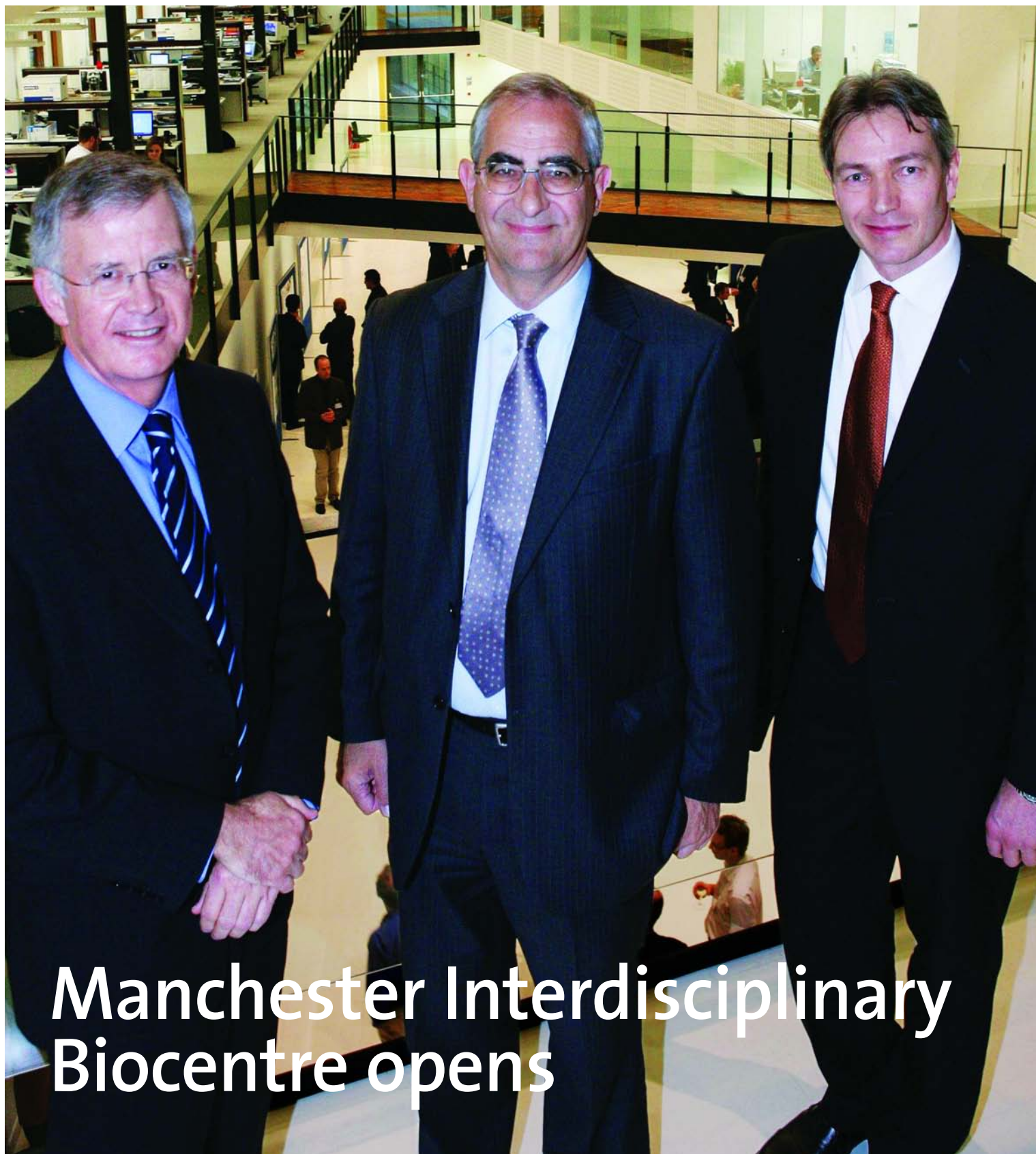
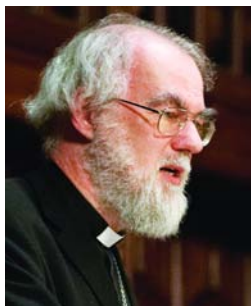


# UniLife



## Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre opens

## Features



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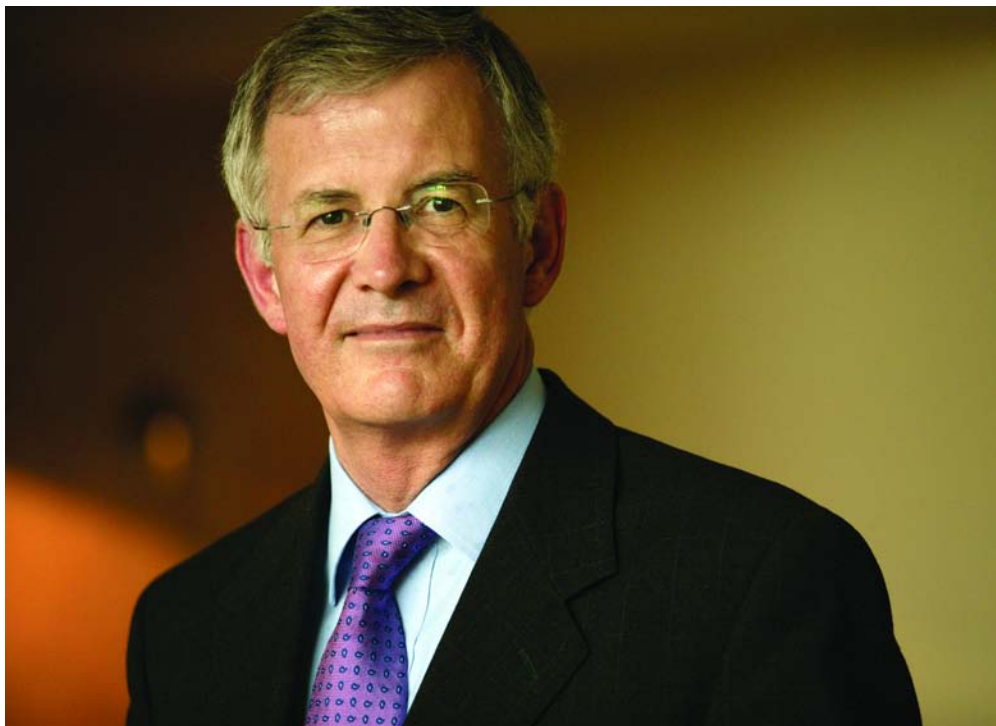
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Front cover photo:  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Alan Gilbert, Professor Alan  
North and Professor John McCarthy

## Letter from the President



The motto of The University of Manchester, *Cognitio Sapientia Humanitas*, evokes the idea of a university committed not just to knowledge creation and higher learning, but also to the task of using knowledge wisely and humanely.

It follows that a university community is at its most exhilarating when cutting-edge knowledge is focussed cogently on understanding and/or resolving great human issues. I well remember the contagious enthusiasm with which Raymond Wightman, a young post-doctoral research associate in Life Sciences, explained how a new, cutting edge imaging facility that permitted imaging at speeds previously unavailable was allowing him and his colleagues to challenge current orthodoxies about the ways cells transport energy, and to begin reflecting on possible applications of their discoveries. A comparable feeling of intellectual excitement is present when our Distinguished Achievement award winners for "Researchers of the Year" – Simona Giordano, Rob Lucas, Mike Dixon and Andre Geim – talk about the implications of their own discoveries; and when our "Teachers of the Year" – Ioan Davies, Andrew Gale and Darren Waldron – explain how rewarding it is, intellectually and personally, to inject genuine intellectual vitality into purposeful student learning. The same is true of Robert Putnam discussing social capital formation, Joseph Stiglitz talking about the remediation of global poverty or any of our world leading researchers speculating about where the really big questions in their disciplines might lead. Such virtuoso scholarship epitomises the idea of a university at its best.

This had led me to reflect on the importance and the value of the 2006 Operational Performance Reviews (OPRs) of each Faculty and of the University Administration.

Sublime achievements usually reflect lots of mundane hard work; which is another way of saying that all the people and systems and administrative

processes that enable scholarly virtuosity are vital elements in a University's operations. That is why our OPRs are an important part of the 2015 Agenda. We have to improve our operational management if we are to realise extraordinary opportunities for knowledge creation or deliver a superb Manchester student experience. Indeed, the 2015 challenge of matching Oxbridge and the Ivy League in academic excellence means that we must exceed them in efficiency and effectiveness - for in comparison with them we will still, in 2015, be relatively under-resourced.

Reviewing our operational performance regularly and meticulously is about ensuring that our scholarly performance is stunningly good – and improving. Measuring and evaluating student satisfaction, financial performance and the efficiency and effectiveness of our systems and management practices is about enabling our university to fulfil its true potential.

In short, we need both to plan wisely and accept the financial consequences of hard decisions about what we can and cannot afford. We need to target the right priorities and meet our targets. We need to allocate our resources intelligently and live within our means. We need to be careful accountants - in the broadest sense of the word – so that Manchester can be a superb place to learn, and teach and do research. We undertake OPRs for three reasons: *Cognitio Sapientia Humanitas*

Professor Alan Gilbert  
President and Vice-Chancellor

# £38million Biocentre opens

One of the most significant new research facilities for British science was officially opened at the University last month.

**The Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB) will bring together experts from a wide range of disciplines in order to tackle major challenges in quantitative, interdisciplinary bioscience.**

Physicists, chemists, mathematicians, engineers and computer scientists will work alongside biologists in the new £38 million facility – the only purpose-built institute of its kind in the UK.

More than 600 scientists and support staff, working in up to 80 different research groups, will pioneer novel, cross-disciplinary approaches to tackling questions in biology that require the attention of multi-skilled teams of researchers.

“The idea behind the institute is to create a new type of research environment where people from different disciplines learn to speak each other’s language,” said MIB Director, Professor John McCarthy.

“Most biology is still predominantly a qualitative, descriptive science; our aim is to apply analytical tools and theoretical rigour from the physical sciences, maths and engineering to bioscience research.”

Research groups within the state-of-the-art biocentre will apply interdisciplinary approaches to finding new therapies for a number of diseases, including cancer, malaria, meningitis, Alzheimer’s and cystic fibrosis.

The MIB will also be home to a number of research centres, including the £6 million Manchester Centre for Integrative Systems Biology (MCISB), which will revolutionise the way future medicines are produced.

A second research centre – the £1 million UK Centre of Excellence in Biocatalysis, Biotransformations and Biocatalytic Manufacture (CoEBio3) – will use nature’s building blocks to create ‘organic’ drugs and chemicals that are safer, environmentally friendly and more in tune with the body’s natural biology than those currently available.

The MIB also houses the National Centre for Text-Mining (NaCTeM), the first publicly-funded text-mining centre in the world. NaCTeM has a particular focus on information sourcing for bioscience and medicine.

Sir Keith O’Nions, Director General of the Research Councils UK and Director General of Science & Innovation, was the guest speaker at the event.



Left to right: Professor Alan North, President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert, Sir Keith O’Nions, Professors John Garside, John McCarthy and John Perkins



Professor Hilary Kahn alongside the mosaic

## New mosaic for Kilburn Building

**A Computer Science Professor picked up more than her shopping when she recently visited a Tesco supermarket.**

Professor Hilary Kahn spotted a 4x4 with details of a mosaic artist painted on the side of the vehicle. She got in touch with the artist, Nathalie Kowalski, and the result is a beautiful new mosaic in the Kilburn Building student concourse.

The mosaic is a series of separate abstract images depicting computing past,

present and future. A disc from Atlas, Tom Kilburn’s fourth computer, and numbers of computer chips and computer images have been used as part of the mosaic, which is situated opposite a painting showing Kilburn’s five machines.

Professor Kahn said: “It was only by chance that I saw Nathalie’s vehicle in the car park but it was a good opportunity to get in touch and to commission her to produce this beautiful mosaic.”

# Creative students win international design prizes



From Left to right Alexandra Tibbenham, Sydney Nakashima (Louisiana State University), Danielle Morgan and Natalie Ashcroft

## THREE recently-graduated School of Materials students have won prizes at a prestigious international design competition.

Natalie Ashcroft, Alexandra Tibbenham and Danielle Morgan were all winners at The 2006 Society of Dyers and Colourists (SDC) International Design Competition held in Belfast in October.

Students from as far afield as New Zealand and the USA were present for the awards ceremony. The three prize winners were all final year students on the BSc Design Management for Fashion Retail course when they entered the competition.

All the competition entries from the Manchester students were developed during the Digital Media Design/Computer Aided Design modules of their BSc with Nick Clarke, lecturer in Digital Media and Design.

Nick Clarke said: "It's great news that our students did so well at such a prestigious event."

The finalists' designs in the category were all concerned with product packaging. Natalie came second in the competition. She was presented with a cheque for £300 by John Dakin of Verivide, sponsors of the Gala Awards dinner. Alexandra came third and was presented with a cheque for £200. The designs of Danielle Morgan were highly commended by the judges. All three graduated from Manchester University last year.

First prize went to a Louisiana State University student who was presented with a cheque for £1,000. All the finalists were presented with design books relating to their specific subject areas.

Chris Sargeant, SDC vice-president for fashion and design and compere for the evening, said: "It is heartening to see such a high level of talent emerging from today's design institutions and all the finalists and their tutors should be proud of progressing so far."

## Disability Toolkits website wins Times Higher Award

A NATIONAL, HEFCE-funded website, developed by the University's Manchester Leadership Programme Careers & Employability Division, has won a prestigious Times Higher Award, thanks to its 'Outstanding Support for Students with Disabilities'.

The award was announced at the celebrated THES Awards Ceremony, held at the London Hilton Hotel on Park Lane on 15 November. The project saw off strong competition from Derby University, the University of Central England, Northumbria University and Wolverhampton University to gain the accolade for Manchester.

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

Project Manager Chris Hughes, who attended the ceremony, said: "We're immensely proud to have received such a distinguished Award in the HE sector. Disability Toolkits equips all the relevant people, with everything they need to enable and encourage the professional development of disabled students. It exemplifies our ongoing commitment to promoting and sustaining diversity within higher education, business and society."

Gerard Kelly, deputy editor of The Times Higher Education Supplement (THES), said: "Manchester beat off some very stiff competition to win this award. But the judges agreed that for sheer innovation and usefulness, Manchester's entry fully deserved to win."

Academic staff can use the Disability Toolkits website to help students consider the issues around disclosure and disability, identify disability-positive employers and ensure students gain maximum benefit from off-campus learning opportunities.



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

## How to dump your mates

Professor Geoff Beattie, Head of the School of Psychological Sciences, presented a new week-long 'infotainment' series on Channel 4 over half-term.

In How To Dump Your Mates, Geoff showed teenagers feeling trapped, isolated and pressured how to dump their existing peer group and find new friends. In each episode he met a teen wanting more, better or different things from life, and took them on a four-day crash course on how to move on from their old friends and find new ones.

Geoff said, "Friends have an enormous effect on personal development, especially in the

teenage years when opinions and attitudes are formed. It's easy to get trapped with the wrong crowd, which can hold you back, stop you trying new things and ultimately prevent you from being yourself.

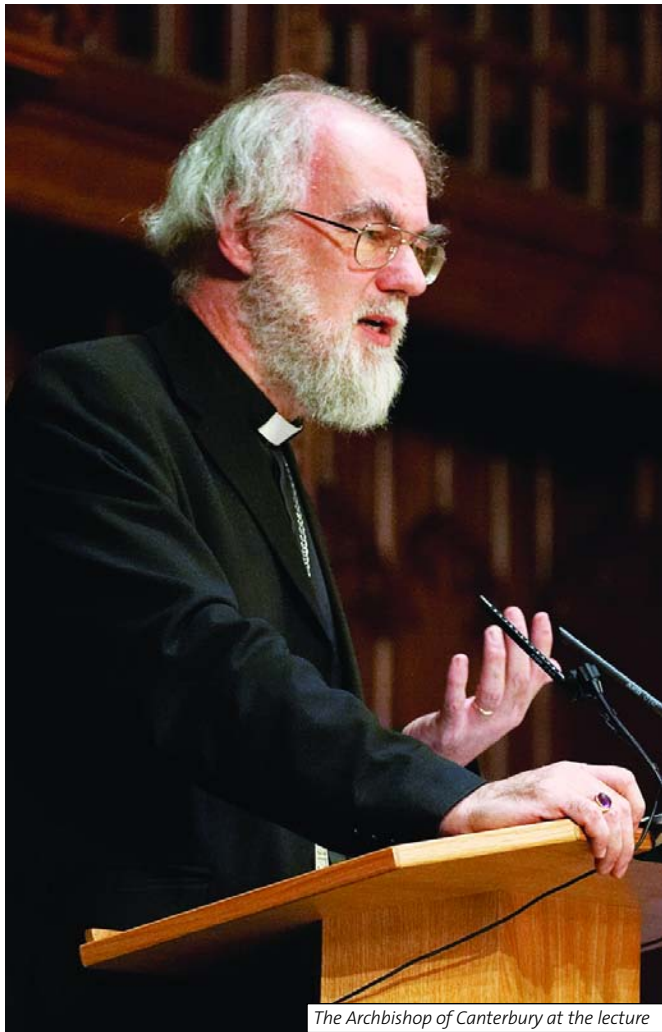
"I wanted to advise teenagers how to address proactively the areas of their life they are unsatisfied with, and help them find like-minded friends. It's one of the hardest experiences the teenagers have ever had to face; they fear – and encounter – rejection, but on the other side lies the opportunity to improve their lives and become the person they really want to be."

During the series Geoff guided the teens through every step of the process, from identifying why they were unhappy and confronting their current friends, to finding and integrating with a new group and ultimately deciding which mates to dump. Before finding new friends each teenager had to confront their mates with their reasons for wanting to break with them, before walking away and sampling a new scene.

At the end of the four days the old friends surprised their mate with his/her new group, making for some tricky decisions - and unmissable TV!



Geoff Beattie



The Archbishop of Canterbury at the lecture

## Archbishop launches research centre

**The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke to a packed audience at The University of Manchester's Whitworth Hall to launch the nation's first research project into religion and civil society.**

Dr Rowan Williams examined the relationship between faith, secularity and the state to an audience of academics, students, members of faith-based organisations, politicians and policy-makers.

It was a fitting launch for the University's new Manchester Research Institute for Religion and Civil Society, which will analyse how religion relates to public and private sector service provision, globalisation, political economy, democracy, belief, secularism and political action on climate change.

Dr Williams said: "My lecture will be an attempt to look at how ideas of political freedom and religious freedom come together in a developed society. It will challenge some popular definitions of a 'secular society' and suggest some priorities for communities of faith in the present context."

Executive Director of the Institute, Professor Elaine Graham, said: "Religion is assuming a renewed public importance in today's society, with implications for public policy, social cohesion and moral debate.

"As a society, we need informed discussion about the relationship between religious faith and public life in general, and the new research institute has been established to provide a forum for scholarly and intellectual enquiry. We hope it will facilitate greater understanding and dialogue at all levels of the community."

She added: "In Western societies, decades after it was predicted that religion would inevitably disappear from public life, we are seeing its dramatic re-appearance. In fact, civil society faith-based organizations are developing into significant lobbying forces for social change.

"This phenomenon represents one of the most significant social and intellectual shifts of our day and requires us to ask new questions, assume new methods of enquiry and adopt new theoretical frameworks. No equivalent research centres or even such a strong critical mass of academic expertise exist anywhere else in the UK."

## Scott of the Antarctic visited The Manchester Museum

**EXCITED Manchester Museum staff have found evidence that one of the 20th century's most famous explorers once visited their buildings.**

The name of Robert Scott, better known as Scott of the Antarctic, has been discovered in an archived visitor book dating back to 1904.

The discovery came to light as part of research by Manchester Museum staff into the work of Marie Stopes, the famous pioneer in birth control and women's rights, who worked at the University between 1904 and 1910 as a palaeobotanist.

Marie met Scott during his visit to Manchester in 1904, just after a failed trip to reach the South Pole.

She tried to persuade Scott to take her to the Antarctic to collect fossils but when he reluctantly refused, Marie brought him to the Museum to show him which fossils to look out for. It was then that Scott signed his name in the visitor book.

In 1912 Scott was beaten to the South Pole by Norwegian Roald Amundsen. Scott and four colleagues died on their way back to civilisation.

David Gelsthorpe, Manchester Museum Curator of Palaeontology, said: "In Scott's possession were fossils similar in species to the ones Marie Stopes had shown him. These fossils later became a key part of research into plate tectonics, some 200 million years ago."



David Gelsthorpe



Helen Colley with some of her wares

## Sweet taste of success

**Award-winning business-woman Helen Colley will speak at Manchester Business School, in December, at the annual Women in Management lecture. Helen is founder and managing director of Farmhouse Fare, manufacturer and supplier of premium puddings to the UK's major food retailers**

She will be sharing her story From Farmhouse Kitchen to Household Name on Wednesday 6 December in an evening full of valuable lessons for anyone interested in management and entrepreneurship.

This event is free of charge and is the perfect occasion for networking. It begins with a reception at 6pm, followed by the talk at 6.30pm. A networking dinner will also take place following the lecture and tickets for this part of the evening are £25.

A limited number of places are available, and you can register online at <http://www.mbs.ac.uk/events/women-management.htm> or from Sue Huzar at [sue.huzar@mbs.ac.uk](mailto:sue.huzar@mbs.ac.uk) or + 44 (0)161 275 7257



*'Playground time' by Charlotte Jones, Medlock Primary School*

## What a picture

School children from Manchester displayed their artistic side at a conference in Manchester last month.

Pupils from The Barlow RC High School and Medlock Primary School have been taking part in a photographic project, working alongside University educational researcher Ian Kaplan.

Their work was displayed at a national conference organized by the Government's flagship creativity programme – Creative Partnerships. The conference brought together teachers, education officers, local authority staff and creative practitioners to explore the importance of creativity in education.

Some of the photos taken by the youngsters were made into postcards for the delegates to take home with them, as well as being depicted on huge banners and projections which were used across the conference venue.

The photography project was developed by Creative Partnerships Manchester Salford in partnership with Ian, who is also a professional photographer. It aimed to encourage young people to find different ways to express their own lives, perspectives and interests through a mixture of photography and words. They took a wide range of images, drawing on inspiration from four themes: Home Life, Our Local Area, School and Manchester City Centre

## International parenting expert speaks out

One of the world's leading pioneers of parenting strategies has joined the School of Psychological Sciences as a part-time visiting professor.

Professor Matt Sanders of the University of Queensland invented the ground-breaking 'Triple P-Positive Parenting Programme' recently showcased in the ITV series *Driving Mum and Dad Mad*, which helps parents develop skills to promote good child behaviour and emotional adjustment.

He will give his first public lecture at the University on Tuesday 5 December, including a brief overview of Triple P, the evidence for its effectiveness and its application across different cultures and countries.

"I'm eager to make parenting interventions and the prevention of behavioural and emotional problems in children accessible to everyone," he said. "I believe positive parenting has a crucial role in promoting children's development - investing in parenting is investing in children's futures."

Professor Sanders will work with the University for at least two years, his main objective being to establish a UK research group.



*Professor Matt Sanders*

The lecture is open to all and will take place in Lecture Theatre A of the Roscoe Building on Brunswick St. There will be a reception with refreshments from 5.30pm, and the lecture will take place from 6.30-7.30pm.

## Biodiverse City!

The Manchester Museum has been working with Manchester City Council's Environmental Strategy team to implement the City's ambitious five year Biodiversity Strategy, launched in the Museum in 2005. One of the key objectives of the strategy is to work with the University to actively contribute to Manchester's biodiversity

A vital element of this is public engagement and education. The Manchester Museum has been working with the City Council's 'wildaboutmanchester' team to educate and entertain Museum visitors about biodiversity. There has been a busy programme of exciting family friendly events and public lectures, especially linked to the Museum's Wild Britain exhibition.

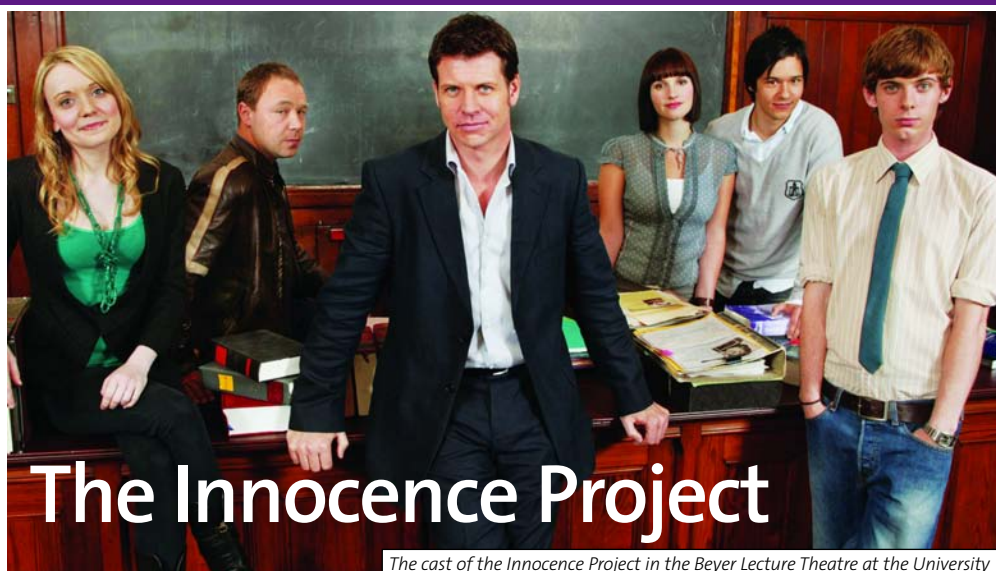
The next wildaboutmanchester event is Wild Britain in Winter day on Saturday 9 December at The Manchester Museum. This day focuses on birds and their winter environment along with a 'Wind in the Willows' theme for young visitors. Visitors can make special fat ball Christmas cake and water feeders to help our winter birds through to spring, details.



The Museum has also been working as a place of engagement between student teaching and the local biodiversity agenda. Last year the Museum offered two student places with the Manchester Leadership Programme which contributed directly towards the City Council's '100 days campaign'. This was a great success and will be repeated in the coming year. Undergraduate projects on bullfinches and hedgehogs will also feed directly into conservation management in the local region.

Henry McGhie, Head of Natural Sciences at the Museum, said "people don't realise the fantastic wildlife that is on our doorstep: there are often kestrels on the Palace Theatre and grey wagtails around the BBC building. You don't have to go to the Peak District to find 'nature' - it is all around us!"

To find out more, contact [henry.mcghie@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:henry.mcghie@manchester.ac.uk)



# The Innocence Project

*The cast of the Innocence Project in the Beyer Lecture Theatre at the University*

## BBC viewers are being treated to familiar University sights in a series partly filmed at The University of Manchester.

The School of Law has been assisting the makers of "The Innocence Project", which launched this month on BBC 1, on how a legal advice centre is run.

The eight-part drama set in Manchester mirrors some of the work at the University's Legal Advice Centre.

The programme stars Lloyd Owen - of Monarch of the Glen fame - who plays a corporate law professor working with a group of law students to research possible grounds of appeal in miscarriage of justice cases.

They work pro bono - or free of charge. In the BBC series, the students take on high profile cases for dramatic effect. But unlike its portrayal on TV, volunteering at the Legal Advice Centre on campus is more about training the lawyers of tomorrow.

At the Legal Advice Centre, 300 student volunteers help around 400 clients a year dealing with anything from landlord and tenant disputes to divorce, probate, consumer and employment cases.

The Centre was set up seven years ago by Dinah Crystal, who is Director of External Relations and

Clinical Education at the School of Law. She said: "The legal advice continues to go from strength to strength.

"We receive our cases from many sources including Citizen Advice Bureaux, law centres and LawWorks, a national pro bono organisation of which the School is an active member. Next semester we hope to represent clients at certain tribunals.

"We don't take on such dramatic high profile cases as shown in the TV series, but we have had our share of complex matters. For example we helped some parents who protested about the closure of a school to take the local authority to the High Court.

"We also got compensation for a local bowling club that was to be closed down by property developers." She added: "When I visited the set with my colleague Neil Allen and a student we were amazed at the amount of detail that went into the production. In fact, it's great how much time and effort the BBC crew have put into making it as realistic as possible.

"Pro bono work plays an important role in the professional life of many legal practitioners, so I'm delighted to see that pro bono work is being given exposure on television. I hope it will inspire more young people to do pro bono work throughout their legal careers."

## In brief

### University wins employability poster competition

At the recent Employability and Enterprise in Research Intensive Universities conference, a poster produced by the Careers Service and MSEC won Best Poster Award. The poster highlighted our partnerships with industry and the community on initiatives which support student employability and enterprise.

### Respect for ancient British human remains: philosophy and practice

A conference organised by The Manchester Museum (University of Manchester) and Honouring the Ancient Dead, supported by the Museums Association, took place in November.

It looked at the issue of repatriating human remains to their originating communities. The conference speakers were museum directors and curators, archaeologists, academics, and the founder of Honouring the Ancient Dead, a British network organisation set up to advocate for respect towards ancient pagan human remains and related artefacts and create dialogue with museums and archaeologists.

### Music to our ears

University of Manchester PhD composer Manuella Blackburn's electroacoustic work Sonidos Baillables has been awarded the Public Prize in the Concurso Internacional de Composição Eletroacústica 2006 (CEMJKO) competition for electroacoustic music, Brazil.

This follows on from Manuella's recent First Prize in the 2006 Music Viva competition (Portugal) and Selection in the 2006 Bourges Competition (France) for Causal Impacts, PhD Tom Scott's Selection in the 2006 Metamorphoses competition (Belgium) for Hypnotic Illusions and PhD Diana Simpson's Residency Prize in the 2006 Bourges Competition.

All in all, an incredible year for MANTIS composers at The University of Manchester.

## New Director for North West Accelerator Science

The Universities of Manchester, Lancaster and Liverpool have appointed Professor Swapan Chattopadhyay to the Sir John Cockcroft Chair of Physics.

The three universities have together created this new Chair, the first such joint chair in Accelerator Physics in the UK. Chattopadhyay's appointment is to be held concurrently with the position of Inaugural Director of The Cockcroft Institute from March 2007.

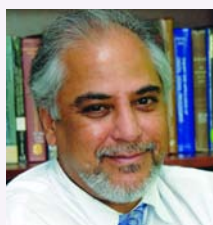
Professor Chattopadhyay is currently Associate Director at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in the US and renowned for breakthroughs in the physics and technology of particle beams and photon science.

He said: "The creation of the Cockcroft Institute is most opportune as the world moves into gear for the challenges of particle accelerators in the 21st Century. Accelerator Science poses major new challenges for the future which will open fantastic

new horizons and opportunities for science and its application and thereby for the progress of humankind globally."

The Cockcroft Institute is a new joint venture at the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus in Cheshire involving the three universities, the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC), the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CCLRC), and the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA).

The Institute has been put in place with an initial investment of around £27 million, comprising £11 million from core and first project funding by PPARC, the CCLRC and the EU; £10 million from the NWDA, and £6 million from the universities.



Professor Swapan Chattopadhyay

## Epic awards

The University's Advanced Processor Technologies group in the School of Computer Science has been awarded a 5-Year Portfolio Award by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

These awards recognise a research group's high international research profile and successful record in attracting research funding.

The 40-strong group is led by Professor Steve Furber and members of the APT group have accumulated many years of experience in the fields of conventional and parallel computer architectures and novel uses of technology to address performance issues with respect to both speed of operation and power consumption.

## Research could lead to new treatments for birth defects

Mike Dixon



### Pioneering new research into cleft lip and palate could open the door to babies with certain craniofacial disorders being successfully treated in the womb.

University researchers have uncovered the causes behind two genetic conditions that lead to facial anomalies including clefts, where the lip and often the roof of the mouth, or palate, fail to form properly.

Husband and wife team Mike and Jill Dixon, together with researcher Rebecca Richardson, have identified the role of a gene called IRF6.

"We had previously shown that a mutation in the IRF6 gene causes Van der Woude syndrome – a rare inherited form of cleft lip and palate," said Professor

Mike Dixon, a dentist based in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"It has also been found that defects in this gene are responsible for a significant number of other cleft lip and palate disorders that are not related to any particular syndrome."

The team established that mice missing the gene developed abnormal skin as well as cleft palate. Further analysis revealed that IRF6 controls the development of keratinocytes – the main type of cells in the outer layers of the skin, known as the epidermis.

"Put simply, mutations of IRF6 in Van der Woude syndrome make the skin cells too sticky, so they stick to each other and other types of cell much sooner

than they should resulting in these facial anomalies," said Professor Dixon.

Further research by the Manchester team has uncovered the cellular processes involved in another genetic disorder that results in cleft palate.

Treacher Collins syndrome is characterised by underdeveloped jaw and cheek bones and ear anomalies, as well as cleft palate.

"We identified the gene associated with this disorder some time ago but we have now established the reason for the anomalies," said Dr Jill Dixon.

### Teenage motherhood: A nutritional risk?

A new study led by Dr Rebecca Jones of the School of Medicine and funded by Action Medical Research is to look at whether pregnant teenagers' unborn babies could be competing with their mothers for vital nutrients

Rebecca said, "Our theory is that a teenage mother's placenta, which delivers nutrients from her blood to her unborn baby and takes waste products away, could be affected if she is still growing during her pregnancy. There could be competition between the mother and her baby for essential nutrients."

### How much sun do Mancunians need?

Researchers in the School of Medicine's Division of Medicine and Neurosciences are investigating the potential impact of the region's cloudy skies on our physical health.

In a study funded by Cancer Research UK, they are looking at how effective Manchester sunlight is at raising vitamin D levels to the level the body needs. The vitamin is essential for healthy bones and a range of other organs, but found naturally in only a few foods.

Anyone interested in taking part should contact Marie on 0161 206 3143. Reimbursement is available for the time and any inconvenience involved.

## Ready to wear

A five-year project at The University of Manchester aims to provide the most detailed record ever of what British people used to wear during medieval times.

A team led by Professor Gale Owen-Crocker from the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, will compile a comprehensive database of items worn between 500 and 1,300 years ago.

The £765,000 Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project aims to understand

the origins of the names of thousands of garments and textiles to shed some light on a period of British culture which is still relatively unknown.

The interactive database will contain names, illustrations, descriptions and maps of journeys made by cloth merchants.

The team will also include Dr Cordelia Warr from The University of Manchester, Dr Louise Sylvester from the University of Central England and a PhD student.

Professor Owen-Crocker said: "This project gives ordinary people a direct link to their past: they'll be able to look at clothing worn today and understand how it connects with times gone by.

"Many people wouldn't know that, for example, garments are often named from the part of the body they cover. Glof, the ancestor of our word 'glove', probably derives from a word meaning hand."



# Scientists use pixels to ease amputees' pain



Scientists at The University of Manchester are using 3D computer graphics to combat the pain suffered by amputees.

Academics from the School of Computer Science and School of Psychological Sciences have developed a virtual reality system, which gives the illusion that a person's amputated limb is still there.

The computer system created by Dr Stephen Pettifer and Toby Howard of the School of Computer Science, immerses patients into a life-size virtual reality world.

They can use their remaining physical limb to control the movements of a computer-generated limb, which appears in the 3D computer-generated world in the space of their amputated limb.

Phantom limb pain or PLP is discomfort felt by a person in a limb that is missing due to amputation.

So far, five patients living in the Manchester area have used the virtual reality system. Project leader, Dr Craig Murray of the School of Psychological Sciences, said: "One patient felt that the fingers of her amputated hand were continually clenched into her palm, which was very painful for her. However, after just one session using the virtual system she began to feel movement in her fingers and the pain began to ease."

## Research Spotlight: National Drug Evidence Centre

Tucked away in Manchester Science Park's Rutherford House, you could be forgiven for not knowing that the University is home to The National Drug Evidence Centre (NDEC). Yet the Centre plays a key role in mapping the extent and nature of drug misuse problems across the country, and the development of related Government targets and policies.

"A pivotal aspect of our national role is the provision of information to the National Treatment Agency (NTA), which is implementing the Government's ten year strategy 'Tackling drugs to build a better Britain,'" says Director Dr Michael Donmall. "This aims to double the number of drug users in treatment by 2008, and we supply data on both demand for drug treatment and people currently within the system.

"On a monthly basis this includes up to date information on new treatment presentations, the length of time people have been retained, demographics, injecting-risk and treatment types, along with the total numbers in treatment (around 180 000 nationally last year). These analyses have the almost unique status of being official National Statistics generated and maintained outside of Government offices."

The data flows into the National Drug Treatment Monitoring Service (NDTMS), run by the NTA. This was itself developed from the country's first drug misuse database created by Mike in 1987, and aims to meet the information needs of the NHS, statutory and voluntary treatment sectors.

"Data are collected from local treatment facilities and passed to NDEC for validation, quality control and specialist analysis," Informatics and Web Communications Officer Mark Delderfield explains.

"On top of the monthly figures, we also produce comprehensive annual analyses broken down by geography, demographics, risk behaviour, ethnicity and drug-use profiles, as well as data on waiting times and discharges."

The data are vital to the NTA in setting targets, making policy decisions and monitoring progress towards the Government's goals and, since being made available online at [www.ndtms.net](http://www.ndtms.net) earlier this year, have attracted over 2000 users a week.

As well as providing these and other statistics, the Centre's expanding team regularly answers ad-hoc enquiries from the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, is developing a National Library of drug misuse information and carries out investigative research. Its highest-profile project is currently DTORS, led by Mike and co-ordinated by Andrew Jones: a nationwide study for the Home Office on treatment outcomes.

The largest such study ever undertaken in the UK, DTORS is investigating how treatment affects drug and alcohol use, offending behaviour, physical and mental health issues and wider social outcomes; with the first results expected next year. In addition, Tim Millar is leading a pioneering national study on the estimation of misuse prevalence.

In terms of international work, Mike is the UK Expert on Treatment Demand at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and has also just authored the United Nations' Global Toolkit on the measurement of drug treatment demand.

"With these exciting new national and international responsibilities we've developed a dynamic research group that is much in demand," he says. "We're keen



to share the benefits of our work with colleagues in related fields across the University, including epidemiology, public health, criminology, sociology, nursing and health services research.

"With several collaborative initiatives already underway, our aim is to continue building an international research network here in Manchester on this important area of modern life."



Professor Simon Gaskell

## Vice President's view

**The days of the lone scholar in research are long-gone in most disciplines, though in some areas the tradition of independent study continues and is an entirely valid approach to scholarly enquiry. More commonly we conduct our research in teams – this is standard in most of the life and physical sciences and there is a clear trend to increased team-based working in the humanities.**

Research teams may be some combination of “horizontal” or “vertical”, corresponding to the association of colleagues with complementary interests and expertise on the one hand, and on the other a group comprising established researcher, post-doctoral research associate and post-graduate student.

Regardless of whether we conduct our research in collaborative teams or in notional independence, interactions with colleagues are essential to intellectual rigour – we depend, at the very least, on a process of constructive critique by our peers. I suggest also that research creativity is almost invariably promoted by a process we commonly describe as “mentoring”.

The term is most often applied to the support of new staff or of colleagues belonging to groups traditionally under-represented in universities. The

truth, however, is that we all need the advice and reinforcement that comes from interaction with colleagues, whether they be formally senior or junior to ourselves. Which academic could truthfully claim never to have learnt from his/her students, whether in the tutorial room or the research environment?

As the research aspirations of The University of Manchester increase still further, it is important that we attend to the needs of all those engaged in research – from post-graduate students to established professors.

In particular, we are presently devoting much attention to the nurturing of post-doctoral research associates – individuals at a key stage in their careers and upon whom so much of the University's research output depends. The trick will be to provide support while at the same time promoting the independence of thought that will provide the launch-pad for a successful career.

So mentoring programmes are important, but as a component of the collegial interactions that are – I suggest – an essential concomitant of research endeavour of the highest quality.

## Knowledge and Technology Transfer

### What I did last summer

**A computer program created by a University of Manchester student during his summer holidays is being developed further by industry giant IBM.**

Robert Craig, a final year Computer Science student, played a key role in developing a piece of business software called ESP.

The policy management tool is designed to process so-called 'computer readable' data, taken from important policy documents agreed between a company and a client.

Robert and his team developed a Web application that allows this computer-readable information to be interpreted and presented in a 'human-readable' format.

Robert was one of just 16 students selected from universities across the UK to participate in IBM's 2006 Extreme Blue programme, which is designed to foster innovation.

Extreme Blue challenges groups of students to develop the technology and a business plan for a new product or service that addresses an existing market challenge.

IBM, which is also known as Big Blue, says that following the expo in France earlier this year, ESP is now being investigated and developed further.

"Extreme Blue was an amazing experience," said Robert. "The programme was only three months long, which meant everything was quite intense.

"I find the fact that our work is going to be continued extremely exciting, as I know how much the final product will help a vast number of people."



University student Rob Craig

## Heads enrolling



L-R Christine Dixon, Assistant Headteacher, Siddal Moor Sports College, Rochdale, Martine Sinker, Headteacher Co-ordinator of the REAL Trust, Colette Burgess, Deputy Headteacher, Wardle High School, Rochdale, plan ahead for success.

**HUNDREDS of teachers aspiring to become school leaders or headteachers have enrolled on a challenging new educational programme being offered by The University of Manchester.**

Leadership Pathways (LP), which is aimed at developing the careers of senior leaders in schools across the North West, is currently being rolled out by the Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL), based at the University.

It is run by the CEL on behalf of the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) and builds on the success of the College's Leading from the Middle

(LftM) programme, preparing people for the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) programme.

A pilot of the programme, held during spring and summer this year, proved to be a great success and 526 people have already enrolled on the new programme – 60 more participants than expected.

Brendan Murden, Director of the CEL, said: "Leadership Pathways will probably be the largest leadership development programme to be rolled out over the next few years in England.

"As the most ambitious blended learning programme offered by NCSL, CEL is particularly pleased to have led this development on behalf of the College and presided over such an innovative national development."

In a bid to promote LP, and CEL's various other leadership programmes, a visit to the Centre was arranged recently for headteachers and deputy headteachers from Rochdale.

During the morning session, the group of around 30 senior teachers heard presentations on succession planning and leadership development before learning about LP and CEL's other educational programmes.

LP offers more choice and flexibility for school leaders, being more responsive to their learning styles and having a clear focus on the leadership and management skills they actually need.

It was created in response to last year's government white paper 'Higher Standards, Better Schools for All'.

CEL has led the development of LP and co-ordinated the work of BBC Worldwide Interactive Learning (BBC WIL), which developed the online components of the programme, and Hay Group, and worked alongside NCSL and BT.

The structure of LP enables participants to tailor the programme to their own learning needs and their school's particular context. Participants are also supported by a school-based coach and leadership mentor.

## Manchester puts MAGIC into maths research

**Mathematicians are to use interactive video conferencing to boost the knowledge of students across the North of England.**

The University, which has been instrumental in driving forward the Mathematics Access Grid: Instruction and Collaboration (MAGIC) project, will be the regional coordinating centre for the teaching of applied mathematics and statistics to PhD students.

The University of Manchester has been working closely with the University of Sheffield, which has been chosen as the regional coordinating centre for the teaching of pure mathematics

The ambitious project, which received £854,000 of funding from the government's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), brings together 13 universities from across the north of England, plus one from the south.

The impetus for MAGIC came following the International Review of Mathematics in 2004.

The IRM report probed the state of mathematics research in UK universities and identified the three-year UK PhD programme as being short compared to those in other countries.

The IRM report concluded that "the UK cannot afford to concentrate its advanced training in mathematics, which has to be nurtured by the most up-to-date research, in a small number of highly competitive universities."



It encouraged universities with large and small mathematical departments to work together for mutual benefit.

The aim of the MAGIC project is to improve the teaching of mathematics postgraduate students, and see them finish their studies with a more balanced, broader and deeper knowledge of maths.

The first interactive lectures, in which students will be able to ask questions at any point, are due to kick off in February 2007, with a full programme expected to start in September 2007.

Teaching from The University of Manchester will be delivered from special Access Grid rooms, containing all the necessary sophisticated video

conferencing equipment, including a huge projector screen, several Web cameras and desk microphones.

Dr Jitesh Gajjar, from the School of Mathematics, and co-leader of the project, said: "This is a very ambitious and unique project, and it has been a big challenge to get all the universities to agree on a framework for participation and delivery.

"There is still work to do in terms of preparing the Access Grid rooms, installing and testing the equipment and familiarising people with the technology. But with funding in place and key decisions made, the original vision is now very close to becoming a reality."





# Dynamic Duo lead culture drive

Balshaw and Merriman may have the ring of a music hall double act or a firm of lawyers. They certainly form a double act and they are quickly building a dynamic partnership, but the speciality for which they have been groomed at the highest level is cultural leadership.

Now, as Directors respectively of the Whitworth Art Gallery and The Manchester Museum, they are applying their experience, enthusiasm and energy to a shared mission to put the immense cultural assets of their institutions in their rightful place within the University, the local community, the city, the region – and beyond. “We are setting ourselves ambitious agendas in leading the world and benchmarking ourselves against the best in the world,” says Dr Nick Merriman. “We are in an exciting place. We fit very well into the University’s 2015 agenda, which allows for the art gallery and the museum to realise their potential, bringing learning and culture and widening participation together.”

Dr Maria Balshaw is passionate about their shared approach, using what she calls “value-based leadership”. “We are focused on what it means to be a cultural institution within a university – and we are leading the way,” she says. “It is about risk-taking, intellectual challenge and accessibility in a real sense, not just tokenistic.”

Recently, she points out, they broke new ground by delivering the prestigious Pilkington Lecture, usually reserved for one distinguished speaker, together, taking the opportunity to get their message of public accessibility across

Both the gallery and the museum are rated in the top three university-based cultural institutions in the country, along with the Ashmolean at Oxford and the Fitzwilliam at Cambridge. But in terms of their practice of bringing together teaching and research, coupled with their busy public and community engagement, they are ahead of the game.

Remarkably, both Maria and Nick were among the first cohort in 2004 of the prestigious Clore Cultural Leadership programme, established to help to solve the crisis of leadership in the arts by giving high-level young executives the opportunity to enjoy an extended experience of management training, specialised research, mentoring and professional experience. Maria, then Director of Creative Partnerships in Birmingham, working with schools, arts organisations and artists, was sponsored by the Arts Council. Nick was Director of Museums and Collections, and of Museum Studies at UCL, and was sponsored by the Museum and Libraries Association.

She interned with Birmingham Royal Ballet, he with the Roundhouse in London, gaining more valuable experience.

Both have combined academic appointments with cultural leadership positions, which makes them ideally suited to their present mission. Their go-ahead approach is soundly based on their experience and they are ideally placed to lead the University’s cultural drive.

They are centrally involved in what is called the Renaissance in the Regions Hub, resulting from the government-backed initiative (£250 million over four years) to revive regional museums. Additional

funding will enable them to be much more significant regional players, with a strong emphasis on public engagement and making their collections more accessible.

Not that either of them needs encouragement in that direction. Maria is keen that the gallery should be a lively place – and she emphasises the large schools programme, the popular family fun week-ends, the Sunday concerts series, in addition to the usual attractions and the special exhibitions. Similarly, Nick enthuses about the museum’s schools programme, which is fully booked up and brings in 42,000 children a year. And more than 200,000 visitors came through the doors last year. They see themselves as the public portals to the University. Maria is particularly keen to re-connect the gallery with Whitworth Park, as the benefactor originally intended, and with the local community on the other side of the park, who are already starting to use the gallery in families.

Looking ahead, they have ambitious plans for exhibitions and conferences. For example, complementary exhibitions and activities are planned around the 2007 anniversary of the abolition of slavery. On another front, Maria cites the planned focus on the work of the American digital artist Lynn Hershman, which connects with the academic specialty of Amelia Jones, Professor of Art History. On the conference side, they are planning a major international conference in 2008, which will bring together the major art galleries and museums from around the world.

“Dynamic duo” may be a well-worn label, but it certainly applies to the exciting new double act of Balshaw and Merriman.



David Lammy



The dig at Mellor

## Minister Backs Push for Community Archaeology

**An international gathering of archaeologists joined politicians and community activists recently at a conference at the University in a bid to urge the public to get involved in archaeology.**

Organised by the Field Archaeology Centre and other archaeologists from the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, the event included contributions from schoolchildren, government minister David Lammy and leading archaeologists.

The conference, called 'Archaeology for All', also featured the 'Dig Manchester' project, run jointly by the University and Manchester City Council. Other contributors included Julian Richards from BBC's 'Meet the Ancestors' and schoolchildren from Littlemoss High School for Boys in Tameside, Greater Manchester.

Janet Tatlock, Widening Participation Manager for the University's Faculty of Humanities, said: "The 'Archaeology for All' conference demonstrated the University's commitment to becoming the most accessible research-intensive university in the region. To demonstrate this, a group from Littlemoss High School for Boys that had been working with the Faculty of Humanities Widening Participation Team and some archaeology post-graduates presented at the conference.

"The students from Littlemoss had undertaken a series of workshops and presented short papers on the impact that studying archaeology had made on them individually and as a

learning community. This is part of a Faculty initiative to include a widening participation strand at conferences at the University so that local students experience and benefit from the excellence of research at Manchester," she added.

The Manchester Museum was also involved in the conference. Its Discovery Centre held interactive archaeological activities and showed exhibitions of work by local archaeology societies. St Aidan's RC Primary School, Northern Moor, took part in two digs at Northenden Corn Mill as part of the Dig Manchester Project. Working with Clare Pye at the Museum, they delivered a conference presentation based on their memories of the dig, demonstrating how work on an excavation can be embedded into work within school.

David Lammy MP, who is Culture Minister, said: "I hope this conference will demonstrate that archaeology really can be for all. Each new archaeological discovery adds another piece to that jigsaw of understanding of ourselves as a constantly changing island, and how that island has interacted with the rest of the world. It's about understanding the story of who we were, who we are now, and who we want to be in the future."

Norman Redhead is based at the University's archaeological unit and is also Assistant County Archaeologist. He said: "The University of Manchester is one of the national leaders in taking the idea of community archaeology forward. Professional archaeologists from the unit have developed the special skills needed to run complex community excavations and provide training, in tandem with local people and organisations. The 'Dig Manchester' project has been particularly

successful in being socially inclusive, engaging with disadvantaged groups and individuals who might not normally consider taking part in such an activity.

"The University also has a strong commitment to widening participation and we hope that some of the thousands of children and adults taking part in summer digs in the Manchester area will aspire to study at the University. Community archaeology makes people think about the lives of their ancestors whilst providing a sense of place and belonging. The digs provide a vibrant atmosphere for social interaction between people of different ages and backgrounds and a real sense of community pride develops," he added.

Involvement with the Mellor dig is just one example of the Archaeological Unit's work in the community. Over the ten years this project has been running, a previously unsuspected Iron Age hill fort has been discovered, including round houses and a deep defensive ditch, as well as remains of prehistoric flint tools, Roman settlement and a medieval timber hall. The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, who have trained local volunteers in archaeological skills, have supported a bid by the Mellor Archaeological Trust to gain a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry on the project. And the great news is that the Trust has just received a grant of £455,000 to carry on its work at the excavation site and to broaden the project to research the history, buildings, and archaeology across the whole of Mellor parish

# Leading technology companies unite for unique careers event in Manchester



**NINE of the world's largest technology companies – Microsoft, BT, Nortel, Accenture, Oracle, Atos Origin, Capgemini, RM and LogicaCMG – took part in a pioneering careers event at The University of Manchester last month, which was the first of its kind in the UK.**

'What's IT All About? 2006' was an initiative between members of the Association of Graduate Recruiters' IT Recruiters Forum and the University's MLP, Careers and Employability Division. The sector-specific event aimed to add value to University of Manchester students' academic experience, delivering insight into the industry's future and the range of career opportunities available.

Over 500 students from IT, engineering and science disciplines attended. Industry careers were covered through various 'day in the life of' panel discussions, while technical demonstrations and a 'careers fair' enabled participants to speak with recruitment and technical specialists.

Employability skills were also developed through 15 practical workshops on a wide range of IT 'hot

topics', including: the future of computing; games platforms; enterprise architecture, and IT security. Prizes were awarded to students asking the best questions.

Gary Argent, UK Graduate Recruitment Manager at LogicaCMG, said: "We were impressed by the quality of the candidates we met during the Manchester event. Research is a key element of the graduate application process, so we hope that this event has given students a great opportunity to find out more about some of the companies recruiting in our sector."

Maddie Smith, Careers Consultant at the MLP, Careers & Employability Division, who helped run the event, said: "Student feedback was extremely positive, with many appreciating being able to speak at length to experts and make connections between their courses and current industry trends. We are delighted with the success of this event, and hope to see it become an annual event."

*Pictured: Elizabeth Bhatia (Information Systems Engineering) won an iPod for her hot topic question on the future of computing.*

## Student volunteers are good sports

**STUDENTS on the Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) recently volunteered as coaches and referees at a football tournament held for primary school children across Manchester. The tournament, hosted in partnership by the MLP, Careers and Employability Division and the Sports Volunteer Scheme (SVS), brought the MLP students into contact with the children to help raise their educational and sporting aspirations.**

Held at the Armitage Centre, the event formed part of an MLP Leadership Challenge, designed to allow groups of MLP students to volunteer together. Students donated their own time to volunteer as referees, and as coaches, hosting football skills sessions for all the children.

Participating primary schools included St Margaret Ward Primary School in Sale, St John Fisher & St Thomas Moore Primary School in Wythenshawe and Wilbraham Primary School in Fallowfield. Each school entered a seven-a-side mixed football team of girls and boys from years 5 and 6.

Colette Cook, MLP Manager, said: "The football tournament was a real success, with both students and pupils enjoying the day. It's great to see MLP students getting so enthusiastically involved with the University's commitment to engaging with and making a positive contribution to the wider community."

The tournament was a knockout competition, with certificates for all the children taking part. St Margaret Ward Primary School won the whole tournament, taking home the winning cup.

As part of the MLP, all the students involved donate a minimum of 60 hours to volunteer in the wider community. Further information on the Programme is available at the website.



*Youngsters get involved at the launch of the Children's University of Manchester*

# What's On



## The Whitworth Art Gallery

### DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

**concrete thoughts: modern architecture and contemporary art** to 17 Dec 2006.

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

**Who are you? Where are you really from?**  
4 Nov to 21 Dec 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.**

Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, 0161 275 7450  
[whitworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:whitworth@manchester.ac.uk)

### Opening hours

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

### 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](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  
0161 273 1456  
[whitworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:whitworth@manchester.ac.uk)  
[www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk](http://www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk)

**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

**Saturday 9 December**  
Lincoln Christmas Market

**International Society**  
327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959  
[int.soc@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:int.soc@manchester.ac.uk)

Open: Mon-Fri 9.30am - 7.00pm (during term time)

Open: Mon-Fri 9.30am - 5pm (during vacation)

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

## 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  
[enquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk)

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

## Contact Theatre

**KOBAL Theatre Company present - Beer!**

Tue 7 Nov - Sat 11 Nov

Tangle is a detective story. It's about the search for a lost brother, missing uncle, a dead wife and an untraceable atom.

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.

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

[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)

## John Rylands Library

The John Rylands Special Collections Library, Deansgate, will be closed for a period of approximately two 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/)



## Music and Drama at Manchester

Thursday 7 December, 1.10pm

### Northern Baroque

Northern Baroque presents exciting performances of early music on authentic instruments.

Friday 8 December, 1.10pm, 5pm, 7.30pm

### Airs and Granges

Come and join us as we celebrate composer Philip Grange's 50th birthday with an invigorating day of music featuring performances of his work.

Sunday 10 December, 7.30pm

### The University of Manchester Chorus and Symphony Orchestra

An evening of beautiful arias, jubilant choruses, enchanting harmonies and lovely melodies in the University's spectacular Whitworth Hall.

Wednesday 13 December, 7.30pm

### The University of Manchester Big Band

The University of Manchester Big Band brings 2006 to a close with an eclectic mix of jazz, from classic Count Basie to brand new contemporary big band music.

Thursday 14 December, 7.30pm

### A Renaissance Christmas

Ad Solem present a concert of music for advent and Christmas from across renaissance Europe.

### The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

The University of Manchester, Bridgeford Street Manchester M13 9PL

0161-275 8951/8950

boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

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

## 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)

## 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 December include:

Sat 9 Dec, 5pm-8pm

#### Spooky Tours 2!

The return of our blockbusting ghost tours.

Tours run every 30 minutes. Book £1.50 5+

Sat 2 Dec 1.30 and 3pm

#### In Focus Tour

A special tour to mark International Day for the abolition of slavery. FREE 8+

Saturday 9 Dec 11am-4pm

#### Wild Britain in Winter

Find out how the animals survive in winter and make a special bird cake and water feeder. Come dressed up as a character from The Wind in the Willows and you could win a special prize! All Ages

Sat 9 and Sun 10 Dec 1.30 and 3pm

#### In Focus Tour

Victorian Gentleman. Collect an I've spied Mr Pye sticker from somewhere in the museum today. FREE

Wed 13 Dec 3pm - 5pm

#### Showcase

Manchester Museum Research Seminar

Field palaeontology: a 19th Century pursuit in a 21st century museum; by Dr Phil Manning. FREE

Sun 17 Dec 11am - 12.30pm

#### The Acoustic Brunch

Enjoy brunch with music from Manchester-based solo artists. FREE

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)

**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.

### Prebooked Family Events (0161 275 2648)

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

### Manchester Museum,

Oxford Road, Manchester 0161 275 2634

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

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

## Gig Guide Manchester Academy

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 & 3

Wed 6 Dec

**New Found Glory + Say anything**  
**Michael Franti & Spearhead**

Thurs 7 Dec

**Gary Numan**  
**Gecko + Waiger**

Fri 8 Dec

**Dragonforce + All That Remains**  
**Darkest Hour**  
**It Bites**

Sat 9 and Sun 10 Dec

**DJ Shadow**

**Ezio**

**Virgin Marys + Vox**  
**The Damned**

Thurs 14 Dec

**Limehouse Lizzy (a tribute to Thin Lizzy)**

Fri 15 Dec

**Hawkwind**  
**Haven**

Sat 16 Dec

**James Morrison**

### Students' Union

Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

### Tickets from:

Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Cafe (c/c)  
0871 2200260

[www.manchesteracademy.net](http://www.manchesteracademy.net)

Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

Students' Union 0161 275 2930

# Young at heart



**You're never too young to start thinking about going to university – and now youngsters all over the world will have the chance to get a taste of life at here at Manchester thanks to the launch of The Children's University of Manchester.**

The Children's University of Manchester is an exciting, new, interactive website aimed at children aged seven to 11, which links the research and teaching of the University to the Key Stage Two of the national curriculum. It gives pupils a fascinating insight into the background and work of some of our leading research academics.

The launch was marked by a lunchtime event at the Whitworth Hall last month, attended by teachers from Greater Manchester primary schools, local councillors, and a wide range of University staff, including academics from all Faculties who have contributed to the development of the site.

The event was opened by Professor Nancy Rothwell, Vice-President for Research. She said: "The Children's University is a fantastic project, and really important for the University as a whole. We have committed to engagement with our local community and with wider participation. These are not areas in which we pay lip service, but set real goals and real commitments, because we see real benefits."

The site combines learning with fun through visually stimulating, interactive games, quizzes, simulations, videos and links.

Six modules have been developed so far, in conjunction with University specialists:

- 'The Earth & Beyond' - Dr Tim O'Brien, Jodrell Bank Observatory
- 'Teeth & Eating' - Professor Liz Kay, formerly of the School of Dentistry
- 'Micro-organisms' - Dr David Moore, Faculty of Life Sciences
- 'Talking Textiles' - Jennifer Harris and Andrew Vaughan, Whitworth Art Gallery
- 'Word Classes' - Professor Kersti Borjars, School of Languages, Linguistics & Cultures
- 'Brain Awareness' - Dr Ellen Poliakoff, School of Psychological Sciences

Manchester Leadership Programme students and students from the School of Informatics helped to develop and pilot the site.

Pupils, teachers and parents at local primary schools, and ICT Co-ordinators at Manchester City Council's Children's Services department, have also provided valuable input and feedback throughout the project's development. These include Jonathan King and Anna Morgan from Ravensbury Community Primary School in Clayton, and schools

in Wythenshawe who took part in an art competition over the summer.

Alan Cross, Lecturer in Education, uses the website when training teachers and teaching pupils. He said: "Teachers and pupils alike love the graphics, the quizzes and the input from academic researchers. Teachers immediately recognise The Children's University of Manchester as a very useful resource, which links well to the curriculum."

Jane Ratchford, Director of the MLP, Careers & Employability Division, which manages the website, said: "The Children's University promises to be a really useful resource for children, parents and teachers, and the wider community across Greater Manchester and beyond. We are very grateful to all University staff and students who have been involved in the development of the site to date, and we look forward to working with more in the future."

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

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# The Egg of the slender-billed curlew

This egg of the slender-billed curlew could well be the only one left in existence. Currently residing in the Henry Dresser collection at The Manchester Museum, it is part of an extensive egg collection which was accumulated over many years by Dresser and was bequeathed to the Museum on his death in 1915.

According to records, the bird has not been found breeding since 1909 but is thought to winter in areas of North Africa. Ongoing work is being carried out at the Museum on the bird's skins which were sampled a long time ago in an effort to identify its breeding grounds from the isotope signature in its feathers.

It is certainly hoped that the species will somehow manage a turnaround

from imminent extinction, but failing this, the Manchester specimen will remain a fragile piece of evidence of the former breeding of this enigmatic species, and a precious piece of natural heritage for future generations.

The egg is currently not on display at the Museum but it is available to visitors who ring in advance and ask to see it.



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Deadline Noon 16 November

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