

UniLife

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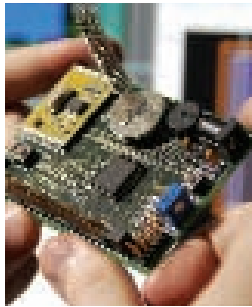
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Letter from the President



A new academic year; a new generation of students; new colleagues to welcome; a series of Operational Performance Reviews (OPRs) to conduct as the month progresses - and myriad academic and administrative exigencies that will come upon us unlooked-for.

Some things we can be sure about.

We know that the incoming students will be among the best in the country. We know, fortunately, that they will be taught here in Manchester by scholars who understand how important it is for the intellect and imagination of every student to be challenged and stretched throughout their learning experience. We know, too, that like every future student cohort, these incoming students will expect higher learning to draw effectively and imaginatively on the pedagogic riches of those on-line spaces in which most of them feel thoroughly at home, and not be confined to more traditional learning environments and pedagogies.

Personally, I hope that whatever the specific curriculum they study, these students will find their Manchester higher education personally challenging as well as intellectually enriching. Acquiring impressive intellectual skills and mastering a body of disciplinary and/or professional knowledge is a vital part of the best contemporary higher education - but it is only a part. We must also try to ensure that Manchester graduates, as part of their university experience, have faced up to their moral values and social responsibilities as citizens in a fragile 21st Century world uncertain about the possibility, let alone the means, of building just, liberal, inclusive, sustainable human communities.

Finally, the October round of OPRs will allow Schools, Faculties, Administrative Directorates and administrators at all levels of the University to take stock of the highs and lows of 2005-06, and - stopping just short of the fine line between the highly ambitious and the impossible - set targets and priorities for the 2006-07 stage of the journey Towards Manchester 2015.

Our new academic colleagues will, I hope, be under no illusions about the arresting seriousness with which we are planning to make Manchester a world centre of intellectual creativity, discovery and scholarly virtuosity.

In higher education, most strategic plans are aspirational, rhetorical - and little more. The Manchester 2015 Agenda is first and foremost a practical blueprint. We mean what we say; we know where we are going; our annual Performance Reviews are serious exercises in the realistic appraisal of progress and the informed re-calibration of targets. Colleagues preferring the more familiar academic environment of good Big Civic universities will find Manchester uncomfortably and incorrigibly ambitious.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

Better park for local children

While England prepared for their quarter-final clash with Portugal, more than 80 youngsters staged their own World Cup tournament to celebrate the reclaiming of their local park.



Gartside Gardens on the Brunswick Estate in Ardwick had become a virtual no-go area and a haunting ground for drug dealers and down-and-outs. But a group of residents, supported by The University of Manchester, has taken ownership of the park and celebrated the success with a sporting fun day in July.

The University, which provided benches and litter bins for the park's redevelopment, kitted each child out with T-shirts in the colours of teams playing in the World Cup in Germany. It has also supplied more T-shirts for the 'Friends of Gartside Gardens' group to sell to raise funds for the park's continued upkeep.

Steve Grant, the University's Assistant Director of Human Resources, presented all the children, including a group from Francis House Hospice in Withington, with certificates as well as medals and trophies for the winning teams.

He said: "This was a bold community initiative to reclaim what rightly belongs to them and was something the University was more than happy to support."

"As a major employer in the city, we have a civic duty to get behind projects like this; improving the quality of life of our neighbours has a knock-on effect for the University and for the students who live within these communities."

Manchester top for biological funds

The University of Manchester has secured more funding from one of the leading providers of biological-research grants than any other British university, recent figures reveal.

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) statistics show that the University received grants worth £12.38 million in 2005 – more than both Cambridge (£11.37m) and Oxford (£7.43m).

The funding success strengthens the University's reputation as one of the UK's leading centres for biological research, says Professor Martin Humphries the University's Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Life Sciences, who also praised the way BBSRC funding allowed both major research initiatives as well as individual science projects to flourish.

"We particularly value the BBSRC because of its policy of focusing on a wide range of biological research at the level of the project grant," he said. "Its provision of such grant funding is how many of the 250 independent investigators within the Manchester life sciences community are able to sustain their pioneering work."

BBSRC grants have helped fund research projects across the life sciences, with biochemistry, cell biology, animal biology and biomolecular sciences all benefiting from substantial funding.

One such investigator, Dr Janni Petersen, is to receive £443,000 from the BBSRC to examine how cells establish 'polarised' growth – a mode of growth used by cancer cells to migrate and colonise others parts of the body.

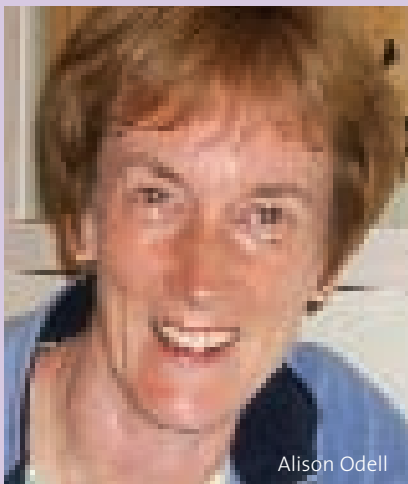
A further £386,000 was awarded to Dr Hugh Piggins for a three-year investigation into body clocks that hopes to uncover how our brain and body respond appropriately to stressful situations.

Dr Christian Heintzen, meanwhile, was awarded almost £250,000 to look at the mechanisms that allow these body clocks to adjust to local time using environmental factors such as temperature and the amount of light.

The University has also been successful in attracting BBSRC funding for larger research initiatives such as the £5.4 million granted last March to help establish the Manchester Centre for Integrative Systems Biology (MCISB).

In brief

Director of Sport scoops top industry award



Alison Odell

The University's Director of Sport, Alison Odell, has been awarded the most prestigious award in Higher Education sport, the A D Munrow Award for outstanding contribution to Higher Education Sport over a distinguished career.

Presenting the award, Zena Wooldridge, Director of Sport at the University of Birmingham said: "It is the significant difference she has made to the positioning and progress of university sport, on the local, national and international fronts over the last 20 years which makes Alison such an obvious and extremely worthy candidate for the award."

Fellowships for researchers day

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Science are hosting an information day on 6 September for research contract staff, early career researchers, and Post Doctoral researchers. They will also be launching a publication on Grantsmanship- a guide to securing research funding.

MBS top for accounting research

Manchester Business School was ranked as Europe's leading university for accounting research, in a survey published last month by Accounting and Business Research. The survey, which rates the quality of accounting research published in top journals across Europe, placed Manchester above LSE and The University of Edinburgh.

The survey affirms Manchester Business School's reputation for research excellence. It assessed the number of articles that appeared in 19 of Europe's top accounting journals by specific authors. Articles written by Professors Bob Scapens, Chris Humphrey, Martin Walker and Andy Stark were singled out for their academic rigour and placed them in Europe's Top 20 academic writers.

Professor John Arnold, Director of Manchester Business School, said: "We're very proud of this result. Accounting and finance has always been a strong research area for Manchester Business School and this result is testament to the high-quality expertise that is generated by the team."

Graduation success



Simon Lloyd

A University of Manchester graduate is to become Westminster Cathedral's Organ Scholar, beating off international competition for the post.

Simon Lloyd, who was among the 6,500 students to graduate from the University in July gained first-class honours in his music degree, already known for playing at degree ceremonies at the University he played the organ at the end of his own ceremony.

He will spend a year at Westminster working alongside the Choir of Westminster Cathedral - recognised as one of the finest in the world - and the internationally renowned organists and musicians at the cathedral.

Also graduating were the Shtrosberg triplets, two graduated in Economic and Social Studies and the third graduated in Psychology. The oldest Sagi received a BA in Economics, the second, Sivan, a BSc in Psychology and the youngest Kfir received a BA in Economics.

The triplets, have followed in the footsteps of elder brother Oz, 22, who received a BSc Economics from Manchester last year.

Proud father Itzik said: "To have one son graduate at The University of Manchester is good, two very good, three excellent but four - well that's unbelievable!"

UK's first nuclear doctorate centre

The University's Dalton Nuclear Institute, in partnership with Imperial College London, is to launch the UK's first Nuclear Engineering Doctorate Centre.

The Centre will be the only one of its kind in the UK to award an Engineering Doctorate (EngD) qualification in nuclear engineering.

Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council as part of the Energy Programme, the £4m centre will train 50 research engineers in areas such as waste management, reactor technology and safety systems. The research engineers will be sponsored by government and industry.

The Nuclear EngD will be a four-year postgraduate qualification aimed at the UK's best young research engineers. It will equip them with the skills needed to take on senior roles within the nuclear industry. As part of the programme, students will obtain a Management Diploma from Manchester Business School.

Professor Andrew Sherry, Centre Director, said: "The EngD is a radical alternative to the traditional PhD, being better suited to the needs of industry, and providing a more vocationally oriented doctorate in engineering."

Professor Richard Clegg, Director of the Dalton Nuclear Institute, said: "Over the last 20 years we have witnessed a major decline in skilled nuclear engineers graduating from universities in this country. The EngD, alongside the other nuclear research and education initiatives at Manchester, shall see this trend reversed. This is crucial so that the UK can underpin the nuclear opportunities and challenges it is facing in the future, ranging from new reactors through to decommissioning and clean-up.

The first intake of students onto the EngD will be in September 2006.

Academies honour Manchester professors

Four professors from The University of Manchester were among the new Fellows elected to two of Britain's prestigious national academies this summer.

Professor Jill Rubery, head of people, management and organisations at Manchester Business School, and Professor Nigel Vincent, Mont Follick Professor of Comparative Philology in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures (see profile on page 12), have both been elected Fellows of the British Academy, the national academy for the humanities and the social sciences.

Professor Christopher Taylor, Head of the School of Computer Science, and Research Lead in Imaging Science and Biomedical Engineering, and Professor Robert Young, Head of the School of Materials, were elected as Fellows of The Royal Academy of Engineering.

These four appointments are excellent news for the University in its aim to be one of the top 25 Universities in the world by 2015.

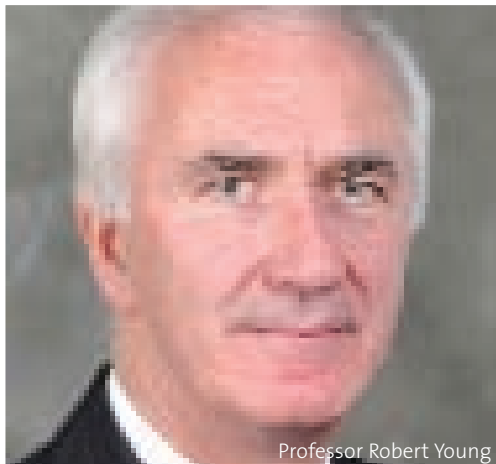
Jill Rubery's research areas include labour market regulation policies and the role of minimum wages; new forms of work and flexibility; women's employment and women's pay; employers' working-

time policies and international comparative labour market analyses. This is the highest honour available to an academic in the social sciences arena and Jill is the first member of Manchester Business School to receive the award.

Nigel Vincent is a world authority on the Romance languages and their origin in Latin. With his Danish wife, Merethe, Nigel shares the pleasure of bringing Latin to a wider audience - Oxford University Press recently published their translation from the Swedish of 'A Natural History of Latin.'

Christopher Taylor is distinguished for his outstanding contributions to the development of machine vision and image analysis, particularly in medicine. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to technology transfer and industrial applications of his research, and has played a significant role in the promotion and professional development of his field.

Bob Young is eminent for understanding the relationship between structure and mechanical properties in polymers and polymer composites, and for leading the internationally-recognised Manchester Materials Science Centre during its creation in 1988, and again during transition into the new University of Manchester.



Professor Robert Young



Professor Nigel Vincent



Professor Christopher Taylor



Professor Jill Rubery

In brief



Professor Alan Silman

New ARC director

Professor Alan Silman, Director of the Arthritis Research Campaign (arc) Epidemiology Unit in the School of Medicine, has been appointed the charity's first medical director.

He will take a leading role in developing and delivering arc's research strategy from the beginning of 2007; evaluating existing and recent research, identifying areas of unmet need and proposing initiatives to speed the translation of research into tangible patient benefits.

University collaboration with AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca PLC, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies has formed a collaboration with the University of Manchester. It has identified the University as a key partner which shares the vision of delivering safe and effective medicines to patients, resulting in a formal agreement between the two institutions

The agreement builds on many years of working together on individual projects and informal contacts between AstraZeneca and the University.

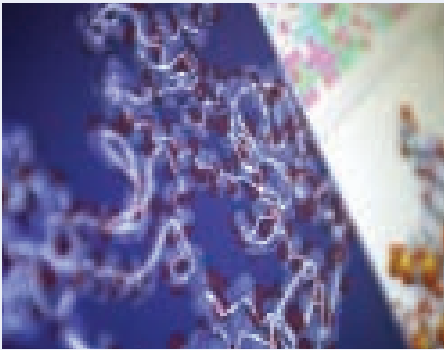
The two organisations have established a steering group to overview the management of the collaboration which is jointly chaired by Professor Alan North, University of Manchester Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences and Dr Les Hughes, AstraZeneca Global Vice-President, Cancer and Infection.

A driving force in the agreement is the recognition by both parties that there are individual and shared benefits that will accrue: including the faster translation of high-impact science to the clinic and joint efforts to secure the UK science base.

To achieve these benefits AstraZeneca and The University of Manchester will exchange staff, share facilities and encourage joint ventures to identify new ways to treat disease and to nurture and enhance discovery, pre-clinical and clinical research in a bid to better understand a wide variety of conditions.

In brief

Biomedical research available online



Scientists will be able to access a vast collection of biomedical research at the touch of a button thanks to a major new initiative that aims to promote the free transfer of ideas in a bid to speed up scientific discovery.

Based on a model currently used in the United States, UK PubMed Central (UKPMC) will provide free access to an online digital archive of peer-reviewed research papers in the medical and life sciences.

The Wellcome Trust, as part of a nine-strong group of UK research funders, has announced that the contract to run UKPMC has been awarded to a partnership between the British Library, The University of Manchester and the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI).

Mark Walport, Director of the Wellcome Trust, said: "Medical research is not complete until the results have been communicated. I am delighted that such a strong consortium has been appointed to run UK Pub med Central. UKPMC is a partnership with the National Library of Medicine in the United States and will provide the best repository of the biomedical research literature in the world."

The University of Manchester will host the service - on servers based at MIMAS (Manchester Information and Associated Services) - and will support the process of engaging with higher-education users.

Childhood autism more prevalent than thought

A national team including Professor Andrew Pickles of the School of Medicine's Division of Epidemiology and Health Sciences has found that the UK prevalence of childhood autism and related disorders may be substantially higher than previously thought.

In a study published in *The Lancet*, the team looked at prevalence rates for autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in children aged nine - 10 in South London. They found a rate of 116 per 10000, compared with a rate of only 44 per 10000 previously identified as having ASD.

The findings suggest that around 1% of the child population nationally may have some form of ASD.

Big kids getting TOO big

The epidemic of obesity in young children has been far worse in the tallest, fastest-growing group, according to research led by Dr Iain Buchan.

The team, which includes colleagues at Great Ormond Street Hospital's Institute of Child Health and The University of Liverpool, found that faster-growing children might be especially vulnerable to the fattening effects of the 'obesogenic environment,' which is causing society to get fatter.

It looked at the weights of 50,000 three-year-olds from the Wirral (where BMI has been rising for 16 years) from 1988 to 2003,

Iain, Director of the Northwest Institute for Bio-Health Informatics, said: "The largest increase in body

mass index (BMI) occurred in the tallest children, while that for the smallest hardly changed; tall stature has therefore become important for child obesity. This shows a drive to adiposity (fatness) in young children involving both growth and appetite, with fast-growing and hungrier children more exposed to the obesogenic environment.

"Our study shows that the UK needs to change its eating and exercise habits. The more children eat, the more they show the effects of what we are offering them - too much unhealthy food and too little chance to exercise.

Virtual reality puts telepathy to the test

Researchers from the Schools of Computer Science and Psychological Sciences have created a virtual computer world, to test telepathic ability.

The system, which immerses users in what looks like a life-sized computer game, aims to test whether telepathy exists between pairs of volunteers.

The participants are placed in rooms on different floors of the same building to eliminate any possibility of communication, before donning a head-mounted 3D display and electronic glove. These allow them to navigate the computer-generated world and view a random selection of computer-generated objects. The person in the other room is simultaneously presented with the same object plus three decoys, and asked to select the one they believe the other participant is trying to transmit to them.

The system was designed by Dr Craig Murray of the School of Psychological Sciences, and implemented by Toby Howard and Dr Fabrice Caillette from the School of Computer Science.

Toby said: We are creating a completely objective environment which makes it impossible for participants to leave signals or even unconscious clues as to which object they have chosen."

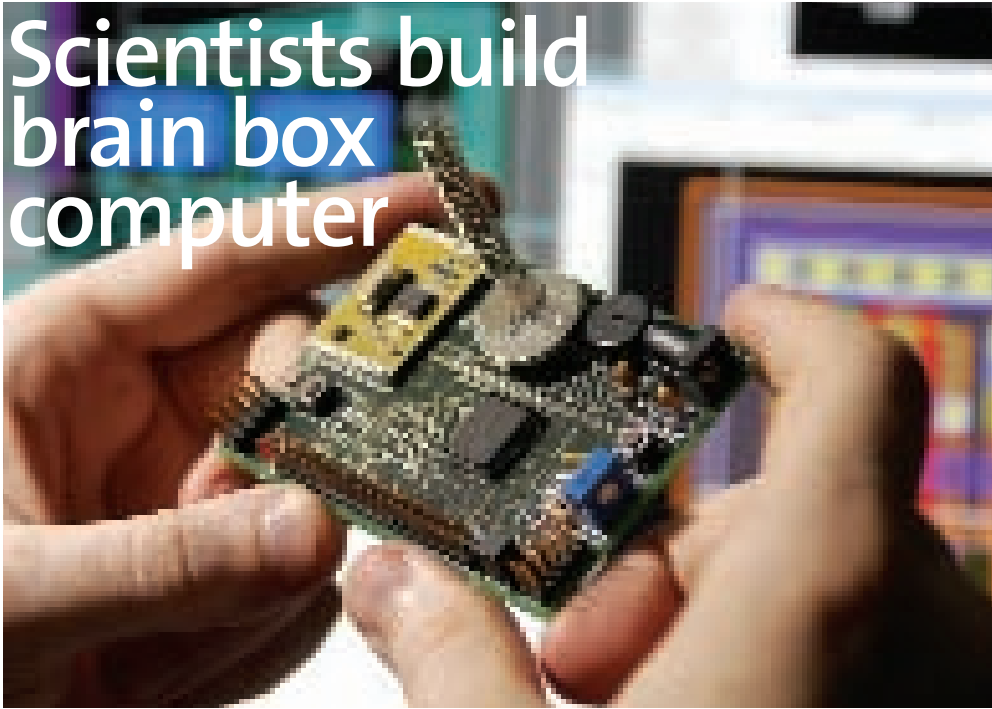
Project researcher David Wilde, of the School of Psychological Sciences, said:

"By using this technology we aim to provide the most objective study of telepathy to date.

Our aim is not to prove or disprove its existence but to create an experimental method which stands up to scientific scrutiny."



Scientists build brain box computer



Scientists in the School of Computer Science are to build a new type of computer which mimics the complex interactions within the human brain.

The computer will mimic how nerve cells in the brain interact in a bid to engineer more 'fault tolerant' electronics. The computer will be the first of its kind and will be used to try and understand how, for example, the details of complex visual scenes are encoded by the brain.

Professor Steve Furber will lead the £1m project funded by the

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The work will be carried out in collaboration with the School of Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton, using technology supplied by industrial partners ARM Ltd and Silistix Ltd.

Professor Furber said: "Our brains keep working despite frequent failures of their component neurons, and this 'fault-tolerant' characteristic is of great interest to engineers who wish to make computers more reliable. Our aim

is to use the computer to understand better how the brain works, and to see if biology can help us see how to build computer systems that continue functioning despite component failures."

The computer will be built using large numbers of simple microprocessors designed to interact like the networks of neurons found in the brain. The aim will be to place dozens of microprocessors on a single silicon chip reducing the cost and power consumption of the computer.

Research in the news

'Family involvement shows acceptance of gay marriage' - research carried out at the University has found that only a small minority of civil unions encounter hostility from relatives or friends. Professor Carol Smart, who headed the two-year study, said couples entered into partnerships for different reasons, varying from accessing new legal rights to wanting to cement their relationship. This story was reported in the *Manchester Evening News* and the *Guardian*

'Breath of hope for asthma sufferers' - a revolutionary technique which involves warming asthma sufferers' lungs is being trialled at Wythenshawe Hospital. Dr Rob Niven, from the School of Medicine, said that the treatment could offer sufferers long-term relief from symptoms and reduce reliance on medication. The team is looking for more volunteers to take part in the trials. This story was reported in the *Manchester Evening News*.

'Cash joy for Christie drug-trial pioneers' - the Manchester Cancer Research Centre is set to receive about £7m from The UK Clinical Research Collaboration for expansion and the purchase of specialist equipment for experimental cancer treatments. Professor Nic Jones, director of the Centre, said: 'This expansion will establish Manchester as one of the best centres in the world for early stage trials, which in turn will help attract more cancer experts.' This story was reported in *THES* and *Manchester Evening News*.

'Are we missing something?' - mammals are missing a photoreceptor protein found in other vertebrates, according to a new study. Dr Jim Bellingham and colleagues from the Faculty of Life Sciences report that vertebrates other than mammals have two distinct melanopsin genes, rather than just one as was previously believed. This story was reported in *Nature*.

www.manchester.ac.uk/cs

Funding boost for cancer research

The University is one of the beneficiaries of an £84million funding pay-out, to boost experimental medicine in the UK and Ireland. This will aid investigation in humans to identify the mechanisms behind diseases, and test the value of new discoveries and treatments.

Under the umbrella of The UK Clinical Research Collaboration, this major investment by a consortium of health-related charities, government funding bodies and health departments aims to develop the country's Clinical Research Facilities. These bring together laboratory and patient-based research, typically providing the day rooms and bedded areas, specialised research equipment and highly-trained support staff needed for complex research studies.

In Manchester facilities will be developed mainly at the Christie Hospital site in Withington as part of the development of the new Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC), which brings together the

research activities of the University, Christie Hospital and Cancer Research UK.

Professor Nic Jones, Director of the MCRC, said: "The goal of the Centre is to develop and expand cancer research in the city over the next five to eight years. Part of this funding will facilitate the expansion of facilities which will allow cancer patients increased access to clinical trials of potential new drugs and therapies, and this will establish Manchester as one of the best and preferred centres in the world for such trials."

The University was successful in a competitive process managed by the Wellcome Trust, and is one of ten institutions nationally to share the £84 million. The win builds on 1997's successful bid for one of five Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facilities, now established on Grafton Street.

Professor Nic Jones



Grants and contracts

Wellcome Trust award for History of Medicine

The University's Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine has been awarded a Wellcome Trust Five-Year Strategic Award for work on **Medicine and Modernity**. The grant is for £752,000 over five years and is the largest ever awarded by the Trust's History of Medicine Panel.

The Award provides for the appointment of five postdoctoral fellows who will assist staff with new programmes of research on: Diseases of Civilization; the Economics of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Technologies, Ecologies of Disease, and Contemporary History.

Professor Michael Worboys said "This is a tremendous achievement by our staff and will help secure our place as the leading research centre in Britain for the history of medicine since 1800."

North West Science Fund award of £2.9 million

An announcement was made early in 2006 of the award of £2.9 million to a team working on the UK's Fourth Generation Light Source (4GLS) project at the Daresbury Laboratory. The team includes the University's Professor Wendy Flavell, Elaine Seddon from CCLRC Daresbury Laboratory and Peter Weightman from the University of Liverpool.

This is one of six awards from a fund of £25 M administered by the North West Science Council to assist with photon science exploitation of the 4GLS prototype, ERLP and to underpin progress towards 4GLS itself.

The award was presented at a celebratory dinner at the Manchester Art Gallery earlier this year, hosted by Manchester: Knowledge Capital and the North West Development Agency.

Allergies could be snuffed out



Professor David Garrod

Allergies such as asthma, eczema and hay fever could be snuffed out within five years thanks to pioneering work at the University.

Researchers, working with colleagues at St George's, University of London, are developing drugs designed to stop allergens from entering the body, so rendering them harmless.

Professor David Garrod said the research – recently shortlisted for the Northwest Regional Development Agency's Bionow Project of the Year – takes a completely new approach to the treatment and prevention of allergies.

"The drugs we are developing – called Allergen Delivery Inhibitors (ADIs) – are designed to disable allergens. The effect will be like avoiding allergens altogether. Removing carpets and rigorous cleaning of homes are established ways to avoid allergens, but they are only partially effective because their effects do not 'travel' with allergy sufferers.

ADIs promise to be significantly better because taking a medicine is easier than rigorous housework and pills are portable."

Professor Garrod, who is based within the Faculty of Life Sciences, said potential drugs could enter clinical trials as early as 2010. If successful, the drug would treat established symptoms already found in adult sufferers and, in due course, could be used to prevent allergies in children.

Current medicines don't act against the allergen at this early stage – they only ease the symptoms – so the development of these ADIs would be a major breakthrough in our fight against allergies," said Professor Garrod.

The study has already received nearly £450,000 from the Wellcome Trust but up to £3 million will be needed to develop the drugs to the clinical-trials stage. Professor Garrod is now seeking investment to take the research to the next stage of development.

New gene linked to dementia

New research by an international collaboration of scientists, has linked a specific gene to a common type of dementia.

Dr Stuart Pickering-Brown of the Division of Regenerative Medicine and Professors David Mann and David Neary, and Dr Julie Snowden in the Division of Medicine and Neurosciences at Hope Hospital, have identified a second gene mutation causing a common type of dementia known as frontotemporal dementia (FTD).

The discovery of the connection between FTD and this new gene called 'granulin' was published in *Nature* in July, and will open up an entirely new field of biological research.

Scientists had not previously suspected this gene was involved in FTD, and the finding will help improve diagnosis of the illness as well as the development of treatments.

Approximately 750,000 people in the UK have some form of dementia, FTD being second only to Alzheimer's disease amongst younger people afflicted by dementia. It affects one in 5000 people, mostly aged between 50 and 60.

Stuart said: "While a lot of progress has been made in understanding the genetic causes of Alzheimer's disease, relatively little was known about the genes linked to FTD. Yet about half of all people with FTD have other family members with the disease. From

our first findings in 1998 we knew around 10% of cases of FTD are caused by errors in a gene called tau. Now, we know that other cases, probably many more than those caused by changes in the tau gene, result from errors in the granulin gene."

Professor David Mann added: "We are one of the few groups in the world that could do this work. This is a rare disease, so you need large numbers of patients with family history of disease to discover these genetic changes. We have been working on this problem for 20 years and our cohort of patients, built over this time, is possibly the largest and best clinically and pathologically characterised in the world.

Improving the mobile web

Scientists at the University's School of Computer Science have launched a new project to develop a host of new software with the potential to make the mobile web as simple to use as the internet.

Currently, websites have to be re-designed to work on mobile phones. As many conventional websites can't be displayed on small screens. Consequently, both the content and the choice of websites available on the mobile web are limited.

The RIAM project will draw on the experiences of blind and visually-impaired users and the technologies they use to surf the internet, such as screenreaders, in a bid to simplify the content of conventional websites so that they can be accessed via the mobile web.

Dr Simon Harper will lead the £205k project, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, alongside semantic web

expert Professor Ian Horrocks and web accessibility expert Yeliz Yesilada.

Dr Harper said: "Mobile web users are handicapped not by physiology but technology. Not only is the screen on the majority of phones very small, limiting the user's vision, but the information displayed is difficult to navigate and read.

"Add to this the fact that the content displayed is determined by a service provider and not the user and you have a web which is not very accessible or user friendly. Our aim is to change this by enabling web accessibility and mobile technologies to interoperate."

A core part of the project will be the development of a validation engine which will screen websites to ensure they are accessible and mobile web compatible.



Dr Simon Harper

Osteoporosis diagnosis

The Arthritis Research Campaign (ARC) has awarded a team in the University's Imaging Science and Biomedical Engineering Research Division a three-year grant of £226,000 to develop tools to detect and monitor vertebral fractures, an early sign of osteoporosis.

A team of imaging experts hope to devise a quicker and more accurate means of identifying vertebral (spine) fracture and diagnosing osteoporosis. The new diagnostic tool could lead to people receiving early treatment to prevent their bones becoming thinner and fracturing as they grow older.

"Detecting osteoporosis early by improving diagnostic techniques could be hugely important, as for patients with vertebral fractures proven therapies are available which reduce the incidence of subsequent fractures by 50 per cent or more," explained Professor Timothy Cootes, Professor of Computer Vision

who will be working with radiologist colleague Professor Judith Adams, Dr Terry O'Neill, a consultant rheumatologist at Hope Hospital in Salford and Research Associate Martin Roberts.

"The tool we are developing will help radiologists and other clinicians to obtain more consistent results and should be able to detect more subtle changes than are currently possible. As well as helping to diagnose osteoporosis, it will also be extremely useful in monitoring people during clinical trials of drugs designed to treat the condition."



Dr Andrew Renehan



Dr Nusrat Husain



Dr Paul Kingston

Manchester's multi-faceted medics

The School of Medicine has been awarded three Clinical Senior Lectureship Awards by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) - a number beaten only by the top London colleges.

The Awards, which total £750k over five years with funding matched by the appropriate NHS Trust, form the final phase in this round of the Government's new Integrated Academic Training Pathway. This has been established to fund and encourage research and teaching by academics who have completed their training in a clinical specialism.

The Awards were made to:

Dr Nusrat Husain of the Division of Psychiatry, a specialist in transcultural mental health based at Lancashire Care NHS Trust.

Dr Andrew Renehan of the Division of Cancer Studies, an expert in colorectal cancer and complex intra-abdominal malignancies based at the Christie Hospital NHS Trust.

Dr Paul Kingston of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, an investigator of gene-based drugs and delivery methods based at Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Dr Kingston said: "The Award will allow me the long-term opportunity to pursue my research from the lab into the clinical setting, which has been my ambition since the start of my academic career."

The Awards come hot on the heels of the School's impressive achievements in the first two phases of the Training Pathway, obtaining 11 out of 104

national programmes in the Academic Clinical Fellowships scheme and 11 out of 101 Clinical Lectureship Programmes.

Associate Head of School Professor Phil Baker said: "Our success in all three phases of the scheme will ensure that Manchester plays a leading role in nurturing clinicians who are also committed to the development of research and education."

New National Teaching Fellows

Two Manchester Professors are among 50 lecturers and learning support staff to have been awarded prestigious National Teaching Fellowships from the Higher Education Academy.

Professor of Medicine and Clinical Education Tim Dornan and Professor of Geography Michael Bradford will each receive awards of £10,000 to support their learning and teaching activities.

The National Teaching Fellowships Scheme was launched in 2000 and relaunched this year, and recognises and rewards teachers and learning support staff for their excellence in teaching. Funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland, it aims to raise the profile of learning and teaching, recognise and celebrate individuals who make an outstanding impact on the student

Professor Tim Dornan



learning experience and provide a national focus for institutional teaching and learning excellence schemes.

Professor Dornan said: "This award rewards a largely collective effort, reflecting the educational commitment of a strong team in the School of Medicine and Salford Royal Hospitals Trust. I hope that the University will regard it as a seal of approval on its commitment to health professions education."

Professor Bradford has led innovation in teaching, learning and assessment as Head of School, within the then Faculty of Arts as Undergraduate Dean, as leader of the Teaching and Learning Course for

Professor Michael Bradford



New Academics and as Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Nationally his involvement in geography ranges from reviewing post-graduate training and degree programmes, through serving on the benchmarking team, writing guides and giving workshops on assessment, to writing a new A-level specification and being the HE representative on the Slimming of the National Curriculum.

The winners will receive their awards at a ceremony and dinner in London on 19 September.

Now hear this...

A novel device to diagnose hearing problems has won second place in the Technology Category of the North West NHS Innovations Awards for Professor Adrian Davis from the School of Psychological Sciences.

This is an annual competition managed by TrusTECH, an NHS organisation that provides NHS staff in the North West with advice on identifying, protecting, sharing and commercialising healthcare innovations.

In collaboration with Siemens, Professor Davis has developed a prototype of the HearScreen concept, a high-throughput low-cost screening device for hearing loss. HearScreen is an easy-to-use, hand-held, battery-operated device that provides sufficient discriminatory power to categorise patients and direct them towards the most effective clinical management pathway.



The judging panel remarked that by offering the potential to reduce waiting lists, HearScreen evaluates hearing difficulties in a cost-effective manner.

The innovations award was presented by Dr Maire Smith, Director of Technology and Product Innovation (Department of Health)

at a ceremony organised by TrusTECH. Dr Richard Deeds, TrusTECH Innovation Unit Manager, said "Literally hundreds of ideas come from NHS staff each year and we are here to help staff make those ideas a commercial reality".

Plasma Clean raises venture funding

UMIP, the organisation responsible for intellectual property commercialisation at the University, played a key role in the early stage development, business planning and fundraising for its latest start-up venture, Plasma Clean.

Plasma Clean, whose investors include the University's own venture fund Manchester Technology Fund, develops air cleansing systems based on enhanced electric field technology that was developed in the University's School of Chemistry.

The product is an offshoot of the research of Professor Christopher Whitehead into understanding chemical interactions in the gaseous environment of a plasma discharge; this invention was granted a patent in 2000.

Plasma Clean's first generation air cleansing product, due for launch later this year, is a system for combined germicidal and odour removal aimed at the healthcare sector. "The beauty of this system", says Plasma Clean MD David Glover, "is that we have an affordable product with low running costs, which is small enough to be portable. The system operates not by trapping airborne pollutants but by converting them into carbon dioxide and water, so we have a self-cleaning system whose efficiency is maintained over time".



New tenant for Core Technology Facility

The University's new Core Technology Facility (CTF) laboratories (see Unilife Vol 3 Issue 10) is to be home to a state-of-the-art processing and storage laboratory for UK Cord Blood Bank Ltd (UKCBB).

The laboratory will receive cord blood samples from throughout the UK, the EU and Middle East from Autumn 2006 and is the second such facility to be established by founding company the New England Cryogenic Center, representing the company's global commitment to supporting parents who have chosen to collect their baby's stem cells for possible future use.

Located close to Manchester's city centre, the CTF is a recently completed £25m biotechnology facility funded by the University, the North West Development Agency (NWDA) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Gathering Momentum

Manchester Momentum, a new membership organisation which aims to nurture the growth of spin-out, incubation and Manchester Science Park-based businesses that have an affiliation with The University of Manchester, will be launched on 27 September at a special event in the University's Core Technology Facility.

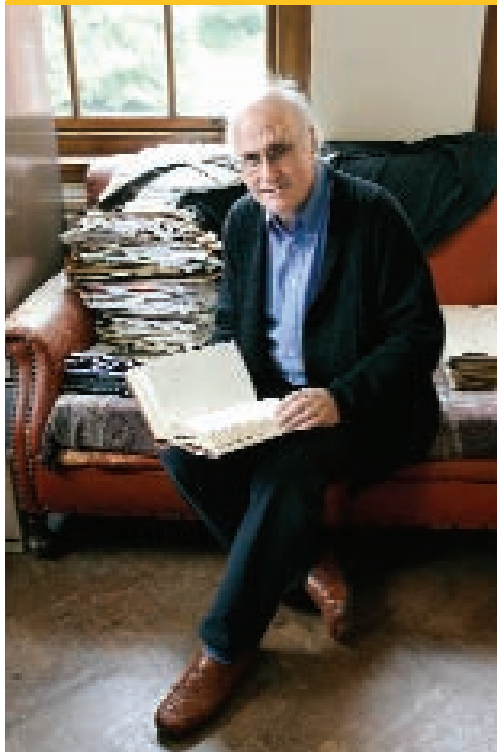
The event will showcase ways in which such businesses can create and develop mutually beneficial relationships with the University, and will include a full programme of presentations, as well as valuable networking opportunities.

Organisations who take up the free membership offer of Manchester Momentum can benefit from a range of services designed to support the growth of their business. These include dedicated events; access to training; a specialist recruitment service and early notice of the availability of students able to undertake project work. This year will also see the pilot of a new mentoring programme which will link staff in Manchester Momentum businesses to researchers at the University who are interested in commercialising their research.

Anne Milligan, a member of the Manchester Momentum team, said: "We want to generate a supportive network among these businesses to enable the sharing of knowledge, and also to enable their expertise to be shared with University staff."

Chaired by Professor Rod Coombs, Vice-President for Innovation and Economic Development, Manchester Momentum receives administrative and event management support from staff in the Careers & Employability Division, who are experienced in working with start-ups and smaller businesses.

To find out more about membership, or about the launch, contact Anne Milligan or Tracey Campbell Monks on 0161 275 4041, or anne.milligan@manchester.ac.uk.



The use of Latin (and pseudo-Latin) in Harry Potter. How's that for a topic bridging the gap between classical scholarship and modern popular culture? And who better to pronounce upon it than a man who easily bestrides both worlds?

Vincent's Values

Not only is Nigel Vincent, Mont Follick Professor of Comparative Philology, a world authority on the Romance languages and their origin in Latin - a status confirmed by his election this summer as a Fellow of the British Academy - but he also has an eleven-year-old daughter, Sarah. So, between them, they have Latin and JK Rowling covered. In addition, Nigel and his Danish wife Merethe share the pleasure of bringing Latin to a wider audience. Oxford University Press recently published their translation from the Swedish of *A Natural History of Latin*.

That's what you get from this ever-affable man. He wears his scholarship lightly, yet his research is impressively well-funded. A major five-year joint project, with fellow-Italian experts Mair Parry of Bristol and Robert Hastings here, on the Comparative Morphosyntax of the Early Italian Vernaculars was completed last year - and funded to the tune of £400,000 by the AHRB. That followed closely on a two-year full-time Research Readership backed by the British Academy to look into the syntactic changes between Latin and the dialects of Italy.

He has a lively interest in the wide world of language. He sits, neatly dressed, crisp shirt and smart tie, in one of those lived-in offices which compete for being the untidiest on campus - book-lined, papers and files and boxes everywhere, hardly room to sit. Look around and you see, at random, titles like *Standard Albanian*, *Japanese and Korean Linguistics*, *The Structure of Arabic*, *The World's Ancient Languages*...and so on. But his first love is Italian.

"My likes are all things Italian," proclaims his entry in *Who's Who*. "I have just always been interested in the way languages work," says the man himself. "The beauty of Italy is that dialectal diversity survives more than in most other places. Many Italians are bilingual in Italian and their local dialect - and you can trace the language back through the Middle Ages to its Latin antecedents."

His interest started with French and Latin at his small country school before going up to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, to read *Modern and Medieval Languages*. He found an inspirational teacher there in Joseph Cremona, University Lecturer in Romance Philology. And in his final year, he was taught by a

certain Visiting Lecturer, standing in for Cremona, by name of Martin Harris, who was destined to co-author a book on Romance Linguistics with him and, of course, become Vice-Chancellor here in Manchester.

Naturally, he got a First - and stayed on to do a PhD in the Linguistics of Italian. He then embarked on his academic career, with lectureships in Italian at Birkbeck and Lancaster, then in Linguistics at Hull and back in Cambridge.

He spent six very productive years there before coming, in 1987, to a Chair in Manchester and leadership of the Department of Linguistics, which is famous today for its range of theoretical interests and the diversity of languages currently being researched. He was especially pleased when a leading international figure told him recently he thought it was the best Linguistics department in the UK.

His reputation is international and he has held some of the most significant positions in his discipline - Editor of the *Journal of Linguistics* (1983-93), President



of the International Society of Historical Linguistics (1993-95), President of the Philological Society (2000-2003). He is in demand round the world.

He is passionate about research - and, especially, about bringing along young researchers. He was the first Research and Graduate Dean of the Faculty of Arts pre-merger - and he is now Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research in the new Faculty, which boasts 1000 PhD students. "The key is not only recruitment of the best people, but completion," he says. "We are training the next generation and developing world-class researchers. By having better and better people complete their PhDs, you send out a powerful message - that from here you can go on to occupy leading positions."

He is particularly pleased that the two lecturers in Romance Linguistics at Cambridge completed their PhDs with him here.

On the national research map, he has been a leading figure since the Research Assessment Exercise started in 1989. "I think I probably hold the national record for chairing RAE panels," he jokes.

He chaired four panels in the '92 exercise, two (for Linguistics and Italian) in '96 and for 2008 he is Chair of Main Panel M (Language and Linguistics), one of 15 main panels, which in turn has eight sub-panels reporting to it.

"It takes a lot of effort, but it is well worth it," he says. "I do believe that the RAE has proved to be effective."

He will be giving even more of his time to research matters in the future. In September, he takes over as Associate Vice-President for Graduate Education, overseeing the policy for taught and research postgrads across the whole of the University. And one of the keys to that is the improvement of PhD submission and - you've guessed it - completion.

As it happens, the eldest of his three daughters, Katie, has just started a PhD in Medicine at Oxford. Woe betide her if she shows any sign of not completing! Daughter Nicky is safe - she is a veterinary surgeon, and Sarah is in his good books for helping him through Harry Potter.

Name

Professor Nigel Vincent

Position

1987
Professor of Linguistics,
The University of Manchester

2006

Associate Vice-President
for Graduate Education,
The University of Manchester

Education

1966 - 1970
Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge

June 1970

BA Hons 1st Class
in Modern and Medieval Languages

1970 - 1973

Postgraduate student,
Department of Linguistics,
University of Cambridge

June 1971

Diploma in Linguistics,
University of Cambridge

Career History

1973-74

Lecturer in Italian,
Birkbeck College,
University London

1974-76

Lecturer in Italian,
University of Lancaster

1976-81

Lecturer in Linguistics,
University of Hull

1981-87

Lecturer in Linguistics,
University of Cambridge

1987-92

Head of Department of Linguistics,
The Victoria University of Manchester

1992-96

Research and Graduate Dean, Faculty of Arts,
The Victoria University of Manchester

2004-6

Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research,
Faculty of Humanities,
The University of Manchester

Honours

2006

Fellow of the British Academy

The distance we have travelled...

An arts exhibition combining powerful and personal quotes from members of Manchester's Somali, Afghani and Kurdish Refugee communities will be on display at St Luke's Church, Longsight, from 4 to 24 September, then at Victoria Baths from 25 September to 9 October.

The exhibition by the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust and supported by the University's Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre contains images of these refugee communities in their home countries and in Britain; and art work from two local Kurdish Artists.

You can also see examples of the ceramics produced in the workshops run by project artist Kevin Dalton-Johnson in Whalley Range High School for Girls and Manchester's City College, as well as two short films celebrating events in Manchester that highlight refugee experiences, arts and culture, and personal narratives from a member of each of the featured refugee communities.



Celebrating success in widening participation

The University recently hosted a major event to celebrate the success and impact of its range of widening participation activities delivered in the past year.

Organised by the Student Recruitment, Admissions and Widening Participation Division, more than 150 guests, including local and national policy makers from the DfES, HEFCE, City Council and Government Office North West attended an Open Evening in the Great Hall of the Sackville Street Building.

Introducing the event, Julian Skyrme, Head of Widening Participation, reflected on the considerable volume and richness of the University's engagements with prospective students of higher education, particularly across the Greater Manchester region where participation levels in HE are among the lowest in the UK.

In his Opening Address, the President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert said: "While ever such hideous inequities in HE participation exist, the widening participation agenda is among the most important issues facing the country. Within the Manchester 2015 plan we have therefore given considerable prominence to activities designed to make this an inclusive as well as a meritocratic institution".

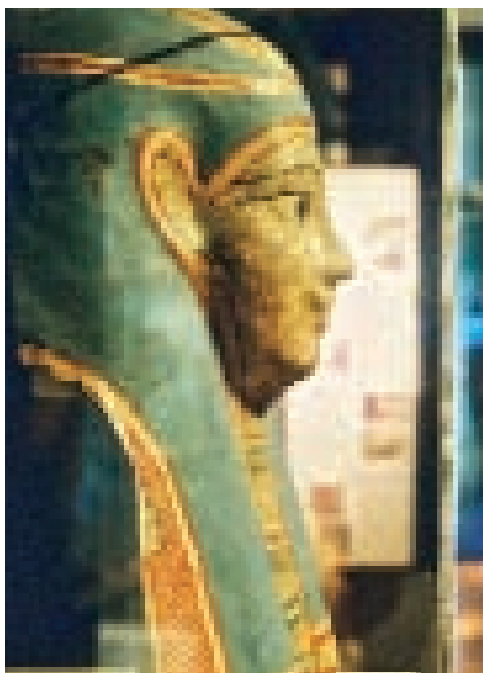
Guests were then able to hear a series of firsthand testimonies from school children, University student ambassadors, Headteachers and widening participation practitioners outlining the impact University initiatives were having on raising levels of awareness and expectation towards higher education study.

One such testimony was from Charlotte Jones, a first year Law student at Manchester, who was inspired to

progress onto higher education following her attendance at one of the University's Year 11 residential Summer Schools. Charlotte said: "As the first person in my family to think about University, it really gave me the confidence, experience and knowledge to aim high and work hard to get where I am today". As a current University 'Student Ambassador' Charlotte then spoke passionately about how she was helping future generations of young people to follow in her own footsteps by working on this year's Summer Schools.

Julian Skyrme said: "Communicating locally and nationally the impact of our widening participation activity is vitally important for the University. I was delighted that such a range of distinguished guests and stakeholders were able to share in this and see for themselves the high priority that Manchester attaches to this agenda."

Egyptian mummy is a model pupil



University Egyptology experts have presented their findings about the history of a 2,500-year-old Egyptian mummy to a school that owns the ancient remains.

"We have found out quite a lot about the historical background of the mummy and there have been detailed studies on the bones and teeth," said world-renowned Egyptology expert Professor Rosalie David. We hope that our work will inspire the youngsters to consider science as a future career as part of our commitment to carry out work with schools and the wider community."

The mummy was given to Uplands College in Wadhurst by the late Dr Dick Kittermaster, a pathologist at St Thomas's Hospital in London. Last year the school approached the University's Centre for Biomedical

Egyptology, to ask for its help in examining the remains.

"The school got in touch and said they had a mummy and wondered how they might set it up as a science project for their sixth formers," said Professor David. "We told them that if they could lend us some samples we could carry out a number of experiments to find out as much as we could about the mummy."

Staff and pupils from the school visited the University last February to witness first hand the latest scientific techniques available to researchers in the field and over the past months, Professor David and her team have been conducting various tests on the remains, including an endoscopy which allowed them to look inside the body without damaging it.

"We have been able to increase our knowledge about the mummy using the latest scientific techniques," said Professor David. "We were able to establish that the mummy was a young female and, unusually, the heart had been removed when the body was embalmed. We also discovered that the pelvis and femur had been fractured and the shoulder and knee dislocated but we could not confirm whether there had been any foul play involved with her death.

The findings, together with the mummy fragments and a clay facial reconstruction were handed back to the East Sussex school in July and will form part of a science project for future generations of pupils.

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

A vision for the future

As work to develop the Jodrell Bank Science Centre gathers pace, a major step forward has now been taken with the agreement of the framework for the vision for the Centre.

Project Manager, Teresa Anderson, said: "This initiative gives the University a unique opportunity to create an outstanding cultural beacon not only for the North West but for the UK as a whole. Jodrell Bank is the UK's leading astronomy observatory and it is completely fitting that we should be planning a world-class centre for visitors that will match the world class research carried out at the site.

"The agreement of the framework marks a major step forward in setting up a Centre that reflects the importance of the Lovell Telescope to the region and to the scientific heritage of the UK as a whole."

It is planned that the new Centre will house top class visitor facilities as well as exhibitions and events sparked off by science and by research developments both at Jodrell and at the rest of the University.

The Centre will offer a programme of cultural events which it is hoped will include music, literature, art and conversation that is unique for a science site, creating a new type of cultural space in the region. The existing arboretum will be a key part of the new attraction.

The original visitors centre was demolished in 2003 as since then an interim Visitor Centre has been created with redeveloped displays supported by the Steering Group.

The framework was agreed by Steering Group members following a visit to Jodrell Bank which included a walk on the surface of the giant Lovell Telescope (pictured).



www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank

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

University Staff are once again offered a significant reduction on the University's Courses for the Public. The Centre for Continuing Education is now accepting applications for its Autumn/Winter programme, which offers a variety of day-time and evening short courses on the University campus. For more information about the courses on offer ring for a brochure (ext 53275), check out the website www.manchester.ac.uk/continuingeducation or come along to an Open Day, on Tuesday 12 September 10am - 2 pm or Thursday 14 September 3pm - 7pm at **CCE, 1st Floor, Humanities Devas Street** 0161 275 3275

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 - 5pm
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

RC Chaplaincy, Avila House

(opposite the Students' Union, Oxford Road)
Mass Times (term-time only)
SUNDAY: 7pm (in the Holy Name Church) next door to Chaplaincy
Mon, Wed, Fri: 6pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel
Tues, Thurs: 12.15 pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel
Mon - Fri 1.05 pm
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

International Society

Sat 23 Sept
Visit to Cheshire Oaks

Sun 24 September
Visit to Manchester United Stadium

Sat 30 September
Day visit to Oxford

Sun 1 Oct
Day visit to Chester Zoo

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

www.internationalsociety.org.uk

Contact Theatre

Tue 3 Oct - Sat 7 Oct 2006

Township

by Presley Chweneyagae (Star of Academy Award winning Film TSOTSI) and Paul Grootboom (co-writer of TSOTSI).

Welcome to the gritty underworld of Township Stories where life is cheap and death is easy.

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For information on other events please visit our website

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www.contact-theatre.org

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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

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



The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Wild Britain until Sun 25 Feb 2007

Ben Hall is rapidly developing a reputation as one of the UK's best young wildlife photographers. In this, his first major exhibition, you will see the outstanding quality of his pictures of Britain's wildlife and also learn something of the craft of nature photography.

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).

Pre-booked Family Events (0161 275 2648)

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

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/

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Gig Guide Manchester Academy

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Fri 22 Sept

Joe Bonamassa

Fri 29 September

The Men They Could'nt Hang

Sat 30 Sept

The Jamm

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

Wild Britain

exhibition, The Manchester Museum, until Sunday, 25 February 2007

Corridor of culture

Over the summer the University supported and hosted a number of activities aimed at both the public and key stakeholders in raising the profile of Oxford Road as a cultural destination



The events formed a programme of summer activities organised by the Oxford Road Cultural Consortium (ORCC) of which the University is the founder.

The programme formed part of a collaborative project with Manchester Metropolitan University, supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the North West Development Agency (NWDA).

Last month saw the University host two events aimed at providing stakeholders with an update on developments to turn Oxford Road into a cultural destination.

The Oxford Road Colloquium was a consultation event held within the Manchester Museum for Oxford Road stakeholders. Hosted by Peter Fell, ORCC Chair and the University's Director of Regional Affairs, the event welcomed a number of high profile speakers.

Eamonn Boylan, Deputy Chief Executive of Manchester City Council talked about the significant development plans for the Oxford Road area.

Professor John Hyatt of MMU spoke about the cultural value and potential of Oxford Road, he put

forward the idea that Oxford Road has the kind of atmosphere that could potentially engender cross-sectoral and cross-discipline dialogue.

Claire O'Neill of Manchester Knowledge Capital gave an overview of the Science City programme of which Oxford Road is a vital part as well as the City Growth Strategy and its relevance to the cultural sector.

Immediately after this event was the Oxford Road Celebration which launched the Oxford Road Photo Show and Urban trails. The celebration featured a number of presentations including personal recollections about and passion for Oxford Road from BBC Radio's and alumnus Mark Radcliffe (pictured).

The Photo Show in July was organised across five venues including the Museum's Café Muse and the Whitworth Art Gallery cafe and showed work from a diverse range of photographers displaying images from the Oxford Road corridor. The Urban Trails were commissioned by MMU and celebrated both the historical past and cultural future of Oxford Road. They were led and devised by Blue Badge tour guide Jonathan Schofield.

Sachas Hotel

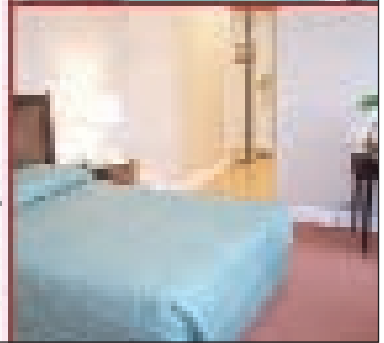
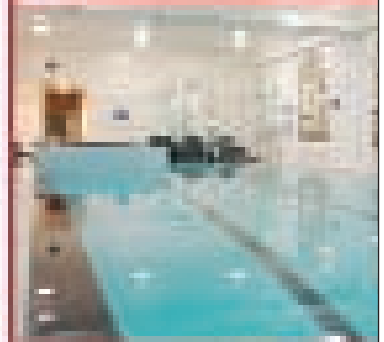
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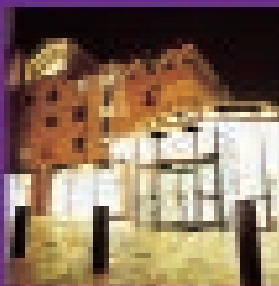
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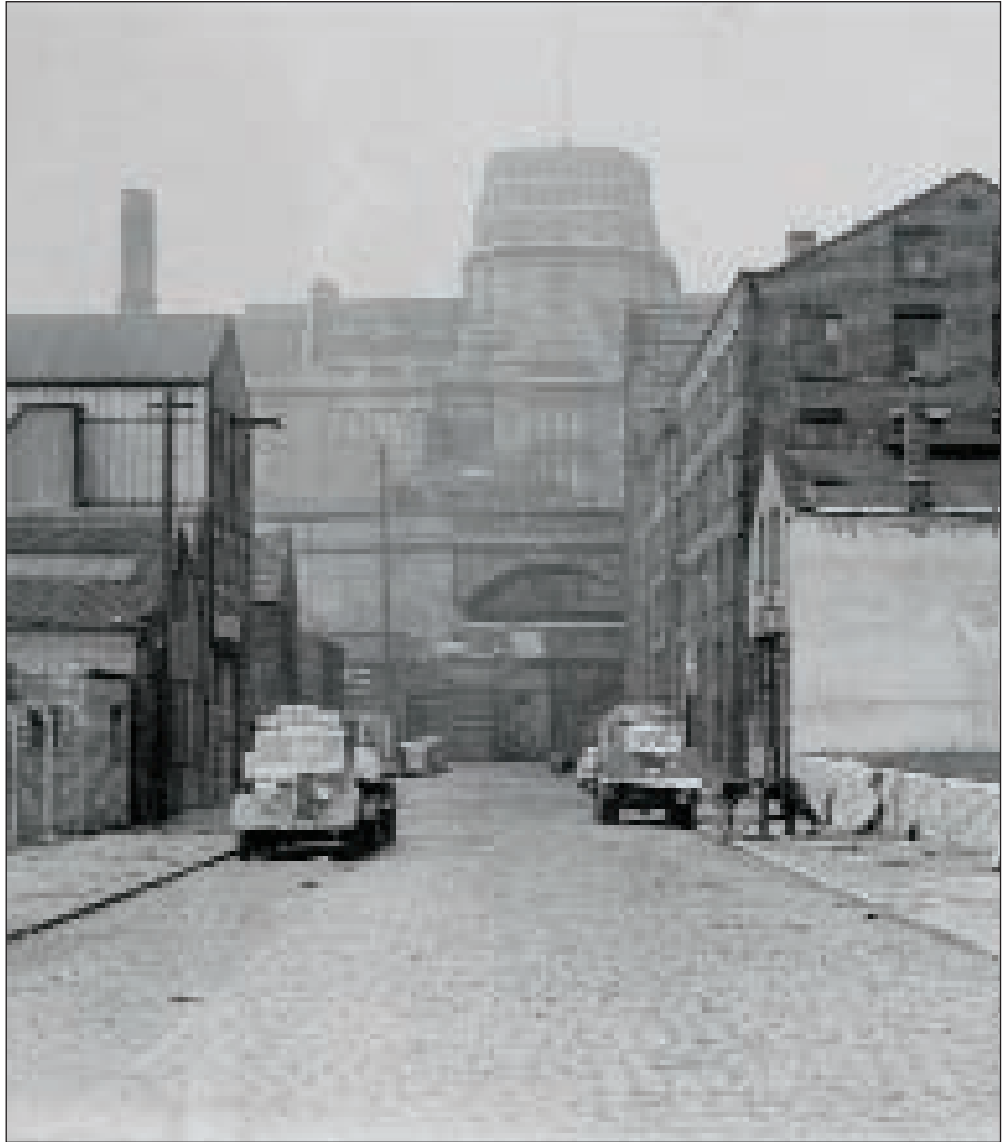
◆ www.u-print.com

Sackville Street Building

Our unusual and atmospheric picture demonstrates dramatically the scale of UMIST's Sackville Street building in the context of the locality of the time.

The view up the narrow, cobbled Temple Street, with the landmark Jackson Street mill on the right, emphasises the size of the building. The foreground tells of local history. The fact that at one time there was a soft-drinks factory there is reflected in the presence of the giant bottle-top Pepsi Cola sign on the truck parked on the right-hand side, proclaiming the memorable slogan "Pepsi Cola peps you up!". On the other side of the street, another truck proudly boasts another brand name, Manchester Tanzaro.

The dangerously leaning gas lamp on the right perhaps gives a clue to the activity of the workmen, clearly a traditional two-man job, one digging, one watching (some things never change), as paving flags are raised and repositioned.



88 Carmoor Road
(off Hathersage Road/Upper
Brook Street), Chorlton-on-
Medlock, Manchester M13 0FB

**For information, please
telephone Sharon on
0161 248 5340
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