

UniLife

2 April 2007

Issue 8 Volume 4

The scientists who are walking with dinosaurs



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Front cover photo:
Dr Bill Sellers, Dr Roland Ennos
and Dr Jonathan Codd
Photo by Ed Swinden

Letter from the President



Many Jewish students are deeply offended by a Resolution passed recently by the Students Union which committed the Union to a partnership with Al-Najah University in Palestine, and characterised educational deprivation in Palestine as a denial by Israeli occupiers of a fundamental human right.

Several external Jewish organisations have joined Jewish students in alleging that Al-Najah University is allied to Palestinian extremism, and in calling on the University to intervene to stop this controversial development in student politics.

To some Jewish students, the passing of this resolution is indicative of an intensifying climate of intimidation against them on the Campus.

Let me make absolutely clear that the intimidation of some members of the University community by others will not be tolerated. We will act decisively should any instances of such behaviour be brought to our attention, both to protect victims of intimidation and to ensure that serious and/or repeated acts of intimidation are severely disciplined.

In terms of the Resolution, I should point out that the Students Union operates under a Constitution approved by the University's Board of Governors, we will not – in this or any other case – be intervening to curb freedom of expression or limit the canvassing of controversial political, social, religious or other opinions or activities, unless the opinions and/or activities in question are clearly unlawful. Both the University and the Students Union are bound to act lawfully at all times.

With that single caveat, there must be no censorship or suppression of free speech in The University of Manchester. No institution has a greater responsibility than a university to remain adamant and vigilant in resisting any erosion of freedom of opinion and expression, even when wise and powerful interests, including on occasion Government officials, try to rein in views that disturb or challenge their sense of what is best for British society.

In saying that, I am reminded of some of the most important words ever written in the English language. "Human liberty," John Stuart Mill wrote

in *On Liberty*, "...comprises ... liberty of conscience, in the most comprehensive sense; liberty of thought and feeling; absolute freedom of opinion and sentiment on all subjects, practical or speculative, scientific, moral, or theological ...without impediment from our fellow creatures, so long as what we do does not harm them, even though they should think our conduct foolish, perverse, or wrong."

Granting freedom of expression to others is not about tolerating views that we disagree with, or find mildly offensive. The liberal credentials of an individual, a society or an institution are only truly tested when the opinions being expressed call into question the very deepest social and personal values and beliefs of others, and when what is being advocated in their place strikes others, not just as wrong, but as outrageous, reprehensible and pernicious.

A majority of students present at a Union meeting adopted a set of resolutions that other students find deeply disturbing and offensive. That was their right. Equally, however, the responsibility that accompanies that right is that they in turn must respect the rights of those with whom they disagree, allowing them to advocate alternative views, and champion conflicting social, political, philosophical or religious ways of understanding the world. Trying to still controversy or silence criticism is antithetical to the very idea of a university.

Let us therefore determine to make Manchester a place where any lawful opinion can be voiced and any course of political or social action advocated, without fear or favour. For in an environment where rational, disciplined inquiry is sovereign, that is the beginning of wisdom.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor



Dinosaur Day Stampede

Dinosaur Day at The Manchester Museum was an astounding success recently attracting a record breaking 2,000 visitors!

The Manchester Museum has been attracting record numbers of visitors, partly due to their programme of family events. The Museum organised a variety of events as part of National Science and Engineering Week, including the Blast Off Big Saturday (10 March) where all the planetarium shows and physics tricks for kids sessions were packed out.

Dinosaur Day at the Museum (Saturday, 17 February) attracted a record breaking 2,000 visitors. Visitors had the opportunity to get their own fossil identified, meet and draw Eric the

Velociraptor, who was on display for the first time in ten years, handle objects and minerals, learn about the Tentontosaurus conservation project, listen to dinosaur stories and take part in Plesiosaur reconstruction activities and fossil rubbing. There was also a gallery tour and family talk with Dr Phil Manning.

Brilliant Bird Boxes (Friday 16 February), part of the half term programme of events was also extremely busy, with about 1,800 visitors. This event was run in association with the BBC and the Wild About Manchester team of the City

Council and was part of the BBC Nest Box Challenge/BBC Breathing Places.

Anna Bunney, Curator of Public Programmes at The Manchester Museum and it has been a fantastic introduction to public programmes, both the fact that we've been so busy and we've been able to feature the work of Museum scientists as well as having the wonderful opportunity to reflect the world of The University of Manchester."

Government appointment for President

President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert, has been appointed to the Government's top-level advisory body on science and technology policy issues which reports directly to the Prime Minister.

The Council for Science and Technology (CST) has a remit to advise the Prime Minister, the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales and the responsible Minister at the Northern Ireland Office on strategic science and technology policy issues that cut across the responsibilities of individual government departments.

Professor Gilbert is one of three new members appointed to the CST. The 16 independent members of the CST are senior people active in the worlds of academia and business, and from charitable sponsors. Their appointments run for three years from 1 March 2007.

In brief

From Abacus to Algorithm

Professor Charles Burnett FBA will be delivering a public lecture on the discovery of Arabic Mathematics in the West at the John Rylands University Library at Deansgate. This is part of the AHRC Rylands Genizah Project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

The lecture will be held in the Reading Room at Deansgate on 30 April at 5.30pm. Seating is limited, so to reserve a place, please call 0161 275 8737 or email danielle.shields@manchester.ac.uk

Your Memories of Lindow Man

In February's edition of *Unilife*, we featured an article on Lindow Man, who will be returning to The Manchester Museum for a temporary exhibition next year. The Museum asked people to send in their memories and thoughts on Lindow Man, so they can reflect a range of different points of view in their interpretation of the body. Many thanks to those who have sent in your views – here are just a couple of them.

“This is my first memory of Manchester Museum and I remember coming to see this exhibit when I started at University in 1989. I was fascinated and I keep coming back to the Museum time after time because of this.”

“I remember going to see Lindow Man when I was at primary school about 20 years ago. It must have made a big impression as I still remember his leathery skin now and I couldn't understand how he had been kept so well. This kind of thing really captures kids' imaginations. Personally I think he should be back up north forever!”

If anyone has any further memories or thoughts on Lindow Man, please send them to museum@manchester.ac.uk

Pathway to legal career for poorer families launched

A £1.5 million educational programme will help hundreds of students from non-professional and poorer families to enter the legal profession.

The University of Manchester - along with Leeds, Southampton, Warwick and the London School of Economics - have teamed up with The College of Law and the Sutton Trust in a five-year project.

Assistance will go to state school sixth formers who want to pursue a legal career and satisfy a range of criteria.

The criteria includes coming from schools with a higher than average proportion of children on free school meals and being the first in their family to enter higher education.

Leading law firms, the Law Society and the Bar Council will also provide each student with work experience.



Reds treat for high-flying students

When University of Manchester student Patrick Murphy finished top of the year in his first-semester exams he was understandably delighted by such a notable achievement.

But the lifelong Reds fan never dreamt his hard work would be rewarded with a VIP trip to Old Trafford to watch his beloved Manchester United take on Lille in the UEFA Champions League.

Nineteen-year-old Patrick, who hails from Rusholme, was one of five high-flying, first-year students in the Faculty of Life Sciences to be invited to watch the crucial second-leg tie.

“It was a good game and judging by that performance I have no doubt United will go on to

win the Champions League,” said Patrick, a former pupil at St Bede's in Alexandra Park, Manchester.

Enjoying the match with Patrick were fellow Life Sciences students Natasha Bray, Daniel Ng, Regina Forrester and Ruth Watkinson, a recipient of the prestigious £10,000 President's Awards.

The President's Award, a prestigious £10,000 a year scholarship to study at Manchester, is awarded to up to 10 students each year. The awards are reserved for 'the best of the best'. Only the very highest academic credentials are considered, with eligibility depending not only on at least three "A" grades at A-level, including grade 'A' in every module, but also on the results of a 'Thinking Skills Assessment,' a special examination and an interview.



Unique semi-final for challengers

Manchester has reached the semi-finals of University Challenge for the third year in a row, an achievement unprecedented in the programme's 45-year history.

After semi-final defeat in 2004/05, and series victory in 2005/06, the University's 2006/07 team beat Wadham College, Oxford, 230-190 in the quarter-final broadcast last month. They now face Durham in the semi-final, to be broadcast on BBC2 at 8pm tonight (2 April)

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





Chemistry school celebrates £14m building boost

The University's School of Chemistry got a £14 million boost recently, as expansive new research and student teaching facilities were officially unveiled.

The 2,400-square metre extension to the Chemistry Building on Brunswick Street was conceived to accommodate the requirements of the new School following the merger.

The ground floor accommodates the mass spectrometry and separations laboratories, and also houses a large synthetic research laboratory and reading rooms.

The first and second floors house spacious teaching laboratories and supporting facilities, which are already being used for the practical training of chemistry undergraduates. Each laboratory is designed to cater for up to 100 students.

The building was officially opened by Professor Dame Julia Higgins of Imperial College – the recently retired Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society.

The completion of the extension project has allowed academics and their research groups to relocate from the Faraday Building into the main Chemistry Building.

New masters launched

A new masters degree in biomechanics – believed to be the first of its kind in the UK has been launched at the University.

The Faculty of Life Sciences has one of the largest biomechanics groupings in the UK and the launch of the new masters degree will give students training in both the physical and biological sciences. It will investigate how organisms move, support themselves and develop.

This multidisciplinary approach is an important research area at Manchester and bucks the trend that has led to some courses in the physical sciences being dropped by institutions. Last year the University opened the £38 million Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB) - a cross-discipline institute that brings together experts from a wide range of subjects in order to tackle major challenges in quantitative, interdisciplinary bioscience.

Dr Roland Ennos (pictured) who will lead the course said: "Our new masters degree in

biomechanics will be crucial in helping us to develop the next generation of scientists able to apply multidisciplinary approaches to the biomedical and scientific questions of the future."

The masters was launched last month at a special research day by world-renowned expert on dinosaur locomotion zoologist Professor McNeill Alexander, whose own research dismisses the notion that tyrannosaurus rex could chase down fast-moving motor vehicles, as the film Jurassic Park would have us believe.

See Research Spotlight on page 7



New service guides small businesses through recruitment maze

A comprehensive new service aiming to navigate small businesses through the potentially tricky process of graduate recruitment - to reach the wealth of talent at the University - is being launched.

The Small Business Zone (SBZ) will encourage small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to create and promote new employment opportunities for our University's students and graduates, including international students.

Anne Milligan, Head of Regional Development at the University's MLP, Careers & Employability Division,

which runs the service, said: "Our experience tells us that although SMEs are usually keen to recruit graduates, they frequently find the recruitment process daunting. They are often not used to marketing their business on campus and need guidance on how to effectively use graduate-level skills in the workplace.

Online toolkits will cover the broad spectrum of recruitment, retention and business development activities, including: information on recruitment legislation; hints on writing job descriptions; advice on harnessing student and graduate talent

effectively; and how best to shortlist and interview candidates.

Up-to-date information on related University services and events will also be available on the SBZ website: www.manchester.ac.uk/smallbusiness. An advice line will offer tailored assistance for specific recruitment queries.

For further information, call the Small Business Team: 0161 275 2828.

In brief

Food safety leadership role

Professor Sarah O'Brien of the Gastrointestinal Sciences research group in the Division of Medicine and Neurosciences has been appointed Chair of the National Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF).

Sarah has been a member of the ACMSF since 2001, and will lead it for the next three years. The Committee provides the Food Standards Agency with independent expert advice on the microbiological safety of food, and the risk to humans of micro-organisms found in or around food.

New Professor

Professor Colette McKay has joined the Audiology and Deafness Research Group within the School of Psychological Sciences as Professor of Applied Hearing Research.

Colette joins the University from Aston University in Birmingham, and has worked across a broad range of fields relating to deafness, audiology and communication. She has particular accomplishments in central auditory processing, language development in children and mental health, and her two key focus areas will be auditory psychophysical research and improved speech perception with cochlear implants.

Antifungal drugs kill TB bug

Scientists hoping to find new treatments for one of the world's most deadly infectious diseases say drugs used to treat common fungal infections may provide the answer.

Tuberculosis, or TB, is a highly contagious disease of the lungs that was thought to have been virtually eliminated by the 1960s, but is now resurgent and kills nearly two million people worldwide every year.

Of equal concern is the dramatic rise in the incidence of new strains of TB that are resistant to traditional antibiotics.

But biologists at The University of Manchester have shown that chemicals called azoles - the active agent in many antifungal drugs - kill the TB bacteria, and could be effective in tackling the emerging drug-resistant strains.

Funded by the EU's NM4TB (new medicines for tuberculosis) project, the Manchester team set about trying to find alternative drugs that could be used to treat these multi-drug resistant varieties of TB, known as MDR-TB.

Professor Andrew Munro who has led the research in the Faculty of Life Sciences said: "We knew that the TB bacterium was a clever organism but when we began looking at the bug and its DNA content in more detail we noticed it had some unusual

characteristics. In particular, we noted the presence of a very large number of enzymes called P450s, which are usually associated with more complex organisms.

"In humans, P450s help us detoxify and dispose of countless chemicals and toxins that enter our system. Most bacteria have few, if any, P450s but we discovered that the TB bacterium has 20 different types."

Even more exciting for the team was the knowledge that existing anti-fungal drugs already target P450s as a way to treat, for example, systemic and more superficial infections caused by fungi such as *Candida albicans* (the causative agent of thrush).

"The class of drugs called azoles are able to kill off fungal infections by blocking the actions of one of its P450s that is essential for maintaining the cell structure," said Professor Munro. "We were able to show in laboratory experiments that various types of these azole drugs were also very good at killing the TB bacterium."

The research - published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* - offers the potential of a whole new approach to fighting the TB bug and has already attracted interest from one major pharmaceutical company.



Bumper idea is smash hit

Investigations by engineers into an extendable car bumper could help speed along the arrival of computer-controlled motorways.

An award-winning paper presented at the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) World Congress and Exhibition recently, offers a glimpse of how a high-tech, environmentally-friendly and efficient motorway network could operate safely in the future.

Dr Alasdair Renfrew and Dr Aurelio Gonzalez-Villasenor (pictured) from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and co-author Dr Paul Brunn scooped Best Scientific Paper at the meeting of key decision makers and technical experts.

Automated Highway Systems (AHS) and Co-operative Vehicle Highway Systems (CVHS) have been under development for many decades. The vision is that vehicles would not be independently driven, but regulated and controlled via information beamed from transmitters at the side of the road. Cars would also communicate and co-operate with the vehicles around them to ensure a safe and fast journey for everyone.

Using computer-controlled vehicles could potentially increase motorway capacity, reduce congestion and bring down fuel consumption.

The system proposed by the University of Manchester team would use a 'bridging damper' - an intelligent bumper, which would extend to touch the car in front, should the main communication system break down.

Computer simulations have indicated that a group of at least 20 cars could continue to travel safely by detecting the status of the car immediately in front through their extended bumpers.

The authors of the paper have investigated a system that would see bumpers adjust to compensate for varying road conditions such as uphill and downhill stretches.

Dr Renfrew said: "A vast amount of further research is needed to explore the viability of the proposed system. But we do hope that by tackling the issue of safety and presenting our ideas for discussion and further investigation, intelligent transport systems may arrive just a little bit quicker."

Research Spotlight



How do birds manage to fly and breathe at the same time? How - and how fast - did a dinosaur run? Why do we have fingernails - and how are they formed? How do trees stand up to the wind and how do they defend themselves against being eaten?

The list of fascinating questions, from the exotic to the everyday, are the very stuff of biomechanics - and the University has a leading group of researchers in this exciting interdisciplinary, cross-Faculty area of study.

Biomechanics is all about how animals and plants are built and operate, a meeting place of biology and engineering, underpinning such fast-growing industries as tissue engineering, biomaterials and sports science.

The three academics from the Faculty of Life Sciences, who are at the centre of the group,

themselves reflect the nature of the subject - Dr Roland Ennos, Reader in Ecology, Dr Jonathan Codd, Lecturer in Integrative Biology, and Dr Bill Sellers, Lecturer in Vertebrate Biology and the team's computer specialist. As they say "We approach the same problem from different directions - comparative physiology, biological structures and computer simulation, complementing each other and producing a rounded picture."

Dr Ennos, Programme Director for the new interdisciplinary MSc in Biomechanics (see page 5), says: "This is an exciting and fascinating field of study, which develops our fundamental understanding of the mechanical design of organisms. It is increasingly important, since it underpins applied technologies and innovative industries such as biomaterials and tissue engineering."

It is also a prize example of the benefits of collaboration across a large University, linking Life

Sciences with Materials Science, Mathematics, Computer Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering and the Manchester Museum. And there is extended collaboration with other universities in the North-West, bringing together about 50 people to form the biggest integrated Biomechanics research group in the country.

Perhaps the most immediately popular focus of the group's work is the Museum's favourite dinosaur, Tyrannosaurus rex. By feeding their research - Roland on skeletal structure, Jonathan on breathing mechanics - into Bill's evolutionary robotics program, they can simulate the great beast's bipedal locomotion.

"It's great fun," says Roland. "We also work a lot with balsa wood models that we have to make. So, we get the chance to play around - with a serious purpose."

New research Chair will build world-leading team



The Audiology and Deafness Research Group within the School of Psychological Sciences has received funding for a new Chair, in Amplification and Rehabilitative Audiology.

The world-leading Swiss hearing instruments company Phonak, which already funds projects within the group, will provide £250,000 over an initial period of three years to support the development of a world-class research team.

"World Health Organisation figures show that adult hearing loss is the world's biggest disability, in terms of both numbers and impact, and the problem will only

grow as the population gets older," group leader Professor John Bamford (pictured) said.

"There have been huge advances in digital technologies to address the problem and large numbers of hearing instruments are in use worldwide, but this is the first time academics and industry have come together to develop a specialist research capacity."

Phonak will also fund individual research projects alongside additional funding sources, and the team's development is expected to facilitate cross-Faculty R&D with colleagues in Engineering and Physical Sciences.

In brief

Nobel Laureate to give Faculty of Life Sciences Annual Lecture

Nobel Laureate, and genome research pioneer Professor Sir John Sulston will give the Faculty of Life Sciences annual lecture on 24 April 2007. The lecture entitled 'Genetic equity and global medicine: what is science for anyway?' is a unique opportunity to hear Sir John discuss the bioethical implications of modern day genetic research.

Sir John was awarded the Noble Prize in 2002 in recognition of his research on the nematode worm. He mapped the entire genome of this animal thus opening up the possibility of mapping the human genome. In 1992 he was appointed director of the Sanger Institute which led the UK arm of the human genome project. A working draft of the human genome was announced in June 2000 by the international research consortium.

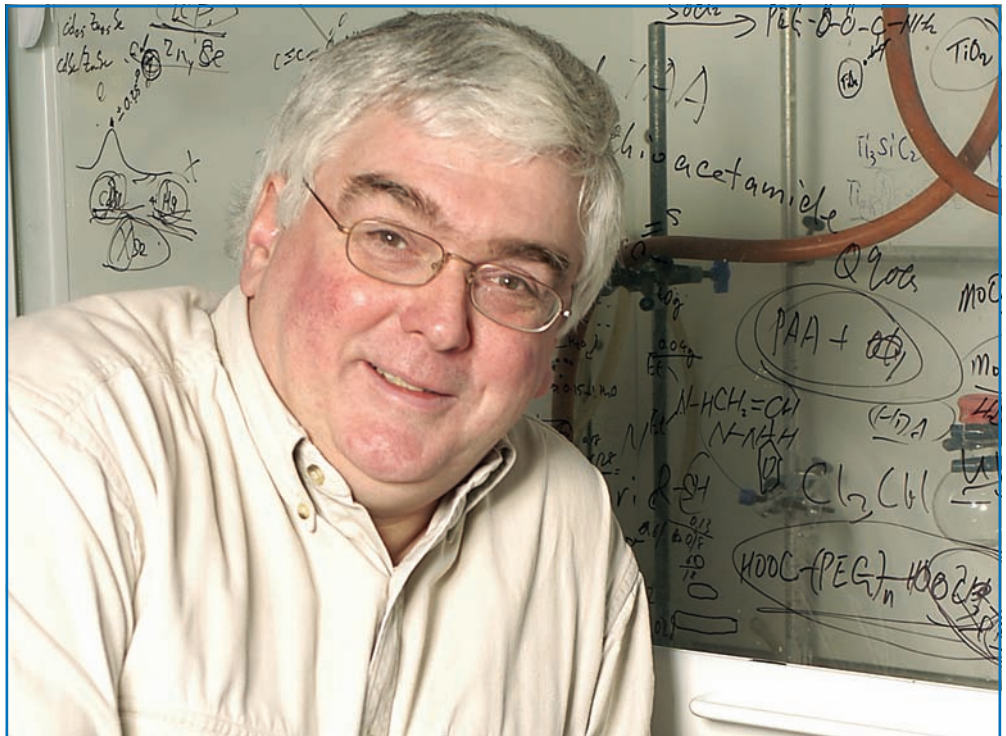
Sir John stepped down as director of the Institute in 2000, he is currently vice-chairman of the Human Genetics Commission and sits on the Royal Society working group on intellectual property.

The event starts at 5.15pm with a pre-lecture reception in the Manchester Museum followed by the main lecture at 6.15pm in the Whitworth Hall. All staff and students are welcome to attend but are asked to register by Friday 13 April. Registration forms are available from lynne.k.macrae@manchester.ac.uk.

Fellowship for GP study

Dr Ruth McDonald from the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre at The University of Manchester has been awarded a prestigious Harkness Fellowship in Health Care Policy to take forward her work on the UK's new GP contracts.

Dr McDonald will use the funding to study the equivalent of GP contracts in California, which has a similar system but with incentives for GPs to take note of the costs of the treatments and referrals they are ordering for patients.



Drive to cut cost of solar power generation

Academics at the University are embarking on a £1.5m project to develop new and potentially cheaper ways of generating solar power.

The project will investigate a number of new and novel solar cell designs, in an attempt to produce a more efficient system for generating green energy.

Led by Professor Paul O'Brien (pictured) from the School of Chemistry and Professor Jenny Nelson from Imperial College London, researchers will investigate new designs that utilise intrinsically inexpensive materials and cheap fabrication methodologies.

The project team are aiming to build demonstration hybrid solar cells that have the long-term potential to be mass-produced and to achieve an energy conversion efficiency approaching ten per cent.

The cells will be made from both organic polymeric carbon-based materials and small particles of inorganic semiconductors.

Most designs are expected to draw on nanotechnology, with researchers planning to use so-called PbS nanorods - small cylinders of lead sulphide that are around 100 times smaller than a human hair.

Professor O'Brien said: "The widespread implementation of solar electricity requires a significant reduction in cost and a successful outcome to this project has the potential to provide a step-change solar cell technology."

The project is funded by the EPSRC's Materials and Energy programmes.

Research will involve academics from the Schools of Chemistry, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Materials and Physics and Astronomy.

Swell gel could relieve back pain

Scientists at The University of Manchester believe injections of tiny sponge-like particles could provide an alternative to major surgery in the treatment of chronic lower back pain.

Dr Brian Saunders from The School of Materials and Professor Tony Freemont from The Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences have developed tiny gel particles that swell and stiffen when injected into a damaged area.

Investigations have revealed that degenerated animal intervertebral discs containing the injected 'microgels' regain

their mechanical properties. This development opens up the possibility of human patients being able to regain full mobility and flexibility after receiving spinal injections.

Professor Freemont, who works in the Division of Regenerative Medicine in the School of Medicine, said: "This research was motivated by the urgent need for a non-surgical method for repairing intervertebral discs. Our approach has the advantage of restoring spinal mobility whereas spinal fusion surgery results in a significant loss of mobility at the fused and adjacent discs."

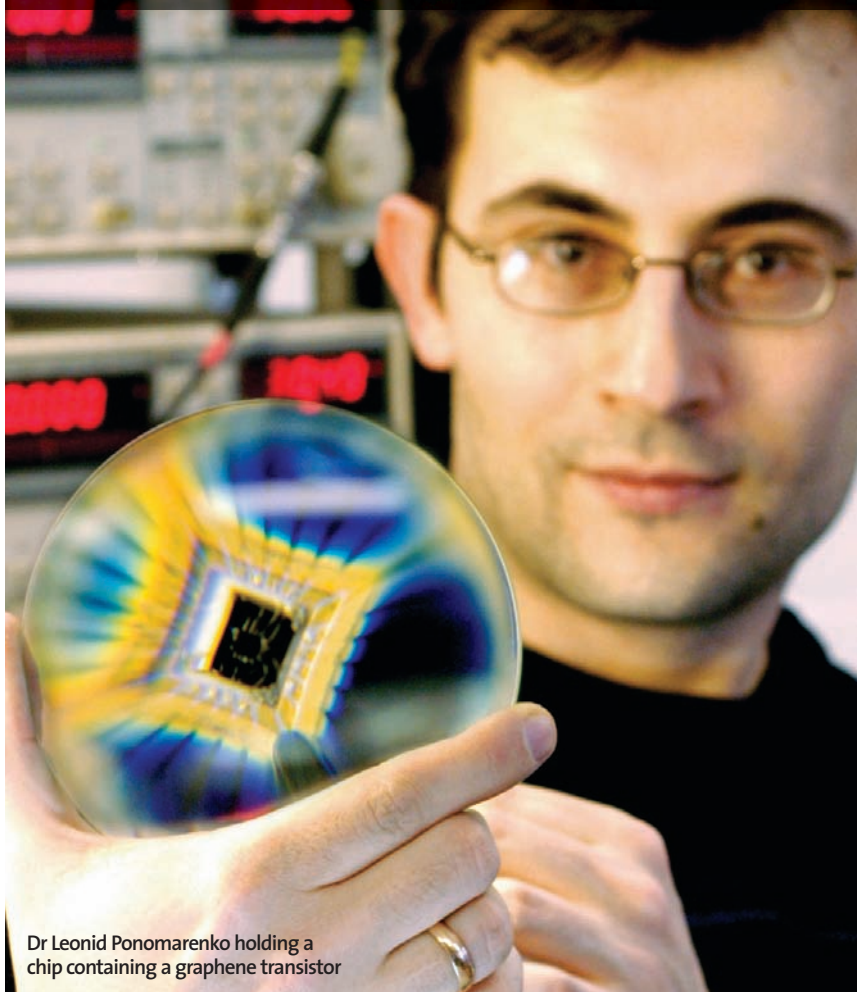
He added that future work will investigate biodegradable microgels that release additives to stimulate regeneration of intervertebral disc tissue.

The research was funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Ltd (UMIP).

Dr Saunders and Professor Freemont hope to secure extra funding with a view to conducting clinical trials.

In the news

Researchers in the School of Physics and Astronomy have been making headlines following the publication of papers in two prestigious journals.



Dr Leonid Ponomarenko holding a chip containing a graphene transistor

Back in 2004, a research team led by Professor Andre Geim and Dr Kostya Novoselov a discovered a new class of materials called two-dimensional atomic crystals.

These one-atom-thick materials and in particular graphene - a gauze of carbon atoms resembling chicken wire - have rapidly become one of the hottest topics in physics.

However, it has remained doubtful whether such materials can exist in their free state, without being placed on top of other materials.

Now an international research team, Professor Geim and Dr Jannik Meyer of The Max-Planck Institute in Germany and has managed to make free-hanging graphene.

Writing in the March edition of *Nature*, Prof Geim and colleagues reports they have used graphene to create a new kind of super-thin membrane.

It's believed this structure can be used to sieve gases and make miniature electro-mechanical switches.

Researchers believe it will allow the imaging of individual molecules with unprecedented accuracy. This has significant implications for the development of medical drugs.

"This is a completely new type of technology - even nanotechnology

is not the right word to describe these new membranes," said Professor Geim, who is the Director of The Manchester Centre for Mesoscience and Nanotechnology.

Other researchers involved in this work include Dr Kostya Novoselov and Dr Tim Booth from the University.

The second article in *Nature Materials* reports that Prof Geim and colleagues have managed to create the world's smallest transistor - a breakthrough that could spark the development of a new type of super-fast computer chip.

The progress article gives details of the successful demonstration of graphene transistors that are only one atom thick and less than 50 atoms wide.

It is believed this innovation could allow the rapid miniaturisation of electronics to continue when the current silicon-based technology runs out of steam.

Professor Geim does not expect that graphene-based circuits will come of age before 2025 - but believes graphene is probably the only viable approach after the silicon era comes to an end.

The news was reported in *The Times*, *The Telegraph*, the *Daily Express*, *The Sun* and the *New Scientist* amongst others.

Oral Health Unit research changes national dental policy

Results of a recent Oral Health Unit (OHU) study have led to a change in Government policy on the dental care of school children in England and Wales.

Screening school children for dental disease has been a long-standing requirement of local NHS organisations, yet little evidence existed to show it improved their dental health. The OHU, the academically independent national forum established to discuss and inform policy on dental research, therefore undertook a trial of 17,000 children to find out whether screening reduced levels of untreated tooth decay and increased dental attendance.

The results showed that only a quarter of children identified by screening as having decay in their permanent teeth went on to receive appropriate treatment. Further, whilst higher numbers of children from disadvantaged backgrounds had tooth decay, those from affluent backgrounds with decay were more likely to visit the dentist and receive treatment after being screened at school.

OHU Research Director Dr Martin Tickle said: "We found no differences regarding increases in tooth decay levels - in either the first or permanent teeth - between children who did and didn't receive screening. Also school dental screening in an area

where NHS dentistry for children was freely available did not improve dental attendance, and it is probable that the screening programme may even exacerbate inequalities in the use of dental services."

The UK National Screening Committee has now advised Chief Dental Officers that there is no evidence to support the continued use of dental screening. New guidance was issued to the NHS in January recommending that "PCTs consider whether or not to continue local screening programmes and, if not, how best to address inequalities in oral health in other ways."





Health teams show their initiative

www.healthandsocialcareawards.org

Teams from the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences were nominated in two categories at the Department of Health's Health and Social Care Awards in February, which celebrates the UK's pool of talent and initiative in the provision of frontline care.

The Eyes and Tobacco Study Team, led by the School of Medicine's Dr Judith Thornton and Dr Simon Kelly of Bolton Hospital NHS Trust, was nominated in the 'Improving Health and Wellbeing' category, for a programme designed to reduce smoking-related eye disease.

The MRC Hearing and Communications Group, based in the School of Psychological Sciences and led by Professor Adrian Davis, was also nominated - in the 'Innovative Technology' category (pictured).

The Group was recognised for the Hearscreen device it has developed in collaboration with engineering company Siemens, which was designed to screen adults for hearing impairment in clinical settings and is expected to significantly cut patients' waiting times.



This Accursed Thing

A unique event has been created as a result of close collaboration between Drama (the Centre for Applied Theatre Research) and Manchester Museum.

"This Accursed Thing" was a specially commissioned professional performance that took place at the museum in late March/early April, looking at aspects of the Transatlantic Slave Trade through the eyes and voices of people of the time including abolitionists, slave traders, freed slaves and Manchester cotton workers. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Act.

The event addresses a range of issues: in 1807 the British Government abolished the slave trade in the British Empire. Did it make any difference? If slavery was the foundation of prosperity and Empire, what does that mean to us today? If cotton was the

lifeblood of Manchester, did it matter how it got there? The powerful promenade performance explored these issues, and looked into the Transatlantic slave trade through the eyes of the people who were there.

A unique element of the event was that the performance was itself a significant element in a major AHRC-funded research project 'Performance, Learning and Heritage'. It will test some of the hypotheses emerging from the data accumulated over the past 5-6 years by the research team in Drama (in collaboration with the Centre for Museology). The performance and responses to it by a variety of audiences will be documented in a number of different ways (incl filming, observations, interviews, focus groups) and over a period of up to 10 months after the event.

Women are best at being buddies

A four-year study by sociologists at The University of Manchester has found that women are much more likely than men to make deep and lasting friendships.

The investigation into social networks by the University's Research Centre for Socio-Cultural Change found that men are more fickle and calculating about who they should be friends with.

Women on the other hand, stand by their friends through thick and thin.

Adding to the bad news for male prestige, the study confirms the stereotype that men are likely to base their friendship on social drinking.

Of the 10,000 individuals studied who took part in the 1992 to 2002 British Household Panel Surveys, women are much more likely to stay with the same friends.

Single people, older people and white collar workers are also good at paring up.

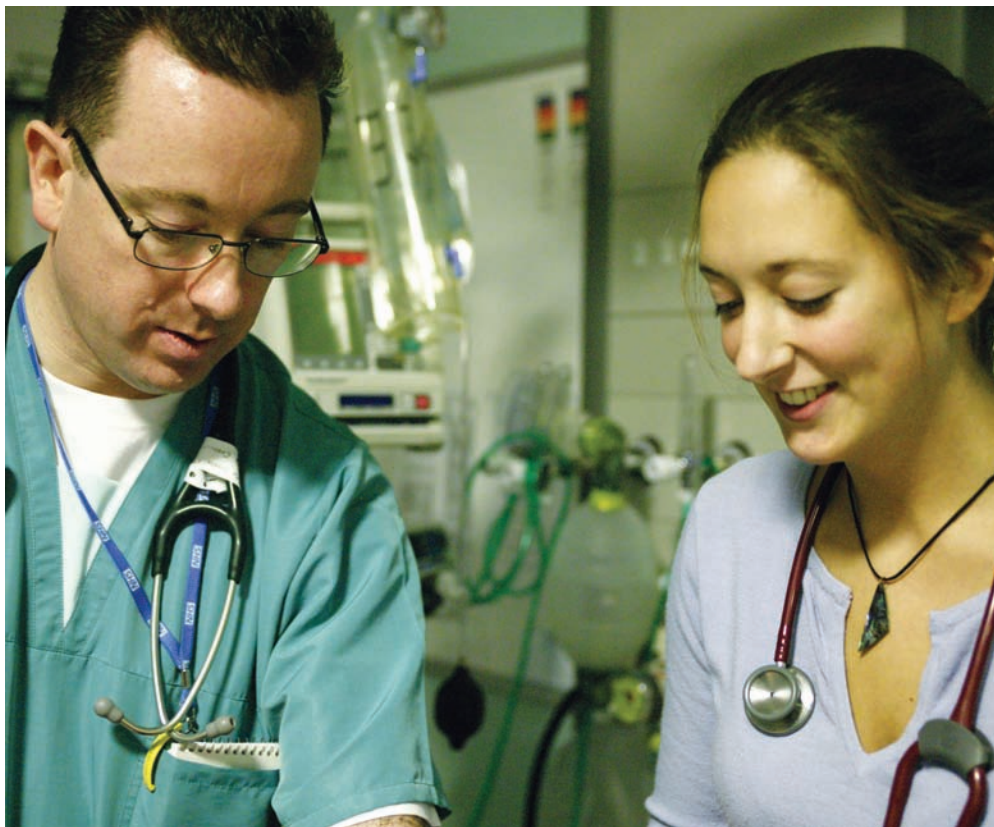
Middle class people are more likely to cast their net of friendship far wider, whereas the working class tend to stick to their own kind.

Dr Gindo Tampubolon said the findings on female friendship were doubly significant because the data suggests we are much more likely to socialise with people from our own gender - 75 per cent of best friends were with the same sex.

Dr Tampubolon, who is based at the School of Social Sciences, said: "Friendship between women seems to be fundamentally different to friendship between men.

"It's much deeper and more moral: it's about the relationship itself rather than what they can get out of it. Women tend to keep their friends through thick and thin across geography and social mobility.

"Men, on the other hand are more fickle with their relationships and seem more interested in 'what's in it for me'."



At the HeLM

Medical students are set to benefit from new technology which will help them with their work-based studies.

A research group based in the Manchester Medical School is starting work on the Horus e-Learning Management (HeLM) Project.

A grant of £200,000 from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), will extend the Medlea Learning environment which is used by all Medical Students and integrate it with Horus, a sophisticated technology to support work-based learning. The combined strength of the two technologies is novel and has wide potential to support vocational higher education.

The project has a number of discrete 'workpackages'. The *Student Portfolio* workpackage is extending the e-technology services to support portfolio learning; in doing so, it builds on a sophisticated reflective learning project in Phase I of the Undergraduate Curriculum.

The *Teacher Portfolio* workpackage builds on a technology that has been in place at Hope Hospital for some years, which provides clinical teachers with information about the quantity and quality of their educational contribution. HeLM will re-provide the services using updated technology, extend them, and support teachers' own reflective learning.

A particularly innovative feature is the link between this technology and the Certificate Course in Work-based Education that is due to start within the Manchester Medical School this autumn.

The *Learning Management in Workplaces* workpackage. A pilot project will be conducted to strengthen and evaluate the ability of Horus services to support students' work-based learning, give them a wider variety of workplaces to choose

from, help them map their progress towards the desired curriculum outcomes, and encourage reflection on learning.

An *Assessment Integration* workpackage has two components. One is to support formative assessment. Another, more technically orientated, links Medlea with the Universities Medical Assessment Partnership database (an assessment item bank).

With the *Service Generalisation* work package, the emphasis is to extend the services beyond medicine, addressing both technical and pedagogic issues entailed in their wider use.

The work of the group consists of identifying user requirements, writing "use cases" (descriptions of the processing of teaching and learning), using modelling techniques to identify roles and processes that reside therein, and produce a specification for IT services to support those processes. Dr Jim Petch of the University Distributed Learning Unit is leading that part of the project, together with Dr Hilary Dexter, an expert in modeling.

The final work package, involving the overall project management, is being performed by Dr Iain Campbell, Head of Information Systems at the Manchester Medical School.

Professor Tim Dornan, said: "As with all JISC projects, it is fast-paced. Medical students in the second half of Year 3 will begin to reap some benefits of the project imminently, and the project will begin to impact on the experience of teachers by the end of the next academic year. The project has also helped the Medical School make progress with its ambitious project to evaluate the entire length and breadth of the programme using previously validated evaluation techniques."

In brief

Egyptology Students celebrate success

The KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology recently hosted a reception for successful participants of the Certificate in Egyptology.

At the event, Course Director, Professor Rosalie David, congratulated students on their success before presenting each participant with a memento certificate written in hieroglyphs.

The course, which has been delivered at the University for the past 30 years, is available both as a face-to-face taught course and through online distance learning. The latter is currently proving to be very popular, with students from as far afield as Australia and Mexico as well as from Europe and the UK being able to pursue their interest in Egyptology under the direction of a leading academic in the field.

Blackpool Graduates

A process consultancy programme developed by the Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL) at The University of Manchester is being piloted by Blackpool Council to better meet the needs of children in the borough.

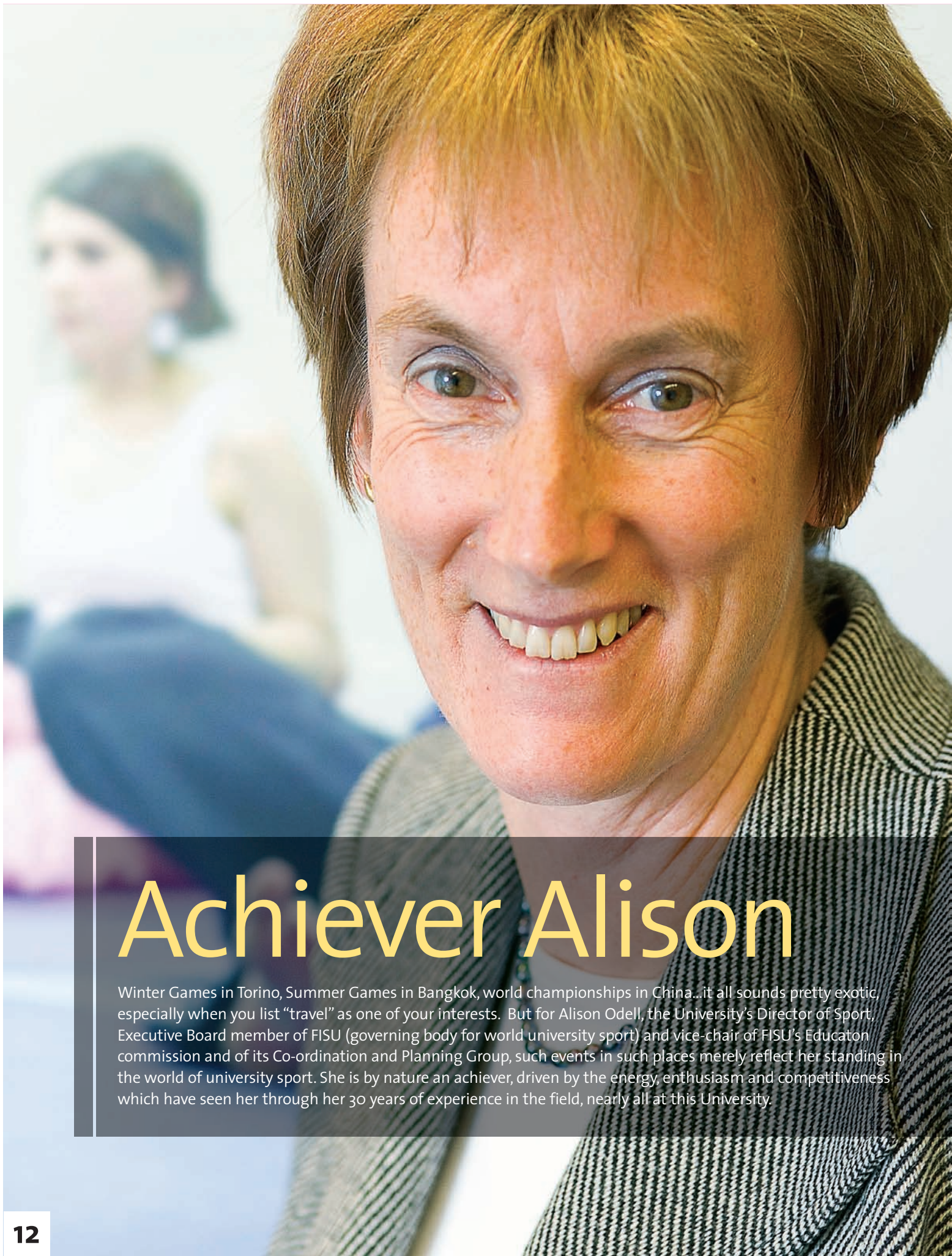
CEL was commissioned by Blackpool Council to produce a bespoke version of their Postgraduate Certificate in Process Consultancy in response to the government's Every Child Matters campaign.

The Centre has just seen its first wave of participants complete the course and graduate and it is the first time this course has been used in the UK within the children's context.

It is hoped the course will help children's leaders - including social workers, headteachers, educational advisers and aftercare managers - to implement the new children's agenda, which was prompted by the Victoria Climbié Inquiry.

This new national approach demands that public authorities team up in new ways to share information and work together better to protect children and young people from harm and give them the best opportunities in life.

University tutors will now be researching the impact of the programme on the service and making the outcomes known to other authority groups. It may then be rolled out to other councils.



Achiever Alison

Winter Games in Torino, Summer Games in Bangkok, world championships in China...it all sounds pretty exotic, especially when you list “travel” as one of your interests. But for Alison Odell, the University’s Director of Sport, Executive Board member of FISU (governing body for world university sport) and vice-chair of FISU’s Education commission and of its Co-ordination and Planning Group, such events in such places merely reflect her standing in the world of university sport. She is by nature an achiever, driven by the energy, enthusiasm and competitiveness which have seen her through her 30 years of experience in the field, nearly all at this University.

She is not one for self-promotion or hot air (except, of course, in the sporting sense, in those big balloons, which took her to 5th place in the 2003 Women's World Cup and, in 2002, won her an international award through the Royal Aero Club for her services to the sport of Hot Air Ballooning). But, she is one for promoting sport and its place on the University's agenda, as well as its recognition by governmental and sports bodies. Little wonder that the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) got her to chair their policy-defining Higher Education Sport Advisory Group, which resulted in the establishment, amongst other things, of the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS). The scheme is funded by the DCMS to the tune of £5 million a year – and Alison is Chair of its Implementation Advisory Group.

In the summer of 2006, she received the prestigious AD Munrow Award “for outstanding contribution to Higher Education Sport”, having served as chair of both BUSA and UCS in the last 10 years. She was also appointed as a Mentor (one of only nine) to UK Sport's 400 international representatives at world-wide events and she has been made a Fellow of the World Academy of Sport, based at MBS and offering management training for sports executives.

So, she certainly is an achiever. And her list of commitments goes on.....and on. Yet, quietly tucked away in her office on the second floor of 333 Oxford Road, which she first entered in 1979, she remains self-effacing, amusing and clear-headed.

She has lived through the history and development of university sport, starting back in the days when the Men's and the Women's Athletic Unions in this University were quite separate, like the Men's and Women's Student Unions.

“It is all very different now, coherent and well-structured,” she says. “Sport, fitness and healthy life-styles generally have a much higher profile in university life – and we have an excellent support system at all levels, running from our Olympic and elite athletes to those who simply want to keep fit.”

Two major developments in particular have boosted the place of sport on the agenda – Project Unity and the successful Olympic bid for 2012. “The last two years have been fantastic,” she says. “The merger gave me the rare opportunity of being able to create and put in place a fully integrated structure for Sport.” Of course, there was the small matter of sorting out the rivalries of fiercely partisan teams from the two universities – and with more than 2,000 students actively involved in 41 clubs that was quite a challenge. Now, all is well and last year saw the University attain its best standard ever in the British Universities (BUSA) Championships, climbing into the top ten.

As to the challenges and opportunities offered by 2012, Alison says: “It is a catalyst for the whole of sport in the UK and the universities have a significant role to play at many levels – producing athletes, training volunteers, providing facilities and accommodation around training and holding camps for visiting teams and cultural/educational events.” This University already has to its credit the successful housing of athletes during the 2002

Commonwealth Games, and working with the City of Manchester we can become a world leader in the development of knowledge and expertise around sport and major events. Sport can contribute significantly to community engagement, to developing leadership, and to the physical and mental health of students and our staff alike.....and above all, to having some fun!”

Looking back to her early years, Alison, being tall and athletic, always seemed destined for a sporting life, if not a career. Her father was a county badminton player for Worcestershire – and she was to follow his path, representing the county for eleven years and, later on, playing for Cheshire as a veteran until just last year.

At school, the Alice Ottley in Worcester, she was in the tennis and lacrosse teams. But she was also academic and went on to university in Birmingham to read French: “When I got there, I discovered that I could combine French with sport, ultimately with PE in my PGCE, which was ideal.” And she did. She became university badminton captain and Chair of the Athletic Union. She also indulged her other – and continuing – great interest, music. She played piano and violin, and joined the university orchestra.

She graduated in 1973, did a PGCE, and “started looking round for a sports-related job, which was not so easy in those days”. So, she began by teaching French and PE at Henley-in-Arden High School, but within a year she was back at Birmingham, having successfully, rather to her surprise, applied for a job as Athletic Union Administrator at the university. “I was responsible for the admin of all student competitive sport, intra-mural sport and outdoor sports facilities – just what I wanted,” she says.

In 1979, she moved to Manchester and got a job with the Joint Matriculation Board. But, again, things turned out right. Within months, the job of Secretary to the Men's Athletic Union was advertised – and she got it. Then, the two Unions came together, and Alison became AU Administrator and Manager responsible for all outdoor sports facilities. She also became very active and, increasingly, much in demand at national and international level in the development of university sport.

In the early years, however, sport was rather on the periphery of the University mainstream. “I took pride in the independence of the AU, but I felt like a lone ranger sometimes,” she says. She was pretty effective as such. She got some key administrators on her side, who recognised the need for the University to provide an umbrella. And, in 1993, the first Director of Sport, Tony Sainsbury, Manager of the British Paralympic Team, was appointed, with Alison as Deputy Director. “Tony brought things together and managed change very effectively,” she says. New facilities like the Sugden Centre and the Aquatics Centre opened up, as old ones, like the McDougall Centre, were closed.

After a progressive five years, he moved on – and Alison took over. It has been quite a journey – and it goes on. She looks forward enthusiastically to the challenges ahead and even more achievement?.

Name

Alison Odell

Current Post

Director of Sport,
The University of Manchester

Education

1969-1973
BA Hons in French
University of Birmingham

1973-1974
Postgraduate Certificate of Education in
French and Physical Education
University of Birmingham

1992-1994
MSc (Distinction) in Sociology of Sport
and Sports Management
University of Leicester

1995-1997
Diploma in Management Studies
Manchester Metropolitan University

Brief Career History

1993-98
Deputy Director of Sport,
The University of Manchester

1979-93
Athletic Union Administrator and
Manager of Outdoor Sports Facilities,
The University of Manchester

1979
Administrator, Joint Matriculation Board,
Manchester

1975-78
Athletic Union Administrator,
University of Birmingham

1974-75
Teacher of French and Physical Education

Professional Memberships

UCS (University and College Sports Association)

Other Past and Current Areas of Service to Sport

Sports Council: member of HE advisory group to Sport England on Sport Development Policy 2001-03

UCS Representative to Sport England Partnerships Forum, April 2004 - 2006

Local Football Partnership member 2002-present

Manchester City Badminton Development Group – July 2003-present

Government/DCMS: member of HE/FE advisory group (Chair of HE Sport Development for DCMS 2001- 2002)

Chair TASS Operations and Management Board (IAG), December 2003- present

(Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme: DCMS £5m pa for 2004-08)

Mentor to UK Sport International Reps Programme: one of 9 mentors appointed July 2006 to support newcomers to programme for about 400 international representatives.

National Science and Engineering Week 9-18 March

The British Association's National Science and Engineering Week saw two of the University's Faculties and the Manchester Museum organise an array of exciting events aimed at schoolchildren.

The museum launched its own take on the Week with Blast Off Big Saturday, where visitors were invited to step inside the Jodrell Bank mobile planetarium and see day turn to night and take part in physics tricks for kids, including powering a rocket with Alka Seltzer and creating a tornado in a bottle.

They also held an Ideas Café on Jodrell Bank at 50, where Ian Morison presented a history of the Jodrell Bank Observatory and Dr Sam Alberti revealed the story of the piece of moon rock exhibited in the Museum for one week in 1969 which attracted 24,000 visitors.

In the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS), highlights of the week's activities, which were aimed at Year 9 pupils and upwards, included an explosive chemistry demonstration from Dr Sarah Heath and a session from Dr David Moore explored nature's colourful – and sometimes deadly – creations in his Funky Fungi sessions.

Not to be outdone, Life Sciences organised their own activities including three fun science sessions for Year 9 and 10 pupils from across the North West to highlight the work of the Wellcome Trust for Cell Matrix Research. Pupils from three schools in Oldham, Bramhall and Chester built a three-dimensional helix from Liquorice Allsorts, learnt what cartilage comprises and investigated the properties of mucus using tubs of glue!

Brain Awareness Week 12-18 March

Running alongside NSEW was Brain Awareness Week when some of the University's finest brains came together to arrange a variety of activities all related to grey matter.

Brain Awareness Week is an international effort organized by the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives to advance public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research.

Shoppers to Asda's Eastlands store were given the chance to learn about the human brain as part of an initiative to promote science to the public using hand-on activities and scientific experiments organised by Faculty of Life Sciences scientists.

On 17 March, visitors to the Manchester Museum could 'Make Sense of Your Brain' with hands-on activities, fool your brain and senses, try a brain quiz and win brain-related goodies.

Psychological scientists from the University explained their work to local secondary school pupils at an interactive event on 14 March.

200 pupils took part in activities and talks with researchers from the School of Psychological Sciences, including renowned autism expert Dr Dougal Hare and brain-imaging specialist Dr Daniela Montaldi.

University brings net gain to community

The University of Manchester is helping to bring the information super highway to its inner city neighbours.

A new internet café supported by the University was officially opened last month and was celebrated with a Chinese banquet, and a display of ceremonial dragons and fireworks.

It is hoped that the café will be used by the local Ardwick communities as an IT training and job search facility, as well as an after-school homework club by pupils at Medlock County Primary School.

The University, in conjunction with Manchester City Council, has been involved with a number of initiatives to improve relationships with its neighbouring communities over the last two years. The University has reinforced its commitment by supplying computers and furniture for the internet café and users. Basic computing courses will also be offered to local residents and volunteers working in the café.

Lord Mayor of Manchester Cllr David Sandiford (pictured) who officially opened the café, said: "This internet café is an excellent example of a community empowering themselves to access information and learning. It's a wonderful example of committed residents and public-spirited partners coming together to improve services for the whole community."

Steve Grant, Assistant Director of Human Resources at the University said: "We see this as an excellent opportunity to engage



more productively with our neighbours in the Ardwick communities. We hope that the internet café will be widely used and will be seen as a valuable resource that will improve employment and training opportunities."

The internet café situated in the Grosvenor Centre, Justin Close, Chorlton-on-Medlock, will function the same as any other café on the high street, but the emphasis will be on helping local residents to search for employment and training opportunities on-line. Formal after-school homework sessions will also be run by Medlock County Primary School.

The Ardwick area is one of the most economically disadvantaged in Manchester, with high levels of unemployment and low levels of academic achievement. Access levels to information technology and in particular the internet are low.

The University of Manchester has worked with the following local associations on the project: Chorlton-on-Medlock Tenants and Residents Association, Manchester Digital Development Agency, South Manchester Regeneration Team, Ardwick Ward Co-ordination and Wai Yin Chinese Women's Society.



Manchester students dig deep

More than 100 University of Manchester students recently took part in a range of local community activities as part of Student Volunteering Week. Many of the students who participated are on the Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP), which involves 60 hours of volunteering.

The students planted trees, made and took hanging baskets to a children's nursery and an elderly persons' home, built bird boxes and participated in the annual North West Regional Beach Clean, which attracted around 150 students from across the

region. Twenty-four tonnes of litter were cleared by the students at High Town, Merseyside, in bitter temperatures.

These events, as well as First Aid training, were organised by Manchester Student Volunteers (MSV), part of the MLP, Careers & Employability Division. Some were held in partnership with Manchester City Council.

Andrea Rannard, MSV Manager, said: "Student Volunteering Week was more popular than ever, with all events filled well in advance. The students

were excellent ambassadors for the University, making a meaningful contribution to the local community."

* Community-conscious students also ensured that the annual Kaleidoscope Fair in March was a huge success. Run by the Careers Service, this event focused on careers and volunteering opportunities within not-for-profit organisations and the public sector, and attracted around 1,000 students.

Pushing back the frontiers

A course run by the University's Courses for the Public has proved so popular that the University has been asked to take it out to the community.

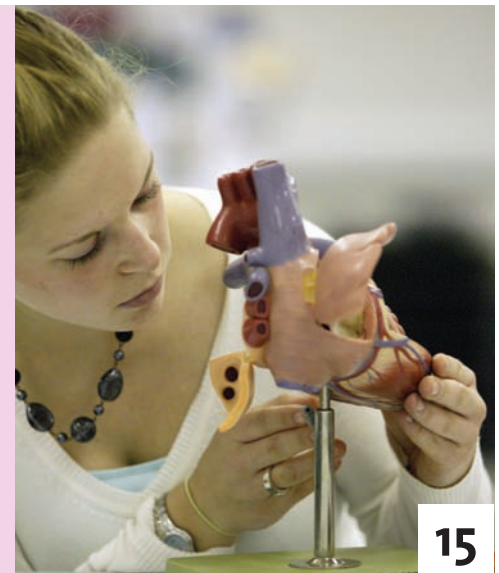
Frontiers of Medicine comprised seven weekly lectures by leading researchers: Professors Tony Freemont, Bill Ollier, Tim Hardingham and Dame Prof Nancy Rothwell from the University; Professor Adnan Custovic of Wythenshawe Hospital; Dr Tom Southgate of the Paterson Institute and Dr Daniel Brison of St Mary's Hospital who all spoke about their areas of research.

The course was aimed at the public and recruited over 40 adults then it was opened to AS and A2 students and within a week was full at 80 people.

Alison Scott who is responsible for science courses, said: "The interesting part has been the change in dynamics. The students were obviously used to sitting quietly at school or college but I noticed that after a few weeks they were joining in asking very pertinent questions.

"Some of them have really caught the excitement that the adults have for finding out and I think it has given them confidence in themselves and a little insight to how they might be able to learn in a lecture situation."

Now Urmston Grammar with Science College status has asked for the course to be run again at the school for the community and students and will kick off again in the autumn.



What's On



The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

Indigo: A Blue to Dye For to 15 April 2007

With exhibits ranging from Egyptian burial clothes to William Morris chintzes and iconic brands of denim jeans, Indigo tells the story of one of the world's oldest and most magical dyestuffs.

The Uncertainty of Identity:

The Biographies of Things to 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

email: whitworth@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

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

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

email: 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
email: rabbiiyy@hotmail.com
www.rabbiiyy.com

International Society

Saturday 7 April

North Wales visiting Llangollen and Powis Castle

Sunday 8 April

Castle Howard and Knaresborough

Saturday 14 April

Lake District visiting Keswick

Sunday 15 April

Peak District visiting Speedwell Cavern and Lyme Hall

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
email: int.soc@manchester.ac.uk
www.internationalsociety.org.uk

Contact Theatre

Thur 12 - Sat 14 April, 8pm

Contact presents Contact Young Actors Company in **Close Up**

Directed by John E McGrath

Tues 17 - Thurs 19 April, 8pm

People Show 118: The Birthday Tour

Thu 19 - Sat 21 April, 7.30pm

Madrugada presents

Mr Sole Abode

For information on other events please visit our website.

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

Jodrell Bank

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

Jodrell Bank Observatory

Macclesfield, Cheshire 01477 571339
www.jb.manchester.ac.uk

John Rylands 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



Music and Drama at Manchester

Friday 20 April, 5pm

Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Psappha

Beat the Rush-Hour Concert

Tickets: FREE

Thursday 26 April, 7.30pm

Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

The University of Manchester Brass Ensemble

A concert featuring a wide variety of original and arranged brass music, including small character ensembles. Tickets: £8/£5/£3

Monday 30 April, 7.30pm

Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Richard Casey - Piano Recital

Richard Casey returns with another dazzling display of pianistic virtuosity featuring Debussy's lesser-known piano Etudes, Diablo Canyon by Manchester-based composers Camden Reeves and Xenakis's ferocious modern masterpiece, Evryali. Tickets: £8/£5/£3

Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 May, 5pm

John Thaw Studio Theatre

New Writers, New Writing

A festival of new writing from students on the Writing for Performance course at the University of Manchester, in conjunction with the Royal Exchange Theatre. Tickets: £2

Thursday 3 and Friday 4 May, 5pm

John Thaw Studio Theatre

Living Room

A video installation created by Drama students under the direction of Rachel Davies, 2005 winner of the Grand Prix IMZ International Dance Screen Award and John Thaw Fellow in Drama. Tickets: FREE

For further information contact:

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Bridgeford Street

Manchester M13 9PL

0161-275 8951/8950

email: boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

Tabley House

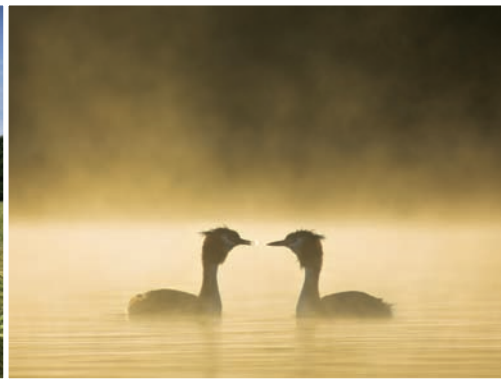
Small conference and meeting rooms available year-round. Licensed for weddings and baby-naming ceremonies.

Tabley House

Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0HB 01565 750151

email: enquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk

www.tableyhouse.co.uk



The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Wild Britain extended until 27 Aug 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.

Alchemy Artists to 29 April

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

FAMILY EVENTS

Monday 2 - Friday 14 April, 11am-4pm (excluding Friday 6 and Monday 9 April)

Plantastic!

Discover amazing facts about our natural history specimens and take part in activities inspired by the Museum's Botany collections.

Tickets: FREE. All ages.

BIG SATURDAY

Saturday 21 April, 11am-4pm

Step into Spring!

Get in shape with museum-inspired sport activities and also take part in especially themed art and craft drop-in workshops.

Tickets: Most activities are free but some may cost £1.50

Friday 27 April, 11am-12pm

The Magic Carpet

Story telling for under 5s with a birds and mammals theme.

Tickets: £1

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 April

Victorian Gentleman FREE

Collect an 'I've spied Mr Pye' sticker from Graham Pye Esquire, somewhere in the Museum today.

Tickets: 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



Gig Guide Manchester Academy

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 & 3

Wed 11 April

Within Temptation

Thurs 12 April

Lagwagon

Fri 13 April

Rebecca + Bye Bye Johnny + Frame of Midn + Waiger

Sat 14 April

Goldblade

Wed 18 April

Explosions in the Sky

Thurs 19 April

Ugly Duckling

Sat 21 April

Classic Manchester Night: The Clone Roses v Re:Order (tributes) + Guest DJ Clint Boon Keith Urban

Fri 27 April

Low

Sat 28 April

The Children

Tues 1 May

The Ataris

Tickets from:

Students' Union, Oxford Road
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

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



Emily's culture commission

Manchester postgraduate student Emily Howard is to receive a billing alongside Mahler and Beethoven when her specially commissioned work is performed as a world première at an event to celebrate the Liverpool European Capital of Culture Programme this December.

Although Emily, who has been composing since the age of five and achieved Grade 8 cello at the age of 10, has had her work performed on numerous occasions, this will be her largest scale and highest profile performance yet, performed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and led by their newly appointed principal conductor Vasily Petrenko in a concert that includes a performance from soprano Amanda Roccroft.

Emily, who hails from Liverpool, says: "I was commissioned to write the piece after being noticed through my work with the RLPO's New Music Group Ensemble 10/10. It's such an honour to be asked! I am really excited about the work being performed - I'm still working on it but things are going very well. It's so inspiring to be writing for such a wonderful orchestra."

Despite her obvious musical talents Emily took her first degree in Maths and Computation at Oxford

but says there are many similarities between the thought processes of maths and composition as well as another of her hobbies, chess. She was British Junior Girls Chess Champion for six consecutive years, she says a chess match certainly helps to focus the mind.

On top of her studies, Emily manages to find time to fulfil various roles including Composer in Residence for Liverpool City Council Music Service, Tutor in Composition at the Junior Department of the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) and Visiting Lecturer in Composition at the University of Leeds. In 2004 she completed a Masters in Composition at the Royal Northern College of Music with Adam Gorb, gaining a double distinction. She is now part way through her PhD in Composition with John Casken at The University of Manchester.

Emily adds "John Casken has been very supportive

of everything I have been doing while at Manchester and it's been fantastic to make use of the superb facilities in the Martin Harris Building, especially the Concert Hall which is a great venue. I've enjoyed working with Psappa, the University of Manchester's Ensemble in Residence and I'm really looking forward to writing a string quartet for the amazing Quatuor Danel."

Professor Casken said: "It's so important for young composers to hear their works performed in public, and the RLPO commission will give Emily a golden opportunity to realise her ideas on a large scale. Writing for the different colours of the orchestra is an enormous challenge and I look forward enormously to hearing the finished work."

The RLPO event at which Emily's work will receive its premiere is 'Vienna Connections', a concert to celebrate the Capital of Culture 2008 and will be held on 6 December 2007.

www.liverpool08.com

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www.tandemfs.co.uk

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