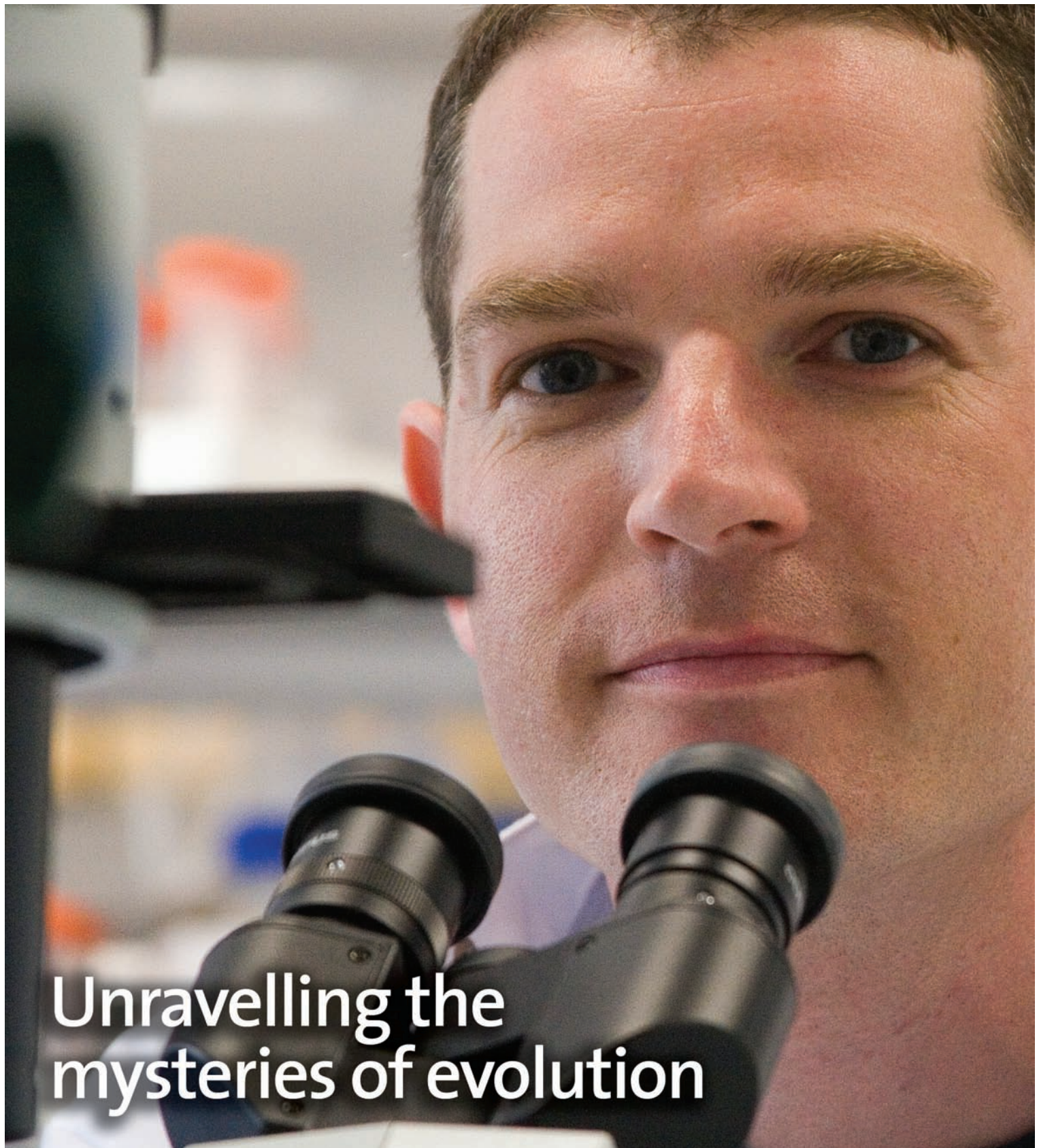


UniLife

Volume 3 Issue 1



Unravelling the
mysteries of evolution

Features



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Front cover: University scientist
Dr Chris Thompson
Photo by James Glossop

I've just got back from China, where I've been attending Fudan University's Centenary and following up visits by a number of colleagues during 2004-05, all designed to promote valuable international collaborations.

The first year of the new University was rightly focused on the internal challenges of establishing sound structures, processes and working relationships within and between our four new Faculties and 23 new Schools, but this China visit has been a timely reminder of just how quickly higher education is being transformed elsewhere in the world. Keeping up will be daunting enough, and the 'step change' improvements we are seeking over the next decade will require Herculean efforts.

For Manchester, success will mean cementing a reputation for producing graduates whose intellectual qualities, balanced and liberal understanding of the world and professional expertise open doors to the best workplaces worldwide. It will also mean routinely attracting many of the world's best researchers, whether as doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, newly-established principal investigators or international research icons.

Success will be partial, at best, unless we create a research culture that values constructive engagement with innovative, research-based industries, and rewards those staff whose commitment to research extends beyond fundamental discovery into the transfer of intellectual property or the establishment of spin-out enterprises.

To succeed at the highest level, we must engage the University community locally, regionally, nationally and globally in the great human challenges of ameliorating poverty, disease and violence, and promoting human rights, social justice, environmental sustainability and the rule of law.

Without jeopardising the idea of a university as an intellectual meritocracy, we must ensure that Manchester becomes a leader in welcoming talented people from underprivileged backgrounds, irrespective of their capacity to pay fees or meet cost-of-living expenses. To achieve all these things the University needs talented administrators and managers, and access to a growing resource base.

Come to think of it, that's a pretty good summary of the Manchester 2015 Agenda. If only we can do as well in 2005-06 as the English cricketers did in the summer, we'll have the Agenda well under way by this time next year!

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor.

Why we're all slime balls

A University scientist was awarded £150,000 recently - to study slime. But this is no ordinary gloop, as Dr Chris Thompson of the Faculty of Life Sciences believes it could unravel mysteries of evolution that even Darwin couldn't solve.

Chris' research was one of only three scientific studies to win this year's prestigious Lister Institute Research Prize, and the award will allow him to develop his work on the microscopic organisms known as slime moulds.

"People might wonder why we should bother studying slime mould, but it could lead to a greater understanding of human behaviour," he explained.

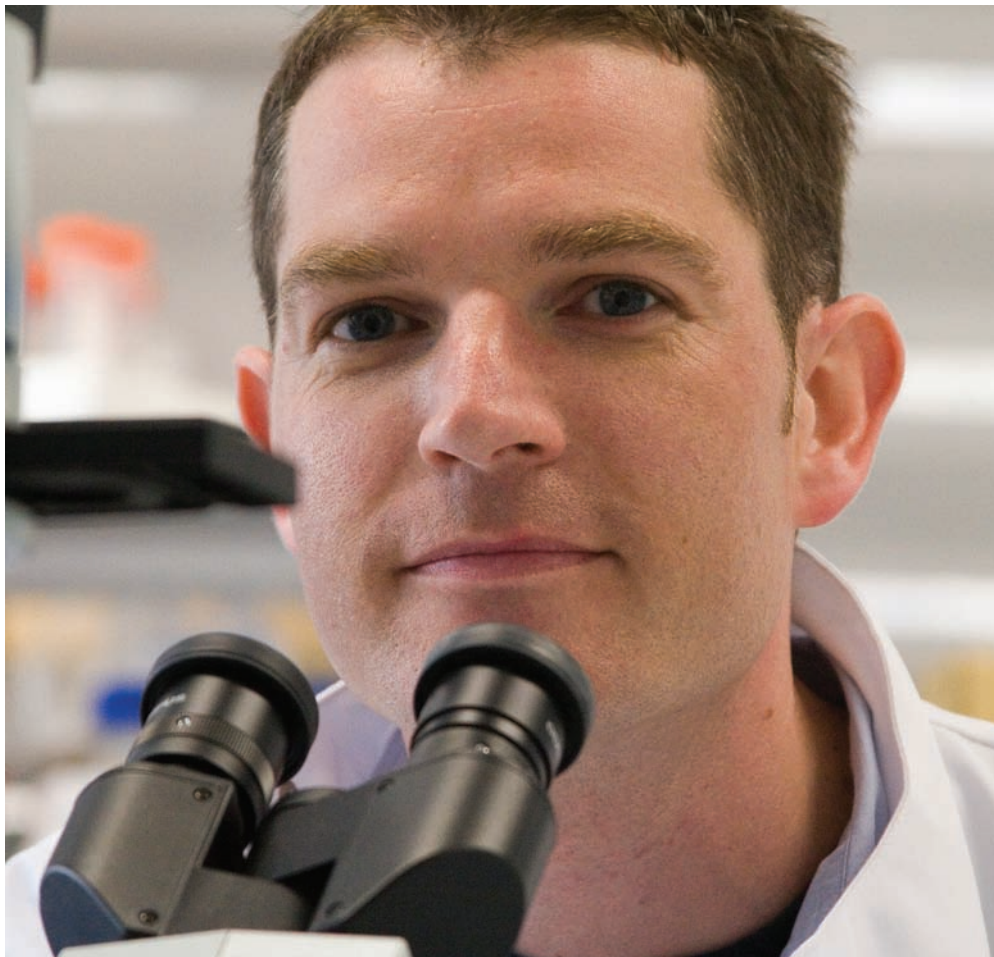
"We know that our behaviour - in part - is influenced by our genes, and studying behaviour at a cellular level could help us understand why some genes are associated with co-operation and others with conflict.

"Co-operation is a major driving force in evolution, and understanding it is a huge challenge in biology.

We needed an organism that displayed social behaviour and could be manipulated in the lab, and the slime mould *Dictyostelium* was perfect."

Slime moulds like this usually exist as single-cell amoebae feeding off the bacteria in soil, but Chris' work has discovered that when their food supply runs out they aggregate together to form a 'fruiting body' of some 100,000 cells. Some become spores, while others form a stalk beneath the soil surface.

"These stalk cells then die," explains Chris, "they sacrifice themselves so the spore cells can be dispersed to new feeding grounds. My research looks at the different genetic make-up of the stalk and spore cells, in order to understand this behaviour."



VPs View



Professor Paul Layzell

Paul Layzell, Vice-President for University Development

Regular readers of *UniLife* will notice that the magazine is starting the academic year with a new look and feel, and members of University staff will also have received a copy of the newly launched newsletter **Staff Update**. These changes have been made in response to last year's Staff Satisfaction Survey, which highlighted the need for a more targeted and better quality news and information service.

The aim of *Staff Update* is to ensure that everyone working at the University is kept informed of the news, developments and changes they need to know about in their day to day roles; an important part of the process of delivering the Manchester 2015 strategic plan. *Staff Update* will also let you know about the many events and activities you can get involved in as a member of University staff – a welcome reminder that life at The University of Manchester shouldn't be all work and no play!

UniLife will continue to provide an opportunity for more in-depth analysis of news, events and activities of interest to University staff, students and our wider external communities – as well as to celebrate our achievements.

UniLife and *Staff Update* will both be published on the first Monday of each month, and their launch is the first step in improving the flow of information and two-way communication within the University. The coming months will see further developments, including a new staff intranet site featuring up to the minute campus news and regular email bulletins.

To succeed, it's important that readers' interests and needs continue to be addressed across all our communications channels, so do keep the Internal Communications team posted about both what's happening in your area and the subjects you'd like to know more about. You can contact the team on 275 2112 or via email at uninews@manchester.ac.uk

In brief

Key appointment in MHS

Professor John Challis, Vice-President for Research, Associate Provost and Professor of Physiology and Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Toronto, has been appointed to a part-time Chair at the University to work with the Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group at St. Mary's Hospital. Professor Challis is an internationally recognised medical researcher in his fields, and as such will be a highly valuable addition to the Faculty's research capability.

Pompeii publications

Professor Roger Ling, Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology in the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, has achieved the feat of having two books on the ancient city of Pompeii published over the summer.

The first is a general text-book, 'Pompeii: History, Life and Afterlife', published by Tempus Publishing of Stroud. The second, 'The Insula of the Menander at Pompeii II: The Decorations', co-authored with Lesley A. Ling and published by Oxford University Press, is part of a five-volume monograph series focusing on the city-block containing the famous House of the Menander. It is the end-result of an international research project which Professor Ling directed from 1978 to 1986.

CIDRA inaugural lecture

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Arts (CIDRA) will be officially launched on 19 October, with a lecture by Professor Alessandro Portelli entitled 'Memorialisation of World War II'. Professor Portelli is a Professor in American Literature at the University of Rome, author of numerous books and essays, and advisor to the Mayor of Rome on the preservation and promotion of the city's historical memory.

"Memory is not just a mirror of what has happened, it is one of the things that happens, which merits study", he said.

The lecture launches the Centre's 'Doing Cultural History Now' series and will be held in the Bragg Lecture Theatre in the Martin Harris Centre from 5-7 pm, followed by a reception at Café Muse. Everyone is welcome, but please email bex.lewis@manchester.ac.uk if you intend to attend.

www.manchester.ac.uk/cidra

B&Bs online

Bedandbreakfasts.co.uk have created a webpage using the latest postcode and Google mapping technology to help users find accommodation close to the University. Visit:

www.bedandbreakfasts.co.uk/universities.asp

Fund-raising milestone for Rylands

The University's 'Unlocking the Rylands' appeal, which aims to transform The John Rylands Library into a major visitor attraction fit for a European city, has reached the half-way mark in its fund-raising activities.

Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Afzal Khan was on hand to congratulate the team at the celebrations in September, along with Ron Smith, Managing Director of Siemens Power Transmission & Distribution and Siemens Plc Board Member, whose company donation made the achievement so far possible.

University Librarian and Director of the Library Bill Simpson said: "I am delighted that we have now reached the half-way mark, which leaves us with just over £2 million to go! This is an additional target which we set ourselves over and above funding received from the Heritage Lottery and European Regional Development Funds, and the achievement is the result of hard work by our fundraising team and the wonderful generosity and support of many individuals and grant-making bodies."



L-R: Ron Smith, Councillor Afzal Khan and Bill Simpson

Ron Smith added: "On behalf of Siemens in the North West, I'm delighted to be associated with The John Rylands Library and would personally like to congratulate the team on achieving the half-way goal. Although Siemens is a global company we make every effort to support our local community, in particular the University from which we have drawn many graduates over the years."

www.library.manchester.ac.uk/special/unlockingtherylands/

Top careers award

The University's premier careers mentoring programme, Manchester Gold, has won the Employability Award in the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) Excellence Awards.

Successfully matching undergraduates and postgraduates with professionals in their chosen field of work, the programme has more than doubled in size in the last five years, attracting more than 100 mentors from a wide range of sectors in the UK and internationally.

The University also received commendations for Diversity and Technology, and racked up a total of five nominations - the highest of all UK universities - in the Awards.

Terry Dray, Deputy Director of the Careers & Employability Division, who accepted the award, said: "A massive 82% of last year's participants believe that Manchester Gold helped them secure



The Manchester Gold Team. L-R: Charlotte Cooke, Caroline Carlin-Nuttall and Sarah White.

employment. It is very rewarding to receive recognition for this scheme, as well as commendations for our other flagship employability initiatives."

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers

High performance computing consortium launched

The largest ever consortium to support academic research using high performance computers (HPC) has been established in the UK.

The consortium, known as HPC-UK, has been formed by The University of Manchester, the University of Edinburgh and the Council for the Central Laboratories of the Research Councils' (CCLRC) Daresbury Laboratory.

The HPC-UK will provide UK researchers with unprecedented breadth and depth of support in the application of HPC technology to the most challenging scientific and engineering problems.

President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, Professor Alan Gilbert, said: "As the problems get more complex, and computers get bigger and more expensive, simulation is turning into 'big science' - becoming a multinational and uniquely multidisciplinary enterprise. HPC-UK is our response to keep the UK at the forefront." HPC-UK will ensure that UK researchers are best placed to exploit emerging international facilities and it will provide the UK with the capability to host them. It

aims to place the UK at the top of nations exploiting this strategic technology."

Professor Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, said: "Edinburgh has pioneered novel computing solutions to challenging science problems for 25 years. HPC-UK is a natural next step that will enable us to continue to innovate while tackling the most ambitious projects."

Professor John Wood, Chief Executive of CCLRC, said: "CCLRC has led HPC applications enabling predictive calculations of enzymes and catalysts, simulations of cell membranes, accurate models of combustion and aerodynamics, and detailed nutrient and fluid flow models of off-shore water quality. Already working with the key UK projects across the community, HPC-UK plans to engage with, and encourage, new and emerging disciplines."

HPC-UK draws on the expertise of a combined team of around 200 technical staff to support HPC applications. Its Chairman is Professor Richard Kenway of the University of Edinburgh and the HPC-UK Project Director is Professor Martyn Guest of Daresbury Laboratory.

Honours

in brief

Fang Lee Cooke (right) of Manchester Business School arrived in the UK 11 years ago with a six-month old son, a wok, a BA and an MA in linguistics and literature. She has now been promoted to Professor of Human Resource Management and Chinese Studies at MBS, after a dazzling career to date.



Now author of more than 80 published works, she came to the UK to join her English husband but soon became fed up of trying to find a job that fitted with her qualifications and her need to look after her child. She went back to university to enhance her employability, enrolling as an MSc student with the then Manchester School of Management at UMIST in 1995.

Supervisor Jill Rubery saw Fang's potential and suggested that she went on to do a PhD, later helping her to obtain a three year ESRC studentship. She completed her PhD in 1999.

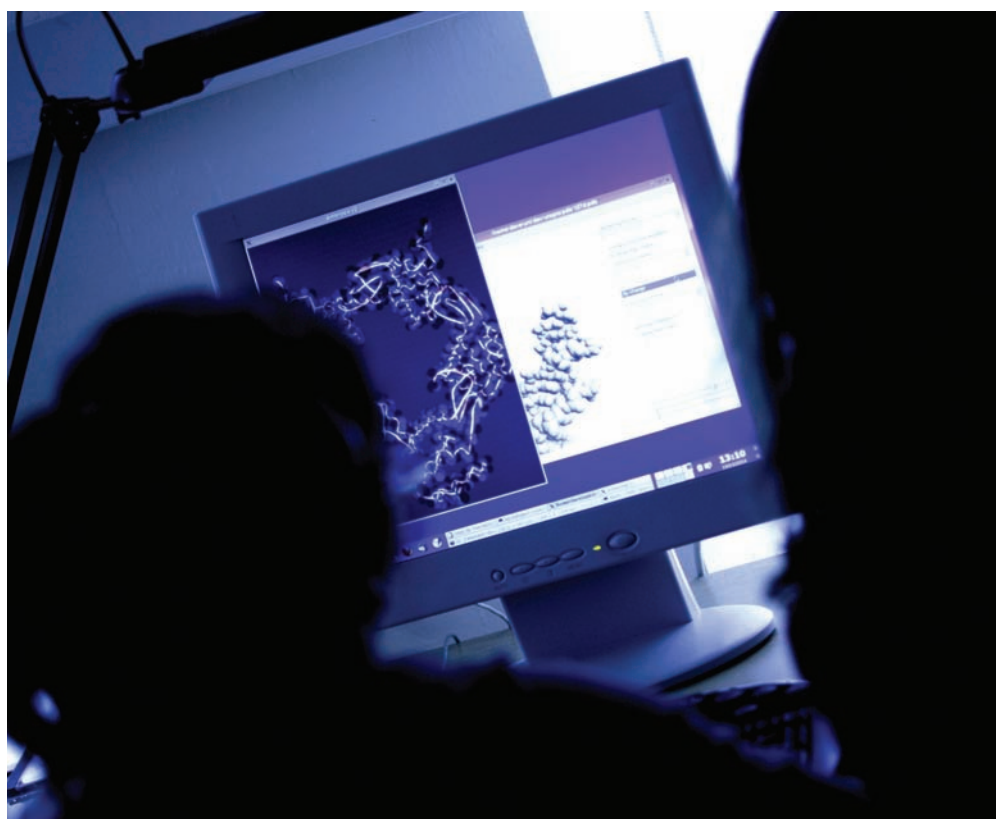
Quickly rising through the ranks of research associate, lecturer and senior lecturer she was promoted to Professor earlier this year, and has established a reputation as one of the main scholars in the West on human resource management in China.

"I have been very impressed by how open-minded the promotion committees of MBS and the Faculty of Humanities are," Fang said. "Key values of the School and the University are to promote research and reward performance, and my story shows that these values are put into practice."

Dr Elizabeth Jefferies of the School of Psychological Sciences has won the British Psychological Society's annual Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research Contributions to Psychology.

The award is in recognition of her PhD research into 'the role of long-term memory representations in working memory,' which integrated experimental and neuropsychology to produce new methodologies, resolve conflicting empirical studies and extend previous investigations.

Professor Brian Launder of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research was awarded an honorary doctorate for contributions to the advancement of fluid mechanics by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, during the summer.



President signs the Talloires Declaration



Professors Alan Gilbert and Bob Munn sign the Declaration

The University has joined more than 300 higher education institutions in 40 countries by signing the international Talloires Declaration, the official commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education.

Composed in 1990 in Talloires, France, the declaration forms an action plan for the incorporation of environmental sustainability into teaching, research, operations and outreach activities. It pledges to:

1. Increase awareness of environmentally sustainable development
2. Create an institutional culture of sustainability
3. Educate for environmentally responsible citizenship
4. Foster environmental literacy for all
5. Practice institutional ecology
6. Involve all stakeholders
7. Collaborate for interdisciplinary approaches
8. Enhance capacity of primary and secondary school
9. Broaden service and outreach nationally and internationally
10. Maintain the movement

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert signed the declaration on behalf of the University, saying: "Signing the Talloires Declaration is symbolically important, as it commits The University of Manchester, both as a corporate citizen and as an educational institution, to responsible practice in relation to sustainability."

Signing the Declaration is a key step towards the University's goals on sustainable development, which, together with HEFCE's policy on the subject, were the focus of a consultation led by Professor Bob Munn, Vice-President for Teaching and Learning, in March. Stakeholders from teaching, research

and the administration worked on the decision to sign the Declaration, to reflect our existing expertise and good practice and identify areas for improvement.

Professor Munn said: "Universities are uniquely placed to research, teach and practise sustainable development, and by signing the Talloires Declaration we affirm our intention to do these things more systematically and effectively. We will continue to pursue development of all kinds, but recognise our responsibility to do so without compromising development by our successors - whether as

members of the same University or as inhabitants of the same planet."

Much of the University's activity already supports the aims of the Declaration, including the work of The Environment at Manchester (TEAM, a leading-edge, cross-Faculty research group), School of Environment and Development, Estates Directorate, students within the Manchester Leadership programme and corporate social responsibility projects in the local community.

There is also enthusiasm on campus for more ethical business practices, demonstrated by STARS' and the Students' Union's recent work to acquire Fairtrade status for the University. Fairtrade products including bananas, drinks and snacks, vended goods and all coffee and tea services are now available, and Fairtrade sugar and chocolate will shortly be introduced for use in all freshly-made products. STARS may also have achieved a first by catering for an 'all Fairtrade' wedding in July!

Since signing the Talloires Declaration the University has signed-up to two further initiatives relating to climate change: Red Rose Forest/Community Forests North West which supports the planting of trees on and around the campus, and Manchester is my Planet, a campaign to encourage staff and students to reduce their own carbon emissions.

It will also be pursuing sustainability by pressing for better waste disposal procedures and aiming to source more products from local suppliers, and by engaging with the City's drive to make Manchester a greener city. A steering group has been established to foster and publicise developments, as well as a practitioner-led group to share and disseminate information and help take sustainable development activities forward.

For more information please contact Sarah Morgan on 275 8861 or s.a.morgan@manchester.ac.uk

Research in the News

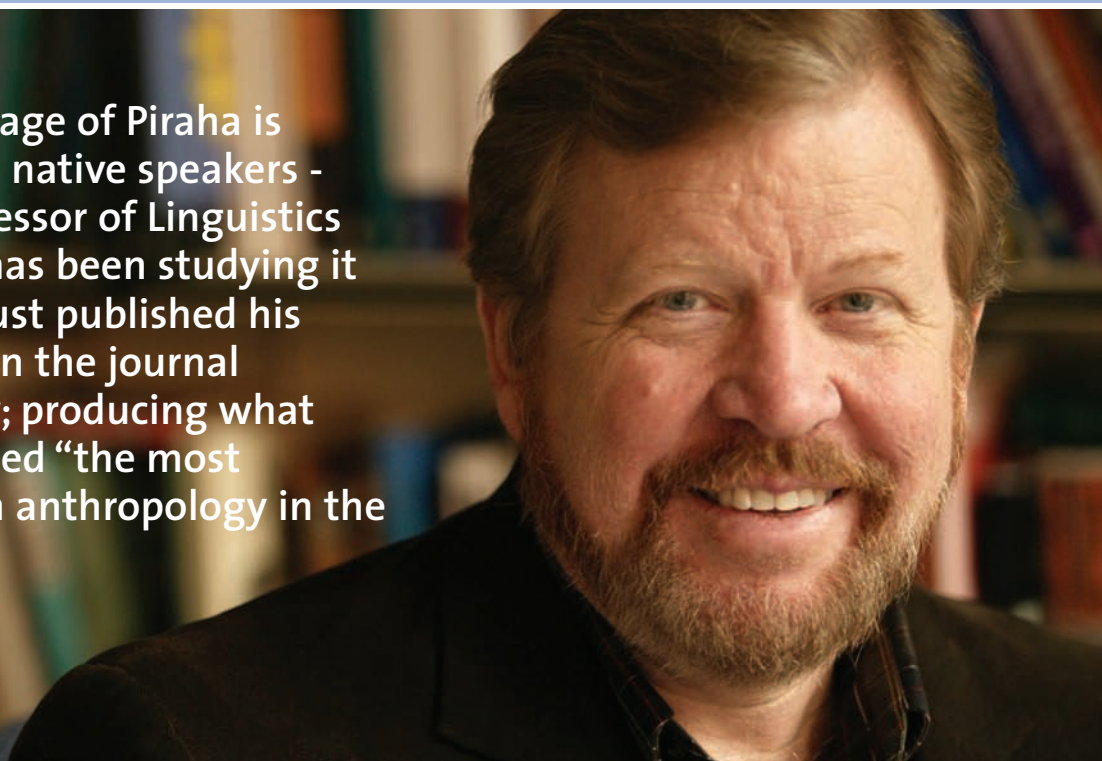
Here we take a look at the groundbreaking research at the University which has been making the headlines.

- A study led by **Dr David Voas** suggesting that religious belief is declining faster than attendance at services in the UK, and that parents' beliefs, practices and affiliations have the biggest impact on children, was featured in The Guardian, The Daily Mirror and The Daily Telegraph. The story was also covered by regional press and religious publications.
- **Dr Dorothy Pattison's** discovery that brightly coloured fruit and vegetables can help prevent arthritis was the subject of a double-page feature in The Daily Express, as well as appearing in The Daily Mail, the Manchester Evening News and across the Internet.



- **Dr Paul Irwing's** controversial research findings on the genetic differences in intelligence between men and women attracted extensive coverage in the national and regional press, including The Times, The Independent and The Daily Mail. Dr Irwing was interviewed for BBC Radio 4, the Times Higher Education Supplement and the Manchester Metro News, and talked about the ethical issues raised by his research.
- A new study has revealed that eating fatty fish like salmon and herring could help prevent sunburn and other skin diseases, and could even protect against skin cancer in the long term. **Dr Lesley Rhodes**, who is leading the research, found that fatty acids known as Omega 3 act as a natural shield against the sun's radiation. This story featured in the Scottish regional press and the Manchester Evening News.
- A report commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has found that there will be a further decline in the number of dairy farmers and therefore possible milk shortages over the next few years. The study, carried out by **Professor David Colman** and **Yaqin Zhuang**, featured in The Observer, The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph and The Scotsman and was also covered by regional press and specialist farming publications. Professor Colman was also interviewed for BBC Radio.

The Amazonian language of Piraha is spoken by a mere 300 native speakers - plus Dan Everett, Professor of Linguistics at the University. He has been studying it for 28 years and has just published his most recent findings in the journal *Current Anthropology*; producing what one commentator called “the most controversial article in anthropology in the last 50 years.”



Professor Dan Everett

School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures

Dan's conclusions about the relationship between Piraha culture and language are exciting world-wide interest and argument as they show culture controlling grammar as a whole - disputing the long-held beliefs of linguists including the renowned Noam Chomsky that grammar is genetically-driven and has universal features. Indeed, the Piraha culture and language have several features that are not known to exist in any other part of the world, as well as lacking features that had been assumed to be found in all human groups.

The Piraha people are intelligent, highly-skilled hunters in a remote part of central Brazil. They speak a language remarkable for the complexity of its verb and sound systems, but lacking a number of characteristics found in other languages. Dan argues that these 'gaps' can be explained by cultural constraints.

“The Piraha's culture encompasses a restriction on talking about things that extend beyond either their personal experience or the moment of speech, meaning they have no complex tenses, no numbers or counting and no colour terms,” he explains. “There are no grammatical devices for putting phrases inside other phrases, and they don't have quantifying terms like 'all' and 'some'.

“By definition, fiction and myths do not exist, since they violate the Piraha's reliance on

immediate personal experience. Similarly, there is no formal division in the language or culture between reality and dreaming.”

Dan's findings also suggest that it is not always possible to translate from one language to another; the Piraha remaining monolingual and refusing to learn Portuguese despite 200 years of contact with speakers of the language.

Originally from San Diego, California, Dan first discovered the Piraha as an MA student 28 years ago and has won their acceptance. He has just been awarded grants totaling £860,000 from sponsors including the US National Science Foundation, the ESRC, AHRC and EU to carry out further Amazonian research.

He will spend the next year based at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, where he will be writing two more books and a grammar of another Amazonian tongue, Suya. Not that he ever stays in one place for long. “I am a great believer in field research,” he says. “It used to be usual to combine anthropology and linguistics and go out into the field, but today to be a field worker is the exception.”



Diabetic nerve therapy goes to patient trials

Research into a new treatment for nerve damage caused by diabetes could bring relief to millions of diabetic patients, and might also reduce the need to amputate toes and feet.

Nerve disease in diabetes is the major cause of non-traumatic lower limb amputations in Europe and North America. Now scientists in the Faculty of Life Sciences, working with colleagues at American biotech firm Sangamo BioSciences Inc, have discovered a way of stimulating genes that prevents nerve damage caused by the disease.

Professor David Tomlinson said: "This approach to gene therapy is quite different to previous attempts at treatment. We don't inject a gene to produce a 'foreign' copy of a therapeutic protein, which can cause problems from immunological side-effects; instead, we 'turn on' a patient's own gene to produce a natural version of this therapeutically beneficial protein.

"The most significant advantage of this is that the protein is produced as if the patient's body had made it naturally. Our study showed that a single treatment with a DNA-binding protein protected against nerve damage, which in humans can lead to limb loss."

The results of the pre-clinical studies were recently presented to the American Diabetes Association in California, and the first phase of clinical trials has now begun.

Online test asks 'were you born to be sad?'

Researchers in the Neuroscience and Psychiatry Unit (NPU) are testing people's genetic disposition towards depression with a unique Internet test.

Professor Bill Deakin and his team have set up a website where would-be volunteers can see how prone they may be to depression, by identifying the emotions on pictures of people's faces and taking a



Professor Bill Deakin

gambling test. They aim to recruit more than 1000 UK volunteers for further tests as part of the five-year, EU-funded 'NewMood' (New Molecules in Mood Disorders) project, which the University is leading with 12 other institutions from ten countries across the continent.

Professor Bill Deakin explained: "Anxiety is a contagious emotion - when you see other people who are anxious, as a primate you feel anxious as well. All of our brains are wired to see anxiety to make sure we are safe, but depressed people are more likely to see sadness or fear in a neutral face.

"The gambling test, where volunteers choose from pairs of spinners to 'win' money, will show us which parts of the brain light up when working for a

reward. Depressed people are less affected by reward and more likely to give up easily as the test goes on."

Volunteers for the study will be asked to fill in a confidential questionnaire and provide a mouth swab for genetic analysis, and will be entered for a £100 prize draw. The team will compare the DNA with the questionnaire group data and results from other EU NewMood centres, where rats and mice are being tested for their disposition to depression using similar reward and anxiety measures.

By measuring the important possible factors contributing to a tendency to depression, the team hopes to identify those which act together to cause the condition. Ultimately, this will help develop new ways of preventing and treating depression, which affects 10-20% of the population at some time in their lives.

www.newmood.co.uk

Bob a job

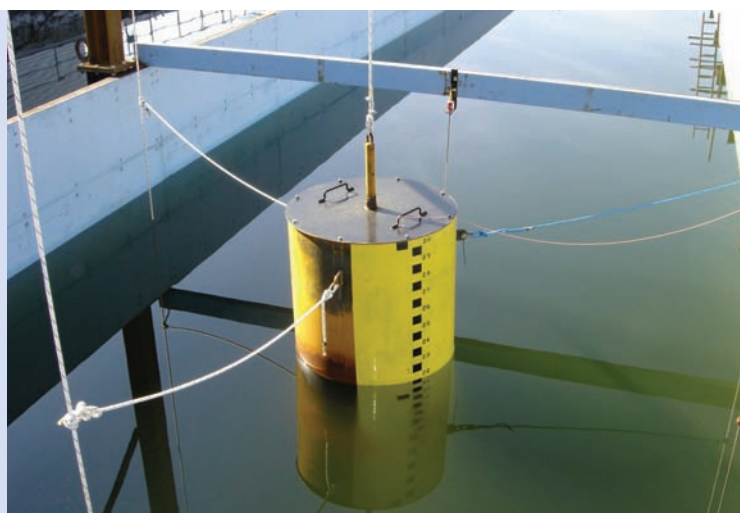
University researchers have created a device which could revolutionise the world's electricity supply and help Britain stay greener – intriguingly known as the Manchester Bobber.

Academics in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences are working with University of Manchester Intellectual Property Limited (UMIP), Mowlem Plc and Royal Haskoning to develop the innovative new energy device. Showcased at the New & Renewable Energy Centre (NaREC) in Northumberland in September, it extracts the energy produced by the rise and fall (or bobbing) of the surface of water to drive a generator and produce electricity.

The vision is that a series of Bobbers working together could generate significant amounts of electricity, and the team is already working on the use of redundant offshore oil rigs as platforms for the devices.

Professor Peter Stansby, co-inventor of the Bobber and Professor of Hydrodynamics at the University, said: "Offshore wave energy represents a substantial concentrated 'green' energy source for an island state like the UK. One of the unique features of this approach is that - even if one Bobber breaks down - the power supply to the network can continue uninterrupted, which means fewer power cuts for users."

The initial idea for the device was conceived in January 2004, as part of a project funded by a 12-month Carbon Trust award. The design, development and testing has been carried out at the University, led by Professor Stansby and Dr Alan Williamson.



Dr Frank Allison, Assistant Project Manager from UMIP, said: "We are really excited about the potential of this project and can't wait to get the prototype Manchester Bobber constructed and tested over the next few weeks. It will also be an ideal opportunity for people from the industry to come and witness this principal milestone and important achievement."

The (cell) matrix reloaded

A world-class University research facility investigating diseases such as osteoarthritis, cardiovascular disease and cancer has been awarded a further £3m to continue its groundbreaking work.

The Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research has had its core grant renewed – securing infrastructure funding for the next five years.

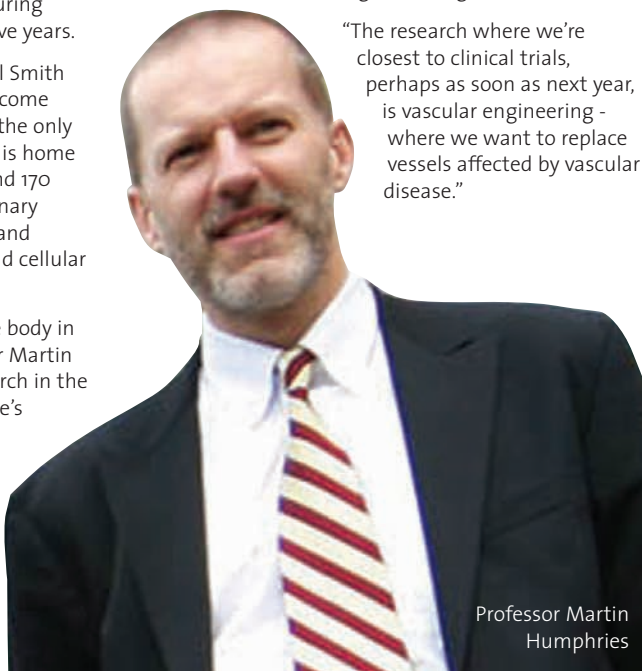
The Centre, based in the new Michael Smith Building, is one of only five such Wellcome Trust-funded facilities in the UK and the only one in its field. Established in 1995 it is home to 21 independent research groups and 170 scientists, and acts as an interdisciplinary research hub to clarify the structure and function of extra-cellular matrices and cellular adhesion.

“The cell matrix is the material in the body in between the cells,” explains Professor Martin Humphries, Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Life Sciences and the Centre’s Director.

“Only two per cent of our body is made up of cells, the rest is the material that endows elastic tissue, bone tissue, ligaments and tendons with their physical and functional properties – that’s what we call the matrix.

“The work done here impinges on virtually all human diseases, although we have specific interests in cancer, vascular disease and osteoarthritis. In cancer, we’re looking at the role adhesion plays in regulating tumour spread, while with osteoarthritis we are looking to replace damaged cartilage.

“The research where we’re closest to clinical trials, perhaps as soon as next year, is vascular engineering – where we want to replace vessels affected by vascular disease.”



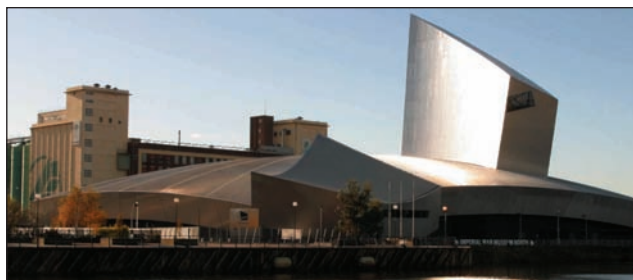
Professor Martin Humphries

Local war experiences captured on film

Students on the MA in War, Culture and History course were recently able to showcase their films on the impact of war on people and culture in the last hundred years, at no lesser venue than the Imperial War Museum North (pictured right).

The films, which gave the students the opportunity to study local experiences and memories as well as the impact of war in the North, were projected onto the walls of the Museum in the visually spectacular event.

‘Don’t Mention the War,’ by James Long and Michael Brotherhood, looked at the experiences of young people from Hamburg and Manchester at the time of VE day; whilst ‘Memory by Generation,’ by Lorna Nixon and Sally Ramsden,



explored memories of war from the perspective of veterans, educators and children. ‘By Land and Sea: The Falklands Remembered,’ by Chrysostomos Ballas and Tom Lord, interviewed two veterans of the Falklands and considered the experience of war from land and sea perspectives; and finally ‘Refuge,’ by Nicola Cutts-Watson and Neil Waterman, examined two deeply personal and different experiences of seeking refuge after war and persecution.

Dr Ana Carden-Coyne, Director of the course, commented: “The MA course is designed to combine intellectual work on cultural history, war and representation with the practical skills needed to direct this into a vocational portfolio like the digital film project. The students have described their experience as a profound one; they found there were many important yet untold stories about the impact of war on people living in this region.”

‘Out-of-body’ experiences may come from within

A team in the School of Psychological Sciences is investigating the idea that out-of-body experiences (OBEs), commonly thought of as paranormal phenomena, may have their roots in how people perceive and experience their own bodies.

OBEs typically involve a sensation of floating and seeing the physical body from the outside. Around 10% of the population experience them and it’s not uncommon for people to have more than one, but despite this high incidence scientists don’t know a lot about them.

The research will use an online questionnaire to examine differences between those who have and have not experienced OBEs, and will also gather details on the different kinds of experience people have had to help categorise them more precisely.

David Wilde, the researcher running the project, said: “There are several theories as to why people have OBEs. A common link between them is the idea that in certain circumstances the brain somehow loses touch with sensory information coming in from the body. This triggers a series of psychological mechanisms which can lead to an OBE.

“In this study we aim to take the theory a stage further, by looking at the way people see and experience their bodies, and how – through perfectly ordinary psychological processes – these images and experiences may create the impression of seeing one’s body from the outside.”

The survey can be seen at www.freeresponse.org/muobe2005, and people who have and have not had an OBE are encouraged to take part. It will be available for the next six weeks, and a summary of the results will be posted to the site in the autumn.

www.freeresponse.org/muobe2005

Dream machine



Student Rick Osbourne takes the wheel

A team of students from the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering entered a car into the Institute of Mechanical Engineers' 2005 Formula Student event during the summer; the first time the University has been represented in the event.

The team was successful in completing all events, and was one of only 18 (from a total of 85) to complete the final day's endurance run.

Teams came from as far afield as Canada, South East Asia and Australia as well as mainland Europe, to design and build a prototype single-seat racing car aimed at the weekend or clubman racing enthusiast. The completed car was then entered into a series of speed tests, and the teams presented their proposed design to imaginary venture capitalists and an imaginary manufacturing company.

The event was held at Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground in Leicester over four days, with only teams which had successfully completed one or more of the previous day's acceleration, skid pan or sprint/autocross events eligible to compete in the final day's endurance run. The University of Manchester team was placed 25th overall, as well as second highest newcomer.

 www.imeche.org.uk/formulastudent/

Enquiry-based learning projects underway

The University was recently awarded a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in enquiry-based learning (EBL). This provides £4.5m HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council of England) funding over five years, to enable us to extend the range and scope of our EBL activity.

EBL is an approach in which learning is driven by a process of enquiry owned by the student. The tutor establishes the task and facilitates the process, but the students pursue their own lines of enquiry, draw on their existing knowledge and identify their consequent learning needs. This engages them as partners in the learning process, an important element of the University's Teaching, Learning and Assessment strategy.

Following a lively bidding process, the Centre has now awarded funding for 13 development projects to be delivered this academic year to develop, extend and embed Enquiry-Based Learning across a range of disciplines. Each of the Faculties has submitted successful bids, and has also been a project funded in the Directorate of Planning and Academic Services.

The Centre (CEEBL) will deliver a programme of workshops, seminars and dissemination events to support the teams involved in running the projects. It consists of a



central, state-of-the-art learning space in the Sackville Street Building - where there are also offices for expert staff and student interns - and CEEBL Co-ordinators in each Faculty, drawing on the central resources to support the projects and develop EBL within specific disciplines.

The CEEBL will be formally opened by the President on 20 October. For further information please contact Karen O'Rourke, Associate Director, on 306 4454 or at karen.o'rourke@manchester.ac.uk

Manchester graduates break new ground

Manchester Science Enterprise Centre (MSEC), part of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, has produced many talented graduates who are already revolutionising industries; with success stories including approaches to reducing global warming and a fool-proof security method based on a person's signature.

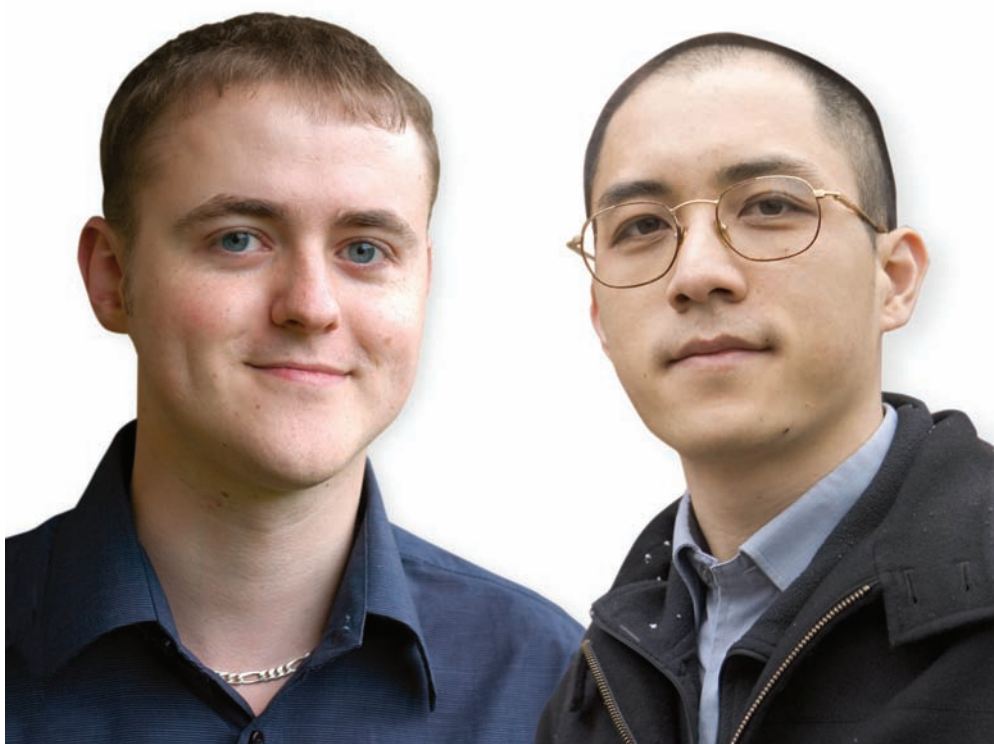
Charlie Ding worked on technology developed by Rolls-Royce to measure acoustic emissions from aircraft engines as his Masters of Enterprise (MEnt) project. He soon realised however that it could be used for something completely different.

When people sign their names they use different amounts of pressure and speed each time, resulting in a unique and impossible to copy 'acoustic signature'. Charlie has since set up Sign Assured Ltd to develop security products using this technology with partners such as Rolls-Royce and Datalink, and has already attracted significant investment. He is now in discussions with a number of large corporate clients.

Graduate Alex Marshall used contacts gained during his MEnt to set up Oaktech Environmental, part of the Oaktech Group. He is now leading the company into a greener future by modernising the country's waste disposal practices, to help prevent global warming and reduce carbon emissions. The ArrowBio Process for which he owns the technology rights, removes the need to separate waste, using the natural properties of water to separate and clean recyclable elements.

Another MEnt graduate Mai Lau has turned his course project into the successful business Information Prophets, whose ActiveLog software uses artificial intelligence to analyse usage patterns for all kinds of utility and manufacturing systems. Manchester Science Park uses Mai's software to monitor their plumbing and gas supply system whilst Kodak runs it to ensure the efficiency of its photographic paper production processes, and the company is now entering into contracts with another two large corporate companies.

Other graduate entrepreneurs and their young businesses can find a unique supportive environment at Venture Space, established by MSEC and Venture Point Ltd (set up by MEnt graduate Ben Turner) at One Central Park in East Manchester. For more details please contact Lynn Sheppard on l.sheppard@msec.ac.uk



Alex Marshall of Oaktech, Wai Lau of Information Prophets

Going batty

Having invented the computer, split the atom and produced 23 Nobel Prize winners, you may wonder what major contribution the University community will make next - so how about the bat which won the Ashes for England?

33-year-old Manchester graduate Joe Sillett designed and marketed the bat used by Andrew Flintoff and Kevin Pieterston to defeat Australia and bring new life to UK cricket.

The story begins with a woodworm-riddled bat, which Joe found at the back of his garage in 2001. Not to be defeated, his father tapered out the affected parts and balanced the shape by doing the same to the other side. Joe tried it out in a friendly game, and was astonished to score 142 not out.

He quickly realised the Sillett family could be on to something, and scientific research has since proven that the bits cut away at the edges of the blade are the least used on a cricket bat. The new design simply allowed for a redistribution of weight to other, more useful areas.

Joe spent the next eight months writing business plans, filing patent applications and working on the branding and names for the bat - settling on the Woodworm Cricket Company. After being turned down by brands like Slazenger and Gunn & Moore he finally got lucky when bat manufacturer Hunts Country agreed to make his bats in the UK.

By April 2002 he was able to declare the Woodworm Cricket Company open for business, and signed-up unproven - all rounder - Andrew Flintoff and a then unknown batsman Kevin Peterson to demonstrate the bat's power. The rest, as they say, is history.

Woodworm's bat sales have been on the increase ever since, reaching 15 000 this year and with a projection of 20 000 sales next year.

“Some medical students have a fear of talking to people with mental illness, and there is a real problem with the way the media handle it – I want to de-stigmatise and de-mystify the whole area.”

Gask's Globe

The idea of being ‘sent to Siberia’ still has certain connotations, but it holds no fears for Professor Linda Gask. She has been sent there three times to coach the trainers of Russian GPs on how to help people with common mental health problems - with her agreement of course!

Fortunately, since she is a World Health Organisation consultant and her expertise is in demand around the world, Linda loves travelling. “I always wanted to see the world,” she says, “the Director of the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre where I’m now based keeps threatening to confiscate my passport!”

Linda’s work as a consultant psychiatrist has also embraced places a little closer to home, particularly Preston where she worked for over a decade, but in her tiny office in the Division of Primary Care’s Rusholme Academic Unit she oozes enthusiasm for her situation. “In Manchester, we have the largest primary care research group in the country, achieved by bringing people together from various disciplines via the Institute of Health Sciences,” she says.

As Professor of Primary Care Psychiatry she is leading the way in training doctors in Britain and abroad to communicate more effectively and sensitively with people with mental health problems, especially depression. And she readily discusses having personal experience of that often-underrated problem.

“Because of my position, I’ve been able to get very good mental health care,” she says. “But I’m well aware of the stigma, and want to get rid of it.”

“It’s really important to be able to talk about it – and to talk to people with it. Some medical students have a fear of talking to people with mental illness, and there is a real problem with the way the media handle it – I want to de-stigmatise and de-mystify the whole area.”

Linda’s own experiences were not the first in her family, as her father also suffered from depression and her brother from obsessive compulsive disorder. “I think that’s what made me so interested in how a family copes with mental health problems,” she says, “and the care that ordinary people get from mental health services.”

She enjoyed biology at her home-town grammar school in famously bracing Skegness, where her dad was in the seafront amusement trade and worked at Butlin’s holiday camp. She was also interested in the arts, “But my dad said that if I studied science I’d be more likely to get a good job,” she says. Combined with her family experience and the fact that her mum came from Scotland, this decision led to Linda going to Edinburgh Medical School.



**Name**

Professor Linda Gask

Position

Professor of Primary Care Psychiatry

Education

1979: MB ChB, University of Edinburgh

1984: MSc Psychiatry,
The University of Manchester

1992: PhD Psychiatry,
The University of Manchester

1996: FRCPsych

Career History

1985-90: Research Fellow/Lecturer,
Department of Psychiatry,
The University of Manchester

1990-92: Senior Research Fellow and
Honorary Consultant,
Sheffield University

1992-99: Senior Lecturer in
Community Psychiatry, The
University of Manchester

1994: Joint appointment to the
National Primary Care
Research and Development
Centre

1999-
2000: Reader in Community
Psychiatry, The University of
Manchester

2004: Professor of Primary Care
Psychiatry, The University of
Manchester

"It was there that I really got interested in psychiatry and realised that what I liked doing was talking to patients," she says. "Even as a student, I discovered I could do that." Her interest in and concern with communication between doctors and patients has continued ever since.

Soon after she graduated from Edinburgh in 1979, she came to Manchester to do psychiatric training and research. She got her MSc and PhD, attracted Sainsbury funding for her research and stayed for ten years before moving to Sheffield. "I wanted to work more closely with GPs, and needed a change of scene," she says.

She wasn't away for long, but for two years was instrumental in setting up a pioneering Community Drug and Alcohol Service in Barnsley where she held a consultant's position. "It was a very fulfilling time," she says, but Manchester wanted her back and she returned as a Senior Lecturer in 1992.

Her interest in communication skills is at the centre of her work, and about 15 years ago she devised a way to help GPs deal with difficult, often medically inexplicable, consultations using video and role-play. "It is interactive and has had a significant impact on the GPs' interviewing skills,"

she says, "and there is a lot of interest around the world. Managing depression is a vital need, because so many people are affected – and it has a huge economic impact."

In that context, she is critical of Government policy. "The real problem this country faces is depression, not schizophrenia," she says, "and there is a huge need to put resources for this into primary care." Indeed, she is currently involved in setting up a new system in Salford to pick up people suffering from depression, who are in danger of falling into the gap between GPs and mental health services.

The road from Skegness to Siberia has been action-packed, but she and her husband John, an accountant, also like the quiet life. They spend their private holiday each year in the Western Isles with all communication banned - except between themselves, of course. And home is a converted Wesleyan chapel near Barnsley where they live with their 19 year-old cat (a photograph of whom has pride of place on Linda's office wall). "Having been brought up a Methodist, it seems appropriate somehow that we should end up living in a chapel," she says.

Green companies mentor execs of tomorrow

Sustainability Mentoring NW is a new mentoring programme bringing together experienced business professionals in the environment and regeneration sectors and university students and graduates across the region.

Running from November to April, it aims to help raise the profile of the sustainability sector whilst mentoring possible future employees.

Sara Russell, programme coordinator and Regional Development Officer in the University's Careers and Employability Division, said: "By linking mentors with enthusiastic university graduates, Sustainability Mentoring NW allows sector professionals to share their knowledge and experience, develop their managerial skills and establish closer links with the region's universities."

The scheme builds on the previous success of Environment Mentoring NW, which has successfully linked students and organisations in the region's environment sector over the past two years. Now expanded to include the regeneration sector, it is funded by the Northwest Development Agency (NWD) and supported by RENEW Northwest and Environlink Northwest.

It was launched at an event in September which included presentations by previous mentors, mentees and the chief executives of all three organisations. Phil Barton, Director of RENEW Northwest, said: "This valuable programme will not



Relationship-building starts early at the launch

only assist graduates in gaining first-hand contact with professionals in different fields of employment, but will set them apart from the other candidates."

For information on how to become a mentor or mentee, contact Sara Russell on 275 2828 or email info@sustainabilitymentoringnw.co.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/mentoring

Bravo! Award for Whitworth Art Gallery and Shell partnership

The Whitworth Art Gallery has come out a winner in the first year of a new awards scheme from Arts & Business, which encourages companies to build relationships with the arts.

The Whitworth won the Bravo! Employee Engagement Partnership Award, sponsored by Rolls-Royce Plc and Tate Liverpool, for its partnership with Shell to develop the year-long programme Arts@Work. This used the Whitworth's expert staff and collections as resources for a programme of arts activity for Shell employees, including lunchtime curator's talks, film screenings at the plant in Wythenshawe, weekend tours and visits to galleries across the North West.

50 people from Shell were involved and the feedback from all was very positive, many saying they felt an increased sense of creativity in their day to day lives at work. Artwork was put up on the walls of offices, and the staff got the opportunity to meet new colleagues and engage in art activities – often for the first time since leaving school.

The Bravo! Awards are a new initiative of a partnership between Arts and Business and Business in the Arts North West. They have been designed to recognise the best partnerships between culture and commerce, and promote the benefits of businesses supporting the arts across the region.

The awards were presented at a glittering launch event at the Unity Theatre, Liverpool, in a ceremony sponsored by the Northwest Development Agency (NWD). Paul Smith, Regional Director of Arts & Business said: "The event was a memorable occasion, celebrating some excellent partnerships which clearly demonstrate the mutual benefits to be gained from arts and business working together."

The Whitworth/Shell partnership continues throughout 2005/6. For more information contact Jo Beggs, the Gallery's Development Officer, on 275 7474 or jo.beggs@manchester.ac.uk



L-R: Alistair Smith, Director of the Whitworth; Bernie Doeser, Shell Project Manager; Jo Beggs and Peter Mearns, Head of Marketing at the NWD



The Museum as art

Manchester Museum's two year Alchemy project has given artists access to collections and resources normally reserved for academic researchers and scientists. From looking through collections of over six million objects to attending coffee mornings with visitors and venturing out on field trips, the artists immersed themselves thoroughly in Museum life - and revealed the results of their research over the summer.

Louise Brookes investigated the ambiguity of the Museum, producing 'the indefinite guide' which took visitors on a tour of all its maybes, possibilities and probables. A slide show of her photographic research also revealed all the hand- and nose-prints on the Museum's glass cases, as visitors attempted to get just that little bit closer to the stuffed animals or Egyptian mummies.

Pavel Büchler studied the different species of visitors and staff, engaging them in conversation or just watching their behaviour to discover the customs, motivations, likes and dislikes of the people populating the Museum, while Dr Kevin Malone – a Senior Lecturer in Music at the University - privileged sound over vision by attempting to sort collections by what they might sound like in two musical presentations.

The Museum may be host to an exotic range of frogs, snakes and toads, many from the Costa Rican rainforests, but artist Antony Hall's contribution studied specimens slightly closer to home. He filmed the underwater habitats of Salford canals and city centre water features with a camera encased in a lunch box attached to a fishing rod, for a film show displayed in the Vivarium.

The Alchemy project was funded by the Arts Council England, and also produced longer-term installations including the Bureau of the Centre for the Study of Surrealism and its Legacies by Mark Dion (also supported by the AHRB Research Centre for Studies of Surrealism and its Legacies at the University). This is currently on display and is accompanied by a limited edition full colour hard-back book, available priced £15 from the Museum shop.

University Service Medal first

A fifth year medical student has won the first University Service Medal in recognition of his work mentoring teenagers from local schools.

The medals are awarded to students and staff who volunteer their time to support the University in building links with the local community. Darren Leaning has been recognised for his work with Mentoring Plus, a widening participation scheme established by the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences.

Part of the scheme involves matching current students like Darren with able pupils in Salford and Manchester who have no history of family members going into higher education. Darren has mentored two year 11 pupils from Plant Hill High School in North Manchester, and visited them more than once a month at their school to offer advice and guidance in their study and career choices.

Darren was felt to have shown an exceptionally high level of commitment to his mentoring,

including organising a meeting for one of his pupils with a healthcare professional in her area of special interest. On receiving the award he said: "It's an honour to have received this recognition from the University. I've enjoyed being able to put something back into the community and pass on my own knowledge and experience to the young people I worked with."

A special luncheon was held in Darren's honour in September, where members of staff and his former mentees dropped in to offer their congratulations. Among the guests was Dean of the Faculty Professor David Gordon, Director of Admissions



Darren receives his medal from David Gordon

Professor David Yates, Faculty Widening Participation Officers Sue Bates and Sarah Gonzalez, Head of Widening Participation Julian Skyrme and mentees from Plant Hill School, Manchester.

For more information about University Service Medals or how to make a nomination, please contact fiona.birtles@manchester.ac.uk in the Events Office.

Disability Toolkits website launched

A new national online resource, launched this month, will help identify, negotiate and organise off-campus learning opportunities for disabled students.

Disability Toolkits, conceived and developed within the University's Careers & Employability Division and funded by HEFCE, is an interactive, web-based service providing information, advice and sources of support for disabled students, academics involved in work placements and prospective employers.

Academics can access information and advice on the specific needs of disabled students and identify suitable off-campus learning opportunities, including placements and field trips. They can also post profiles detailing their experiences of arranging placements for disabled students.

Adele Cunningham, recruitment manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers, said: "Disability Toolkits is an invaluable resource for all responsible employers who recognise the need for a diverse workforce reflecting the structure of society." Chris Hughes, project co-ordinator for Disability Toolkits and a careers consultant at the University, added: "The site equips relevant people with everything they need to enable and encourage the professional development of disabled students, and is an example of our commitment to promoting and sustaining diversity."

For more information contact Chris Hughes on 275 2828 / chris.hughes@manchester.ac.uk



Chris Hughes

www.disabilitytoolkits.ac.uk



Nancy Rothwell meets Robert Winston at an event in the Reynolds Building

What do scientists do?

The world will finally find out the answer to this poser this month, thanks to Manchester Museum's photographic exhibition 'A Day in the Life'.

The exhibition is part of a photography project developed by the Faculty of Life Sciences to encourage public engagement with science. Photographer David Bennett has captured ordinary and extraordinary aspects of a day in the life of four University scientists, including Dean of Research and MRC Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell.

The exhibition, curated by science communicator Dr Erinma Ochu, was commissioned by the Manchester science group (www.manchesterscience.blogspot.com) supported by a Wellcome Trust VIP Award and the University. Examples of the photographs can be seen via the link below, and the exhibition runs until 16 October.

www.stray-light.co.uk/GalleryDpm.htm

What's On

Music and Drama at Manchester

MUSIC

- Thur 6 Oct* **Quatuor Danel Lunchtime Concert**, 1.10pm
Quatuor Danel Seminar, 2.15pm
- Fri 7 Oct* **Quatuor Danel Evening Concert**, 7.30pm
- Thurs 13 Oct* **David Fanning Lunchtime Concert**, 1.10pm
- Fri 14 Oct* **MANTIS (Manchester Theatre in Sound)**, 7.30pm
- Thur 20 Oct* **The Bissarov Sisters Lunchtime Concert**, 1.10pm
- Fri 21 Oct* **Strangefish**, 8pm
- Thur 27 Oct* **The Rautio Piano Trio Lunchtime Concert**, 1.10pm
- Sat 29 Oct* **The University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra**, 7.30pm
- Thur 3 Nov* **Madeleine Mitchell Lunchtime Concert**, 1.10pm
- Fri 4 Nov* **Quatuor Danel Evening Concert**, 7.30pm

FILM

- Tue 4 Oct* **Martin Harris' Best Shorts**, 6pm
- Wed 5 Oct* **Oleanna**, 7.30pm
- Thur 6 Oct* **Studio X Directs**, 7pm
- Fri 7 Oct* **Into the Words: Conversations With Sondheim**, 7.30pm
- Wed 12 Oct* **The Art of Silence**, 7.30pm
- Fri 21/ Sat 22 Oct* **The Merchant of Venice**, 7.30pm
- Wed 2 Nov* **Odin Theatre Workshop Demonstrations** (time tbc)
- Thu 3/ Fri 4 Nov* **UnENTitled**, 7.30pm

LITERARY

- Mon 10 Oct* **Creative Writing Series: Louis de Bernieres**

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama
The University of Manchester, Bridgeford Street,
Manchester M13 9PL
0161 275 8951/8950
email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

Gig Guide Manchester Academy

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 & 3

- Thurs 6 Oct* **Killing Joke**
Mon 10 Oct **Bowling for Soup**
Weds 12 Oct **Kevin Bloody Wilson**
Thurs 13 Oct **Royksopp**
Fri 14 Oct **Ordinary Boys**
Sat 15 Oct **Dio**
Sun 16 Oct **KT Tunstall**
Fri 21 Oct **The Coral**
Wed 26 Oct **The Rasmus**
Thurs 27 Oct **Echo & The Bunnymen**
Friday 28 Oct **I am Kloot**
Sat 29 Oct **Mylo +**
Sat 5 Nov **Eastpak Antidote Tour**
Mon 7 Nov **Sinead O'Connor with Sly & Robbie**

Students' Union

Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL
Tickets from:
Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Cafe
(c/c) 0871 2200260
Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)
Students' Union 0161 275 2930

www.manchesteracademy.net

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy SUNDAY WORSHIP

10.00am Group Work
11.15am Morning Worship
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. Chaplains also available Monday to Friday Floor B, Room B25, Renold Building 0161 200 2522 Precinct Centre 0161 275 2894 email: sph.reception@manchester.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

The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

Hillel House, Greenheys Lane.
0161 226 1139
rabbiiy@hotmail.com
www.rabbiiy.com

Ambrose Mosque: Tuer Street

Mosque: Sackville Street Building

Prayer Room: Renold Building



The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

The Wages of Sin and Virtue's Reward - Moral Prints in the Age of Dürer to 6 November 2005
Woodcuts, engravings, etchings and illustrated books from the collections of The University of Manchester in the Whitworth Art Gallery and the John Rylands Library.

This exhibition highlights the moral messages communicated to people of the late Middle Ages and early Reformation through the medium of prints published in Northern Europe.

The Object of Encounter - Aura and Authenticity to February 2006

The first in a series of three annual exhibitions devised to explore the effects of interpretation and display methods on visitors' responses to art works. The series of three exhibitions have been organised in collaboration with students and staff of the Centre for Museology in the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures at The University of Manchester.

On Friendship to 5 February 2006

This exhibition examines the notion of a queer aesthetic in post-war British art and includes works by Lucien Freud, Francis Bacon and David Hockney.

Point of No Return to 4 December 2005
Photographs by Thomas Joshua Cooper.

TOURS AND EVENTS

Every Saturday at 2pm there is either an Exhibition Tour or an Eye-Opener Tour.

Lecture 3 November

Thomas Joshua Cooper discusses his work and influences – tickets £3.

Talk – Friday 21 October, 2pm

Pan-African Perspectives. Free but places are limited: Please call to book.

FOR FAMILIES

Drawing with Cloth – free drop-in workshops. Create drawings on the gallery floor with cloth and textile materials. Your creations will be photographed and you will be given a copy to take home. Wednesday 26 & Saturday 29 October (10am-12pm under 7s, 2pm-4pm 7s and over).

The Big Draw – Design your own T-shirt
Saturday 8 and 15 October 12 – 4pm.

Whitworth Art Gallery,

Oxford Road, 0161 275 7450
Gallery Café 0161 275 7497
Gallery Shop 0161 275 7498

Opening hours

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

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth



The Manchester Museum

Major Dinosaur Exhibition. Richard Owen: "Dinosaur Man" The man who invented the dinosaur.

To 26 February 2006

Did you know that the word 'dinosaur' was invented by a Lancashire man. This fascinating exhibition covers both the historical and scientific aspects of Owen's colourful life.

FAMILY EVENTS (PRE-BOOKED)

Gelede Mask Making Workshop

Saturday 22 October 11am-1pm & 2pm-4pm. FREE

Museum Sleepover: Sleeping with Dinosaurs

Thursday 27 October 7pm-9am

Come face-to-face with Stan the T-Rex and find out how he lived and died in our ever-popular sleep-over for 8-12 year olds. £20 per child.

Gelede and Ere Mural Workshop

Saturday 29 October 11am-1pm & 2pm-4pm. FREE

How to create a large-scale mural

FAMILY EVENTS (DROP-IN)

Magic Carpet.

Fridays during term time 11am-12noon

Storytelling and story-making for under-fives based on the Museum's collections.

Art and Music of Africa.

Saturday 8 October 1pm-4pm. FREE

Be inspired by original objects to create your own artwork and music.

Draw the Collections.

Saturday 15 October 12 noon-4pm. FREE

Celebrate The Big Draw by drawing objects that are not normally on display.

Marvellous Masks.

Monday 24-Friday 28 October 1.30 pm-3.30 pm

Every day during half-term. Create a mask using the Museum's collections as inspiration.

Meet the Curator.

Tuesday 25 October 2pm-4pm. FREE

Come to the Mammals gallery and find out the latest scientific news.

PRE-BOOKED FAMILY EVENTS (0161 275 2648)

Drop-in Family Events (£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, Manchester

Open: Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm; Sun 11am- 4 pm.

0161 275 2630

FREE Admission

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

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.

Jodrell Bank Observatory

Macclesfield, Cheshire 01477 571339

www.jb.manchester.ac.uk

John Rylands Library

The John Rylands Special Collections Library, Deansgate, will be closed until 2006 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.manchester.ac.uk/spcoll/

International Society

North Wales – Caernarfon and Llandudno

Saturday 8 October

York

Sunday 9 October

Stratford-upon-Avon

Saturday 15 October

Fountain's Abbey and Harrogate

Sunday 16 October

Overnight Trip to Edinburgh

Saturday 22 - Sunday 23 October

North Wales – Llangollen and Chirk Castle

Saturday 22 October

Chester

Saturday 29 October

International Society

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959

Open: Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm

www.internationalsociety.org.uk

Tabley House

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

Tabley House,

Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0HB 01565 750151

email: inquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk

www.tableyhouse.co.uk

Contact Theatre

Multi Cultural Poets present

EYES & TONGUE featuring Mahogany Brown

Monday 3 October 7.30pm £8.50/£7

Quarantine present

GRACE

Tuesday 11 – Saturday 22 October 8pm £10/£8

Directed by Richard Gregory. Following last year's cult-hit "White Trash", Quarantine return to Contact with a brand new show.

Theatre Centre present

TRASHED by Noel Greig

Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13 October 7.30 pm

£8/£5

Two women meet in a litter-strewn park in London. Ruhela is a teenage British Muslim; Louisa is 'white trash' from Mississippi. When the plane tore into the Twin Towers their lives collided.

Contact, Oxford Road, Manchester

Tickets/Info: 0161 274 0600

For information on other events please

visit our website

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

www.contact-theatre.org

Burlington Society

The Society of Mature Students and Postgraduates in the Universities of Greater Manchester

Burlington Rooms, Schunck Building,

Burlington Street (next to JRUL)

0161 275 2392

www.burlington.man.ac.uk

Seminar Listings

Seminar listings are now available online at www.manchester.ac.uk/seminars, and members of University staff will be receiving a weekly e-mail bulletin which includes a link to this page. To publicise seminars please submit details to uninews@manchester.ac.uk as before.



The Legal Advice Centre – helping law students and local residents

The School of Law's Legal Advice Centre both advises people with legal problems and provides practical experience for law students, in the form of supervised clinical education.

Based in the University Precinct Centre, the Centre opened in November 2000 and is sponsored by major city law firms Clifford Chance and DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary, as well as receiving funding from HEFCE and the NWDA. Members of the public and all University staff and students are welcome to seek advice in the Centre, which is open during teaching semester time only.

The new academic year brings many developments at the Centre. One major new initiative is its inclusion in the Manchester Leadership Programme, which will enable non-Law students to work at the Centre as part of the scheme's voluntary community work.

As previously reported in UniLife, the last year has seen the Centre's community-based work increase substantially, with its collaboration with the Wai Yin Centre in Chinatown offering free legal advice within the city's Chinese community. Dinah Crystal, Solicitor for the Legal Advice Centre in the School of Law, said: "This initiative allows our students to participate in clinical education, as is carried out at the University, at the heart of the community. Before, clients had travelled to the University for legal advice, but we are now on their doorstep.

"Our students are working alongside the Solicitors Pro Bono Group (SPBG), and with the voluntary help of the Manchester Employment Lawyers Association, to deliver legal advice sessions to the Chinese community."

The Centre has also recently begun the Street Law Programme, first initiated by the College of Law in Chester, which sees staff and students from the School of Law visiting the Chinese community to deliver seminars on subjects important to them. It is hoped that the reputation of the Legal

Advice Centre and the success of this scheme will allow the Centre to establish similar schemes for other minority groups across Manchester.

Alongside this work, the Centre and the School of Law will also be involved in MERIL – the Manchester Employment Rights Information Line. This dedicated employment advice telephone line has opened in collaboration with the College of Law, which will direct enquiries taken there to students from this University.

Finally, Dinah Crystal and Teaching Fellow Neil Allen are working on a new course module for Law students, based on the work of the Centre. Students will be trained in transferable skills

which are essential to work as a solicitor as well as many other jobs, including in-depth research, team-work and presentation skills. They will also have cases hand-picked for them, which will become case studies for their research.

"The Centre is reaching out in all directions this year," Dinah says, "and we're eager to engage with both local and legal communities. As our own students also benefit greatly from the experience, it's a win-win situation all round!"

To make an appointment please ring 275 7976/7, email free.legal@manchester.ac.uk or call in to the Centre's Office (Monday to Friday during teaching periods only).



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Snockers

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Snockers Café Bar will celebrate its first Birthday on Monday **10th October** by offering customers on this day only, Bacon, Egg, Sausage or veggie alternative barm cakes for just **£1.00** between 7.30am – 11am. So come and join in the celebrations.

Just across the road from the university, **Snockers** is a stylish place to come for Breakfast, Lunch, or a relaxing drink. The menu includes a daily selection of freshly prepared hot dishes using fresh locally sourced ingredients, with an extensive selection of salads, paninis, snacks, homemade soup and much more.

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Bookings are now being taken for their 3 course **Christmas Fayre** lunch for £15.95 and Dinner for only £19.95 available from 6th – 22nd December.

If you would like further information about **Snockers** or any of their services, Mary and her team would love to hear from you on **0161 232 9172** or email: snockers@mspl.co.uk

Snockers Café Bar, Enterprise House, Lloyd Street North,
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Snockers – silly name, great food

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The Mathematics Tower

What goes up must come down as they say, and as we all know by now that that's certainly true of the Maths Tower. Around 40 years ago, when the University was expanding and the famous Manchester Education Precinct was being developed, the 19-storey tower rose proudly from the relatively low-level campus; a symbol of skyscraper modernity.

Now in the process of being demolished, it was the only University building of the thrusting 1960s entrusted to London architects, rather than local ones.

"Everyone knows that mathematics is penetrating more and more into the research techniques of many disciplines, and its power is to be vertically demonstrated for all to see," said the urban geographer TW Freeman at the time.

Brian Pullan's History of the University observes, "Its relative boldness and authority as it soared darkly above Oxford Road made it the most conspicuous landmark of the new order." Who would have thought that 40 years on its demolition and the University's plans for the site would be a symbol of another new order?

In its place by December 2007 will be the futuristic £60m SCAN Building, housing Student Services, Catering, the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, the Institute of Health Sciences and a 1,000-seat lecture theatre/seminar space. With a new block of student accommodation also to be included at the rear, the SCAN looks set to be as versatile a building as we could ask for to serve the modern University of Manchester.



An impression the new SCAN building



The Maths Tower gleams in 1972.

Next Issue is 7 November

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