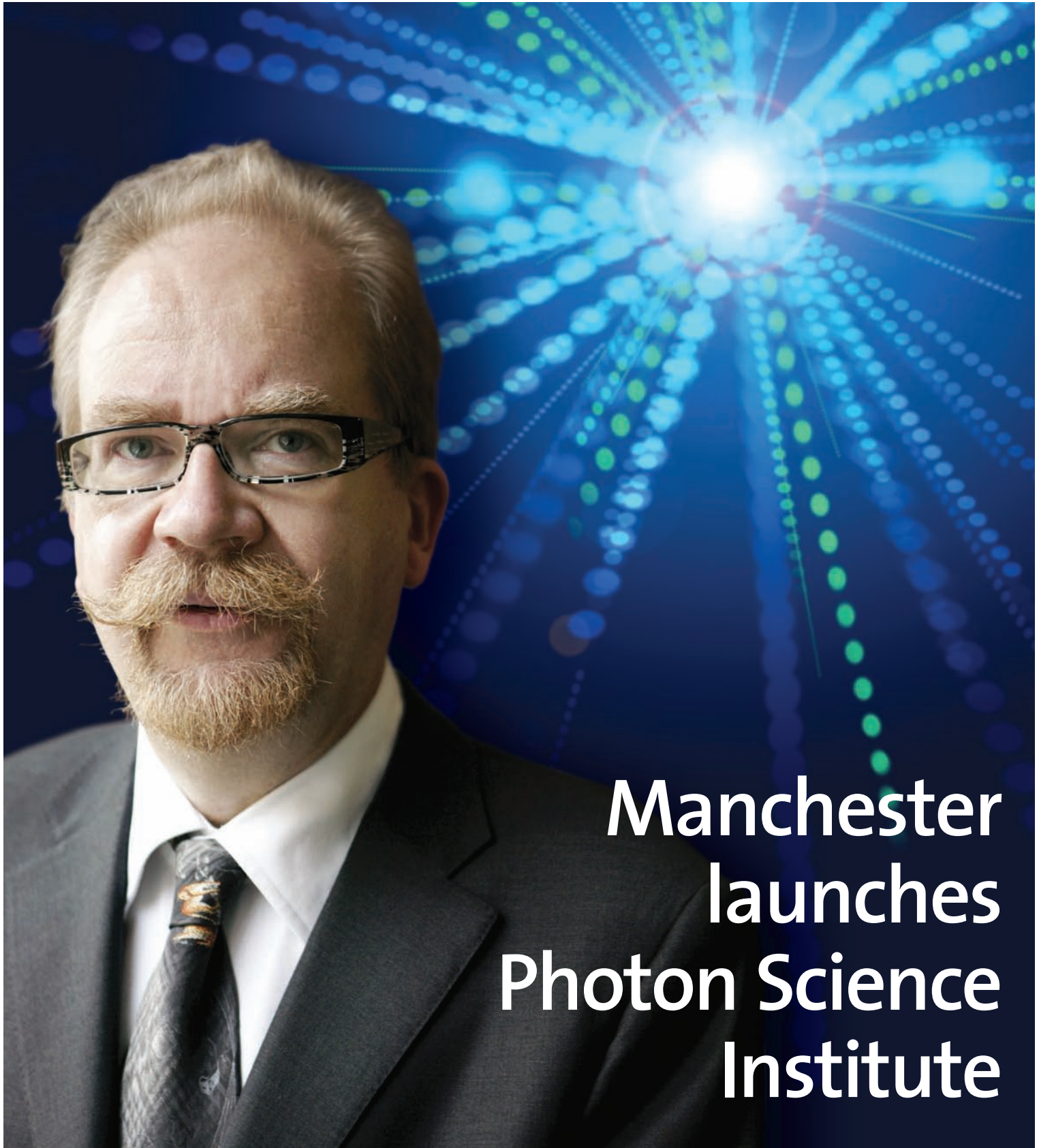


UniLife

6 February 2006

Volume 3 Issue 5



**Manchester
launches
Photon Science
Institute**

Features



News

Launch of the £40 million Photon Science Institute.

page 4



Profile

Dr Brian Cox,
Royal Society
Research Fellow

page 12



Feature

Healthcare research
centre celebrates
ten years of shaping
treatment of patients

page 18

Contents

- 3 News
- 8 Research
- 10 Knowledge and Technology Transfer
- 11 Teaching and Learning
- 12 Profile
- 14 Reaching Out
- 16 What's On
- 18 Feature
- 20 Looking back

Front cover:
Professor Klaus Müller-Dethlefs,
Director of The Photon Science
Institute

Photo by Paul Cliff

Letter from the President



I have spent many hours recently preparing a "Stock Take" Report for the Board of Governors Conference in mid-February. Our strategic plan, **Towards Manchester 2015**, provides for an honest, detailed annual appraisal of how the University has performed during the previous year. The aim is to show us whether we are on target to reach our 2015 Goals, and to identify areas where we are under-performing as well (hopefully) as areas where we may actually have been too modest in our expectations.

Towards Manchester 2015 contains a range of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), each providing valid, relevant measures of institutional performance in relation to an important aspect of the University's activities, including such things as research funding and outputs, research postgraduate enrolments, student satisfaction with the quality of teaching, learning and academic support, feedback from staff on the adequacy of internal communications, the success of efforts to strengthen the University's resource base, the efficacy of our various engagements with stakeholders in the wider community, and so on.

Genuine stock taking has to capture the essential truth, "warts and all". If the time ever comes when the best evidence we have indicates that our ambitious 2015 goals are out of our reach, it will be pointless not to face up to that unwelcome reality. When (and this is bound to happen every year), one or more KPIs reveal that the University has performed badly in some important area of activity, it makes no sense at all not to admit the failure, analyse it, reappraise our activities and determine what should be done differently in the year ahead. To be useful, stock-taking cannot exaggerate success or gloss over failure.

I will let the 2004-05 Stock Take analysis speak for itself, except to say two things. First, our performance against some KPIs, notably those measuring research postgraduate enrolments, the quality and effectiveness of internal communications and the success of overseas student recruitment, was disappointing, and will have to see major improvement in the year ahead. Secondly, however, the overall progress of the University in 2004-05 was remarkable. This Stock Take of our first year reflects wonderfully well on the quality and commitment of the University community at all levels, and provides grounds for justifiable confidence that the **Manchester 2015 Agenda** is actually achievable.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor.

Chancellor turns to whiz kids to unravel whodunit riddle

A crack team of budding young scientists were drafted in to help Chancellor Anna Ford solve a Friday 13th murder mystery.

More than 160 Year 8 and 9 school pupils from across the northwest were invited to carry out the mock investigation, which was organised by The University of Manchester's Faculty of Life Sciences.

Forensic profiling for the 'murder' case was just one of a number of scientific experiments the children were involved in at the 'Science Stars Open Day' event on Friday, 13 January.

Following introductory talks by Anna Ford, the University's Co-Chancellor, and Professor Nancy Rothwell, Manchester's Vice-President for Research, the young scientists visited different labs within the Faculty.

There they tested the smelling senses of maggots, carried out DNA extractions from cheek swabs, saw how frogs adapt to their environment, solved the structure of proteins and learned about muscle-tissue formation.

"The University asked schools across the northwest that specialise in science to choose their star pupils to take part in this event," said Nancy, who recently received a Damehood partly in recognition of her efforts to popularise science among young people.

"Throughout the day, the children got the chance to take part in a range of laboratory experiments as well as having an exclusive chance to see some of the current research being carried out by our scientists.



Event organiser Dr Rachel Crossley and Andrew Gray, Curator of Herpetology at Manchester Museum, at the Science Stars Open Day

"Getting young people interested in science is immensely important, not only for that particular subject area, but for society as a whole.

"Schemes such as this that enable youngsters to see first-hand the cutting-edge research being carried out here in Manchester can only help fuel their interest and perhaps encourage them to pursue a science career."

The Science Stars Open Day was the brainchild of Professor Martin Humpries and part of the University's wider commitment to playing a full and active role in the development of the northwest region.

Dr Rachel Crossley, Faculty of Life Sciences Public Engagement Officer and organiser of the event, said: "If projects such as this persuade just one more child to become interested in science then it will have been worthwhile.

"We hope the kids will not only learn something from their day in the labs but will go home with the idea that science is fun."



Dame Nancy Rothwell and Anna Ford examine a cotton plant with children at the Science Stars Open Day

In brief

Fair trade for all

Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI)

Inaugural Lecture on Wednesday, 1 February at 5pm, in the Whitworth Hall.

A public lecture by Nobel Prize Winner, Professor Joseph Stiglitz, who has been appointed by the University to chair the Brooks World Poverty Institute, a multidisciplinary centre of global excellence researching poverty, poverty reduction, inequality and growth.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. An overflow capacity with video link will be offered in one of the Roscoe Lecture Theatres. For more information visit:

www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/bwpi

The Organic Materials Innovation Centre

The Organic Materials Innovation Centre Tuesday, 4 April, 9.30am – 4pm
Organic Biomaterials – Different Perspectives

A one-day meeting to present the latest developments in the field of organic biomaterials through the contribution of leading UK and international experts.

Lecture Theatre G.51, Chemistry Building, The University of Manchester

Cost: Industry £60, Academic/PDRA £40, Students £20

For more information and details of how to register, please contact meriel.barham@manchester.ac.uk

Manchester Medicines Network

**Better NHS Trials
Advancing Knowledge for Developing Medicines**

2 Day Conference
Monday 6 – Tuesday, 7 March 2006
Manchester Conference Centre

The Manchester Medicines Network (MMN) is an outreach programme dedicated to advanced level education training and research on all aspects of medicines and is designed to meet the needs and of the NHS, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries and other national organisations.

For more information about MMN and to book a place at the Conference please contact: jill.playfair@manchester.ac.uk or visit

www.pharmacy.manchester.ac.uk/mmn



Professor Pavel Hobza (Fellow of The Photon Science Institute 2005), Professor Sir Keith O’Nions (Director General of the Research Councils), Professor Alan Gilbert (President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester), Professor Richard N Zare (Stanford University), Professor Klaus Müller-Dethlefs (Director of The Photon Science Institute), Mr Jeremy Scudamore (CEO Avecia and Chair of the NW Science Council), Professor Wolfgang Demtröder (Fellow of The Photon Science Institute, 2006).

Institute will light the way for laser research

The £40 million Photon Science Institute, which will pioneer cutting-edge light and laser technologies, has been officially launched.

The event, held on Wednesday, 18 January, 2006 was attended by the University’s President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert, Professor Sir Keith O’Nions, Director General of Research Councils’ and Mr Jeremy Scudamore, Chair of the North West Science Council. Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Mohammed Afzal Khan, also attended the launch.

The Institute will be the largest research and teaching centre of its kind in the UK, with a projected annual research income of £5 million and more than 30 full-time academic staff.

The appointment of the Institute’s first Fellows – Professor Pavel Hobza, of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, and Professor Wolfgang Demtröder, of the University of Kaiserstautern

(Germany) – was followed by a humorous and informative keynote speech examining ‘What is a Photon?’ by Professor Richard N Zare, of Stanford University.

Photon Science – ‘light for science’ – encompasses the application of light in many diverse fields. Common everyday applications include optical fibre telecommunications and DVD players.

Professor Klaus Müller-Dethlefs, who is internationally recognised for his contributions to molecular spectroscopy having invented the widely adopted ZEKE (Zero Electron Kinetic Energy) photoelectron method, will lead the Institute as its Director. Before he moved to Manchester he established the York Centre for Laser Spectroscopy and Photochemistry. He is

also the first winner of the Herzberg Memorial Prize Laureate (2000) of the National Research Council of Canada.

Research at The Photon Science Institute (PSI) will focus on the development and application of new and existing laser technologies and systems spanning medicine, pharmaceuticals, life sciences and physical sciences. Projects will include the development of new optical materials, such as solar cells, and the development of new non-invasive medical technologies, for example, measuring blood-sugar levels without taking a blood sample, which will be of interest to diabetics.

An example of current research within the Institute is the use of micro tweezers - laser beams used like tweezers to manipulate micro



Lord Mayor of Manchester and Professor Klaus Müller-Dethlefs at the reception



Professor Sir Keith O'Nions providing concluding remarks at the seminar

particles such as biological cells. Potential applications for this technology include the characterisation and manipulation of single human cells.

Professor Müller-Dethlefs said: "Using the most advanced lasers and optical technologies we will be taking on some very challenging problems of science with applications in the world of medicine, biosciences, engineering, environmental and physical sciences.

"Our vision is to position The Photon Science Institute as a world-leading centre for photon science research and development with an emphasis on knowledge transfer and innovation within industry."

The PSI will boast more than £15 million of state-of-the-art laser equipment and is soon to be based

within the new £55 million AMPPS building, scheduled for completion in 2007. A full-time postgraduate MSc in Photon Science will also be offered from October 2006.

Funding for the launch of the Institute has been provided in part by the North West Regional Development Agency. Steven Broomhead, NWDA Chief Executive, said: "The NWDA welcomes the establishment of the Photon Science Institute at The University of Manchester. It will be a significant addition to the scientific strength of the region and we look forward to it becoming one of the world's leading centres of excellence in this exciting area."

The PSI will carry out research in collaboration with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (USA), the Max Born Institute (Germany) and the Advanced Photonics Research Institute (Korea).

In brief



Focussing on fitness for Commonwealth Day

The Manchester Museum is to host 'Commonwealth Day 2006 – Health and Vitality' in association with The University of Manchester's SPORT Office.

With events focused around the theme of fitness, and in particular varying fitness activities from different Commonwealth countries, participants can get in shape with guided campus walks, a cycling tour, taster yoga, Indian head massage and relaxation sessions.

There will also be a reading of a monologue by Manchester playwright Robin Graham about a Ghanaian mother living with HIV. The monologue will be read by actress Juliet Ellis, who is currently appearing in the Royal Exchange Theatre's production of "Weeding Cane" by Sonia Hughes.

The event takes place on Monday, 13 March, from noon and University staff are especially welcome to attend.

Bookings for the activities can be made on the day at the Museum's reception.

Museum's hi-tech bid to help environment

In a bid to conserve natural resources, The Manchester Museum is set to launch a free e-newsletter service at the end of January. With one monthly update for families and a second detailing adult events, the Museum hopes the e-newsletters will help reduce the amount of newsprint, as well as providing an opportunity to communicate with new audiences.

To receive free e-newsletters from The Manchester Museum, email museum@manchester.ac.uk with 'SUBSCRIBE' as your subject line. Please remember to specify whether you would like to get news on family events, adult events or both.

In brief

Invest in the best

UMIP, the University's intellectual property company, has received Investors-in-People recognition, which it will hold for three years at which point it will be reassessed. It is believed that UMIP is the country's only university technology transfer organisation to hold the IIP accreditation.

Clive Rowland, UMIP Chief Executive, says that he is very pleased that UMIP has reached this standard so soon after its own creation on 1 October, 2004: "In an activity which is as much about the people as it is about the science, technology and other subjects that we manage, it is important to demonstrate that UMIP itself employs leading HR practice. It is especially pleasing because UMIP has been successful against the new, more challenging IIP criteria introduced in the autumn of last year."

Budding Beckhams at the Armitage Centre?

The Manchester United Premier Cup, a major football tournament that brings together the hottest young talent from 40 countries around the world, is once again coming to The University of Manchester.

Sportswear manufacturers Nike, sponsors of the Manchester United Premier Cup, has once again confirmed this major booking. The games take place in Carrington, but a 'players' village' will be created by the Directorate of Sport, Trading and Residential Services at the University. The Armitage Centre will also temporarily be transformed into a high-tech sports-themed restaurant.

The picture demonstrates how a sports hall can be transformed into a fantastic restaurant for players' lunches and dinners during the tournament.

Young footballers from major clubs across the world will fight it out this year from 3 - 6 July. David Beckham attended as a 15-year old - so who knows whether we will see a future captain of England on the pitch.



MLP Poster winners with the President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert

Prize-winning posters show true leadership

The hard work and research carried out by the 81 students, drawn from all four faculties, on the Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) was celebrated at a recent poster exhibition. The exhibition provided an opportunity for MLP students to showcase highlights of the Leadership in Action unit that they had just completed. Poster topics included greener cities, globalisation, child poverty and business ethics.

Staff from a range of schools, including Manchester Business School, the School of Psychological Sciences, the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and members of the Administration, including the Registrar and Secretary and the President and Vice-Chancellor, attended the exhibition.

Posters were judged by the MLP students themselves. The winning team of Kate Maull - Faculty of Life Sciences, Sanjay Mistry - School of Social Sciences, and Emma Neil, Comrie MacDonald, Philip Johnstone all from the School of Environment and Development, were awarded first place for their poster on 'The Case for Corporate Social Responsibility'.

The £200 prize was sponsored by The Co-operative Group, one of many organisations which have participated in the development and delivery of the MLP. Rebecca Martin, graduate programme manager at The Co-operative Group, who presented the prize, said: "The MLP represents a leading-edge development programme within British academia, looking at issues closely related to our own business objectives surrounding corporate social responsibility and sustainability. Our involvement with the programme has also allowed us to develop our employer brand and identify a number of high-calibre candidates."

MLP students are now actively undertaking the 60-hours community service in order to complete the MLP and to obtain the Manchester Leadership Award, which will be presented to them at a special celebration event on Monday, 8 May at the Whitworth Hall.

To find out more about the MLP, contact Colette Cooke on 0161 275 2828 or email leadership@manchester.ac.uk Alternatively, visit the website below.



Time Team unearth Manchester mill

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) was featured in an episode of Time Team, screened on Channel 4, earlier this month.

The programme was filmed in September when Time Team spent three days excavating the site of Manchester's first textile mill on Miller Street and some associated late - 18th Century workers' housing.

Time Team was assisted by eight specialist staff from UMAU, plus volunteers from Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society and the Dig Manchester community archaeology project.

The excavations located the outline of the mill, the original water wheel pit used from 1781-2 and what may be the site of the 1781-2 steam engine which was used unsuccessfully to power textile machinery.

The mill was built by Richard Arkwright, the factory pioneer, in 1781-2 and was his last factory. The mill was of great significance for Manchester as it began the factory revolution and within 18 years there were nearly 50 cotton factories in use in the city. The mill was also notable as the first place where steam power was applied to textile machinery.

"Working with the team was quite exhilarating. They really do undertake the work in three days and the enthusiasm of Time Team was quite infectious. I was very keen for a human face to be put on the industrial archaeology and Time Team, and in particular Tony Robinson, was very happy to excavate the associated workers' housing," UMAU Director, Dr Michael Nevell, said.



Time Team's Tony Robinson on site at the Arkwright's mill dig.

Dig Manchester community archaeologist, Simon Askew, added: "The young people involved originally became interested in archaeology through Time Team and have been able to gain hands-on experience through this project."

'Rubble at the mill. The birth of the industrial revolution in Manchester', was broadcast on Sunday, 5 February, 2006, on Channel 4.



Dr Mike Nevell and staff from UMAU discuss strategy with the Time Team at Arkwright's Mill.

Honours

In brief

Allercheck team Venture Out to win first prize

The Venture Out competition saw the AllerCheck team, consisting of Gemma Buckley, Gemma Hopkins, Nicola Aldren, Maybo Chiu and Cornelia Wilson, awarded a cheque for £1,000 after taking first prize in the Venture Out competition organised through the Manchester Science Enterprise Centre. Their idea was a biosensor that could be used to measure allergens in food.

International dental honour

Professor Anthony Blinkhorn of the School of Dentistry has been awarded the prestigious H. Trendley Dean Distinguished Scientist Award for 2006 by the International Association of Dental Research (IADR), for his



groundbreaking research on public health and health services. A global panel of past prize winners selected him from a host of international entrants based on his published research achievements over the past ten years.

The award will be presented at the IADR's annual scientific meeting in Australia in June, and comes hot on the heels of Anthony's OBE just six months ago

Teenagers gain insight into life as a sports scholar

More than 100 14-16-year-olds gathered at the Armitage Centre, to meet talented sports scholars from The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University. The teenagers, all of whom study at local schools and are interested in sport, attended the 'Gifted and Talented Day' to find out more about university life and how students combine studying with competing at high level sport.

The event, held at the end of last year, included presentations by Emma Nuttal, a PGCE student on the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS), and Greg Baker, a Manchester Metropolitan student also on the government funded TASS Scheme. Children took part in workshops similar to those attended by scholarship students at university, gaining a further insight into the lives of athletes at university.

Pupils attending the day were full of praise. Tia Langford, 15, from North Manchester High School for Girls, said: "Today has made me want to come to university more". Hannah Cotton, 14, and also from North Manchester High School, said: "The speed, agility and quickness workshop was really fun. I learnt how to move quicker for sports such as football and netball."

Emma Williams, Sport Development Officer at The University of Manchester, said: "The day was very successful and we have had a lot of very positive feedback. Several students on the University's Sports Volunteer Scheme helped run the day so it was good experience for them too. Hopefully we've encouraged at least some children to seriously think about university and carrying on with sport."



In brief

New mineral found

Around 1,200 mineral species have been recorded in the British Isles. One or two more are discovered in most years, sometimes by professional geologists analysing samples, but more often by amateurs.

At a recent event at The Manchester Museum, members of the public were invited to bring specimens along for analysis. One specimen which had been collected at Merehead Quarry in Somerset by a local schoolteacher, John Davidson, proved to be especially interesting.

Analysis showed it to be fornacite, a rare chromium - bearing mineral which has not previously been recorded in the British Isles. The mineral occurs as minute but beautiful golden-orange flowers on larger crystals of the lead carbonate, cerussite. Only a single specimen was found, but John was with several other people when he collected it so the hunt for more is on!

Grants and Contracts

E-coaching benefits from European funding

The Centre for Diversity and Work Psychology has been awarded funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) to conduct an 18-month study. This study follows on from the pilot it conducted last year. The main aim of the programme is to provide women business owners from across the northwest with an e-coaching programme.

Third World trade high on the agenda

The Impact Assessment Research Centre (IARC) has been awarded two contracts by the European Commission to assess the impact of trade policy on sustainable development in developing countries. These new contracts, which have a total value of £500,000, will support the IARC's ongoing research on sustainability impact assessment. The first study will assess the potential impact of the World Trade Organisation's Doha Development Agenda, focusing particularly on developing countries. The second study will assess the economic, social and environmental effects of the trade negotiations between the EU and the Mercosur countries (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay). Further information on these programmes and the IARC's other research activities is available on the website below.

www.manchester.ac.uk/ipdm/research/iarc

Life Sciences aiming high with two new grants

Professor Stephen High, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, has been awarded a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) project grant to study "Tail-anchored protein biogenesis: defining the ATP dependent route" worth £243,547.

Professor Stephen High, S Flitsch, Lisa Swanton and R Whitehead have been jointly awarded a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) project grant to study "The use of newly discovered inhibitors to identify novel components of the ER associated degradation pathway" worth £320,225.

Study launched to examine true value of women

Professor Jill Rubery, Dr Damian Grimshaw and Dr Mark Smith, from Manchester Business School, have been awarded a research contract by the Equal Opportunities Commission to study how women are undervalued in the workplace. The contract is worth £30,000.

Diabetes hope as protein structure is laid bare

Scientists at The University of Manchester and Oxford University have got first sight of the structure of a protein that is important for type-2 (adult-onset) diabetes.

The research, published in the European Molecular Biology Organization Journal, will not only give a greater understanding of the disease, but may lead to better treatments.

“We have managed to produce the first three-dimensional picture of this protein,” said Professor Robert Ford, the structural biologist leading the research in Manchester’s Faculty of Life Sciences.

“It’s a very complicated beast: it actually comprises eight different proteins cooperating together in a large, complex structure. Until now, scientists have had to work largely in the dark; our research at last shines a light on the functionally significant parts of the structure.”

The protein, called the K-ATP channel, is essential for the beta-cells of the pancreas to release the

hormone insulin; diabetes results when not enough insulin is released to meet the body’s demands.

Professor Frances Ashcroft, who led the Oxford team that isolated the protein, said: “Diabetes is a big problem in Western societies. It affects 1.5 million people in the UK and is set to become even worse because the population is getting more obese.

“The K-ATP channel protein is the target for anti-diabetic drugs that are taken by millions of type-2 diabetics every day. They work by blocking the protein’s function, which leads to insulin release.

“Mutations in the genes that code for the K-ATP channel result in changes in the protein’s structure and cause babies to be born with diabetes.

“Forty per cent of the population have a variant in the K-ATP channel gene that increases their risk of type-2 diabetes. Knowing how this protein is put together will help us understand its role in diabetes and why some people are at higher risk. It will also show how drugs used to control the condition actually work and perhaps lead to new and better drugs.”



In brief

Manchester wins children's medicines research network

The University and Central Manchester and Manchester Children’s University Hospitals NHS Trust have been successful in their bid to host a new Department of Health Local Research Network (LRN), in the field of medicines for children. One of only six within the national Medicines for Children Network, it will allow colleagues from the University and the Trust to lead, support and promote research into medicines for children; improving its efficiency, co-ordination and integration as well as enhancing quality and participation levels. The network will be led by Peter Clayton, Professor of Child Health in the School of Medicine.

Inaugural ‘dance’ for the musical professor

The inaugural lecture of Hans V. Westerhoff, who was recently appointed Professor of Systems Biology in the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science, is to be held on 20 February.

It will focus on how the application of ‘music’ can be used to study complex biological systems.

“Molecules are like humans and cells are like societies,” explained Professor Westerhoff. “Yes, they can dance and yes they do follow rules. And if we make them dance before our eyes, we may find entirely new ways of making them dance from disease back to health”.

Dancing the Molecules: Bringing Molecular Biology to Life and Systems Biology to Practice, will be held at 5pm, C9, Renold Building.

The real cost of food

A team from Manchester Business School, in partnership with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), is conducting research that will look at the environmental impact of food from farm to table. Professor Ken Green, Chris Foster, Drs Paul Dewick, Mercedes Bleda and Sally Randles are working on the project with Jo Mylan and colleagues from Cardiff University.

The six-month project will look at a range of commonly purchased food items, reflecting consumer trends and nutritional variety and assess the environmental impact that a particular food item has throughout its life cycle – from primary production, through distribution and retail, to preparation and consumption.

The outcome of the project will help policy-makers understand where key environmental impacts arise in different food chains and, in the longer term, help develop a system to enable consumers to make an informed choice based upon the environmental impact of their food.



Professor Persaud and the electronic 'nose'

Device nose no limits

Scientists in the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science have invented a new device that remotely monitors bad odours and methane gases at waste landfill and water treatment sites.

The device, which works like an electronic nose, could be the solution many communities and waste management companies, who regularly encounter problems with bad odours and air pollution, are searching for.

20.9 million tonnes, or 72 per cent, of household waste produced in Britain is disposed of in landfill sites. There are currently over 4,000 licenced sites in the UK, with more than 80 per cent of the population living within 2km of one. Methane gas and odours, which contribute to global warming, are produced by decomposing waste.

Currently there is no other instrumentation sensitive enough to monitor low concentrations of odours and gases on these sites. Gases and odours are analysed manually using handheld detectors and by panels of volunteers asked to smell samples of air.

The new device has four sensors which analyse the composition of gases in the air. Air is sucked into the device at regular intervals and then profiled. The chemical profile of the air is then sent in real time via a built-in GPS modem to a remote computer. Based on the concentration of various chemicals, the system is able to determine whether the methane gases or odours have reached an unacceptable level. The air is then filtered before being expelled back into the atmosphere.

Professor Krishna Persaud, who has developed the device, said: "Current methods mean odour and gas levels are only monitored on a weekly basis. In that time bad odours can build up. What this device offers is the ability to monitor these levels in real time, enabling waste companies to act before levels reach an unacceptable level."

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Easing the burden of living in a foreign land

The University of Manchester continues to attract top students from more than 160 countries worldwide. In September 2004, nearly 2,500 new international students joined the University making an overall student total of almost 5,000 attending from outside the EU. The intake for the 2005/6 academic session is projected to be even higher. Attracting international students of the highest calibre is an important part of the University's 2015 Agenda.

It is vital to the University's aspirations that all students are given the best possible opportunity to succeed. However adjusting to the culture, educational system and lifestyle in another country can sometimes be difficult for international students.

In recognition of the additional stresses students from overseas can face, the University runs an orientation programme every year. This is a series of events designed to help them with the practicalities of living and studying in Manchester, while providing a warm welcome and an opportunity to form a new social network quickly. The majority of international students who drop out of their studies did not attend the Orientation Course.

The 2005 Orientation Course ran from 11-15 September. It included presentations on a wide range of subjects, including where to buy essential items in Manchester, personal safety, information about the Students' Union and representation from the University's support services. There were



social events ranging from Morris dancing and salsa lessons to band nights and more formal receptions. The full programme culminated in the Welcome Celebration on 5 October in the Whitworth Hall. University Graphic Designer and Orientation Course Tutor, Steve McCabe, said; "It was an amazing week. You could see people making friends before your very eyes."

Many new initiatives have proved very successful. Traditionally, students from overseas find opening a bank account difficult, therefore banks were invited on site two days earlier than the previous year. A new presentation on ethernet facilities in halls of residence was particularly well received.

New students gained positively from the experience, with about 950 students attending the course. Although this represents only about half of the joining population, every effort is made to reach those who could not attend. Further 'mini-orientations' throughout the academic year help students who arrive later than September. Sam Harris, Project and Training Officer at the International Society, said: "The most rewarding part of working on orientation is seeing so many tired, lost and confused faces from all over the world turning into confident and happy ones by the end of the course."

Manchester at the hub of Enquiry Based Learning

The University of Manchester has been recognized by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Enquiry Based Learning (CEEBL).

HEFCE funding of £4.5 million over five years will extend the range and scope of Enquiry Based Learning (EBL) activity throughout The University of Manchester and across the UK Higher Education community.

The underpinning belief is that implementation of EBL should reflect its principles – a spirit of enquiry and collaborative learning. The University of Manchester recognises that students and staff need to make transitions in adopting new approaches to learning and assessment, especially with the more open-ended approaches involved in EBL.

Manchester's EBL provision is supported by a long and successful track record in working with students as partners in their learning. Examples include the widespread use of peer mentoring and peer-assisted study schemes (PASS, or SI as it known outside the UK).

EBL is usually organised around work in small groups or with structured support from others, promoting the social cohesion that is often difficult to achieve in a mass higher education system. Unsurprisingly, research into EBL suggests that it can improve the student experience, with enhanced recruitment, satisfaction and retention. Such improvements cannot be achieved without recognising and responding to the fact that students entering a university driven by an EBL approach are entering a learning context that may be radically different from the one to which they are accustomed.

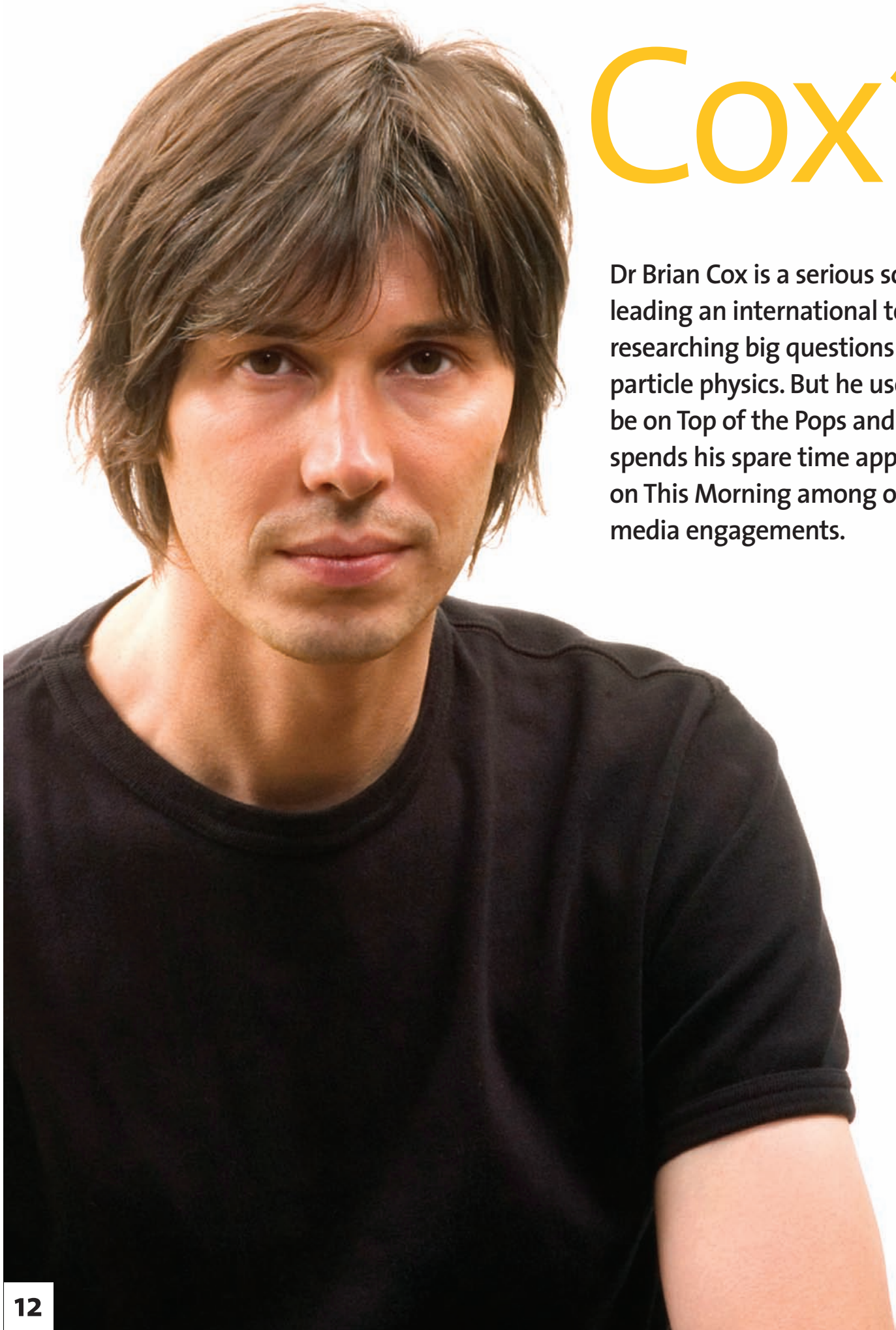
As the new CEEBL facilitates activity that directly impacts on students, it is crucial that students are engaged to inform the programme. The University has instigated a 'hub and spoke' mechanism to ensure effective channels of communication between Centre and Faculty, with student involvement at each level.

www.manchester.ac.uk/ceebl



Cox's

Dr Brian Cox is a serious scientist leading an international team researching big questions in particle physics. But he used to be on Top of the Pops and now spends his spare time appearing on This Morning among other media engagements.



conundrum

If you fancy a career in the media, specifically television, then you might do well to consider avoiding the usual media studies degrees, and studying physics instead.

At least, that is what Brian believes. Successfully managing to combine the rather unusual combination of particle physics and TV presenting, Brian is living proof that an eclectic range of interests can lead to an extremely diverse career.

Brian, a particle physicist by trade, can often be seen on the small screen or heard on the radio, when he is not otherwise engaged in Geneva researching the origins of the universe. A well known media personality, thanks to his appearances on Richard and Judy and ITV's This Morning, as well as more weighty shows including Horizon on the BBC, it seems that programme bosses cannot get enough of his particular brand of popular science.

With just enough of an air of authority to lend credibility, without boring the pants off his viewers, Brian's appeal lies in the fact that while clearly knowing his stuff - First Class honours and PhD from The University of Manchester; numerous awards and

currently a coveted Royal Society research fellowship - he makes sense to ordinary people too.

Brian's media career actually began much earlier when, as a keyboard player with rock bands DARE and D:REAM, he appeared on Top of the Pops. He went on to have many top ten hits, including the New Labour election anthem "Things Can Only Get Better." He is, he admits, a born performer even though the heady days of live rock concerts have now been replaced by occasional appearances in front of a lectern.

Does Brian ever worry that his media savvy reputation might lead to accusations of trivialising his subject? Following a recent TV appearance in which he found himself explaining the science of good dancing, Brian said: "We have to accept that there has been a failure on the part of the media and the school system to engage people with science. It is incredibly difficult to get science on TV and if I have to sometimes do silly stories - then slip in some particle physics or whatever - then so be it."

Actually, he says, when it is presented appropriately physics is almost universally interesting to people from all walks of life.

"The trick is not to go off on worthy rants or to treat your subject as sacred," he says. Another turn-off is scientists pretending they know everything. Brian advises: "Admit that there are questions we don't yet understand and be authoritative without being preachy. Then you find that people - whether they are school children or day time TV viewers - have hundreds of interesting questions."

Over recent months, Dr Cox has been busy advising the makers of a forthcoming science fiction film called Sunshine. Although the details are still top secret as the film isn't out until 2007, the story, written by former student of The University of Manchester Alex Garland, of "The Beach" fame, happens to be about a 30-year-old physicist. The sun is beginning to die out, taking mankind with it. All hopes are pinned on the crew of a spaceship carrying a device to breathe new life into the sun.

As well as advising on the credibility of the science, Brian made sure that the character of the scientist was right, a task he was well qualified for. "I even wrote down bits of physics which were pinned up inside the spaceship," he said. "Let's hope it helps to save the world."

CV

Name

Dr Brian Cox

Position

Royal Society University Research Fellow,
School of Physics and Astronomy,
The University of Manchester

Education

1995 - BSc (Hons) Physics,
The University of Manchester

1998 - PhD Particle Physics, The University of
Manchester

1998 - 2001 - PPARC Postdoctoral Research
Fellowship, The University of Manchester

2001 - 2005 - PPARC Advanced Research
Fellowship, The University of Manchester

2005 - Royal Society University Research
Fellowship, The University of Manchester

Career History

1992: Joined D:ream

1997: Final gig with D:ream on election night at
the Royal Festival Hall

2005 - present: Currently spokesman and principle
investigator on the FP420 RandD project at CERN,
Geneva, aimed at installing new detectors at the
LHC in early 2009. FP420 is an international
collaboration of 29 institutes from 11 countries.

2003 - present: Member of the ATLAS
experimental collaboration at CERN.

1998 - 2005: Previous work on the H1 experiment,
Hamburg and the Dzero experiment, Fermilab,
Chicago.

Other Roles

2005: Wrote and presented the BBC Radio 4 series
'In Einstein's Shadow' and 'Dear Prof. Einstein',
transmitted Jan 2005

2005: Appeared on 2005 BBC Horizon programs
celebrating Einstein year, and Horizons's 40th
birthday celebration

2006: Presenter on new series for ITV with Fern
Britten on the science behind physical and mental
health, for transmission in spring 2006

2003: Voices the BBC education 'GCSE Bite Size
science' maths and physics revision programs

2005 - present: Presenter of 'Science Headlines'
slot on ITV's 'This Morning' program. Recent topics
have included the NASA mission to Pluto, Alien
life, the science of dancing and brain activity
during the female orgasm

2002: Elected as International Fellow of the
Explorers Club (President Sir Edmund Hillary) for
services to public understanding of science. Gave
inaugural lecture at the New York headquarters.
As a result, in a bizarre footnote, was asked to give
a private lecture on particle physics to comedy
actor Dan Ackroyd

2005 - present: Scientific consultant on the Danny
Boyle and Alex Garland film 'Sunshine' to be
released in October 2006. Jobs included working
with Alex on the science content of the script,
giving lectures to the cast on the physics of stars
and working closely with actor Cillian
Murphy, who plays the hero of the film, a
30-something physicist



Blind group gets hands-on museum experience

The Manchester Museum recently welcomed a group from Henshaws Society for Blind People's Galleries and Museums Group to take part in a day of activities and give them the opportunity to become familiar with the Museum's collection.

Curator of Herpetology Andrew Gray, Conservator Irit Narkiss and Education Officer Susan Bulleid presented a special natural history event to introduce the group to various exhibits, from ancient Roman artifacts to live amphibians and reptiles.

Speaking about the experience for the society, group leader Karin, said: "I think this was one of the best trips we have had. The staff at this museum enhance the experience because they are friendly and inclusive. The way they present and impart knowledge really shows they have great pleasure in sharing what they know and their enthusiasm for their subject comes through in a totally accessible way."

Particularly popular were the descriptive presentations incorporating handling sessions with live and mounted animals. "With several of the participants having been blind from birth," says Mary Gifford, Volunteer Art Galleries and Museums Co-ordinator, "being able to touch and handle the specimens provided a unique opportunity to experience the animal world."

The day proved to be a great success, with both group members and organisers enjoying the activities and talks. Henshaws and the Manchester Museum are planning to arrange further trips in the near future.

Success for Chinese career networking event

Manchester postgraduate students from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan recently had the chance to meet and network with UK regional and national businesses looking to expand into, or already trading in, East Asia.

The event was organised by the University's Careers and Employability Division, in conjunction with The British Council, UK Trade and Investment and Chamberlink. Presentations included an input by Consul General Mr Gong Jianzhong of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Manchester, who encouraged students to make the most of the opportunity to meet with the businesses, and thanked the University for hosting the event.

Fifty-three students from ten different Schools, including the Manchester Business School, the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, and the Faculty of Life Sciences, and 43 businesses attended the evening at Chancellors Conference Centre. Based on their professional experience and expertise, students were matched with



Consul General Mr Gong Jianzhong of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Manchester

businesses and each had five 15-minute conversations. The event was very well-received by both business representatives and students who attended, with many intending to follow-up on the mutually beneficial opportunities they discussed.

Caroline Carlin-Nuttall, Project Manager at the Careers and

Employability Division, said: "This event shows the University's commitment to investing in our international students and creating new opportunities for them to further their professional development and career prospects, and to supporting the growth of businesses in Manchester and the northwest."

First British-Cuban workshop on climate change

The outlook for the first British-Cuban workshop on climate change was looking good as the inaugural event was held in Havana, Cuba, at the end of November.

The workshop was organised by the British Council (Cuba), the Cuban Ministry for Science, Technology and the Environment and the Cuban Institute of Meteorology. Nine British researchers, including Dr Darryn McEvoy, of the School of Environment and Development, were selected to attend as part of the British Council's International Network of Young Scientists scheme.

As well as a comprehensive programme of presentations and question-and-answer sessions, the workshop was also intended to promote collaboration between



Delegates at the first British Cuban workshop on climate change

the two countries, both at the individual researcher level and by developing a more coordinated British-Cuban research programme on climate change. To this end, it is hoped that a follow-up second workshop will be held in the UK some time in 2006.

Dr McEvoy is research manager for two climate change adaptation projects. The first,

Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change in the Urban Environment (ASCCUE), focuses on adapting cities to climate change through strategic planning and urban design, while Climate Change and the Visitor Economy (CCVE) focuses on how climate change impacts on tourism and recreation in the northwest of England.



Stonehenge field project nets £500,000 award

The Stonehenge Riverside Project has been awarded £498,241 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council towards a five-year investigation of the prehistoric landscape of the site. The project is an initiative run by a consortium of the Universities of Bournemouth, Bristol, Manchester, Sheffield and UCL. Two of its principal investigators are Professor Julian Thomas and Dr Colin Richards of the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures.

Although the immediate environs of Stonehenge have been designated a World Heritage Site, surprisingly little is known about the prehistoric occupation of the landscape. The Stonehenge Riverside Project involves an ambitious programme of excavation, survey and analysis designed to illustrate the development of a complex of ceremonial monuments and their surrounding environment through the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (4000 – 2000 BC). The project emphasises the integration of monumental structures and natural topography and, in particular, the way that the River Avon linked

together the henge enclosures of Stonehenge, Durrington Walls and Woodhenge. The research is intended to draw together a series of current approaches in archaeology, ranging from field survey methods and assemblage analyses informed by contemporary social theory to ground-penetrating radar, high-definition GPS, and laser scanning of topography and excavated areas.

The 2005 field season formed the basis for a Time Team Special documentary, which was shown on Channel 4 in November. The AHRC award will ensure that large scale fieldwork and post excavation analysis can continue for the next five years, while investigating a series of sites and monuments in the process. The project provides field training for Manchester Archaeology undergraduates and about 60 students will gain experience during the 2006 season. The project will culminate in the publication of a major research monograph and a popular book on the prehistoric landscape of Stonehenge.

Split-site PhD programme approved

A split-site PhD programme between the Centre for Rehabilitation Science (CRS), in the Division of Epidemiology and Health Sciences, School of Medicine, and the School of Physiotherapy in the Technological Education Institute (TEI) Lamia, Greece has been given the go-ahead. The decision panel included representatives from the University, Faculty and School and was attended by Professor Jackie Oldham (Director) and Jan Smith (Centre Manager) from the CRS and Professor George Gioufros, the President of TEI Lamia.

The split-site PhD proposal follows a successful research relationship between the CRS and TEI Lamia over a number of years, with several Greek students having already completed their PhDs in physiotherapy at the CRS in Manchester. The existing relationship has led to a shared research agenda between the two organisations, and a mirroring of the Manchester laboratory facilities in Greece.

The split-site arrangement will allow students from Lamia to undertake a Manchester PhD

degree while spending a large proportion of their time, including conducting their research, in Greece. Students will be required to attend Manchester for approximately three months per year during their 3-year PhD programme.

There is already interest in the programme in Greece and it is hoped the first student will register for a split-site PhD in April 2006.

This is the first split-site PhD programme to be given approval under the new University. Various issues relating to the complexities of a split-site programme were discussed at a 'panel event' held in December and it is hoped these will inform future split-site programmes.

If you would like to discuss possible split site arrangements or any potential collaborative programmes, please contact Emma Hilton, Senior Collaborations Adviser (emma.hilton-2@Manchester.ac.uk, x 52047) who will be happy to offer advice on the process of approval.

New business partnership with Procter and Gamble

Procter and Gamble is offering the chance of sales careers to Manchester Business School (MBS) undergraduates. Students on selected programmes will be able to apply for a sponsorship programme that is unique to MBS in an exciting new partnership.

Under the scheme, Procter and Gamble is looking for second-year undergraduate students to apply for a scholarship in their sales function. For the successful applicants, this opportunity includes a £1,000 scholarship payment in the second and final year of study, plus a summer internship in 2006. After graduation students could embark on a sales career with Procter and Gamble on a starting salary of £27,000.

The partnership was arranged by Robert Rock, of Procter and Gamble's Manchester campus recruitment team, and Dr Anne McBride, Undergraduate Careers Liaison Officer and Gillian Prescott, Undergraduate Programmes Manager.

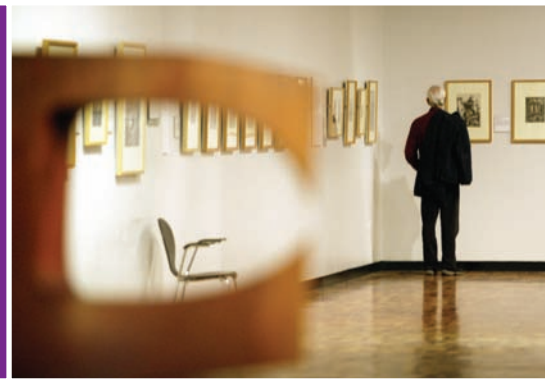
Robert said: "As we work towards hitting our aggressive expansion targets we are looking for premium calibre students to join Procter and Gamble in the Sales Division. The Manchester Business School scholarship provides us with the opportunity to reach students who could be our leaders of the future."

Gillian said: "We are delighted to launch this initiative. It is a great opportunity for students to get a foot in the door at one of the most successful consumer-goods companies in the world. It's a testament to the quality of our students and teaching staff that Procter and Gamble chose to make this partnership with Manchester Business School."

With up to five scholarships available in 2006, this is an opportunity for second-year students to experience a career in sales with one of the world's largest companies. This scholarship programme is only open to students on BSc Management-related programmes, BAs in Accounting with Business Information Systems and International Business, Finance and Economics, and the BA (Econ) Accounting and/or Finance specialisms.

Students will receive further details about the scholarship and the application procedure at the beginning of semester two. The closing date for applications is 6 March. Further information is available from Gail Hall, Programme Support Administrator, on 0161 306 8989 or at Gail.Hall@mbs.ac.uk.

What's On



Music and Drama at Manchester

Thurs 9 Feb 1.10 pm
Student Showcase Concert

Thurs 16 Feb 1.10 pm
Quatuor Danel

Thurs 23 Feb 1.10 pm
Jeremy Young and Nicholas Trygstad

Fri 24 Feb 7.30 pm
Quatuor Danel

Sat 25 Feb 7.30 pm
The University of Manchester Brass Ensemble

Thurs 2 March 1.10 pm
Lore Lixenberg and Dominic Saunders

Fri 3 March 7.30 pm
MANTIS (Manchester Theatre of Sound)

Sat 4 March 7.30 pm
The University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra

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

Mon 6 Feb
The Rakes
El Presidente

Tue 7 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

Mon 13 Feb
Karmakops @ Club Academy

Tue 14 Feb
Broken Social Scene

Fri 17 Feb
The Cribs

Sat 18 Feb
The Go! Team
Courtney Pine

Tues 21 Feb
The Paddingtons

Wed 22 Feb
Beth Orton

Thurs 23 Feb
Goldie Lookin' Chain

Fri 24 Feb
Julian Cope

Sat 25 Feb
Nine Black Alps

Sun 26 Feb
Cathedral + Electric Wizard

Mon 27 Feb
Editors

28 Feb
Clawfinger

Thurs 2 March
Damian 'JR Gong Marley

Sat 4 March
Yellowcard

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

Now You See It – The Trevor Dannatt Collection
from 18 February – 7 May

Now, Voyager to 21 May

Re-Opening of the Textile Gallery from 26 February

For Families – Textile Gallery Activity Day –
Sunday 26 February FREE

Come and join us to celebrate the grand re-opening of our textile gallery as the finale to your half-term holiday! There will be textile-related activities taking place for all age groups during the afternoon, a prize drawer for a collection of books on textile history and free refreshments. Drop in from 2pm

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.

Chaplaincies also available Monday to Friday
Floor B, Room B25, Renold Building 0161 200 2522
Precinct Centre 0161 275 2894 email:
sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk

Avila House RC Chaplaincy

(next to the Holy Name Church)

Mass Times

Mon - Fri 1.05 pm (term-time only)

Oxford Road

0161 275 6999/273 1456

The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

Hillel House, Greenheys Lane.

0161 226 1139

rabbiiy@hotmail.com

www.rabbiiy.com

Ambrose Mosque: Tuer Street

Mosque: Sackville Street Building

Prayer Room: Renold Building



The Manchester Museum

Richard Owen: "Dinosaur Man" to 26 February 2006

Today's Medicine, Tomorrow's Doctors 21 January to 19 February 2006

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

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Due South to 29 May

Stunning images from the last great wilderness by John Kelly, selected artist with the British Antarctic, not simply a visual record, but an account of the emotions and fleeting thoughts of life in the "freezer". John Kelly.

PRE-BOOKED FAMILY EVENTS

Saturday 11 February 1.00 – 4.00pm FREE

Living in the Freezer

Find out about objects in the Museum's collection from Siberian, Polar and Antarctic exploration. Learn how our conservators use freezing techniques in their work.

The Big Frieze! 1.00 – 4.00 pm FREE

Help to make a giant frieze depicting animals from Antarctica.

DROP-IN FAMILY EVENTS

FEBRUARY HALF TERM - Mad about Madagascar!

Music trails, workshops and handling sessions, inspired by the recent film. Learn about the plight of endangered species

Saturday 18 February 1.30, 2.30, 3.30 pm FREE

Museum Music Trail – Tour the museum with live musicians. All ages.

Monday 20 and Friday 24 February 1.00, 2.00 and 3.00pm Crazy Cartoon Capers – Animal Cartoon drawing workshop. £1 (all ages)

Tuesday 21 and Thursday 23 February 1.00, 2.00pm FREE Can you handle it! A close encounter with live Madagascan amphibians and reptiles. 5+

Wednesday 22 February 6.00-9.00 pm FREE

After Hours Pyjama Party!

Tour the museum, meet curators and bring your own pyjamas! For more information and to book a place call 0161-275 2630.

Thursday 23 February 1.00, 2.00 and 3.00 pm FREE Brilliant Bird Boxes! Make and decorate a bird box. 8+

Saturday 25 February 11.00am -3.00pm FREE

Dinosaur Day

Make your own dinosaur and talk to a real life palaeontologist (all ages).

Saturday 4 March 1.30,2.30 and 3.30pm FREE

Poems and stories for a fairer world

Creative writing and storytelling workshop led by poet Robin Graham to launch Fairtrade Fortnight (all ages)

Prebooked Family Events (0161 275 2648)

Drop-in Family Events (£1 per child, unless otherwise stated. For group bookings please call 0161 275 2648. Children must be accompanied by an adult).

Manchester Museum,

Oxford Road, Manchester 0161 275 2634

Open: Tues-Sat 10 - 5pm; Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11- 4 pm. FREE Admission

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.

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

Saturday 11 Feb
Oxford

Saturday 18 Feb
Warwick Castle

Sunday 19 Feb
Windermere in the Lake District

Saturday 25 Feb
Jorvik Viking Festival in York

Saturday 4 March
Blackpool

Saturday 4 to Sunday 5 March
OVERNIGHT TRIP
Edinburgh (with guided tours of city)

International Society

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959

Open: Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm

www.internationalsociety.org.uk



Tabley House

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Tabley House,

Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0HB 01565 750151

email inquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk

www.tableyhouse.co.uk

Contact Theatre

Wed 8 Feb – Sat 11 Feb

Eat Theatre present

The Shout 7.30 pm £8/£4

The Shout tells the dark and erotically-charged tale of a married couple, John and Susannah, whose lives are interrupted by the arrival of a stranger.

Tue 14 Feb

Inky Fingers present

Cabbages 7.30 pm £10/£6

An Inky Fingers debut at Contact, Cabbages is a psychological black comedy about love, librarians, and Lithium – read on! Cabbages deals with free will, authority, and caravanning magazines. With slices of hilarity and wit, Cabbages takes you to a moving conclusion.

Fri 24 Feb

Contact presents

POP and Art United Double Bill 7.00 pm £4/£2

Arts United is a performance derived from a week-long workshop with participants who are refugees and asylum seekers. This newly-devised piece of theatre is based on their experiences.

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 email bulletin which includes a link to this page. To publicise seminars please submit details to uninews@manchester.ac.uk as before.

Healthcare research centre celebrates ten years of shaping treatment of patients

The National Primary Care Research and Development Centre (NPCRDC), under the guidance of Director Professor Martin Roland, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2005. UniLife examines how the Centre, which is highly influential in Government circles, has developed over the last decade.



Professor Martin Roland is director of NPCRDC and Professor of General Practice

Tucked away on the fifth and sixth floor of the Williamson Building, opposite the Manchester Museum and next to the now demolished Maths Tower, sits the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre (NPCRDC). The Centre, which also has a research team based at the University of York, is part of the Division of Primary Care in the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences. It is, however, very different from most academic centres.

Established in 1995 by the Department of Health as a multi-disciplinary independent academic body, the Centre aims to deliver high-quality, policy relevant research to inform the development of primary health care, communicate research findings to promote the development of evidence-based primary health care, and develop research capacity in primary care through the provision of support, training and staff development. It receives around £2 million annually from the Government to support this work.

Since its inception, the Centre has gone from strength-to-strength, securing a five-star rating in the last national Research Assessment Exercise and seeing its core Government funding secured until 2009.

The Centre is unique in having its own Communications Unit. This produces research reports, briefing papers and handbooks specifically written for NHS managers and policy makers. Growth in Centre publications has increased from 14,372 in 1998/99 to 56,320 in 2004/05 in response to demand. This forms an important part of the Centre's work in promoting evidence-based health care. The Centre also works to disseminate its research through the media, from broadsheets such as the Guardian, to weekly trade press such as Pulse and the Health Service Journal, in addition to ensuring its work is published in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals such as the BMJ and Lancet.

The Centre has recently published two articles in the BMJ and disseminated its own "Spotlight Paper" on Care Outside Hospitals which are highly relevant to

proposed reforms in primary healthcare provision. These argued that the Government should keep NHS general practice, which is seen by overseas commentators as the jewel in the crown of the British healthcare system.

Professor Bonnie Sibbald, Deputy Director of NPCRDC, says: "There is good evidence to show that general practice plays a key part in making the NHS one of the most cost-effective healthcare systems in the world. The focus of future reforms should be on eliminating some of the barriers that currently prevent general practice from doing even more to respond to patient health needs."

Professor Roland says NPCRDC has also developed other important aspects. "Because there was tremendous pressure on us to deliver results from projects in our early years, we didn't invest much energy into training," he says. "But we changed that in 1999, and our large number of PhD

students now make a real contribution to a thriving research environment. We also gain greatly from overseas contacts. We have undertaken collaborative research and published jointly with centres in many parts of the world. We also frequently welcome overseas visitors to the Centre, either on sabbatical or on a study tour."

This outward-looking approach has seen visitors come to the centre from as far afield as the US, Australia, Israel and the Middle East and Europe and Scandinavia. This in turn has led to the development of many joint projects such as the European Practice Assessment (EPA) with eight other European partners. The EPA is a set of indicators that measure such things as whether a general practice has a decent appointment system. This is a hugely important piece of work as it has the potential to set a benchmark for all European GPs to the benefit of millions across the entire continent.



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Delta Travel, University Precinct, Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9RN
tel 0161 274 3060; fax 0161 274 3555; email btsales@deltatravel.co.uk

GiftShop @Manchester

The official online store for university-branded clothing, and a wide range of gifts

www.manchester.ac.uk/giftshop



Glance 'black' at Coupland Street

Many people would agree that one of the most contentious issues in the University is not academic standards, student representation or workload management, but car parking. In fact, the only referendum ever held in the University 30 years ago was to decide whether a multi-storey car park should be built next to the Business School; at the time there was an emphatic 'no' vote, but now of course the spaces are eagerly awaited.

This picture of Coupland Street, taken in the days when multi-storey car parks were not even in the vocabulary, shows remarkably orderly parking by today's standards - even in the absence of marked spaces. But it is also clear that cars were already beginning to take their toll on the flagged pavements.

The blackened state of the buildings is also striking, particularly the old Medical School at the front right. By comparison, the Coupland Street of today is more like a tree-lined boulevard, presenting an attractive vista to the new Museum entrance and the graceful archway to Oxford Road.

Given the delays many of us now experience getting out of the car parks at the end of the day though, perhaps we should thank our lucky stars that today it's a bit easier to distinguish one car from another! Although even back then, buyers could choose any colour as we all know - as long as it was black.



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