

# UniLife



We're University  
of the Year

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## Letter from the President



The establishment of a Task Force concerned with generating non-government revenue is, I imagine, something that some of my colleagues here in Manchester regard as a travesty of what an authentic university stands for. I applaud their commitment to preserving the core values of higher learning that have evolved over many centuries. I am as concerned as they rightly are that this university must never be suborned by the power of the purse, whether exercised by Government officials or private business interests. Consequently, I have no doubt that institutional autonomy remains the foundation on which the idea of a university rests.

In certain crucial respects, a university is not at all like a commercial organisation. A university is not concerned with making a profit, either from tuition fees or anything else. Every penny, every pound, of this university's income is spent, with varying degrees of wisdom and efficiency, on the wide-ranging scholarly purposes and priorities associated with achieving scholarly excellence, producing world class research, attracting virtuoso colleagues, educating superb graduates.

The blunt reality, nevertheless, is that the resources required to run a world class university do not and are never likely to come wholly from Government. There are serious and growing public funding gaps facing any UK university serious about matching the best universities in the world.

The University of Manchester must, for the best of academic reasons, diversify and expand our revenue base, substantially and without delay. Otherwise we face the slow onset of mediocrity. It is as simple and difficult as that.

Every academic teacher and researcher in The University of Manchester needs to hear this message loudly and clearly.

Deans, Heads of Schools, Heads of Administrative

Directorates and, through them, the whole University community are in the front line of the challenge of resourcing academic excellence.

To help them, we have established a Task Force Project, led by Rod Coombs, to develop strategies for sustainable revenue generation in the years ahead. Its remit is to analyse emerging funding gaps across the whole spectrum of University activities, and design revenue strategies for growing the University's income at a rate required to meet our strategic objectives.

Because resources will never be superabundant, we have established a second Task Force Project to focus on the practicalities of ensuring that the resources we can generate are used wisely and efficiently, that "re-work" is avoided, that redundant processes and procedures are eliminated, that bureaucracy never survives as an end in itself in The University of Manchester, and that administrative support is provided in the areas where it is most needed. Albert McMenemy, who is heading it, wants input, ideas and commitment from as many people as possible.

Heads of Schools will be meeting with me and my other senior colleagues on 6 October to discuss how best to mobilise the whole University around these two related challenges. I hope colleagues around the University will recognise, in this "businesslike" approach, a single, unwavering focus on facilitating and funding academic excellence and enabling world class research.

Professor Alan Gilbert  
President and Vice-Chancellor

## News

# Manchester named Sunday Times "University of the Year"

The University of Manchester has won the coveted Sunday Times "University of the Year" title, beating four other short listed universities.



The President and Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alan Gilbert, said: "This is a welcome follow-up to winning last year's THES Institution of the Year award. It is also a reassuring indication of the extent to which observers outside the University continue to be impressed by the progress that the new University of Manchester, two years old this month, is making in many areas.

"Over the last twelve months we have launched the Dalton Nuclear Institute, opened the new £25 million Core Technology Facility, signed a potentially important strategic partnership agreement with the Open University, continued successfully to implement the biggest programme of capital investment ever seen in British higher education, attracted Nobel Laureate Joe Stiglitz to join the University on a part-time basis, continued to receive more

applications than any other university in the UK - and watched Manchester students win University Challenge. It has truly been a remarkable year.

"I am interpreting this award as a tribute to the efforts of all the staff and students who contributed to such achievements. Everyone at the University can feel justifiably proud of their hard work and commitment to Manchester."

Manchester also climbed three places to 15th in the Sunday Times university league table. The Sunday Times University Guide is now in its ninth year and is seen by students and parents alike as an invaluable first reference point on the path to finding a university place.

This year's league table also revealed that Manchester is well thought of by head teachers and academics who were canvassed by The

Sunday Times about which universities they felt provide the best quality undergraduate provision.

Across a range of 30 subjects, Manchester was beaten by just seven universities in the view of academics. Official assessments of teaching quality show no university in the country has more subjects rated excellent for teaching - 36 in all.

Research is seen as similarly high class and the University earns more than £170m a year from its research work, although it has ambitious plans to be ranked world-class in more subjects in the next round of research ratings to be published in 2008.

In brief



Kevin Malone

Choral tribute

A piece of music written by Dr Kevin Malone from the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures was performed in the town of Shanksville on 11 September to commemorate the victims of United Flight 93 which crashed into the town five years ago.

Children's choir "North Star Kids" performed the composition called 'Gently Tread' in front of senior politicians, victims' families, members of the community and the international media.

The words were inspired by quotes from Director of the Flight 93 Memorial Chapel, Father Alphonse Mascherino and Psalm 23, which was recited by passengers on the aircraft before they overpowered terrorists.

Dr Malone had been recording interviews with people who were at the scene of the tragedy for a concerto he is writing to be performed next year when he was also asked to write the four minute piece.



Chemistry Professor Honoured

John R Helliwell, Professor of Structural Chemistry, has been elected President of the European Crystallographic Association for a period of three years from August 2006.

Prof Helliwell (right) is pictured with Prof Dr-Ing Hartmut Fuess, Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany the outgoing President.

# Head of State flies in for anniversary celebrations



George Maxwell

The President of Trinidad and Tobago visited the University last month to attend celebrations at the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science's 50th Anniversary Reunion. His Excellency Professor George Maxwell Richards attended on both days and gave an after-dinner speech.

Manchester was the first place in the UK, and arguably the world, to teach chemical engineering - in 1887 in the Manchester Technical School. But it was not until 1956 and the arrival of Frank Morton, that the University was able to boast its own Department of Chemical Engineering.

The old department still resides in the same building, The Mill, that it began life in, 50 years ago.

Head of School Professor Colin Webb said: "Our reunion is principally to celebrate this significant milestone but also to commemorate the growth and development of the discipline of Chemical Engineering in Manchester over the years"

Former professors and graduates were able to hear about the plans for the future shape of chemical engineering at Manchester in the light of the profound changes in the industries and were shown the changing Campus and the Morton Lab, a pilot plant which was refurbished and relaunched in 2003 at a cost of £6.7M.

# New career for 85-year-old graduate



Since Ronald Lipman completed his PhD at Manchester at the age of 85, it looks like a new stage of his academic career is just beginning.

His thesis centred on the discovery of the black Jews of Ethiopia, their eventual transportation to Israel, and the problems of integration from mud huts to a modern western society.

Now he is receiving requests for talks from historical societies and essays for journals on the subject of his thesis. There's even the prospect of writing a book.

He said: "The boredom of retirement prompted me to start an academic career and was the best

decision I ever made. All sorts of doors are opening at the moment and I don't feel as though my age is a bar to anything."

Dr Lipman, from Leeds, retired in 1994 as a wholesale jeweller. He qualified with a BA (Hons) in 1994 after three years of study at Leeds Metropolitan University, followed by a two year Masters in Jewish history in 1997 at the University of Leeds.

He recently completed the University of Manchester PhD which he started in 2000.

# Star attraction



Jodrell Bank, the UK's national radio astronomy observatory and part of the University's School of Physics and Astronomy, has been named as the winner in a BBC online competition to find the UK's greatest 'Unsung Landmark'.

The contest asked visitors to the BBC website to choose their favourite from eight landmarks nominated by the public and Jodrell Bank came out on top.

The main telescope at Jodrell Bank measures 250 feet in diameter and weighs 3,200 tonnes and dominates the Cheshire landscape near Goostrey. The accolade is a fitting tribute to a piece of science which next year celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Jodrell Bank was the brainchild of physicist Sir Bernard Lovell who had worked on radar during the war and was fascinated by odd signals picked up by the equipment, which he believed might be echoes of cosmic rays.

He started work at The University of Manchester buildings in the centre of the city, but was obstructed by interference from passing electric trams and decided he needed to get into the countryside and took up residence at Jodrell Bank, where the University's botany department had a base.

Conceived in the 1940s, and co-designed by engineer Sir Charles Husband, the main telescope at Jodrell Bank was completed in 1957. It soon impressed the astronomy community when it was the only facility in the West able to track the rocket carrying the Russians' first satellite, the Sputnik, into space.

Jodrell Bank today spends much of its time looking for quasars and pulsars, large stars that have collapsed in on themselves and become hugely dense rotating neutron stars. Three years ago a team at Jodrell Bank found a double pulsar, a milestone in astronomy. The observatory has also led searches for lost probes, tracking the Mars Observer in 1993 and Beagle II 10 years later.

The Director of Jodrell Bank Observatory, Professor Andrew Lyne, said: "We're known worldwide for the quality of our research in astronomy and are incredibly proud that the public recognise the giant Lovell radio telescope as a key part of the UK landscape too. After several upgrades the Lovell Telescope is far more capable than when it was first built, enabling astronomers from across the world to continue to make exciting scientific discoveries. We hope that people will join us next year in special events being planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this iconic structure."

# Brazil Accolade

Ron Doney, Professor of Probability Theory, has been given a top accolade in the field of mathematics at a special ceremony in Brazil. He has been named Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics at the IMS Annual Meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

Professor Doney receives the award for distinguished contributions to the theory of Levy processes, and in particular calculation of sample path and distributional properties.

Professor Paul Glendinning, Head of the School of Mathematics said: "This is a tremendous honour for

Professor Doney and it is thoroughly deserved. He is a leading figure in Probability Theory."

Created in 1933, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics is a member organization which fosters the development and dissemination of the theory and applications of statistics and probability. The IMS has 4500 active members throughout the world.

Each Fellow nominee is assessed by a committee of their peers for the award. In 2006, after reviewing 44 nominations, 20 were selected for Fellowship.

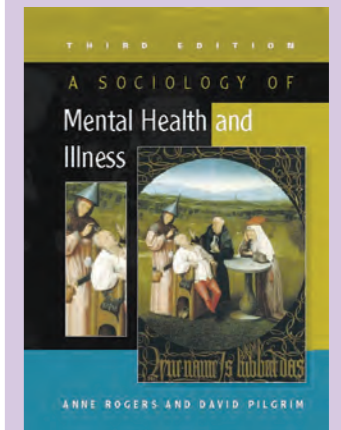
In brief

Manchester gets hormonal

Scientists from around the world congregated in Manchester last month for the 23rd Conference of European Comparative Endocrinologists. The event was organised by Richard Balment, Head of Tissues to Organisms section.

The conference covered new developments in the fields of vertebrate and invertebrate endocrinology. "It was a very successful event" said Richard Balment. "The meeting attracted more than 300 delegates from over 30 countries, and featured 132 oral presentations and 168 posters over four days".

Comparative endocrinology aims to understand the role of the endocrine glands and the hormones they secrete, using molecular to whole organism scientific methods and a wide range of animal models. Recent discoveries have been made in the field by adopting interdisciplinary approaches that rely on collaboration between researchers in diverse fields. In particular, the exchange of ideas between classical comparative endocrinology and genome sequencing projects are providing exciting new means of identifying the function of genes in their physiological or 'whole organism' context.



Prizewinning Book

The top prize of BMA Medical Book of the Year has been awarded to A Sociology of Mental Health and Illness edited by Dr Anne Rogers from the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre and Dr David Pilgrim, Honorary Professor at the Universities of Liverpool and Central Lancashire.

The book was praised by reviewers as being "simply the best textbook in the area of mental health sociology". Dr Anne Rogers said: "The sociology of mental health is an exciting area to be involved with and we hope we have provided a sense of this in the book."

The BMA Medical Book competition has been held annually since 1994 and aims to encourage and reward excellence in medical publishing and patient information.



Professor Andrew Loudon

## New facility will bridge the gap



**Construction work on the £35 million Smith Extension development on a site between the Michael Smith Building and the Core Technology Facility is well under way.**

The state-of-the-art facility, which will be connected to both neighbouring buildings by bridge links, will eventually house 40 research

groups from the Faculties of Life Sciences and Medical and Human Sciences.

The building, due for completion by the end of 2008, will have a neuroscience research focus and includes dedicated electrophysiology and histology suites.

Pictured is project sponsor, Andrew Loudon, Professor of Animal Biology in the Faculty of Life Sciences, with others involved in the hi-tech development.



## Museum showcase seminars

The Manchester Museum has recently appointed three 'Museum-Academic Joint Appointments' (MAJAs) with cognate subject areas within the faculties.

The MAJAs, Maria Kostoglou (humanities), Phil Manning (natural sciences) and Sam Alberti (museumology) have set up a new seminar series, 'SHOWCASE', to provide a forum for a broad range of museum- and collection-based research in each of their subject areas.

Delivered by leading academics and museum professionals (such as Professor Sharon MacDonald and the new

Manchester Museum Director Dr Nick Merriman), the seminar series, to be held on Wednesday afternoons, will appeal to staff and students from across the University, as well as interested members of the local community.

It will integrate the Museum's research culture with that of the faculties, and provide a forum for genuinely interdisciplinary dialogue.

For a full list of seminars and further details see [www.museum.man.ac.uk/whatson/seminars.htm](http://www.museum.man.ac.uk/whatson/seminars.htm)



## Educational psychologists an 'underused resource'

**A review of educational psychology provision in England and Wales commissioned by the Government has recommended a fundamental rethink of the way services are delivered.**

The research, conducted by the University's School of Education, was carried out for the Department for Education and Skills as part of its ongoing evaluation

of the Every Child Matters (ECM) initiative for improving children's services.

The researchers analysed data from more than 1,000 respondents including teachers, local authority officers, parents, pupils, mental health professionals, youth offending teams and many others.

Professor Peter Farrell who led the project said: "88% of parents rated the contribution made by the Educational Psychologist (EP) who assessed their child to be 'helpful' or 'very helpful'.

"However, the overwhelming view was that EPs have been too heavily involved in the statutory assessment of children with special educational needs and that this has not been a good use of their valuable time.

Professor Farrell added: "The review makes a number of key recommendations for improving educational psychology services, including the need for EPs to clarify whether an alternative provider might be available to carry out some of their work with the same impact."

## Robot scientist helps out in lab

**A groundbreaking study into Alzheimer's disease is to be launched at The University of Manchester with the help of a robot scientist.**

The robot, which operates independently in the lab, will be used to analyse hundreds of blood samples taken from volunteers with and without diagnosed Alzheimer's disease in the first ever study focusing on metabolites using this technology.

Metabolites are chemicals in the body produced when cells or organisms burn 'food'. By analysing them it is possible to determine the health of the cells and organisms which have produced them.

The aim of this three-year study is to determine whether there are biological markers (clues) held in metabolites which signal the presence of Alzheimer's disease in a patient and predict the effectiveness of medications to slow the anticipated decline. The study could lead to the development of a blood test for early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

The study will use blood samples taken from volunteers across the Greater Manchester and Stockport area consisting of Alzheimer's patients and age-match controls. In total 1000 volunteers will be recruited to the study.

A technique known as GCGC-MS, specially calibrated at Manchester University, will be used to measure accurately the concentration of thousands of the metabolites in the blood samples. This is the first study in the world to measure so many chemicals in the blood and to use them to improve diagnosis.

Professor Alistair Burns said: "There is a pressing need to find a simple and objective way, such as a blood test, of diagnosing Alzheimer's disease and monitoring its progression, especially the effectiveness of treatments. By looking at so many chemicals simultaneously the chances of observing a true diagnostic marker for Alzheimer's disease is very good."



Research in the news

**'Sick patients 'cannot afford' vital medication'** – a survey carried out by The University of Manchester has found that most people view the current prescription charging system as illogical because people with some chronic diseases are exempt from charges but others – including heart disease and high-blood pressure patients – have to pay full price. Ellen Schafheutle called for an urgent review of the charging system at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's national conference. This story was reported in the Manchester Evening News

**'Cancer hope as vaccine trials start'** - a new vaccine called TroVax which targets some of the most serious forms of cancer may prevent patients from suffering a relapse once they have had initial surgery or drugs treatment. The idea for TroVax initially came from scientists at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, who were interested to know why the immune system doesn't 'see' cancer cells as dangerous or foreign and therefore does not mount an attack on them. This story was reported in The Observer

**'Open for business'** - a special supplement on science parks featured articles on One Central Park, The University of Manchester Incubator Company and Daresbury Laboratory. The launch of the Core Technology Facility in June was also featured. This supplement was in The Times.

**'Super-light body vests on way to beat bullets'** - a super-lightweight fabric which could stop a bullet is being developed by scientists at the Daresbury Laboratory. Tony Buckley said: 'The research is aimed at making body armour more flexible, as well as more bullet resistant, leading to the manufacture of lightweight bullet-proof clothing.' This story was reported in the Manchester Evening News

**BBC News Online – 15 September**  
**'Urgent call on carbon emissions'** – greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced far more quickly than was previously thought, according to a study carried out by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. Report author Dr Kevin Anderson said: 'The UK can move to a low-carbon economy but the journey will become much more arduous the longer the government leaves it to act.' This story was reported in BBC News Online and The Independent, The Guardian and the Daily Mirror.

# EPS host Fellowships for Researchers event

More than 150 postdoctoral researchers attended the Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences (EPS) Fellowships for Researchers seminar last month. The aim was to raise awareness of prestigious Fellowship opportunities available to contract research staff and early career colleagues. Speakers from the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the EPSRC were present. There were also presentations and a Q&A session from successful, experienced Research Fellows.

Professor Helen Gleeson, Associate Dean for Research (EPS) pictured explains "We designed this successful event to improve our provision of career advice to a vital body of people within the University, our postdoctoral researchers. We hope that it provided both useful information to these researchers, showing them what opportunities there are for applying for Fellowships and what help the Faculty offers, as well as providing an opportunity for researchers to network."

This event also marked the launch of a 40 page Guide to Grantsmanship. This booklet, produced by the EPS Research Strategy Team, is a compilation of tips, dos and don'ts and some good general advice to optimise a researcher's chances of writing a successful grant application.

If you wish to obtain a copy please email [louise.rogers@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:louise.rogers@manchester.ac.uk)



Professor Helen Gleeson

# New genetic link to cot death

**Babies born with specific variants of three key genes are 14 times more likely to die from cot death, new research has found. The findings - published in Human Immunology - build on earlier research by The University of Manchester team that had already associated one of these genes with the condition.**

The discovery of two further risk genes, say the paper's authors, is a major step forward in understanding the causes of cot death or 'sudden infant death syndrome' (SIDS).

"We first identified an association between SIDS and specific variants of a gene called Interleukin-10 five years ago," said microbiologist Dr David Drucker, who led the research. "Quite simply, a baby who had particular variations of this gene was at greater risk of SIDS than other babies. Now, we have discovered two more genes implicated in SIDS and when a baby has certain genetic variants or 'polymorphisms' of all three of these genes he or she can be up to 14 times more likely to die from the condition."

Dr Drucker, whose previous work has also explained why smoking and sleeping position are also risk factors in SIDS, says this latest research will help establish the cause of death in certain cases.

"This research greatly advances our understanding of the basic causes of SIDS, which is not a single disease but a collection of different causes of death," said Dr Drucker, who carried out the work in collaboration with paediatric pathologist Dr Anthony Barson.

"Forensic scientists would be able to assess the likelihood of a baby dying from SIDS through genetic measurements and so help prevent the sort of tragic miscarriages of justice that have happened in the past. The research will also improve our ability to identify in advance which babies will be at risk of SIDS so their mothers can be personally advised to eliminate other risk factors such as dangerous sleeping position for their infant."

# Hair today, gone tomorrow

**A team of academics from the Faculty of Life Sciences may have discovered why certain people are hairier than others and why some men go bald prematurely.**

The University team has laid bare the molecular processes that determine which embryonic skin cells will form into hair follicles and determine the body's hair pattern.

The findings will be of interest to scientists looking at male-pattern baldness but have more direct implications for people who suffer from ectodermal dysplasia - a range of conditions where skin cells fail to develop into other tissue, including hair follicles.

"During human development, skin cells have the ability to turn into other types of cells to form hair follicles, sweat glands, teeth and nails," said Dr Denis Headon, who led the research. "Which cells are transformed into hair follicles is determined by three proteins that are produced by our genes.

Our research has identified how one of these proteins working outside of the cell interacts at a molecular level to determine an individual's hair pattern as the embryonic skin spatially organises itself."

The team found that cells given the genetic command to become hair follicles will send out signals to neighbouring cells to prevent them from doing likewise, so producing a specific hair pattern. They also demonstrated that by hyperactivating the 'hair protein' in embryonic mice, young with considerably more fur than normal were produced.

"We were able to change the number of hair follicles in the embryonic mice while they were developing in the womb," said Dr Headon. "The findings could have implications for sufferers of ectodermal dysplasia that are missing this particular protein and who are unable to develop hair follicles during embryonic development."



# Exploring the biodiversity

**In the face of the biodiversity crisis one scientist said: "Our generation is the first to fully comprehend the threat of the biodiversity crisis and the last with the opportunity to explore and document the species diversity of our planet".**

This challenge is exactly what Dr Dmitri Logunov, the Curator of Arthropods in the Manchester Museum and his colleagues try to address. Dmitri is a professional taxonomist, a specialist who discovers, describes and classifies the species of our planet: his primary interest is spiders.

Contemporary taxonomy is a large-scale international discipline requiring serious theoretical and empirical rigor. Molecular biologists offer 'DNA-barcoding' as a tool for species

identification and classification. But Dmitri believes that DNA taxonomy will never be a substitute for the observations and collections made by naturalists in the field.

In October 2006, Dmitri is going to Turku University in Finland, where he will carry out a collaborative research project supported by the Finnish Academy of Sciences. The project will use a Scanning Electron Microscope to examine the relationships between the Palaeartic genera of jumping spiders.

# Food fit to eat?



**A survey across six European countries has found that contrary to expectation, UK consumers are the most trusting of the food they eat. The research also found that Brits are the least likely to argue that standards have deteriorated over the past 20 years.**

University of Manchester sociologist Dr Mark Harvey said the abrupt turnaround in public opinion since the BSE crisis 15 years ago could be put down to the positive contributions of British supermarkets and the Food Standards Agency.

Dr Harvey was in a UK team commissioned by the European Union to examine the issue following a series of crises across Europe, including BSE, Foot and Mouth, Dioxin and Avian Flu. Around 9,000 people in six countries were interviewed and researchers across Europe spoke to some of the

leading players in the industry and food regulatory organisations over three years.

Dr Harvey said: "BSE was a huge crisis in the UK but from that low point things have turned around completely and the supermarkets have played an important part in that. Indeed, the UK was a food desert a few years ago but now, partly thanks to the supermarkets, we have a more cosmopolitan and varied diet."

He added: "It is quite astonishing that despite past problems in Britain, consumers remain confident in the quality, price and safety of the food they buy".

"The Food Standards Agency was a radical move when it was set up following the BSE crisis. The data shows it's been a great success. So much so that other countries are trying to emulate it."

Grants and contracts

**£150,000 for breast cancer research**

Breast Cancer Campaign, the only charity that specialises in funding independent breast cancer research throughout the UK, has awarded a project grant of £150,000 to the University's Dr Keith Brennan.

With previous Campaign funding, Dr Brennan discovered that a group of molecules called Notch proteins are involved in breast cancer growth and development. Since then he has found high levels of Notch proteins in DCIS, (ductal carcinoma in situ, a pre-invasive form of breast cancer), especially in patients whose DCIS returns after treatment.

With this new funding, Dr Brennan hopes to discover how Notch proteins are involved in supporting DCIS growth and recurrence after treatment. The research will investigate if blocking the action of Notch proteins may be an effective way of treating DCIS and preventing it recurring.

Dr Brennan says "This Campaign funded project will enable me to continue my research into Notch proteins in DCIS which will hopefully lead to the development of new treatments."

# Hearing voices

**Psychologists have launched a study to find out why some people who hear voices in their head consider it a positive experience while others find it distressing.**

The University of Manchester investigation comes after Dutch researchers found that many healthy members of the population there regularly hear voices.

Although hearing voices has traditionally been viewed as 'abnormal' and a symptom of mental illness, the Dutch findings suggest it is more widespread than previously thought, estimating that about 4% of the population hear voices. That would be equivalent to 100,000 people in Greater Manchester.

Researcher Aylish Campbell said: "We know that many members of the general population hear voices but have never felt the need to access mental health services; some experts even claim that more people hear voices and don't seek psychiatric help than those who do. Many of those affected describe their voices as being a positive influence in their lives, comforting or inspiring them as they go about their daily business. We're now keen to investigate why some people respond in this way while others are distressed and seek outside help."

The team would like to hear from people in the northwest aged 16 years and over who have been

hearing voices for at least six months. They can be both users of mental-health services or not. Discussions will be carried out at a location to suit the volunteer in complete privacy. Participants will also be asked to complete questionnaires about their experiences. In all, participation in the study will take about an hour-and-a-half.

People interested in participating can call 0161 306 0405 or e-mail [voicesresearch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:voicesresearch@hotmail.co.uk)



Aylish Campbell

# HIV drug for cervical cancer

**Researchers at the University are developing a topical treatment against the human papilloma virus (HPV) which is responsible for pre-cancerous and cancerous disease of the cervix as well as other genital malignancies.**

In the UK many thousands of women undergo surgery to remove precancerous lesions every year. Instead they may be able to apply a simple cream or pessary to the affected area. The discovery may be even more significant in developing countries which lack surgical facilities and where HPV related cervical cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer in women.

Drs Ian and Lynne Hampson at the School of Medicine's Division of Human Development and Reproduction are developing the treatment from a type of drug that is given orally to treat HIV. This protease inhibitor can selectively kill cultured HPV infected cervical cancer cells and, since it is already available as a liquid formulation, it is possible it may work by direct application to the cervix.

Group leader Dr Ian Hampson, who is based at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, said: "It is very exciting to find such a significant new use for this HIV drug which is already licensed and FDA-approved for oral administration.

We are currently exploring the means of delivering this drug directly to the affected tissue. We would then move to a clinical trial that would be supervised by our head of unit Professor Kitchener. If this proves successful we could see the treatment available fairly rapidly."

Professor Kitchener said: "The significance of this finding is that a simple medical treatment could be used in place of surgery which many women dislike and fully preserve the cervix. First we need to demonstrate that it can be effective."

# Leading for 10 years

**More than 700 students and their family and friends gathered in the Whitworth Hall to attend the Centre for Educational Leadership's (CEL's) thirteenth Awards Day and to mark the beginning of its 10th anniversary celebrations.**

The Awards Day honours those who have completed the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH), the Postgraduate Certificate and Masters in Process Consultancy, and the M Ed in Educational Leadership.

Guest speaker at the ceremony was Steve Munby, Chief Executive of the National College of School Leadership (NCSL), who referred to CEL as "one of the College's pre-eminent leadership centres".

It is ten years since the University's Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL) was awarded its first contract to provide training for aspiring headteachers .

Professor Bob Munn, the University's Vice President for Teaching and Learning praised CEL at the Awards Day saying: "CEL has an outstanding reputation as a high quality, integrated centre that can draw upon significant expertise in diverse areas. The Centre's mission is to achieve international excellence in leadership development and change management in public services."



He also announced that CEL had been awarded a number of major new contracts for the development of school leaders and had formed a consortium, The Northern Partnership (TNP), to deliver these across the North of England.

The photograph shows members of the platform party at the Awards Day:

**Busy Year for TEAM**

The cross-faculty active research network TEAM (The Environment at Manchester) has had a busy year. With funding from the Higher Education Innovation Fund and NWDA, numerous new contacts and potential collaborative links have been established with regional and national organisations.

Linked to this, an Environment Agency funded project has secured the establishment of a research-led regional network to maximise collaborative links between the Agency and the Region's academic community.

Internationally, TEAM is working on an environment-focused higher education capacity building project in the developing world; the latest success being in Syria where the four national universities are collaborating with Manchester on the introduction of BSc programmes in Environmental Sciences and Studies. This includes junior teaching staff coming from Syria to study PhDs at Manchester.

On the wider international stage, TEAM network members are working with the World Universities Network on projects ranging from collaboration with the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Nanjing University to using the latest computing technologies to enable carbon friendly videoconferencing specifically for postgraduate research students.

Closer to home, TEAM have experimented with 'e-brainstorming' to generate new research ideas, and are helping with the development of new research initiatives in the areas of Energy Futures and Environment and Health.

For further information contact Jane Raftery, [jane.raftery@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jane.raftery@manchester.ac.uk).

# Learning about sustainable development

**This semester will see the launch of an innovative cross-faculty initiative funded by HEFCE's Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund. The aim is to enhance the quality of our students' learning experience in the broad area of 'environment and sustainable development'**

This will be achieved through activities ranging from student-led 'greening the campus' and 'green community volunteering' to curriculum innovation and international videoconferencing for postgraduate research students.

One key strand of activity will be to establish a cross-faculty portfolio of curricular and extra curricular 'topics, ideas and themes' for undergraduate and Masters students.

There will be three overlapping approaches. The first is to encourage academic colleagues to contribute towards supervision of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary projects

linked to current and potential (horizon scanning) scholarly interests.

The second, is to work with non-academic colleagues, for example in the areas of estates management, services and procurement, to identify student projects which have the potential of contributing to progress in areas not usually linked with teaching and learning.

The third is to collaborate with external organisations, commercial, public and NGO sectors, in the development of projects by providing access to data and expertise and perhaps placements. The success of this initiative depends largely upon colleagues becoming involved in a 'spirit of collegiality', recognising the potential and value of working beyond the normal confines of the day job.

For more information contact Susan Stubbs, [susan.stubbs@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:susan.stubbs@manchester.ac.uk).



# Simon's strategy



It is very fitting that a man who has long advocated, championed and practised interdisciplinary collaboration should now have a glass-walled office in the new Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre, which is a bit of a mouthful as a name for a building (hence it is known simply as MIB), but expresses the philosophy of its conception and activity. It operates at the interface between the physical sciences and the life sciences. Which is exactly where Simon Gaskell, Vice-President for Research and Professor of Mass Spectrometry, operates himself, using advanced analytical techniques to investigate the biochemistry of micro-organisms, which yield insights relevant to disease.

The MIB architecturally is the sort of Orwellian building now so fashionable - open plan, glass-walled, with exposed staircases and black metal struts. As you sit on one of the incongruous brown leather sofas in the waiting area, a nearby lift squeaking and cranking up and down, you can see people walking around on all levels or sitting in meetings. But it is all part of the plan, conceived pre-merger, bringing biomolecular sciences together with instrumentation and analytical sciences.

"Here we have a significant interface," Simon says. "It encourages work across disciplines and is consistent with post-disciplinary research. The very existence of the building expresses the underlying academic philosophy of research in physical sciences in the service of life sciences."

Being a radical thinker on these issues, he sees the future as being non- rather than inter-disciplinary, hence the term post-disciplinary research. "Getting to the point where we're not constrained by disciplines is a natural progression," he says. "In a sense, talking about interdisciplinarity reinforces the notion of disciplines. The RAE reinforces disciplines. One of our next major challenges is to go beyond all

"...we have the opportunity to lead, to influence national and international debate. It has significant implications for the way we facilitate our research."

that and we have the opportunity to lead, to influence national and international debate. It has significant implications for the way we facilitate our research."

As VP for Research, along with Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell FRS, he sees the University's research strategy and activity whole. Having already spent two years as Associate VP for Research, he is clear that the size and importance of the University's research portfolio calls for two VPs. "It is a huge and fascinating job," he says. The VPs do not have separate specific portfolios, but in effect job share to enable them each to be fully informed and interchangeable. At the same time, demanding though it is, it is still only a part-time job, enabling them to carry on their own research and lead by example.

"That is very important," he says. "My research matters to me and it helps me to understand other people's problems. I could hardly encourage, urge, even cajole colleagues in their research activity if I didn't do any myself."

His group (the Michael Barber Centre for Mass Spectrometry) continues to develop advanced analytical techniques, working at the cutting-edge of physical sciences. "Fundamental understanding of analytical chemical techniques enables us to contribute to the elucidation of problems of fundamental biological and clinical importance," is how he has defined it.

The group's work has made a major contribution, with a variety of collaborators, to clinical and other life science research. Most recently, their work on the protein composition of trypanosomes - micro-organisms responsible for diseases like African sleeping sickness -, in collaboration with Oxford and Lancaster, has produced valuable biochemical insights relevant to disease. Its publication in Nature had a high impact.

Simon decided early on, nearly 30 years ago, to apply his skills to the medical rather than environmental field. Following an MRC post-doc Fellowship at Glasgow, still in his twenties, he became Principal Research Officer and Head of the Mass Spectrometry Unit at the Tenovus Institute for Cancer Research in

Cardiff. For nearly a decade there, he did trailblazing work on steroid analysis in relation to breast and prostate cancer.

He spent the next decade in the United States, mainly in Houston, Texas, as Professor of Experimental Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology and Chemistry at the University of Houston.

His work on developing physical chemical techniques to solve medical problems focused particularly in that period on cardiovascular disease.

He also learned a lot about the pros and cons of research competitiveness. Baylor was a private college. "You had to compete in the marketplace - set up your stall, so to speak, and beat off your competitors," he says. "I had no problem with that, but it didn't exactly encourage collegiality in the way that we know it here." That experience informed his view of the researcher's individual responsibility, yet coupled with the benefits of collaboration - across Faculties, disciplines, countries.

#### That is how he works to this day.

He also has the advantage of being a good communicator - articulate, easy to talk to, with a ready sense of humour. And he enjoys the challenge of getting to grips with areas of research, for instance in Arts, in which he has no direct experience.

At the centre of it all, however, is his understanding of and care for the individual researcher. He sees academic work on a spectrum - from the regimented at one end, which organisation demands, to free enquiry at the other. "Academics have to divide their time and efforts along that spectrum, usually in two places at once - and reconciliation of the two is quite a challenge. We develop a University research strategy and make sure Faculties and Schools fit in with that, whilst at the same time encouraging and facilitating the work they want to do. One of the things that distinguishes academic research is that, in essence, it has to be unstructured."



#### Name

Simon Gaskell

#### Present Appointment:

2006-  
Vice-President for Research,  
The University of Manchester

#### Education

1971  
B.Sc. (Hons); Chemistry; University of Bristol

1974

Ph.D.; Chemistry; University of Bristol

#### Present Appointment:

1974-1977  
Medical Research Council Post Doctoral  
Fellow, Department of Chemistry, University of  
Glasgow, Scotland

1977-1986

Principal Research Officer and Head of Mass  
Spectrometry Unit, Tenovus Institute for Cancer  
Research, University of Wales College of  
Medicine, Cardiff

1984-1985

(Sabbatical) Visiting Expert and Acting Group  
Leader, Mass Spectrometry Group, National  
Institute of Environmental Health Sciences,  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA

1987-1993

Professor of Experimental Medicine,  
Department of Medicine, Baylor College of  
Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA; Adjunct  
Professor of Pharmacology and Chemistry  
(1989-1993), University of Houston, Texas, USA

1993-

Professor of Mass Spectrometry, UMIST

1999-2002

Head of Department, Department of  
Chemistry, UMIST

1999-

Visiting Professor, Department of Preclinical  
Veterinary Medicine, University of Liverpool

2003-2004

Member, Board of Directors, Project Unity CLG  
(UMIST and the Victoria University of  
Manchester)

2004-

Associate Vice President for Research, The  
University of Manchester

#### Award:

2004 Royal Society of Chemistry Award  
in Mass Spectrometry

#### Society memberships:

Royal Society of Chemistry (Fellow, 1991)

Biochemical Society

British Mass Spectrometry Society  
(Treasurer, 1982-4)

American Chemical Society

American Society for Mass Spectrometry

British Society for Proteome Research  
(Committee Member, 2004- )

# Game on!



During August, the University delivered a day of sport and activity for young people from local communities. The event, christened Game On!, is the first stage of a sustainable project set up by the University's SPORT department and Directorate of Human Resources.

The initiative will provide sporting opportunities for young people living in the local area, and will continue with after school and school holiday coaching sessions.

On the day, more than 100 young people from Moss Side, Ardwick and Longsight were given the opportunity to try out Thai boxing, street dance, Speed, Agility, Quickness (SAQ) training, Kwik Cricket and participate in a football tournament.

Transport and lunch was provided and the day was run by student and staff volunteers from the University's prestigious Sport Volunteer Scheme.

Holly Howarth, one of the volunteer coaches said after the event: "I feel exhausted but you can see just how much the children have been enjoying themselves. One lad told me if he wasn't here, he'd be watching TV all day. Hearing that makes it all worth it."

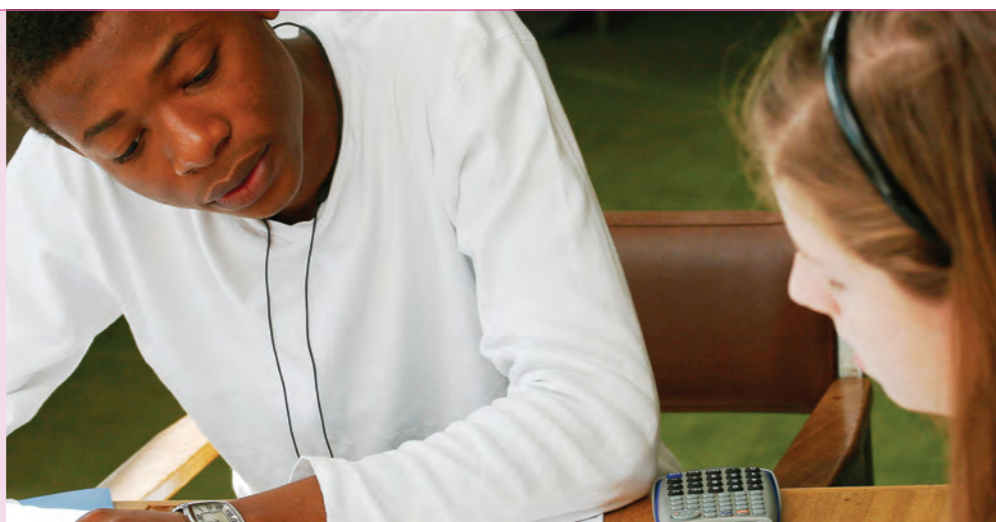
Clare Barrell, Sport Development Officer at the University organized the day. She said: "It was a manic but worthwhile day and I am absolutely thrilled with the attitude of the volunteers, they were amazing and dealt with everything thrown at them. I am looking forward to introducing more Sports Volunteers into the local community in the new academic year".

## Making maths

Making Maths at Manchester ran for the first time in July this year and saw bright Year 12 students tackling previously unseen problems in the company of academics and postgraduate students. At the same time they were able to socialise and find out more about the University and studying mathematics.

Professor Bill Lionheart, who led the academic side of the course, said in his opening address: "As mathematicians, the thing that gives us a real buzz is actually creating mathematics. It may be an original result - or one known to others but not to us. The important thing is that we have made the problem we are solving our own. This is the thrill we want potential future mathematicians to share"

And the course undoubtedly generated much enthusiasm and debate with students tackling unseen problems on topology, matrices and vectors, algebra, mechanics and groups.



The 110 students who attended were carefully selected from mainly state schools and sixth form colleges throughout England and Wales. They stayed at Chandos Hall, but there was time to show them the central site highlights and how the new mathematics building is progressing!

John Begg, who devised the course and was the main organiser feels it was well worthwhile and is sure it will run again this coming year. It is one of a

wider programme of events that the School runs for schools and teachers.

"It was exhausting but exciting. I believe Manchester is the first British university to run this kind of course in Mathematics. The feedback has been very positive and although we can improve in some areas, I'm sure we have the basis of a winner - for mathematics and for Manchester."

## Culture award for museum project



Gurdeep Thiara and Bernadette Lynch (Deputy Director)

The Museum's Collective Conversations project has won the MLA (Museums, Libraries and Archives) Inspiring North West Culture Award, in the Improving and Innovating category.

The awards are to celebrate outstanding examples of excellence in the region, and the Improving and Innovating category highlights projects and individuals that are instrumental in delivering on wider social and political agendas and that can provide powerful learning, inclusion and participation opportunities to the widest range of audiences.

The Collective Conversations project demonstrates that a modern museum needs to listen to, and work with its communities. Although many of its collections are of national significance, the museum realised that they had been relatively under-used by surrounding communities.

Collective Conversations creates new ways for the public to engage directly with museum objects by involving them in 'conversations' about collections. It has successfully established inter-cultural dialogue and debate, and by embracing alternative perspectives, has created new ways of reaching audiences.

The museum staff themselves have found ways to identify, document and interpret collections in a more meaningful way. This has challenged the notion of the curator as the font of all knowledge and acknowledged the user as an active agent rather than a passive consumer.

Curator of Community Engagement Gurdeep Thiara, who was also nominated in the same category, collected the award on behalf of the Museum.

See also 'Just The Job', Staff Update, page 7.

## Careers fairs on the increase

THE University's MLP Careers & Employability Division launches an expanded season of careers fairs this semester, with a record number of exhibitors booked.

New additions include The Part-Time Jobs Fair, helping Manchester students find casual paid work to boost their finances and work experience record. Also new is The Chinese Graduate Fair, part of the Division's commitment to international

students, providing opportunities for jobs and work experience in China.

The Ethnic Diversity Fair has been re-named The Diversity Fair to reflect its broadened scope, encompassing student groups from a wider variety of backgrounds, including gay and lesbian students. Long-running fairs have also attracted record numbers of recruiters this year.

Jan Hewitt, from the Employer Liaison Team, which organises the fairs, said: "Our fairs are viewed as national events, consistently topping the careers fairs preference list with companies and institutions. We hope many Manchester students will attend and take full advantage of the opportunities on offer."

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

## Projects shortlisted for prestigious awards

The Times Higher Awards, now in their second year, aim to raise awareness and reward the huge contribution which British universities make to the economic and cultural health of the country.

The University projects which are in with a chance of winning are the 'Disability Toolkits' scheme developed by the Careers and Employability Division, and 'Lifelab' which is a widening participation project run by Manchester Museum.

Disability Toolkits is a comprehensive online resource for disabled students, graduate employers and academic staff which offer sources of information and support to help reveal, organise and facilitate work experience and other off-campus learning opportunities for students' career development.

Chris Hughes, project manager for Disability Toolkits said: "We're immensely proud to have been selected for such a prestigious award in the HE sector. Disability Toolkits exemplifies our ongoing

commitment to promoting and sustaining diversity within higher education, business and society."

The other project to be nominated - 'Lifelab' - has been developed by the Manchester Museum and involves school children from underrepresented backgrounds working alongside young PhD researchers in real University lab environments.

Commenting on the scheme Dr Bernadette Lynch, Deputy Director for Access, Learning and Interpretation at the Museum said: "Lifelab creates a 'win win' situation for everyone involved. The PhD students get valuable teaching experience and funding; the University reaches out to hard to reach post 16 students and the students themselves get the chance to carry out real, exciting science and find inspiration from the PhD students who are of a similar age to themselves."

The award winners will be announced at an official dinner at the Hilton Hotel on Park Lane, London on 15 November.



[www.disabilitytoolkits.ac.uk](http://www.disabilitytoolkits.ac.uk)

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



# What's On



## The Whitworth Art Gallery

### DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

**Concrete Thoughts: modern architecture and contemporary art** from 7 Oct to 17 Dec 2006.

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

**Cupid & Psyche** to 8 Oct 2006

**Featuring Walls Conference** Sat 28 Oct  
Wallpaper design & manufacturer since the 1950's. This one-day event focuses on the design and manufacture of wallpapers from the 1950's to the present and will feature contributions from historians and designers as well as those involved in the nitty gritty of production at both the bread-and-butter and the elite ends of the trade.

(Tickets £35 each, incl lunch – student concession £25. Booking required 0161-275 8455)

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

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

Gallery Café 0161 275 7497  
Gallery Shop 0161 275 7498

**Collection Exhibitions Archive Now Online**  
The Whitworth's online 'Collections Catalogue' 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](http://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](http://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 - 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](mailto: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 1456

**The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue**  
Hillel House, Greenheys Lane.  
0161 226 1139  
[rabbiiy@hotmail.com](mailto:rabbiiy@hotmail.com)  
[www.rabbiiy.com](http://www.rabbiiy.com)

## International Society

Sat 7 Oct  
**Day visit to North Wales**

Sunday 8 Oct  
**Day visit to York**

Saturday 14 Oct  
**Day visit to Stratford –upon-Avon**

Sun 15 Oct  
**Day visit to Blackpool and the famous Blackpool Illuminations**

Sat 21 Oct  
**Day visit to North Wales visiting Llangollen and Erddig**

Sun 22 Oct  
**Day visit to Fountain's Abbey and Harrogate**

Sat 28 Oct  
**Day visit to Alton Towers Theme Park**

Sun 29 Oct  
**Day visit to Poole's Cavern (with guided tour) and Hardwick Hall in the Peak District**

Sat 4 Nov  
**Day visit to Keswick, the North Lake District**

Sun 5 Nov  
**Day visit to Tatton Park's Christmas Shopping**

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

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

## 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.

**Contact**, Oxford Road, Manchester  
Tickets/Info: 0161 274 0600  
For information on other events please visit our website

A limited number of tickets are available from just £4 on the day from the Ticket Office between 11am - 4pm daily.

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

## Burlington Society

The Society of Mature Students and Postgraduates in the Universities of Greater Manchester

**Burlington Rooms, Schunck Building**, Burlington Street (next to JRUL)  
0161 275 2392

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

## Seminar Listings

Seminar listings are now available online at [www.manchester.ac.uk/seminars](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/seminars), and members of University staff will be receiving a weekly email bulletin which includes a link to this page. To publicise seminars please submit details to [seminars@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:seminars@manchester.ac.uk)

## Jodrell Bank

The facilities at Jodrell Bank are going through a period of redevelopment. The Visitors Centre currently has a café, an exhibition space and a 3D theatre open, and visitors can still explore the various trails and the natural habitats of the Arboretum's 35 acres with its 2000 species of trees and shrubs and National Collections.

**Jodrell Bank Observatory**  
Macclesfield, Cheshire 01477 571339  
[www.jb.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.jb.manchester.ac.uk)

## Music and Drama at Manchester

Mon 2 Oct 2006, 1.30pm FREE  
Y Touring Presents - Every Breath

Thurs 5 Oct 2006, 1.10pm FREE  
Les Haulz et Les Bas

Mon 9 Oct 2006, 6pm  
Reading Series with Hilary Mantel

£5.00. Tickets free to The University of Manchester staff and students.

Tues 10 Oct 2006, 5.15pm FREE  
Visual Dialogues – Beautiful Dachau by Alan Marcus

Thur 12 Oct 2006, 1:10pm FREE  
In Memoriam: David Munrow

Thurs 12 Oct 2006, 7.30pm  
Not About Heroes

Fri 13 Oct 2006, 7.30pm  
Not About Heroes

Fri 13 Oct 2006, 7.30pm  
Harpichordfest 2006

Sat 14 Oct 2006, 1pm, 3pm, 7.30pm  
Harpichordfest 2006

Mon 16 Oct 2006, 6.00pm  
Reading Series with Sebastian Barry

Tues 17 Oct 2006, 7.15pm  
Reading Series with John Kinsella

Thurs 19 Oct 2006, 1.10pm FREE  
Quatuor Danel

Thurs 19 Oct 2006, 2.15pm FREE  
Quatuor Danel Seminar

Fri 20 Oct 2006, 7.30pm  
Quatuor Danel

Sat 21 Oct 2006, 7.30pm  
The University of Manchester Sinfonietta

Sun 22 Oct 2006, 5.00pm  
Kwame Dawes

Thurs 26 Oct 2006, 1.10pm FREE  
Mim Suleiman and Guests

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama  
The University of Manchester, Bridgeford Street  
Manchester M13 9PL  
0161-275 8951/8950  
Email [boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk)  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre)

## 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.

### EVENTS

Some of the highlights for October include:

Saturday 7 October 11am-4pm

**The Big Draw**

A day of activities for all ages. FAMILY EVENT

Wednesday 11 October, 3-5pm

**Showcase**

Manchester Museum Research Seminar  
Professor Sharon Macdonald discusses the use of museums as idea laboratories.

Wednesday 25 October 1.30 & 3pm

**Crouching Palaeontologist, Hidden Dragon!**

Dr Phil Manning talks about his recent hunt for dragons in China. FAMILY EVENT

Wednesday 11 October, 6.30-8pm

**Stanfords' Authors**

Olympic gold medalist James Cracknell and TV presenter Ben Fogle introduce their book *The Crossing – Conquering the Atlantic in the World's Toughest Rowing Race*. Book on 0161 831 0250.

To book a place or for more information about events, please call 0161 275 2648 unless otherwise specified. For full details pick up a What's On brochure from the Museum or visit [www.manchester.ac.uk/museum](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/museum)

**Manchester Museum**

Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL 0161 275 2634  
Open: Tues-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun-Mon and Bank Holidays 11am-4pm. Free admission, some events carry a charge.

**Café Muse** 0161 275 3220

Serves a great selection of drinks, snacks and meals and voted by *The Independent* as one of Britain's best places for brunch.

**Museum Shop** 0161 275 2635

Offers a great selection of cards, books, specialist magazines, quirky gifts and toys with 10% off for all University Staff.

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

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

## Tabley House

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

**Tabley House**, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0HB 01565 750151  
email [inquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk)

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

## Gig Guide Manchester Academy

**MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 & 3**

Mon 2 Oct  
**Disturbed & Nevermore**

Sat 21 Oct  
**The Icicle Works**

Fri 3 Nov  
**John Lees Barclay James Harvest**

**Students' Union**  
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL  
Tickets from:  
Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Cafe (c/c) 0871 2200260  
Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)  
Students' Union 0161 275 2930  
[www.manchesteracademy.net](http://www.manchesteracademy.net)

# Trio awarded for outstanding achievement

The achievements of three former students have been recognised at the Outstanding Alumni Awards 2006.



Professor Alan Emery

Rajesh Jeetah



Professor Alan Emery, Dr Rajesh Jeetah and Robert Herz were each presented with the Award over the summer months.

Outstanding Alumni Awards are given to former students who have achieved distinction within their profession; have provided exemplary service to the University or have made an outstanding contribution of a personal or humanitarian nature.

Professor Alan Emery, who graduated from Manchester in 1952, is one of the founding fathers in the field of Medical Genetics, having enjoyed a highly distinguished career in Neuromuscular Genetics. He has held a number of prestigious positions throughout his career including President of the British Clinical Genetics Society and Chief Scientific Advisor for the European Neuromuscular Centre. He is also a Fellow of Green College, Oxford.

Professor Emery said he was delighted and deeply honoured by his Award, adding:

"I entered medicine rather late in life - qualifying at the age of 31. There therefore seemed very few opportunities for me on the usual career ladder. However, on the advice of the then Professor of Medicine Robert Platt, it was suggested I tried Medical Genetics - a very new subject in the 1950s but which he forecast, quite rightly, would become increasingly important in the future."

Dr Rajesh Jeetah, a 1984 Textile Science and Technology graduate, received his award in August while in the UK in his role as Minister of Industry, Small and Medium Enterprises, Commerce and Cooperative - within the Government of Mauritius.

Rajesh was top of his class in all three years whilst studying in Manchester. He then returned to Mauritius in 1994 where he was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Department of Textile Technology at the University of Mauritius, becoming Head of the Department in 1996. He then decided to enter the world of politics in 2003.

The third recipient of the Award was Robert Herz, a 1974 Manchester Business School graduate and now Chairman of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), in the USA. Prior to joining the FASB, Robert was PriceWaterhouseCoopers North American Theatre Leader of Professional, Technical, Risk and Quality and a member of the firm's Global and US Boards. He has also served as a part-time member of the International Accounting Standards Board.

Suggestions for future recipients of Outstanding Alumni Awards should be sent to Annette Babchuk, Head of Alumni Relations, Division of Development and Alumni Relations at [annette.babchuk@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:annette.babchuk@manchester.ac.uk) or telephone 306 3638.

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or internal 68062 quoting "Academic Specials"

Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street, Manchester M1 3BB  
Email: [daysinn@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:daysinn@manchester.ac.uk) [www.meeting.co.uk/dayshotel](http://www.meeting.co.uk/dayshotel)

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The University of Manchester  
The John Rylands University Library

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

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Fax: 0161 236 9202

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# The Manchester Museum Education Service

The Manchester Museum Education Service was founded in 1915, making it the oldest of its kind in the country that still operates today. Although not the first to be established, it has proved to be the most enduring, outliving similar schemes in Leeds, Newport and Norwich.

Schools visiting the Museum would first be taken to dedicated classrooms in the tower (and after 1981 in the custom-refitted basement) where they would have the opportunity to handle objects and undertake crafts and artwork. Then, armed with a series of worksheets and questionnaires, the children would be released onto the galleries.

For many, the most memorable part of the visit was to the vivarium, where

they would be given the opportunity to study not only dead but living animals. Keen children had the opportunity to return to the Museum on Saturday mornings for the 'Children's Museum Club', established in 1954.

Today the Museum provides taught programmes in the arts and humanities to more than 30,000 school children, from under fives to post-16s, from across the North West and beyond. It is one of the largest and most respected museum education services in the region.

For more information on the history of the Museum, contact Dr Sam Alberti, sam.alberti@manchester.ac.uk.

For more information on the range of education programmes currently on offer, contact Lynne Andrew, lynne.andrew@manchester.ac.uk.



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Deadline Noon 19 October

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