

Unilife Volume 3 Issue 4

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Front cover: Professor Joseph Stiglitz at the announcement of the formation of the Brooks World Poverty Institute.

Photo by Russell Sach

## Letter from the President



Courtesy forbids a mere Antipodean to comment on the UK's ambivalent relationship with its neighbours across the Channel – except, perhaps, when the interests of The University of Manchester are involved. So let me voice surprise about the low level of research funding that the University receives from Europe. Given the major financial interdependencies that have developed in so many other areas of the EU, the three per cent or so of our total research expenditure that comes from the EU budget seems derisory.

Such patterns do not emerge by accident, so the truth must be that the difficulty of securing, managing and/or accounting for EU research funds has been deemed, by most of our researchers, too great to justify the effort of accessing such funds. As there is not a superabundance of research support within the UK, the barriers must indeed be considerable.

Why worry? The EU Budget for the next seven years will have been finalised when these comments are published, doubtless vindicating current pessimism about proposed Framework 7 funding. Cuts of up to 50 per cent are being mooted, so this may seem an odd time to be advocating a stronger commitment than ever to collaborative and funding links with the European Research Area (ERA). The real issues, however, go well beyond the vagaries of short-term funding opportunities.

The strategic challenge is to ensure that Manchester will be in a position to take full advantage of an emerging internationalisation of major research funding. Researchers have long been internationally mobile, and research publications and collaborations genuinely borderless, but research funding has until recently been confined largely to national funding regimes. The emergence of the ERA reflects a determination to change that limiting reality. So, in a less formal way, do bodies like the World Universities Network, of which Manchester is a founding member, whose most promising function is to help international clusters of universities access multi-jurisdictional research funding.

The research community in the University will, I hope, give increasing priority to establishing international research collaborations that enable them draw on major funding sources outside the UK. Where these involve collaborations with US institutions, the quid pro quo may well be the ability of our University to access EU funding on behalf of the wider enterprise. In any case, because the availability of such funding on a greatly increased scale is a reasonable long-term expectation, we should be building up the necessary expertise and experience to ensure that Manchester can be a major player in funding programmes associated with the ERA.

hlan Gilbert

Professor Alan Gilbert President and Vice-Chancellor.

# Nobel Laureate to Chair Brooks World Poverty Institute

Nobel Laureate Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz has been appointed by The University of Manchester to chair its new Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI), a project that will see substantial involvement from staff in the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) and the School of Environment and Development (SED).

Professor Stiglitz was present at the announcement to mark the creation of the BWPI in London on Wednesday 30 November, 2005.

The Brooks World Poverty Institute will be a multidisciplinary centre of global excellence researching poverty, poverty reduction, inequality and growth. Well over a billion people - about a fifth of the world's population - live in absolute poverty. The BWPI will encourage new ideas and knowledge, as well as new approaches to poverty research, which are urgently needed to develop the world's understanding of the dynamics of poverty and to aid the development and improvement of strategies and processes to combat it.

Stiglitz was Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank from 1997-2000 and was also Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Clinton White House. He is widely known for his critical stance on the privatization and liberalization policies pushed by the World Bank and the IMF, which led him to step down from his position in the World Bank in 2000. In 2001 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for his analyses of markets with asymmetric information.

Manchester has traditionally been a centre for the creation of ideas and knowledge that have profoundly influenced global patterns of poverty and well-being. In the Post-War period, the University gained a global reputation for research on social and economic change in developing countries, crowned by Sir Arthur Lewis's Nobel Prize for research on development economics, and by the work of scholars such as Peter Worsley, Max Gluckmann and Teodor Shanin.

The Brooks World Poverty Institute will build on this tradition, and in particular on the work carried out by IDPM's Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) over the past five years.

The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation has generously agreed to support the BWPI with a gift of £1.3 million over three years. Rory Brooks has been a long term supporter of the University, having previously funded a Chair in Enterprise, and is a former chairman of the Alumni Association. His support for the BWPI represents one of the largest known gifts to fund poverty research in Europe.

Rory Brooks said: "I am proud to be involved with the establishment of the Brooks World Poverty Institute at Manchester University, my alma mater and in particular with today's announcement of the appointment of Professor Joseph Stiglitz.

"That the Institute has been able to attract an academic of the calibre of Nobel Laureate Professor Stiglitz, one of the world's leading figures in this field, is testament to the ambitious vision for the University, set out by President Alan Gilbert."

The Brooks World Poverty Institute will be inaugurated on Wednesday 1 February, 2006 with a public lecture by Professor Stiglitz. The lecture will



Professor Joseph Stiglitz and President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert

take place in the University's Whitworth Hall and it will focus on the outcomes of the contested WTO trade talks in Hong Kong, and their effect on economic development and poverty reduction efforts across the globe.

Stiglitz's critical view of globalisation and market liberalization is summarized very well in the lecture he gave at the University's Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) in 2001, which can be found at www.manchester.ac.uk/idpm/research/stiglitz.htm

The BWPI Inaugural Lecture planned for 1 February 2006 promises to be as interesting and controversial.

For more information on BWPI visit www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/bwpi/ or email bwpi@manchester.ac.uk



Rory Brooks and Professor Stiglitz

#### News

#### Honours

In brief



#### Royal Academy of Engineering rewards the Excellent Dr Cotton

**Dr lan Cotton**, a lecturer in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, has received an inaugural award for excellence in teaching by the Royal Academy of Engineering. Dr Cotton has been awarded a prize of £10,000 in recognition of his work.

The teaching prizes were inaugurated by the Academy to acknowledge and reward lecturers who have chosen to remain in the higher education sector during the early years of their career.

Prizes are awarded on a competitive basis to lecturers in electronics or electrical engineering at higher education institutions in the UK and ideal candidates must have distinguished themselves from their peer group by showing a strong and continuing commitment to teaching, professional activities, promoting engineering as a rewarding and creative career, establishing industrial-academic links and other activities which ultimately ensure the output of top quality graduate engineers.

# Astrazeneca Scholar of the Year



Dr Gillian Farnie of the School of Medicine has been awarded the prestigious honour of AstraZeneca Scholar of the Year.

The AstraZeneca Scholar's award enables

young scientists to further their professional development by facilitating their attendance at international meetings in Gillian's case, the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium in Texas.

Gillian will speak about her research at the San Antonio conference - the largest breast cancer convention in the world.



Speakers Edward Pysden from Eversheds, Sir Howard Bernstein and Professor Alan Gilbert looking at the Image Collections.

# Christmas Gifts Unlock the John Rylands Library

Conservation work being carried out on the John Rylands Library received a festive boost in December with a reception held at the Town Hall to encourage businesses to contribute to the Appeal Fund.

Extensive conservation work has been carried out on the library and there is only £2million left to raise. Set to re-open in 2006, it is hoped the John Rylands Library will continue to enrich the cultural landscape and be a major visitor attraction in the North West.

The John Rylands Library has been described as the most 'beautiful building in Manchester' by the Lonely Planet Guide. It is undeniably an exquisite example of neo-gothic architecture as well as home to one of the finest and most spectacular collections of rare books and manuscripts spanning five millennia.

The Library's treasures include the St John Fragment, which is the earliest known example of the New Testament in existence and the Rylands Haggadah, an amazingly beautiful example of the Passover story, produced in the fourteenth century.

The Unlocking the Rylands Appeal has secured a Heritage Lottery Fund grant and money from the European Regional Development Fund. The plans include:

- A new entrance wing with modern visitor facilities
- Lift access to all public areas
- New exhibition galleries
- Improved book conservation and reader facilities

The Library will form part of the new £1.25billion Spinningfields development, which is being carried out by Allied London properties in partnership with Manchester City Council.

# Manchester Graduate Wins The John Llewellyn Rhys Prize

University of Manchester graduate, Jonathan Trigell, has won The John Llewellyn Rhys Prize with his thought provoking debut novel 'Boy A'.

'Boy A' tells the tale of a teenager called Jack who has had to shed his old name in order to rid himself of his former life.

The prize, which recognises fine young writers early in their careers, is one of Britain's oldest and most prestigious literary awards. Entries may be any work of literature written by a British or Commonwealth writer aged 35 or under at the time of publication.

Jonathan was born in 1974 and lived in St Albans and Manchester before moving to France. In 2002 he completed an MA in Novel Writing at the University. He now organises events and races throughout the Alps for Natives.co.uk and is writing his second novel CHAM.

Sarah Waters, Chair of the Judges, commented: "Boy A impressed us on many levels: as a compelling narrative, a beautifully structured piece of writing, and as a thoughtprovoking novel of ideas. It's a wonderful debut."

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# 'Venture Out winners'

Venture Out, the ideas stage of the first University-wide Venture Competition, has been an unprecedented success with numbers of entries exceeding all expectations. The competition has been equally popular with undergraduates and postgraduates across all four Faculties.

First prize winners Gemma Buckley and the Allerchek team received a cheque for £1,000. Allerchek is a revolutionary new system for measuring allergens in food which could save hundreds of lives every year. A handy pen will be used to detect the presence of nuts and other allergens in food.

Second prize winner Ketsaya Vacharanukul proposes to improve accuracy in industrial cutting processes with a portable and easy to install noncontact laser sensor.

Third prize winner Emma Pegg has come up with a magazine called 'NewTonic' to inspire young people by making science more fun and accessible.

The awards were presented by Jane Davies, Chief Executive of Manchester Science Park and Peter Winter, Director of Manchester Science Enterprise



L-R: Jane Davis CEO of Manchester Science Park Gemma Buckley -Allerchek team Gemma Hopkins - Allerchek team Nicola Aldren -Allerchek team Peter Winter - Director of Manchester Science Enterprise Centre Maybo Chiu - Allerchek team Cornelia Wilson - Allerchek team

prize

venture creation. The next stage

Further, will give the winners the

opportunity to start their own

businesses with a £25,000 first

Competition organiser Lynn

Sheppard (MSEC) hopes that

everyone from Venture Out will

enter Venture Further, "The high

standard of so many entries in

impossible to judge. We would

Venture Out made it almost

strongly urge everyone who

entered Venture Out to enter

Venture Further."

of the competition, Venture

Centre (MSEC). Jane Davies said: "Manchester Science Park wanted to be involved in the competition because we hope that many of these people will go on to create viable businesses with the potential to add value and create jobs. Some of whom may eventually end up as our tenants."

The aim of the Venture competition is to give staff and students across the whole University the chance to turn their ideas into reality and learn about the processes of new

www.manchester.ac.uk/venturecompetition

Jonathan Trigell

## In brief

#### Professor Wearne Awarded Top Honour

Professor Stephen Wearne, Senior Research Fellow from the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, has been awarded the Association for Project Management's top honour - the Sir Monty Finniston Award - for his life-time contribution to research and teaching since joining the University from industry. He has also been awarded the Institution of Civil Engineers' Garth Watson Medal and the Institution of Chemical Engineers' Brennan Medal for his publications.

#### Rare Coin Joins Collection at The Manchester Museum

The numismatic collection at The Manchester Museum was recently enriched by the addition of an exceptionally rare British coin: a specimen of the 1831 proof - or pattern crown - of William IV (1830-7).

What marks the coin as so unusual is that was never issued for circulation, having merely been produced as part of a special set of coins. Only 120 were issued and as a consequence are eagerly sought after by collectors. Until now it was the only silver denomination of this reign not represented in the Museum's collection, the fifth largest in the UK, featuring more than 76,000 specimens.

The King's head on the obverse was the work of the Chief engraver at the Royal Mint William Wyon, regarded by many as the finest medalist Britain ever produced. The incredibly ornate mantled shield on the reverse was engraved by the Dutch artist Johann Baptist Merlen.

The coin was a bequest from the late Mrs Mary Edmonds, daughter of Sir Harry Baldwin - Queen Victoria's dentist, through the National Art Collections Fund and will soon be on display in the Museum's Money Gallery.



#### In brief



Chlamydia testing is simple and discreet

#### Fast-Track Sexual Health Screening Trial

Young women visiting pharmacies for the morning-after pill are to be offered screening for the UK's most common sexuallytransmitted infection, chlamydia, in a BUPAfunded study led by Dr Loretta Brabin, Reader in Women's Health in the School of Medicine.

One in ten people under 25 have chlamydia, which often has no symptoms and can lead to infertility, although it can usually be treated with just four tablets.

The Department for Health wants all Primary Care Trusts to offer chlamydia screening to under 25s in non genito-urinary clinic settings by April 2006. As 18,000 women in Greater Manchester currently go to pharmacies for emergency contraception each year, the study will target this group with a discreet testing pack to return by post.

Dr Brabin's team hope to identify a potentially large group at risk of the infection, as well as inform the development of future screening strategies. Sufferers will be referred to a genitourinary clinic for full screening and treatment.

#### Expert Witness for Parliament

Professor Colin Talbot of Manchester Business School's Centre for Public Policy and Management addressed Parliament's Treasury Select Committee last month. He was present to advise the Committee on microeconomic policy, alongside other experts from industry and academia.

It is the fourth time that Professor Talbot has been invited to appear before a Parliamentary Select Committee in this role. As Professor of Public Policy and Management at Manchester Business School, Professor Talbot's research focuses on public management reform, and specifically researching how the performance of public services is steered, measured and reported upon.

# Cold Comfort Earns Prestigious Award

Fourth year medical student Suzy Stokes has been awarded a University Service Medal for her kindness to a stranger she met on Kilimanjaro.

Suzy - currently on clinical placement at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire in Newcastle-under-Lyme - was part of a 'project holiday' to climb Kilimanjaro and gather physiological data on Acute Mountain Sickness. With friends Ian Tyrell-Marsh, Nick Kalson, Adam Whitehead, Mark Earl, Hannah Frost and team leader Andrew Davies she interviewed and examined around 300 fellowclimbers, under the team name Manchester Acute Research Society or MARS.

Australian climber Craig Burton was so moved by their kindness and Suzy's selfless offers of help, that he wrote to the Dean of the Medical School Professor Andrew Garner upon his return, saying: "I met the team on my way up, and they were so friendly and helpful I felt an immediate bond with their project.

"They went out of their way to respond to my questions and fears about the climb, and – noticing that I was suffering from extreme cold despite wearing all the clothes I had with me – Suzy offered me her own gloves, parker and ski goggles.

Professor Garner was so impressed that he recommended Suzy for one of the prestigious University Service Medals, awarded for exceptional service to the University or community.

Suzy said: "I am honoured to receive this medal on behalf of the whole MARS team, every member of which contributed to the expedition's success."



Suzy surrounded by her team mates at the summit."

# Manchester Launches a Sporting Partnership

The University's Sackville Street building was the impressive venue for the launch of the World Academy of Sport Executive Centre and the International Ski Federation (FIS) Academy Executive Programmes last month.

More than 70 guests from the University, Manchester City Council, the local community and the world of sport attended the launch.

Master of Ceremonies, Gordon Burns, took time out from his North West Tonight news programme to kick off the lunch-time proceedings with the introduction of a promotional video for the Centre before confessing that his own personal ambitions to be a world-class athlete never quite met his aspirations. The same, however, couldn't be said for Gian-Franco Kasper, President of the International Ski Federation (FIS) and former competitor in Alpine and Nordic Skiing, Skeleton, Bobsleigh, Riding and Water Skiing, before beginning his illustrious career in sports administration.

Mr Kasper spoke of his excitement at the launch of the FIS Academy executive programmes, particularly

as it represents the beginning of a new partnership and a new journey for the FIS Family and The University of Manchester. This was reinforced by Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University, who said: "The University is now focused on working with world-leading organisations such as FIS and targeting its significant academic expertise to deliver a unique global solution to the sport and major event industry. This first partnership with FIS signifies our intent and commitment to the global pursuit of academic excellence in partnership with world sport."

The Centre is in a unique position to attract executives from the world of sport to Manchester. Vicky Rosin, Assistant Chief Executive of Manchester City Council, said: "We are particularly looking forward to working with the World Academy of Sport to promote Manchester and the wider North West region to the major event organisers and international sporting federations with the aim of attracting subsequent world championships, international events and sports sector funding to the region."

## Research

# Genome Discovery will Help Combat Disease and Lead to New Drugs

An international consortium of researchers led by The University of Manchester has cracked the gene code behind a key family of fungi, which includes both the leading cause of death in leukaemia and bone marrow transplant patients and an essential ingredient of soy sauce.

The genome sequences for the fungi Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus nidulans and Aspergillus oryzae were published in the December 2005 issue of Nature magazine. Despite being from the same fungal family, they have been found to be as genetically different as fish and man.

Aspergillus is an air-borne fungus, carried all over the world as spores. Although usually harmless, Aspergillus fumigatus was identified as a cause of infection as long ago as 1848 and is now the leading infectious cause of death in leukaemia and bone marrow transplant patients. Aspergillus nidulans has helped scientists unravel many fundamental cellular processes over the last 50 years, whilst Aspergillus oryzae has been used in the Far East to produce sake (rice wine), miso (soybean paste) and soy sauce for 2000 years.

Professor David Denning, of the School of Medicine, who coordinated the project, said: "Fungi play a critical role in the earth's ecosystem, being responsible for almost all degradation of plant material as well as recycling nitrogen.

"However, they also produce toxins, such as aflatoxin which can cause liver cancer. Aspergillus causes a life-threatening infection for transplant



Chest x-ray of a patient with invasive aspergillosis, caused by Aspergillus fumigatus.

and leukaemic patients, as well as being a major allergen for asthmatics.

"Identifying these genome sequences will transform scientific understanding of why this group of fungi is so lethal and allergenic. The information revealed will also develop our understanding of the biology of composting and mycotoxin production, and provide benefits for many other areas of science and medecine "

#### www.aspergillus.man.ac.uk

#### **New Grants and Contracts**

# £6 Million for Planes, Trains and Automobiles

The University of Manchester has been awarded £5.98 million to develop a new class of light alloy solutions that will transform the way aircraft, trains and automobiles are built.

The grant, which will span a five year period, has been awarded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) under the Portfolio Partnership Scheme.

A special launch event attended by Professor Alan Gilbert and Professor John O'Reilly, Chief Executive of the EPSRC, was held on December 16 to mark the award.

Research into improving the performance of light alloys will be carried out in conjunction with Alcan, Novelis, BAE Systems, Airbus, MEL and Jaguar.

The project, entitled: "Light Alloys for Environmentally Sustainable Transport," will be the largest of its kind in the UK with plans for over fifty research staff over the next five years. It will focus on developing new methods for the processing, forming, joining and surface engineering of aluminium, titanium and magnesium. The aim is to develop new engineering processes which will enable aircraft and car manufacturers to design and build lighter, more environmentally-friendly vehicles using these materials.

Professor George Thompson, Head of the Corrosion and Protection Centre in the School of Materials, who is leading the project, said: "These materials are exceptionally difficult to form into complex shapes or weld, which dramatically limits their use in the design and manufacture of air, land and sea vessels.

"This is a major issue for the automotive and aerospace industries that are under increasing pressure to save fuel and reduce pollution. If we can improve processes such as the welding of aluminium panels then they will be able to build much lighter aircraft and cars, saving on fuel and emissions."

#### In brief

#### Medical Professionalism in a Changing World

Valerie Wass, Professor of Community-based Education in the Medical School's Division of Primary Care, is one of the authors of a major new report from the Royal College of Physicians on Medical Professionalism.

With doctors' roles and responsibilities blurred by social and political changes, advances in clinical practice reshaping expectations and events like Shipman and Alder Hey undermining public trust in medicine, a working party was established to define a new, strengthened form of medical professionalism to maintain trust and confidence in doctors. From October 2004 to June 2005, it gathered oral and written responses and drew on specialist literature and opinion to produce the report, 'Doctors in Society: Medical professionalism in a changing world.'

Its findings are that instilling, supporting and evaluating medical professionalism throughout a doctor's career will have a beneficial effect on patient care, seeing such values as fundamental not only to the doctor-patient partnership but also to doctors' roles in society. Under six themes, the report makes clear, practical recommendations to promote both improvements in patient care and more challenging and fulfilling lives for doctors.

These include strengthening leadership and managerial skills, better inter-professional education and training, evaluation of medical professionalism throughout a doctor's career and better management of medical careers, particularly through mentorship to transmit professional values. Doctors are asked to see themselves as role models, and to assess their values, behaviours and relationships against the working party's description.

Professor Wass said: "Students studying medicine in the 21st Century live in a different society from that in which their teachers trained. This most welcome report highlights the need for medical schools to prepare and instil in our future doctors professional values of the highest standard, appropriate to the needs of this changing society."

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/pubs/books/docinsoc/

# Research

# Eat your way to a better brain for your baby

A team of scientists from The University of Manchester and Lancaster University has turned established thinking on its head in a bid to understand the serious and often deadly condition, hydrocephalus, commonly known as 'water on the brain'.

A simple dietary supplement taken during pregnancy could prevent the brain defect resulting from hydrocephalus, the revolutionary research suggests.

Now, parents of children suffering from the condition in the United States have stumped up the money to pay for the next stage of their investigations.

The money will fund a lab at the University of Central Florida headed by the British researchers, who hope their work will lead to a significant reduction in the risk of hydrocephalus and treat, perhaps even cure, those cases that do occur.

"Fetal-onset hydrocephalus results in a blockage in brain development which everyone has always thought was brain damage due to fluid accumulation," said Dr Jaleel Miyan, The University of Manchester scientist leading the research.

"But our studies have shown that the condition may in fact cause a change in the composition of the fluid and that it is this chemical change that prevents normal cell division resulting in arrested brain development.

"We have also been excited by the results of tests that have shown it may be possible to 'unlock' the potential brain in fetuses with hydrocephalus using a simple dietary supplement during pregnancy."

That supplement is currently under wraps as studies are completed to test its potential to cut the rates of hydrocephalus in the same way folic acid has cut the incidence of spina bifida. In the UK and US, hydrocephalus affects one child in every 500 live births; this rises to one in every 100 births in the developing world.

The Florida laboratory is underwritten by an enthusiastic group of parents who have set up a foundation to fund the research work.

Like Dr Miyan, they believe the condition can be better treated without the need for surgery and realise the best hope for this lies with the British scientists collaborating with their local neurosurgeon Dr Jogi Pattisapu.

Indeed, the team has been hailed the 'flagship research group' by the President of the Society for Research in Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida, Ms Carole Sobkowiak.

# **Fast Portable Brain Scanner**

Scientists at The University of Manchester are developing a portable brain scanner which is directly sensitive to the brain's electrical operation – allowing the screening of large sections of the population, as well as enabling prompt action to be taken in emergencies. The technology, based on Electrical Impedance Tomography (EIT), is fast and directly sensitive to the brain's deep electrical activity.

Brain scanners are not available in every hospital due to their prohibitive cost. Where they are available, they are large, noisy, fixed installations that are not portable. The result is that there is usually a long waiting list for patients to be scanned.

Moreover, with growing concern over neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, there is a greater need than ever before for large numbers of patients to be routinely scanned.

And, surprising though it may seem, present-day scanners are not actually directly sensitive to the brain's electrical operation, thus resulting diagnoses may be inconclusive. Additionally, many subtle effects that occur on timescales shorter than one second are not registered by previous technology. Professor Hugh McCann of the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Dr Chris Pomfrett of the School of Medicine based in the Department of Anaesthesia at Manchester Royal Infirmary have been awarded a grant of £280,000 from the Wellcome Trust for a three year project to design, build and trial a prototype brain imager and test its use in clinical diagnosis, drug trials, and neuroscience research.

This new and patented technique uses EIT, an electrical scanning system with no moving parts, synchronised to a so-called Evoked Response system that stimulates brain function; hence, the name fEITER. Pilot studies of fEITER have yielded images of brain function less than half a second after stimulating the patient. The new prototype will be computer-linked to existing image viewing systems and it will be used to attract both early research customers and investors who will fund its mass manufacture.

fEITER offers the prospect that every clinic will have a brain scanner for preliminary scans, and it could be taken to wherever the patient is, even at home.

www.umip.com

# Research 'dating agency' boosts hunt for disease genes

Doctors and scientists across the UK can now collaborate over the Internet to search for the genes underlying chronic diseases, thanks to a new 'DNA Banking Network' hosted by the University.

Patients across Britain with cancer, heart and other common diseases have been providing blood samples for research since 2000, and the project will allow more researchers than ever before to access these along with detailed, anonymised data. Collaborators can also request top quality research materials from the DNA Network's archive.

Dr Martin Yuille, Director of the Network's archive, explained: "The infrastructure for handling patient samples was initiated in 1999 with funding from the Medical Research Council, and is already up and running, but we've now added a sort of scientists' dating agency and shop. Vetted scientists can find both data and materials about a disease on the website, before 'dating' a collaborator, designing an experiment together and making an online wishlist of the patients' DNAs they need."

The data and tens of thousands of samples for a dozen diseases are managed at a robotic archive in the Centre for Integrated Genomic Medical Research (CIGMR) at the University and in the Health Protection Agency's European Collection of Cell Cultures labs in Salisbury.

Martin continued: "This development builds on the success of the Human Genome Project, which



discovered all our genes but also revealed that biologists need serious logistics for this type of research. The UK DNA Banking Network is leading the world in providing both a sample and data infrastructure and Internet-based distribution, to help uncover the genetic pathways of complex disease."

#### **Research Spotlight**



# **Dr David Kirkby**

Science in fiction (as distinct from science fiction) has a significant impact on the public perception - and understanding of science. Think what Jurassic Park did for dinosaurs. Or Gattaca for human genetics engineering. Or The Island of Dr Moreau for DNA experimentation, turning animals into humans. Large framed posters for those films and a collection of dinosaur models (as well as a Boris Karloff figure) decorate Dr David Kirkby's office. His research focuses on the ways in which science is communicated through fictional media.

Dr Kirkby explains: "My overall concern is the way in which that kind of communication impacts on scientific culture and influences public understanding," he says. That concern is channeled into two particular areas of research.

Firstly, studying what happens when scientists become involved in fiction, perhaps as technical consultants on Hollywood movies such as Jurassic Park and The Day After Tomorrow. Their shaping of the images goes beyond arousing public awareness, although that is important. It also stimulates a new sense of urgency and so feeds back into policy debates.

Secondly, taking that last point further, he is interested in how communication through fiction, on such topics as genomes and genomic engineering, biotechnology and nanotechnology, help to shape our scientific culture – and popular interest and understanding.

Dr Kirkby's research reflects the emerging field of studying the effects of the entertainment media rather than the reporting of science and scientific discovery through news and documentary formats.

He comes to it from a scientific background. An American, from Chicago, Dr Kirkby has a doctorate in Evolutionary Genetics and, in addition to being a research scientist, taught Biology at the American University in Washington DC for five years. "I got very interested in issues related to science communication," he says. So, he went off to Cornell "to retrain in the field of science communication."

A year ago, he was appointed Lecturer in Science Communication at The University of Manchester, joining the History of Medicine, Science and Technology in the Faculty of Life Sciences. Not surprisingly, his taught courses are attracting a lot of interest among students from across the University. "It is a great place to be," he says. "There is a lot of interest, not least from scientists who would like to be Hollywood consultants." And, in that regard, he believes that through their fictional representation, there has been a big change in the way scientists are presented - and perceived: "Scientists now have a more positive image and are often the heroes in films, except for the horror and comedy genres."

#### In brief

#### Urban Britain is a Recipe for Heart Disease

Researchers from the Medical School, Sandwell District General Hospital near Birmingham and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi have found that people moving from South Asia to the UK significantly increase their risk of contracting Cardiovascular Disease (CVD).

In a three-year project, they compared the lifestyles, eating and physical exercise patterns of Gujartis living in Sandwell with those remaining in their villages of origin.

Professor Kennedy Cruickshank said: "On average, people in Britain had much higher body mass, blood pressure, blood cholesterol and inflammation levels, because timepressured, urban lifestyles in the UK involve a greater fat and calorie intake than would be typical in Gujarat. The prevalence here of processed and convenience foods and red meat, in combination with Western lifestyle differences and labour-saving devices, often result in obesity and associated health risks.

"To our surprise, levels of physical activity did not actually differ between the sites, probably because nutritional intake in India was quite low. However, the greater dietary intake identified in the UK needs to be matched by more physical activity."

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2005.06.005

#### First Professor of Teenage and Young Adult Cancer

Professor Tim Eden has been appointed as the UK's first Professor of Teenage and Young Adult Cancer, based across the University, the Christie Hospital and Central Manchester & Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Professor Eden's appointment will put the University and Trusts at the forefront of research into a disease that affects over 2,200 young people every year, and rising.

Incidence rates over the last 30 years have grown by 50 per cent - an average annual rise of 1.2 per cent - and cancer is the most common cause of non-accidental death in teenagers and young adults in the UK.

Very little is known about why teenagers get cancer. £2.5 million has been invested by Teenage Cancer Trust to fund Tim and his team for ten years, to act as a national research lead and voice on teenage cancer issues.

# **Teaching and Learning**



# Manchester Access Programme is launched

The Manchester Access Programme (MAP), a pioneering project developed by the Student Recruitment, Admissions and Widening Participation Division in partnership with each of the University's Faculties, was launched on Saturday 10 December 2005.The initiative has been designed to further the University's ambitious goals in relation to widening participation and fair admissions.

The programme aims to support the progression of post-16 students currently underrepresented in higher education into The University of Manchester. Students participating in the scheme are from areas of Greater Manchester known to have low participation rates into higher education. A key aspect of the scheme involves students working with a member of University teaching staff on a structured academic assignment, allowing them to demonstrate their academic potential , subject-knowledge and specific intellectual and transferable skills.

With two years of careful planning and input from a range of senior staff within the University, the scheme was launched internally at the University's Recruitment and Admissions Conference in October 2005 and has been well received in each of the 13 partner schools and colleges across the city.

The University's Head of Widening Participation, Julian Skyrme, said that the benefits of the scheme to the University are clear: "Through this initiative the University will be able to access and nurture the academic development of talented and motivated young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, whilst the students themselves will be able to gain accreditation for their academic work undertaken at the University through structured admissions incentives."

Students successfully progressing through the scheme will be entitled to a £2,000 per year Manchester Success Scholarship as part of the University's agreement with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).

Further information about the scheme can be obtained from its Co-ordinator stephanie.lee@manchester.ac.uk / 0161 275 7544 in the Student Recruitment, Admissions and Widening Division.



L-R: Ruth Kelly MP, Julian Skyrme, Paul Tolton

# Widening Participation Student addresses Education Secretary

Paul Tolton, an 18-year-old first-year Mathematics student at the University, recently met the Secretary of State for Education, Ruth Kelly MP, at a special reception held in Westminster to launch the publication of 'From the Margins to the Mainstream: Embedding Widening Participation in Higher Education'.

In his speech at the reception, attended by more than 150 people including Members of Parliament and a range of education policy-makers, Paul commented that: "The Targetted Access Scheme (TAS) at The University of Manchester made a massive difference to getting me where I am today. I first came into contact with the University through activity days on campus and visits to my school from student mentors from Year 9 onwards and this really opened my eyes to the possibility that I might go to university - something that no one else in my immediate family had ever done before."

Julian Skyrme, Head of Widening Participation, said: "We are delighted that the University's Targeted Access Scheme has, once again, achieved national exposure for assisting talented students like Paul to access higher education.

# Setting Standards for Engineering

The Centre for Excellence in Enquiry Based Learning (CEEBL) played host to 32 senior engineering academics from across the UK in a two-day workshop designed to explore the implications for assessment practice of the new UK-SPEC output standard for Engineering Departments.

Organised by the Engineering Subject Centre, the workshop was led by the CEEBL's Educational Consultant, Ivan Moore. Making extensive use of EBL methods, Ivan provided opportunities for the participants to explore their current assessment practices and develop approaches to the design of programmes of study, modules and assessment practices that provide evidence that the programmes are producing engineering graduates who meet the requirements for Professional Accreditation by the Engineering Council. In his closing comments, Ivan suggested that the main challenge of the UK-SPEC output standard for Engineering Departments is that programme teams will need to work closely together to design the programme and to share the responsibility for developing and assessing the output standards. Academic staff will no longer be able to work independently and to promote their own pet topic through a module, but will need to develop modules that contribute to the overall outcomes described by the programme.

# **Knowledge and Technology Transfer**

# Battle to Beat the Bugs wins Bio-firm Top Honour

Ai2, a University of Manchester spin-out company incorporated in April 2005, has been awarded the Biotechnology Start-Up of the Year prize at the Northwest Regional Development Agency's Bionow awards.

The company, set up by Dr Curtis Dobson in the University's Faculty of Life Sciences, specialises in the development of novel antibacterial compounds.

"My work concerns chemicals called apolipovirs that have demonstrated both antimicrobial and antiviral qualities," said Dr Dobson, who last year won Bionow's Project of the Year for the same research.

"These compounds have been shown to be highly effective at killing bugs and so could have applications in the coating of medical devices and instruments.

"We also believe these chemicals could be developed into anti-fungal creams and barrier technologies in the fight against hospital infections like MRSA."

But, says Dr Dobson, the first application for the anti-infective compounds is likely to be in the coating of contact lenses to prevent eye infections.

Longer-term, the company hopes the compounds can be developed into antiviral drugs that could treat diseases like HIV and hepatitis.

"In the lab, apolipovirs have been shown to attack the HIV virus before it can attach itself to the cell and so, in theory, could kill off the virus completely. "This way of fighting viruses outside the cell has been overlooked in the past and so a lot more research is needed.

"Whether antiviral drugs will provide a cure on their own remains to be seen but that will be a focus of the next stage of our work."

Dr Dobson's studies stem from work he originally carried out with colleagues at the University that looked at the role viruses play in certain forms of dementia.

"It was through studying the interaction of human proteins with viruses that the apolipovir compounds were discovered.

"We found that a class of human proteins involved in immunity were rich in anti-infective activity, which has led to this powerful peptide-based antimicrobial technology.

"We have already developed compounds 10 times stronger than the original chemicals we tested and have filed four patent applications.

"We are now looking to put together a programme of further tests which will be the final stage of the pre-clinical work."

The project is being managed by the University's intellectual property company UMIP.



Dr Curtis Dobson receiving his Bionow Award for NW Start Up of the Year.

#### **VPs View**



#### Manchester: an 'Enterprising University' in a City with Global Ambitions

Happy New Year! I hope that in 2006 we can maintain the momentum we established in 2005 in the fields of innovation and collaboration with industry.

Some of our achievements in 2004/5 in the creation and commercialisation of intellectual property were really quite striking.

- The number of invention disclosures to UMIP doubled against the previous year to well over 200, and we put over a million pounds of proof-of concept money into accelerating about 20 of the most promising ones.
- Our generous '85/15 policy' on license reward-sharing produced 6 figure returns to some academics.
- Our portfolio of spin-out companies grew to 52 and they attracted £44 million in external funding during the year. The University made £4.5M from sale of shares in spin-outs, and most of this went back to the faculties and schools. In the UK and the wider international arena our record in this kind of technology transfer is now really beginning to get us noticed, UMIP having been singled out for mention as a good example of exemplary practice by a number of independent key reviews in the venture capital and the technology transfer worlds.

Another positive development is our increasing ability to work in a strategic way with partners from the commercial world. The four faculties now work collaboratively to identify company partners, and agree arrangements for establishing relationships. The partnership that the University formed with IBM (UniLife Volume 3 Issue 3) is a case in point, and we anticipate the establishment of a number of similar, high-profile, strategic partnerships over the next year.

The University is also involved in an exciting new venture at One Central Park, which opened its doors in September. We have a particular responsibility for the Research and Graduate Centre, which is located amidst units devoted to business formation operated by MSEC and our incubator company UMIC. The Centre is an ideal site for industrially-focused research groups or CPD activities which are lacking appropriate space on this campus. For further information please contact Martin Conway (ext. 63772).

Around us, Manchester's self-confident resurgence continues apace. Important political discussions are bubbling up around how best to govern the 5.3 million population 'Manchester-City-Region', which is now seen as the most important economic growth-pole outside the south-east. Its designation as a "Science City" will continue to deliver significant opportunities for the University in 2006.

Professor Rod Coombs Vice-President for Innovation and Economic Development

## Profile

If he hadn't been a leading nuclear research scientist, he might well have been a top cocktail waiter. If you fancy a classic gin sling, whisky sour or monkey gland, Professor Richard Clegg, Director of the Dalton Nuclear Institute, is your man. He can mix them with the best, having enjoyed a spell when newly graduated in an art deco café in, of all places, Halifax.

# Clegg's Cocktail

During his time as a coctail waiter, Richard had signed on with a recruitment agency which sent him for a job with British Nuclear Fuels at Sellafield. And that was the start of an outstanding 20-year career in the industry, which saw him rise rapidly to being Head of the Company Research Labs in his mid-thirties and, eventually, Director of Science, accountable for the science base across the whole BNFL group, which had around 150 contracts with 50 universities.

His keen interest in things nuclear started as a student. A coalminer's son, he won his way from the local comprehensive, Bingham Toothill in Nottingham, to Brunel to do a four-year sandwich course in Applied Chemistry. As it happened, he was directed in his second year to a nine-month placement at Harwell. "It was pure chance," he says. "But I became completely fascinated." He worked on the manufacture of radioisotopes, which were made overnight on the cyclotron and then taken in the morning to London hospitals. There, they were used diagnostically to image

various parts of the body. "We worked a 24-hour day, but got to follow the process through to the actual imaging. I was

excited about seeing the end-user application – and there was also a wow factor working with big equipment. I've always enjoyed the engineering as well as the science."

The head of his department at Harwell, Jack Cunningham, acted as his mentor – and encouraged him. So much so that in his third year he got a second placement there.

So, the die was cast. Richard graduated from Brunel in 1980 – and looked around for a chance to do a PhD in Nuclear Science. He was delighted to get an offer from the one and only Alfie Maddox at Cambridge. However, the project money from Harwell was deferred for a year, so he looked elsewhere – and ended up, happily, at Salford. "At the time they had one of the UK's bestequipped nuclear departments," he says. There, he did his PhD on the radiolysis of vitamin B12 and phthalocyanine pigments, doing most of his work on the linear accelerator at the Paterson Institute.

Then came the brief cocktail phase – before he joined BNFL in 1985, where he started as a graduate trainee working in the controversial area of Sellafield's effects on the environment,



particularly the sea. It was the time of the notorious "beach incident", when Sellafield got a bad press. Richard's job was to establish the scientific facts – the actual risk. "It really was negligible when put in context and compared to everyday risks from normal activities that people don't worry about " he says. "After all, my wife and I would not have lived on the coast in St Bees and brought three boys up there if the risk was as it was often reported to be by an alarmist press."

True to his belief, he volunteered for Sellafield's "Speakers' Corner", part of their award-winning public relations policy, which included their famous "open door" initiative, providing an educational – and entertaining – Visitor Centre. "I travelled throughout the UK giving talks to various schools and groups like Womens Institutes– and I loved it. Public understanding of science is very important." "It taught me not to defend the nuclear industry but how to listen to, and understand, peoples' anxieties."

His work on environmental issues ranged from the sea, to the atmosphere, to making regulatory assessment of the geological disposal of

# CV



Professor Richard Clegg

#### Position

Director, Dalton Nuclear Institute, The University of Manchester

#### Education

	1980	BSc (Hons) Applied Chemistry, Brunel University	
	1984	PhD Radiation Chemistry, Salford University	
	1991	MBA Lancaster University	
	1996	FRSC	
	2002	Honorary Professor, The University of Manchester	
	Career History		
	1985-87:	Graduate Trainee, BNFL, Sellafield. Modelling of environmental impact of Sellafield's discharges into the Irish Sea	
	1987-89:	Health Physicist, BNFL, Sellafield	
	1989-95	Project Manager, Drigg post- closure radiological assessment programme, BNFL, Sellafield	
	1994	Company Technologist, Chemistry, BNFL, Sellafield	
	1995-97	Head of Corporate Research Laboratory, Springfields	
	1997-2003	Director of Science, BNFL, Risley. Also: Non-Exec Director of BNFL IP Limited; Non-Exec Director of Westlakes Research Institute, and Non-Exec Director of Pangea International Resources Ltd (Switzerland).	
	2003-05	Project Manager, Project Dalton, The University of Manchester, on 80 pr cent secondment from BNFL. Retained Director of Science responsibilities in BNFL	
	2006:	Director of the Dalton Nuclear Institute, The University of Manchester	
Other Roles			
	2000:	Member of CBI Science and Technology Committee	
	2001:	Member of North West Science Council	
	2004:	Member of Diamond industrial advisory committee (CCLRC)	
	2002:	Chairman of Foratom	

radioactive waste. "For several years I project managed the post-closure radiological assessment programme at the Drigg low level radioactive waste disposal site in West Cumbria". Drigg provides a national service receiving waste from hospitals and universities as well as the nuclear industry. "This was a fascinating job entailing modeling, experimentation and fieldwork – we had to calculate the doses to individuals for up to 10,000 years in the future. Beyond then it was assumed that the next ice age would have come!" "What it taught me was how tightly regulated the nuclear industry is compared to other sectors."

Richard was appointed Director of Science in 1998 and set about rationalising the company's 150 research contracts, establishing just four universitybased research alliance clusters – at Manchester, UMIST, Sheffield and Leeds.

Then came the merger, which caught his imagination. He saw it as a springboard for the development of a reinvigorated UK centre for nuclear research and education. Professor Sir Martin Harris was responsive to his vision. A feasibility study, Project Dalton, was set up with the North West Development Agency and BNFL– and Richard was tasked to lead it. "I believed that the UK needed reinvestment in its nuclear skill base – and Manchester was best placed to establish the centre," he says.

So, now we have the Dalton Nuclear Institute, with Professor Clegg joining Manchester as Director. His enthusiasm for and faith in the project are infectious. "The Institute will become one of the top nuclear research and education centres in academia in the world," he says. Our work will underpin the broad entirety of the nuclear sector." It will cover decommissioning and clean-up, reactor technology, fuel cycle technology, naval propulsion, medical applications and links into fusion power – "an enormous technological challenge".

A new £20 million Dalton campus, a joint investment between the University and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, is to be built in West Cumbria, on the Sellafield site, providing research facilities and equipment that cannot be housed on Oxford Road. "It will be the nuclear equivalent to Jodrell Bank," he says. "It's very exciting."

## **Reaching Out**

# Healthy ears at the **Special Olympics, Glasgow**

#### Audiology, Speech and Language Therapy students participated in the first ever Healthy Hearing screening programme at the Special Olympics in Glasgow.

The Healthy Athletes Programme runs parallel to the Special Olympics and was the first time the hearing of athletes was screened. Screenings were undertaken by staff and students within the Manchester Audiology, Speech and Language Therapy programmes.

The team had a number of clear objectives, including educating the professional community about the health needs of persons with intellectual and development disabilities, notifying athletes who were found to suffer from significant hearing loss and advising if follow-up care was needed.

Whilst the screening area was very busy, it was important that athletes had an enjoyable experience. Volunteers were welcoming and reassuring and large helium Bugs Bunny balloons were used to mark the check-in desk, along with several sets of bunny ears for volunteers to wear.

It has been recognised that individuals with learning disabilities have reduced access to health

services. The implications of sensory loss may seriously affect their quality of life but often this loss can go unnoticed by carers, or becomes confused with behavioural difficulties.

996 athletes completed the screen, of which 34 per cent were found to have a significant hearing loss. Often it can be as simple a case as management of ear wax.

Temporary hearing loss affecting those with intellectual disabilities may have a more considerable impact on their experience than it does on others. Individuals without these disabilities are able to compensate through other senses and make conceptual guesses.

A further 235 athletes were referred to an audiological clinic for follow up treatment.

The majority of athletes had mild to moderate sensori-neural hearing loss; however a number had profound and severe hearing losses which had gone apparently unnoticed by carers.



Many coaches noted that hearing loss explained behaviour that had been conceived as being part of the learning disability.

With little thought being given to the possibility of hearing loss, despite the higher incidence of sensory loss amongst this population, the challenge is to encourage carers and residential facilities to take this seriously and ensure all people have access to hearing assessments and follow up.

The University of Manchester Manchester Conference Centre Special rates for academics and their visitors Save 20% on Hotel Tariff Rates Situated in the heart of Manchester on the North Campus, the Days Hotel offers 3 star AA accommodation at a highly competitive rate. 250 metres from Piccadilly station and with an adjacent multi storey carpark, the Days Hotel is an ideal

base for all campus buildings and the city centre.

Special rate £55.00 room only University departmental codes are accepted.

or internal 68062 quoting "Academic Specials

Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street, Manchester M1 3BB Email: daysinn@manchester.ac.uk www.meeting.co.uk/dayshotel

Terms and conditions: The quoted rate applies only to bookings of no more than four rooms per booking and is subject to availability.



DAYS HOTEL



Introducing... The Cafe on the Park"

msp is proud to announce the renaming of its popular café bar. Situated conveniently behind the University, "The Café on the Park" is a stylish place to eat Breakfast, Lunch, or enjoy a relaxing drink.

As well as the new name, the café bar will have:

#### ★ NEW MENUS INCLUDING BUDGET INEALS★



BUIT



The menu includes a daily selection of freshly prepared hot dishes using fresh, locally sourced ingredients, with an extensive selection of homemade soups, salads, paninis, snacks and much more.



The relaxed atmosphere, friendly staff and good 'homemade' food make "The Café on the Park" a great place to hold informal business lunches or evening events.

Outside catering is also provided, direct to your office.

If you would like further information about "The Café on the Park" or any of their services, Mary and her team would love to hear from you. You can reach them on/at:

The Café on the Park, Enterprise House, Lloyd Street North, msp T: 0161 232 9172

E: cafe@mspl.co.uk

MANCHESTER

# University wins Manchester Environmental Business Pledge

The University has achieved a Silver award for its environmental performance and awareness under the Manchester Environmental Business Pledge scheme, sponsored by Manchester City Council.

The Environmental Business Pledge is a unique initiative developed solely for Manchester businesses and was introduced through Manchester City Council's 2004 campaign, Challenge Manchester: 100 Days to a Clean City, where over 250 businesses pledged to improve their local environment. To continue this work Manchester City Council have been working with external agencies such as Groundwork to expand the Pledge and offer services to support organisations in improving environmental performance and in the process also achieve cost savings. This is particularly important for the University as indicated by Professor Bob Munn, Vice-President for Teaching and Learning, in an email to all staff in December, as energy bills have increased significantly in recent months and are a major element of the University's overhead costs.

The Silver Award builds on the Bronze Award that the University was awarded in July 2005 and clearly indicates the progress that has been made in a short space of time. The Bronze Award shows awareness of environmental issues and the Silver Award demonstrates assessment of environmental impact. The University will be aiming for the Gold Award next, which demonstrates improvement of environmental performance.

The Groundwork assessor of the University's application, was impressed with the information supplied which fully met the criteria in: waste identification, waste recycling, water reduction, energy efficiency, environmental policy and local Initiatives.

Further information on the Award and environmental performance is available from Damian Oatway, Environmental Officer on 0161 275 2277.



# 'Date with Diversity' is a big hit

Black and Asian students from The University of Manchester recently received the opportunity to find out exactly what the professional service industry has to offer them.

More than 40 students attended 'Date with Diversity', a full-day event organised by the University's Careers and Employability Division (CED), involving the participation of top accountancy firms Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers and KPMG.

Patrick Johnson, Head of Diversity at the CED, said: "This event is just one example of our commitment to promoting diversity within academia, business and society as a whole, as well as raising the skills level of our students. The students received a practical insight into audit, tax and advisory roles through business games, presentations and even a mini careers fair."

The day was divided into three parts, each of which was spent at one of the firms' Manchester offices. Students were able to meet with recent graduate trainees and more senior members of staff to find out first-hand what it is like to work in the professional services.

Zoheb lqbal, a second-year Architecture student who attended the event, said: "The chance to meet people from this business sector was a great opportunity... it was a wonderfully organised, thoroughly enjoyable event and gave me a greater insight into the professional world."

Adele Cunningham, Recruitment Manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers, said: "It was a really productive day. We've now got people coming through the recruitment process as a direct result of attending the event – people who might not have considered a career in accountancy before, but whose perceptions we were able to challenge, for mutual benefit."

To find out more, contact Patrick Johnson on 0161 275 2828, or email patrick.johnson@manchester.ac.uk.



## Healthcare in the USA

University of Manchester academics Dr David Bamford, Elizabeth Chatziaslan and Fiona Gorton made an initial fact finding trip to the University of California San Diego (UCSD) recently to exchange best practice and excellence in healthcare provision with the long term view of benefiting the NHS.

The purpose of the visit, funded by the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), was to interview key staff at the UCSD Medical Centre, Hillcrest. Chief Executive Officer, Richard J. Liekweg, was keen to share best practice and facilitated access to several key members of his staff, including the Directors of Patient Safety; Decision Support, Imaging Services and the Medical Director of Managed Care. The University of Manchester delegation also met the Vice Dean for Medical Education and Professor Vish Krishnan who are setting up a Masters degree in Healthcare Management at the Rady School of Management, UCSD. The opportunity was taken to visit key personnel at Kaiser Permanente, the primary private healthcare provider in California.

Dr David Bamford will make a second trip in March 2006 and will include a visit to Washington and Seattle to continue this project. Recommendations within the report have already been presented to the NHS at various levels and some of them will be implemented in due course.

www.wun.ac.uk

# What's On

#### Music and Drama at Manchester

#### MUSIC

*Friday 20 Jan 2006, 1.10pm* **MANTIS (Manchester Theatre in Sound)** MANTIS presents the first concert by the new KAIROS ensemble, specialising in live electroacoustic improvisation and new repertoire.

Thursday 26 Jan 2006, 2.15pm Quatuor Danel A Danels seminar focusing on the life and works of Mieczyslaw Weinberg.

**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

## **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

## 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 are 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

## Gig Guide Manchester Academy

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Thurs 19 Jan Starting Line vs MXPX Secret Machines Friday 20 Jan Dierks Bentley Sat 21 Ian Bedouin Soundclash Clutch + Corrosion of Conformity Sun 22 Jan **Bleeding Through** Mon 23 Jan Vman Events 12 Tue 24 Jan John Cale + Band Wed 25 Jan Academy Unsigned 66 Thur 26 Jan **Regina Spectator** Fri 27 Jan Dragonforce Sat 28 Jan Goodreef Sun 29 Jan Robyn Hitchcock + The Minus 5 Tue 31 Jan Soulfly Weds 1 Feb Bauhaus The Kooks Thurs 2 Feb Coheed and Cambria vs Thrice Jose Gonzales Fri 3 Feb **Thunder** Soil The Open Sat 4 + Sun 5 Feb NME Awards Tour (Sold Out) Sun 5 Feb Jackie Leven Mon 6 Feb The Rakes El Presidente Tue ⁊ Feb Clap Your Hands Say Yeah Wed 8 Feb Gene Loves Jezebel Thurs 9 Feb 52 Teenagers Fri 10 Feb Mew Haven Sat 11 Feb All American Rejects Sun 12 Feb Adequate 7

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



## 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.

**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

# 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 rabbiyy@hotmail.com www.rabbiyy.com

Ambrose Mosque: Tuer Street

Mosque: Sackville Street Building

Prayer Room: Renold Building



## The Manchester Museum

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

**Richard Owen: Dinosaur Man** *until 26 February* The man who invented the dinosaur

Face to 29 January Beautiful origami butterflies inspired by the Museum's collection.

Today's Medicine, Tomorrow's Doctors to 19 February An exhibition of posters from University.

An exhibition of posters from University of Manchester Medical students detailing the clinical aspects of disease.

**Due South** *9 February – 29 May* Stunning images from the last great wilderness by John Kelly, selected artist with the British Antarctic Survey.

**EVENTS FOR FAMILIES** (Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please note bookings (with the exception of Magic Carpet and the After Hours Pyjama Party) can only be made on the day.

Fridays during term time 11am – 12 noon £1 Magic Carpet

Saturdays: 21 Jan, 18 Feb 2.30pm Sundays: 22 Jan, 19 Feb, 1.30pm FREE The Grand Tour

Saturday 21 January 1.30, 2.30, 3.30pm FREE Dinosaur Adventure

Saturday 28 January 1pm-4pm FREE Smashing Potatoes!

Saturday 4 February 1.30, 2.30, 3.30pm £1 Stories from around the World

Saturday 11 February 1pm-4pm FREE Living in the Freezer

1pm-4pm FREE The Big Frieze!

ADULT EVENTS Booking line: 0161 275 2648. Thursday 26 January 5.30 – 6.30pm FREE Beautiful Burial in Roman Egypt

Monday 6 February 6.30 – 8.00pm FREE You know it makes sense!

Book online at www.cafescientifique.manchester.ac.uk

Wednesday 8 February & Wednesday 5 April 5.30 – 7.30pm FRFF

#### 7.30pm FREE Community Advisory Panel

Are you interested in influencing the Museum's work? Then join our Community Advisory Panel. Ring Gurdeep Thiara on 0161 275 8768.

#### Thurs 9 February 6.30 – 8pm FREE Travels in Antarctica

Fri 10 February 6pm – 6.30pm, Sat 11 & Sun 12 February 1.30 & 3.00pm FREE **Due South** – Tales from the End of the Earth

Tues 14 February 12.30 – 2pm FREE Say it with Flowers

#### Manchester Museum,

Oxford Road, Manchester Open: Tues-Sat 10 - 5pm; Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11- 4 pm. FREE Admission 0161 275 2634

www.museum.manchester.ac.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.

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**

Language Classes Jan - Mar 2006

Registration for a new timetable of language classes starts 16 January at 9.30am.

For information on our full range of trips and events, please visit our website.

International Society 327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar) 0161 275 4959 Open: Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm

www.internationalsociety.org.uk

## Art Exhibition

*25 January – 8 March 2006* Renold Building, Sackville Street

On show will be paintings by the well-known North West artist

SHEILA DEWSBURY, a council member of the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

All are welcome to attend the opening (wine & nibbles) at 7  $\rm pm$  on Wednesday 25 January in the Renold Building .



## Tabley House

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

#### Tabley House,

Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 oHB 01565 750151 email: inquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk

www.tableyhouse.co.uk

#### **Contact Theatre**

#### Fri 20 Jan Live and Direct Showcase Emerging black and Asian theatre directors

master class showcase

#### Sat 28 Jan Rootz of Emotion

Musical performance exploring the West African belief in 'Orishas' (Guardian Spirits)

*Tue 31 Jan – Tue 28 Feb* **Seconds Out** Poetry slam night with your chance to get up and impress for 180 seconds

Wed 1 Feb Flip the Script Contact's monthly playwriting slam.

Sat 4 Feb F.R.E.S.H. Underground UK breakdance competition.

Wed 8 Feb – Sat 11 Feb The Shout Intense drama based on the 1977 film starring Alan Bates

#### 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

## 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.

### Feature



# Manchester hosts the debate on e-Government

The University of Manchester played host to a major conference e-Government recently with a panel of top experts from across the UK.

The panel included Colin Cram, Director of the NW Regional Centre of Excellence, Rod Matthews, Director of Information Services at Knowsley MBC, Professor Simon Rogerson from De Montfort University, Ian Watmore, the Head of the e-Government Unit at the Cabinet Office, Professor Bob Wood from The University of Manchester and Dr Paul Timmers, Head of the e-Government Unit at the European Commission.

So what exactly is e-Government? According to one online source, e-Government is "a neologism and contraction of electronic government, is the utilization of electronic technology to streamline or otherwise improve the business of government, oftentimes with respect to how citizens interact with it."

Put simply, e-Government aims to help in the transformation of public services. This will be done by supporting local government in their goal of achieving full electronic delivery of priority services in ways which put the customer first. The University of Manchester hosted the 'Question Time' event two days prior to a major conference in Manchester on Transforming Public Services, which had been described by the European Commission as the most important e-Government event in 2005.

According to Prime Minister Tony Blair, the e-Government Unit's mission is "ensuring that IT supports the business transformation of Government itself so that we can provide better, more efficient, public services."

The conference was hosted by Professor Paul Layzell, Vice-President for University Development, who said: "We want to encourage debate about e-Government and attempt to clarify its aims and objectives."

Professor Paul Layzell explained that the purpose of the conference was an opportunity "to probe some of the issues around whether the legacy of e-Government will actually improve public services and produce a more engaged and empowered public, or whether it simply serves to further alienate already socially excluded groups." Professor Simon Rogerson, Director of the Centre of Computing and Social Responsibility at De Montfort University, spoke of the challenges facing the initiative, saying: "e-Government to me is about citizens. No matter how good the technology is, if the perception of citizens is that e-Government is not delivering, then those systems will not work. That is the biggest challenge that we face to date."

Examples given by Professor Rogerson of where perception may not be the reality, were the postponement of voting because citizen perception is that they don't trust it and GPs not using the booking system in the NHS infrastructure so that citizens can have a choice of hospitals because they don't perceive that the system is fit for purpose.

He finished by saying: "My challenge would be one of citizen perception – that e-Government is right for them."

And that ultimately sums up the real challenge faced by e-Government today.

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The Japan Centre North West is now recruiting potential host organisations (including University Departments) that would be willing to accept a Japanese student from a University in Japan for four or eight weeks in 2006. If your department deals with Japan or may do so in the future, or even if you need some extra help in the office, then a Japanese volunteer could prove invaluable from a business, cultural and personal level.

The Programme is called the English Language Study and Work Experience Programme and the students study English for one or two months at the University Language Centre, followed by an unpaid work placement of four weeks starting in March, June or November, or eight weeks starting in October. The Programme is growing in popularity and demand for students is high, so if you are interested please contact us for a registration form. We would then endeavour to match your department with a suitable student.

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# **Looking Back**



# A Portrait of The University of Manchester

#### Advisory Editor Professor Brian Pullan Book publication November 2006

In October 2004 the newly merged University of Manchester set out its bold ambition 'to build a truly world-class university that will continue to attract the best students, the most talented staff and significant research funds from around the world'. Ambition, innovation and progress, however, have been the hallmark of higher education in Manchester, as with the city of Manchester itself, for over a century and a half.

The University's Division of Development and Alumni Relations has joined forces with publishers Third Millennium to compile a new illustrated volume which aims to offer a fastmoving, fascinating history of university life in Manchester from its roots in the industrial Victorian era to the present day. The book will also reflect the daily minutiae of the student experience in different periods, contributed as memories and reminiscences by Manchester alumni of every period.

Third Millennium Managing Editor, Jane Havell, says: "Working on the fascinating story of higher education in Manchester, I have been struck by the testimony of living alumni from many decades. These first-hand accounts of individual experiences, a small selection of which are offered here, add a unique human dimension to the story."

I loved my years as a student at Manchester and I have always been grateful for the scientific basis of my education. My subject was Chemistry... Our own favourite Professor Robert Robinson (Organic Chemistry) ... became President of the Royal Society, a Nobel prizewinner, and was knighted. Evelyn D, BSc Hons (Chemistry) 1928

When we returned to Ashburne in October 1939, we all had to wear identity bracelets with name, identity card number and the Ashburne address and telephone number. We also had to take warm clothing to wear in the makeshift air raid shelters and for firewatching...

#### Hilda M, Honours General Science, Chemistry and Physics with Mathematics, Owens

I chose Manchester partly to please my headmaster, a Manchester graduate, but also because the staff list at Manchester was impressive with four FRS's among the forty staff ... Regarded as rather aloof and unapproachable was Max Newman, the head of the department ... I recall holding a corridor open for him to pass through. He did not acknowledge me nor did he blink an eye. No doubt he was lost in the realms of higher mathematics ...

#### RMK, Honours Mathematics, 1959-62

If anyone reading this can remember a large pink elephant called Dinsdale, then it wasn't my imagination.

#### AK, 1970-73

Academic life was (as one would have expected) 'academic'. But outside of the academic there was a lot happening in Manchester. After all this was the North West – the home of music ... the Apollo Bar and the Hacienda ...

#### Maz M, 1980-83

If you have any memories, photographs or any other items of interest to be considered for inclusion please send them to Jane Havell, Managing Editor, c/o Third Millennium, 2-5 Benjamin Street, London, EC1M 5QL, Tel 0207 336 0144, or email Manchester@miltd.com by 28 February 2006.

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