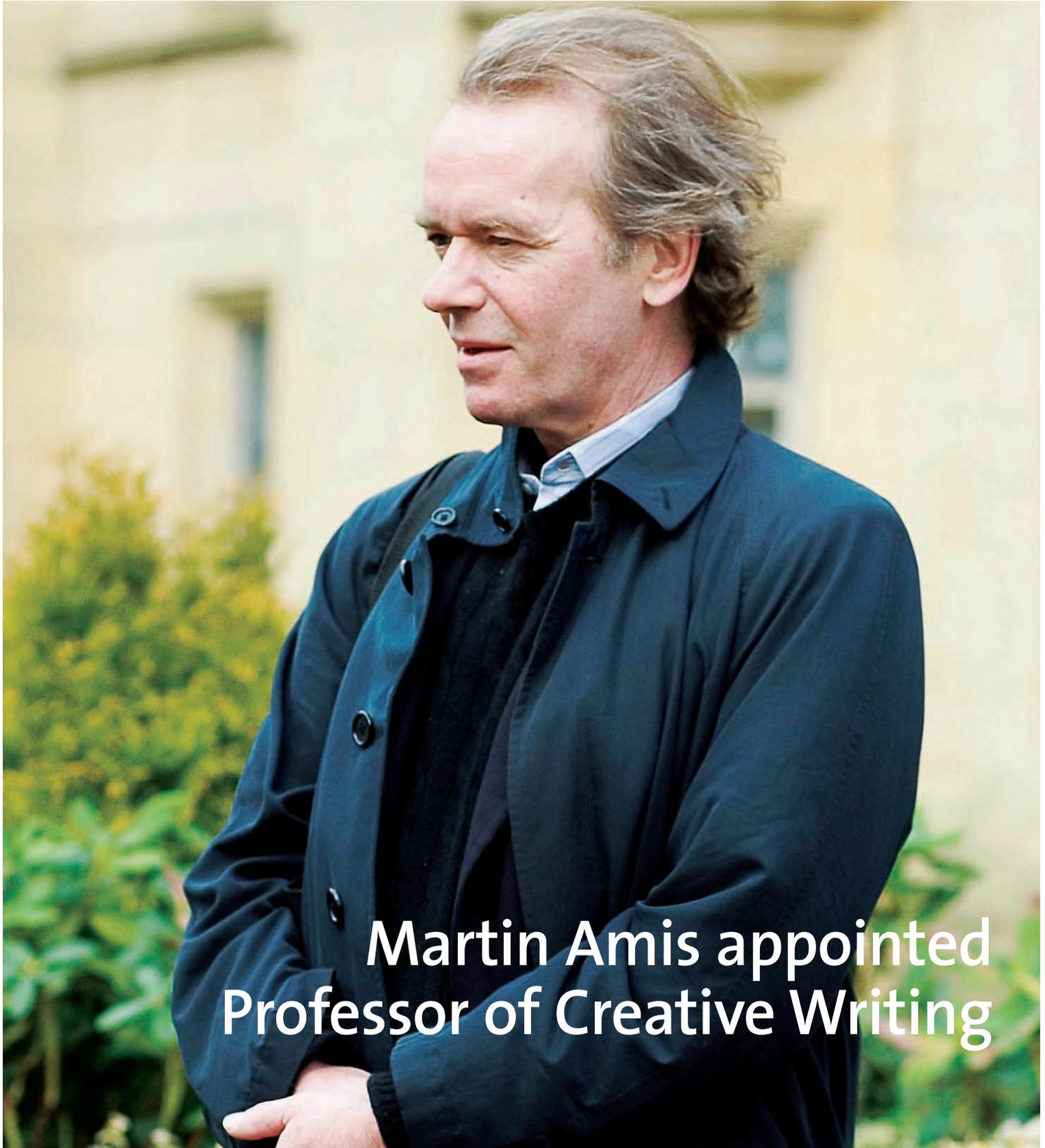


UniLife

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**Martin Amis appointed
Professor of Creative Writing**

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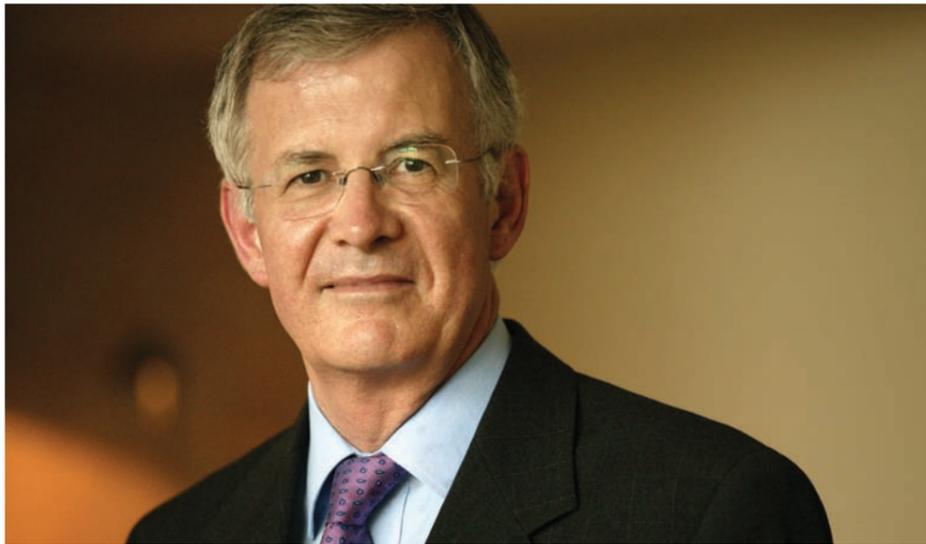
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Front cover: Martin Amis
Photo by Ed Swinden

Letter from the President



When the new University of Manchester was founded in October 2004, it was on the firm understanding that no-one in their right mind would have gone through the inevitable complexities of merging two successful institutions merely for the sake of creating a single, larger institution.

Project Unity was not about size. It was inspired by a major opportunity for "step change" improvement - encouraged by a once-in-an-institutional lifetime chance to contemplate a thoroughly transformational agenda. What drove it was a willingness to entertain a singularly ambitious vision, and the courage to ask, Why not?

In planning our transformational journey, we knew from the outset that the key to success was going to be largely about people. The immense talent already present in the University had to be nurtured and grown. Creating an environment in which that could happen was the bedrock of the *Manchester 2015 Agenda*. But we also knew that creating such a transformational environment would mean bringing in new, virtuoso people - some of them genuinely "iconic" in status - whose presence would help us build higher and higher levels of excellence.

Accordingly, we have stressed the importance of attracting outstanding people at all levels, from PhD candidates and post-doctoral fellows to professors and principal investigators. We have sought a much smaller group - Nobel Laureates and others of equivalents standing - around which to build virtuoso teams. The aim consistently has been "step change" improvement in the quality of what was already a very good, professionally-supported academic community.

Manchester's success in attracting outstanding people has been achieved partly because the Board of Governors, recognising the importance of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), decided that the University should create a significant *strategic deficit* in 2005-06 to accelerate targeted recruitment.

That was a sound decision, but one with significant consequences, especially on top of the *structural deficit* that we had inherited from Project Unity. Mergers always create unnecessary duplication, but in order to give the new institution two years to settle down a formal understanding was reached with the relevant Trade Unions that the new University would delay for two years any loss of jobs arising from any merger. But ambitious agendas are never without cost.

We now face the major, unavoidable challenge of addressing these two deficits - one structural, the other strategic - in order to bring the University budget back into surplus by the end of the 2007-08 financial year. On top of these planned deficits, salary costs, anticipated to increase seven per cent in 2005-06, actually grew by ten per cent because of a combination of the national pay settlement, pay and grading and incremental progression. University overheads were also higher, particularly because energy costs more than doubled.

In an overall budget of around £600 million, such deficits are manageable, provided that we take the necessary action; indeed, the bulk of this financial management task was created deliberately in the best interests of the University. But active, effective action is now an absolute necessity. Operationally, that makes a managed programme on a significant scale of voluntary early retirements and voluntary severances inevitable over the next 18 months. It also places a premium on cost efficiency and challenges us all to maximise revenue growth.

Transforming a very good university into a great one was never going to be affordable if all it involved was appointing wonderful new people and investing in the development of people already on staff. Building a profile of singular excellence was always going to involve "re-profiling", not just growth. Re-profiling enables the recruitment and development of excellent people to proceed by enabling other colleagues, less comfortable with an ambitious "step change" agenda, to leave the University, voluntarily and with dignity.

We have thus arrived at a testing stage of the journey to 2015, and the months ahead will call for wise, compassionate, effective human resource management at all levels. There will be no deviation from the essential task of building excellence across the institution. Key appointments will continue to be made, but at the same time the University must absorb the surge in growth that we experienced in years one and two, and address structural anomalies carried over from the merger. That is why genuine, effective re-profiling has from the outset been a key strategy in the *Manchester 2015 Agenda*, and why it is now imperative.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

News

Martin Amis appointed

Martin Amis, arguably the leading novelist of his generation, has been appointed Professor of Creative Writing at The University of Manchester. He will be in position in time for the launch of the Centre for New Writing, due to open in September.

Amis will run postgraduate seminars at the Centre and will also participate in four public events each year, including a two week summer school where writers will teach MA students from the UK and abroad.

He will be based in the School of Arts Histories and Cultures, also home to the leading literary theorist and critic, Professor Terry Eagleton.

His reputation, established over three decades, has been built on a constant flow of significant, often controversial, novels - he is currently working on his twelfth. In addition, he has published collections of short stories, highly-rated critical essays and countless articles on a wide range of issues and has won a string of literary awards. He is best known for his "informal trilogy" *Money* (1984), *London Fields* (1989) and *The Information* (1995).

"At 57, I feel ready for a fresh milieu and I think I may have something to offer as a teacher," he says. "It has always been a quiet ambition of mine. I have written a lot of fiction and a lot about fiction, so I'll be bringing a dual perspective to it. I am also keen to find out about that shadowy and inscrutable demographic group - the young."

John McAuliffe, co-director with Ian McGuire of the new Centre, says: "The creative writing programme

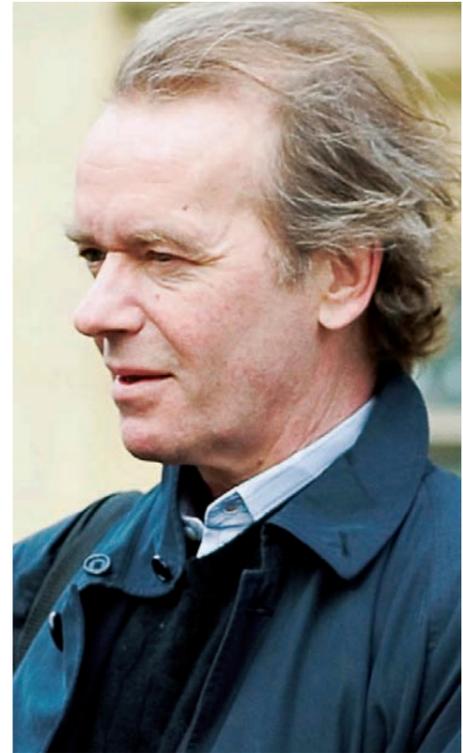
at Manchester has long been one of the best in the country, but the foundation of the Centre and the appointments of Martin Amis and Patricia Duncker mean that we will continue to attract - and provide a terrific apprenticeship for - talented new novelists, poets and critics. Martin and Patricia are both writers who are interested in the broad swim of contemporary culture, so the Centre will be a prominent platform for the best new creative and critical writing being produced in the UK."

Award-winning novelist and short story writer Patricia Duncker, who came as the University's first Professor of Creative Writing in January, previously held the Chair at East Anglia. The Irish poet Vona Groarke is another new appointee.

This is Martin Amis's first academic post. His famous novelist father, Sir Kingsley Amis, also became a teacher, holding appointments at Swansea, Princeton and Cambridge.

Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor, welcoming his appointment, says: "It will be a wonderful opportunity for our creative writing students to learn their craft from so distinguished a novelist. We already have a major presence in creative writing, but this appointment confirms this as one of the leading places in the world to study it."

See pages 10 and 11 for a Profile on Martin Amis



Manchester's students remain most wanted

THE University of Manchester has retained its place as the most targeted university by the UK's top 100 graduate employers, according to a new survey.

University of Manchester students are being targeted by more top recruiters for 2007 graduate vacancies than are any other UK university students, according to High Fliers Research Limited's survey, 'The Graduate Market in 2007'. The survey questioned employers listed in The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers 2006, which includes a range of both private and public sector employers.

Jane Ratchford, Director of the MLP, Careers & Employability Division, said: "Improving the employability of our students and graduates is a key goal for the University. At the MLP, Careers & Employability Division, we work with

colleagues throughout the University and graduate recruiters across the globe to develop and manage a variety of projects and events, all dedicated to equipping students with key career management skills and knowledge vital for future career success.

"The results of this survey testify to the enduring excellent reputation which Manchester graduates enjoy with employers."

The MLP, Careers & Employability Division consistently maintains an excellent reputation amongst graduate recruiters. It has been voted the best higher education careers service in the country for four years running in the annual Association of Graduate Recruiters/ Barkers National Graduate Media Audit.

In brief

Vital Topics

Manchester Business School has attracted some of the world's most influential business leaders to the region to speak at this year's Vital Topics lecture series, sponsored by The Royal Bank of Scotland. The series kicks off in March and the line up includes:

Wednesday 14 March
John Patterson, Executive Director of Development, AstraZeneca
Is There a Future for the UK's Pharmaceutical R and D sector?

Wednesday 18 April
Willie Walsh, Chief Executive, British Airways
The Future for Flying

Wednesday 2 May
Keith Jones, Managing Director, PC World Group
Get with the Programme – Keeping Customers Happy with Next Generation Technology

Thursday 24 May
Val Gooding, Chief Executive, BUPA
Why is Health Important?

Tuesday 26 June
Sandy Carter, Vice-President, SOA and Websphere strategy, channel and marketing, IBM
Business Flexibility in the 21st Century

Each event starts at 6pm with a networking canapé reception, prior to the lecture at 6.30pm and will take place at Manchester Business School. Tickets are £22.50 and can be purchased at www.mbs.ac.uk/vitaltopics

Bridging the skills gap

An employment and training event aimed at improving career opportunities for local Ardwick residents took place last month. More than a dozen major local employers, including The University of Manchester were represented at the 'Ardwick Works!' event.

The event aimed to give residents an insight into a range of employment and training opportunities within organisations which they may have perceived as being closed to them.

Steve Grant, Assistant Director of Human Resources at The University of Manchester, said:

"We would like to be seen as an employer of choice and also contribute to creating new opportunities in Ardwick and this event was an ideal opportunity to build sustainable relationships with our local communities.

"Ardwick Works! was so successful we aim to stage similar events in other areas of central Manchester later this year. As major employers we intend to come together regularly to look at what we can do collectively to support the development of job opportunities in parts of Manchester with high levels of unemployment and also share best practice."



Out of the blue

The Whitworth's latest show, *Indigo: A Blue To Dye For*, has meant a surprise gift to the gallery of a significant textile donation by, Dr Jenny Balfour-Paul, an authority on indigo.

Dr Balfour-Paul worked alongside Dr Jennifer Harris of the Whitworth as a curatorial consultant to the show. At the show's opening, Dr Balfour-Paul announced the donation of her renowned collection of indigo dyed textiles to the Whitworth and the University.

Dr Jenny Balfour-Paul said: "I have spent over twenty years researching all aspects of indigo worldwide. On my travels, I have formed a unique collection ... The cream of this collection is a main feature of the Whitworth Art Gallery's exciting new touring exhibition which has been superbly curated by Dr Jennifer Harris.

"After much thought, I've decided to donate the collection to the gallery, not only because of the exhibition, but also because of the gallery's ethos, above all the exceptionally good accessibility of its collections for researchers and students. Manchester is also an ideal location both for its historical association with textiles and dyes, and as it's a lively city with a large student population with easy links to other major cities. I am happily confident that this collection will be cherished, and available to inspire visitors from all communities and generations now and in the future."

This major exhibition of art, craft, fashion, and design featuring historical and contemporary indigo-dyed artefacts from around the world is on show at the Whitworth until 15 April.

Manchester Science Park wins top award

Manchester Science Park (msp) has been named as Outstanding UKSPA Member Park for services to tenants and the local community. The announcement came at the annual UK Science Park Association (UKSPA) conference held at Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt University Research Park.

The judges selected msp ahead of other UK science parks due to the outstanding services it provides to its tenants, the contribution it has made to the success of the City of Manchester and for its excellent environmental policies.

CEO Jane Davies who collected the award from mathematician and tv presenter, Johnny Ball (pictured), said: "msp has evolved beyond all recognition in the last 20 years and it is great to have this progress acknowledged at a national level. We have outgrown the space available at our original location and now have three msp sites across the City of Manchester. msp plays a major role in the Manchester: Knowledge Capital initiative and winning this award will help us to continue to raise standards in our field and extend the range of our expertise even further."



The judges based their decision on three main criteria: msp's services to its tenants, its impact on the community and its environmental initiatives. msp provides free business development support to all its tenant companies including organising networking events, offering free business and marketing support and arranging access to Greater Manchester universities.

msp is home to more than 100 companies, and the University is a major shareholder.



From L-R, Dr Ian Hudson, Head of Technology and Skills, Nuclear Decommissioning Agency; Jamie Reed, MP for Copeland; Prof Richard Clegg, Director of The Dalton Institute; Prof Simon Pimblott, Chair of Radiation Chemistry at the University.

Millions for new nuclear research centre

A major new nuclear research facility is being built in Cumbria with £20million of initial funding from The University of Manchester's Dalton Nuclear Institute and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

The University and the NDA have signed an initial collaboration agreement, which will see each organisation invest £10million over a seven-year period. The total investment is expected to reach around £50m over this period.

The money will be used to provide specialist research equipment and facilities and to drive forward

research into radiation sciences and engineering decommissioning.

The new laboratory will include accelerators and experimental equipment to study the irradiation damage and effects on materials and chemical systems used in nuclear environments, as well as cutting-edge computational modelling and simulation tools.

The new multi-million pound centre – which is expected to open within the next two to three years – will initially house around 60 staff and postgraduate students. It will be located on the Westlakes Science and Technology Park near Whitehaven.

The centre will have close links with the existing British Technology Centre (BTC) at Sellafield, which is managed by Nexia Solutions, and will form part of the recently announced National Nuclear Laboratory.

As part of the investment agreement with NDA, The University of Manchester will recruit a team of new academic staff and will work to extend access into the BTC for academic researchers from other universities.

Professor Simon Pimblott, who has been appointed from the United States to head up the research into radiation sciences, said: "This is a major opportunity for Dalton Nuclear Institute and the NDA to build truly world-leading research capabilities in the fields of radiation chemistry and radiation damage on materials.

Professor Richard Clegg, Director of the Dalton Nuclear Institute, said: "The signing of the agreement with the NDA is an extremely important development in our ambition to make The University of Manchester into one of the world's most prestigious nuclear research and education centres and will act as a magnet for attracting leading scientists and researchers."



School holds position in world MBA rankings

Manchester Business School has maintained its position at 22nd in the world's top business schools in the Financial Times full-time MBA ranking, published recently. The School was ranked 5th in the world for international business and 4th in Europe for percentage salary increase of its graduates.

The School is now placed 9th in Europe and 4th in the UK, with particular strengths in its doctoral programme - ranked 2nd in the world - and in international experience, where it is 6th in the world and 1st in the UK. It is 13th in the world for the career progress of its alumni.

Professor Michael Luger who joined Manchester Business School in January as director. He said: "We're delighted to have maintained our position at 22nd in the world.

We have faculty members from all over the world, and an enormous breadth of teaching and research experience that's available to all our students, so it's great to see this recognised in the FT ranking. One of my key objectives is to promote Manchester Business School on the world stage, and independent surveys like this add weight to our claims to offer a truly international experience to our students."

The Financial Times survey measures a wide range of factors, surveying MBA alumni three years after graduation. It looks at their career progress and, within the school, considers diversity of the staff and student body, the MBA programme and research activities.

VP's view



Professor Bob Munn

Early last month I met some of the latest cohort of staff on the New Academics Programme. Nearly all said that one important factor in accepting a job here was for reasons related to research. One then asked how we can square that strong orientation towards research with Goal Four in Manchester 2015: 'Excellent teaching and learning'. The answer is that we must, we can, and we are doing.

For a start, teaching students is what makes us a University rather than a research institute. Grants and fees for teaching also constitute a significant fraction of our income. So we should regard teaching and learning as core business where we must strive for excellence. A reputation for excellent teaching also attracts the best students from around the world. This reinforces our international reputation, and provides recruits to our research programmes who will become the next generation of researchers.

Evidence from around the world shows that excellent teaching and research are not mutually exclusive. Universities acquire an international reputation primarily through their research, and a strong research reputation attracts the best scholars from around the world. As enquirers in their research field, excellent researchers are still learners who can empathize with students and their learning. Excellent researchers also convey their subject knowledge and enthusiasm in their teaching (and our New Academics Programme helps that to happen effectively).

Our efforts are bearing fruit. Internal awards recognize and support teaching excellence, and we have seven National Teaching Fellows. Teaching materials provided online increasingly enhance learning opportunities for students, especially through interactive activities. Finally, the satisfaction levels revealed in student surveys increased noticeably last year compared with the previous year, although we would like more students to respond. So the students who flock here every year can indeed experience excellent teaching and learning.

Professor Bob Munn
Vice-President
Teaching & Learning



The challenge is on

After victory in the 2005/6 series of University Challenge, the University of Manchester team has made it through to a quarter-final match against Wadham College, Oxford, to be broadcast on BBC2 at 8pm tonight (5 March).

Despite losing their first-round match to Merton College, Oxford, they qualified for a play-off match

as one of the highest-scoring first-round losers, and beat the University of Bristol 200-140 in that play-off and the University of Reading 210-60 in the second round.

The all-undergraduate team comprises Ciaran Lavin (English and Philosophy) (captain), Adam Clark (Ancient History), David Elliott (Mathematics and Physics) and Tim Hawken (Music).

The fussy farm

Head of the School of Psychological Sciences Professor Geoffrey Beattie is one of three expert mentors in a new television series 'The Farm of Fussy Eaters'. The show follows the journeys of eight people who have problematic relationships with food, but are determined to conquer their habits and fears.

From borderline diabetic Craig who can eat nothing but potatoes, Weetabix, bread and plain crisps, to chocaholic Ruth who consumes five 400g bars a day, the participants hope their two weeks in a Lincolnshire farmhouse will help them change their ways. Geoff will help them get to the heart of where their dysfunction comes from and learn to modify their behaviour, whilst dietician Lyndel Costain and chef Rachel Green encourage them to learn to eat normally, healthily and socially.



Professor Geoffrey Beattie

"There are often deep-seated psychological issues underpinning these kinds of problems, and my starting point was to uncover these," Geoff says. "As to whether the residents managed to change their ways, you'll just have to watch to find out!"

The Farm of Fussy Eaters is on UKTV Style at 10pm on Mondays.

Built in quality

The University has received a prestigious building award for the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB) in recognition of the quality of its construction.

The MIB on Princess Street was one of 11 construction projects selected from the 2,700 inspected in the past year by Manchester City Council's Building Control Service which sponsored the award. The scheme recognises excellent practice across the complete of building projects which are judged against the Built in Quality Awards standards.

The £38 million building houses research laboratories, core facilities, offices and meeting rooms over five floors together with a sixth floor plant room, and can accommodate more than 500 bioscience research staff in up to 85 research groups.

Work was assessed against a range of criteria including site safety, structural stability, fire safety, use of materials, sound insulation, access for all, conservation of fuel and power and weather resistance.

Director of Estates, Diana Hampson accepted the award at a ceremony at Manchester Town Hall.



Professor Julian Thomas

Archaeologists find village near Stonehenge

The largest Neolithic village ever found in Britain has been discovered by archaeologists at the Stonehenge world heritage site.

The village dates back to 4,600 years ago when Stonehenge was built - leading archaeologists to believe that the people who lived in the houses probably constructed the world-famous monument.

The findings help to confirm the theory that Stonehenge did not stand in isolation but was actually part of a larger religious complex used for funerary and other rituals.

Professor of Archaeology at The University of Manchester, Julian Thomas, is one of the directors of the Stonehenge Riverside Project.

He said: "My part of the project over the past couple of years has been concerned with the investigation of a series of structures inside the great henge at Durrington.

"The project found a group of six houses connected with an avenue which links Durrington Walls with the River Avon.

"And just like Stonehenge - two miles away - it's connected to the river by it's own avenue.

"It's this structural connection as well as the date that leads us to believe that these people were the builders of Stonehenge."

"Neolithic people probably processed between the two monuments at midsummer and midwinter, the two celestial events upon which the circles and avenues are aligned.

He added: "We found two small buildings on a terrace overlooking the Southern Circle and the Neolithic settlement, similar to those in the larger settlement at the eastern entrance to the henge monument.

"Although they had been subject to erosion, it's interesting that they were completely devoid of artefacts and other finds, even in the postholes for the roof supports that surrounded the hearths."

"Either these were the dwellings of important people, set aside from the main settlement but overlooking it from the terrace, or they may have been cult houses, shrines or houses of the dead, secluded inside their palisades and never actually occupied."

Mummy's amazing maize

The far-reaching influence of Spanish and Portuguese colonisers appears not to have extended to South American agriculture, scientists studying a 1,400-year-old Andean mummy have found.

The University of Manchester researchers compared the DNA of ancient maize found in the funerary offerings of the mummy and at other sites in north west Argentina with that grown in the same region today.

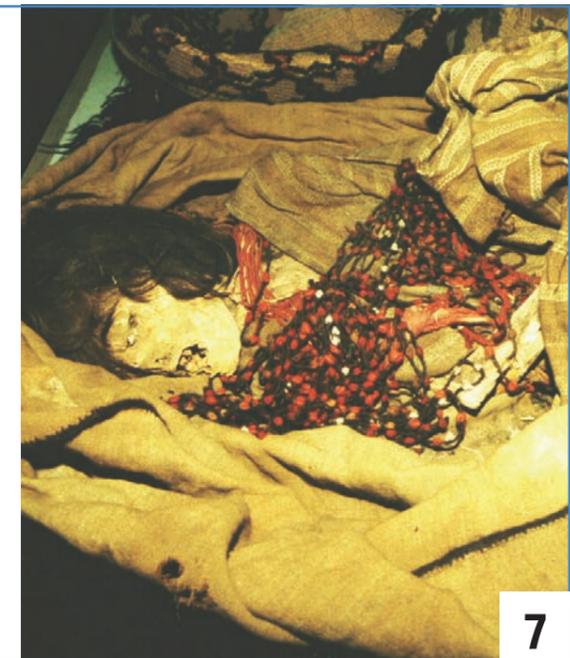
Surprisingly, they found both ancient and modern samples of the crop were genetically almost identical indicating that modern European influence has not been as great as previously thought.

"The entire culture of South America changed when the Europeans arrived in the 15th century - everything from the language to the whole way of life,"

explained Professor Terry Brown, who headed the research in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"Maize is the staple food crop of the region but prior to colonisation it also had a ritual significance - the indigenous people were amazed by maize and even worshipped it. "Given the immense changes that took place in South America following the arrival of the Europeans it is surprising that this crop has remained unaltered for hundreds of years."

Using the new facilities of the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre for studying ancient DNA, Professor Brown is now examining ancient maize specimens from Peru, up to 6,000 years old, to determine if these much older specimens are also similar to modern crops.



In brief

Dead Sea Scrolls Celebration

The University is to hold a celebration to mark the 60th anniversary since the first discoveries of Scrolls in a cave near the Dead Sea. The University has had a long association with the study of the scrolls and the celebration on Thursday 15 March is jointly hosted by the Centre for Biblical Studies and the Centre for Jewish Studies.

Professor Devorah Dimant of the University of Haifa will talk on 'The Qumran Texts and the Qumran Community' at 2pm in Humanities Lime Grove A101. This will be followed at 4 pm in Humanities Lime Grove A113 by an illustrated lecture on the scientific conservation of the Scrolls by Dr Ira Rabin from Berlin who has recently been working on the cataloguing and analysis of the Reed Dead Sea Scroll Fragments in the Rylands Library – the Rylands is the only institution in Britain to house Scroll fragments.

After a reception at 5.30pm in the Foyer of Humanities Lime Grove, Professor George Brooke, a leading authority on the Scrolls, will present a popular lecture on 'The Dead Sea Scrolls for the Next 60 Years'. All are welcome to any or all of the events.

Professor's accolade

A University of Manchester mathematics professor has joined an elite band of academics. Professor Nick Higham has been added to ISI HighlyCited.com in recognition of the high number of citations his work has received from his peers.

Thomson Scientific's ISI HighlyCited.com is a free, publicly available website that collects the work of the world's most cited and influential researchers across a diverse range of disciplines. Currently, there are 10 other academics at the University listed on the site,

in the field of mathematics, there are only 21 academics listed in the UK and just 300 worldwide, so Professor Higham has indeed joined a select band.

The number of highly cited academics is one of the criteria used in some of the published world rankings of universities.

Professor Higham's full profile appears at www.isihighlycited.com

CESAR could hail cheaper and greener small aircraft



A £280,000 grant to engineers could help spark the development of cheaper, lighter and greener small passenger aircraft.

A team from the Power Conversion Group in the school of Electrical and Electronic Engineering will use the money to investigate how current mechanical and hydraulic systems on small aircraft - such as private jets and those used for short flights - can be improved using more advanced electrical engineering.

The research forms part of the Cost Effective Small Aircraft (CESAR) project, which involves dozens of commercial and academic organisations right across the European Union.

All aspects of aircraft design and development will be examined during the EU-funded project, with the ultimate aim to produce a new concept for aircraft with between 10 and 50 seats.

In comparison to the latest breed of high-tech jumbo jets, which feature advanced electrical

systems, small passenger aircraft tend to use control systems that have not seen any significant technical advance for a number of years.

Dr Nigel Schofield (pictured) and a small team of researchers will concentrate on developing electrical systems to operate external flight control surfaces like the rudder, wing flaps and the landing gear.

Replacing bulky mechanics and hydraulics with more electrical-based systems could allow a small aircraft to carry more passengers and therefore reduce the carbon footprint of each traveller. Less mass would also mean less fuel burn and less carbon dioxide being pumped into the atmosphere.

Dr Schofield said: "With the increasing popularity of air travel, the demand for smaller commercial aircraft is likely to increase in coming years.

"The project certainly won't provide a solution to the huge problem of aircraft emissions, but it could lead to cheaper, smarter and more environmentally friendly aircraft taking to the skies."

The impact of braces



A major study involving the Universities of Manchester, Roehampton and Cardiff has cast doubt on the assumption that orthodontic treatment improves psychological well-being.

The team of psychologists and dentists studied the long-term effects of both orthodontic treatment and lack of treatment when a need had been identified in childhood, in a paper published in *The British Journal of Health Psychology*.

Over a thousand 11-12 year olds were recruited to the project in Cardiff in 1981, and their dental health and psycho-social well-being assessed. They were re-assessed in 1984 and 1989 and finally in 2001.

Professor William Shaw of Manchester's School of Dentistry said: "We revisited 337 of our original sample as adults, and those who had been assessed as needing orthodontic treatment in 1981 and received it had straighter teeth and were more likely to be satisfied with them.

"However orthodontic treatment in childhood had little positive impact on their psychological health and quality of life in adulthood.

"Further, a lack of orthodontic treatment in childhood did not lead to psychological difficulties in later life for those children where a need was identified but no treatment received.

"It can be concluded that, although in general participants' self-esteem increased over the 20-year period, it was not as a result of receiving braces and didn't relate to whether an orthodontic treatment need existed in 1981. This runs contrary to the widespread belief among dentists that orthodontic treatment improves psychological well-being."

The team also concluded that the health or attractiveness of a person's teeth is a minor factor in determining their psychological well-being in adulthood.

Karen takes the Chair

Karen Hassell of the School of Pharmacy has been appointed to a new Chair, in Social Pharmacy.

Karen joined the University as a contract researcher in 1991, and has built a strong reputation as an expert in sociological and health services research on the pharmacy workforce. She is Director of the Centre for Pharmacy Workforce Studies, a research centre influencing policy, practice and debate on employment and professional issues within the profession.

"I'm delighted about my new post and looking forward to the challenges ahead, particularly expanding my role within the University," she said. "I'm also keen to extend my workforce research into other health care disciplines, and hope to establish a workforce research network to share ideas and research that cut across employment boundaries."



Journalists put Russian press freedom under spotlight

Prominent figures in journalism gathered at The University of Manchester recently to discuss press freedom in Russia.

Professor Stephen Hutchings from the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures brought together journalists and academics from Russia and the UK in a bid to raise awareness of issues surrounding freedom of speech in the former Soviet state.

The gathering is one of three debates on Russian media culture organised by Professor Hutchings. The other two will take place at the University of Birmingham and the Frontline Club in London in March and April respectively.

At the February event in Manchester, members of the public had a chance to question panellists in a "Question Time" style discussion.

They included President of the Russian Television Academy and host of the programme 'Vremena' on Russia's Channel 1 Vladimir Pozner.

Colleagues also paid tribute to murdered Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, who was due to take part in one of the events.

Professor Hutchings said: "There is great concern in the UK over the rising tensions between media freedom and the international security agenda in the light of terrorist activities in Russia."



MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester

UNIVERSITY BRANDED MERCHANDISE

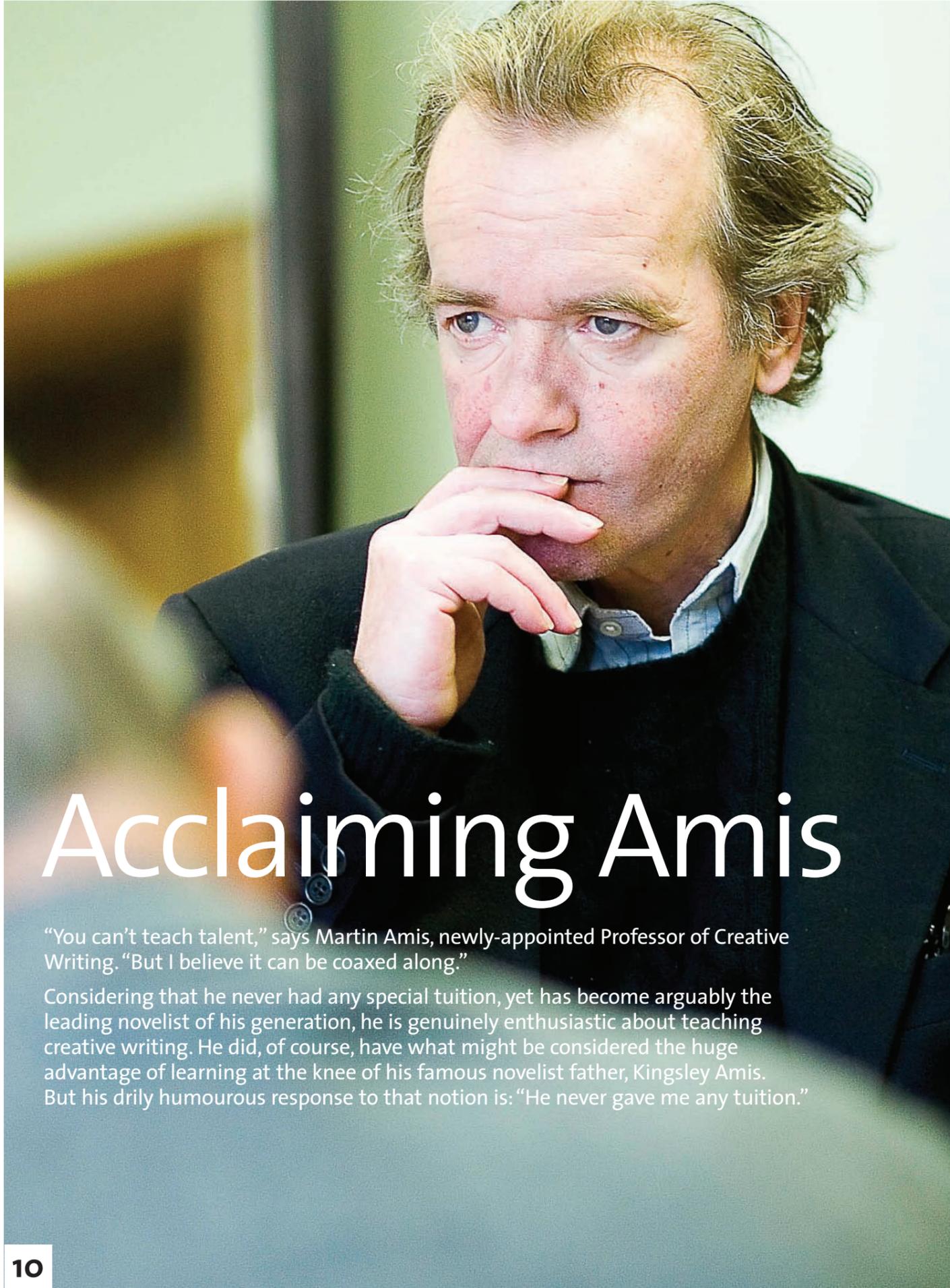
The University operates a one-stop shop for the supply of wholesale quantities of branded merchandise for:

- Gifts
- Promotions
- Open Days
- Conferences

If we don't have it – we can get it!

Look at www.manchester.ac.uk/merchandise or contact lisa.linekar@manchester.ac.uk

For individual gifts please go to www.manchester.ac.uk/giftshop



Acclaiming Amis

“You can’t teach talent,” says Martin Amis, newly-appointed Professor of Creative Writing. “But I believe it can be coaxed along.”

Considering that he never had any special tuition, yet has become arguably the leading novelist of his generation, he is genuinely enthusiastic about teaching creative writing. He did, of course, have what might be considered the huge advantage of learning at the knee of his famous novelist father, Kingsley Amis. But his drily humorous response to that notion is: “He never gave me any tuition.”

“I am at the point of my life where I want a new milieu and I think I have something to offer.”

Indeed, “following in father’s footsteps” is not a suggestion he takes to kindly, even though Sir Kingsley also became a teacher in later life – at Swansea, Princeton and Cambridge – for 15 years. “By all accounts he was very good at it,” he says.

Now, at 57 and with eleven acclaimed novels, as well as collections of short stories, books of non-fiction and countless essays and critical pieces to his name, he is very much looking forward to his first academic job. “I always fancied teaching,” he says. “I am at the point of my life where I want a new milieu and I think I have something to offer. I have a vulgar curiosity about the young. I want to know how ideological they are and what effect modernity has had on them. I can’t think of a better way to learn about them, because nothing lays you more open than writing fiction.” He has five children of his own, but “they only give you a partial view”.

So, whilst coaxing along new writers, he is clearly keen to learn himself and, as always, on the look-out for possible material for another novel. But his prime concern is for his students.

“When I was young I might have benefited from some guidance from a kind and helpful 57-year-old writer,” he says, with typical irony, considering that he has something of a reputation for being an acerbic writer and a fearsome critic. “I’m sure I can be helpful and gentle. I know that writing fiction leaves you totally exposed.”

The challenge of not only teaching creative writing, but also assessing students’ work, exercises him. “Nabokov said there is only one school – one of talent,” he says, underlining his original point. And he is not about teaching new writers “the tricks of the trade”. But there are what he calls “benchmarks”, like freshness, freedom from cliché, levels of perception and, perhaps most importantly, “economy of energy – how to make the best use of it”.

He is truly committed and strongly believes that the academic milieu has – and has earned – a valid place in fostering creative writing talent. Just to take one example, he cites Ian McEwan, a product of the long-established creative writing course at East Anglia, led by Malcolm Bradbury, a notable exponent of the campus novel. The number of successful writers produced is certainly some measure of the effectiveness of the teaching.

Of course, few reach the heights – and celebrity status – that Amis himself has achieved over 30 years. After graduating from Exeter College, Oxford, with a First in English, where his tutor was the late Jonathan Wordsworth, great great great nephew of

the poet, he went to work as an editorial assistant on the Times Literary Supplement – and wrote his first novel, *The Rachel Papers*, in 1973, when he was 24. Success was immediate – it won the coveted Somerset Maugham Award for best first novel. In 1975, *Dead Babies* appeared, followed three years later by *Success*, whilst he was Literary Editor of the *New Statesman*.

In the 1980s, he produced what is considered to be his masterpiece, *Money: A Suicide Note* (1984), the first of an informal trilogy along with *London Fields* (1989) and *The Information* (1995).

In 2003 came *Yellow Dog* and in 2006 ‘*The House of Meetings*’, his eleventh novel. He is currently working on his latest, *The Pregnant Widow*. “It is a very autobiographical, generally rash novel,” he says. “At a certain age, you become curious about what you’ve lived through and it is a matter of tweaking and mauling that material. Feminism has been the main issue in my lifetime, hence the title.”

Amis has always tackled big and distinctive themes, fearlessly and often controversially. And he has always explored them with a distinctive – and innovative – literary style.

So, he brings to his new job exceptional experience as a writer – and as a man concerned with the big issues. In a way, he is entering a new phase in a wider sense – he returned to England last September, after living essentially for more than two years in Uruguay.

He and his second wife, the writer Isabel Fonseca, moved back to London for the sake of their daughters’ (Fernanda, aged nine and seven-year-old Clio) education. And coming back has caused him to look afresh at Britain, Europe and what he identifies as the worryingly growing hostility towards the United States and Israel.

“I find that people here are very masochistic,” he says. “The tangle of ideologies that dominated Europe has peaked in America. The lesson of history is the desire for power – and the loss of power causes anger. Britain does not relish being no longer a world power. Islamism lost power centuries ago – and is still angry about it.”

When the Centre for New Writing is launched in September, Martin Amis will be there, raring to go, running postgraduate seminars and participating in public events – and coaxing that talent along, kind, helpful and gentle, knowing how vulnerable one can be exposing oneself to the real world through writing fiction.

Name
Martin Amis

Writer
Professor of Creative Writing,
The University of Manchester

Bibliography

Novels

- *The Rachel Papers* (1973)
- *Dead Babies* (1975)
- *Success* (1978)
- *Other People* (1981)
- *Money* (1984)
- *London Fields* (1989)
- *Time’s Arrow: Or the Nature of the Offense* (1991)
- *The Information* (1995)
- *Night Train* (1997)
- *Yellow Dog* (2003)
- *House of Meetings* (2006)
- *The Pregnant Widow* (2007)

Collections

- *Einstein’s Monsters* (1987)
- *Two Stories* (1994)
- *God’s Dice* (1995)
- *Heavy Water: And Other Stories* (1998)
- *State of England: And Other Stories* (1998)
- *Amis Omnibus (omnibus)* (1999)
- *The Fiction of Martin Amis* (2000)
- *Vintage Amis*

Non fiction

- *Invasion of the Space Invaders* (1982)
- *The Moronic Inferno: And Other Visits to America* (1986)
- *Visiting Mrs Nabokov: And Other Excursions* (1993)
- *Experience* (2000)
- *The War Against Cliché: Essays and Reviews 1971-2000* (2001)
- *Koba the Dread: Laughter and the Twenty Million* (2002)

What's On



The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

Indigo: A Blue to Dye For to 15 April 2007

The Uncertainty of Identity: The Biographies of Things From 24 March 2007 – March 2008

This exhibition explores the contexts in which the identity of an art or design object is formed and destabilised – creating its 'life history' or 'biography'. Where does the object come from and who made it?

Featuring Walls: celebrating three centuries of wallpaper decoration to 30 Sept 2007

Featuring Walls shows off some of the Gallery's most visually stunning and inventive decorations to explore wallpaper as a signifier of social status, a source of imaginative inspiration and a reflector of our cultural preoccupations.

The Textile Gallery 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.

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

Oxford Road,
0161 275 7450
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

International Society

Fri 9 – Mon 12 March
Cornwall

Sat 10 Mar

Lake District visiting Airaforce Waterfall and Ambleside

Sun 11 Mar

Chester (with guided walking tour)

Sat 17 Mar

North Wales visiting Blaenau Ffestiniog

Sun 18 Mar

Peak District visiting Buxton and Hardwick Hall

Sat 24 Mar

North Wales visiting Anglesey (with guided tour)

Sun 25 Mar

Blackpool

Sat 31 Mar

Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby

Sun 1 April

Alton Towers

Opening hours

Mon-Fri 9.30am – 7.00pm (during term time)
Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm (during vacation)

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959
int.soc@anchester.ac.uk
www.internationalsociety.org.uk

John Rylands University Library (Deansgate)

The John Rylands Library, Deansgate is coming to the end of a three year, £16.5 million transformation. The Library is due to re-open to the public in spring 2007. The temporary Special Collections Reading Room which has been operating from the Main Library is now closed to readers. Special Collections reader services will re-open on Tuesday 10 April 2007 in the John Rylands Library, Deansgate. During the closure period we shall do our best to meet the needs of readers who require urgent access to specific items and would appreciate advance notice of such requests whenever possible. If you have any queries about Special Collections reader services, please telephone 0161 275 3764 or visit our website at www.manchester.ac.uk/library.

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy
SUNDAY WORSHIP

11am Holy Communion
12.15am Bible Study
12.45 Lunch (1st Sunday)
6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)

FOYER 10am - 5pm

An area where students and staff can relax and meet friends. A tea/coffee machine is available.

Precinct Centre 0161 275 2894

email.sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk

RC Chaplaincy, Avila House

Open daily (Mon-Fri) 8.30a.m.-10.00 p.m.
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
Oxford Road (opposite the Students' Union)

0161 273 1456
info@rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk
www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk

The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

Hillel House, Greenheys Lane.
0161 226 1139
rabbiiyy@hotmail.com
www.rabbiiyy.com

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Contact Theatre

Tues 13 March – Sat 24 March

Palaver – A Festival of Language and Performances

A collaboration between Contact and the University of Manchester's School of Arts Histories and Cultures. The Palaver festival celebrates language and performance and includes a diverse selection of performances, talks and showcases.

For information on other events please visit our website.

Oxford Road, Manchester
Tickets/Info: 0161 274 0600
www.contact-theatre.org

Music and Drama at Manchester

Thursday 8 March, 1.10pm

Student Showcase

A recital featuring the talents of undergraduate and postgraduate star performers from Music.

Friday 9 March, 6pm

MANTIS SOUTH-NORTH 2007

MANTIS presents a wide range of electroacoustic music performances and workshops exploring the idea of South and North.

Wednesday 14 March, 7pm

BBC Philharmonic Chamber Concert

The BBC Philharmonic's Chief Conductor, Gianandrea Noseda, brings a new series of concerts to The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall.

Thursday 15 March, 1.10pm

A Concert of Sundanese Gamelan Degung

A selection of classical and popular repertoire performed by music students currently studying gamelan as part of their degree course.

Saturday 17 March, 7.30pm

The University of Manchester Chorus and Symphony Orchestra

University of Manchester Chorus and Symphony Orchestra combine to perform Verdi's Requiem.

Wednesday 21 March, 7.30pm

The University of Manchester Big Band

With two of the most innovative soloists in jazz today, Tom Arthurs and Ingrid Laubrock, the Manchester University Big Band celebrates the music of Thelonious Monk and Charles Mingus.

Thursday 22 March, 7.30pm

Ad Solem The University of Manchester Chamber Choir

Ad Solem perform an inspiring programme of 20th-century choral works from England, Scotland and France.

Friday 23 March, 7.30pm

The University of Manchester String Orchestra

This massed-string work is not to be missed, performed together with Three Pieces in Olden Style.

For further information contact:

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama
Bridgeford Street
Manchester M13 9PL
0161-275 8951/8950
boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk
www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Wild Britain extended until 27 Aug 2007

Wildlife photography exhibition by Ben Hall.

Alchemy Artists to 29 April

Exhibition of past work by the artists selected for Alchemy Fellowships.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

Revealing Histories – Remembering Slavery

Sat 24 & Sun 25 March

The History of the slave trade is not black history, but the story of a shared past that shaped British society and impacts on the present. On March 25, the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Act in 1807, eight museums and galleries in Greater Manchester will launch Revealing Histories: Remembering Slavery.

EVENTS

Some of the highlights for January include:

Sat 10 March 11am-4pm

Big Saturday

Blast Off! For National Science and Engineering Week have a go at a range of activities including Physics Tricks for Kids and visit the Jodrell Bank Mobile Planetarium. Most big Saturday activities are free but some may cost £1.50. All ages.

Sat 17 March 1pm -3.30pm

Introduction to Forensic Science

Solve a crime in this fun and practical workshop (Book) £1 (8+)

Sat 24 & Sun 25 March 12 noon, 1.30pm

Revealing Histories – This Accursed Thing If slavery was the foundation of prosperity and Empire, what Does that mean to us today? (Book) Free (8+)

Sat 24 & Sun 25 March 1-4pm

Revealing Histories

Open weekend with workshops, performance and hands-on activities. All ages. Free

Fri 30 March 11am-12noon

Magic Carpet

Storytelling for the under 5's with reptiles and Amphibians theme. £1 under 5.

Sat 31 March 12noon, 1.30

Revealing Histories – This Accursed Thing (Book) Free (8+)

Sat 31 March & Sun 1 April

Victorian Gentleman Collect an "I've spied Mr Pye" sticker from Graeme Pye Esq somewhere in the Museum today. FREE

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).

Opening hours

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

Oxford Road, Manchester
0161 275 2634
www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Jodrell Bank

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

Jodrell Bank Observatory
Macclesfield, Cheshire 01477 571339
www.jb.manchester.ac.uk

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

Gig Guide Manchester Academy

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Tickets from:
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Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Cafe (c/c)
0871 2200260
Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

Students' Union
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL
0161 275 2930
www.manchesteracademy.net

Reaching Out



Taking it higher

More than 900 year 5/6 pupils from over 30 Greater Manchester primary schools have taken part in specially developed primary school Higher Education Awareness Days at the University this year.

It is part of the "Higher Futures4U" initiative which has again been supported by the Student Recruitment, Admissions & Widening Participation Division and The Manchester Museum.

As an Aimhigher activity, all the schools taking part in Higher Futures4U are located in areas known to have low participation rates into higher education. For the vast majority of children, the visit to the University is their first opportunity to meet real students and visit one of their local Universities.

The awareness day is key part of the project and involves pupils taking part in carousel activities

encompassing an interactive campus tour following a 'day-in-the-life' of a typical Manchester student (minus a visit to the Students' Union bar!), extracting DNA from onions in the Manchester Museum and a series of Higher Education activities working with Student Ambassadors to find out more about the opportunities University offers.

Paul Shone from the Student Recruitment, Admissions and Widening Participation Division, who coordinates the scheme, said: "Higher Futures4U is one of the key vehicles through which the Student Recruitment Admissions and Widening Participation Division is able to

introduce young children to the idea of University for the first time through creative campus-based activities. Importantly, pre-versus-post evaluation mechanisms have shown the project to make a remarkable impact in transforming the children's previously held knowledge and attitudes towards higher education."

Further information about the scheme can be obtained from Paul Shone paul.d.shone@manchester.ac.uk or 0161 275 2056 in the Student Recruitment, Admissions and Widening Participation Division.

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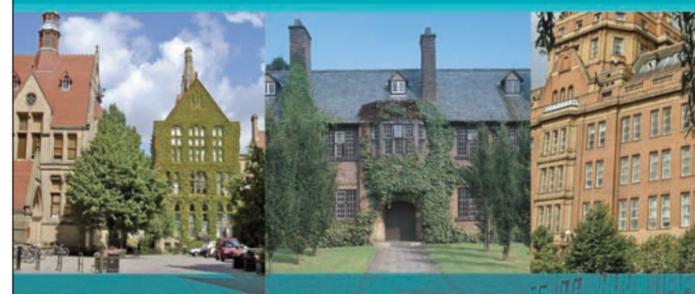
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Manillas or 'ring money'

25 March 2007 marks the 200 year anniversary of the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Act. To mark this, eight museums and art galleries in Greater Manchester, including The Manchester Museum, will be launching Revealing Histories: Remembering Slavery with a programme of performances and events to examine the history and legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, and the way it has shaped British Society.

A group of objects at the Museum which links to the project are manillas (pictured). Brass manillas like these would have been exchanged for slaves and used as currency in West Africa. At one time, a King manilla would have been worth one slave.

The economy of West Africa prior to European intervention was either based around barter or the use of non-coinage based currency such as shells, woven cloth, weapons or beads. Jewellery was also used, and copper bracelets had been seen by early European traders being used along the coast of Africa. At the height of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade in the 18th and 19th centuries this currency became the most dominant form used between African and European slave traders.

The currency devalued with the decline of the slave trade, although it was still used in Africa until the mid-twentieth century. It is impossible to say if the manillas in Manchester were used in

the slave trade, but as they arrived here in the early twentieth century, it suggests they were collected as they were moving out of circulation

These manillas act as a disturbing reminder of the monetary value placed upon people used as slaves during the time of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and highlight the financial impact the Trans-Atlantic slave trade had on British society.

For more information about 'Revealing Histories' events at the Museum please visit www.museum.man.ac.uk



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Next issue is 5 April 2007

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News and story ideas

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email uninews@manchester.ac.uk
online www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news
Deadline Noon 15 March

Events Contact

Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead

tel 0161 275 2922
email unievents@manchester.ac.uk
Deadline Noon 15 March

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