

UniLife

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New £25m biotech facility launched



Features



News

£10m energy research centre for Manchester

page 5



Research

Piecing together a medieval jigsaw

page 8

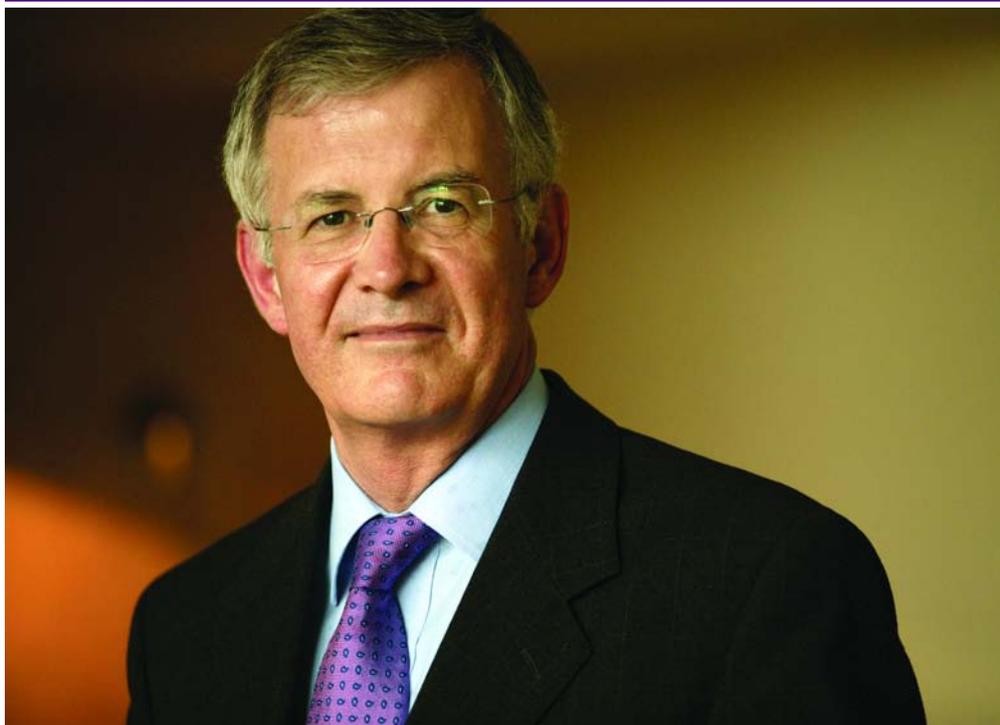


Feature

Distinguished Achievement Awards

page 12

Letter from the President



The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008 continues to excite widespread debate. The debate is now not so much about whether the peer-based RAE process should be replaced by metrics-based indices of research performance, but how soon this should happen. The politics behind the debate reflect a mixture of concerns about the high cost of the RAE (in time as well as money) and a feeling in Treasury that Britain's outstanding fundamental research capability is not being translated as effectively as it might into innovation and wealth creation.

I am sceptical about this commonly-adduced allegation that UK universities are good at fundamental research but poor when it comes to transferring knowledge and technology or participating in innovation. Improvement is always possible. But in Manchester alone, the spectacular recent successes of spin-off companies such as Renovo, NeuTec Pharma, Transitive, and many others, raise questions about the validity of the criticism. University research rightly concerns itself mainly with the fundamental end of the R & D spectrum – not least because it is committed to the education and training of new generations of researchers – but it is also increasingly engaged in innovation and economic development.

As for “metrics”, let us see what they are before we begin to celebrate the heralded demise of the RAE. Metrics are much more open to manipulation than peer review is.

Yet RAE 2008 will, like all previous RAEs, itself be manipulated to suit the political and reputational interests of particular institutions or groups of institutions. Discussions are well under way about the formulae that should be used to derive the next set of RAE “league tables”. Much of this discussion seems to be focused on the moderation of data on research inputs and/or outcomes in ways that eliminate size of institution as a factor in determining research strength. Calculating the proportion of units of assessment that are 5* or perhaps 5 and 5* (to use the 2001 taxonomy) is one

way of doing this; another is to calculate the proportion of staff returned in 5 and/or 5* units of assessment; and yet another is to calculate research income per member of academic staff, using a selected “basket” of funding sources and agreed staff cohorts. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of these indices, except that they are not measures of the quality of institutional research.

Manchester will never be a small, boutique research university, but it is likely within the next decade to be undertaking more world class research than any other university in the UK, and it is already a research powerhouse in genuinely international terms. It follows that we are not particularly interested in manipulating enumerators and denominators to produce subsidiary rankings. It is interesting to know who is and who isn't punching above their weight, but in the end it is weight of punch that counts!

The League Tables to which we will give priority will therefore be those reflecting the quality and scale of our research output. We are interested in indices that measure what really counts for the UK – our overall contribution to national research output. For those indices will also measure the emergence of Manchester over time as one of the foremost universities in the world in terms of knowledge creation, research training and demonstrable contribution to wealth creation through innovation, translational research and knowledge transfer.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

Contents

- 3 News
- 6 Research
- 11 Teaching and Learning
- 12 Distinguished Achievement Awards
- 14 Reaching Out
- 16 What's On
- 18 Property Management Awards
- 20 Looking Back

Front Cover:

Lord Sainsbury and President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert at the Core Technology Facility launch.

New £25m biotech facility to tackle modern diseases

A new £25 million facility that will be a 'hothouse' for new treatments for diseases such as HIV and cancer has been launched at The University of Manchester.

The state-of-the-art Core Technology Facility (CTF) laboratories are already looking at ways to grow replacement tissue, such as veins and arteries, and even whole organs that could one day be transplanted into patients suffering from conditions such as heart disease and diabetes.

The CTF will provide specialist accommodation for biotech companies as well as academic staff from the University's Faculties of Life Sciences and Medical and Human Sciences.

The facility will encourage commercial exploitation of these University research activities by providing integrated space in which young businesses can work alongside University research groups. The CTF is being launched by The University of Manchester Incubator Company Limited (UMIC), which manages a portfolio of business incubators on behalf of the University.

Science and Innovation Minister Lord Sainsbury officially opened the new development during a

special ceremony on Friday, June 16, at the CTF on Grafton Street, Manchester.

The CTF will be home to the North West Embryonic Stem Cell Centre, which will produce human embryonic stem cells to treat a wide range of diseases and for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

The development has been funded by The University of Manchester, the North West Development Agency (NWDA) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

UMIC's General Manager Martino Picardo said: "The design of the building encourages collaboration between research groups, whilst a strong internal communication system ensures that researchers identify opportunities for joint initiatives with commercial colleagues. We believe that the Core Technology Facility will be able to bridge the gap between medical research and biotech business."

Linda Magee, NWDA Biotechnology Sector Director and Head of Bionow, said: "The Core Technology Facility provides a compelling location for biotechnology-based businesses and will be a major source of wealth and job creation over the coming years. Situated at the heart of the University of Manchester campus, this state-of-the-art facility will encourage closer collaboration between industry and academia, helping to speed up the transfer of scientific discoveries into world-class commercial products."

UMIC manages a portfolio of business incubators on behalf of The University of Manchester and works in conjunction with relevant organisations, both within and external to the University and particularly closely with its sister company, The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Limited (UMIP), the University's IP commercialisation company.



The state-of-the-art Core Technology Facility



Professor Sir Martin Harris, President Professor Alan Gilbert, Lord Sainsbury, UMIC General Manager Martino Picardo

In brief

Outstanding SI Leader Award

At the International Conference for Supplemental Instruction (SI) held in Sweden in May Kwan 'Ping' Liem, a final-year student in the School of Chemistry was awarded the 'Outstanding SI Leader Award' by University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC).

Ping says, 'I believe the word 'service' is important. We [the leaders] provide this service not for personal gain, but because we believe in passing on our experiences, to give our time to make someone else's life that little bit easier.'

Ping's outstanding contributions to PASS were acknowledged at the recent 'Student as Partners' Presentation Evening by Professor Bob Munn, who highlighted that the award was exceptional not only because it demonstrated the high dedication of students engaged but because it is the first time the honour has been awarded to a student outside the United States.

Diabetes Local Research Network win



The North West has won £1.1 m Department of Health funding to set up a Local Research Network, to support trials of new medicines and treatments for diabetes.

Supported by the Institute for Health Sciences, the Network will be a partnership between the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, the University of Liverpool and local NHS trusts - including Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust which will host its administrative base.

Clinical Lead Dr Martin Gibson said: "Our region already has a long record of excellence in diabetes research, and this extra resource means that local people will now get better access to the very latest ideas and medicines for diabetes."

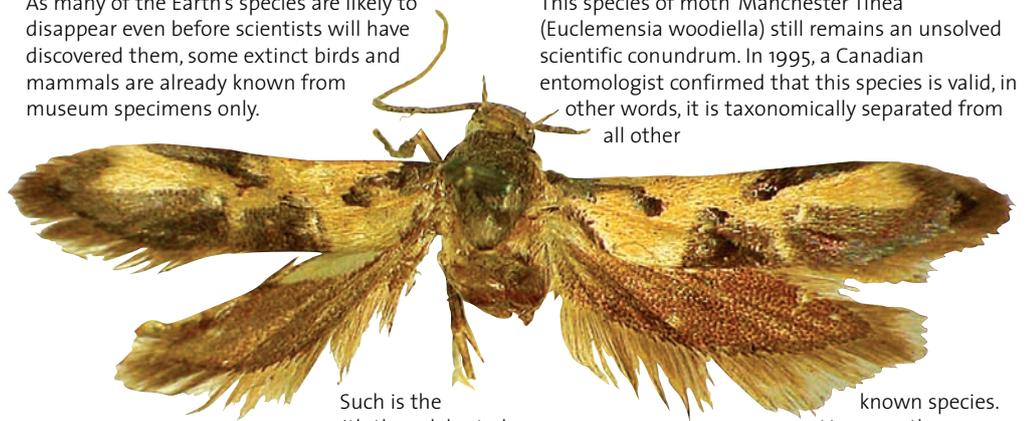
www.ukcrn.org.uk

www.ih.s.man.ac.uk

Museum home to 'Manchester Moth'

As many of the Earth's species are likely to disappear even before scientists will have discovered them, some extinct birds and mammals are already known from museum specimens only.

This species of moth 'Manchester Tinea' (Euclimensia woodiella) still remains an unsolved scientific conundrum. In 1995, a Canadian entomologist confirmed that this species is valid, in other words, it is taxonomically separated from all other



Such is the case with the celebrated 'Manchester Moth.' Only three specimens of the moth exist today and one is kept in the Manchester Museum's Entomology collection.

known species. However, the question of where does it live or come from remains completely unanswered. It is believed that the species does not occur outside Britain and is now most likely extinct.

A series of this species (50 to 60 specimens) was collected on Kearsall Moor (Salford, Manchester) in June 1829 by someone called Robert Cribb. Unfortunately, the store-box containing the specimens was destroyed by Cribb's landlady in revenge for rent arrears. Since then, nobody else has been able to find any further specimens.

Originally, the Museum owned two specimens of the 'Manchester Moth', but in 1927 one of them was exchanged with the British Museum of Natural History for Lord Walsingham's collection of the British micro-Lepidoptera (a 40-drawer cabinet of many thousands of specimens!).

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Network event

Two Presidents from the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) took the opportunity to visit the University at the end of May as part of a tour of UK universities within WUN.



From left: President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert, Chancellor John Wiley (University of Wisconsin - Madison), Professor Gilles Bousquet (University of Wisconsin - Madison), Mrs Ingrid Gilbert, Professor Michael Hinden (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

WUN is an international alliance of 16 research-led higher-education institutions of high standing who have created a worldwide research and education partnership to generate significant advances in knowledge and understanding.

During his visit, Chancellor Wiley from Wisconsin-Madison praised the achievements of WUN and said that in five years it had produced more significant collaborative activity than some networks had in 50 years.

During the following day he met with academics currently working with Madison.

Chancellor Wiley (who will be Chair of WUN next year) expressed particular interest in encouraging collaboration in areas of energy and world poverty and health. He saw WUN as an ideal platform for this.

President Pan Yunhe and Professor Ding Jianmin from Zhejiang, a leading Chinese University, also visited Manchester. During their visit they spoke with Professor Rothwell and President Alan Gilbert and identified several areas of mutual excellence for further collaboration in neuroscience, nanotechnology, energy and environment. Professor Pan was especially enthusiastic about the potential within the access grid to ease future collaboration.

www.wun.ac.uk

£10m energy centre sustains region's research

A new £10m centre for energy research has been launched in Manchester.

The Joule Centre for Energy Research was officially launched at Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry marking the creation of the North West's first centre for the development of sustainable energy technologies.

The Centre, funded by the North West Development Agency (NWDA), will pioneer low-carbon technologies, including new wave, tidal and micro-hydro technologies. Its research will also focus on developing a host of new 'smart' technologies aimed at improving energy efficiency in the home and for industry.

The Centre is a partnership between universities in the North West, regional industry, commerce and energy users.

Professor Nick Jenkins, Director of the Centre, said: "Our aim is to create an internationally-leading

energy research centre in England's North West which will significantly increase the region's research capacity and activity in the areas of new sustainable energy technologies, supporting science and technology, energy efficiency, demand-side management and integrated assessment of the energy system."

The Centre, which will be hosted by The University of Manchester, will provide a focal point for energy research in the North West and will support the work of the North West Energy Council.

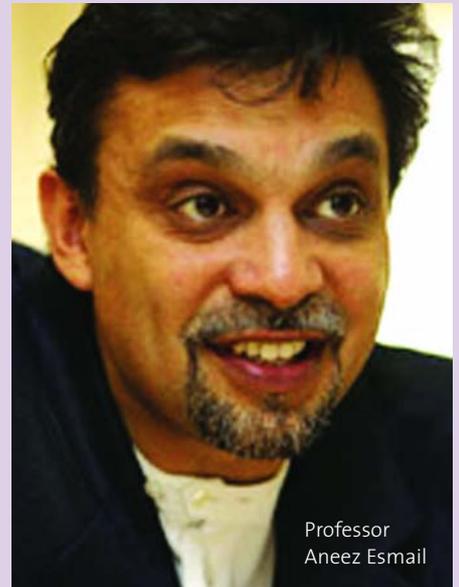
Bryan Gray, Chairman of the NWDA, said: "This new centre will play a leading role in the development of new technologies to help respond to climate change issues, as well as helping to significantly boost the region's energy sector. The NWDA is determined to ensure that the North West becomes a champion for tackling climate change, and the Joule Centre is another example of the North West leading the way for the rest of the UK."



Professor Nick Jenkins at the launch

in brief

New Associate Vice-President for Equality and Diversity



Professor
Aneez Esmail

The University has appointed Professor Aneez Esmail as Associate Vice-President for Equality and Diversity.

His appointment is seen as a major step towards recruiting more black and minority ethnic (BME) staff at senior level in a bid to bring about real change at the top.

As part of this strategy, Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor, has already implemented a 'Race in Leadership' programme to develop and implement policies which will tackle the under-representation of BME staff in management and leadership roles.

UK heart disease prevention threshold "cheapest but least effective"

Professor Paul Durrington of the School of Medicine has led a comparative study of recommendations on the use of cholesterol-lowering statins, to prevent cardiovascular disease.

The research compared UK, European, and US recommendations, and found the UK's National Health Service Framework to be both the cheapest and least effective. By targeting just those at highest risk of heart attack or stroke it is only reducing the rate of 'first disease episodes' in the overall population by 9% - the lowest preventive impact of all recommendations worldwide.

To cut the rate by 30%, the team found that almost the entire UK population would have to be given statins in middle-age. Professor Durrington said: "Whether cholesterol-lowering on such a scale should be attempted with drugs raises philosophical, psychological, and economic considerations, and more effective policies on nutrition should also be considered."

Grants and contracts

ESRC Grant Success

Researchers at The University of Manchester have been awarded three grants from the second phase of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Public Services Programme.

One successful application was from Professor Kieran Walshe from Manchester Business School for a study entitled 'Public Services: Responding to Evidence of Poor Performance: Explain Public Organisations' Capacity to Deal with Failure.'

Another was from Professor Stephen Harrison, from the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre for Performance Indicators in Health Care: A Comparative Anglo-Dutch Study.

The third went to Professor David Challis from the Personal Social Services Research Unit as reported in the June issue of Unilife.

The ESRC Public Services Programme is designed to examine long-standing problems of public service provision. It seeks to provide good social science analytical studies that demonstrate the counterintuitive properties of complex systems, the unintended effects of policy designs, and the relationship between beliefs and perceptions about common measures or practices.

Arts, Histories and Cultures

The School of Arts, Histories and Cultures was awarded in excess of £1m in the recent grant competition by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Professor Gail Owen-Crocker received £702,000 for a project on 'The lexis of clothing in Britain c700-1450: origins, identification, contexts and change' and Professor Philip Alexander received £343,000 to work on the Cairo Genizah manuscript fragments housed in the John Rylands University Library.



Dr Gordon Lithgow

Scientists have discovered that a naturally produced protein that helps protect us from cancer may also determine how long we live.

The findings - published in the highly respected journal *Science* - open up a new avenue of inquiry into ageing as a risk factor for cancer.

"We have discovered that proteins that prevent cancer in humans by ensuring that cells don't divide if they are damaged also determine lifespan in the nematode worm," explained Dr Gordon Lithgow, who carried out the work at The University of Manchester.

"Our research has shown that these 'checkpoint proteins' - thought only to operate in cells that divide - function in cells that no longer divide as well. The fact that they appear to have dual functions opens a new way to study the connection between ageing and cancer."

Scientists have long known that, statistically, ageing is a huge factor for cancer but have so far struggled to understand why that is.

Dr Lithgow said: "If we look at checkpoint proteins as a gear, we have known for a long time that they drive the cancer engine; now we know that they also drive the longevity engine. This discovery has exciting potential as an area of inquiry into potential cellular links between ageing and cancer."

The research, which was completed at the Buck Institute in California where Dr Lithgow now works, involved genetically removing checkpoint proteins in the microscopic worm *C. elegans*. By doing so, the researchers caused a 15-30% increase in the worm's lifespan.

"Given the role that checkpoint proteins play in the development of cancer - or in causing tumours when the proteins are defective - the findings raise the question of whether genetic variations in these proteins in humans places some individuals at risk of cancer.

"Conversely, the checkpoint proteins may set a genetic course for a shorter life but one that is free from cancer."

Rare disease database breaks down research barriers

The University is hosting the UK arm of a database to improve the diagnosis, care and treatment of people suffering rare diseases across Europe. A new element of this is the directory of research projects for rare diseases.

The Orphanet website - <http://www.orpha.net> - gives researchers, health professionals and patients free access and exchange of information on 3,600 genetic, auto-immune or infectious rare diseases, rare cancers, or not yet classified rare diseases. It also holds information on 'orphan

drugs' - drugs which are intended to treat diseases so rare that sponsors are reluctant to develop them under usual marketing conditions.

Orphanet, founded in France in 1997 and now run by a consortium of international partners, includes a rare diseases encyclopaedia, which is expert-authored and peer-reviewed, and a directory of services.

Professor Dian Donnai CBE, Orphanet UK's project leader, said: "This website is an amazing tool for clinicians, patients and researchers alike. It could

lead to collaborations across borders and disciplines, taking research in new directions.

Emma Gillaspay, who runs the UK branch of Orphanet in the European Project Office at the University's North West Genetics Knowledge Park (Nowgen), agreed: "In France, most people starting a research project contact Orphanet to register their activities - we want to see the same situation here."

Stopping the spread of cancer

Scientists at The University of Manchester have moved a step closer to understanding how breast cancer spreads to other parts of the body.



Professor Andrew Sharrocks

The University of Manchester team has discovered a protein potentially involved in the spread or 'metastatic progression' of tumours.

The researchers believe their findings could lead to new approaches to treating breast cancer as blocking the protein's actions has the potential to stop cancerous cells migrating.

"What we have identified is a new role for a protein called LPP," explained Professor Andrew Sharrocks, who headed

the research team in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"Until now, this protein was only thought to function at the cell periphery but we have shown that it works in conjunction with another protein – PEA3 – in the cell nucleus.

"PEA3 has already been implicated in the spread of breast cancer but we have found that the LPP molecule is essential for the correct function of PEA3."

"If we can target the LPP protein and stop it from working in cancerous cells, we have a possible new route to therapy."

The research, published in the scientific journal *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, may have implications for other cancer systems.

"Our research is potentially fundamental to all types of cancers and has the potential to offer alternative therapies to stop cancers spreading to other organs in the body."

Research in the news

'Greater use of cholesterol drug urged to fight heart disease' - virtually all middle-aged men and older women should be taking statins, the cholesterol-lowering drugs, if Britain is to have any real success in preventing heart attacks and strokes, according to Professor Paul Durrington from the School of Medicine. The research, published in the journal 'Heart', suggests government guidelines for treatment are still too restrictive. This story was reported in *The Guardian*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express*, *Daily Telegraph* and *BBC News Online*

'Attack short-sighted, says alternative therapy expert' - some of Britain's leading doctors have urged NHS trusts to stop using complementary therapies and to pay only for medicine 'based on solid evidence'. Peter Mackereth, who works at the Christie Hospital and last year won the Guardian Public Servant of the Year award, says the scientists are 'short-sighted'. 'There is a huge amount of research work going on to provide evidence about the benefits of complementary therapy, we work with Manchester and Salford universities but there is very little funding for it,' he said. Reported in *Manchester Evening News*.

'Green house experiment' – an 'eco-village' of seven family homes fitted with combinations of wind, solar and geothermal power has been built in Chorley, Lancashire by Barratt, Britain's second largest volume builder. Over the next 18 months, a team led by Dr Tony Sung from the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering will be evaluating the merits and drawbacks of the various technologies used. This story was reported in the *Manchester Evening News* and *The Times*.

£25m for language centres – The University is a partner in three of five centres launched this week to boost the numbers of researchers in languages and area studies. Steve Parker, Head of the School of Languages, linguistics and cultures commented that these centres signal a significant shift of resources to the north of England and Scotland.

www.manchester.ac.uk/lifesciences

Why we could all do with a siesta

The Spaniards may have been right all along - a siesta after a hearty lunch is natural, new research suggests.

Scientists at the University have for the first time uncovered how brain cells or 'neurons' that keep us alert become turned off after we eat.

The findings - published in the scientific journal *Neuron* - have implications for treating obesity and eating disorders as well as understanding levels of consciousness.

"It has been known for a while that people and animals can become sleepy and less active after a meal, but brain signals responsible for this were poorly understood," said Dr Denis Burdakov, the lead researcher based in the University's Faculty of Life Sciences.

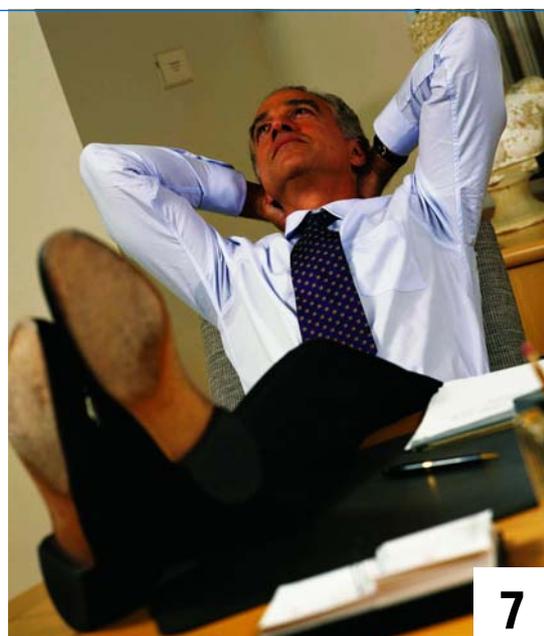
"We have pinpointed how glucose - the sugar in food - can stop brain cells from producing signals that keep us awake.

Dr Burdakov's research has shown exactly how glucose blocks or 'inhibits' neurons that make orexins - tiny proteins that are vital for normal regulation of our state of consciousness.

"These cells are critical for responding to the ever-changing body-energy state with finely orchestrated changes in arousal, food seeking, hormone release and metabolic rate to ensure that the brain always has adequate glucose."

"Now we know how glucose stops orexin neurons 'firing', we have a better understanding of what may occur in disorders of sleep and body weight.

"This research perhaps sheds light on why our European friends are so fond of their siestas."





External research grants provide most of the funds for our research. It is essential to pay research staff, purchase research tools and, in some cases, to "buy academic staff time".

The recent HESA data on research income for Universities (excluding the HEFCE formula allocation) indicates that Manchester is doing well. We are in fifth position, and closing on those above us (see *Times Higher Educational Supplement* 01/06/06). This remarkable achievement has occurred in spite of many difficulties due to the merger and other factors. Two areas where we must maximise our success are the proportion of external grants funded, and attracting and retaining the very best research staff.

Preparing research grants and contracts is time-consuming, and funding rates for some awarding bodies are quite low. We must ensure that every proposal for external funds is presented (and costed) in the best possible way. This is most easily achieved by seeking advice from senior colleagues. Most are only too willing to provide help and support. Schools hold the names of staff who do, or have in the past, served on funding committees - their advice is particularly valuable. In many cases a great idea for a proposal fails simply because the proposal lacks clarity and impact.

If the great efforts pay off and funding is awarded, it is likely to support research staff (normally post-docs). They conduct much of the research in the University. High standards of recruitment, induction, training and career advice will benefit our research, as well as the important staff who conduct it.

**Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell,
Vice-President for Research**

Piecing together a medieval jigsaw

Digital technology is to help piece together fragments of a manuscript written by the world's most influential Jewish scholar more than 800 years ago.

An Arts and Humanities Research Council grant of £361,000 will help the Centre for Jewish Studies at the University to reconstruct the writings of Moses Maimonides' who was famed for his learning in philosophy, law and science. He also somehow found the time to be a royal doctor and family man.

The project is part of an international effort to use cyberspace to link up 300,000 fragments from hundreds of documents recovered from a medieval storeroom or 'Genizah' in Cairo. Many were written in Maimonides' handwriting which - like the doctors of today - is barely legible.

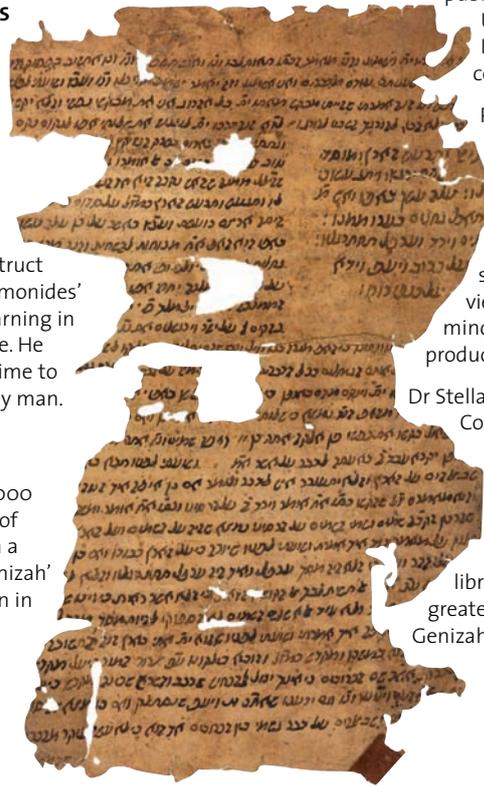
Part of the grant will pay for a specialised digital

camera which will provide a digital record of the fragments so they can be catalogued and published on the John Rylands University Library website. It will take three years to complete.

Professor Philip Alexander, who is in charge of the project said:

"Maimonides was a true polymath: a great philosopher, lawyer and scientist. He was in my view one of the greatest minds that Judaism has ever produced."

Dr Stella Butler, Head of Special Collections from the John Rylands University Library said: "We hope to link together fragments from our collections with those held in other libraries and so achieve greater understanding of the Genizah as a whole".



Codeine may be no cure for cough

Scientists at the University's North West Lung Centre have found that codeine - a standard ingredient in cough remedies – could be no more effective than an inactive placebo compound at treating cough.

Researchers at the Centre, which is based at Wythenshawe Hospital, studied a sample of patients with chronic lung disease. After coughing was induced with citric acid they were given either codeine or a placebo, and sent home wearing a lapel microphone to record their coughing during the day and night.

Lead researcher Dr. Jacyn Smith said: "Codeine has long been

considered the standard anti-cough agent against which others are measured, but until now little has been known about its impact in patients with chronic lung diseases.

"After the placebo treatment the patients' coughing fell from an average of 8.27 seconds per hour to 7.22 seconds, and after codeine to 6.41 seconds.

"Although there was a significant reduction after codeine, from a statistical standpoint there was really no difference between codeine and placebo - despite the fact that the dose of codeine used far exceeds that in over-the-counter cough remedies."

The findings were reported in *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, and seem to confirm some medics' view that reductions in coughing after codeine are attributable to a placebo effect.

Dr Smith concluded: "The effective treatment of chronic dry cough is an important unmet need in patients with chronic respiratory diseases, post-viral coughing and persistent coughing of unknown cause. Studies of cough in other clinical situations are urgently needed if codeine is to be continued to be used as a remedy."

Search is on for eye disease cure

An eye disease that can lead to partial and even total blindness is to be investigated by a team of scientists thanks to funding worth £254,000 announced last month.

Retinoschisis – a genetic disorder that affects up to one in 5,000 individuals, primarily young men – is characterised by the abnormal splitting of the retina’s sensory layers.

The condition, linked to a defective gene on the X-chromosome which can be passed on to males by their unaffected mothers, has no cure and treatment is limited to restricting further splitting of the layers to preserve some eye function.

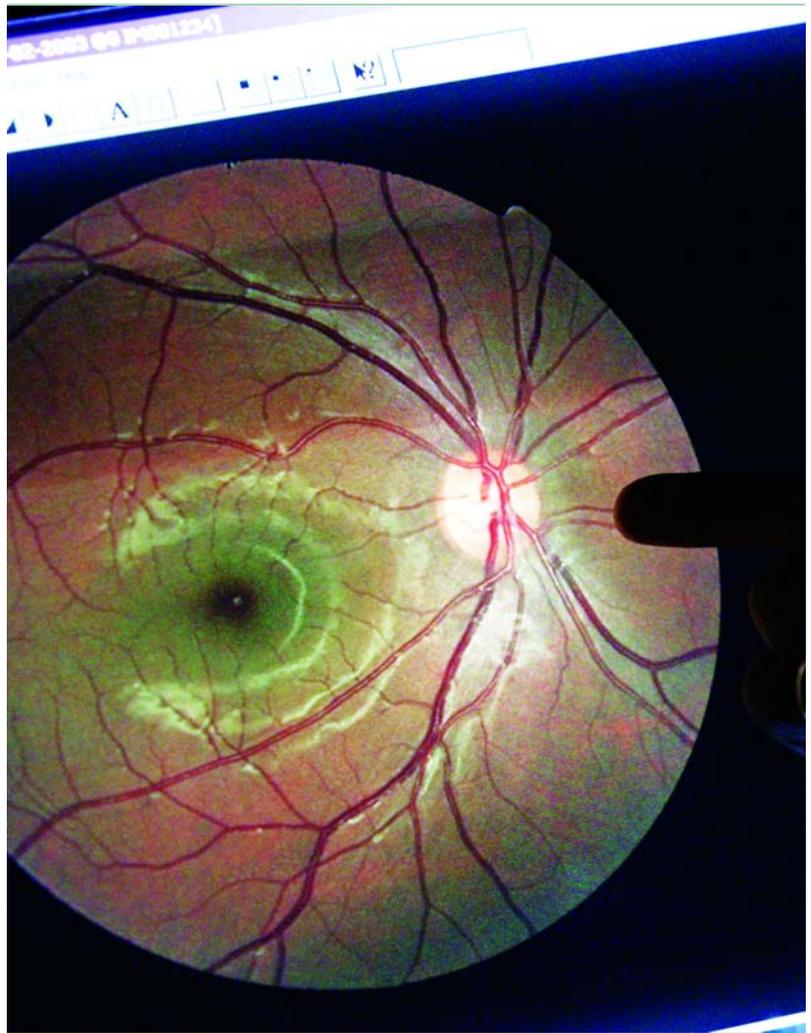
But a cross-disciplinary team of researchers at The University of

Manchester now plans to investigate the molecular mechanisms behind the disease in the hope of finding a cure.

“At present there is no cure for the condition but if we can understand the molecular basis of the disease then we can look at the potential of new treatments.” said Professor Neil Bulleid, who is based in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

The three-year study will build on research by Professor Bulleid’s collaborator in the project, Professor Dorothy Trump, in the University’s School of Medicine.

Professor Bulleid added: “By the end of our research we hope to have a good idea of exactly what causes retinoschisis and have a better understanding of how to treat it.”



Hope for diabetics

A potentially ground-breaking treatment for nerve damage caused by diabetes has shown promising results in preclinical and early patient trials.

The team at Manchester has discovered a way of stimulating a person’s genes to prevent nerve damage - primarily to the hands and feet - caused by the disease.

The positive preclinical results - reported in the journal *Diabetes* - are further evidence that the research could lead to a new treatment for diabetic nerve damage or ‘neuropathy’; initial-stage clinical trials on patients in the United States have also been encouraging.

Lead researcher Professor David Tomlinson says the study has massive potential for managing the condition and preventing thousands of foot amputations each year.

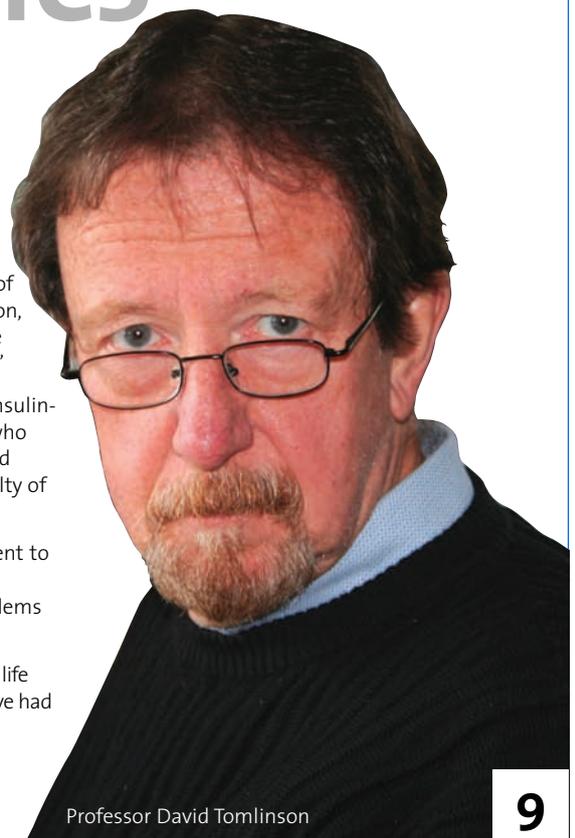
“The vast majority of non-traumatic hand and foot amputations carried out in UK hospitals are caused by diabetes and there are currently no treatments available to prevent or slow the progress of nerve disease in diabetic patients,” he said.

“Our tests have shown that a single injection of a DNA-binding protein protected nerve function, stimulated nerve growth and prevented tissue damage that in humans can lead to limb loss.”

“Diabetic neuropathy is a major problem in insulin-dependent diabetes, particularly in patients who have had the disease for a period of time,” said Professor Tomlinson, who is based in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

“Our approach to gene therapy is quite different to previous attempts at treatment as we are not injecting DNA which can cause immune problems in patients.

“Instead, we use a patient’s own protein to poke life into the genes that are already there and we have had some striking success.”



Professor David Tomlinson

Scientist flags up pollution warning for World Cup fans



Flying the England flag during the World Cup could impact on the environment, according to experts at the University.

Dr Antonio Filippone, an expert in aerodynamics, has found that attaching flags to the windows of cars generates extra drag and burns extra fuel.

An estimated 500,000 England fans have decorated their vehicles with flags which attach to car windows during the World Cup.

Dr Filippone calculates that a car flying two flags will burn up to one litre extra of fuel per hour when travelling at an average of 70mph. Based on half a million cars flying two flags, he calculates that up to 2.8m kg of additional Co2 emissions will be released into the atmosphere.

He said: "The extra drag generated by these can reduce a car's fuel economy by up to three per cent during a one-hour journey. This may not seem significant to the individual, but if half a million cars are flying these flags we could see up to 1.22m litres of extra fuel burnt during the World Cup."

Dr Filippone's findings are based on research into wind resistance and drag. In particular how to reduce the drag of banners attached to aircraft like those flown over major sporting events by helicopters and light aircraft.

His calculations are based on the drag caused by attaching flags to a mid-size car such as a Volkswagen Golf.

 www.manchester.ac.uk/mace

Abuse-schizophrenia link claim

University of Manchester researcher Paul Hammersley has shaken the psychiatry profession after telling two international conferences, in London and Madrid, that child abuse can cause schizophrenia.

The groundbreaking and highly contentious theory, co-presented by New Zealand clinical psychologist Dr John Read, has been described as "an earthquake" that will radically change the psychiatric profession.

Hammersley and Read proposed the motion 'Tears on my pillow, voices in my head: This house believes child abuse is a cause of schizophrenia' at a public debate at the Institute of Psychiatry in London in June. They also spoke at the 15th ISPS Symposium for the Psychotherapy of Schizophrenia and other Psychoses in Madrid on the same day.

Paul, Programme Director for the COPE (Collaboration of Psychosocial Education) Initiative at the School of Nursing



Midwifery and Social Work, said: "We are not returning to the 1960s and making the mistake of blaming families, but professionals have to realize that child abuse was a reality for large numbers of adult sufferers of psychosis."

Dr Read said: "I hope we soon see a more balanced and evidence-based approach to schizophrenia and people using mental health services being asked what has happened to them and being given help instead of stigmatizing labels and mood-altering drugs."

Hammersley and Read argued that two-thirds of people diagnosed as schizophrenic have suffered physical or sexual abuse and thus it is shown to be a major, if not the major, cause of the illness. With a proven connection between the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and schizophrenia, they say, many schizophrenic symptoms are actually caused by trauma.

Teaching Excellence Awards

The University has granted Teaching Excellence Awards to four members of staff: Dr Judith Aldridge (School of Law), Dr David Bamford (Manchester Business School), Dr Ioan Davies (School of Medicine) and Dr Daniel Langton (School of Arts, Histories and Cultures).

The awards involve a grant of £5,000 for recipients to further develop their teaching or their career.

Dr Aldridge was particularly commended for the interactions between her research on British drugs policy and her teaching.

Dr Bamford's range of innovations stood out, whether in programmes, case studies, simulations, role plays, video interview, blended learning, learning plans, peer assessment or elsewhere.

Dr Davies's work on behalf of the student body in the Medical School gained the attention of the awarding panel, with his work to ensure that students were appropriately supported as they engage in problem-based learning.

Dr Langton was commended for his excellent relationships with students and his integration of

teaching and research, as well as for his national work in teaching within Jewish studies.

Professor Bob Munn, Vice-President (Teaching and Learning), who chaired the award panel said, "I am particularly pleased that the staff who have won an award obviously enjoyed excellent rapport with students. That is key to enhancing learning, and to supporting our commitment to increasing student satisfaction."

The University hopes to make between three and five Teaching Excellence awards each year, with at least one for staff in a learning support role. For the 2007 awards, the provisional date for completed nominations is the 27 April 2007, with the invitation to nominate staff for the awards sent to Heads of School (and any relevant central offices) in January/February. Further information on the scheme is available at the website shown below.



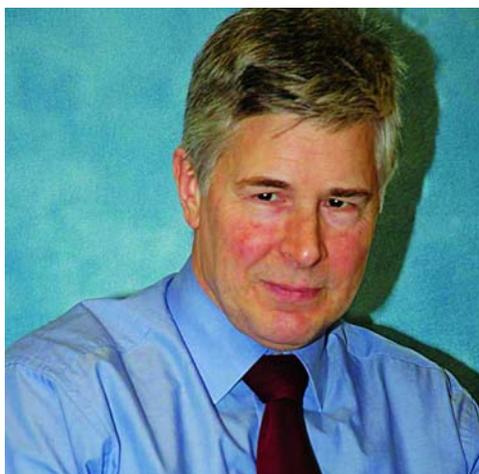
Dr David Bamford



Dr Daniel Langton

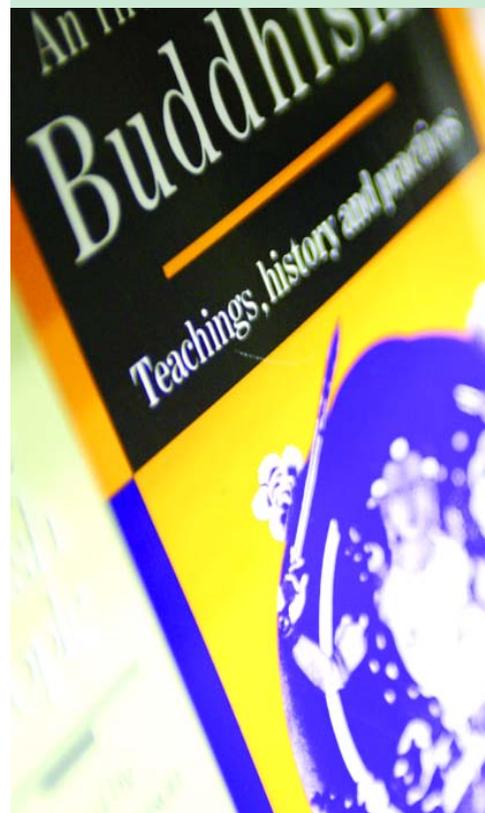


Dr Judith Aldridge



Dr Ioan Davies

Religions and Theology goes Online



The compulsory core course for undergraduates in Religions and Theology will be delivered online for the first time in September.

The course has been rebuilt as a combination of tutorial seminars and WebCT, the University's Virtual Learning Environment. Students will have access to everything they need in a paperless environment including syllabus materials, information about assignments, links to the library and other useful sites, discussion groups and supplementary materials similar to those normally delivered by lectures. A series of video interviews with lecturers in Religions & Theology is also available for students to watch, or to listen to the audio content as MP3 downloads. This new flexible learning environment will enable students to access material at a time to suit them, to fit in around other commitments they may have.

Timothy Stanley, who converted the course into WebCT for Religions and Theology said: "If this course is successful I believe it will create a real buzz about online learning in the Religions and Theology subject area. I hope that other subject areas will see what we have done and feel inspired to do the same."

High achievers

Representatives from across the University gathered together last month at a ceremony to present this year's Distinguished Achievement Awards.

Each Faculty had been asked to nominate the very best and brightest talent they have to be considered for an award in each of four different categories: Teacher of the Year; Researcher of the Year; Undergraduate Student of the Year and Postgraduate Student of the Year.

In presenting the awards, Professor Paul Layzell, Vice-President (University Development) said: "I am delighted to say that in many cases there were hard choices for Faculties to make and rigorous processes were gone through to reach the point whereby a single name could be put forward in each category. Thereafter, it was for the President and Vice-Chancellor, in conjunction with myself, to decide whether an award could be given. He and I have both been astounded by the quality of the achievements and by both the depth and breadth of activities in which our medallists are engaged."

The Researchers of the Year were:

Dr Simona Giordano, a Lecturer in Bioethics in the School of Law, who was recognised for her ground-breaking work on eating disorders;

Dr Rob Lucas, a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Life Sciences, whose nomination was based primarily on an outstanding paper which appeared in *Nature*;

Professor Mike Dixon, who is one of a handful of true world leaders in craniofacial anomalies and his research has crucially contributed to improving the quality of life of many individuals and their families whose lives are affected by difficulties in speech hearing and feeding, cognitive impairment and facial deformity;

Professor Andre Geim, Professor of Physics, who was nominated for his work in discovering graphene and other two-dimensional atomic crystals.

The Postgraduate students of the Year were:

Claudio Balocco, a PhD student in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, who was nominated for his exceptional contributions to three types of novel room temperature nano-devices;

Jane Chin Davidson, a PhD student working in the field of Art History who was described as a passionately dedicated scholar who is already a honed and skilled professional;

Lindsay Gleghorn, a PhD student in Life Sciences who was the unanimous choice for an award from her Faculty on the grounds of her incredible research quality. She was first author for a major research paper on the identification of the molecular basis of heritable forms of osteoarthritis and she is already winning prizes for her presentations;

Dr Helen Young, who is in the final stages of a PhD in Dermatology. She was nominated by





her Faculty for being able to combine and balance a successful clinical career with the pursuit of excellence in research.

The Teachers of the Year were:

Dr Ioan Davies, who was the clear choice of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, based on his commitment, work, leadership and innovation in medical education ;

Dr Andrew Gale, from the School of MACE who has pioneered a very successful MSc distance-learning programme on Project Management aimed at attracting industrial students;

Dr Darren Waldron, from the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures who was awarded the top grade on the teaching and learning programme for new academic staff. His innovative enquiry-based learning approach has been successful at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The three Undergraduate Students of the Year were all nominated for their excellent academic performance as well as for being great ambassadors for their Faculty and University. They were:

Willem Vlotman, from the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science is an outstanding student who recognises not only the importance of his commitment to his academic studies but also is dedicated to participating in and supporting wider activities.

Thomas Kelly, a second-year Medical student was nominated primarily for his outstanding dedication to Widening Participation activities.

Robert (Bob) Phillips, a fourth-year Town and Country Planning student was honoured for his additional activities within his School working as the undergraduate student representative on the Board mentoring first-year students and participating in recruitment activities.

The University Distinguished Achievement Medal was awarded to Eddie Welch from Electronic and Electrical Engineering, for his exemplary standard of conduct within his job but also for the great credit he has brought to the School and to the University from external bodies such as the IEE, BCS and industry. The award of the University Distinguished Achievement Medal is seen as fitting reward for the dedication and service that he has unstintingly given to the School and our undergraduates. Eddie will retire in September 2007.

The Distinguished Achievement Awards were created last year, when the new University was established, to reward and recognise the outstanding achievements of staff and students at the forefront of our thinking -whether for service to the University generally, for innovation, scholarship or world-class research.

Moving Home, Moving On



Pictured are Masters student Konstantia Koraka and Head of International and Alumni Careers, Amanda Wood.

This year's graduating international students had the opportunity to celebrate their past achievements and equip themselves for their future careers at a pioneering event organised by the Careers & Employability Division - "Farewell Manchester: Moving Home, Moving On".

Held at the Manchester Museum in June, the event provided international graduates with advice and information on careers and making the most of life after university. Opened by Professor Bob Munn, Vice-President of Teaching and Learning, the event included a panel session on 'Managing your future career', plus networking opportunities with

University student support staff, external organisations and potential employers.

Amanda Wood, Head of International and Alumni Careers at the Careers & Employability Division, said: "The University is keen to support its international students and their career development. Initiatives such as this event can provide the tailored support and guidance needed to give them a head start in their future careers, wherever they may be."

Konstantia Koraka, a Masters student from Greece said: "I found out about how to stay in contact with the University after my graduation, and it was a

good opportunity to speak to members of the panel about our future careers."

Dr Kit Tyabandha, a PhD student from Thailand, also commented: "The event helped me realise the importance of personal relationships and networks for international career development, and the work I now need to do to maximise my opportunities."

Find out more about support available to international students from the Careers & Employability Division at the website below.

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/international

Collection acquires a classic

The Manchester Museum has recently acquired a small bronze figurine of the Greek god Hermes, the ancient messenger-god. The figurine comes from the collection built up in Lausanne by the late Nicholas Embiricos, a wealthy Greek shipowner, and his father from the 1920s to the 1960s.

The Classical Collections of The Manchester Museum are of national, even international significance. The Embiricos Hermes is a particularly nice example of a provincial Greek bronze which augments and complements the existing holdings well, especially at a time when the use of the Manchester collections for teaching in Classics, Ancient History and related disciplines is being greatly expanded in the newly-enlarged University as well as in sessions with schools and with members of the public. It is hoped that the figure will be on display in the Museum's Mediterranean Archaeology Gallery.

The little statuette is only 9.5 cm tall. and was acquired with a bequest from the late Professor Robert Cook who taught at University between 1934 and 1945. Further funds came from the Delta Travel Fund, the museum's own Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society Fund, and from the Purchase Grant Fund of the Museums, Libraries

and Archives Council (MLA) and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Negotiating a purchase like this can take time: officially Professor John Prag retired last September from the post of Keeper of Archaeology at the Museum, but he was first shown the statue more than 18 months earlier.



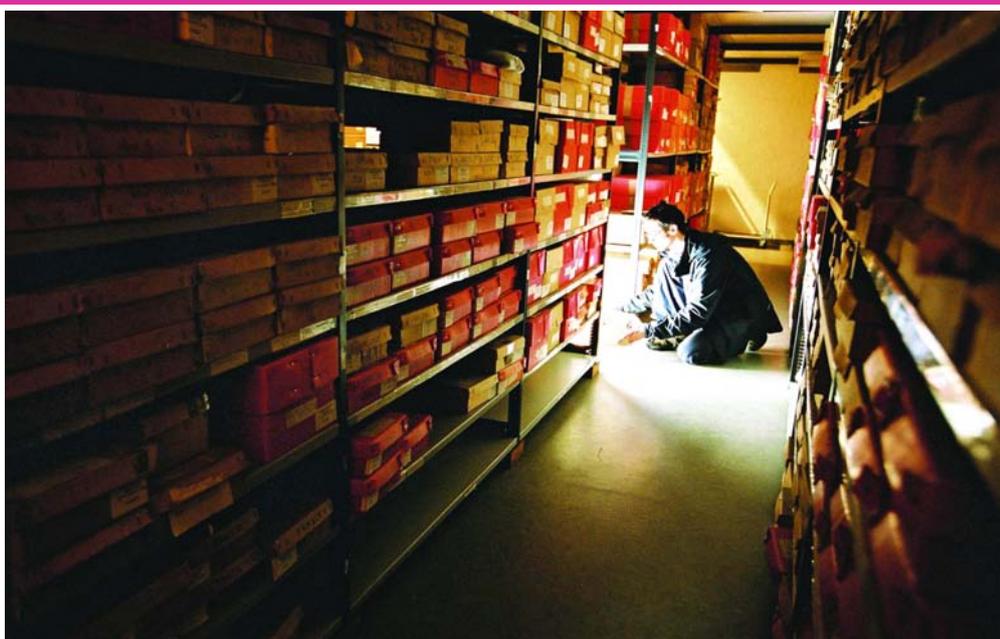
ALCHEMY strikes gold

Manchester Museum has received a second grant from the Arts Council of £100,000 to take its ALCHEMY project forward for another two years.

This remarkable project, the first sustained artist research program here, is now seeking expressions of interest from UK-based artists to work with the Manchester Museum's collections, staff and the multiple disciplines it supports, to develop avenues of research and to create new work.

The facilities, researchers, scientists and collections of the University and the Museum will be opened up for artists to access physically and intellectually, providing the opportunity to work with researchers at the cutting edge of their field and to cross-fertilise ideas and research.

Alchemy 2003 to 2005 saw six artists (four Manchester based and two from North America) engaging with the Museum's collections, people and spaces, resulting in four pieces of work and two major installations, Mark Dion's 'Bureau of the Centre for the Study of Surrealism and its Legacies' and Spring Hurlbut's 'Beloved and Forsaken', both of which received much critical acclaim.



Deputy Director Bernadette Lynch believes that the Museum's ALCHEMY project offers artists an unparalleled opportunity. "The Manchester Museum is unique. In no other university can you find assembled under one roof such an encyclopaedic compendium of human creativity alongside evidence of the planet's evolution over the last 4.6 billion years. We've successfully worked

with artists before, now we want to build on our reputation as a site for artistic creation, continue to bring new audiences to contemporary art and lead the way in innovative, collaborative arts projects".

The deadline for artists' applications is Friday 25 August 2006. For more information please email alchemy@manchester.ac.uk or visit the website.

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum.alchemy

Taste of university life

Children traditionally less likely to go on to higher education were able to sample university life at a three-day event in Manchester last month.

107 children from 14 state schools across the North West attended the Humanities Summer School to learn about higher education, get careers advice and take part in workshops.

Many of the 13 and 14-year-olds, all identified by their schools as having the potential to succeed at university, come from families with little experience of higher education.

WebCT - which provides e-learning systems for educational institutions - gave the school children who attended the school extra support. They were given guest log-ins which allowed them to access the website so that for three months after the event, they will be able to see the videos, read articles and see photographs. More than 80 of them have contributed to a discussion board on the site with comments such as:

"Please can you get the photos on the website and the videos soon. Can't wait to see them. I am missing all my friends in group 10"

"Jus wanna say that plz do another summer school or winter school as this one now was wicked and I made a lot of friends."

Humanities Widening Participation Officer Kathryn McTavish said: "We want to make Manchester one of the UK's most accessible educational establishments to students from traditionally under-represented sections of society.

"This summer school is part of string of events with primary and secondary schools in Greater Manchester to achieve those goals."

Downloads for diversity

The University's Careers & Employability Division produced three informative podcasts for regional diversity festival, 'Celebr8 (Don't Discrimin8)', in June. The podcasts explored the issue of 'Diversity at Work', showing interviews with three graduate employers in the North West explaining how they address diversity in their recruitment practices and workplace.

The University of Manchester was the only university to contribute to this eight-day festival which was co-ordinated and funded by the North West Regional Assembly to demonstrate and celebrate how equality and diversity benefits the region.

Patrick Johnson, Head of Diversity at the Careers & Employability Division, said: "The University is committed to celebrating equality and diversity in the workplace, and in society in general. We want our graduates to reach their full potential in their future careers, regardless of their race, religion, age, gender, sexuality, or any disability that they might have."

The podcasts are available to view online at www.celebr8.org/media.htm, with plans to place versions on relevant areas of the Careers Service website for students in the near future.

www.manchester.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/

www.celebr8.org/media.htm

What's On



The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

Clothing Culture: Dress in Egypt in the First Millennium AD to 10 Sept

The Object of Encounter: - Resonance and Wonder to February 2007

Cupid & Psyche 11 June to 8 Oct 2006

The Textile Gallery now open

The new displays are arranged thematically around subjects such as Rites of Passage, Inspiration for Design and Recycling, with each highlighting the wide geographical and historical range of the collection.

TOURS AND EVENTS

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

Concerts (Supported by the Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, 0161 275 7450 www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk)

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

Whitworth Art Gallery,
Oxford Road, 0161 275 7450
Gallery Café 0161 275 7497
The café sells a selection of drinks and light meals.
Gallery Shop 0161 275 7498
The bookshop stocks a range of art and design books, cards and gifts.

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

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy
SUNDAY WORSHIP

11am Holy Communion
12.15am Bible Study
12.45 Lunch (1st Sunday)
6.30pm Evening Worship (Term-time only)
FOYER 10am - 4pm
An area where students and staff can relax and meet friends. A tea/coffee machine is available.
Precinct Centre 0161 275 2894 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

Contact Theatre

Fri 23 June - Sat 8 Jul

Enchantment

Enchantment explores the impact of fairy tales on the emotional, moral and social development of children. Famous stories such as Hansel and Gretel are explored to reveal extraordinary insights into the dynamics affecting family life. In addition, several high schools will present the outcome of their work on a project, which investigates the rising phenomenon world-wide of child soldiers.

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

The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Keeping It Together until 28 Aug

An exhibition including a comprehensive programme of displays, talks, tours and demonstrations showing how the Museum conserves the collections we look after for everyone for the future

EVENTS

Sat 8 July 1-4pm Free

The Appliance of Science in Conservation

See objects and get acquainted with

Roman head-lice. 5+

Sat 29 July 1-4 pm Free

Booked!

With John Rylands University Library. An introduction to bookbinding and preservation. All ages.

JULY BIG SATURDAY

Saturday 22 July 11 am - 4 pm Free

Archaeology Day

The Museum looks at the legends behind some of its archaeological collection with a day of object handling, talks and drama. Meet characters from Feelgood Theatre Company's production of King Arthur. All Ages

Family events run during half term and school holidays as well as many Saturdays throughout the year. See brochure or website for information.

Monday 14 - Fri 18 Aug 10am - 3 pm

Manchester Museum Film School

With the Family Friendly Film Festival for children, aged 8 to 12, to write and make a short animated film about animals.

Booking: 0161-275 2630 £60

August Big Saturday

Sat 19 Aug 11am - 4pm Free

To mark the film release of Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox* and the current *Wild Britain* exhibition, join us for a day of activities, tours, handling sessions and competitions. Sponsored by Blackwells. All ages

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Mon 31 July - Fri 25 Aug

Wild about Animals!

Activity sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Mondays 1.30 pm, 3 pm Free

African Safari 5+

Wednesdays 1.30, 3pm Free

Animal Story Box. All ages

Fridays 1.30, 3 pm £1

Wildabout Manchester! 8+

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 - 3pm Free

Drop by and observe the conservation team in action at the Gallery Bench. All ages

In Focus tours

Tours last 30 minutes, are free and commence at 1.30pm and 3.00pm



DROP-IN FAMILY EVENTS

Family Friendly

There is plenty to do for families during July and August (see brochure or website for more details)

Pre-booked Family Events (0161 275 2648)

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

Manchester Museum,

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

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Music and Drama at Manchester

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

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 for a period of approximately 2 years, 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

Sat 8 July
North Wales visiting Colwyn Bay and Llandudno

Sat 15 Jul
York

Sat 22 Jul
Lake District visiting Windermere

Sat 29 July
Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby

Sat 5th Aug
Robin Hood Festival in Sherwood Forest

Sat 12 Aug
Blackpool

International Society

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

www.internationalsociety.org.uk

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email inquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk

www.tableyhouse.co.uk

Gig Guide Manchester Academy

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 & 3

Sat 15 July

George Clinton Parliament Funkadelic

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

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 seminars@manchester.ac.uk

Manchester scoops Property Management 'Oscar'

The University has won a prestigious award for its bold vision in creating a new world-class campus.



From left: Trevor Humphries, Deputy Director of Estates; Diana Hampson, Director of Estates and Dave Smith, Head of Capital Projects

The University's Directorate of Estates was honoured by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) at their Fourth Annual Property Management Awards. The awards are seen as the 'Oscars' for Property Management, recognising and celebrating excellence and innovation in this critical area of the property industry.

The award was won for Property Management Strategy and Delivery in the Public Sector - Olympic silver medallist Roger Black presented the trophy to Director of Estates Diana Hampson at a gala lunch at Gibson Hall in the City of London.

Diana said: "It is the first time the University has entered for this award, so to win at the first time of asking is a tremendous achievement. It is a tribute to the Estates team who are working so hard to give our staff and

students a truly world-class environment in which to study, live, work, play and learn.

"The University of Manchester has committed £600m to create a campus, which will attract the best international scholars and students, as well as providing state of the art facilities for research and high quality learning environments, in line with the aims of the University's strategy document, *Towards Manchester 2015*."

Howard Morgan, Chair of judges said: "The judges were greatly impressed by the wide range of innovative ideas amongst winning entries. The level of excellence achieved by all entrants shows that property management is at the cutting edge of helping improve investment performance and productivity in the economy."

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The University of Manchester
The Manchester
Museum

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17 June - 28 August 2006

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The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL
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www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

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Welsh Congregational Chapel

It is hard to visualise that this unprepossessing old building might have the makings of a Hall of Residence. But it does have a handy serve-all corner shop, probably open all hours, and the lad posing with his minimalist bike like David Jason could well be looking into the future, perhaps with a view to becoming a student himself in due course.

Believe it or not, this old Welsh Congregational Chapel, on the corner of Booth Street East and Rumford Street, already disused and awaiting demolition 40 or more years ago, was the precursor of the present-day Ronson Hall. Well, it stood on the same site.

Apparently, the Welsh had quite a religious presence on campus in those days. There was also a Welsh Chapel where the Moberly Tower now stands. The students of the day used it a lot - it served as a Students' Union café until they moved into their present building.



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Next issue is 4 September, 2006

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News and story ideas

Internal Communications Office

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email uninews@manchester.ac.uk
Deadline Noon 17 August

Events Contact

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Deadline Noon 17 August