

# UniLife



Manchester  
wins “Higher Education  
Institution of the Year” Award



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### Front cover:

President and Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Alan Gilbert (right) collects  
the Times Higher Award for "Higher  
Education Institution of the Year,"  
from Bill Rammell MP, Minister for  
Higher Education and Lifelong  
Learning, and Natalie Mudd,  
Managing Director of Hobsons,  
sponsors of the Award.

We are entering that time of the year when Faculties and Schools, having undergone their Operational Performance Reviews, are reviewing their strategic thinking and setting operational targets and performance measures for the forthcoming year. These are important processes. They lead, among other things, to the apportioning of resources between competing academic and research activities.

Planning and budgeting is about making difficult choices in the midst of uncertainty. But life is always like that. What option to pursue? What skill to develop? When to fight? Whether to flee? Human life has always involved fateful choices. In the relative comfort and security of a modern environment fewer are literally matters of life or death, but in one respect, at least, out-thinking the sabre-toothed tiger is a little like deciding where to concentrate research resources, which appointments to make, or how quickly to introduce e-learning pedagogies and technologies into our teaching and learning. For in both exigencies, selecting the right option would be so much easier if only we could model all the possible outcomes before deciding.

But life, alas, has to be lived in uncertainty and understood (if at all) only in retrospect. For those making critical choices, the window of opportunity (or the tiger's jaws) will normally have slammed shut long before all relevant information is available. Waiting for certainty is usually disempowering. Sometimes it is fatal.

That is where strategy and planning come in. Decision-makers never have enough specific information, so they are well-served by thinking in

advance about objectives and tactics, and developing a general understanding of the priorities that should inform different kinds of choices. Sometimes (to add a third metaphor to the mix) the principle of "any port in a storm" is the only way to survive, but often it is possible to align the short-term survival strategy with the longer term objective of charting a course towards some particular port. Knowing where we want to end up allows us to invest futurity in otherwise ad hoc and under-informed choices.

Strategically, I think that we know that e-learning, mediated on-line, is going to become a more and more central and essential modality in human learning at all levels. It would be nice to know more about future developments in software and/or on-line pedagogy before planning the way forward. But a university such as ours is courting disaster if it is not already giving high strategic priority to e-learning. Each new cohort of students will arrive expecting a university, of all places, to be able to enrich face-to-face learning with sophisticated on-line capabilities. We will disappoint them at our peril.



Professor Alan Gilbert  
President and Vice-Chancellor.

# Manchester wins 'Higher Education Institution of the Year' Award

The University Of Manchester was named as the 'Higher Education Institution of the Year' at the inaugural Times Higher Awards 2005 held at London's Dorchester Hotel last month (Wednesday, 23 November 2005).

The award was announced by Prime Minister Tony Blair who said: "Manchester has impressed the whole Higher Education sector by its successful merger last year with UMIST. But what particularly impressed the judges was how, under the leadership of its Vice-Chancellor Alan Gilbert, Manchester's vision for the future and determination to reinvigorate itself to become one of the top research universities in the world has enthused both staff and students."

The University was shortlisted alongside the universities of Dundee, Leicester and Winchester. Professor Alan Gilbert was presented with the award by Higher Education Minister Bill Rammell.

In a message to staff, Professor Gilbert said: "This award is a tribute to the efforts of all of our staff and students following what has been an exciting year. I am deeply grateful to all of you for the skill, determination and vision you have shown in getting the University up and running following the merger of UMIST and the Victoria University of Manchester, the culmination of nearly two years work and planning."

The title was awarded to the institution who "through a particularly bold or innovative initiative, has advanced its reputation substantially in the course of the academic year." It was the merger between UMIST and the Victoria University of Manchester and the ambitions of the new institution which were the focus of the judges' deliberations.

Baroness Kennedy, lawyer and Labour peer, said: "As we know from the corporate world and public sector, bringing institutions together is a hugely difficult thing to do. It could have been a disaster." Commenting on the *Manchester 2015 Agenda*, she said: "It is an inspirational vision for a university and this seems to be permeating down from the vice-chancellor."

Professor Gilbert's radical approach to the merger was praised by the judges who were impressed by how quickly and effectively the University's new administrative management structures had been implemented.

Bernadette Porter, former Vice-Chancellor of Roehampton University, said the first year of the merger had been crucial. "It was make or break, and all of the signs are that Manchester is making it," she said. "It does seem to have pulled off the trick of being more than the sum of its parts."

In October 2004, the University set itself a mammoth task. Not only did it announce its ambition to become one of the top 25 universities in the world by 2015, but it also took on the task of launching a distinctive new brand in an already crowded HE marketplace.

Looking back over the last twelve months, Professor Gilbert, said: "This is a time to reflect on some of our major achievements over the past year: the launch of a distinctive new brand identity; the implementation of a radical new management and governance structure; the largest programme of capital investment (£350m) ever seen in British higher education; and the creation of six new research institutes."

In his message to staff, Professor Gilbert said: "There is still much more work to be done to achieve the aims and ambitions of Manchester 2015, but this award is a true recognition of your efforts in 2004/05 – it is thoroughly deserved and I am immensely proud and grateful to you all."

A second award went to Lewis Elton, who recently became a Visiting Professor at The University of Manchester. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the ceremony for his 'trailblazing' work on pedagogy and for his commitment to higher education and teaching. Professor Elton, 82, has sustained a career in academia for the last 60 years. He spent his first ten years in academia as a physicist. Baroness Kennedy, said: "There is a polymath quality to this man that points to someone interested in educating the whole person."

## Honours

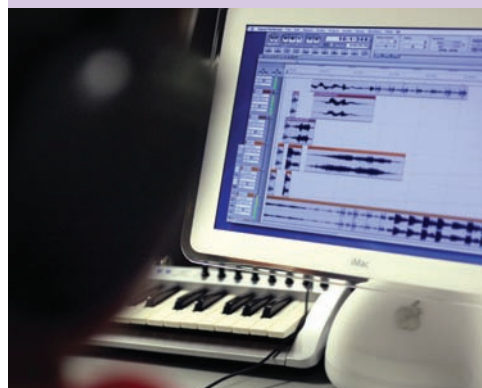


### Professor Blinkhorn OBE

Professor Anthony Blinkhorn has been awarded an OBE for services to dentistry. Professor Blinkhorn is the Co-ordinating Director of the Oral Health Unit (OHU) for England, the Academic Director of the Colgate Dental Health Unit, Director of the National Fluoride Information Service, Professor of Oral Health at The University of Manchester and Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry.

### Award judges go with gut feeling

Postdoctoral student Dr Anthony Hobson has been awarded the prestigious Young Healthcare Scientist of the Year Award by the Department of Health at an awards ceremony held in London. Dr Hobson is based at Hope Hospital, Salford, in the Department of Gastroenterology.



### Musical first for Manchester

Electroacoustic lecturer and Director of MANTIS electroacoustic music studios, Dr David Berezan, was awarded First Prize at the Concurso Internacional de Música Electroacústica de São Paulo (International Electroacoustic Music Contest of São Paulo) in Brazil. The prize was awarded for his work "Styal," an acousmatic composition incorporating sounds recorded at the historic Styal Mill at Quarry Bank, south of Manchester.





## In brief

### Manchester graduates amongst the preferred choice

The Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) World Rankings, produced recently, found that the world's leading employers ranked Manchester students 12th in the world and fifth in the UK as the graduates they would most prefer to employ.

[www.thes.co.uk/worldrankings](http://www.thes.co.uk/worldrankings)

### It's never too late

The Faculty of Humanities hosted a special Open Day for Access Students on 1 November 2005, for 100 would-be students hoping to commence degrees in September 2006.

Advice was given on applying successfully to The University of Manchester and an insight was given to the students as to what happens to UCAS applications once they enter the system.

The students were then split into three groups: a reference writing session with Faye Sayed, Widening Participation Officer, and Julian Skyrme, Head of Widening Participation; a Q&A with an Admissions Tutor panel; and a psychology group with Janet Pennington, Teaching Fellow in the School of Psychological Science.

Potential students were told of the University's generous financial provision and the new scholarships available. Interview guidance was given by Viv Gardner, Professor of Theatre Studies, and Judith Aldridge, Admissions Tutor for Criminology and Social Policy.

The Open Day allayed student's fears and showed that the University is a welcoming environment for students from non-traditional backgrounds.

### University to play host to Turing Lecture

The University of Manchester is to play host to the annual Turing Lecture on Wednesday, 25 January 2006.

The "Lifestyle Access and Technology" lecture will examine how technology can help visually disabled people with synthesized access to talking newspapers and easy access to online music. The lecture will also explore how the technology-heavy nature of 21st century living can disenfranchise the disabled.

Further information can be found at the following website.

[www.cs.manchester.ac.uk/manchesterturinglecture.php](http://www.cs.manchester.ac.uk/manchesterturinglecture.php)

### Performance, Learning and Heritage launch

The 'Performance, Learning and Heritage' project was launched on 9 November 2005 in the Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama with an introduction to the project, the project team and the web site. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the project aims to use performance as a medium for learning in museums and historic sites. The project will culminate in an international conference in Manchester in April 2008

# Manchester Cancer Research Centre Launched

The new Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) was launched on 11 November 2005 with a visit by National Cancer Director Professor Mike Richards and Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK Professor Alex Markham.

The MCRC brings together researchers from the University, Paterson Institute of Cancer Research (PICR - to become part of the University from January 1 2006), Christie Hospital and Cancer Research UK.

Research activity in cancer is hoped to be doubled and funding increased from £30 million to £60 million per year.

The Faculty of Life Sciences and Medical and Human Sciences will continue work in breast and paediatric cancers, cell proliferations, experimental cancer therapeutics and tumour microenvironment, whilst new research programmes will focus on other disease areas, radiation related research and chemical biology.

Within the next five years the MCRC plans to recruit and develop at least ten world class researchers and 25-30 leaders for new research groups.

The MCRC will oversee strategic investment in research infrastructure, aiming towards the creation of international 'centres of excellence' in four or five areas of cancer research.



L-R: Prof Mike Richards, National Cancer Director; Prof Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor; Prof Joan Higgins, Chair of the Christie Hospital Trust; Prof Dame Nancy Rothwell, Vice-President for Research; Caroline Shaw, Chief Executive of the Christie; Prof Colin Sibley, Associate Dean for Research in Medical and Human Sciences; Prof Nic Jones, Director of the Paterson Institute; and Prof Alex Markham, Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK.

Professor Nic Jones, Director of PICR and now Director of the MCRC, said: "This is an integrated plan to maximise the impact of Manchester's activity in cancer research, and will greatly advance early trial activity - that is testing new drugs and therapies on patients for the first time - a very important step."

Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice Chancellor of the University, added: "The MCRC heralds a new era for cancer research, hopefully this will be the starting point for a more ambitious and comprehensive network involving other hospitals, scientist and health professionals working in the cancer field throughout Manchester."

## Archaeologists' Eagle Eyes Uncover a First in Manchester

The University of Manchester has achieved another first in the shape of the first archaeological work to actually take place within the campus. Archaeology has been taught at the University since around 1969, but so far campus relics, ancient or otherwise, have eluded researchers. But not any more.

Archaeologists from the University's Field Archaeology Unit recently excavated the remains of a Georgian pub - The Eagle Inn - directly in front of the Humanities Bridgeford St Building.

News of the discovery has created a buzz in archaeological circles, not least because this is the first time a Georgian pub has been excavated in Manchester.

The pub comes from a period when Manchester was emerging as the world's first industrial city and the pub served an area of workers' housing dominated by back to back terraced houses and houses with cellar dwellings, fragments of which were also uncovered during the evaluation excavations.

The Eagle Inn was built around 1800 and had its own small brewery at the rear. It was part of the first urban development along Oxford Road and south of the Cornbrook. Several of the barrel-vaulted cellars and the beer drop have been excavated and features such as the original cast-iron door hinges have been found in place.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/archaeology](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/archaeology)

# Manchester Making A Difference to HIV/AIDS Care in Africa



**The University of Manchester has been collaborating with Mildmay International, a Christian Charity Organisation whose mission is to improve the quality of life of adults and children living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS.**

Established in 1998 through the University's School of Nursing, improvements are made through the provision of care services and through training health care workers and providers in holistic, comprehensive HIV/AIDS care, enabling participants to develop appropriate care and rehabilitation services.

The Mildmay Centre has a range of training programmes in Uganda with a residential study centre and mobile training teams. These enable them to reach thousands more adults and children by empowering health professionals to develop their own services.

The University's collaboration with Mildmay International provides a validated Diploma in the Care and Management of People Living with HIV/AIDS, which has been launched in Kenya and Uganda. This in-country training also provides short tailor-made courses or long-term programmes and packages with a focus on empowering health care professionals.

Students participating in the programme have reported that the course has increased their effectiveness within their jobs and some reported that it had had a positive effect on their career progression. The partnership illustrates how the University is participating in, and making a difference to, international issues such as the HIV/AIDS problems in Africa.

To discuss a possible collaboration, please contact Emma Hilton at [Emma.Hilton-2@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Emma.Hilton-2@manchester.ac.uk)

## in brief



### It's Life, But Not As We Know It

The Manchester Museum took a trip down memory lane this month with a fascinating exhibition showcasing a selection of photographs from the Mass-Observation project that ran in pre-war Britain recording the everyday life of working class people.

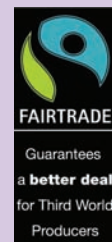
Between 1936 and 1940 hundreds of records were gathered, ranging from accounts of nightmares and individual responses to public events, to conversations about the weather and studies of drinking habits in Bolton pubs.

The observers and photographers carried out an extensive study of Bolton, thinly disguised as 'worktown', with a surrealist obsession for the minutiae of life. They attempted to melt into the landscape, sitting in pubs and elsewhere, noting overheard snippets of conversation and such niceties of social behaviour such as the frequency of spittoon use. To avoid standing out they also had to consume large quantities of beer!

The exhibition of Mass-Observation photographs comes from the collection of Bolton Art Gallery and Museum. The selection of work explores the themes of Surrealism and the place of the everyday in the Mass-Observation project and features pictures by the celebrated photographer Humphrey Spender.

For further information or images contact Tim Manley on 0161 275 2726, or at [Tim.Manley@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Tim.Manley@manchester.ac.uk)

### A Fairtrade Christmas at The Manchester Museum



Looking for a different Christmas present? Want to support worthwhile causes?

The Manchester Museum shop is now Fairtrade with more than 90 per cent of suppliers complying with the standards and terms of trade set by the international Fairtrade system.

These include social and environmental standards for the producers, as well as agreed price structures and trading rules for companies. Regular monitoring against these standards means that people can be confident in choosing products carrying the FAIRTRADE Mark.

Prices for Fairtrade products start from as little as £1.50, so there are gifts to suit every pocket.






## Gift Shop goes Global!

The University's official branded goods range has been launched with a wide range of products on offer. Bestsellers are the branded umbrellas and the University tie, although teddy bears, glassware, clothing and computer goodies are all selling out fast.

The launch of the official website, [www.manchester.ac.uk/giftshop](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/giftshop), has given University branded goods a worldwide audience, with the most popular online item being the University crest on a wall plaque, closely followed by the rugby shirt with an embroidered crest. Orders have been despatched to Canada, Turkey, Germany, Thailand and Norway, as well as the UK.

With Christmas fast-approaching, the giftshop could hold the solution

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/giftshop](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/giftshop)

## Louis de Bernieres Launches Creative Writing Reading Series

The Creative Writing Series was recently launched by Louis de Bernieres, graduate of this University and author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* and *Birds Without Wings*. The series consists of well known authors talking about their work and giving selected readings to an audience of staff, students and members of the public. Upcoming visits from other authors include A.L Kennedy on 5 December 2005, Will Self on 27 March 2006 and Sarah Walters on 8 May 2006.



Louis de Bernieres

## Czech mate

The Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL), based at the University, has been celebrating the success of the Towards Professional Leadership project for an Integrated Europe project.

The CEL, headed by Centre Director Brendan Murden, is the leading UK partner of the project and has produced an educational leadership programme for the Czech education system. The Czech Republic now has a mandatory qualification for head teachers, which is enshrined in Czech law.

The project, sponsored by the British Council, is hosted in collaboration with the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the Educational Management Centre at Charles University in Prague, BBC Worldwide Learning and the National College for School Leadership.

CEL plans to host a seminar in Prague in spring 2006, bringing together colleagues from all over Europe to discuss potential pan-European collaboration.

# School Thanks University for 'My Manchester'



School children present "Their Manchester" to their peers

**The "My Manchester" project, led by the Local Education Authority (LEA) in conjunction with the University, challenged school children from all over the city to investigate and discover 'their' Manchester from an environmental, historical or geographical perspective.**

The project involved more than 500 pupils from 60 schools, showcasing their project work through visual displays, presentations, dramatic performances and video interviews with local community leaders.

Kirsty Hutchinson, Community Development Manager at the Careers & Employability Division, who helped co-ordinate the project, said: "My Manchester helped raise the educational aspirations of local schoolchildren and helped support communities in disadvantaged areas. The celebration event was a huge success and the Manchester Leadership Programme volunteers really enjoyed working with the children."

"My Manchester" helped re-shape schools' Humanities curricula, by meeting the requirements of Key Stages Two and Three for history and geography in the National Curriculum.

Teacher Veronica Martin, from St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School in Wythenshawe, said: "This project will now be firmly embedded in our curriculum as the standard achieved was remarkable."

"My Manchester" coincided with the 'Museums and Galleries Initiative', which promotes using cultural assets as an educational tool through visits from schools.

Brian Holmes, organiser of the "My Manchester" project and Associate Advisor in Humanities at the Manchester Education Partnership, said: "We are delighted the University's assets played a vital role and we are very grateful to the University for their tremendous support of this project initiative."

To find out more about My Manchester, contact Kirsty Hutchinson, Project Manager, on 275 2828 or email [kirsty.hutchinson@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:kirsty.hutchinson@manchester.ac.uk)

## Award-winning Manchester Museum celebrates with 350 000 visitors

The Manchester Museum recently celebrated reaching the 350,000 visitor mark since the re-opening of the new extension. The extension has won a number of architectural plaudits including the Civic Trust Award and the Royal Institute of British Architects Regional Architecture Award.

The Museum has increased its visitor numbers from under 100,000, a year before the project, to almost 200,000 in 2004/2005.

The Museum is on Oxford Road in Manchester and is open Tuesday to Thursday 10am-5pm and on Sundays, Mondays and Bank Holidays 11am-4pm. Admission is free for everyone.

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/museum](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/museum)



Dr Mourad Seif, lead nurse Susan Renshaw and WTCRF Director Professor Jackie Oldham, are presented with a certificate for their recruitment achievement.

## Cancer Study Milestone

The Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility (WTCRF), the dedicated research centre of the University and its partner NHS Trusts, has recruited the final volunteer required for its part in a huge nationwide trial of ovarian cancer screening.

The national study began four years ago and has already hosted over 30,000 participant visits. The centre has now recruited Beryl Graham as its 16667th and final volunteer for the trial, which will continue until 2012.

Ovarian cancer is the fourth most common cause of death from cancer amongst women in the UK, with symptoms often not apparent until the cancer has spread. The United Kingdom Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening (UKCTOCS) is the largest study of its kind with 200,000 participants nationwide, and aims to provide the data for an informed decision about the introduction of screening for the disease across the population.

Lead researcher for the North West, Dr Mourad Seif of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Unit, said: "The sheer number of women who have volunteered – despite the fact that we can't pay them or even cover their expenses – reflects both the great success of the study in the North West and the value that these women see in the early detection of ovarian cancer; not just for themselves but for their family, friends and future generations."

The study aims to assess the impact screening could have on the number of deaths from ovarian cancer and will compare two different screening strategies. It will also look at the physical, social and psychological effects of the screening process, its resource implications and the feasibility of screening the population at large.

The Facility held a special reception to celebrate its achievement on 1 November 2005, when Beryl was presented with a commemorative certificate in the presence of representatives from Manchester NHS Trusts, the University and fellow trial volunteers.

## Centre Opens New Chapter in Fight against Disease

**A team of scientists from the University, consisting of 14 lead researchers, will be taking a fresh look at the way research into some of the most deadly diseases is undertaken, to provide a better insight into how they can be beaten.**

The new Centre for the Analysis of Biological Complexity (CABC) will be housed in the state of the art Michael Smith building, bringing biologists from across Life Sciences together.

"Scientists have always been taking apart cells to see how living organisms work," said Centre Director Professor Steve Oliver.

"We want to put things back together because the important diseases like diabetes and heart

disease involve many genes interacting, whilst infectious diseases like AIDS cannot be understood without seeing how genes interact with those of the pathogen."

The team will develop theories and mathematical models for these biological systems and run experiments on them.

"Our systems approach will develop therapies that treat the patient rather than the disease, remembering that organisms weren't designed but have evolved," Professor Oliver added.

"These techniques will allow us to observe genetic interactions at the same time, which may lead to new treatments."

## Tropical cloud 'dust' could hold the key to climate change

A research team from the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences has set off for Australia to undertake an in-depth study of tropical clouds and the particles sucked up into them to gain further insight into climate change and the depletion of the ozone layer.

The research will take place in Darwin, Australia, as part of a major international field experiment to study transport by tropical thunderstorms and the type of high-altitude clouds they produce.

Manchester's research will focus on the analysis of tiny particles, known as aerosols, which determine cloud properties. Aerosols include materials like desert dust, sea salt and other organic materials which are drawn up into the clouds from the earth's surface.

Professor Geraint Vaughan, who will lead the study, said: "The tropics drive global atmospheric circulation, so it is extremely important for us to understand how atmospheric processes operate there.

"Deep thunderstorms are a major feature of tropical weather, but their overall effect on the transport of material to high levels is poorly understood. This is important because it helps determine the composition of the stratosphere and the kinds of clouds which form high in the atmosphere."

## Grants and Contracts

### Department of Health Fellowship

Dr Mary Lou Harris of the Gastrointestinal Sciences Group based at Hope Hospital has been awarded a Fellowship by the Department of Health. The post-doctoral award provides four years funding totalling £190,000 and will allow Dr Harris to evaluate the neurophysiological mechanisms at work in patients with faecal incontinence.

Dr Harris said: "I am particularly delighted to be offered Department of Health post-doctoral funding as it is a nationally-recognised, prestigious award. This award will enable me to advance my research whilst developing into a more independent researcher."

### PFI Research

Professor Jean Shaoul, Professor Pam Stapleton and Dr Anne Stafford have been awarded a grant worth £25,000 from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland (ICAS). The grant has been awarded to enable the examination of how hybrid forms of financing public infrastructure in the EU are reported and accounted for by both public and private sector partners. The report is due to be published in 2007.



## Pillows- a hot bed of fungal spores

University researchers at Wythenshawe Hospital have discovered millions of fungal spores right under our noses - in our pillows.

Funded by the Fungal Research Trust, the team dissected feather and synthetic pillow samples with regular use of between 18 months and 20 years. They typically found more than a million spores per pillow.

Professor Ashley Woodcock said: "Pillows are inhabited by the fungi eating house dust mite, so theoretically in turn the fungi are using both the dust mites' faeces and human skin scales for nutrition creating a 'miniature ecosystem' inside our pillows."

Four to 16 different species were identified. The most common, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, can cause Aspergillosis - a hard to treat condition of the lungs and sinuses which can not only spread to other organs, but has become the leading cause of death in leukaemia and bone marrow transplant patients.

Aspergillosis adversely affects AIDS and steroid treatment patients and can also worsen asthma and cause allergic sinusitis.

Other fungal varieties included those found on bread, vines, damp walls and showers.

Hospital pillows were unlikely to cause problems due to their plastic covers, but discharged patients could be at risk of infection from their old pillows at home.

## Cockcroft Rutherford lecture explores a sustainable nuclear Manchester

The University of Manchester hosted the Cockcroft Rutherford lecture in November 2005, with guest speaker Michael Parker, CEO of BNFL. Mr Parker is a Manchester alumnus who graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1968 and an MBA in 1972.

Michael Parker's lively lecture gave listeners plenty to think about, suggesting that nuclear power could be a major source of sustainable energy for the future, with many independent sources of energy running out whilst global energy demand increases.

Mr Parker emphasised the need to find sources of energy that are both affordable and environmentally acceptable. Although he sees great opportunity in renewable sources of energy such as wind, hydroelectric, tidal and solar power, Mr Parker believes that they simply do not produce enough output to be the absolute answer to the world's energy crisis.

Nuclear power could help to stem the problem of global warming since nuclear plants provide huge amounts of power with virtually no greenhouse emissions. Furthermore, the costs of nuclear power are, in relative terms, falling. Mr Parker asked the audience if the risks posed by

global warming, supply interruption and price inflation outweigh those posed by management and storage of nuclear waste.

Mr Parker concluded by saying that he believes nuclear power is not the sole solution, but part of a multifaceted approach.

This lecture was organised by the Division of Development and Alumni Relations, and chaired by Andrew Spinoza, Chair of the Alumni Association.



Andrew Spinoza and Michael Parker

[www.manchester.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/alumni)

## Success tastes sweet for scientists

**A low-calorie sweetener that tastes like sugar and could help control diseases like diabetes and obesity may be closer to reality thanks to research at the University.**

Scientists at The University of Manchester and The University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore have made a major advance in understanding what makes a substance taste sweet.

The discovery could help pave the way for the development of low-calorie sweeteners that mimic natural sugar and leave no bitter aftertaste.

"Our study has for the first time measured how sugar and some synthetic sweeteners interact with two types of taste receptors on the tongue," said Dr Graeme Conn from the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"Some synthetic sweeteners only interact with one receptor. We found that sugar interacts with both. Similarly, sucralose, the sweetener used in Splenda®, also interacted with both receptors but with a greater intensity to sugar.

The research findings, published in the November issue of the scientific journal *Current Biology*, have implications for diabetic patients, who need to regulate their sugar intake, as well as for tackling the growing problem of obesity.

A recent study by food firm GoLower showed that the average adult in Britain consumed 33 teaspoons of sugar a day, more than three times the recommended amount.

Much of this sugar intake was consumed through everyday food items, like baked beans, bread and cereal, as well as in tea, coffee and alcoholic drinks.

"A major goal of the food-science industry has been to create a sweetener that tastes like sugar but isn't high in calories," said Dr Steven Munger, of the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

"We hope that food scientists can use our research to create sugar alternatives with the most natural taste, offering more choice to consumers who rely on low-calorie products to help control diseases like diabetes and obesity."

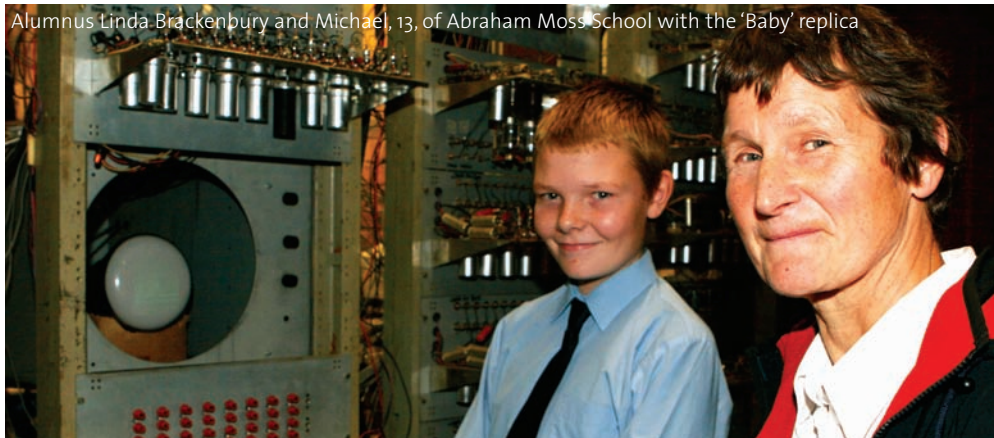


Dr Graeme Conn



# Pupils given unique tour of world's 'first' computer

Alumnus Linda Brackenbury and Michael, 13, of Abraham Moss School with the 'Baby' replica



School children from across Manchester were given a unique tour of the world's 'first' computer as part of the School of Computer Science's 40th anniversary celebrations.

Last month, the School of Computer Science celebrated 40 years since its first intake of undergraduate students, with many former students returning to celebrate the occasion.

As part of the celebrations, sponsored by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, pupils from across Manchester were joined by alumnus Linda Brackenbury, who in 1965 was one of 28 pupils to enrol onto the UK's first undergraduate degree in computer science.

Linda, who is now a Senior Lecturer and was originally taught by the computer's inventor Tom Kilburn, was on hand to answer any questions about the machine, known as 'The Baby' which was re-

built in 1998 and is now based within Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry.

Linda, said: "Back in 1965, Manchester was the only place offering computer science so we felt very privileged to be studying here. There were 28 of us on the course and I was one of only four girls.

"What I remember most was how close we were to the lecturers who would come in and update us on developments they'd made that day or week. It was a very exciting time."

As part of the celebrations, Linda was reunited with two of the women she studied computer science with back in 1965.

The "Baby" was designed and built at The University of Manchester and made its first successful run of a program on 21 June 1948. It was the first machine that had all the components now classically regarded as characteristic of the basic computer.

## University ranks highest with employers

A survey of graduate recruiters, carried out by the Careers and Employability Division, has revealed that The University of Manchester ranks as the number one choice compared with other leading institutions. Both the skills and academic qualities developed by students, as well as the support to employers offered by university careers services, were cited as the most important selection criteria.

The Employer Satisfaction Survey involved many large national and international recruiters, as well as smaller regional organisations from both the public and private sectors. Respondents included Goldman Sachs, Shell, KPMG, the British Council, the RAF, The Bank of England and Proctor and Gamble.

Conducting the survey is one of the key performance indicators of Goal Four within the University's 2015 strategic plan, *Towards Manchester 2015*, and it will be repeated on a biennial basis.

Jane Ratchford, Director of the Careers and Employability Division, said: "We are delighted by the results of this survey, which confirms our

commitment to working closely with employers for the benefit of our students and graduates, as well as our reputation for excellence. Employers are important stakeholders whose expectations we continuously try to exceed."

Disciplines where Manchester was ranked the highest by employers included engineering, architecture, IT, law and social sciences. As well as identifying the quality of our graduates, the survey asked respondents to rank the importance of skills and competences in recruiting graduates. Most recruiters ranked teamwork, self-management, communication, problem solving and adaptability as being of high importance.

Copies of the Employer Satisfaction Survey are available upon request. Please email Andrea Richards ([andrea.richards@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:andrea.richards@manchester.ac.uk)) for a copy. Should you wish to discuss the survey in more detail, contact Andrew Whitmore at [andrew.whitmore@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.whitmore@manchester.ac.uk).

## Scientist becomes first Briton to win Feenberg Memorial Medal

A scientist from The University of Manchester has become the first Briton to be awarded the prestigious Eugene Feenberg Memorial Medal in Many-Body Physics.

The medal, which is widely regarded as an indicator for future Nobel Prize winners, has been jointly awarded to Professor Raymond Bishop, of the School of Physics and Astronomy, and Hermann Kümmel, Professor Emeritus, Institute of Theoretical Physics of the Ruhr University of Bochum, Germany.

Established in 1983, the Medal has never before been awarded to a scientist in Great Britain. Two of the nine previous winners, Anthony J Leggett and Walter Kohn, have gone on to win Nobel Prizes, for Physics and Chemistry respectively.

Professor Bishop has been awarded the Medal for his pioneering development of the 'Coupled-Cluster Method' - a powerful theoretical technique used to understand the properties of materials in terms of their fundamental constituents.

The award will be presented at the 13th International Conference on Recent Progress in Many-Body Theories in Buenos Aires, Argentina, this month.

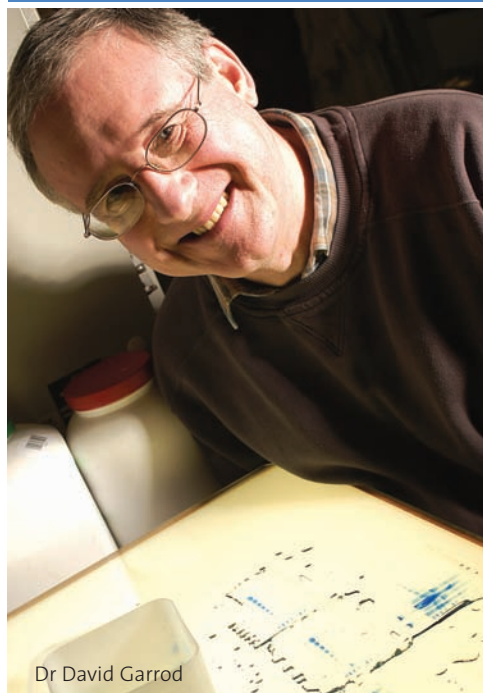
## Major EU grant to develop cancer-fighting cells

A pre-clinical research project coordinated by the University, which will advance our understanding of how cancer cells evade the immune system, has been awarded nearly €12million by the EU.

The five year 'ATTACK' project will enable Cancer Research UK Professor of Medical Oncology Robert Hawkins, his team and an international consortium of 16 partners to improve 'T-cell mediated immunotherapy', which has the potential to fight a broad range of cancers.

Robert said: "Unlike radiotherapy and chemotherapy, which destroy both cancerous and healthy cells, Engineered T-cell Therapy has the potential to selectively destroy cancers within a patient's body using its own infection-fighting mechanisms. This project focuses on optimising that system in the laboratory.

"Already vaccines can prevent certain cancers, and the aim of this project is to develop effective methods to target others."



Dr David Garrod

## Riddle of deadly skin disease solved

A skin-biology expert from The University of Manchester has identified a mystery skin condition which has puzzled doctors since the death of a new born baby five years ago.

Professor David Garrod heard of the boy's case at a dermatological conference in Paris.

"During birth his skin started coming off, leaving raw patches all over his body," said Professor Garrod

"The little boy died of dehydration - his body did not have enough skin to retain water."

Professor Marcel Jonkman and his team of doctors at Groningen and Utrecht Universities puzzled over the boy's case for four years, then Professor Garrod heard the boy's symptoms and thought immediately of his own research.

"I study minute structures called desmosomes which bind together the cells of our skin, heart and tissue like glue would," explained Professor Garrod.

"I suggested the problem might be a defect in the desmoplakin molecule, which links the desmosomes to supporting structures to provide tissue strength."

With this new information, Professor Jonkman was able to confirm Professor Garrod's suspicions.

These findings have been published in the American Journal of Human Genetics and the disease named 'Lethal acantholytic epidermolysis bullosa'.

"Both the baby's parents carried different desmoplakin defective genes, meaning there was a one in four chance the child would carry both defective genes. The results offer not only an explanation to the parents, but allow them to have a healthy child through parental diagnosis."

## Research Spotlight



## Professor Andre Geim School of Physics and Astronomy

**Professor Andre Geim has already astounded the scientific community with his flying frogs and gecko tape. Now he has done it again – by proving Einstein's theory of relativity with a lead pencil.**

Until now it was only possible by spending billions on atom smashers or by studying distant galaxies, but Professor Geim led a group of British, Russian and Dutch scientists who have shown it can be done in the lab, using an ultra-thin material called Graphene. It is only one atom thick and it was created by extracting slivers of graphite via a process similar to tracing with a pencil.

Professor Geim, who is one of the world's leading mesoscopic physicists, explained: "To understand the implications of the theory of relativity, researchers often have to go to considerable lengths. But our work shows that it is possible to set up direct experiments to test ideas of relativity and quantum electrodynamics (QED).

"In theory, this will speed up possible discoveries and probably save billions of pounds now that tests can be set up using Graphene and relatively inexpensive laboratory equipment."

In a paper published in November's issue of Nature, the team described how electric charges in Graphene appear to behave like relativistic particles with no mass. The new particles are described by Einstein's theory of relativity and QED.

But this is not the first time Professor Geim has amazed the scientific community. Several years ago, his now-famous levitating frog was a real shock for most academics who initially considered it a clever hoax.

The concept of diamagnetism - magnetism of such seemingly non-magnetic objects as plastic or wood or even humans - has been around for over 150 years but perceived as an extremely feeble phenomenon. It turned out to be the very same diamagnetism that could cause such dramatic effects as levitation of small frogs - as well as of everything else from water to wine and from pizza to hamsters - in relatively modest magnetic fields available in many laboratories.

Thanks to Professor Geim, many textbooks now explain the concept of diamagnetism by starting with his levitating frog. Somewhat unexpectedly, this work also inspired the

development of a new research area: earth-bound low-gravity.

Professor Geim won the IgNobel Prize in 2000, which is awarded for something that first makes people laugh, then makes them think, for his frog experiment. He said: "When I first told my colleagues that we could levitate water no-one believed it. We needed a provocative picture to demonstrate the importance of magnetism and we chose a small frog."

"We had initially aimed the experiment at school-children, but the greatest impact of the experiments was on the scientific community. As a result of what we demonstrated, there are now around ten different groups with magnetic levitation facilities around the world including the UK."

More recently, Professor Geim hit the headlines again by demonstrating a new type of microfabricated adhesive, which is based on the same physics mechanism that underlies the amazing climbing ability of geckos.

The latest work of Professor Geim on Graphene and its very bizarre relativistic properties promises to become as important scientifically as his levitation experiments were educationally important.



## Scholarships for Excellence

The University has welcomed the first five Chinese scholars funded by the Scholarships for Excellence programme. It is the first year of what is hoped to be a long running collaboration between the UK and Chinese governments to provide scholarships for postgraduate and postdoctoral scholars.

In January 2005, the British and Chinese Governments launched Scholarships for Excellence programme. The University of Manchester was one of only five universities in the UK to have been selected to take part in the piloting of this scheme, along with Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Nottingham. After a successful initial year, the DfES has invited the University to commit to a further three years of the scheme.

The University was allocated five of the 20 scholarships available to UK universities in the pilot year. These scholarships were awarded to three postgraduate research students and two

postdoctoral students in the Faculties of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Medical and Human Sciences.

Two of the PhD students in receipt of the scholarship, Mr Yang Naikuo and Mr Dai Xuewu, were invited to London during the recent state visit by Chinese President Hu Jintao. These scholars met with the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and the State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan in Pall Mall, and witnessed the signing of the UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue.

The University is also involved in a further initiative to establish a joint scholarship programme for Chinese research students to study at Manchester. The University is committed to the establishment of ten joint postgraduate research scholarships annually for the next three years, and is in the process of signing an agreement with the China Scholarship Council (CSC) in the Chinese Ministry of Education to reflect this commitment.

## Teaching and Learning Centre

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences has launched an innovative Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC), which according to Professor Pat Bailey, Associate Dean for Teaching & Learning, aims "to support the development of high quality teaching and learning through the exchange of good practice and innovative methods, and by the provision of resources."

At its launch, Lewis Elton, Visiting Professor in Education, gave a stimulating presentation emphasizing the balance between in-house and central provision – a 'hub-and-spokes' model in which the range of skills needed by graduates are delivered at discipline level, but support is available from Faculty/University units with specialist skills and resources.

Learning Enhancement Officers, who head up Teaching Innovation Groups in Schools, presented a wide variety of interesting teaching practice in their disciplines, which can be viewed at the web address below.

Professor John Perkins, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, observed that "world-leading universities are recognized for innovative teaching as well as world-class research. Through the formation of our Teaching and Learning Centre, Engineering and Physical Sciences is taking an important step towards the realisation of the *Towards Manchester 2015 Agenda*."



### VPs View



Our strategic plan *Towards Manchester 2015* refers to encouraging and rewarding excellent teaching. Last month I reported on awards for excellent teaching and academic promotions based primarily on teaching excellence, including three new professors. Other universities already see us as a leader in this area.

Another external view of the University comes from last month's Institutional Audit. Thanks are due to the staff and students who met the auditors and to the Teaching Learning and Assessment Office staff for all their input. The full report will be published in March, but the interim judgement is 'broad confidence' in our overall arrangements and satisfaction with the disciplines studied in detail. The learning resources and the support we provide for students are commended, but we still have work to do in relating our awards and assessment procedures to external reference points.

*Towards Manchester 2015* also refers to listening to students – those intended to benefit from teaching and learning. The auditors were evidently impressed by students' enthusiasm and commitment, and we are working with the Students' Union to capture those qualities in improving student representation and feedback. More than 1,000 undergraduates responded to our first Satisfaction Survey last summer; we are addressing their concerns, and we hope many more students will respond next time.

Teaching and research are both important, but since they compete for time we must work efficiently. One way is to exploit synergy between them through enquiry-based learning. The Centre for Excellence in Enquiry-Based Learning 'hub' recently opened in the Sackville Street building (also featured in this edition of UniLife) offers new flexible teaching and learning spaces, and we plan to convert similar spaces in each Faculty 'spoke' this summer. We are also planning to bring all centrally timetabled rooms to a good standard informed by what comparator universities achieve and what staff and students want.

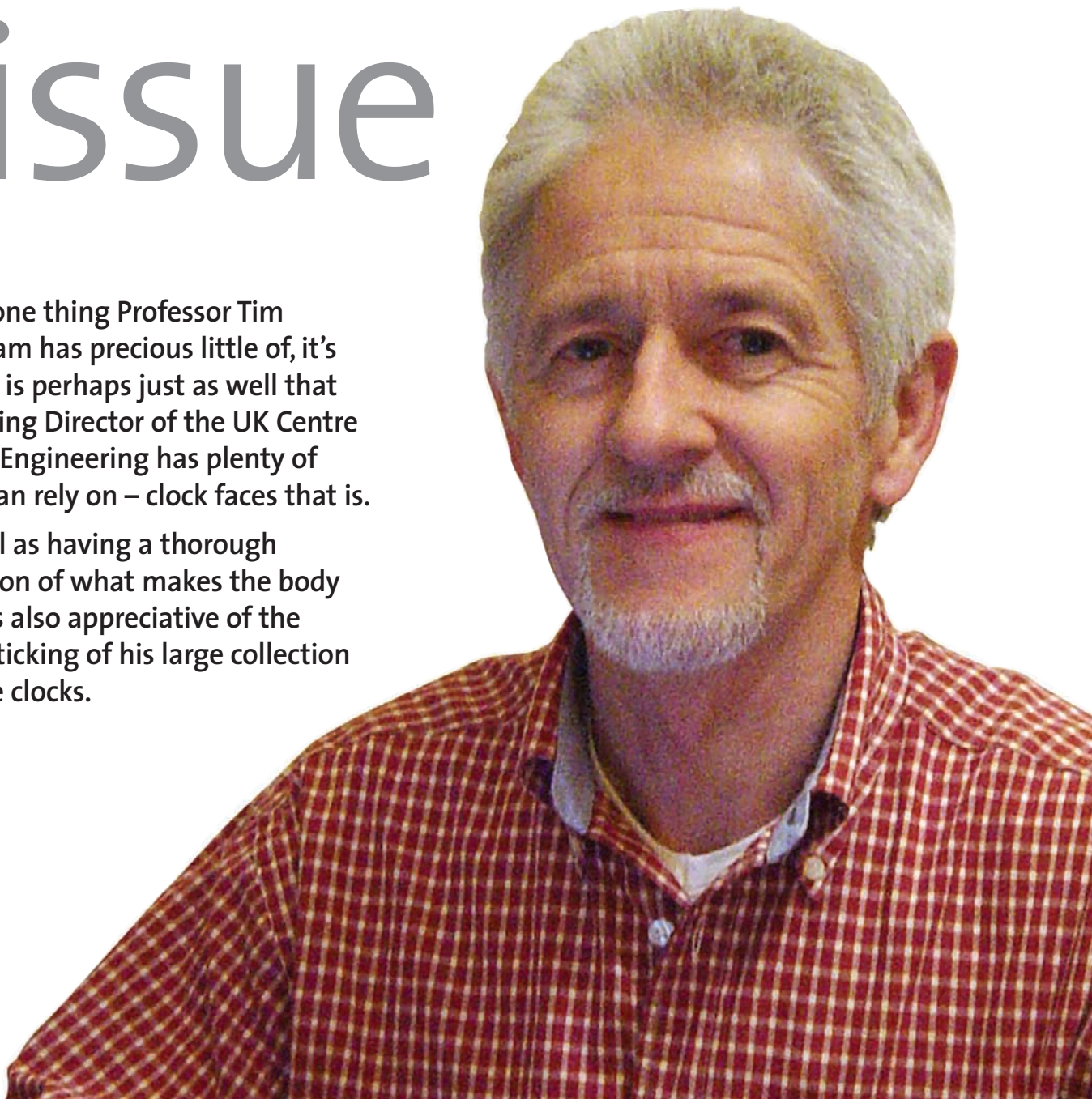
Professor Bob Munn, Vice-President for Teaching and Learning

“The potential for some major advances is enormous... with Parkinson’s we only treat the symptoms but if we could produce more cells then the process could be slowed or even stopped.”

# Tim’s Tissue

If there’s one thing Professor Tim Hardingham has precious little of, it’s time; so it is perhaps just as well that the founding Director of the UK Centre for Tissue Engineering has plenty of faces he can rely on – clock faces that is.

For as well as having a thorough appreciation of what makes the body tick, Tim is also appreciative of the rhythmic ticking of his large collection of antique clocks.





"I've been collecting clocks for many years and now have more than 20 at home," says Tim, admitting he's fortunate to have an understanding wife who doesn't mind the noise.

"She's got used to them I suppose and at least having so many clocks in the house means I never have an excuse for being late for work!"

Not that a man who loves his job as much as Tim would ever need an excuse. As Professor of Biochemistry in the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research and current Deputy Director of the UK Centre for Tissue Engineering, Tim heads a large research team in the Faculty of Life Sciences based in the Michael Smith building.

The first person in his family to attend university, Tim studied Biochemistry at Bristol where he also later gained his Ph.D. in the same subject.

"In school, you tend to follow the path of least resistance; I was good at science and my family supported me for as far as I wanted to go.

"I started my scientific career in London, at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology. At that time, tissue engineering was a very distant subject, and I had the ability to follow many interesting ideas over the years.

"I spent 25 successful years at the Institute but then I was asked to come and join the team at Manchester.

"I was at that point in my career where I could either stay where I was and carry on doing the same thing or move on and make a change in my life. I decided on the latter and moved to Manchester.

"It was difficult at first, finding my feet and settling in, but the programme allowed me to discover a place where I felt comfortable."

One of Tim's major accomplishments during his time at Manchester was leading the successful bid for the single largest grant ever awarded by the research councils – a whopping £10 million over six years to establish the UK Centre for Tissue Engineering jointly with Liverpool University.

The study of human tissue has led to a number of breakthroughs in medicine, says Tim, helping people with scars and burns, and it also has the potential to treat conditions like diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

"When the natural healing process of the body fails, tissue engineers try to find a way for the body to kick-start these processes.

"If we can understand how our biology works then we could generate the repair naturally and we wouldn't need plastic or metal to bind limbs, for instance, after an accident.

"Tissue engineering – or regenerative medicine as it is now often branded – has a great deal of potential but we have years of research ahead of us to fully understand the basics necessary to make it work."

Tim, whose specific research interests are in the biology and pathology of cartilage and the degenerative processes in osteoarthritis and other joint diseases, says the origins of tissue engineering stem from the United States.

"I think it's fair to say that this area of science was somewhat over-hyped at the beginning but it was soon realised that more basic research was needed before we could fully understand the processes at work during healing.

"But over the past four or five years there has definitely been a vast improvement in the quality of research worldwide.

"The potential for some major advances is enormous: For example, with Parkinson's disease, we currently only treat the symptoms, such as the shaking of the body. But the condition is caused by the death of cells in the brain, so if we could produce more cells then the process could be slowed or even stopped."

So how long will we have to wait for major breakthroughs like this to be made?

Tim's love of clocks suddenly becomes clear in his response: "Only time will tell," he says. "Only time will tell."

## Name

Professor Timothy. E. Hardingham

## Education

1965: BSc Biochemistry  
University of Bristol

1968: PhD Biochemistry  
University of Bristol

1984: DSc University of Bristol

## Present Appointment

Professor of Biochemistry, Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research, The University of Manchester

Director (2001-4), Deputy Director (2004-7) UK Centre for Tissue Engineering, Universities of Manchester and Liverpool

## Previous Appointment

1968-1971  
Nuffield Research Fellowship, Division of Biochemistry, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, London.

1971-1986  
Deputy Head of Biochemistry Division, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology

1976-1977  
MRC Travelling Fellowship, National Institute of Dental Research, NIH, Bethesda, USA

1986-1994  
Head of Biochemistry Division, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology

## Brief Career History

1980-1984: Founding Honorary Secretary of British Connective Tissue Society

1991-1995: Member of Council of the British Society for Rheumatology

1992-1996: Member of the Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board, The Medical Research Council (UK)

1999: Member of Foresight Healthcare Task Force on the Future of Transplantation/Tissue Engineering

1999-2003: Invited Member of Tissue Engineering Study Sections of National Institutes of Health, (USA)

1997-2002: Member of the Scientific Co-ordinating Committee of the Arthritis Research Campaign (UK)

2003 - 2005: Elected Vice-President Europe, Tissue Engineering Society International

2005: Invited to become Associate Editor of the journal Tissue Engineering

## The Teaching Science and Engineering in English (TSEE) programme

The Teaching Science and Engineering in English (TSEE) programme is a postgraduate certificate for Chinese academics which has attracted more than 150 alumni from Chinese universities since its inception three and a half years ago.

The programme is a partnership between the China Scholarship Council and The University of Manchester, initiated by Bland Tomkinson, University Advisor on Pedagogic Development.

The TSEE programme provides the Chinese participants with an accredited postgraduate certificate and it is not only unique to the UK, but one of only four such programmes in the world, accepting a bi-annual cohort of 25-30 Chinese academics each year, in January and August.

Initially established within science and engineering, TSEE has now expanded to include Medicine, Psychology, Pharmacy, Law, Earth Sciences and Informatics.

Aimed at developing the alumni with English skills to enable them to teach bilingually on their return to China, it also includes an Academic Practice programme.

An alumnus has just been awarded a prize by his Chinese University for his teaching in English.

The placing of academics in host schools benefits both parties and is a vital part of the programme. It provides potential for establishing links with Chinese researchers, as well as the participants contributing to the teaching of the host school.

Professor Peter Fielden, of the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science said: "TSEE gives an opportunity for new friendship, providing a



fascinating insight into a rapidly changing and influential world culture."

The programme director, Anna Hiley, can be contacted through the TSEE admin office, room C25, Sackville St Building, ext 65840, or at [janet.s.wade@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:janet.s.wade@manchester.ac.uk)

## Manchester awarded £1.5m to establish transatlantic composites partnership

Lord Sainsbury, Science and Innovation Minister, has announced that The University of Manchester will be one of only four UK universities to lead transatlantic research partnerships under a new DTI pilot scheme.

The scheme, which is aimed at establishing world-class UK/US collaborations, will see The University of Manchester receive £1.5million over the next two years to develop new composite technologies and materials for future aircraft design in partnership with The University of Washington (Seattle).

The partnership will formally establish the Manchester Seattle Composite Partnership (MSCP). The MSCP will work with the Northwest Aerospace Alliance, Airbus, Boeing and a wide range of businesses in the UK and US.

Lord Sainsbury said: "Building bridges between world class universities and high-tech companies in our two countries is an excellent way to generate new opportunities and drive forward innovative ideas."

Professor Phil Withers, of The University of Manchester, said: "The development of civil aerospace composites is the key to future 'greener' aircraft, but the lack of proven test methodologies and durability assessment procedures is limiting composite take up in new products. What this partnership gives us is the opportunity to unlock the potential composite materials have to offer the aerospace industry."

Manchester's collaboration with Seattle will feed directly into the continuing development and assembly of new composite designs. The project will also focus on the development of new methodologies to test safety levels of composite materials. It will also seek to formally evaluate the constraints of current composite design and certification processes.

The project, which was initiated through the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) of which Manchester and Seattle are members, builds on the composites programme initiated by the Northern Aerospace Technology Exploitation Centre (NATEC) and the Northwest Development Agency (NWDA). A significant part of the project fund will be dedicated to delivering trained graduates in the composite area in the US and the UK.



## Manchester strikes IBM deal

The University has signed a strategic partnership with IBM forging alliances across research, teaching and recruitment.

On Wednesday, 2 November 2005, an official Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Larry Hirst, General Manager for IBM UK, and Professor John Perkins, Vice-President & Dean of the University of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, formally establishing the partnership.

The signing of the MoU marks the creation of the IBM-Manchester Partners Programme, an initiative unique to The University of Manchester, which will identify key staff to partner with IBM towards future opportunities for collaborative research. The programme will also identify areas of overlapping strategic importance for course delivery and future outreach activities.

The MoU, which is a University-wide initiative, will seek to exploit activities

which are of mutual benefit to both organisations in respect of research, education, the development of new scientific applications and the recruitment of students to both the University and IBM.

Professor John Perkins, said: "This is a unique partnership which will bring together the most skilled and gifted individuals from both organisations, forging a unique link which spans both commerce and higher education. By signing this MoU, we are creating a bridge of opportunity which will benefit the research, teaching and recruitment activities of both The University of Manchester and IBM."

In addition to the IBM Partners Programme, the MoU will provide a platform for a host of new initiatives which will include the People with Disabilities Project, IBM Mentoring Programme and the IBM Faculty Award.





The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Leander Wolstenholme and children from Webster Primary in The Greenhouse.

## The Manchester Museum bears fruit

**Did you know each pomegranate has the same number of seeds? Have you any idea which fruit is the international symbol of friendship? Or which fruit can help prevent heart disease?**

All these answers and more await you at The Manchester Museum, where the Manchester Public Health Development Service and 5-A-Day have sponsored a display of living fruit trees.

Showcased in a greenhouse on the top floor are an array of edible fruit plants including papaya, pineapples, kiwifruit, pomegranates, olives, passion fruit and oranges.

The northern English climate doesn't provide the idyllic setting for growing most of the fruits we see on our supermarket shelves, so the Museum's display gives people the opportunity to actually see fruit growing on trees that they wouldn't usually see. This helps people make an association between food and nature rather than food and shops. The fact that our

food comes from earth reinforces that it is important to conserve the Earth's fragile ecosystems.

An interpretation panel accompanying the display is packed with nutritional information and quirky fruit facts.

The display is aimed at the large number of school groups who come to visit the Museum and is used to promote healthy eating and a better understanding of the biology of plants.

The epicurean exhibition was opened by the Lord Mayor of Manchester on Tuesday, 15 November 2005 and included an educational session on healthy eating and fruit tasting with children from Webster Primary School.

And if you're still wondering, there are supposedly 840 seeds in every pomegranate, the pineapple is the international sign for friendship and grapes contain antioxidants that help prevent heart disease.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/museum](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/museum)



Dr Stephen Hancocks, Editor-in-Chief of the British Dental Journal, delivers his keynote speech.

## Industry Bites at Dental School Event

Major industry players attended the School of Dentistry's inaugural corporate partners' event on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 October 2005, including representatives from Colgate-Palmolive (UK) Ltd, Kodak Dental Systems, 3M and GlaxoSmithKline.

The high-profile event, organised by the Careers & Employability Division, was the first of its kind by a Higher Education institution - and was specially designed to develop beneficial working relationships with key dental corporations. The School

showcased its research strengths and evidence-base and the benefits these can bring to its industrial partners.

Organiser, Professor Liz Kay, Director of Professional Relations in the School, said: "We were delighted with the response to this unique event, which allowed industry representatives to be the first to hear about the cutting-edge work we are doing and the potential for early exploitation within the sector."

The event was opened by Vice-President for Innovation and

Economic Development Professor Rod Coombs, with a keynote speech given by the Editor-in-Chief of the British Dental Journal Stephen Hancocks.

Also attending the event were Professor Bill Shaw of the World Health Organisation's Collaborating Centre for Research on Craniofacial Congenital Anomalies and the recently-honoured Director of the National Fluoride Information Centre Professor Anthony Blinkhorn OBE.

## MLP: What's it all about?

**The Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) is a new initiative encouraging Manchester students to become involved with their local community whilst simultaneously boosting their personal development.**

Launched earlier in 2005, the MLP started out with 81 students from different faculties and disciplines.

The programme consists of two elements: a ten credit Leadership in Action module and 60 hours voluntary service. The contents and assessment of the module were developed through a collaboration of colleagues across the University, including staff from Manchester Business School and from the Centre for Educational Leadership.

The inaugural address was given by President and Vice Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert, outlining the ambitions of the MLP underpinning the *Manchester 2015 Agenda*.

External contributors have included Graham Baxter, Vice-President for Corporate Responsibility at BP; Mumtaz Bashir, Volunteer Manager for the 2002 Commonwealth Games; Sir Howard Bernstein, Chief Executive of Manchester City Council; and Paul Goggins, Home Office Minister and local MP.

The emphasis of the MLP is on activity supporting the development of primary and secondary education in deprived parts of Manchester, through volunteering projects arranged by University departments, such as Sports, Trading and Residential Services (STARS) and within The Manchester Museum and the Recruitment and Admissions Division.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/mlp](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/mlp)

# What's On



## Music and Drama at Manchester

### MUSIC

- Wed 7 Dec **The University of Manchester Big Band** 7.30 pm
- Thurs 8 Dec **Psappha (Contemporary Ensemble-in-Association)** 1.10 pm
- Sun 11 Dec. **The University of Manchester Chorus and Symphony Orchestra** 7.30 pm
- Thu 15 Dec **Lunchtime Concert** 1.10 pm  
**Ad Solem Chamber Choir Christmas Concert** 7.30 pm

### THEATRE

- Mon 5 Dec-  
Thurs 8 Dec **Directorial Projects**
- Wed 14-  
Fri 16 Dec **The Voice** 3pm, 5pm, 7pm

**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](mailto:boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk)  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre)

## 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](http://www.burlington.man.ac.uk)

## Courses for the Public

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) runs a large and varied programme of courses designed for adults studying part-time, whether for pleasure or personal/professional development. Most are open to beginners and no prior knowledge is assumed, unless stated. Concessions available to staff and graduates of The University of Manchester. Brochures/application forms available.

CCE, 1st Floor, Humanities Devas Street  
0161 275 3275

[www.manchester.ac.uk/continuingeducation](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/continuingeducation)

## Gig Guide Manchester Academy

### MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 & 3

- Thurs 8 Dec **Horrorpops @ Club Academy**  
**Teen Spirit**  
**Porcupine Tree**
- Fri 9 Dec **The Levellers**  
**Limehouse Lizzy**  
**Magnum**
- Sat 10 Dec **Nearly Dan**  
**Life of Agony**
- Sun 11 Dec **Cradle of Filth**  
**Armor for Sleep**
- Mon 12 Dec **D J Format**
- Tues 13 Dec **Corinne Bailey Rae @ Club Academy**  
**Shack**  
**Arch Enemy**
- Wed 14 Dec **The Sensational Alex Harvey Band**
- Thurs 15 Dec **Bodyrockers**  
**Alex Parks @ Club Academy**  
**Young Offenders Institute vs Hanky Park**
- Fri 16 Dec **Hawkwind Christmas Spectacular**  
**Misty's Big Adventure**
- Sun 18 Dec **Vman Events 10**  
**Yellow Card**
- Mon 19 Dec **Vman Events II**
- Tues 20 Dec **Daniel Powter**

### 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](http://www.manchesteracademy.net)

## The Whitworth Art Gallery

### DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

#### **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.

### TOURS AND EVENTS

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

#### **Gallery Café**

The café sells a selection of drinks and light meals.

#### **Gallery Shop**

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 ten years. Follow the link from homepage at: [www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk)

#### **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 - 5 pm  
FREE Admission

[www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth)





## The Manchester Museum

### Richard Owen: "Dinosaur Man"

to 26 February 2006

the man who invented the dinosaur – did you know that the word 'dinosaur' was invented by a Lancashire man?

### "Face" (Butterfly Portraits)

10 December-29 January 2006

by Charlotte Brown. Beautiful origami butterflies inspired by The Manchester Museum collection, made through Salford Mental Health Arts project.

### FAMILY EVENTS (PRE-BOOKED) 0161 275 2648

#### Stuffing the Dinosaur at Christmas

Sat 17 December 2pm-3pm FREE

### FAMILY EVENTS (DROP-IN)

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).

#### Christmas Plants: from mistletoe to sprouts

Sat 10 December 1pm-4pm

#### DIY Dinosaur

Sat 17 December 1.30-3.30 pm

#### Deck the Halls

Mon 19-Thurs 22 December 1.30-3.30pm

#### Get ready for 2005 by creating a unique personalised calendar

Wed 28-Fri 30 December 1.30-3.30pm

#### Magic Carpet.

Fridays during term time 11am-12noon

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

### Manchester Museum,

Oxford Road, Manchester

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

0161 275 2630

FREE Admission

[www.manchester.ac.uk/museum](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/museum)

## International Society

### Saturday 10 December

Warwick Castle's Medieval Frost Fair

### International Society

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959

Open: Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm

[www.internationalsociety.org.uk](http://www.internationalsociety.org.uk)



## 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. There is also 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](http://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/](http://www.rylibweb.manchester.ac.uk/spcoll/)

## Chaplaincies

### The University of Manchester Carol Service

Whitworth Hall. All Welcome

Friday 16 December 12.30-1.15 pm

### 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](mailto: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

[rabbijy@hotmail.com](mailto:rabbijy@hotmail.com)

[www.rabbijy.com](http://www.rabbijy.com)



## Contact Theatre

### Tuesday 6 December

Brothatalk present

**Spooked.** 7.30pm £5/£3

"Spooked?" asks: what things allegedly 'spook' black guys: Commitments in relationships? Hard work? A close relationship with our children? Intellectual endeavour (as apposed to sport/music)? To what extent are the stereotypes accurate? What actually spooks us? Serious subjects, but you can relay on the Brothas to come at them in their own left-field way! Expect also, spontaneous outbreaks of tinsel.

### Friday 9 December

Contact presents

**Showreal** 7.30 pm. £6/£4

Emerging performers of all kinds innovative new work here at Contact's renowned 'Showreal' event, featuring film, performance, music and comedy all fresh, live and direct!

### Saturday 10 December

**Dynam X** 8pm £10/£8

This building-wide event showcases the future of digital media art and electronic music featuring special guest DJ Spooky's rebirth of a nation as part of the Blackworld season program

### 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](http://www.contact-theatre.org)

## 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](mailto:inquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk)

[www.tableyhouse.co.uk](http://www.tableyhouse.co.uk)

## Seminar Listings

Seminar listings are now available online at [www.manchester.ac.uk/seminars](http://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](mailto:uninews@manchester.ac.uk) as before.



L to R: Sally Anderson, Learning Technologist; Kim Comer, Centre Administrator; Dr Bill Hutchings, Director Designate of the Centre; Karen O'Rourke, Associate Director and Hannah Niblett, Receptionist and Clerical Officer.



L to R: Dr Bill Hutchings, Professor Alan Gilbert and Professor Bob Munn at the launch

# Manchester launches Centre of Excellence in Enquiry-Based Learning

The University of Manchester launched its new £4.5 million Centre for Excellence in Enquiry-Based Learning on Thursday, 20 October 2005.

The central facility was opened by the President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert, following extensive refurbishment to part of the Sackville Street building. This has provided flexible learning spaces equipped with excellent facilities including video-conferencing, together with offices and space for staff and visitors to work together.

This scheme is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as one of 74 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). The CETL initiative has two main aims: to reward excellent teaching practice, and to invest further in facilities and initiatives that deliver substantial benefits to students, teachers and institutions.

The funding of £4.5 million over five years will extend the range and scope of Enquiry-Based Learning activity throughout the University and provide state of the art learning spaces, both in the Centre itself and in each of the four Faculties.

The Vice-President for Teaching and Learning, Professor Bob Munn said: "Our success in securing this major strategic

investment in teaching and learning was built on our existing track record of excellent teaching and research in Enquiry-Based Learning. The team that developed our bid is delighted with the outcome, and we are very much looking forward to sharing the benefits of this success with staff, and most importantly with students.

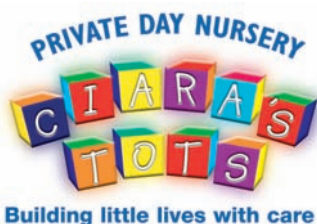
"The Centre will provide improved learning facilities and opportunities to engage with innovative learning methods. It will make an important contribution to excellent teaching and learning, as highlighted in our strategic plan, Towards Manchester 2015.

Director of Learning and Teaching at HEFCE, Liz Beaty, was present with her colleague Anna Sherratt, Higher Education Adviser for the North West Region of HEFCE, at the launch. Liz said: "HEFCE congratulates The University of Manchester on the opening of the Centre which will create a strong impetus for innovation and development in higher education in England. The Centre's influence will reach across the new University and enable at least 5,000 students across four Faculties to experience Enquiry-Based Learning."



Dr Liz Beaty, Director of Learning and Teaching at HEFCE, gave a passionate speech on the exciting CETL initiative which is investing heavily in teaching and learning.





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# The Precinct Centre



**The Precinct Centre, pictured here when new in 1972, may not now have the most fashionable name; but when it was conceived back in the Sixties the surrounding area was excitedly being developed into the Manchester Education Precinct.**

At the time it seemed an ambitious project, with its aim of bringing all the higher educational institutions together on a single linear site. One particularly futuristic aspect was the idea of enabling people to walk around the Precinct above the traffic, possibly by travelator!

Unfortunately, the idea began and ended with the Centre being approached by ramps on both sides of the road, with the idea that it should act as a link

between 'town and gown' by providing both shopping, eating and student facilities on one site.

George Kenyon (later knighted) was Chairman of the Buildings Committee at the time, and waxed lyrical in his 1963 submission for the development of the Precinct. "It is the nature, the spirit, the atmosphere of the University that matters," he said, "Academic standards above everything, but backing this up a mental relaxation in pleasant surroundings. Arcades and galleries, suited to the soft rain which encourages green growth to light the eye and insulate the ear."

Perhaps the Precinct Centre doesn't quite capture this mood at the moment, but with the current re-development of the campus who knows what we might achieve!



Precinct Centre, present day

Next Issue is 16 January

## News Contact

### News and story ideas

Internal Communications Office

Tel 0161 275 2112  
email [uninews@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uninews@manchester.ac.uk)  
Deadline Noon 22 December

## Events Contact

### Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead

Tel 0161 275 2922  
email [unieven@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:unieven@manchester.ac.uk)  
Deadline Noon 22 December

## Adverts Contact

### Ads and distribution queries

Lorraine Harrop

Tel 0161 275 2113  
email [uniads@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uniads@manchester.ac.uk)  
Deadline Noon 22 December