBS; Arts, History and Culture; Languages, Linguistics and Culture; Environment and Development; Social Sciences; Education; Law; and Informatics.

He is also enthused about living here. He and his wife, Nanette, a pharmacist, who he met when they were both students in Glasgow (they married in 1971 and have two grown-up daughters, Karen and Fiona), enjoy films, classical music and walking. They’ve already discovered the delights of The Cornerhouse, the Bridgewater Hall and the Peak District.

So, all that’s left to do now is to run what amounts to a medium-sized university. That’s a challenge even for a man with links, however tenuous, to the noble hoardes of King Canute.

CV

Name

Professor Alistair Ulph

Position

Vice-President and Dean, Faculty of Humanities, The University of Manchester.

Education

MA (1st Class Honours), Economics and Statistics, University of Glasgow, 1968

B Phil Management Studies, University of Oxford 1970

Career History:

Academic

1970-72 Research Fellow, Oxford Centre for Management Studies (now Templeton College)

1972-76 Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Stirling

1976-79 Research Fellow, Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, ANU, Australia

1979-84 Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Southampton

1984-85 Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Southampton

1985-2004 Professor of Economics, University of Southampton

Management

University of Southampton

1986– 89 Head of Department of Economics,

1986-89 Deputy Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences

1989 – 92 Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences

1992 – 93 Deputy Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences,

1995 – 2001 Deputy Vice Chancellor

2003-04 Director of Research, School of Social Sciences

2003-04 Acting Head of School of Humanities

Project Unity

Transfer of Staff Process - Update

1. Introduction

The administrative structures for the new University are now being finalised. They represent the culmination of two years of consultation, discussion and development. Together with the academic structures they will provide a firm base for us to move together towards the Manchester 2015 vision.

At this time it is important to re-emphasize the principles and processes of the transfer of staff procedures, as these will now be becoming very relevant for most people. The transfer of staff process is designed to ensure that jobs are protected appropriately while at the same time allowing fair competition for the opportunities that arise within the new structures. The process is there to support all staff and to manage the transition to the new University. It has been designed to protect their welfare and facilitate opportunities in a fair and transparent manner. It will help make the transfer of staff to the new University a success.

The Transfer of Staff Document sets out the processes that have been agreed to help facilitate the transfer process.

2. Direct Transfer Posts

Where posts are largely unchanged and are not affected by the merger of posts into one role they will be "direct transfers". Staff will be informed of this and they will receive a letter confirming that their job will be directly transferred into the new structure, and they will not therefore need to take any action to apply for or secure their jobs.

3. Ring fenced Posts

A "ring fenced" post arises where:

- a job has clearly changed compared to equivalent current roles; and
- it could still be considered that at least one person currently conducts 51% of the key elements of the job; and



- the above person has been directly affected by the creation of the ring fenced post.

Individuals that are ring fenced will be informed directly and invited to apply for this post. Unless staff are informed that they are ring fenced for a post, they cannot apply for that post. If they were allowed to do so it would go directly against the principle of protecting jobs appropriately. Any member of staff that believes they do currently perform 51% of the key elements of a role and have been directly affected by the creation of this post, and yet who has not been invited to apply for the ring fenced post, should contact their relevant HR representative as soon as possible. The HR representative will be pleased to discuss their position. The list of the HR representatives is set out below and can be found on the Unity web site at (link attached).

It may be possible that a member of staff could be ring fenced for more than one post. Being invited to apply for a ring fenced post does not mean that the member of staff will not be considered for any future posts and similarly staff that accept a post in the new structure will still be free to apply for other relevant posts as they arise.

4. New Posts

"New" posts are those that have been created as part of re-structuring and where there are no current staff that can be considered to undertake at least 51%

of the role. These posts will be advertised on the Project Unity web site.

5. Guidance for Staff on Fixed-term Contracts

Staff on fixed-term contracts will be directly transferred and ring fenced for posts that are continuing as fixed-term contract positions in the new institution and therefore their positions will be appropriately protected under the transfer of staff process. This situation is likely to apply to the majority of staff employed on fixed-term contracts, including Contract Research Staff, since the majority of such contracts will simply transfer into the new university.

Staff on fixed-term contracts should not normally apply for posts advertised on the Project Unity website, unless it is clearly indicated that they can do so on the website and application form.

In particular, "new" posts will be made available to staff on fixed-term contracts where it is clear that there are no existing staff on open-ended contracts that are able to fill these posts in the re-organised structures.

However, if any member of fixed-term contract staff believes that they should be eligible to apply for an advertised post, due to the special circumstances of their contract, then they should contact their local HR representative as soon as possible to discuss this.

Appeals Process

The Practical Guide to the Transfer of Staff Process, which was issued in February 2004 and can be found on the Project Unity website, indicates that “where staff have a strong and substantial belief that their assimilation decision is incorrect, recourse can be sought by writing to the designated Personnel Manager, providing full grounds for the appeal within two weeks of the being advised of the assimilation decision”

You will be aware that there is a need, for everyone's sake, to allocate staff to posts in the new university as quickly as possible, and as we move into the phase where most posts will be allocated the situation will be necessarily fast-moving. It is important, therefore, that you should check the Project Unity website on a regular basis to keep up with events in the areas of interest to you, and also seek information about your own situation from your line manager.

If you have any concerns about the effects of the transfer of staff process, as it relates to your situation, it is important that you raise these immediately with your line manager or the relevant HR Transition Team member (see <http://www.projectunity.man.ac.uk/vacancies/HRTT260404.pdf>). This will ensure that the issue is tackled quickly, and any necessary action taken. If you still have substantial concerns after the matter has been referred in this way, you may then invoke the appeal procedures detailed below:

1. Staff wishing to appeal against an assimilation decision must provide details of the grounds for their appeal in writing. The grounds should be fully and clearly stated. The grounds for an appeal should be submitted either electronically or in hard copy format addressed to Shane O' Toole or Glynis Robinson, Personnel Office, John Owens Building, University of Manchester (shane.o'toole@man.ac.uk or glynis.robinson@man.ac.uk) within ten working days of the decision to exclude them from consideration.

2. A central team will be responsible for arranging panels to hear the cases. Appellants may bring their trade union representative or a workplace colleague.



Wherever possible appeals will be heard within 2 weeks.

3. Each panel will consist of a Chair (a lay member of one of the two universities' personnel committees), a university management representative and a trade union representative. The Management and Trade Union representatives will not hear cases from their own areas*.

4. All panel members will have attended an initial briefing session to ensure that a consistent approach will be taken for all appeals. This briefing session will provide guidance to panel members relating to the areas that should be considered fully prior to making any decision. The Chair will reserve the right to adjourn and reconvene the appeal if this is considered necessary.

5. The Chair will convene the hearing and make any necessary introductions. The member of staff (and trade union representative or workplace colleague) will present their case to the panel first. The manager (who may be accompanied by the relevant HR Transition Team representative) will then set out the basis on which the decision was made. The panel will pursue questions and responses as necessary. The panel will then adjourn and its decision will be relayed to the appellant within two working days. The decision of the panel will be final.

* Trade Union and Management representatives are not eligible to hear cases from their own schools or directorates

Project Unity

The Challenge of Change

These are exciting and challenging times, and from a professional point of view, many of us have never before experienced anything of the order of the challenge involved in the work associated with the creation of the new institution. Many of us respond positively to a degree of pressure at work – applied sensibly, pressure can stimulate us to produce better work and more of it, but if we experience too much pressure we need a safety valve, a means of dealing with the excess pressure.

No one knows how to anticipate or measure the point at which positive pressure turns into damaging stress. It is dependant on each of us individually and the picture is further complicated by the complex interactions with all the other things going on in our lives, not just at work.

In consultation with the trade unions, VUM and UMIST have now brought together their policies and procedures on dealing with stress at work into a new Policy on the Management of

Stress at Work. Colleagues from the campus trade unions, Occupational Health and Human Resources, from both UMIST and VUM, and the Joint Counselling Service have all given their support to the new policy, which seeks to tackle the negative impact of stress in three ways:

- Firstly, and perhaps most importantly, it will help managers and individuals identify the circumstances that could result in stress, so that steps can be taken to prevent adverse effects on physical or mental health. Prevention is almost always a better strategy than cure!
- Secondly, it helps managers and individuals recognise early symptoms of stress – both in individuals and in teams. Managers can then develop strategies to minimise or control the adverse effects. This is achieved in part through a management training programme which is already undertaken at both institutions.
- Thirdly, the policy points the way to appropriate support for those individuals who are experiencing stress, for example, through the confidential Counselling Service and Occupational Health Service, which are available to staff at both institutions.

In our current situation, we are all experiencing change and uncertainty, two factors closely associated with stress. The early creation of a policy which builds upon existing policies and work in either institution is a positive move that demonstrates the commitment of the new institution to effective measures to prevent, minimise and address harmful stress.

An immediate measure that is being taken to support colleagues, as we enter the period when the majority of staff will find out which job they will undertake in the new institution, is the provision of additional transitional support to staff. This will be co-ordinated by the Human Resources Transition Team and is a means of helping to support staff in areas that have been directly affected by the transfer. Supporting measures will be wide ranging: from the practical assistance needed to help them to get placed into the new structure, to directing them to sources of support available in either institution if they are feeling undue pressure in the meantime. Examples of practical support could include career management guidance or skills training.

Further support will also be available for those staff who experience particular difficulty in locating an appropriate role in the new university, or who are considering alternative career paths (see below)

People are the key to the success of the new institution and these measures demonstrate our commitment to putting people first.

Key contacts

A list of Human Resources Transition Team contacts can be found at: <http://www.projectunity.man.ac.uk/vacancies/HRTT260404.pdf>

VUM Occupational Health can be contacted on: ext. 56971

Appointments with the VUM Counselling Service can be arranged on ext. 52864

UMIST Occupational Health and Staff Counselling Service can be contacted on: ext. 6400

Corrections

There are two corrections to the Project Unity piece 'Visions for Manchester 2015 – the School and Faculty Perspective': School of Arts, Histories and Cultures (p17) – UniLife 7 June 2004.

The School has recently appointed Professor Frank Mort, Professor of Cultural History, University of East London, to the investment post of Professor of Cultural Studies.

The School has also secured funding for a Simon Visiting Professorship for next year, to which Professor Alessandro Portelli, Professor of American Literature at the University of Sapienza in Rome has been appointed, which will help to promote the School's excellence in research and will enrich the graduate programmes.

Staff Support Provision

During the period of transition into the new University there is inevitably a considerable amount of uncertainty and anxiety amongst staff about the future. New structures are being designed, and will take some time to be populated. As staff begin to be appointed to posts in the new structure it will become increasingly clear that some have not yet found a role, and their anxiety will increase as that of others diminishes.

The HR team will, therefore, provide a staff support service along the following lines:

- A central team of Personnel staff, led by Judith Clayton and comprising a Personnel Officer / Manager from each existing university, who will offer individual consultations, as far as is possible, with staff who have significant concerns about their future role in the new University. Advice will be available on all possible alternatives, and options may be discussed in detail, including full information on Early Retirement and Voluntary Severance opportunities, in confidence.
- Redeployment opportunities will be explored wherever appropriate, and the central team will co-ordinate this activity

- Retraining opportunities will be explored and funded as appropriate
- Individual stress counselling will continue to be available in both universities (see above)
- Extensive availability of pre-retirement courses and financial planning
- Career guidance sessions will be provided, giving advice on the production of CVs and career-change options and strategies
- Individual career counselling and guidance will be available from professional consultants for a limited number of cases
- Advice and support in deciding to start a business will be provided by professional consultants
- One-to-one mentoring and guidance in initial business start-up will be available

If members of staff would like to explore any of these provisions further they should talk to the HR Transition Team member for their area (information on this available on the Project Unity Web-pages) or their existing Personnel Officer/ Manager, or they may telephone Judith Clayton's

office directly (Ext 64053) to arrange an appointment.

So...what's on offer so far?

Check out the Careers Service Website, which has a new Staff Support section: <http://www.graduatecareersonline.com/staffsupport>.

Please note that several Career Review seminars are to be run over the next few weeks.

Two workshops on "Starting a Business" will be held on 20 and 23 August and 24 and 27 September 2004. These are two-day sessions, which aim to provide wide-ranging information and guidance on starting a business, and will be delivered in small groups in a confidential and relaxed environment.

Two further Pre-Retirement seminars will be provided in August and September.

Two Financial Planning seminars will be held in August; the first is scheduled for 10th August 2004.

For further information on any of these courses please contact the Staff Training and Development Unit on Ext: 52525.

Private Bill Update

During June The 'University of Manchester 2004' bill successfully completed its committee reading in the House of Commons. The third reading took place in July, and the Bill is expected to receive Royal Assent by the end of August. On receiving Royal Assent, the Bill will, on 1 October 2004, transfer all rights and obligations of the two existing universities to the new university.

The Charter and Statutes were also approved by the Privy Council Office in June. The new charter is currently being printed and the Great Seal will be applied during August, to bring the charter into effect.

The grant of Arms to the new University of Manchester will be completed in August. The new Coat of Arms design, which has been approved by the Board

of the CLG and agreed with the College of Arms, includes in its shield and crest certain aspects to be found on those of the two existing universities. The Coat of Arms will carry the motto COGNITIO SAPIENTIA HVMANITAS and the literal translation of the motto is "discovery, wisdom, humanity", and work has been commissioned to provide a more prosaic translation.

People



Investors in People

The coveted Investors in People standard has been retained by The Victoria University of Manchester's School of Biological Sciences, following a second successful review. It means the school, which has experienced a number of internal reorganisations over recent years, will have held the title for more than five years.

"The school chose to undertake a 'profile review', which provides specific information against key performance indicators related to developing and

implementing our strategy and developing our people," said John Robinson, the School's Communications and Development Manager.

"This will help senior management to develop a strategy for specific areas for improvement. We hope to continue maintaining the standard as the full effects of Project Unity come into play. It is encouraging that the ethos of the standard is inherent in the new university's strategic plan."



www.biomed.man.ac.uk



Caroline Boggis of the Faculty of MDNP receives the 1st Prize of £500 for the Innovation in the Curriculum Awards from Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Martin Harris and Keith Elliott, Academic Quality

Linking Teaching and Research

The collaborative UMIST and VUM Teaching and Research Development Network held its annual symposium in May on the theme of Linking Teaching and Research. The keynote speaker was Cliff Allan, the newly appointed Director of Programmes and Acting Chief Executive of the Higher Education Academy.

His talk highlighted the various issues concerned with scholarship of teaching and learning as well as the relationship between different types of scholarship in Higher Education Institutes. The event saw the presentation of the biannual Curriculum Innovation Awards by Vice-Chancellor of VUM, Professor Sir Martin Harris. Award winners were:

UMIST 1st prize: 'Designing a Robot – Pilot of a Teamwork Project using an 'Embedded' Microprocessor in the Second Year of a Mechatronics Programme', Mike Barnes, Malcolm Bailey, David Foster and Peter Green, Electrical Engineering and Electronics

UMIST runner up: 'Introducing Personal Development Programme to First Year Computation Students', Sri Kurniawan, Computation

VUM 1st prize: 'Introducing Interprofessional Learning in the Clinical Setting'

Caroline Boggis, Mark Holland, Samantha Cooke, Ann Wakefield and Aine McVanemy, Faculty of MDNP

VUM runners up: 'Introduction of Academic Development Classes into the First Year Programmes in Mathematics', Peter Eccles and Louise Walker, Mathematics

People

Engineering 'Oscar'



Professor David Hayhurst

David Hayhurst, Professor of Design, Manufacture and Materials at UMIST, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

The Royal Academy is a body which brings together the country's most eminent and distinguished engineers of all disciplines and raises the profile of engineering across the world.

Its key roles are to: encourage excellence and innovation in engineering, give sound advice to Government, support engineering education at all levels, and provide financial sponsorship for engineering research and teaching. It was

set up in 1976 and has been growing in size and influence ever since - it now has over 1200 Fellows and an annual turnover in excess of £20M.

Professor Hayhurst said: "It is a time of great change at UMIST, with the new university coming on stream. We are establishing a very exciting new School, comprising of UMIST's existing Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering, the

Manchester School of Engineering and the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering; there will be in excess of 90 academic staff within the school."

"This Fellowship comes at a time, when engineering in the single university addresses the challenges of: economies of scale, best practice in engineering education, and world class research; and, when our novel and innovative approaches are being more widely recognised."

www.raeng.co.uk

A Boost for Stroke Research

A neurosurgeon from VUM has been awarded a Research Fellowship which will help to further his groundbreaking work into stroke research.

Simon Clark has joined the University's renowned research scientists Professor Nancy Rothwell and Dr Pippa Tyrrell, and will be looking into developing a new drug treatment for stroke sufferers. He will be based in the School of Biological Sciences and Hope Hospital.

The Fellowship has been awarded by Research into Ageing's One For All Appeal - which is the medical research arm of

the charity Help the Aged. It will run until September 2005.

Simon said: "There is currently no treatment that allows doctors to control the effects of stroke before the brain is severely and permanently damaged. Our research has shown that by introducing a new drug treatment, we can reduce experimental brain damage caused by stroke.

"This is a really exciting opportunity to work alongside an extremely talented research team. The work we're doing will make a huge difference to stroke victims in the future and I'm proud to be able to work



Simon Clark

www.helptheaged.org.uk

People



Professor Clayden receives his award from Nobel Prize Winner Sir Harry Kroto President of the RSC.

The Right Chemistry

Professor Jonathan Clayden, from The University of Manchester's Department of Chemistry, has won one of the Royal Society of Chemistry's prestigious Corday-Morgan prizes. He received the award for his distinguished contributions to atropisomerism, organolithium chemistry and natural product synthesis.

The Corday-Morgan awards each consist of a silver medal and a prize of £500 and are awarded to British chemists under 38 years of age, who, in the judgement of the RSC's Council, have published the most meritorious contributions to experimental chemistry. Three are awarded annually in different branches of chemistry.

Professor Clayden commented: "The award is really a recognition of the dedication of the Manchester students and researchers who have had the courage to work on more speculative projects and the determination to make the most of unexpected chance observations".

 www.rsc.org

Innovative move

Dr Maire Smith, Chief Executive of Manchester Innovation Ltd (MIL) since 1999, has been appointed Director of Intellectual Property for the NHS. Under her leadership, MIL helped to create 20 spin-out companies, completed 30 licensing deals and filled the incubator with externally-funded companies.

Dr Smith will oversee nine NHS Innovations Hubs across the country,

making sure that the NHS reaps the full financial rewards of any research by tapping into commercial potential of new ideas. She formally takes up her appointment in September.

Dr Smith said: "I hope that the NHS and the University will be working closely together, bringing their expertise to a host of innovative projects"

Dr Maire Smith



Honorary Degree

It's been a good summer for UMIST's Professor Neil Charman from the Department of Optometry and Neuroscience. At a ceremony in New York, he was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by the State University of New York.

Together with Nobel Laureate Professor David Hubel and Professor Thomas Freddo, Professor Charman received his degree from the President of the College of Optometry, Alden Haffner.

Prof Charman joined the Department of Ophthalmic Optics at UMIST in 1970 and subsequently, as Head of Department, he introduced programmes that culminated in the creation of the University's Master of Optometry and Master of Neuroscience degrees.

People

Manchester Music

A new orchestral work by John Casken, Professor of Music at the Victoria University of Manchester, has been the subject of rave reviews after receiving its world premiere at the BBC Proms in the Royal Albert Hall on 22 July.



The Manchester-based BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Gianandrea Noseda, performed the new 35-minute work, *Symphony (Broken Consort)*, which unusually places a gypsy ensemble within the body of the orchestra.

Professor Casken, who has recently returned from Vienna where his second opera, *God's Liar*, based on the novella 'Father Sergius' by Tolstoy, has just received a new production, said: "One of my major tasks as a composer is how to give life to poetic and dramatic ideas through music. The new *Symphony* may be seen as a comment on the integration of different cultural identities, where the

one enriches the other, while the opera reflects on solitude and the outcast in society. Of course, the motivation at all times is musical, rather than political, but one can't avoid drawing parallels with the outside world."

Among those who heard the broadcast of the new *Symphony* were Professor Nancy Rothwell, Vice-President-designate for Research, who said: "Apart from the wonderful music, the BBC reported it as a wholly 'Manchester' achievement, noting how John's success was in spite of the fact he had never worked in London.

Professor Alistair Ulph, Vice-President and Dean of Faculty of Humanities, described

it as an excellent demonstration of the vibrant cultural life that exists outside the capital.

President-designate of the new University, Alan Gilbert, added: "As a newcomer to Manchester, I have been repeatedly impressed and delighted to learn of the international reputation and artistic virtuosity that colleagues such as John Casken bring to the University. John's engagement at the highest level in the cultural life of the wider society epitomises one of the essential qualities of all great universities, a capacity to enrich the aesthetic and artistic dimensions of human consciousness."

Physics Prize



Dr Andrew McNab from the Department of Physics and Astronomy was presented with a prestigious CERN-UK award in June this year. CERN is the world's largest particle physics research laboratory and Dr McNab received his award from its Director General Dr Robert Aymar, at its headquarters in Geneva (pictured above).

Dr McNab received his award for his achievements in software design and his involvement in the development of Computing Grids. A "grid" is way of connecting many computers together across the Internet so they appear to be one big, 'easy to use' system. This enables computing power to become a utility - just like electricity.

Commenting on Dr McNab's award, Professor Roger Barlow from the University's Department of Physics and Astronomy said: "Andrew's clear-headed approach to grid security issues is a source of strength to the grid development programme at CERN and the UK. He is a key member of the team and it's great to see his contribution recognised."

Students



We Won the Cup!

The Victoria University of Manchester's Athletic Union has been celebrating this summer after winning the prestigious Christie Cup for the second time in three years.

The Christie Cup is a sports tournament in which students from this University, Leeds University and Liverpool University compete across 34 different sports. Inaugurated in 1886, the Christie Cup is the oldest inter-university competition outside of Oxbridge.

This year all the triangular events were held on home soil and this University recorded full points in swimming, water polo, Jiu Jitsu, karate, judo and athletics.

The University's sailing club also put in a notable performance, claiming maximum points for the very first time.

Ultimately Manchester triumphed by a comfortable margin with Leeds in second and Liverpool winning the wooden spoon!

AU chair Oliver Latham said: "It's a fantastic achievement and one that I hope will be compounded following the merger of these two great institutions."



Danny Faure, Seychelles Minister of Education and the graduates.

Seychelles Success

The first students of a pioneering partnership between the VUM and Seychelles Polytechnic graduated in July, witnessed by Danny Faure, Minister of Education in the Seychelles.

The graduates were the first to receive degrees from the BA (Econ) and BA International Business, Finance and Economics programme, which began operation in September 2001. The degree course is part of the University's twinning programme with Seychelles Polytechnic, which allows first year students to study in the Seychelles, and then transfer to the University to complete their studies.

The programme has also resulted in the request by the Seychelles Ministry of Education to send all of its best students,

regardless of academic discipline, to Manchester. Currently there are more than 60 such students at both VUM and UMIST, and the success of the twinning programme will ensure more follow.

Laurie Knox, Secretary to the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, commented: "We are delighted with the success of this partnership, which was initiated in 1996. The partnership allows students from the Seychelles to experience another higher education system, and all students who have taken part have settled happily in Manchester and have done well in their studies".

Students

David's Double

David Chiltern, had a double celebration during graduation week, not only did he collect his degree in aerospace engineering, but also the VUM's 2004 John Owens Student Award for supporting his fellow students.



The annual award aims to recognize outstanding achievement by students in helping their peers and contributing in an exceptional way to the life of the University community.

During his three years, David found time in between his studies to work as a peer mentor, supporting other students in their studies and also providing pastoral care, helping students through difficult periods.

He also ran the School of Engineering's mentoring scheme, organising events

to bring mentees together and has led a recruitment drive to encourage other students to get involved.

In addition to mentoring and his studies, David has found time to lead the production of a booklet for new first year students to help them find their feet and has put Engineering into the University football league, with a kit sponsored by Leeds FC. He has also been a Student Ambassador on University Open Days.

Professor Jonathan Cooper, Head of the

School of Engineering said: "David has given so much to the School during his time here and has developed our mentoring programme into something owned and driven by our undergraduate engineers. Students respect and trust him, and feel that he is approachable. Without David's help and support, our mentoring scheme would be a shadow of what it has become through his efforts."

The award was presented by Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Katharine Perera.

David (centre) with his parents and Professors Johathan Cooper and Katharine Perera

Dental Research

Not content with one international and three national awards this year, Dr David Drucker's laboratory in the School of Dentistry has scooped the Unilever Dental Poster Prize 2004 from the British Society of Dental Research.

PhD student Dashhash, with the help of her research supervisors Dr Drucker, Professor Andy Blinkhorn, and the collaboration of Professor Ian Hutchinson and Dr Vera Pravica, presented her winning dental poster entitled 'a Risk Factor for Gingivitis in Children' during the competition in April of this year. She received her

winning certificate at a special dinner in Birmingham.

As well as coming top of the class in this country, Dashhash will now compete for the UK at the next meeting of the International Association of Dental Research, in Baltimore next year. The winner of the international poster prize will win the coveted Hatton Award- one of the biggest single research awards in dental research.

Dr Drucker commented: "This means a great deal to the whole School, as we are being recognized nationally and internationally for the great research we are carrying out."



From left: Professor Blinkham, Dashhash and Dr David Drucker

FAQs

The Freedom of Information Act

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), from the 1 January 2005 people will have the right to make a request for any information held by a UK public authority and the authority will have to respond.

The Act applies to all "Public Authorities" and is intended to promote a culture of openness and accountability amongst the public sector. It is expected that these rights will facilitate better public understanding of how public authorities carry out their duties, why they make the decisions they do and how they spend public money.

The FOIA is administered and enforced by the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC).

1. What is the Freedom of Information Act?

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was passed on 30 November 2000. It is being enacted progressively for "public authorities" This includes Central and Local Government, the NHS and Further and Higher Education institutions.

The Act aims to increase and simplify the rights of individuals to access to information produced and held by public authorities. It places a duty on such bodies to be open and accountable to the public. The Act is available online at <http://www.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000036.htm>

2. What is the timetable for the Act?

As far as Higher Education institutions are concerned, a Publication Scheme had to be produced by the end of 2004, and made accessible to the public by the end of February this year. The full Act comes in to force on 1st January 2005.

3. What is Publication Scheme?

A Publication Scheme under the FOIA is a classified index to all information that the University holds which is "routinely" made available to the public, or is intended to be so made available in the future. The University of Manchester's Publication Scheme and the UMIST Publication Scheme have been approved by the Information Commissioner and

are now available to the public. A new Publication Scheme will be produced for the new University.

4. Where can I see the Publication Scheme?

The University's Publication Scheme is online at <http://www.foi.man.ac.uk>. A copy is also available at the John Rylands Library. The UMIST Publication Scheme is online at <http://www.foi.umist.ac.uk>, and copies are available in the Joule and Precinct Libraries.

5. What are the Universities' obligations regarding the Publication Schemes?

The Schemes must be kept up to date and must be accurate. It would be useful, therefore, if University Staff could familiarise themselves with those sections of the Schemes which apply to their area of work and inform the FOIA Team (contact details below) of any changes. Changes may involve additions to the Scheme, if new material is produced for the public domain, or updates to the links and documents linked to within the Schemes. These documents may be either web pages, documents hosted on web pages (for example Word files or .pdfs) or hard copy documents.

Information mentioned within the schemes must be provided to the public in an efficient manner. If an enquirer asks for a copy of a document mentioned in the Publications Scheme, this should be provided as quickly as possible, certainly within 20 working days. The University has undertaken not to charge for provision of such information, except where noted in the Scheme, unless a significant amount of photocopying or printing is involved. Such charges should be notified to the enquirer before the request is completed.

6. What does full implementation of the Act involve?

From 1st January 2005, the public will

have the right to request information from the University. They then have the right to be told if this information exists, and to have that information supplied to them. The University must service the request within 20 working days. Information can be requested in a format of the requester's choosing, and the University is not entitled to ask for the reasons for the request. The Act is fully retrospective, so information of any age can be requested.

The University has to supply any information requested subject to the 23 exemptions in the Act. These exemptions will be the only reasons for which information may be withheld. The University does not have to supply information that it does not already hold or produce. Information may have to be reformatted to make it comprehensible to the requester, however.

The University is entitled to charge for the servicing of FOIA requests. Charging guidelines have not yet been finalised by the Office of the Information Commissioner, but they are expected to reflect staff time in dealing with FOIA requests.

The University is entitled to refuse to deal with "vexatious requests". These are ill defined within the Act, but would probably cover repeated requests from a single person for information which has already been refused or does not exist.

7. What are the FOIA exemptions?

There are 23 exemptions within the Act, covering information which does not have to be provided. They are split into two types: absolute exemptions, where the public interest test does not apply and qualified exemptions where it does. A public interest test means that the University would have to balance the interests of the public against those of the University before refusing



information. The Act expects that this test should be in favour of disclosure whenever possible.

The exemptions are largely written with central and local government in mind and do not fit Higher Education institutions very well. Those exemptions which are most likely to affect the University are as follows:

7.1. Absolute exemptions

Information available elsewhere. The University does not have to supply information available on its own Publication Scheme, or on another institution's, or available readily to the public through a more appropriate source. The definition for this exemption is not very clear, but it could be taken to mean that we do not have to supply information which is already in the public domain, and easily accessible, or information which is held by us but more properly requested from another public organisation. Information which we hold on behalf of private organisations may well have to be disclosed, however.

Personal information. The University already deals with requests for personal information under the Data Protection Act, and the procedures for this will remain in place. Thus requests for personal information either by the data subject or a third party will be dealt with under DPA.

It is worth noting that the Data Protection Act only applies to data held in "structured" filing systems (the definition of this is still subject to some

dispute after recent legal cases). The Freedom of Information Act will extend the right to know to "unstructured" information also.

Some requests will deal with information which includes personal data, but also other information. These will be dealt with first under DPA and then FOI- in other words, just because a document contains some personal information, it does not follow that the rest of the document will not be disclosed with that information removed.

7.2. Qualified exemptions

Information intended for future publication. There is no timescale given for this, so future publication would probably need to be fairly imminent. This is the main exemption relating to research papers.

Information which is currently subject to legal proceedings.

Information which could damage the commercial interests of the University or a party that the University is dealing with. Information which could be prejudicial to the health and safety of University staff. This is defined as information which could endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or endanger the safety of any individual.

7.3. What other information can be withheld?

Information which does not fall under one of the exemptions in the Act must be supplied. This is regardless of whether it is marked as "confidential", or has been regarded as confidential in the past.

It is also worth bearing in mind that information withheld under an exemption may not come permanently into the withheld category. For example, commercially sensitive information may not permanently be commercially sensitive.

8. How is the Act enforced?

The Act comes under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC), which is also responsible for overseeing the Data Protection Act. The OIC has several enforcement powers, and will hear appeals from unsatisfied requesters. Not to comply with an enforcement notice from the OIC is classed as Contempt of Court for legal purposes. It is a criminal offence to destroy or erase information to which access has already been validly requested.

9. How is the University preparing for the Act?

A team has been appointed to deal with FOIA matters for the University. The contact details are given below. There will be central administration of FOIA enquiries, and details of this will follow before the Act comes in to force fully.

Publication Schemes have been produced for both the universities. A new scheme will be produced for the new university.

A Records Management Programme has been established. This Programme aims to identify the main sets of records within the University and to give advice on their storage and retention. In order to properly respond to FOIA the University will need to know what information is held where, and will need to ensure that information is kept for an appropriate period of time and then disposed of properly. The Records management team is available to give advice on retention, destruction and storage of records (contact details below).

An awareness raising campaign has been established. The FOIA team will undertake a series of awareness raising exercises throughout the University in preparation for January 2005. They are available to give a 45 minute talk on FOIA and its implications for the University.

10. Contacting the FOIA Team.

The FOIA and Records Management Team are based in Room G.29 in the Pharmacy Link building. Email: foi@man.ac.uk Tel: 275 8111

What's On



Contact Theatre

Contact Young Actors Company

Last of the Summer

Together nationally renowned director (Kushite Theatre) Karena Johnson and Contact Young Actors Company take an inspirational leap into the unknown as they combine their energy, talent and expertise in bringing you a brand new theatre experience. Fri 27 Aug 2004, £6/£4

Red Ladder

Tagged

Developed in collaboration with Half Moon Young People's Theatre, London

Time is ticking by for Chris. He's electronically tagged and on a 7 o'clock curfew. If he breaks it he's going down. Two friends, a bike, a pylon, a tractor and a police helicopter conspire to keep Chris from his freedom. Exclusion and frustration rule this molotov cocktail of poetry, quickfire dialogue, and urban sound-and-visionscapes. Recognised as the UK's leading new writing company for youth audiences producing accessible theatre of the highest quality.

"Superb...hard hitting and attention grabbing – not only a splendid piece of theatre, but a powerful tool for influencing lives." Reviewsgate.com
Fri 17 Sep 2004 - Sat 25 Sep 2004, £8/£5

Red Ladder

Silent Cry

How many police men does it take to cause the death of 1,000 people in custody? Apparently none. Justice is blind, but how deaf is it?

Silent Cry unashamedly tackles the issues that face a family that verge on imploding, and tells the story of a mother's journey that begins as her son's life ends. A death in police custody leads to an ordinary family looking for justice from a system that has no answers. A story based on true documented evidence and interviews.

Each performance is followed by an after show discussion with writer/directors and cast. The Families of Christopher Alder and Harry Stanley who had lost love ones in police custody praised the depiction of their lives that is offered in SILENT CRY. Critically the show is noted for its boldness and innovative use of music and movement to create spectacularly gripping theatre.

Directed by Madani Younis and Sarah Brigham Music by Ivan Stott

"It is educational, painful, and a pleasure."
Bradford Telegraph and Argus
Wed 22 Sep 2004 - Thu 23 Sep 2004, £9/£6

Contact Theatre, Oxford Road, Manchester 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.

Gig Guide Manchester Academy 1, 2 & 3

Tues 17 Aug - £10 adv
Paul Kelly

Wed 18 Aug - ££12.50 adv
Bloodhound Gang

Fri 27 Aug - £8 adv
Avenged Sevenfold

Sun 5 Sep - £13.50 adv
They Might be Giants

Fri 10 Sep - £14 adv
The Undertones

Sat 18 Sep - £12 adv
Gong

Sun 26 Sep - £15 adv
Magnum

Mon 27 Sep - £9 adv
Biffy Clyro

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

William Morris "Ministering to the Swinish Luxury of the Rich" to 23 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.

Susie MacMurray from 15 May 2004
In March 2004, Susie MacMurray worked as Textile Artist in Residence at The Whitworth Art Gallery. During this time she created a new piece of work for the Gallery's textile collection, made almost exclusively from peacock feathers. This new work will be on display alongside other textiles from the collection.

Ship Ahoy! to February 2005
This exhibition of watercolours, prints, wallpapers and textiles includes depictions of galleons, fishing smacks, trading vessels, warships and freshwater boats. The exhibition also features a Ship Ahoy! Reading area providing children's books with stories about ships, pirates and the deep blue sea.

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

Gallery Café 0161 275 7497
The café sells a selection of drinks and light meals.

Gallery Shop 0161 275 7498
The bookshop stocks a range of art and design books, cards and gifts.

Collection Exhibitions Archive Now Online
The Whitworth's online 'Collections Catalogue' now allows you to browse and search selected exhibitions held at the Gallery over the past 10 years. Follow the link from www.whitworth.man.ac.uk

International Society

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

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 Floor 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,
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PP
0161 275 3751
www.rylibweb.man.ac.uk/spcoll/

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

Sat 18th and Sun 19th September

Meet an Astronomer for guided walks of all the telescopes at Jodrell Bank. This event is part of the Step into Cheshire events.

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



Manchester Museum

Saturday 21 August, 1.30 - 3.30pm

Conservation Uncovered

How do we decide what objects to put on display? Why are our galleries so dark? Learn about the techniques our conservation team use, through a variety of hands-on activities. FREE

Thursday 26 August

Early Alchemy and Baghdad (Dr George Gheverghese Joseph, University of Toronto)

Take an historical look at Baghdad, a dynamic centre where trade brought ideas on alchemy, medicine and science together from across the globe £3, book ahead to ensure a seat

Saturday 28 August All day

The Living Museum

Take a stroll through the Museum's galleries with one of our family quizzes. Use your powers of observation and see if you can complete one of our trails. FREE

Sunday 29 August, 12.00 - 3.00pm

Astro-Art -

Celebrate National Astronomy Week by creating your own piece of astronomical art.

All drop-in events cost £1 per child, unless otherwise stated. For group bookings please call 0161 275 2648. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

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

Mass every Sunday at 10am

UMIST Chaplaincy

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

Tabley House

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Small conference and meeting rooms available year-round. Licensed for weddings and baby-naming ceremonies.

In 2004, the house will be open to the public from 1st April until 31st October on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holidays from 2pm to 5pm. (Last entries 4.30pm). Admission £4.00 (adults); £1.50 (children and students). 10% discount for parties of 25 or more adults booked in advance to visit during normal opening hours. Prices on application for group visits outside these hours.

Tabley House,
Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0HB

Tel: 01565 750151 www.tableyhouse.co.uk
email: inquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk



Classifieds

HOUSES FOR SALE

Large semi det hse with garage, front & back gdn. 3 bedrms, lrg kit. Exc location, close to all amenities. £179,950. 0161-256 4700 or 07944 656 295.

Haughton Green, Denton. Semi-det Dormer Bungalow with lrg family acc. Comprising lrg entrance hall, lrg Inge, lrg din rm. Lrg kit f/f with 5 ring hob & fairly new dble oven, dishwasher. Utility rm, conservatory overlooking the rear gdn. 3 gd sized bedrms with fitted wardrobes. Bathrm fully tiled walls & flr. Lrg det garage, parking for 4 cars. 5 mins from Motorways M60 & M56. Approx 20 mins drive to the Univ. Buses run frequently from the Village approx 2 mins walk. Gd schools in the area, local shops in the village & Stockport is approx 10 mins away. Viewing essential. £169,950. 0161-320 3539 or 0161-335 9103. Email: joroy1@ntlworld.com

A modern 3 bedrm semi-det hse with garage & driveside parking. Gdn to f & r. GCH, dble glazed windows. Alarm & security lighting systems, plus utility rm & separate wc. An ideal family hse within 10 mins reach. £132,950 but can be further neg for a quick sale. 0161-224 9357.

ACCOMMODATION TO LET

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 to view.

West Didsbury. Rm in hse with gdn. Would suit non-smoking female pg or visiting academic. Conv for buses. £65 incl bills. 0161-445 1647.

Appleby Lodge, Fallowfield. Stunning art deco flats just off Wilmslow Rd, close to univ & city centre. F/F dble rm avail in 2 bed flat to share with 2 others. £300pm inc all bills exc tel & use of garage for car/bike owners. 0161-224 0129 or email: a.charles@umist.ac.uk

Withington 1 bdl rm in 2 bed rm semi det. F/F, quiet area. Ideal for mature students. Central heating, burglar alarm, f/freezer, cooker, w/machine, tv. Bus stop right outside, 2 mins walk to shop & rest. £290pm. 1 mnths dept & 1 mnths rent in advance. Avail now. 0161-718 2111 to view.

3 bedrm furn hse to let, spac interior, quiet rd 2 mins from Didsbury Village. Handy for all amenities & fast bus to univ. All mod cons, GCH, dble glazing, TV, modern kit & bathrm. Small gdn f & b, car parking. Suit visiting academic/prof couple. Avail 1 Sept, 12 mnths. £850pcm. 0161-613 9153 or email: tonycrowley@man.ac.uk or tonycrowley1@hotmail.com

Glossop, Padfield. Lrg 2/3 bed terr property with loft conversion. Exposed beams/stone work, stone fireplace, neutral dec throughout. GCH, dble glazed. 10 mins walk to station, surrounded open countryside. Sorry no smokers or DHSS, avail immed. £495pcm. 0161-480 8583.

Edgeley, Stockport. Dble rm to share with pg student. Gd for public transport & nr M60. Parking, gch, alarm etc. Easy going hse. £240pcm inc bills. 07960 712 838.

Glossop/Padfield. 2 bed terr cottage. New kit & bathrm, neutral dec throughout. Gd carpets, gch, dble glazed. Village environment, 10 mins

walk to station direct to M/cr. 2 mins countryside & Longendale trail. £495pcm. 0161-480 8583.

West Didsbury. Lovely family hse avail 4 Sept. 3/4 beds, semi, furn neg. Quiet area, conv for buses/shops etc. Would suit family/prof group. Long/short term let avail. £900pcm. 07818 078 019 or 07697 195 997 or email: mqbssjlp@man.ac.uk

Withington/Didsbury. F/F 3 bed semi. GCH, tv-sit rm, Inge, bathrm, gdns, parking space. Very nr Wilmslow Rd. £750pcm. 0161-445 8546 or email: panikkos@yahoo.com

Female non-smoker wanted to share with Italian female in gorgeous, quiet clean hse, very nr Asda. £250pcm all inc exc tel. 0161-227 1798.

Northenden. Lrg dble bedrm avail in modern 2 bed hse, nr shops & direct bus route to St. Marys's/Univ. Share with commuter owner resident 1-2 night pw. Gdn, off-st parking, lrg kit dinner, w/dryer, f/freezer. GCH, living rm, bathrm with shwr, f/f. Suit non-smoking single or couple. Short lease avail. No pets. £450pcm inc all bills. Avail Sept 2004. 07989 724 615.

Didsbury Village. Very comfort 2 bed Victorian terr cottage in quiet cul-de-sac avail for a min of 6 mths. Suit visiting academic/couple or small family. F/F & mod with gch, dble glazing & a modern alarm. Close to shops & transport. No pets please & non-smokers only. £750pcm + bills & dep. 0161-445 1426 or 07717 171 779

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

Spain Costa Blanca. Apart sleeps 4 people, 30 mins from Alicante Aiport Nr Quesada. Golf course & country club, restaurants, shops & bars all on site. Guardamar beach 10 mins, Aqua Park nearby. 0161-864 1535.

Edinburgh. Sleeps 2/4, heart of the Old Town. A few mins walk from Royal Mile. £400 (festival). £200pw. Some festival avail remaining. 07939 050 925 or <http://www.oldtownflat.co.uk>

Nerja, Costa Del Sol. Cool, spac 2 bedrm holidai apart in Nerja. Attractive coastal resort 50km from Malaga. Sleeps 6. Prices £125-300pw. For details see www.domaininspain.co.uk

2 bedrm fully-equipped luxury apart with stunning 180 degree sea views & huge balcony. Mid-way between Valencia & Alicante on Costa Blanca in an area relatively untouched by package holidays. 1km from sea & nr to the delightful seaside town of Moraira. Exc coastal & inland mountain walking. £200-£400pw. 0161-848 7410 or jane.harrigan@man.ac.uk

Bembridge, Isle of Wight. 3 bedrm luxury caravan, sleeps 8. All amenities. Boasts a "home-from-home" level of equip, short walk to beach. Ideal for exploring Isle of Wight. On site shop & launderette. Quiet but access to neighbouring complex with swimming pools & entertainment/bars etc. 0161-256 2599 or email: tonywalker@co.umist.ac.uk

Florida avail from Oct 2004. Air cond 3 bedrm, 2 bathrm fully equip brand new villa close to Disney, Sea world, Universal Studios. Clubhse, swimming pool, kiddie pool, tennis court & playground area. Short drive from Orlando airport, close to shops, restaurants & motorway system. £350pw. 0161-494 2879 or 07760 453 738. Flights, car hire, theme park tickets can also be arranged.

CAR FOR SALE

Silver Automatic BMW 535i. Top spec, magificent cond. Low mileage, 1 owner. £8,995ono. 0161-445 3136 after 6pm.

MISCELLANEOUS SALES

Trekking poles & camping gas stove. Please go to http://personalpages.umist.ac.uk/staff/chris.tan/for_sale.htm & click on miscellaneous sales

Tent (Vango Discovery). Quality family-sized that comfortably sleeps 4. Ridge pole design with nylon flysheet. Cotton inner tent with sewn-in groundsheet. Porch area has 2 windows and is big enough for 2 small chairs & table. Max height 185cm. Hardly used, as new cond. Easy to pitch. £40. Email: forbes.d.manson@man.ac.uk

Bike rack. Fits onto towbar & can carry 3 bikes. Very quick & easy to fit/remove from car. Arms fold down for easy storage. Almost new, selling because new car doesn't have a tow bar. £20. Email: forbes.d.manson@man.ac.uk

Aquarium. Unused 30 x 30 x 45cms. £16. (27)55880.

Home computer. Packard Bell PB9367 desktop PC. Loads of standards software inc MS-Works, Word, internet, email etc. £100. Will deliver & set up within M/cr area. Email: mdeasgj2@fs1.ser.man.ac.uk

Home computer. Gateway 500 tower PC. Loads of standard software inc MS-Works, internet, email etc. Will deliver & set up in M/cr area. £150. Email: mdeasgj2@fs1.ser.man.ac.uk

Technics stack sound system. Exc cond inc tuner, turntable, amplifier, dble cassette deck & speakers. Additional Samsui CD player which fits stack. Buyer must collect from Didsbury. Will sell whole lot for £100. (27)51649 or email: smita.holder@man.ac.uk

3 seater & 2 chairs, blue colour. Exc cond. £170. Scooter, as new, still in box. £15. 07903 951 750 or email: caihongzhuiyue2000@yahoo.co.uk

Wilson golf clubs, 8 irons (3,4,5,6,7,8,9,sw), 3 woods (1,3,5) & golf bag. £50 ono. Petron metal woods (1,3,5). £20 ono. Email: stephen.addinall@man.ac.uk

Photographic darkroom clearance. Marutt film drying cabinet 2m high. Any offer considered. 0161-276 6435 or email: carolyn.jones@man.ac.uk

WANTED

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

Silk flowers needed (diameter 3cm or less) for a gd cause. Email: carol.hill@umist.ac.uk
Petrol driven grass strimmer (27)52359.

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Just The Job

Andy Green

Sugden Sports Centre Manager

Running one of the city's top sports centres is a tough enough job in itself – but when the centre is going through a ten-month £2M facelift, the job becomes doubly difficult.



But the Sugden Centre is managed by the genial Andy Green, who has just witnessed the biggest changes ever seen at the Centre since it opened seven years ago.

The facilities received a five-star rating in the Sunday Times Good University Guide last year, and the new facilities will undoubtedly keep the Sugden at the top of the list.

Andy Green has been at the Sugden Centre since 1997, when it was a joint facility for UMIST and Manchester Metropolitan University. Before that, he worked for operators Serco at the spectacular Grand Central Pools in Stockport for four years, after spending the early part of his career in Local Authority leisure facilities.

Not surprisingly, Andy is both proud and excited by the new developments at the Sugden. He said: "The construction work began in September 2003 and by the end of last June we had a brand new sports hall, changing rooms and a reception area. Now we are putting the finishing touches

to the new fitness facility, which should be up and running by mid-September."

Phase One alone has cost the University of Manchester £2M, but Andy says the facilities will rival anything that the private sector can offer in Manchester. He said: "This has been the most exciting project since I started work here seven years ago. The new hall has eight badminton courts inside it, which doubles our indoor capacity and it will be a big benefit to the Athletics Union sports clubs, as well as individual players and team sports."

But the new fitness suite will be the crowning glory, as it will more than double the previous facility, from 44 stations to a massive 105. It will also include a new free weights area with brand new equipment, as well as new gym equipment provided by Life Fitness.

Andy said: "It has been a huge job and I really do want to thank our users for their patience over the last ten months, because there has been some

inconvenience, as you would expect. But I hope they'll agree that it has been worth it. The merger of the Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST has given us a wonderful opportunity to upgrade our facilities and the Directors of Sport at the two universities should be congratulated on their vision."

Andy has worked closely with the University's Estates Department in order to deliver the new facilities on time and he was delighted to hear earlier this month that Serco had been awarded the contract to run the Sugden Centre for a further five years, with Andy at the helm.

He said: "It's been a very rewarding seven years for me, but I have to mention Neil McMillan and Roger Spence, who have also been with me at the Sugden Centre virtually from Day One. From a duty management point of view, it's a big help to have their experience here at the Sugden Centre on a day-to-day basis."

• The Sugden Centre can be found on Grosvenor Street. Tel: 200 4026

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