

The free magazine for The University of Manchester



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Letter from the President



In The University of Manchester, without compromising our commitment to world-leading research, we are facing up to the truth that undergraduate education is the core business of our university in the eyes of the wider community, employers, Government, and the successive generations of students who are our primary stakeholders. That is what our current Review of Undergraduate Education is all about.

The preliminary recommendations of the Task Forces set up as part of the Review of Undergraduate Education will be considered by the Senate on 6 February. Reflecting on these recommendations, I am impressed most of all by the level of engagement and creativity shown by the many students and colleagues who have contributed. We knew that this had to be a root-and-branch review, given the seriousness of the challenges that all universities are facing in relation to undergraduate education, so I am delighted to see that the recommendations coming forward are bold and innovative, not anodyne or tolerant of second-rate solutions.

The issues are vital. This Manchester Review is an institutional response to deep structural problems facing "mass" higher education everywhere. UK universities are being brought to bay by deteriorating student:staff ratios and by chronic pressure on teaching and learning infrastructure that have resulted from decades during which the growth of student numbers has more or less consistently out-stripped public outlays on undergraduate education. But this is also an international problem.

The rise of mass higher education, while driven by laudable and progressive public policy objectives, has placed academic teachers and students alike in an invidious position. Students are telling academic teachers and university managers across the UK that important elements of their learning experience are leaving them disillusioned. Internal and external surveys reinforce anecdotal evidence that contact between students and teachers has become increasingly impersonal; that feedback is often too cursory; that classrooms, laboratories and library facilities typically are "tired" and over-crowded; and that undergraduate education is simply not living up to their expectations.

An academic community should not take personal offence at such statements. The problems they are wrestling with are structural, not personal; national and international, not peculiar to Manchester; more acute in some disciplines than in others, but serious throughout the academy. Indeed, I am awed by the dedication that so many teachers in Manchester and other UK universities bring to their undergraduate teaching, and impressed by the ingenuity and tenacity with which they have sought to overcome the consequences of deteriorating *student:staff* ratios and other competing demands on that most precious academic resource: professional time.

But the problems are nevertheless real and pressing. Reversing decades of under-funding and "massification" is going to require all the imagination, ingenuity and openness to new ideas and approaches that our outstanding academic community can muster. Quick fixes and tinkering around the edges won't do. Traditional assumptions about curriculum design, development and delivery will have to be re-thought. A particular challenge here in Manchester, the UK's largest undergraduate university, is to find new ways to make undergraduate learning a personal experience.

The package of recommendations likely to emerge from our Review is based on genuinely innovative strategies for re-personalising undergraduate learning in Manchester. They will have positive and transformational consequences. Success, however, will require enormous commitment and dedication. It will mean making optimal use of the opportunities afforded by e-learning; it will mean drawing on best practice, institutionally, nationally and internationally, in relation to pedagogy and the delivery of teaching; it will require us to invest imaginatively in the learning infrastructure; and it will be impossible unless we succeed in empowering scholarly teachers to think laterally and innovatively about the future of higher learning.

The University's budget continues to grow year-onyear, but as we move from the deficit budgeting that followed the merger into a phase of judicious re-investment, hard decisions will have to be made about how best to invest in the transformation of teaching and learning. But the long-term impact of the Review will be shaped mostly by the willingness of the academic community to embrace with passion and resolution a transformational agenda driven by a determination to make Manchester not just a great research university, but also a superb university in which to be a student.

hlan Gilbert

Professor Alan Gilbert President and Vice-Chancellor

News

Soap star launches sight-saving service

Actress Sue Cleaver, who plays Eileen Grimshaw in Coronation Street, has helped launch a major new screening campaign to reduce the risk of blindness among people with diabetes.

Based at The University of Manchester's Vision Centre, the UK's largest screening service, will promote the clear and simple message that 'Screening Saves Sight'.

Sue, a diabetic herself, is appealing to the 100,000 people in Greater Manchester who have diabetes to visit their GP and get their eyes tested for diabetic retinopathy.

"This new screening programme makes it even simpler, more straightforward, easier and more accessible at high street opticians and or eye clinics. Left to your own devices you will not discover whether you have retinopathy until it is too late. Prevention is better than cure, particularly when the cure is not guaranteed."

The eye disease, which affects 30% of diabetes sufferers, is the most common cause of blindness among people aged 16 to 65, so regular eye checks by a trained professional are seen as vital by experts.

The new screening programme, co-ordinated across all local primary care trusts, which introduces an innovative system of digital photography, will provide more accurate and efficient detection of the disease.

"It is crucial that people suffering from diabetes take part in the screening process to cut the risk of losing their sight, "said Vision Centre Clinic Manager, Dr Catherine Porter.

"This new screening service, with its central database, will make it easier for us to invite people for a check-up and make prompt referrals for any necessary treatment. The test is free and takes only a few minutes, so there really is no excuse."



Sue Cleaver with Dr Catherine Porter

Laser treatment is very effective at preventing loss of sight from retinopathy, providing the condition is caught in its early stages. This can be vital because diabetes patients are not able to detect retinopathy themselves until it is well advanced, by which time treatment has much less chance of success.

A new computer system will store all the retinal photographs and will keep track of when people are due for screening. A reminder will be sent from a central office advising when they need to make an appointment with an optometrist. "Diabetes sufferers should also see their GP for an annual check-up, and ensure they take good care of themselves to reduce the risk of damaging their eye sight," added Catherine, who is based in the University's Faculty of Life Sciences.

"By keeping blood sugar and blood pressure under control, watching weight and diet, taking regular exercise and not smoking, the risk of developing retinopathy is greatly reduced."

Manchester gives healthcare innovation a boost

A new research centre bringing medics and engineers together to solve clinical problems is set to make Manchester a world leader in patient care.

MIMIT (Manchester: Integrating Medicine and Innovative Technology) – the first international affiliate of the highly successful US centre CIMIT® – will draw together clinicians and scientists from a group of Greater Manchester hospitals, GP practices and The University of Manchester in major collaborations to apply the latest technology to clinical problems and transform healthcare in the UK.

It was launched by CIMIT® founder and Executive Director Dr John Parrish at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry last month.

Dr Parrish said: "Scientists and engineers may have lots of potential solutions but are not aware of the problems. Physicians have lots of ideas about clinical problems that technology could help solve. The challenge is to bring scientists and clinicians together and to create the right environment with the right resources to work quickly to adapt existing or develop new technologies to improve clinical care and outcome."

Director of MIMIT Professor Jackie Oldham, Clinical Director Professor Philip Baker and Scientific Director Professor Simon Gaskell agreed: "We believe Manchester is in prime position to recreate the great success of CIMIT® in Boston. The city has both an eminent and dynamic clinical profession and a strong and distinguished community of engineers and scientists. Their collaborations will significantly improve patient care and transform this into one of the most important sectors in the UK."



Professor Jackie Oldham and Dr John Parrish

In brief

President appointed to UK employment and skills commission

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert has been appointed to the board of the new UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

The Commission will operate across the UK and was a recommendation of the independent report by Lord Leitch 'Prosperity for all in the global economy - world class skills' and published in December 2006.

It will play a central role in raising the UK's skills base, improving productivity and competitiveness, increasing employment and making a contribution to a fairer society. It will play a critical part in securing for the UK the ambitions of achieving a world class profile on skills by 2020 and the aspiration of an 80% employment rate.

Professor Gilbert joins senior business leaders and public sector heads on the Commission. The appointments are made for up to three years.

Innovation, Universities and Skills Secretary John Denham said: "I am pleased we have been able to attract a board of such a high calibre with such a broad range of representation from the private, public and third sectors, and from the trade unions. The UK Commission will have an unprecedented opportunity to influence the employment and skills systems of the four nations of the UK, helping our systems be more responsive, relevant and high performing for the 21st century.

CEL to redesign and deliver headteacher qualification

The Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL) has secured the contract to redesign and deliver the new National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH).

NPQH is the mandatory qualification for aspiring headteachers and was last redesigned in 2001.

CEL was successful in winning the contract to develop both the written content of the programme and the e-learning materials. The Research and Development Directorate at CEL is now working with its partners to research, design and produce innovative online material in time for the trainee headteachers starting the new NPQH in March 2008.

CEL will also be responsible for delivery of the new NPQH in the Northern region through The Northern Partnership (TNP) - which includes Teesside Business School, at the University of Teesside, and Carnegie Leaders in Learning Partnership, at Leeds Metropolitan University.



Miraculous journey ends with graduation

A former Kenyan slum child who found University of Manchester prospectus leaflets in a dustbin finally achieved his dream of gaining a Masters degree in December.

Sammy Gitau discovered the documents inside a discarded cardboard wallet decorated with the University's name in a well-to-do neighbourhood near his home in Mathare, Nairobi 's oldest slum district.

Sammy read references to his country on a page about a course based at the University's renowned 'Institute for Development Policy and Management'.

And after a struggle of epic proportions he received the accolade in December. Aged 13, Sammy became his family's breadwinner when his father, who brewed illegal alcohol, was killed in a hammer attack.

After he was beaten by angry mobs for thieving he became a drug seller in 1997.

Drawing on his experiences, Sammy established a community resource centre which lobbies for fresh water and an electricity supply, as well as helping young men to come off drugs and find a job.

A group of wives of local and international officials helped Sammy to convert cargo containers into

classrooms from which he could teach skills to disenfranchised youngsters, such as carpentry and computing.

Another EU official encouraged Sammy to apply to the University's MSc in the 'Management and Implementation of Development Projects'.

He said: "After the drugs put me in a coma, I remember hearing hospital staff telling me I was going to die and when you are dying, you make a deal with God.

"You just say, get me out of here and will do anything. I will go back and stop children going through the same kind of life as me. I have big plans for the centre - I hope to expand the project into other areas of Nairobi.

"If it wasn't for my amazing experience and support from my friends at The University of Manchester and constant support from donations around the world, this dream would never have become a reality."

Sammy's University programme director, Dr Pete Mann said: "I found it humbling to teach Sammy it really is a remarkable achievement."

New Year Honours 2008

Six University of Manchester academics were recognised in the 2008 New Year Honours List:



Lou Kushnick, Honorary Professorial Fellow in Race Relations, has been awarded the OBE for services to the community and to higher education. Following the murder of Ahmed Iqbal Ullah in a Manchester school playground, Lou established the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and became its first Director. The Centre has become a major open access resource centre engaged in oral history, training of teachers, development of teaching materials, production of books with primary school pupils, teachers and parents.



Dinah Crystal, Director of External Relations and Clinical Education at the School of Law has been awarded the OBE for services to pro bono legal services. She has been a solicitor since 1976 and set up the Legal Advice Centre in 2000. The Centre now has around 300 students assisting around 400 clients every year on cases such as landlord and tenant disputes, divorce, probate, consumer and employment cases.



Dr Robert Barr, Managing Director of Manchester Geomatics and Honorary Research Fellow in Geographical Information Systems in the School of Environment and Development, has been awarded the OBE for services to geography. Dr Barr taught geography at the University from 1975 to 2005 and was Director of the Manchester Regional Research Laboratory. The laboratory was spun out through Campus Ventures as Manchester Geomatics Limited, which is involved in highprofile geographical work with clients including the Office for National Statistics, and Ordnance Survey.



Philip Dyer, consultant clinical scientist, has been awarded an OBE for services to Medicine. Professor Dyer, who holds an honorary post at The University of Manchester's Centre for Integrated Genomic Medical Research (CIGMR), studies genetic markers of immune response and humoral responses (via antibodies) to organ transplantation. He has served on various committees including the ethics committee of the Royal College of Pathologists and the Human Tissue Working Group on the Human Tissue Act (2004-2005).



William Shaw, Professor of Orthodontics, has been made a CBE for services to dentistry. Professor Shaw leads the World Health Organisation's Collaborating Centre for Research on the Treatment of Craniofacial Congenital Anomalies. The world's first such centre, it was set up at the University in recognition of the pioneering research into cleft lip and palate and related anomalies carried out by Professor Shaw and his team.



Stephen Furber, Professor of Computer Engineering, has been made a CBE for services to computer science. Professor Furber is the ICL Professor of Computer Engineering in the School of Computer Science. Educated at Manchester Grammar School, he is perhaps best known for his work within the R&D department at Acorn Computers, and was a principal designer of the BBC Microcomputer and the ARM 32-bit RISC microprocessor, both of which earned Acorn Computers a Queen's Award for Technology.



China visit

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert visited China at the invitation of John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to participate in the annual China-UK Education summit.

The summit in Beijing was important in providing an opportunity to discuss challenges that both countries face ie: translating investment in research into innovation and skilling a workforce for the future as well as identifying tangible outcomes such as more opportunities for UK students to visit China in 2008.

The programme also included a visit to Tsinghua University one of the University's strategic partners in Asia. The Minister was briefed by the Chairman of Tsinghua University Council on their links with the UK, including the fast developing link between The Dalton Nuclear Institute and the Institute of New and Energy Technology (INET), China's leading nuclear research centre based at Tsinghua.

Engineer's award for top teaching

A chemical engineer has landed a major prize for his commitment to teaching and for promoting engineering as a positive career.

Dr Arthur Garforth from The School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science (CEAS) was one of only six academics in the UK to receive an ExxonMobilExcellence in Teaching Award.

Dr Garforth said: " This award is an important incentive to encourage innovation in our curricula and I hope I can continue to encourage our talented students and promote engineering as a rewarding and creative career."

The ExxonMobil Excellence in Teaching Awards in association with The Royal Academy of Engineering has been established to identify and reward centres of Excellence in Engineering Teaching in the UK.

Successful candidates need to have shown a commitment to teaching, professional activities, establishing industrial-academic links and promoting engineering as a rewarding and creative career.

Each selected candidate's university department will receive £10,000, priority for graduate recruitment and undergraduate work placements, access to teaching material and site visits.



Dan makes his Mark

CEO of BT Vision Dan Marks has been awarded The University of Manchester's Outstanding Alumnus of 2007.

Dan, who received a BA (Econ) degree from the University in 1985, heads up British Telecom's new entertainment division after a glittering career in broadcasting.

He went on to complete postgraduate work in anthropology and film in the US and his graduation film was nominated for an Oscar in 1989. His next film was awarded the Special Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival in 1992.

Dan was instrumental in setting up TV3 in Russia and built it into one of the largest national broadcasters. In 1999 he was appointed President of Universal Studios Networks UK where he ran Universal's television channels business. He joined BT in 2005.

Dan played an important role in the setting up of the University's Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology in the mid 1980's.

The award is presented by The University of Manchester Alumni Association to former students who have achieved distinction in their field.

He said: "Studying anthropology at Manchester taught me enormously valuable skills of looking, seeing and thinking about the world in a particular way that I have tried to use throughout my career.

"My time at Manchester was rewarding in every way and it is a great pleasure as well as and honour that the University have given me this award."

The Alumni Association is on the look out for the Outstanding Alumnus of 2008. For suggestions, contact Annette Babchuk, Head of Alumni Relations at

Annette.babchuk@manchester.ac.uk or call 0161 306 3638.

Medal of Honour

The University has awarded its Medal of Honour to former employee John Belcher for his outstanding contribution to UMIST and to this University, to the other institutions in the North West via his participation in the activities of the North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium and to the wider UK HE sector via his membership of a number of national groups. In addition John was recognised for his contribution to society with his numerous activities outside of work.

The University Medal of Honour is the highest non-degree award bestowed by the University, used to honour an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the work of the University, the City or the Region, but for whom an honorary degree is inappropriate.

John has been described as a pioneer in procurement and was one of the UK's first technical buyers who had the idea not just to approach suppliers in a coordinated way but also to involve purchasing professionals. It is estimated that over a period of 20 or so years this approach has saved millions of pounds across the sector.



John Belcher receives his medal from Norman Askew, Chair of Governing Body and Pro-Chancellor

John read Chemistry at UMIST and graduated in 1961. He began his working life there in 1973 as an Assistant Laboratory Supervisor and finally drew to a close 33 years later when he retired from his post as Departmental Supervisor in the new University of Manchester.

In terms of his contribution to laboratory purchasing, John began by representing UMIST on the then North West Chemicals Group, from 1983 until his retirement. He was a key member of the Inter-Universities Gases Group and in 1989 John helped to found the National Working Party for Laboratory Supplies.

John has also contributed to the

development of expertise in this area across the country and is very well known and respected by all those involved in laboratory purchasing.

John's achievements are made all the more remarkable given his ill health, John suffered a cerebral haemorrhage and cancer. He has spent most of the past seven years involved in medical charities, especially those involved in the treatment of cancer patients.

"Everyone who knows John knows him to be an exceptional human being, reliable, thoughtful, hardworking and of the highest integrity. At the same time he continues to be completely unassuming. "

Amazing life of black war hero recognised

The incredible story of a black Briton who was murdered by the Gestapo in 1943 is being recognised thanks to the efforts of a group of Manchester school children.

The 28 youngsters from Chorlton C of E Primary School - wrote a biography of Noor Inayat Khan after getting together with the University's Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust, which creates multicultural books for children.

Noor served as an agent with the Paris Resistance in 1943 but was captured by the Gestapo to be executed in Dachau concentration camp a year later. She had tried and failed to escape from the Nazis three times, was the first women wireless operator in France.

The book tells the story of Noor' s life with illustrations, interesting facts and a timeline - all the work of the former year six pupils.

Teacher Jackie Ould, from the Trust, who worked with the children said: "Liberté: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan fills a yawning gap in our knowledge of black British heroes. The children have really added to our appreciation of Noor by creating diary



One of the children's drawings

entries, letters and dialogue as if they were written by her."

 "Liberté: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan" is published by the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust at The University of Manchester. For free copies, contact the Trust on 0161 275 2920.



Parents show bias in sibling rivalry

Most parents would hotly deny favouring one child over another but new research suggests they may have little choice in the matter.

Biologists studying a unique species of beetle that raises and cares for its young have found that parents instinctively favour the oldest offspring.

The University of Manchester research – published in *Ecology* – supports the findings of studies carried out on human families but is significant in that it suggests a wholly natural tendency towards older siblings.

"The burying beetle Nicrophorus vespilloides has a similar family structure to that of a human family unit in that there are two parents, a number of offspring and interactions between parents and their young," said Dr Per Smiseth, who is based in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"Of course, human families are more complex and parent-child relationships are much more sophisticated. However, studying this beetle can help us understand the basic biological principles of how family relationships work.

"Our study looked at how the parent beetles mediate competition between different aged offspring compared to what happens when the young were left to fend for themselves and indicates that parental decisions are important in determining the outcome of competition between offspring."

The beetles, which are native to Britain, give birth to a batch of about 20 young in the carcass of a dead animal over a period of 30 hours. The parents feed the young grubs on regurgitated flesh from the carcass. The young beetles are able to feed themselves but they grow more quickly and become larger when fed by their parents. By generating experimental broods comprising two sets of offspring, one set of older grubs and one younger set, the scientists were able to study their development, first with the parents present and then when left to fend for themselves.

"When both sets of grubs were left to fend for themselves they grew at the same rate and matured to an equal size," said Dr Smiseth, whose research is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and the Medical Research Council.

"However, when we allow the parents to remain with the offspring, there is clear favouritism towards the older siblings, which grow at a faster rate as they take the lion's share of their parents' offerings."

Cell printing pioneer shortlisted for major prize

A professor who developed technology that allows tailormade tissues and bones to be grown has been shortlisted for a major international prize that recognises world changing ideas.

Professor Brian Derby from The School of Materials uses inkjet printing technology to fabricate complex tissue scaffolds on which cells can be grown.

His aim is to use inkjet printing to build 3-D structures that contain both the living cells and the scaffold materials. The ability to print skin and bone and, ultimately, whole artificial organs is a possibility.

Professor Derby will attend finals ceremony of the Saatchi & Saatchi Award For World Changing Ideas in New York on 21 February, where the ten finalists will exhibit their innovations.

The global competition is held biennially and offers a first prize worth \$100,000.

The judging panel for the 2007 Award includes Edward de Bono, Peter Gabriel, HRH Prince Hassan and Malcolm McLaren.

Bob Isherwood, Worldwide Creative Director of Saatchi & Saatchi, said: "The ingenuity, brilliance and commitment of our finalists is humbling. We have some very big answers to some very big questions here, and their potential to change the world of so many people is selfevident. These ideas are simply inspirational."





Research

In brief

Engineering closer links with Uncle Sam

A researcher in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) is helping the University forge closer links with one of America's top universities after receiving an award from The Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE).

Professor Wuqiang Yang in the Sensing, Imaging & Signal Processing Group used a Distinguished Visiting Fellowship award to bring Professor Markus Zahn from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to The University of Manchester.

During the visit of Prof Zahn, who is a leading Professor of Electrical Engineering at MIT, several areas for potential joint research were explored and discussed, including work on a shoe scanner for airport security, which is based on technology developed in Manchester.

Funding will now be sought to pursue the joint projects and it's hoped this will lead to a long term relationship between The University and MIT.

The RAE scheme provides funding to enable an academic engineering department in a United Kingdom university to be a host for up to a month to a Distinguished Visiting Fellow from an overseas academic centre of excellence.

Dermatology prizes

Dr Richard (Warren) and Dr Elise (Kleyn) were both awarded prizes at the recent annual British Association of Dermatologists conference in Birmingham. It is believed to be the first time the same unit has won both prizes.

Dr Kleyn was awarded the Bristol Cup for the best poster presentation of the conference and Dr Warren was awarded the prize for the best paper / oral presentation of the conference.

Language impairment can lead to bullying

Youngsters with specific language impairment (SLI) are unable to verbally express their feelings and find it difficult to understand what others are saying due to a developmental problem with their language according to University researchers.

However they show no physical signs of the disorder, have otherwise normal intellectual ability and do enjoy socialising, so often appear to other people as just 'unusual'. This can lead to them being ostracised or even attacked by their peers.

SLI affects 4-7% of children – approximately 520,000 in the UK – which is four times more than autism. Little is known about its cause and neurological basis but it affects twice as many boys than girls and tends to run in families.

Almost half of the 16 year olds with SLI recalled being teased or bullied when they were younger in interviews for a study by Professor of Child Language and Learning Gina Conti-Ramsden and her colleague Dr Emma Knox. In addition

13% of the teenagers had experienced persistent bullying across time.

Study launched to improve healing in the elderly

Charity Help the Aged has launched a £180k research project to investigate the reasons why our bodies heal more slowly as we get older.

The three-year study based at The University of Manchester will examine the role of a key protein – macrophage migration inhibitory factor or 'MIF' – that appears to cause delayed wound healing in older people.

The project, which is supported by a charitable donation from

pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline, is being led by Dr Matthew Hardman in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

He said: "As we age, wounds to our skin take longer to heal with one in 20 people over the age of 65 suffering a dramatic reduction in their quality of life due to a prolonged delay in wound healing.

The causes behind poor healing in older age are complex and only just beginning to be understood, but the devastating consequences are clear. NHS costs currently soar to more than £1 billion every year treating wounds that do not heal as they should.

"Our recent findings suggest that MIF has the potential to be extremely important for healing as it is involved in virtually all of these events. By the end of this project we will have a much better understanding of how, and why, wounds fail to heal, and the role that MIF plays in wounds that don't heal."

Abdominal fat distribution predicts heart disease

Abdominal obesity is a strong risk factor for heart disease, and using the waist-hip ratio rather than waist alone is a better predictor of heart disease risk among men and women, according to new research at the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences.

Dr Dexter Canoy, of the Health Methodology research group, also looked at whether the association between fat distribution and heart disease risk was independent of body mass index (BMI), which assesses body weight relative to height, as well as other heart disease risk factors, such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Reporting his findings in *Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association*, Dr Canoy said: "The size of the hips seems to predict a protective effect. In other words, a big waist with comparably big hips does not appear to be as worrisome as a big waist with small hips."

The research was based on men and women ages 45 to 79 in the UK. Researchers measured participants' weight, height, waist circumference, hip circumference and other heart disease risk factors from 1993 to 1997. During a nine-year followup, 1,708 men and 892 women



developed coronary heart disease. When they divided the men and women into five groups, according to waist-hip ratio, the researchers found that those with the highest waist-tohip ratios had the highest heart disease risk.

Among the findings:

- Men in the top one-fifth of the distribution (those with the biggest waists in relation to their hips) had a 55% higher risk of developing coronary heart disease compared to men in the bottom one-fifth of the distribution.
- Women in the top one-fifth, or the highest waist-to-hip ratio group, were 91% more likely to develop heart disease than women with the smallest waists in relation to their hips.

Dr Canoy added: "People whose abdominal fat puts them at higher risk for heart disease do not always appear overweight or obese. However, the overriding message from this and other studies about heart disease risk is that, despite the different measures and risk estimates, the bottom line is that many of us need to lose excess weight."

New hope in fight against Morecambe's tide

Maps generated by satellite images which use radar to penetrate thick cloud cover are to be used to prevent future tragedies in Morecambe Bay. The initiative will assist the rescue service when responding to emergency calls from cockle pickers working on the perilous sands.

Cockling still continues despite the drowning of 23 people in the bay's fast moving tides more than three years ago.

Dr Kamie Kitmitto from The University of Manchester's national data centre Mimas and fellow researcher Gail Millin will collect data to build a model to create maps forecasting how the mudflats change each month. The maps will then be provided to the bay's emergency services.

The perilous tides rearrange the seabed, making it almost impossible for search and rescue teams to predict the location of mudflats which emerge at low tide.

The team will then use sophisticated software to convert images into maps which will be analysed and interpreted for



A satellite image of Morecambe Bay

changes in the structure and topography of the sand dunes.

Dr Kitmitto said: "Radar images are an as of yet untried method to map inter-tidal areas which are difficult to get to by land but whose conventional satellite images are obscured by cloud. In Morecambe, the mudflats change continually with the tide coming in and out so to understand this we need continuous imaging from the air. "That can be done using aerial photography but it's just not economic or feasible on a continuous basis.Optical Satellites are fine but in Britain there's too much cloud for clear imaging - especially in the North West.

"Radar, on the other hand, penetrates the cloud cover to give excellent image maps once the data has been treated by us."

Breakthrough Breast Cancer to open £5m research unit

The charity Breakthrough Breast Cancer has announced that it is to help fund a £5 million research unit at The University of Manchester, set to become one of the UK's foremost centres for breast cancer research. The centre will be associated with the Faculties of Life Sciences and Medical and Human Sciences and is due to open in 2008 at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research close to the Christie Hospital.

Researchers at the centre will aim to advance the current understanding of the earlier stages of cancer development, in order to gain a more accurate and earlier diagnosis of the disease, thus advancing methods to prevent its occurrence.

The research centre will be overseen by some of Manchester's major names in the fight against cancer; Professor Anthony Howell, Professor of Medical Oncology at The University of Manchester, will be the Director of the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre, Professor Charles Streuli, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, will be the Research Director of the new unit and Professor Nigel Bundred, Professor in Surgical Oncology at the University Hospital of South Manchester and Christie Hospitals in Manchester, will be the Clinical Director of the unit.

Jeremy Hughes, Chief Executive of Breakthrough Breast Cancer, said: "We already know that early diagnosis offers the best chances of survival and as a consequence of this and better treatments, more women are surviving breast cancer than ever before. However, there is still much to do - survival rates in the UK are among the lowest in Europe. This is why Breakthrough is pleased to be able to expand its investment into breast cancer which is sadly the most common cancer among UK women."

The centre at Manchester will be one of three new Breakthrough units set to open; the others will be based in Edinburgh and London. Whilst each centre will focus on specific areas of breast cancer research, all three will complement the work carried out at the UK's first dedicated centre for breast cancer research - the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre at The Institute of Cancer Research.

Nuclear power under the microscope

The University of Manchester is leading a £2m project to develop new tools for assessing the sustainability of nuclear power.

The University has won funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to lead a project to develop a methodology and decision-support system for assessing the sustainability of nuclear power, considering both energy supply and demand.

The framework being developed will draw together technical, environmental, economic, social and governance perspectives to enable systematic, transparent and balanced assessment of nuclear power relative to other energy options – including renewables.

The project is being led by Professor Adisa Azapagic in the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science (CEAS).

She said: "The outputs of this three-year project will have the potential to contribute to a better quality of life through improved understanding of the sustainability implications of the nuclear option compared to other energy options."

Partners in the project include UK universities, large nuclear engineering companies, government departments, media organisations and NGOs.

University's alternative to Google launched

An internet search engine rivalling the multimillion pound Google has been launched by The University of Manchester's national data centre Mimas.

The free service adds thousands of documents to the 'Intute' service which already allows academics, teachers, researchers and students to search for information relating specifically to their subject area.

The addition allows researchers to automatically access papers from research databases within universities and other institutions.

The £1.5 million per year collaboration between seven UK Universities and partners enlists a team of full-time specialists who are scouring the internet.

They are backed by an army of PhD students and a range of organisations - including the massive Welcome Trust- who have added their own information to the Intute database.

Research

In the news



Palaeontologist Dr Phil Manning from The School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (SEAES) has uncovered a partially intact dinosaur fossil which was subjected to a natural but extremely unusual mummification process after it died, preserving not just bones but skin and soft tissues. The find was documented on the National Geographic Channel and included key contributions from academics in SEAES, The School of Materials, The Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre and The Faculty of Life Sciences.

The story was reported in The Guardian, BBC News Online, Daily Telegraph, The Times, The Independent, Daily Mail, Washington Post, USA Today, Boston Globe.

You can watch a clip from the programme at the link below

http://channel.nationalgeograp hic.com/channel/dinosaurs/

Scientists strike blow in superbugs struggle

Scientists at The University have pioneered new ways of tweaking the molecular structure of antibiotics – an innovation that could be crucial in the fight against powerful superbugs.

The work, led by chemical biologist Dr Jason Micklefield in collaboration with geneticist Professor Colin Smith, was published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society.*

Using funding from the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), scientists working in The School of Chemistry and the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre have paved the way for the development of new types of antibiotics capable of fighting increasingly resistant bacteria.

They have developed methodologies for altering the structure of lipopeptide antibiotics by mutating, adding and deleting components,

Dr Micklefield said: "The results from this work are essential in the development of the next generation of lipopeptide antibiotics, which are critical to combat emerging superbugs that have acquired resistance to other antibiotics.

"The potent activity of this class of antibiotics against pathogens

that are resistant to all current treatments makes them one of the most important groups of antibiotics available."

Scientists in Manchester have been doing work on antibiotics that belong to the same family as daptomycin.

In 2003 daptomycin became the first new structural class of natural antibiotic to reach hospitals in more than 30 years.

But researchers say there is already evidence that bacteria are evolving and becoming resistant to daptomycin – leading to the emergence of dangerous new superbugs.

Manchester researchers find key to stopping cancer in its tracks

Researchers have discovered a key process that may be involved in the spread of cancer - by studying the growth of human embryonic stem (ES) cells.

Dr Chris Ward and his team used the ES cells to investigate how some tumours are able to migrate to other parts of the body, which makes the treatment of cancer much more difficult. Dr Ward believes his work could lead to new treatments and stop 80-90% of cancers in their tracks.

He studied a crucial change that makes cancer cells able to start moving and spread into other tissues.

10

Normal cells, as well as early cancer cells, are called epithelial cells because they bind tightly to each other forming stable layers of tissue. However, as a tumour becomes more advanced some of the cells change to become `mesenchymal'. Mesenchymal cells do not bind to each other, forming more disorganised tissues in which the cells can move around. Since this crucial change - known as the epithelial-mesenchymal transition - was first observed in the early embryo, Dr Ward theorised that embryonic stem cells might undergo a similar process.

The study, funded by the Association for International Cancer Research (AICR) and involving the University's immunology group at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research (PICR), found that the protein E-cadherin stopped cells from migrating during normal growth.

It also found that, as well as helping cells stick

together, E-cadherin also blocked the action of another protein known to increase the mobility of cells. This important dual function of E-cadherin opens up the potential for new targets to prevent tumour cells from spreading.

Dr Ward, whose findings are published in the journal *Cancer Research*, said: "Previously, it has not been possible to study this crucial transition in patients since this would involve invasive techniques that may interfere with any treatment of the disease. Plus where excised tumour cells have been used, it is difficult to know if the cells were from the right area - i.e. the growing part of the tumour. Our discovery that it happens spontaneously in ES cells means that it can be studied much more easily in the laboratory."

Knowledge and Technology Transfer

A Smart idea

A computer software design company founded by a graduate from the University's Manchester Science and Enterprise Centre (MSEC) has scooped the top prize in a major competition for entrepreneurs.

Smart Plan, which is based in One Central Park in Newton Heath, took first prize in the EnterPrize competition, which was organised by urban regeneration company New East Manchester.

The contest is aimed at new businesses in east Manchester and is designed to promote entrepreneurial talent, encourage economic growth and help local companies grow.

Smart Plan, founded in 2006 by Managing Director Dr Maciej Orzechowski, beat off stiff competition from over 40 other entrants to win the £10,000 cash prize.

Maciej is a graduate of the Enterprise Direct course at MSEC, which was recently relaunched as the Certificate of Higher Education in Enterprise.

Smart Plan Ltd creates design tools for home owners and semiprofessional designers such as builders and architects. Its first product 'SmartDesigner' acts as a computerised personal architect that can sketch design ideas which can be checked against planning rules before they are transformed into technical plans that conform to British Standards.

A second product currently at the planning stage, 'SmartCAT', provides an online catalogue of house plans that can be used to create customisable self-build homes.

Commenting on winning, Maciej said: "It's fantastic to win the prize money as I can use it to develop my product. I'm so glad I took part in the competition as all the advice was a huge bonus and really helped me focus. As an entrepreneur I have lots of ideas and the experts taught me how to identify the best one and make the most of it. Business skills are not my strength and the advisors helped me develop them, which is enormously beneficial.

MSEC is based within the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) at The University of Manchester but delivers its programmes throughout the entire campus.



Business incubator gets the thumbs-up

Stockport Council has given a big thumbs-up to developing a notfor-profit Community Interest Company to take forward business incubation space at Broadstone Mill, in partnership with the University of Manchester Incubator Company (UMIC).

As part of its Community Pride campaign, Stockport Council has agreed to invest in the new company along with the landlord, Broadstone House Ltd, to provide 12,000 sq ft of state of the art workspace and incubation facilities designed to nurture and grow new and small businesses.

The fusion of Council, University and private enterprise is an exciting venture for the local businesses community in Reddish. UMIC has helped more than 50 companies to set up and now manages more than 250,000ft² of incubator space across five Greater Manchester locations.

Councillor Goddard, said: "This high quality business incubation facility will provide a supportive environment which will allow companies to quickly develop from a fragile start-up to a resilient and commercially successful business within the borough."

UMIC has worked with Broadstone Mill since 2005 and the first business incubator offices were opened in 2006. Since then over 17 companies have moved in, some of which are high-growth university spin-out companies.

New commercial manager for science park



Lynne Barlow

Manchester Science Park (msp) has appointed a new commercial manager. Lynne Barlow will be responsible for finance, tenancy contracts and estates at the award-winning science park.

Lynne, who is a chartered accountant, has worked in a number of senior finance and commercial roles. In her previous position Lynne worked for Carillion, the UK's largest construction, property and facilities management company, and has also worked for Ernst & Young and Smith & Nephew, where she managed the financial reporting for their wound management division.

Lynne said: "The Manchester market is very competitive. I'm looking forward to bringing the finance and estates teams together to work cohesively so we can continue to deliver the best service and value in a challenging economy."

msp, which provides accommodation and business support for technologybased companies, is an internationally recognised centre of excellence and was named the UK Science Park Association's Outstanding member Park in 2007.

Osteo award

In 2007 for the first time, TrusTECH sponsored a category in the prestigious Bionow awards. This new award, which recognises the importance of the healthcare industry within the biomedical sector, was presented to Professor Keith Horner, Dr H Devlin and team (from the School of Dentistry and Imaging Science and Biomedical Engineering) for a screening methodology for the early diagnosis of osteoporosis.The team received a prize of £1000, from TrusTECH, to further develop their technology.

Osteoporosis affects over 25 million people in Europe and the US, and osteoporosis-related fractures are a significant cost (over £30 billion in the EU). Early diagnosis would enable more economical management of the disease. Osteodent, the winning diagnostic scanning methodology, is currently in development with an international company. It uses digital panoramic x-rays to enable dentists to screen patients for osteoporosis during their dental check up."



Profile



Jan's Journey

As an undergraduate at Hull, Jan Wilkinson was intrigued by Philip Larkin, the most famous University Librarian of them all. "He was an inspirational figure around the university because of his fame as a poet – and he certainly drew unusual attention to the library," she says, laughing gently. "It was exciting having him there."

Little did she know then that she was to follow in his footsteps, though not as a direct result of that brief encounter, in the sense that her own future lay in becoming a trail-blazing academic librarian, destined to bring a fresh vision to the job, developing a strategic management approach and a clear focus on library users.

As she takes over from Bill Simpson, who retired at the end of last year as University Librarian and Director of the John Rylands Library, Jan certainly cuts a different figure from the stereotypical image of a librarian still perpetuated by TV casting – male, middle-aged, besuited and bespectacled, in fact rather Larkin-like. She is tall, slim, elegant; softly-spoken, with a ready smile and a keen sense of humour. And she brings to the job 25 years of experience as an academic librarian in a dazzling career which has seen her reach senior

management in her mid-twenties and take over as University Librarian at the University of Leeds in her late thirties. But she carries her distinction in the profession easily. She is informal and relaxed, albeit though full of purpose, enthusiasm and energy. And she likes a challenge, always has.

If she hadn't become Librarian, she might well have been our Director of Sport. Being athletic, and competitive, she was an all-round sportswoman, representing Hull at squash and netball. And she still keeps fit. After graduating in Modern History in 1980, she considered becoming a PE teacher, but the pull of the library had already taken hold.

"I really got drawn in when I was doing my undergraduate dissertation on Cobden and Bright," she says. "We had a very good library, but, to be honest, I did think that some of the staff were rather shy and retiring – and didn't have the social skills I thought necessary to do a good job."

She went to see the careers advisers. "They tried to put me off," she says. "But that just spurred me on." She started her career at Newcastle University and then went to do her postgrad diploma in Library and Information Science at the then North London Polytechnic. "It was either there or UCL, which took a rather academic approach to the subject at that time," she says. "The more practical course at the poly was good for me."

She started her career proper in 1982 in the library of the College of St Paul & St Mary, Cheltenham

(now the University of Gloucestershire)– and was soon on the fast track to senior management. She quickly became Head of Reader Services at the Cambridgeshire College of Art and Technology (now Anglia Ruskin University). "My interests were very focused on customer service, as they are still, and I became very keen on attracting the best people to deliver that, and seeing them grow," she says.

Not one to stay once a job is done – "I do have a fear of getting bored and I love a challenge" -, she moved on to Hatfield Polytechnic (now the University of Hertfordshire) and then, in 1994, to the London School of Economics (LSE).

"Moving through colleges and polytechnics and universities has stood me in good stead," she says. "The colleges and polytechnics were always strong on customer service, whilst the big research libraries tended to focus their attention on collection building. It is vital to combine rich collections with excellent service, which includes being flexible enough to cater for individual users' needs whilst supporting innovation by exploiting all of the available technologies."

As Deputy Librarian at the LSE (1996-98), Jan built a reputation for development and innovation. She achieved significant fund-raising, here and in the US, in order to turn the LSE library building, an old WH Smith warehouse, into a modern environment. She involved Norman Foster, and the result,

CV

including the landmark atrium, is a lasting tribute to her energy and style. She established herself as a leader in the UK for library fundraising, an area in which she has published.

Mission accomplished, it was time for another challenge, which came in the form of a large academic library. Still in her thirties, she became University Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection at the University of Leeds.

"That was a real challenge, with more than 300 staff and the need to develop a clear strategy for that Library for the first time," she says. "It involved a lot of carefully planned but fairly holistic change, for staff and services, which at times was very difficult. But the key objective, at all times, is to provide the best possible deal for library users. It was a very rewarding time, quite transformational. Importantly, I also learnt a lot."

After six momentous years, Jan was tempted to London by an opportunity of a different kind. At the British Library, where she took on the newly created job of Head of Higher Education, Jan needed to develop a strategy for establishing relationships between the BL and all sectors of HE, from Vice-Chancellors, academic researchers and Librarians to the Funding and Research Councils. The fact that more than 60% of the Library's business is conducted with the HE sector reflects the importance of the task. Again, it was a fresh challenge and gave her widespread exposure across HE whilst being part of the Library's senior leadership. She took the job in 2004 for two years, but stayed more than three.

"It has been a valuable three years, and I have enjoyed working closely with a small and dynamic team. I have though, missed the opportunity to engage with the university community," she says. "The prospect of being part of this University's aspirations is very exciting."

She is also breaking new ground in being the first woman to hold the job here. "I never even thought of that," she says. "There are a number of women in senior positions in this University." And she is used to breaking new ground. We can expect changes and innovation and improved services - and she regards marketing as crucially important. "People have to know what we can offer them as individuals," she says. "Our job is to make sure that our decisions about product and service development are informed by what our users tell us, and by what it is possible to achieve to support the needs of every student, university teacher and researcher. And our own staff need to have a clear picture of the direction the organisation is taking, and their own part in that. We have a wonderful opportunity to build on what has gone before."



	Name		
	Jan Wilkinson		
	Position University Librarian and Director of the John Rylands Library		
	Education	,	
	1977-80	BA (Hons) History	
		University of Hull	
	1982	Postgraduate Diploma:	
		Librarianship and Information	
		North London	
	1986-88	Postgraduate Diploma:	
		Management Studies (DMS) (p/t)	
		North East London Polytechnic	
	108/	Associate Library Association	
	1904	Fellow Chartered Institute of	
	1557	Information professionals	
	Career		
	2007-	Librarian, John Rylands University	
		Library, Manchester	
	2004-2007	The British Library	
		Head of Higher Education	
	1998-2004	University of Leeds	
	1550 2001	University Librarian	
		• Director of Library Services	
		Director of Strategic	
		Development	
	1993-1998	London School of Economics	
		Deputy Librarian Sub Librarian	
	1988-1997		
	1500 1552	Sub-Librarian	
		(Academic Services)	
		Librarian, Business School	
		(then Hatfield Polytechnic)	
	1004 1000		
	1984-1988	and Technology (now Anglia	
		Ruskin University)	
		Head of Reader Services	
	1983-1984	College of St Paul and St Mary	
		(now University of Gloucestershire)	
		Assistant Librarian	
	1980-1981	University of	
		Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	

Graduate Trainee

An alliance of science

In July 2005, AstraZeneca and The University of Manchester agreed to form a strategic alliance with the aim of enhancing research collaboration, and improving our understanding of a variety of key diseases. The agreement not only formalised existing traditional links between the University and AstraZeneca, but also sought to make the collaboration process easier and more likely to produce beneficial translational research outcomes.

The alliance has already borne fruit in several areas, most notably in cancer research, but also in pharmacology, cellular biology and molecular imaging, and has shown the value of close industryacademia interactions. The alliance is a strong example of how the recommendations of the recent government review of business-university collaboration can be realised. And is an ideal model on which to base collaborations with the University's other key pharmaceutical partners.

The alliance helps to not only bring together 'clusters' of researchers from a variety of disciplines, but also enables staff to be exchanged between both organisations more easily. A clearer picture of AstraZeneca's and The University's shared interests has already resulted in several substantial joint bids to access external funds in support of future collaborations.

The most substantial progress in collaborative research has been made between AstraZeneca and the world-renowned Manchester Cancer Research Centre. This association has seen substantial commercially-beneficial research in early clinical trials and disease marker development, using some of the most advanced technologies available. These technologies include the PET and MRI scanning facilities at the University of Manchester-based Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre, and cutting edge assays developed within the Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology research group at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre. Across the University, the extent of current research award investment from AstraZeneca highlights the importance of close, yet open links with the pharmaceutical industry.

In addition to research collaboration, AstraZeneca is also actively supporting undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes in order to allow students an insight into the science and technology that underpins drug discovery. Such undergraduate placements and CASE studentships often have a component of time spent within AstraZeneca research centres, whilst some AstraZeneca staff make the opposite journey in the completion of academic and training courses at the University.

COLLABORATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE -EXAMPLES OF HOW THE ALLIANCE WORKS CANCER RESEARCH

Dr Stephen Taylor (Molecular Cancer Research Group Leader, Faculty of Life Sciences)

A six-year collaboration between Steve Taylor's lab and AstraZeneca has focussed on validating kinases as targets for potential anti-cancer drugs. The collaboration employs two approaches utilising advanced molecular genetic techniques, and highly-sensitive biological assays to test potential drug candidates. The collaboration has been extremely beneficial for both parties; the Taylor lab receives generous funding and access to unique reagents, while AstraZeneca gain access to cutting-edge drug testing systems and expertise which yield novel insight into how potential cancer drugs might work successfully.

ION CHANNEL BIOLOGY RESEARCH Prof Alison Gurney (Professor of Pharmacology, Life Sciences)

Dr Graeme Wilkinson (Membrane Protein Team and Project Leader, Biological Chemistry)

The University of Manchester has a world-class reputation in the study of cellular pharmacology and biochemistry, with a dynamic group of scientists in the Channels and Transporters group under the leadership of Professor Alison Gurney.

AstraZeneca scientists based in the UK are now pursuing a broad range of targets and exploiting these advances in screening technology.

Alison and Graeme organised a small "Gordon conference style" research symposium in January 2008 at AstraZeneca's Alderley Park site. The purpose of the symposium was to encourage sharing and communication of the activities at both sites, to foster a mutual understanding of science carried out at both organisations, and to open up opportunities for collaboration in this exciting area of research.

BIOSTATISTICS

Dr Alex Donev (Senior Lecturer in Statistics, School of Mathematics)

Alex Donev worked for AstraZeneca for three years and recently moved back to academia as a Senior



(Vice-President and Dean), said, "The Alliance has proved to be an excellent start to the

objective of

University's strategic

success of the

agreement, Professor Alan North

Commenting on the

achieving research collaborations that could benefit the whole of the UK drug discovery industry.

"The collaboration is becoming a fine exemplar of an industry and academia partnership. Cooperative research efforts in translational medical science have resulted in the launch of several key initiatives."



Dr Les Hughes (Global Vice President, Cancer and Infection, and AstraZeneca lead for the Alliance), added,

"Successful drug discovery requires the integration of a broad range of skills in basic and clinical sciences. Interactions

between scientists at our Alderley Park laboratories and at the University have always been an important part of our research activities.

The continued investment in science at The University of Manchester offers AstraZeneca the unique opportunity to develop new partnerships and to develop the skills and capabilities which will further facilitate the discovery and development of new medicines. We are proud of the ongoing links and partnerships with scientists at the University and we are interested in exploring new opportunities together."



Prof Andrew Hughes (Clinical Global Director of Discovery Medicine for Cancer and Infection, AstraZeneca) (Chair of Translational Medicine, University of Manchester)

As a result of collaborations and on-going work with

the Manchester Cancer Research Centre, Professor Andrew Hughes has been appointed as Chair of Translational Medicine in the Faculty of Medical & Human Sciences.

In his role as Chair, Andrew spends one day per week at the University, with his time divided between formulating the first formal MRes in Translational Medicine, working with surgeons to gain access to human cancer tissue in order to our improve our understanding of drug targets, and to investigate the robustness of drug targets, systems. The establishment of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre is viewed as critical by AstraZeneca in creating a single research focus for cancer research within Manchester. Lecturer in Statistics, in the School of Mathematics. Dr. Donev has strong interests in statistical issues in biological and medical research. He is continuing his work in this area whilst benefiting from the academic environment and creating an opportunity for collaboration between AstraZeneca and the University. Currently the focus is on statistical issues in Research and Development but more areas will be discussed in the future. The University is considering setting up a new MSc in Biostatistics, which could provide further opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration.

PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

AstraZeneca also host third year undergraduate students for a one year Professional Placement.

Eleanor Lowry carried out her Professional Placement at Alderley Park in 2004:

"Whilst at university I did my placement year at AstraZeneca in Alderley Park. I really enjoyed my time working there and it gave me an insight into what life in scientific research is like.

I worked in the Molecular Skills group researching diabetes and I had experience in lead optimisation of drugs, the role of experimental chemists in defining structure of potential drugs, and the role of the discovery team in the identification of novel targets in diabetes and obesity.

Techniques that I used included real-time quantitative PCR, RNA extraction from different tissues, and gene expression profiling.

I am currently doing a PhD in Biomolecular Sciences and I feel that my experience at AstraZeneca was invaluable for giving me the sheer opportunity to work in industry, and also for providing me with knowledge and technical skills that enable me to be successful in my research."

Contacts

One of the key strengths of the Alliance is the management structure responsible for maintaining the partnership. Professor Anne White is the academic lead within the University, and Dr Martin Todd is the Strategic Alliance Manager within AstraZeneca.

Prof Anne White Associate Dean for Business Development Academic Lead for Strategic Alliance University of Manchester Tel 0161 2755178 email awhite@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Martin Todd Strategic Alliance Manager Discovery Support AstraZeneca Tel 01625 513296 email martin.todd@astrazeneca.com













What's On

Contact Theatre

Looking For JJ - Wed 6 Feb to Sat 9 Feb - 8pm and Thurs 7 Feb matinee at 1.30pm £10 / £6 Looking for JJ tells the story of Jennifer Jones, who is convicted of manslaughter as a ten-year-old.

Exhibit - Mon 11 Feb to Fri 15 Feb - 7.30pm FREE Manchester's Somalian Community and Contact collaborate to produce fresh talent.

The KAOS Dream - Thurs 28 Feb to Sat 1 March -8pm £10 / £6

By William Shakespeare With Mat Fraser as 'Puck' Oxford Road, Manchester Tickets/Info

0161 274 0600 www.contact-theatre.org

Music and Drama at Manchester

BBC Philharmonic Chamber Concert - Wed 6th Feb 2008, 7.00pm

On Wed 6 Feb and Wed 7 May Gianandrea Noseda, Chief Conductor, will introduce Principal players from the BBC Philharmonic in a series of chamber concerts. £5 / £3 / £2.50

Quatuor Danel - Thurs 14th Feb 2008, 1:10pm Popov was a contemporary, friend and close musical colleague of Shostakovich, and his only string quartet is probably unique in carrying the title 'symphony'. Free

Quatuor Danel Seminar - Thurs 14th Feb 2008, 2.15pm

Popov and Shostakovich. Free

Quatuor Danel - Fri 15th Feb 2008, 7:00pm A second chance to hear University of Manchester lecturer Richard Whalley's intricately woven quartet. It is preceded by one of Haydn's late quartets, and followed by the toughest of Beethoven's 'Rasu. £15 / £12 /Student Special

Paul Patrick - Thurs 21st Feb 2008, 13.10 A percussion extravaganza performed by music students led by Paul Patrick, principal percussionist of the BBC Philharmonic. FREE

University of Manchester Big Band -

Fri 22nd Feb 2008, 19.00 Manchester University Big Band featuring vocalist Hannah Cunningham explore the contemporary world of music for Jazz Orchestra. £8/£5/Student Special

Symphony Orchestra - Sat 23rd Feb 2008, 19.00 An all-English programme crowned by the world premiere of the piano concerto by Manchester music lecturer Dr Camden Reeves. £12/£6/Student Special

Lawson Piano Trio - Thurs 28th Feb 2008, 13.10 Powerful Jewish-influenced works by Shostakovich and Copland are combined with Camden Reeves' brilliant, catchy, toccata-like Starlight Squid. FREE

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

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

International Society

SPRING TRIPS

Saturday 9th February Oxford (with guided tour) Sunday 10th February

Yorkshire Dales visiting White Scar Caves and Skipton Castle

Saturday 16th February York and the Yorvik Viking Festival

Sunday 17th February Fountain's Abbey and Harrogate

Saturday 23rd February Stratford-upon-Avon

Overnight Trip! Saturday 23rd to Sunday 24th February London (with guided tour of the city)

Opening hours Mon-Fri 9.30am – 7pm (during term time) Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm (during vacation)

Small World Café opening hours Mon-Fri 11am – 3pm

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar) 0161 275 4959

email int.soc@anchester.ac.uk www.internationalsociety.org.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

email sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk

RC Chaplaincy, Avila House

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

The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

0161 226 1139 email rabbiyy@hotmail.com www.rabbiyy.com

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 and application forms are available on request.

CCE, 1st Floor, Humanities Devas Street 0161 275 3275 www.manchester.ac.uk/continuingeducation



John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

Visit the historic John Rylands Library on Deansgate, central Manchester, home to one of the country's greatest collections of printed books, manuscripts and archives. Regarded as one of the city's most beautiful buildings, the Library has been voted Manchester's Best Iconic Building in the MCR Awards 2007. Permanent exhibitions tell the story of the Library, display treasures from the collections and include interactive exhibits to engage visitors.

NEW FOR 2008

Close-Up Session: *Every Thursday 12.15-1.00* Enjoy a closer look at selected items from the Library's outstanding collections and find out more about the building every Thursday lunchtime.

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

Enriqueta Rylands: Who Do You Think She Was? Discovering The Founder Of The John Rylands Library until 19 May 2008

This exhibition celebrates the life of the Library's founder, Enriqueta Rylands. Aspects of her extraordinary life are illuminated by stories discovered in the Library's archive. These provide a new perspective on this fascinating woman. Themes include family life, travelling for health, her love of art and her work for good causes. This exhibition marks the centenary of her death in 1908.

Close-Up Session- Tues 26 Feb 12.00-12.45 & Sat 12 Apr 11.00-11.45

Enjoy a closer look at items from the collections which tell the story of Enriqueta Rylands as a book collector, with exhibition curator Elizabeth Gow. Tickets £2.50, available from Visitor Services on 0161 306 0555 or jrl.events@manchester.ac.uk.

Mr Pye Visits the Library - Wed 26 Mar

Meet Manchester Museum's Victorian gentleman, Mr Pye, as he visits the Library to find out more about Mrs Rylands and her gift to Manchester.

Caring for your Family Archive -Wed 13 Feb, 10.00-5.00

Many families have collections of important documents, family Bibles or other treasured books from childhood. You are invited to bring your objects along and learn from our conservation team about how best to care for them.

Return From Exile: The Life And Times Of George

Gissing - *until 19 May 2008* An exhibition of manuscripts and printed books from The George Gissing / Kohler Collection.

George Gissing and the Victorian City -

Wed 20 Feb, 5.00-6.00pm Dr Emma Liggins, Department of English, Manchester Metropolitan University. Tickets are free but places are limited. Tel: 0161 306 0555 or email: irl events@manchester.ac.uk

Public opening hours

Mon and Wed-Sat 10am-5pm Tues and Sun 12pm-5pm **Reader opening hours** Mon-Sat 10am-5pm FREE ADMISSION

The John Rylands Library 150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH 0161 306 0555 email jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk www.manchester.ac.uk/library

0161 275 2894

Mass Times (term-time only) SUNDAY: 7pm (in the Holy Name Church) next door to

www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk

Hillel House, Greenheys Lane.



The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

Flights of Fancy: Select decorative schemes of the 1920s & 30s to Mid Oct 2008

In the early 20th century the influence of Modernism encouraged a move away from highly pattened walls. This change in fashion affected wallpaper production as a whole and manufacturers, keen to retain their customers, produced numerous fancy paper decorations to add interest to plain or textured backgrounds.

Trade and Empire: Remembering Slavery to 27 April 2008

The exhibition explores slavery and its impact on trade and empire through objects picked from the Gallery's collection. These range from a pair of 18th century watercolours by Thomas Hearne that show day-to-day life in the Leeward Islands.

Mind Forged Manacles: Blake and Slavery

26 January – 6 April 2008 The show explores both the horrors of slavery, which Blake was adamantly opposed to, and mental enslavement, which Blake summed up with the phrase 'mind forg'd manacles'. The exhibition features over sixty of Blake's vivid and imaginative watercolours and engravings from the collection of the British Museum.

Blake's Shadow: William Blake and his Artistic Legacy to 20 April 2008

This exhibition will explore the influence of Blake in the development of the visual arts from the eighteenth century to the present day.

Sleeping Beauties: Walter Crane and the Illustrated Book to 24 February 2008

The Whitworth Art Gallery presents a new exhibition of highlights from the recently acquired Walter Crane Archive. Spanning the career of the artist and designer Walter Crane, the late 19th and early 20th century, the display presents his book illustrations. It features Crane's early commissions as well as original drawings fro his famous Toy Book illustrations flower books and political cartoons.

Walter Crane and the Illustrated Book to April 2008 Focusing on the book illustrations of Walter Crane, this exhibition will span Crane's entire career, incorporating a range of illustrations from his early commissions to his world famous Toy Books, Grimm's Fairy Tales and private drawings created for his children.

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 The Whitworth Art Gallerv **Oxford Road, Manchester** 0161 275 7450

email whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

Jodrell Bank

Summer opening hours Closed on Mondays Every day 10:30am to 5:30pm, until Sun 28 Oct. Closed on Thu 4 Oct.

Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre, Macclesfield, Cheshire 01477 571339

www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/viscen

The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- Tooth & Claw: Living alongside Britain's predators
- MoNO: Museum of Native Oak
- Myths about Race

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES:

Big Saturday - Extinction

Saturday 9 February, 11am–4pm Find out about extinct species including dinosaurs, the passenger pigeon, giant earwigs. Ring 0161 275 2648 for further details and booking.

Predators Week

Monday 11 – Saturday 16 February Join in a variety of activities including:

- Predator puppets
- Predators adventure
- Skull cleaning
- Busy badger day
- Plants in disguise
- Visit www.manchester.ac.uk/museum or ring 0161 275 2648 to find out more.

TALKS AND TOURS

Café Scientifique: Is cancer catching? Monday 4 February 6.30-8pm An exploration of the origins of cancers and their links to viruses. Book at

www.cafescientifique.manchester.ac.uk free Showcase: The Manchester Museum

Research Seminar

Beyond the ivory tower: collections management at the Garstang Museum of Archaeology

Wednesday 6 February, 3-5pm A look into the development and management of a university museum. Drop-in, free

Ideas Café: Big beasts we lost Monday 18 February, 6.30-8.00pm Linked to Tooth & Claw exhibition. Book, free

Revealing Histories: Myths about Race debate Wednesday 27 February, 2.30pm Discuss some of the issues raised in the Myths about Race exhibition. Drop-in, free

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

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

Centre for New Writing

Our unique events bring the best-known contemporary novelists and poets to Manchester to discuss and read from their work. Everyone is welcome, and ticket prices include a complementary glass of wine or soft drink (except Martin Amis public events)

Literature Live – Mon 11 Feb. 6.30pm Fiction writers Clare Wigfall and Jonathon Trigell. Tickets: £3/2

Literature Live – Thurs 6 March Novelist and screenwriter Hanif Kureishi. Tickets: £3/£2 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



Gig Guide

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 & 3

Thur 7th Feb - £12 Adv 14+ Roni Size - Reprazent (14-17s must be accompanied by an adult) Fri 8th Feb - £10 Adv @ Club Academy **Devon Sproule** (Part Seated Show)

Sat 9th Feb - £15 Adv Michael Schenker Group

Sat 9th Feb - £9.50 Adv Sons and Daughters

Tues 12th Feb - £15.50 Adv Black Francis

(This includes a 50p charity donation to Shelter) Thurs 14th Feb - £10 Adv

Dillinger Escape Plan + Between the Buried and Me + Stolen Babies

(Rescheduled Date - Original tickets valid) Fri 15th Feb - £8 Adv Manchester Orchestra

Sun 17th Feb - £14 Adv Doors 7pm Reel Big Fish + Streetlight Manifesto Sun 17th Feb - £7.50 Adv Doors 7pm

Late of the Pier Mon 18th Feb - £7.50 Adv

Los Campesinos!

Sat 21st Feb – TBC Flamboyant Bella

Thurs 21st Feb - £13 Adv Gallows + Set Your Goals

Fri 22nd Feb - £10.50 Adv Amy Macdonald

Fri 22 Feb - £8.50 Adv The Audition + You Me At Six

Fri 22nd Feb - £11 Adv Nada Surf

Sat 23rd Feb - £15 Adv Joe Bonamassa

Sun 24th Feb - £11 Adv Doors 7pm Band of Horses

Mon 25th Feb - £7.50 Adv One Night Only

Wed 27th Feb - £11.50 Adv Young Knives

(This includes a 50p charity donation to Shelter) Fri 29th Feb - £12.50 Adv Hanoi Rocks

Fri 29th Feb - £22.50 Adv Siouxsie

Sat 1st Mar - £8 Adv Tegan & Sara

Sat 1st Mar - £15 Adv The Beat + Neville Staple + The Heels Sun 2nd Mar - £16 Adv Doors 7pm The Grandmothers of Invention

Sun 2nd Mar - £12 Adv Doors 7pm Anti Flag

Mon 3rd Mar - £10 Adv Tina Dico

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

Feature

Leaving a lasting legacy



The University has relaunched its Legacy Strategy which aims to build on the long history of philanthropic support that it has enjoyed, from the Manchester businessmen and industrialists who founded the Manchester Mechanics Institute, to the early benefactions given by John Owens, Joseph Whitworth and Richard Copley Christie.

> Lesley Dowdall of the Division of Development and Alumni Relations (DDAR) which is responsible for legacies, said: "The

University's Legacy Strategy has been established with a simple objective – to help the University maintain, and where possible enhance, high standards in teaching, research and scholarly enquiry for future generations. Our task is to attract support from alumni, staff and former staff, friends and partners, providing an opportunity to make a statement about their regard for the University and their values and the issues in society which are important to them."

Since the merger of VUM and UMIST in 2004, the University has received over £4.7 million from legacy donors benefiting a wide range of areas from medical research, to books for the library, to undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships. In the same period the University has also received future legacy pledges of over £7.2 million. Many of these donors were alumni of the University but over one third are not Manchester graduates but have been inspired by the University's research agenda or are committed to the University's wider cultural activities.





Lesley said: "The University and its predecessor institutions, have benefited enormously from the vision and generosity of alumni, former staff, and others with a strong interest in the University's work, who have remembered Manchester in their will." Some recent examples include:

Mrs Eleanor MacLeod who graduated in 1928 with a BA (Hons) Arts and was also a former member of staff. Her bequest supports the Division of Human Communication and Deafness and a Research Support Fund is being created in her memory.

Mrs Anne Maskew who graduated in 1939 with a BA (Hons) in English Language and Literature and a Teachers' Diploma in 1940. Already a donor to the University's Alumni Fund, Mrs Maskew left a beguest to the John Rylands Library for the



purchase of library books, in recognition of her many happy years living at Ashburne Hall.

A new brochure – Your Vision, Your Values, Your Manchester – has been produced as a general guide for leaving a legacy to the University and is intended for alumni, current and retired staff and for the others who have no formal connection with us but might wish to support the University's work. The brochure is available to download at the web address below or please contact Louise Hancock (louise.hancock@manchester.ac.uk, 0161 275 7230) for a copy.

For further information on the University's Legacy Programme please contact Lesley Dowdall, Development & Alumni Relations, Tel: 0161 275 2373, Email: Lesley.Dowdall@manchester.ac.uk



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Discover the Whitworth

William Blake (1757-1827)

Some thoughts about Blake's 'The Ancient of Days' 1827? by Heather Birchall, Curator of Historic Fine Art at The Whitworth Art Gallery

"Blake captures the attention of a diverse audience, from poets and theologians to art historians and musicians. Blake himself does not fit in to any one category, but The Whitworth Art Gallery owns one of his most striking works.

In spring 2007 The Independent art critic, Tom Lubbock, chose The Ancient of Days to be one Britain's Art Treasures, and it was reproduced as a poster and given away with the newspaper. I was pleasantly surprised to find out through these means that this extraordinary watercolour was in the Whitworth's collection.

Being sensitive to fluctuations in light and humidity The Ancient of Days spends most of its lifetime hidden away in the Whitworth's stores. However it will be on display until 20 April in Blake's Shadow, an exhibition exploring Blake's influence on artists, musicians and filmmakers. Blake's Shadow has been devised by Dr Colin Trodd of the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures.

Blake uses the technique of a miniaturist, and what is generally considered to be a large-scale work, is actually extremely small - though no less impressive. Throughout my work on the exhibition, I quickly realised that Blake's The Ancient of Days is almost impossible to reproduce, particularly the golden glow around the figure of Urizen. This makes a visit to the Whitworth a must."

Blake's Shadow 26 January - 20 April will run alongside Mind-Forg'd Manacles to 6 April, an exhibition curated by David Bindman, A British Museum / Hayward Gallery Partnership UK Exhibition



www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

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Next issue is 3 March 2008

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tel	0161 275 2112			
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online	www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news			
Deadline	Noon 14 February			

Events Contact

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