

UniLife

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Letter from the President



I am personally delighted that Colin Stirling, one of the University's leading researchers, has taken on the key position of Vice-President (Teaching and Learning). He will bring commitment, drive, imagination and an appetite for hard work to what is arguably the most challenging agenda in the University over the next few years.

Obviously, we gave considerable thought to changing the title of the position to reflect the primacy of *learning over teaching*. Formal teaching is only one of the stimuli that promote learning. Indeed, there is voluminous research into student learning indicating that the most valuable learning experiences typically occur in informal learning environments, and often engage students in learning relationships with other students rather than with their teachers.

I know that Colin Stirling understands all this, and that he will place student learning at the centre of his efforts to implement the recommendations of the University's current Review of Undergraduate Education.

Yet we have deliberately retained the more traditional wording, "Vice-President (Teaching and Learning)", hoping that it may serve as a reminder that in relation to the vital task of enhancing student learning the onus is now firmly on those of us with leadership responsibilities in the academic community – Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Deans, Heads of School and the many scholars engaged in the design, development, delivery and assessment of curricula.

Quite rightly, where the quality of undergraduate education is concerned, the ball is now emphatically in the "teaching" court.

I would encourage all my academic colleagues to read the lead article in 14 April issue of Student Direct, together with the follow-up editorial about the number of "contact hours" teaching that some students receive at this University. Some of the detail and interpretation in the article may need checking and no attempt is made to understand the context in which the downward trend in teaching hours has occurred over the past 20 years. But the message is clear, important and – in broad terms – undeniable.

The editorial, entitled 'Paying More, Getting Less' says: "While individual study is a crucial part of any degree, students still expect to get taught. However, the amount of teaching the University provides has been dramatically reduced over the past 20 years, in some cases by more than half. It is no wonder that increasing numbers of students are unhappy with the quality of the education that they receive."

"It's definitely not value for money," one student is reported as saying of a particular course, "there is no one-on-one time and it feels more like a DIY subject."

There are all kinds of qualifications we might wrap around such criticism. Dissatisfaction is actually voiced by only a small proportion of the whole student population; our University is the most popular in the country, so we must be doing many things right; our academic staff are certainly high calibre scholars dedicated to helping students learn (I have no doubt about that); we still produce highly employable graduates – and so on.

All that is true. But it is nevertheless ostrich-like to deny that there is a mounting and potentially serious problem, in this and most other British universities.

Decades of diminishing *per capita* investment in undergraduate learning in the UK is having the slow, inevitable pathological consequences for the quality of student learning that were bound to develop in a system that has gone on doing the very best it can, by more or less traditional means, while class size burgeons and student:staff ratios deteriorate.

The University of Manchester is not being ostrich-like. Nor are we going to tackle problems relating to the quality of undergraduate education *merely by trying to shore up traditional approaches to curriculum development, teaching or learning*.

Manchester has undertaken a root-and-branch review of undergraduate education and is now proceeding to make quite radical changes.

We are determined not to continue with an incremental, "smorgasbord" approach to curriculum development, but rather to offer students more purposeful curricula. We are determined to *re-personalise* the student learning experience, and to provide all students with the kind of one-to-one learning that has been becoming increasingly notable by its absence.

We are committed to making optimal use of the potential of highly interactive online learning environments, and to providing all students with world-class classrooms and laboratories. We are hopeful of creating, on a large scale, the kinds of purpose-built informal learning environments on the main campus sometimes encompassed in the phrase, "Information Commons". We want Manchester to be a university with superb undergraduate learning at its heart.

In short, we want to revolutionise undergraduate education in The University of Manchester so that – all things considered - there is no better place in the world to come to as a student and to leave as a graduate.

That more or less sums up Colin Stirling's brief as Vice-President (Teaching and Learning). He will have my strongest possible support as he tackles this singularly important agenda, but he will also need the wholehearted support of all his colleagues and, of course, of the students themselves.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

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Front cover, L-R: Ernie Richardson, managing partner of MTI; Peter Sanderson, Chairman of UMIP, and Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor, at the launch of the UMIP Premier Fund in April.

£50 million entrepreneurial fund for new ideas

Manchester has launched a unique £50 million venture fund for University entrepreneurs.

The University, with its in-house intellectual property company, UMIP, teamed up with MTI Partners to announce the first close of the UMIP Premier Fund at £32 million.

The fund was officially launched on April 17 in the 'Egg' at UMIC's conferencing facilities on Grafton Street, with presentations from Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor; Peter Sanderson, Chairman of UMIP, and Ernie Richardson, managing partner of MTI, who will manage the fund. The speakers were introduced by Professor Rod Coombs, Vice-President for Innovation and Economic Development.

The event was attended by the University's research community and existing spin-out companies, who held stands to showcase their technologies.

The Fund will provide the opportunity to invest in businesses emerging from the University's "five-star" rated

academic departments and which have benefited from UMIP's stringent business selection and development programme.

It will have preferred access to all investment opportunities generated by technology research at the University and will make late-seed stage investments initially in the £250,000 - £750,000 range, with both the intention and capacity to provide follow-on investment up to £3 million.

Once it is fully invested, the Fund is expected to comprise a portfolio of approximately 20 investments.

Professor Alan Gilbert said: "This is a ground-breaking initiative, establishing a hugely creative vehicle for providing academics with access to the capital to develop the world-leading research, for which the UK is renowned, into world-beating companies."

With funding from a broad range of UK and European institutional and supranational investors, including EIF (European Investment Fund), NESTA (National Endowment for Science,



Ernie Richardson, managing partner of MTI, speaks at the launch.

Technology and the Arts), Co-operative Insurance Society and others, MTI believes that it is likely the Fund will eventually close £50 million.

MTI is in the process of appointing a dedicated, professional technology fund manager for UMIP to be based in Manchester.

www.theupf.com

University honoured with Green Gowns

The University has been recognised for its environmental practices and commitment to sustainability in the 'Green Gown Awards'.

The institution won a Green Gown Award for introducing various environmental initiatives in student residences, including installing recycling centres, auditing energy usage and distributing charity bags for Cancer Research UK. Environmental group Global Action Plan helped to introduce the green initiatives.

The University was also 'Highly Commended' for a course unit, run by the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS), which aims to help the next generation of engineers and scientists work together in more sustainable ways.

These Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI) prizes recognise achievement in areas where higher education impacts on the environment.

Volunteers raised awareness of environmental issues and campaigned to reduce energy

usage and increase recycling across residences. They have since been awarded United Nations environmental champion certificates.

Mike Shore-Nye, Director of Sport, Trading and Residential Services, said: "We are delighted that hard work by our staff, pastoral team, student residents and our partners at Global Action Plan has made a difference to the residences' performance on environmental issues – and that that difference has been recognised through the Green Gown Awards."

The Courses category of the Awards is sponsored by the Higher Education Academy and is the subject of intensive competition from UK universities.

The EPS project team – comprising Project Leader Rosemary Tomkinson, RAE Visiting Professor Charles Engel, Project Officer Helen Dobson and University Pedagogic Advisor Bland Tomkinson – pioneered the 'Sustainable Development for Engineers and Scientists' unit for third year undergraduates, to encourage them to be agents for positive change.



James Strawbridge, from BBC's 'It's Not Easy Being Green', congratulates Rosemary Tomkinson, Project Leader of the successful EPS team.

The problem-based unit is elective and interdisciplinary. Its second intake includes 100 students and is facilitated by trained Post-Doctoral Research Associates, from Schools across the Faculty.

"Wicked problems" challenge students to employ their disciplinary backgrounds, together with ethical, societal, legal and economic considerations. They must share knowledge and

ideas, research unfamiliar topics and use their initiative, as if they were professionals in the early years of work.

Although developed in EPS, with the help of Manchester Science and Enterprise Centre, the educational model relates to all disciplines. Cross-faculty initiatives may be developed in the future.

In brief



Left to right: Professor Judith Howard CBE-FRS, Durham University; Professor Paul Glendinning, Head of School of Mathematics; Professor Peter Diggle, Lancaster University; Alan Johnson, Deputy Director of the BP Project Management College

New lecture series investigates Mathematics in Society

A series of lectures, designed to showcase the contribution of mathematics to art, music, literature, economics, and social and political life, launched on 27 February.

The first lecture, held at the School of Mathematics, presented the outcomes of the Royal Society's report on higher education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). It was delivered to an invited audience of University students, alumni and staff.

The lecture series is sponsored by BP.

Professor Paul Glendinning, Head of the School of Mathematics, said: "We're delighted to partner with BP to provide such a thought-provoking lecture series, and give some indication of the breadth of the influence of Mathematics in Society."

Inaugural computing award won by Manchester professor

Professor Jack Dongarra, from the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, has become the first person to win the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE) Medal of Excellence in Scalable Computing.

He joined the University last year after accepting a part-time Turing Fellowship in The Schools of Computer Science and Mathematics at Manchester. He has now received a medal and \$1,000 for his significant contributions to the scalable computing community and an outstanding record of high quality and high impact research.

Professor Dongarra is a world-leading researcher specialising in numerical algorithms in linear algebra, parallel computing, the use of advanced-computer architectures, programming methodology, and tools for parallel computers.

His research includes the development, testing and documentation of high quality mathematical software. He has contributed to the design and implementation of a number of open source software packages.

Italian Order of Merit for Two "Third Mission" Champions

Jane Davies, CEO of Manchester Science Park, and Clive Rowland, CEO of UMIP, have been awarded the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic for their contributions to developing relations between Manchester and Italian centres of innovation, and for assisting the progress of knowledge transfer in Italy, as well as broader support to Italian interests.

The Order, which is the highest level in the Italian civil award system, is rarely awarded to non-Italian nationals.

Jane, currently chair of the UK Science Park Association (UKSPA), has promoted Science Park expertise internationally. Her most recent visit to Italy was to speak at a seminar organised by Polo Tecnologico di Navacchio (Pisa), in co-operation with the Italian equivalent of UKSPA, APSTI.

Clive has assisted the Consulate in Manchester in developing its support to Italian universities and advisory organisations hoping to develop their technology transfer know-how. He has also supported the Italian cultural affairs activities in the North West for many years, especially social events.



Jane Davies (left) and Clive Rowland receive their awards

Clive said: "We are very honoured by our awards and hope to continue to support Italian organisations and initiatives and establish a good network for the mutual benefit of Manchester and Italy."

Secrets of Europe's earliest printed book revealed

Manchester's participation in an international project is helping to throw new light on how Europe's earliest printed book was produced.

Experts from Japan's Keio University used digital technology to examine the contents of the world-famous Gutenberg Bible, housed at The University of Manchester's John Rylands Library.

The Japanese team used specially-developed equipment to digitise the entire 550-year-old Bible. This will allow them to compare the Rylands copy with digital images of other Gutenbergs.

It is the first time the book has been examined in such fine detail.

The Gutenberg Bible was the first book to be printed using moveable metal type in Europe, in around 1455. This form of printing revolutionised book production, making it affordable to the masses in later centuries.

HUMI, the Humanities Media Interface Project, was launched at Keio University to construct a research environment via digital bibliography. Part of this project has been the digitisation of



The Keio University team with Manchester's Gutenberg Bible

Gutenberg bibles held in Japan, Germany and Britain.

Studies of the different copies have already revealed intriguing evidence of changes that were made to the Bible during the

course of printing, as errors were corrected on the press.

The digitised images will be available on the John Rylands Library website.



Modern icon invented 'on back of envelope'

Dr Yaakov Wise

Autobiographical notes written by the Lancashire inventor of the high speed diesel engine have been recovered from a garage in Manchester after lying forgotten for a quarter of a century.

University Historian Dr Yaakov Wise – who made the discovery – says the Charles Chapman manuscript gives a unique insight into the 1932 'world beater'. Dr Wise, who worked at the legendary Perkins Engines where Chapman was based, was given the document in 1983 – four years after the inventor died, aged 82 – but rediscovered it when clearing out a garage 25 years later.

Though an engineering genius, Chapman faced unemployment in the 1932 depression, after the company he and his collaborator Frank Perkins worked for went bust.

According to the manuscript, Perkins visited Chapman's home, where they spent a day discussing ideas and making rough sketches on the "back of an envelope". These sketches evolved into the system still used in lorries, buses, taxis, ambulances, fire engines and ships today.

Soon after, the pair started an engine business in a tiny back street workshop in Peterborough. The company ultimately became the world's largest diesel engine manufacturer, eventually taken over by giants Massey Ferguson and later Caterpillar.

Dr Wise, a Research Fellow at the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, said: "Frank Perkins and Charles Chapman could not have anticipated the amazing success of the company they started in a back street workshop.

"Perkins was an enterprising and flamboyant businessman, but Chapman was the opposite: a shy, engineering genius with a great idea, but no money.

"The manuscript offers a unique insight into the germination of their world beating idea which, incredibly, began life as a drawing on the back of an envelope.

"It also reveals that the pair made a pact that they would give up after two years if their enterprise failed to make money – luckily for the world it did not."

Japanese university seeks Manchester expertise

Professor Colin Webb from the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science (CEAS) has been appointed the first-ever foreign scientific advisor to the prestigious Kobe University, one of the top universities in Japan.

Professor Webb, who is considered an expert on biorefineries and biofuel production, recently travelled to the Far East to receive his official certificate of appointment to the Kobe University Academic Research Advisory Board.

The Board is made up of scholars based both within and outside of Japan who possess in-depth insight in various fields of academic research. They advise the Kobe University's President and Board of Directors on ways to improve academic and research activities at Kobe University by comparing the current status to that of international standards.

While at Kobe University, Professor Webb also attended the opening symposium of the International Center of Excellence for Biorefineries.

In brief



Manchester student named International Student of the Year

Stephanie Siew Jean Tiew, a 24-year-old medical student from Malaysia, has been named International Student of the Year 2008.

Stephanie claimed her title in the UK final of the prestigious competition last month. She was one of 12 regional winners who gathered in London to meet a final judging panel.

Garth Philippe and Deepa Ramduny, also University of Manchester students, were both named runners-up in the regional finals. Garth, from the Bahamas, is studying Law and Deepa is a Mauritian student studying Science and Neuroscience.

More than 1,500 students, representing 127 nationalities, entered the sixth annual International Student Awards – a major initiative from the British Council that aims to shine the spotlight firmly on international students and their contributions to life in the UK.

In a bid to take home total prize money of £3,000, students shared stories about their extra-curricular achievements that illustrate how they are making the most of their time in the UK. Each student was asked to write a personal 'letter home' in English, detailing the out-of-class achievements that help make their time in the UK so rewarding.

In addition to having a part-time job, Stephanie has won a Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) Student Prize. She has also participated in a regional debating tournament and been involved in "Save a Baby's Life Society".

Stephanie said: "I feel truly blessed to be the recipient of this prestigious award. I am grateful to the British Council for acknowledging what I have enjoyed doing as an undergraduate at the University of Manchester. This award has motivated me to continue to strive for the highest level of personal excellence in every area of my life."

Dr Tim Westlake, Director of Student Recruitment, Admissions and International Development at Manchester said: "Stephanie's achievements are outstanding and demonstrate the valuable contribution the international student community makes to the North West region. The University of Manchester is proud of the role international students play, both on campus and in the wider community."

In brief

Centre for New Writing springs into poetry

Centre for New Writing co-director John McAuliffe was joined by fellow Manchester-based poet Matt Welton for a Literature Live event last month.

John's poems described his University office on the day he arrived; the colourful, sometimes sombre elements of Manchester life; a 'UK in ruin' he admitted was largely imagined, and contrasting works depicting his home country, Ireland, using images of life in its undergrowth. Matt's readings included many memorised poems from his back catalogue and forthcoming book, as well as drafts of new works.

The UK's leading poetry magazine 'Poetry Review' also visited the Centre in April to launch its spring 'green issue'. Editor Fiona Sampson was joined by featured North West poets Michael Symmons Roberts, Michael Murphy and Sarah Corbett (Centre PhD student), who each read a selection of their work.

Literature Live events continue over summer with readings from some of the Centre's own published staff members, plus the next in its series of Martin Amis events on Literature and Religion (1 July).



John McAuliffe

www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting/events

Researchers encouraged in enterprise

An upcoming event, organised by Manchester Science Enterprise Centre (MSEC) and funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), aims to raise the profile of enterprise at the University.

Research to Enterprise invites researchers from all faculties, whether at postgraduate, postdoctoral or staff level, to be inspired to become more enterprising in whatever their future careers hold – be it academia, industry, or starting their own business.

The event, which takes place in Whitworth Hall on 17 June, 6-9pm, will be hosted by Manchester University graduate Maggie Philbin, who reported on life-changing technologies for eight years while presenting for BBC TV's Tomorrows World.

Further enterprising speakers from within and external to the University will share their interesting stories with the audience. For more information, contact Dr Robert A. Phillips, robert.phillips@manchester.ac.uk – or to book a place, contact Claire Gill, claire.gill@manchester.ac.uk

Rowing rivals get stuck in with pre-race acupuncture

Old rivals from The University of Manchester and Salford University rowing teams have received complementary therapies, including acupuncture, reflexology and aromatherapy massage, ahead of the Two Cities Boat Race on 10 May at Salford Quays.

Both teams in the historic race have turned to treatments at Salford University's Complementary and Alternative Therapy Clinic to ensure they are in top health for the tough day of competition.

Acupuncture practitioner Mae Xing said: "The rowers have received treatments to help them relax, as well as pain relief for aching muscles. The acupuncture will help them to become more focused on winning without becoming stressed or anxious."

Veronica Wood, President of Manchester University Rowing Club, said: "I have had acupuncture before and it really does work. It's not painful; in fact, it is really relaxing."

As last year's runners-up, Salford has more to prove. Captain of Salford University Women's Rowing team Hannah Cumming said: "It's great that we have been able to use such expert treatments; it has made me even more determined to win this year."

"Coming to the clinic is really relaxing," she continued. "Having acupuncture has helped



Veronica Wood, President of Manchester University Rowing Club, receives acupuncture treatments from Mae Xing

me as I pulled a muscle in my shoulder recently, and it now feels much better."

The two universities battle it out from 2.30pm on Saturday May 10, with dragon boat racing

from 10.30am for staff, students and the public.

Entry to the event is free and free programmes are available for everyone who comes along to support the teams.

University pays tribute to supporters of medical teaching

The selfless and public-spirited actions of those who have left their bodies to aid the teaching of future doctors in training was celebrated at a Service of Thanksgiving in Manchester.

Each year, The University of Manchester accepts around 40 human bodies for medical and scientific teaching and research in anatomy.

"The bodies we receive are mostly those of people from Manchester and surrounding areas who have indicated in writing, prior to their death, that they wish to donate their bodies for this purpose," said Alan Crossman, Professor of Anatomy.

"The bequeathals benefit the education of about 2,000 students each year – so the University intends to introduce an annual Service of Thanksgiving in remembrance of the individuals

who, in the previous academic year, have donated their bodies."

Similar commemoration events are held by other major medical schools, including those in London, where an annual service is held in Southwark Cathedral.

The first such annual Service of Thanksgiving in Manchester was held on 30 April, in the Holy Name Church, next to the University's Medical School on Oxford Road.

It was a non-denominational service, but clergy attending represented the spectrum of religious affiliations of the deceased, with senior representatives of the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Greek Orthodox Churches present. Senior representatives from the University and senior civic officials also attended.



Museum faces up to its slave trade past

A recent 'promenade' play held at Manchester Museum tackled head-on the difficult issue of the venue's links with the slave trade, as part of an Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project at the University.

The performance of 'This Accursed Thing' was a product of 'Performance, Learning and Heritage'; a project led by Senior Lecturer in Drama, Tony Jackson. It formed part of the 'Performing Heritage: Research and Practice' international conference, which took place at the University in April.

Museum visitors spent an hour moving around the building in the company of six characters connected with the slave trade,

played by two actors: a museum curator, anti-slavery campaigner Thomas Clarkson, African and British slave traders, escaped slave James Watkins and a Lancashire cotton worker.

The play was written by one of the actors, Andrew Ashmore, following his extensive research into the slave trade and Manchester Museum's collection. It was developed in partnership with the Museum as part of the venue's policy of exploring the hidden, sometimes contentious stories behind the collection with its visitors.

Tony Jackson said: "Parts of the Museum's collection were paid for by wealthy individuals who benefited from the slave trade. This performance was a history

behind a history; a chance for Manchester to acknowledge its slave trade links - but also to remember the proud contribution the city made to its abolition."

Pete Brown, Head of Learning and Interpretation at The Manchester Museum, said: "Challenging preconceptions about museums and their displays, this performance sent out a powerful message that live interpretation has a key part to play in presenting our own past."

The play was one of several performances that took place during the conference, reflecting part of the project's overall aim: to analyse how performance and drama activities in heritage locations might assist learning and interpretation.

In brief

Manchester Student Homes moves house

Manchester Student Homes (MSH) opened for business in Ladybarn House, Fallowfield, on 14 April.

MSH moved to the new premises at the junction of Moseley Road and Wilmslow Road from its previous home in the University Precinct Centre.

The student service, owned and managed by The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University, hopes to raise its profile of the organisation within the local community of Fallowfield, a residential area well known for its high concentration of students.

The new address is: Manchester Student Homes, Unit 1-3, Ladybarn House, Moseley Road, Fallowfield, Manchester, M14 6ND.



www.manchesterstudenthomes.com

Manchester University Press and Blackwell's team up

Manchester University Press (MUP) and Blackwell's Bookshop, Manchester, have announced a new partnership unique in the UK book business.

As part of its academic range expansion, and to support its local publisher, Blackwell will display one copy of every MUP book in print - from sixties language texts, to contemporary textbooks - in a dedicated area in Blackwell, as a miniature MUP shop.

New MUP books and textbooks will still be stocked in relevant places around the wider store.

Bookseller and publisher hope to enable browsers of the MUP website to order books directly from the Manchester Blackwell branch in the near future.

Government praise for pharmacy support

The University's Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has been recognised as a "centre of excellence" by the Government.

CPPE received the commendation in the recent white paper 'Pharmacy in England: building on strengths - delivering the future', based on its provision of clinical training and support for practising NHS pharmacists and pharmacy technicians throughout the country.

Dr Chris Cutts, Director of CPPE, said: "As a Government-funded initiative, we're delighted to secure Government praise for what we do. It gives us a firm footing and demonstrates that what we do is effective and worthwhile, especially given the support needs arising as a result of the way that NHS services are changing."

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Rock On! Beijing beckons for Mike

Manchester law student Mike Rock is heading to Beijing to represent Great Britain at this summer's Olympic Games.

The 20-year-old - who took a year off from his Law degree in a bid to make the squad - qualified at the recent British Championships in Sheffield, which doubled as the Olympic trials for Team GB.

Mike, who received a University Sports Scholarship to study at Manchester, will compete in the 100m and 200m butterfly events after a double gold medal winning display in Sheffield.

A delighted Mike said: "To see my dreams come true in something I've worked so hard for is unbelievable. I'm just so happy."

Mike trains with Stockport Metros under world-renowned coach Sean Kelly. To make the Olympic grade, Mike had to achieve the qualifying times in his heats and finish in the top two in the finals.

In the 100m, Mike set a new British record of 52.28 seconds.

The University's Director of Sport, Alison Odell CBE, said: "We are so proud that Mike has reached the standard required to join Team GB at the Beijing Games.

"He took a brave decision to take a year off from his studies, but the University has been happy to support him through the Sports Scholarship scheme, and we wish him every success at the Olympics this summer."



Study to boost the maternal bond

Clinical psychologists will study the mother-baby bond to see if healthy women have different levels of sensitivity towards their children than women with mental health problems, such as post-natal depression and schizophrenia.

Research indicates that impaired bonding and poor maternal sensitivity in early life can adversely affect a child's future psychological development. Mothers with post-natal depression might struggle to interact properly with their infant, while women experiencing schizophrenia may interact intrusively with their child and not react appropriately to their cues.

Dr Anja Wittkowski's team at the School of Psychological Sciences are launching the Mother-Infant Relationship and Mentalisation (MIRAM) study. Dr Wittkowski explained: "We are interested in how mothers with mental health problems understand and predict thought processes and intentions and want to see how this affects the mother-infant bonding relationship."

The team is currently recruiting healthy women and women with post-natal depression or schizophrenia from across the region. They will answer questions about themselves, their medical histories and their mother-child relationship, and comment on some pictures. They will also be videoed playing with their baby for five minutes.

This 30-minute process will be repeated three months later to see if there has been any improvement.

Dr Wittkowski, who also works at Wythenshawe Hospital's Mother and Baby Unit, said: "Women are often expected to take to motherhood like a duck to water, but this is not always the case.

"Participants will be able to keep the video of them and their child playing. And, if they are experiencing problems relating to their baby, I can use the video to provide feedback and advise them on how they can improve their situation."

To find out more, contact Anja Wittkowski: anja.wittkowski@manchester.ac.uk or 0161 306 0400.

Stem cells breakthrough offers diabetes hope

Scientists have discovered a new way to turn embryonic stem cells into insulin-producing pancreatic tissue; a discovery that could ultimately inform new treatments for diabetes.

The University of Manchester team, working with colleagues at the University of Sheffield, genetically manipulated the stem cells so that they produced a protein known as a 'transcription factor'.

Stem cells may become any type of cell, so scientists believe they may hold the key to treating diseases including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes. However, a major stumbling block to developing new treatments has been the difficulty scientists faced in ensuring the stem cells turn into the type of cell required – in the case of diabetes, pancreatic cells.

"Unprompted, most stem cells turn into simple nerve cells called neurons," explained Dr Karen Cosgrove, who led the team in Faculty of Life Sciences.

"Less than one per cent of embryonic stem cells would normally become insulin-producing pancreatic cells, so the challenge has been to find a way of producing much greater quantities of these cells."

The pancreas contains different types of specialised cells, including beta cells, which produce the hormone insulin that regulates blood glucose levels. Insufficient insulin results in diabetes.

The team found that the transcription factor PAX4 encouraged one in five embryonic stem cells to become pancreatic beta cells, with the potential to produce insulin when transplanted into the body.

Furthermore, the scientists for the first time separated the new beta cells from other types of cell produced, using a technique called 'fluorescent-activated cell sorting'. This uses a special dye to colour the pancreatic cells green.

Scientists believe that transplanting such cells into patients offers the best hope for finding a cure for type-1 diabetes and helping those with type-2 diabetes, whose condition requires insulin injections.

The research, funded by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the Medical Research Council, is published in the journal *Public Library of Science (PLOS) One*.

Scientists uncover potential to control Adult Stem Cells

New University research represents a vital step towards the use of Adult Stem Cells (ASCs) to repair damaged tissue.

Speaking at the UK National Stem Cell Network Annual Science Meeting in Edinburgh last month, Professor Cay Kielty from the Faculty of Life Sciences described how her team have uncovered a messaging system that instructs ASCs to contribute to tissue repair in response to chemical signals in the body.

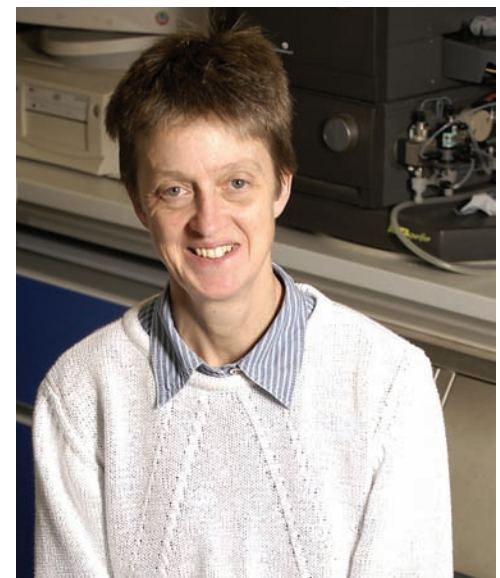
Funded by the Medical Research Council, the work holds hope that techniques could be developed to instruct ASCs to repair damaged tissues.

The potential therapeutic use of ASCs avoids many of the ethical issues associated with embryonic stem cells. However, better understanding is needed of how ASCs can be controlled, which may aid the generation of cells for transplant in the future.

Professor Kielty's team studies stem cells in human bone marrow called mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs). These have the ability to relocate and develop into several different types of cells and tissue, and are very promising as a source of cells for transplant in tissue repair.

With potential for 'bespoke' treatments derived from a person's own cells, MSCs are unlikely to trigger a severe immune response.

As well as offering insights into the use of ASCs for such therapies, a better knowledge of how blood vessels develop is crucial to understanding and treating a huge range of diseases, such as cancer, diabetic retinopathy and cardiovascular disease.



Professor Cay Kielty

Professor Kielty said: "We have shown that adult stem cells respond in particular ways to some of the chemical signals in the body. The next stage will be to understand how this messaging system regulates relocation of the MSCs and instructs them to become blood vessel cells.

"After that, we can look at applying our understanding to develop stem-cell derived therapies for tissue repair."

Pioneer test tube baby professor opens new laboratory

Professor Robert Edwards, the internationally renowned test tube baby pioneer, opened the new laboratories of the North West Embryonic Stem Cell Centre (NWESCC) based at St Mary's Hospital and the University.

Professor Edwards was in Manchester to address a conference on '30 years of IVF', organised by the Association of Clinical Embryologists to celebrate the birth of the first test tube baby Louise Brown in 1978 at Oldham General Hospital.

Dr Daniel Brison, the conference organiser and Co-Director of NWESCC, said: "These new laboratories provide world-class facilities for embryology and stem cell derivation and are one of only a few to be established in the UK with funding from the Medical Research Council."

Co-director Dr Sue Kimber, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, added: "The centre's laboratories are some of the best equipped in the country and we were delighted that such an eminent figure as Professor Edwards agreed to officially open them."

The laboratories, located on two sites in St Mary's Hospital and the Core Technology Facility on Grafton Street, were designed to meet the EU Cells and Tissues Directive 2007 and provide Good Manufacturing Practice conditions for IVF treatment and for the derivation of clinical grade human embryonic stem cell lines.

The centre is one of only six IVF centres in the UK



NWESCC Co-Directors Dr Daniel Brison and Dr Sue Kimber

funded by MRC to reach these quality standards.

Work at the centre is funded by grants from the MRC and the North West Development Agency as

part of NWESCC, in collaboration with the Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust.

Early parents didn't stand for weighty kids

Scientists investigating why early humans began walking upright say it's unlikely that the need to carry children was a factor, as has previously been suggested.

Carrying babies – who could not use their feet to cling to their parents in the way that young apes can – has long been considered as one possible explanation as to why humans became bipedal.

But University of Manchester researchers investigating the energy involved in carrying a child say the physical expense to the mother does not support the idea that walking upright was an evolutionary response to transporting children.

"Scientists have long hypothesised as why hominins became bipedal in a relatively short space of time, but we still don't

know for sure," said Dr Jo Watson, who carried out the research in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"One of the more popular explanations is that walking upright freed our forelimbs, allowing us to carry objects, including children. Apes don't need to carry their young, who can grip using both hands and feet.

"Our study focused on the energy required to carry 10kg loads, including a mannequin child. Importantly, the distribution of the weight varied in each instance."

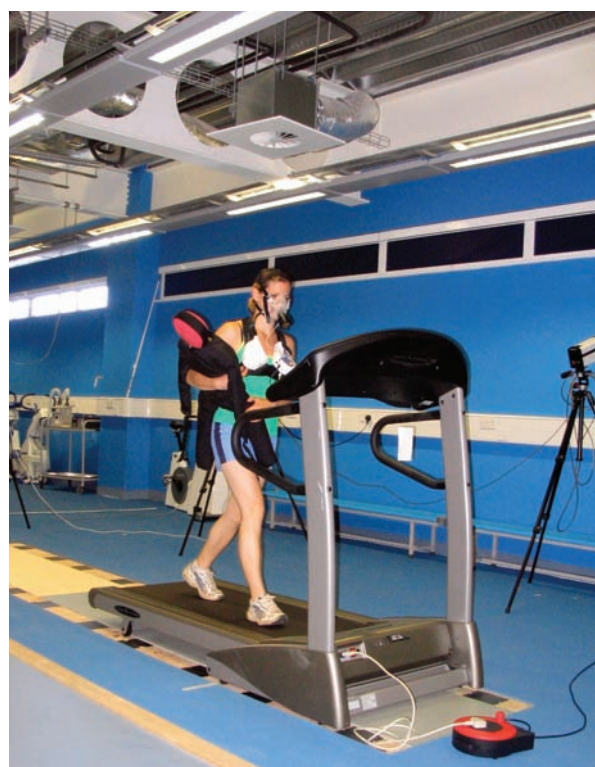
The team monitored the oxygen consumption of seven healthy women under the age of 30 carrying either a symmetric load (a weighted vest or 5kg dumbbell in each hand), or an asymmetric load (a single 10kg weight carried in one hand, or a mannequin

infant on one hip).

"Carrying an awkward asymmetric load, such as the infant, on one side of the body is the most energetically expensive way of transporting the weight," said Dr Watson, whose research is published in the *Journal of Human Evolution*.

"Unless infant carrying resulted in significant benefits elsewhere, the high cost of carrying an asymmetrical weight suggests that infant carrying was unlikely to have been the evolutionary driving force behind bipedalism."

The study, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is part of a larger project, run by Dr Bill Sellers, which uses computer simulations to understand evolutionary processes, particularly the way in which we and other animals move.



Scientists measure energy expended in carrying different loads

‘Horse tranquilliser’ may stop depression

Researchers have shown exactly where ketamine may help depression, with images that show the part of the brain that is overactive in depression being ‘switched off’.

Ketamine, an anaesthetic popular with doctors on the battlefield and with vets – because it allows a degree of awareness without pain – is a new hope for the treatment of depression.

Minute-by-minute images produced by Professor Bill Deakin and his team at the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences show how the drug achieves this in an unexpected way.

The drug immediately deactivated the orbitofrontal cortex – located above the eyes, in the centre – which is thought to give rise to highly emotional thoughts, such as guilt and feelings of worthlessness, and causes reactions in body parts, such as a churning stomach and a racing heart.

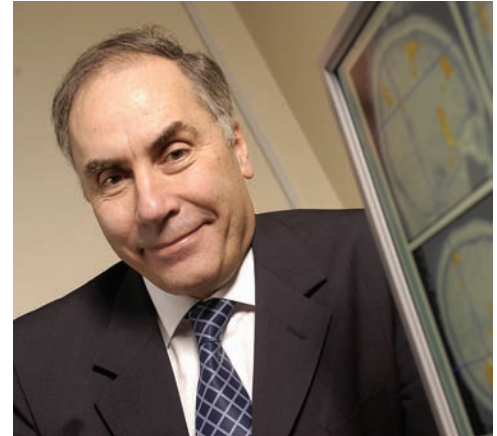
Professor Deakin said: “We were surprised at the results. We expected to see ketamine work on the parts that control psychosis, at the sides of

the brain. There was some activity there, but more striking was the switching off of the depression centre.”

The study, published in the Archives of General Psychiatry journal, sought to identify the sites of action of ketamine, but also found the release of glutamate turned was important in ketamine’s effects. This could point to new, quick treatments to get people out of severe or long-standing depression.

The team at the University’s Neuroscience and Psychiatry Unit (NPU) and Imaging Science and Biomedical Engineering (ISBE) gave intravenous ketamine to 33 healthy male, right-handed volunteers at the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility (WTCRF).

Professor Deakin is now funded to develop this approach to treatment in psychiatric patients in the new £35 million Biomedical Research Centre recently awarded to Central Manchester and Manchester Children’s NHS Trust.



Professor Bill Deakin

He said: “The study results have given us a completely novel way of treating depression and a new avenue of understanding depression.”

Research spotlight

Nile study could throw light on global climate change

A team of international experts is investigating environmental change in the Nile River basin over the last 30,000 years and its relationship to global climate change, in a three-year study involving the University.

The “geoarchaeological” part of the project aims to show how, why and when ancient channels of the Nile dried out in Northern Sudan, providing crucial information on landscape and environmental change, which is needed to fully understand the rich archaeological record of human activity in the area.

Findings could be used to predict how river systems in the future may react to global climate changes and the implications for humans.

Dr Jamie Woodward, Reader in Physical Geography at the University, spent two weeks in Northern Sudan in January, working in a spectacular desert landscape in the Nile Valley with a team of archaeologists from the British Museum (BM).

The BM team is currently excavating a site called Kawa - a New Kingdom town and palace built by Tutankhamen on the bank of the present Nile.



Dr Jamie Woodward with local farmers who irrigate fields on the margins of ancient Nile channels in the Nubian desert. Their groundwater pump pits provide valuable exposures in the ancient Nile deposits

Jamie said: “This is a very dynamic river that has responded in a sensitive way, throughout its history, to global climate change. The Nile is probably the best natural laboratory on Earth to study the long-term interactions between global change, large river dynamics and human activity.”

The project also involves researchers from Adelaide, Bergen and Aberystwyth. Work is being funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Australian Research Council’s prestigious Discovery Project awards.

The work in Northern Sudan is doubly important as the recent completion of a huge dam at Merowe will enable extensive irrigation projects across the valley floor close to Kawa, destroying many archaeological sites and key reaches of the old Nile channels.

Jamie said: “One only has to visit the Manchester Museum to see that there is a long history of research at this University into the people of the Nile Valley.

“This new phase of research involves the application of geoscientific methods and ideas to archaeological questions, providing valuable new insights into how people interacted with the changing environments of the recent past.”

Dr Woodward recently became the editor of the international journal Geoarchaeology, bringing the editorial office to Manchester and outside the United States for the first time in the journal’s 22-year history.

Scaling the heights in the lab – and the great outdoors



L-R: Joanne Barnes, Kate McAllister, Kathryn Leverett (arc representative), Simon Yarwood (Annie's boyfriend), Paul Gilbert, Edward Flynn, Catriona McWhirter, Annie McClure

Six young scientists, who are helping to identify the genes behind rheumatoid arthritis, scaled Yorkshire's Three Peaks to raise money for their funding body, the Arthritis Research Campaign (arc).

The researchers – organiser Kate McAllister, Eddy Flynn, Paul Gilbert, Annie McClure, Jo Barnes and Catriona McWhirter – are part of Professor Jane Worthington's team at the University's arc Epidemiology Unit, which has identified the genetic variant in a region on chromosome 6 that is associated with rheumatoid arthritis.

The team aims to identify all the genes behind the disease as part of the largest-ever study of the genetics behind common diseases, the £9 million Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium (WTCCC).

Rheumatoid arthritis is the most common inflammatory arthritis, affecting 387,000 people in the UK. The chronic inflammatory disease can affect nearly all joints in the body and result in complications such as lung disease.

Patients are also more likely to die from cardiovascular disease and some cancers. Some people respond well to treatment, but most suffer a lifetime of disability.

Kate McAllister said: "I organised this as a team-building exercise and to raise funds for the Arthritis Research Campaign (arc), without whom we could not be doing this research. We enjoy our research; it's a long-haul job, but the results will make a huge difference to patients' lives one day.

"It went really well; we all found it pretty tough, though, and we were still felling the pain a few days later!"

The team walked 26 miles and climbed over 1,600 metres in 10 hours and 59 minutes. They raised £1,500 in total.



Professor Colin Stirling

Outlining the future for Teaching and Learning

The University's aim to provide excellence in teaching and learning, as set out in Goal Four of the Towards Manchester 2015, has received new momentum with the recent appointment of Professor Colin Stirling to the position of Vice-President for Teaching and Learning.

A key part of his new role will be to implement the recommendations of a comprehensive review of undergraduate teaching and learning currently taking place across the institution.

Professor Stirling's appointment builds on the achievements of his predecessor, Professor Bob Munn, who put into place a Quality Assurance Framework and a series of policies, procedures and regulations under which the University now operates.

The University merger created many challenges in teaching and learning, not least the fusion of two very different administrative systems. Other external factors have added their own challenges, including the marked increase in student numbers over the past 20 years and the shift towards a fee-paying system.

Speaking on the challenges that lie ahead for T&L, Professor Stirling said: "The growth in higher education should be welcomed as a vital investment in the knowledge economy. However, other factors – not least the chronic and pernicious under-funding of the sector – make it simply impossible for universities to rest on their laurels.

"It is for this reason that the President has initiated a major review of our undergraduate

provision. This is not some cost-cutting exercise, quite the contrary; the single goal is to improve the Manchester student experience. Only by doing so can we hope to reach the world-leading aspirations of the 2015 Agenda."

In terms of where the review process stands at the moment, a number of preliminary recommendations have already been made – but, as the review gathers momentum, several key themes are emerging.

Professor Stirling explained: "Firstly, we must carefully consider the underlying purpose of a University of Manchester education; revising our curricula, where necessary, to meet the needs of the 21st-century graduate.

"Secondly, we must respond to changing student demographics by providing a more personalised learning experience. This will take many forms, but must surely include more opportunities for our students to engage directly with staff.

"Finally, through the judicious use of modern eLearning technologies, we aim to provide a further dimension of interactive learning materials designed to enrich the learning experience.

"None of this will be cheap and none of it will be easy. It will require the continuing best efforts of all staff, plus the support and advice of students – but the prize is simply too great to ignore."

Professor Colin Stirling has taken on his new position with effect from 1 April, following a brief period as Associate Vice-President for eLearning – a brief which will be included in his new role.



Adisa's Advance

Having survived the dangers and deprivations of war-torn Bosnia, Adisa Azapagic has happily gone on to carve out an outstanding academic career. She is now the only Professor of Sustainable Chemical Engineering in the UK - and there aren't many in the rest of the world, either.

To meet her and enjoy her lively company, her constant laughter and ready sense of humour, you would never guess at her life-threatening experiences as a young woman, or her seriousness of purpose.

It is ironic that her steadfast purpose since before the outbreak of that war in 1992 has been to lead the way not only in promoting the sustainability of our environment, but also in developing practical technologies for industry to make it more achievable.

It is perhaps a bit much to talk of saving the planet, but not to acknowledge Adisa's mission to try to make a significant contribution to that end. And, since "charity begins at home", she applies it here and now, urging the University to do more; to have a greener curriculum, to put ever-greater effort into supporting research and to raise its profile in promoting sustainability.

"It isn't just my hobby horse," she says. "It is most important and we all need to do more. Fortunately, there has been a dramatic change in awareness and attitudes over the past ten years. At one time, I had to explain what the words meant and it was difficult to persuade industry to take notice. Some of them thought we were just tree-huggers. Then, I had to go to them to try to get funding for research. Now, they come to me. But we still have a long way to go."

The current £8.5 million of funding for research projects she is leading reflects industry's and research councils' recognition of the value of her work - and that figure does not include the many collaborative projects she is involved in. Her publications number more than 150 books, chapters in books, papers and articles. Two of the recent books she has co-authored are 'Sustainable Development in Practice: Case Studies for Engineers and Scientists', and 'Polymers, the Environment and Sustainable Development'.

Adisa's enthusiasm for her subject is infectious. Her special interest in matters environmental started in her undergraduate days - and, even before that, she somehow always knew that she wanted to be an engineer.

She was born and brought up by a single mother in a working class area of Tuzla in north-east

Bosnia. "At school, I was an all-rounder; but science seemed very natural to me and I was particularly good at maths and physics," she explains. She was always top of the class.

Attending the local university, as was the custom, she chose to do Chemical Engineering, although she nearly chose Mining Engineering, which also interested her. "Just think, I might well have been a miner," she jokes. Adisa was such a star in her class that she was awarded a Lectureship when she graduated - again top of the class - in 1984. Here, she began to specialise in the environment, particularly in clean-up technologies to reduce pollution from industrial waste. Later, she also took on the preventative task of doing something about the industrial processes themselves.

So, Adisa was early in the field. When it came to doing her MSc in Environmental Engineering, she chose the university with the strongest department she knew - Veszpren in Hungary. It was her first venture into the wider international network and she developed links with other universities.

She won a Fulbright to go to the US, but didn't take it up because her mother (who has since died) was ill. In 1992, she was awarded a Senior Fellowship by the British Council to come to the UK; however, the war came just a month later, so she couldn't get out. Instead, like everybody else, she and her husband, Slobodan Perdan (one of her



current co-authors), suffered the trials of war, including not only physical danger, but also lack of water, power, heat, even food.

Often, as they walked to the university, she recalls, shells flew noisily overhead and landed with fatal effect only metres away. "It's surprising how resilient you can be and how much you adjust to doing without the things you normally take for granted," she says. "When those things are taken away, you can either give in or carry on – but you discover for yourself the human capacity for sheer survival. We kept up a level of normality, going to work at the university every day, as usual."

Finally, after a six-month delay, she was able to get out and come to Leeds, although Slobodan had to wait two years before he could join her. She spent a productive year working on a British Council-ICI project, before moving to Surrey on a doctoral scholarship.

She stayed at Surrey for 13 years. By the time she left, she had become a Professor and built up a 20-strong, highly-rated and well-funded research group. But she felt it was time to move on and the opportunity arose in 2006 to come to Manchester.

"It was a very positive move at the right time," she says. "The place was buzzing with excitement here and there was great potential in my field." Indeed, there was – and is.

She brought some of her team from Surrey and is building another large research group. Now she is Deputy Head of the School, the largest Chemical Engineering unit in the country with 55 academics, and increasingly popular with doctoral students and undergraduates.

She and Slobodan also enjoy life in Manchester – "a big change from Guildford". They live in the city centre and enjoy having all the amenities for music and theatre and dining out on their doorstep – "when we get time," she says.

Perhaps it would be unfair to describe her as a workaholic, but she rarely has a day off, even at weekends. Inevitably, she is in demand nationally and internationally, serving on leading bodies and editorial boards. She is, for instance, Member of the EPSRC Strategic Advisory Committee for Energy.

Her current research includes projects with huge implications, such as "A Life Cycle Approach to Estimating Carbon Footprints of Industrial Activities (funded by the Carbon Trust, EPSRC and NERC).

In short, she's a busy lady. Yet, she sums up her mission in a sentence: "My job is to help to make industrial systems environmentally benign, socially beneficial and economically viable." And that's all there is to it.

Name

Professor Adisa Azapagic

Position

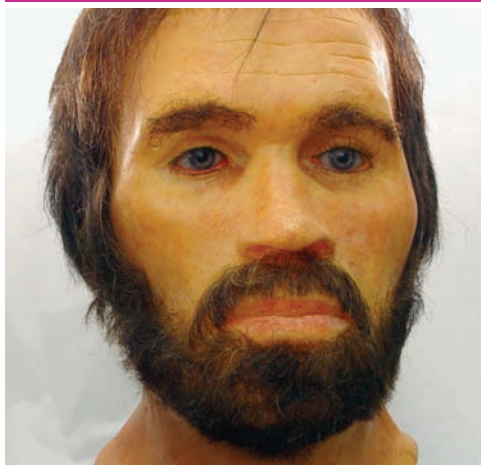
Deputy Head of School & Head of Research in the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science

Education

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1997 | PhD in Environmental Systems Analysis, University of Surrey, UK |
| 1988 | MSc in Environmental Chemical Engineering, University of Tuzla, Bosnia |
| 1984 | Dipl-Ing in Environmental Chemical Engineering, University of Tuzla, Bosnia |

Career

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Present | Professor of Sustainable Chemical Engineering, The University of Manchester |
| 2004-2006 | Professor of Sustainable Chemical Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Surrey |
| 2000-2004 | Reader, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Surrey |
| 1996-2000 | Lecturer, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Surrey |
| 1992-1993 | British Council Senior Research Fellow, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Leeds |
| 1988-1993 | Senior Teaching and Research Assistant, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Tuzla (Bosnia) |
| 1985-1988 | Teaching and Research Assistant, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Tuzla (Bosnia) |



Lindow Man facial reconstruction

Lindow Man mystery lives on at the Museum

A much-anticipated exhibition, focusing on the facts and mysteries surrounding the discovery of a preserved body in a Cheshire peat bog 24 years ago, opened at Manchester Museum in April.

The preserved body of "Lindow Man", found in a peat bog at Lindow Moss in 1984, raised many questions. The man at the centre of the story remains a mystery, despite the efforts of curators, archaeologists, historians and forensic scientists.

'Lindow Man: A bog body mystery' looks at different angles of the discovery through the voices of seven people. Stories include those of a peat digger, forensic archaeologist, museum curator and Druid priest, amongst others.

Their personal experiences provide an insight into the impact Lindow Man had on their lives.

Bryan Stith, Head of Human Cultures at Manchester Museum, said: "There are few moments in life when you can look into the face of someone who is 2,000 years old and ask questions about them. This exhibition offers us a unique opportunity to do just that.

"We have used many objects to illustrate Lindow Man's story. Some of them have obvious links; others are more surprising. Each of them shows us what he means to people today."

Lindow Man and other selected objects of the exhibition are on loan from the British Museum as part of its Partnership UK Scheme. The exhibition has received support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Wellcome Trust, Renaissance in the Regions, The Foyle Foundation and the Dorset Foundation.

Lindow Man: A bog body mystery' will run at Manchester Museum until April 2009.



Children from Birchfields Primary School, Fallowfield, and their contribution to the Neverland exhibition.

Every child is an artist...

At least that's what Pablo Picasso thought. Now visitors to The Whitworth Art Gallery can decide for themselves, via a new summer exhibition focusing on children as creators of and inspiration for art.

'Neverland: Rediscovering Child Art?' is the first in a new series of biennial family exhibitions at the Whitworth, complemented by a series of quirky, free family events for summer 2008.

Neverland explores the nature of creativity and imagination, placing internationally significant

modern art alongside opportunities for children - and their grown-ups of all ages - to make their own individual contributions.

The exhibition looks at child art through the eyes of artists, teachers, parents and children over the past century. Its family programme includes workshops and tours devised by children - the 'Neverlanders' - for children and their families.

Dr Maria Balshaw, Director of The Whitworth Art Gallery, said: "As a university art gallery, we

want to be asking interesting questions about what contemporary art means - and we want to do it in a playful way for adults and children.

"Neverland: Rediscovering Child Art? will have an exciting public programme of events for families throughout the summer, and we're looking forward to welcoming university staff, their families and wider communities to the Whitworth."

Neverland runs at The Whitworth Art Gallery between 24 May and 17 August.

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

Chinese ambassador pays visit

Her Excellency Madam Fu Ying, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Kingdom, visited the University last month, accompanied by Mr Gong Jianzhong, Consul General.

While on campus, she visited the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and held discussions on urban regeneration with staff and PhD students of the School of Environment and Development and the City Council.

The Ambassador's visit was an opportunity to highlight the University's strengths and demonstrate various forms of engagement with China, including strategic partnerships with Fudan University and Tsinghua University and the DIUS China Summer and Easter Schools.

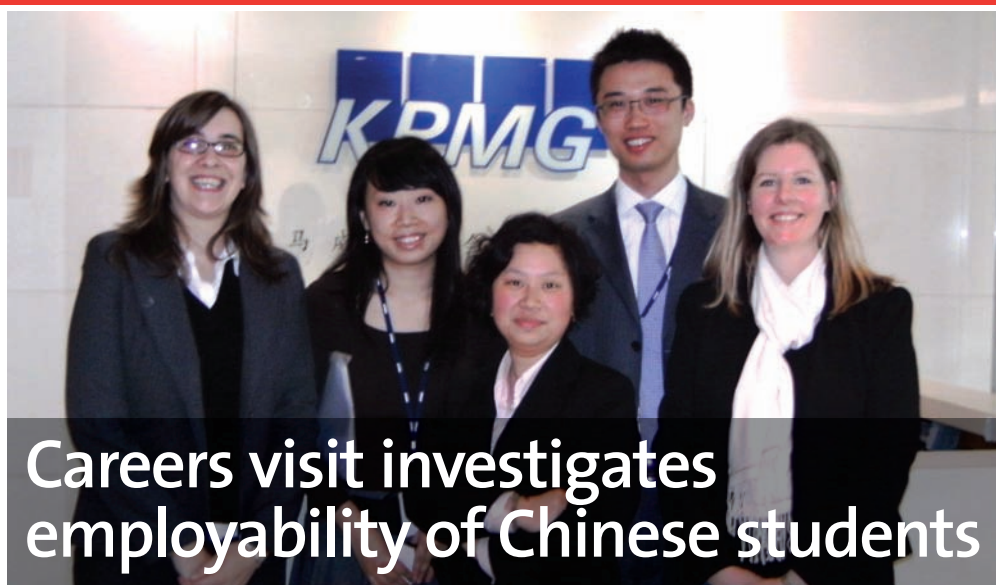
The visit was organised by the International Development Division.



L-R: Professor Hong Liu, Mr Gong, Madame Fu Ying, Professor John Perkins, Professor Steve Williamson, Dr Tim Westlake



www.manchester.ac.uk/museum



Careers visit investigates employability of Chinese students

Tracey Campbell-Monks (left) and Amanda Wood (right) with the KPMG Graduate Recruitment Team in Shanghai

Representatives from the MLP, Careers and Employability Division recently visited China as part of the University's ongoing effort to improve the employability of its large cohort of Chinese students.

Amanda Wood, Head of International Career Development, and Tracey Campbell-Monks, Employer Liaison Executive, visited Shanghai and Beijing in March to meet with employers, alumni and university careers services and learn first-hand about the Chinese graduate market, while helping to raise the profile of the University among major recruiters.

Amanda Wood said: "Although the style of UK higher education, with its focus upon independent thought, problem-solving and group study, is attractive to firms in China, many recruiters were very clear that a degree from the UK is not an automatic passport to top jobs.

"Rather, proactively immersing oneself in British culture, developing English language ability, gaining an exposure to the commercial world and developing an understanding of one's own strengths and career ambitions are factors that are important to recruiters.

"By participating in such activities, Manchester's Chinese graduates may enjoy accelerated career progression as they put into practice the new skills, experience and ways of working that they have developed whilst studying in the UK."

During the two weeks, over 25 meetings were held with graduate employers, including AstraZeneca, Linklaters, KPMG, and Knight Frank, as well as visits to careers services at Tsinghua and Peking universities. Events also brought together groups of Manchester alumni in Beijing and Shanghai.

Ian Crawford, Manchester Alumnus and Executive Director of the British Chamber of Commerce Shanghai said: "Foreign companies recruiting from the top universities will broadly take a student's knowledge of their degree subject as a given and expect that Chinese students are hard-working, disciplined and loyal.

"What really matters to today's employers are qualities such as a desire for lifelong learning and an inquisitive approach to all opportunities.

"The ability to work in small teams, put forward new ideas, set realistic but stretching targets, and overcome difficulties, are qualities that employers can find difficult to uncover amongst the Chinese graduate population. Helping students to develop and practise these skills is the real challenge."

Amanda said: "Our strategy is to work with colleagues across the University in order to encourage Chinese and other international students to make maximum use of employability opportunities during their time with us; to engage with our culture, and take every opportunity to develop their language skills and global awareness.

"Careers initiatives such as the annual Chinese Graduate Fair, International Talent, which provides placements and projects in local businesses, and the Manchester Leadership Programme, which combines a taught unit with 60 hours of community volunteering work, may help our international students network with recruiters and gain the skills and experience they need to secure graduate employment in locations across the globe."

To find out more, contact Amanda Wood on 0161 275 2828 / amanda.wood@manchester.ac.uk

Manchester students win award for Chinese celebration

An all-female team of Manchester Business School (MBS) students recently won a grant from an international law firm to take part in the national China Now festival, the largest-ever festival of Chinese culture in the UK.

Postgraduates Joanne Zhu, Yanjie Zhao and Murong Lu, who all take the MBS Global Business Analysis course, secured one of just four available £5,000 grants from Norton Rose.

The students used the money to host the "OnedayinChina" event on 23 April at the Whitworth Hall. Run entirely by volunteers, the event highlighted diverse aspects of Chinese culture, from traditional arts and crafts to the upcoming 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Joanne Zhu said: "It has been a really valuable experience to manage a large event in a foreign country, especially when it is aimed at promoting the Chinese culture, which we are so proud of."

Joanne found out about the competition via the MLP, Careers & Employability Division, while assisting in their ongoing project to research the Chinese graduate recruitment market.

www.chinanow.org.uk



What's On

Contact Theatre

David Hoyle: Transparent

Mon 12 May to Sat 24 May TBC, Free

David Hoyle will work in collaboration with a team of young people to create a unique installation in the foyer of contact during Queer Up North. Transparent is, quite literally, a hothouse of avoidance. Enter David's greenhouse - traditionally, the place that men go to avoid their families - and see materials collected from young people around the theme of avoidance. What do you avoid - and why?

May Queen: a vernal She-Quinox

Fri 23 May to Sat 24 May 8.30pm, £12 / £9

As one half of celebrated duo Kiki and Herb and star of Shortbus, Justin Bond is one of the world's great queer performers. A starry cast of maverick talent revolves around Justin for two performances of gender-bending music, monologue dance and art. Featuring a special appearance from ukele-strumming satirist Taylor Mac, a hit at Queer Up North in 2007, and a guest appearance from rising star of the London performance scene Jonny Woo and Manchester's own David Hoyle.

Augusten Burroughs

Sat 24 May 4.30pm, £7

International hit Running With Scissors turned Augusten Burroughs into one of America's star authors: now he's back with A Wolf at the Table, telling the story of his relationship with his tormented father in a memoir that's harrowing and insightful, yet - as ever with Burroughs - quirkily hilarious. A rare opportunity to meet the author acclaimed as "one of America's funniest people".

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

Music and Drama at Manchester

Quatuor Danel

Thurs 8 May 2008, 1.10pm, Free

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Haydn Quartet in E flat, Op.76 No.6

Weinberg Quartet in D flat No.15, Op.124 - UK première

Quatuor Danel Seminar

Thurs 8 May 2008, 2.15pm, Free

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Postgraduate Composers' Seminar

Seminar presenting works by postgraduates from The University of Manchester.

Quatuor Danel Friday Series

Fri 9 May 2008, 7pm, £15/£12/Student Special /Flexible 5

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Beethoven Quartet in F minor, Op.95 ('serioso')

Jean-Luc

Fat-champs Chant magnétique (1992-93)

Luc Brewaeys Nobody is Perfect! (1996)

Schumann Piano Quintet in E flat

David Fanning Piano

BBC Philharmonic Chamber Concert

Weds 7 May, 7pm. £5/£3/£2.50

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Gianandrea Noseda, Chief Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic introduces players from the Orchestra in the next of a continuing series of chamber concerts.

The programme will be Mendelssohn's String Octet and Shostakovich's Two Pieces for String Octet, Op. 11, Prelude and Scherzo

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

International Society

SPRING TRIPS

Saturday 10 May

Lake District visiting Aira Force Waterfall and Ambleside

Sunday 11 May

Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby

Saturday 17 May

Oxford (with guided tour)

Sunday 18 May

Ingleton Waterfalls Walk and White Scar Caves

Saturday 24 May

North Wales visiting Conwy Castle and Llandudno

Sunday 25 May

Trentham Monkey Forest and Little Moreton Hall

Saturday 31 May

Alton Towers Theme Park

Saturday 31 May to Sunday 1st June

Overnight Trip to Edinburgh (with guided tour)

Sunday 1 June

Holker Hall, Haverthwaite Railway and Lake Windermere

Saturday 7 June

York

Sunday 8 June

Peak District visiting Matlock Bath and the Heights of Abraham

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

12.15pm 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: 12.15pm 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



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 just 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 12.15pm

Enjoy a closer look at selected items from the Library's outstanding collections and find out more about the building every Thursday lunchtime.

EXHIBITIONS AND 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 and marks the centenary of her death in 1908. Born in Cuba, she travelled widely as a child before settling in England in the 1860s. She became the third wife of John Rylands and inherited the bulk of his estate when he died. She built the Library in his memory. Aspects of her extraordinary life are illuminated by stories discovered in the Library's archive.

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 (1857-1903) was a late Victorian novelist whose works depicted the harsh realities of Victorian working class life and dealt with important issues of his day, such as science and religion, and the emancipation of women.

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

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 Devass Street

0161 275 3275

www.manchester.ac.uk/continuingeducation



The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

CityVisions Until August 2008

This exhibition looks at how artists have represented the experience of urban living in the last 150 years.

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

In the early 20th century the influence of Modernism encouraged a move away from highly patterned 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.

Anne Desmet: Urban Evolution

12 April – September 2008

Urban Evolution features work made by Desmet in the last 10 years, including images based on the deterioration and regeneration of Manchester's Victoria Baths.

Neverland: Rediscovering Child Art 24 May – August 2008

Neverland explores the visual inventiveness and spontaneity of children's drawings and looks at how artists like Picasso, Klee and Miro have collected children's drawings and been inspired by their creativity.

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENTS

Colourful Sundays

Every Sunday 1.30 – 3.30pm, Free no need to book
Every Sunday is Colourful Sunday. Join friends, family and artists for our popular Sunday drop-in creative workshops. There are new exciting arty activities to take part in every week, which explore creative techniques from drawing to creating your own punk peg dolls and robot head masks! Suitable for all ages.

Toddlerastic Art Adventures!

Workshops, every second Monday of the month, 10.30 – 11.30am. Free, please book on 0161 275 7450
Come and enjoy a story adventure around the gallery while creating your own mini masterpiece! Especially for those budding artists under five.

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 Gallery

Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 7450

email whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

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

John Thaw Studio Theatre, 6.30pm, 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



The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- **Lindow Man: A bog body mystery**

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

May half-term holiday activities

Tuesday 27 – Friday 30 May

Join in activities throughout the week related to Lindow Man: A bog body mystery and fossils. Find out more at: www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Magic Carpet: Little Celts

Friday 30 May, 1-2pm

Be transported back to ancient Britain with stories and activities. Book on 0161 275 2648, £1, Under 5s.

TALKS AND TOURS

Showcase seminar: Applying sacrificial theory to Lindow Man

Wednesday 7 May, 3-5pm

Bryan Stith, Curator of Archaeology, explains his personal theory about Lindow Man. Drop-in, free

Ideas Café: Forensic Geology

Monday 12 May, 6.30-8pm

How do geologists help police solve crimes and explore archaeological mysteries? Book, free

Should we display the dead?

Tuesday 13 May, 7-9pm

Should museums display human remains and if so, why and how? Join in this debate led by The Manchester Museum at the Museum of Science and Industry. Book at www.mosi.org.uk

Museum Nights: Late night Lindow

Friday 16 May, 6-8pm

Join in this celebration evening. Take part in a flash fiction creative writing challenge and storytelling for grown-ups! Drop-in, free

The Manchester Museum Day School

The Two Brothers: researching and displaying Egyptian mummies

Saturday 17 May

Join speakers: Professor Rosalie David, Professor Piotr Bienkowski, Dr Karen Exell, Dr Steven Snape, Glenn Godinho and Claire Malleson. Tickets: £30 (limited student places £15). Book on 0161 275 2643 or museum@manchester.ac.uk

The Yellow Wallpaper

Thursday 28 & Friday 29 May, 6-8pm

An adaptation of the literary classic The Yellow Wallpaper set in the atmospheric rooms of the Herbarium. Book on yellow_wallpaper@live.com £5

Opening hours

Open: Tuesdays-Saturdays 10am – 5pm

Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11am – 4pm

FREE Admission

The Manchester Museum

Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 2634

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Burlington Society

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

Burlington Rooms, Schunck Building

Burlington Street (next to JRUL)

0161 275 2392

www.burlington.man.ac.uk



Gig Guide

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Vampire Weekend

Thu 8 May

Twisted Wheel

Fri 9 May

Pendulum

Fri 9 May

Jimi Jamison

Fri 9 May

The Orb

Sun 11 May

Magnum

Sun 11 May

The Waifs

Mon 12 May

One Night Only

Tue 13 May

Asa

Tue 13 May

Willard Grant Conspiracy

Wed 14 May

Joe Lean & The Jing Jang Jong

Thu 15 May

The Quireboys, Dan Baird and Homemade Sin

Fri 16 May

The Music

Fri 16 May

Robben Ford

Sun 18 May

Little Man Tate

Mon 19 May

Jens Lekman

Mon 19 May

Scout Niblett

Tue 20 May

MGMT

Tue 20 May

Crystal Castles

Tue 20 May

Sonic Boom Six + Dig D

Wed 21 May

& The Kids Table

Wed 21 May

The Black Keys

Thu 22 May

Story Of The Year

Thu 22 May

Amy Macdonald

Thu 22 May

The Whip

Thu 22 May

Robin Trower & Band

Sat 24 May

The Charlatans

Sat 24 May

Bob Mould Band

Sat 24 May

Livewire AC/DC

Sat 24 May

Public Enemy

Mon 26 May

Pete Murray

Thu 29 May

Ministry

Thu 29 May

Tickets from:

Students' Union, Oxford Road
Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Café (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

Jodrell Bank

EVENTS

Wednesday 7 May

Trees in Spring, 10am

Join the Arboretum Curator for a talk on Trees in Spring followed by a guided walk of the Arboretum and lunch. Booking is essential. Tickets £19.50

27 to 30 May

Ask an Astronomer, 2pm

Ask a Jodrell Bank Astronomer all those burning questions about stars, planets or the telescope. No extra charge.

Thursday 5 June

World Environment Day: Skies Eye View

Take a walk around the Arboretum with a GPS to record your path. On your return download your walk onto our computer system and find out what pattern your walk took. Enter your pattern in our competition.

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

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The Hub Show Apartment and Marketing Suite are open Tuesday – Saturday from 11am to 6pm (5pm on Saturday).

**www.thehubmanchester.co.uk
14-16 Whitworth Street
Manchester M1 3BS
0161 236 0606**

Music and art: a golden combination

Sue Fletcher, Press & PR Officer at The Whitworth Art Gallery, talks about the timeless relationship between art and music – and its latest incarnation at the gallery.

"I stopped in my tracks when I noticed this particular gold disc in the office of our curator, David Morris – it intrigued me," said Sue.

"David told me about the American band Weezer, who were in Manchester on tour in 1995 and came to look around the Whitworth. They noticed the work 'Night Snow in Kambara' by the Japanese artist Hiroshige (1797 – 1858) and loved it so much that they wanted it for the cover of their album, 'Pinkerton'. Now there are 500,000 copies of their album out there with Hiroshige on the cover.

"I'm a huge music fan and I love how art influences music, and vice versa," Sue continued.

"I love Peter Blake's album cover for the Beatles album 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band'. When I was a child, I liked looking at the people on it and working out who they all were. The album still gets a lot of play at home.

"That cover got me into Peter Blake and, when I joined the Whitworth, it was so great to see Blake's 'Got a Girl' on display, which was inspired by music including Elvis, Frankie Avalon and The Preps.

"Now, the latest musical / art collision is the Richard Hamilton 'Release' (1972), which features in the Whitworth's CityVisions exhibition. It shows art dealer Robert Fraser and Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones arrested in the back of a police van.

"A music journalist who I recently gave a tour to immediately recognised Mick Jagger and loved the work. I do, too."

CityVisions runs at The Whitworth Art Gallery until 3 August.



Music meets art: Weezer's gold disc

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

News Contact

News and story ideas

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online www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news

Deadline 12 noon 15 May

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Deadline 12 noon 15 May

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