

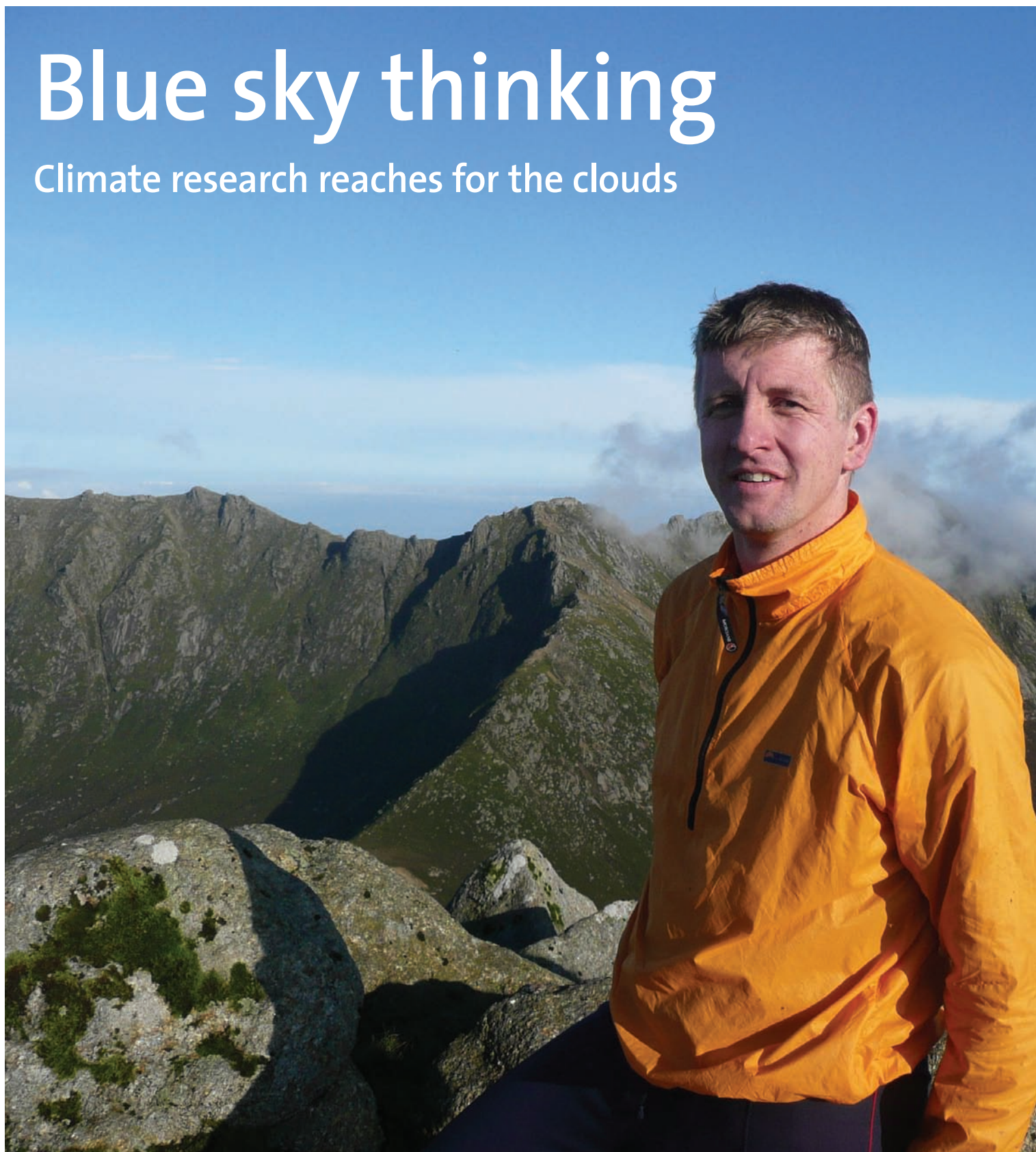
UniLife

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Issue 3 Volume 6

Blue sky thinking

Climate research reaches for the clouds



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Letter from the President



In 2004, the final year of his life, Anthony Sampson, best known for his *Anatomy of Britain* (1962), revisited his original theme in *Who Runs This Place? The Anatomy of Britain in the 21st Century*. Reflecting on major changes in British society over the previous half-century, he was struck by a marked decline in the influence and status of the academic profession since the 1950s, and observed an accompanying long-term decline in academic remuneration compared with a range of traditional comparator professions.

Such trends should ring alarm bells well beyond the boundaries of higher education. Successful knowledge societies need universities able to attract many of the best, most inquiring minds into their scholarly communities, generation-after-generation, for while research, teaching and scholarship continue to afford many non-monetary rewards and satisfactions, the choice of professional work cannot be disassociated completely from the material value placed upon it.

So no-one should begrudge UK academics the substantial salary increases that they have secured over the past few years, culminating in 2008 in an overall increase of around eight per cent.

Nor should anyone query accompanying salary increases for other university employees, whose salaries – like those of their academic colleagues – have become more broadly competitive in recent years with those offered elsewhere in the public and private sectors.

In the short-term, however, other issues will be paramount in UK higher education. Managing the University through severe global economic conditions is going to create new challenges and dictate new priorities.

However intrinsically justified claims for further pay increases may be, it is clear that no institution, *no employer, nor any economy anywhere in the world* is going to be able to afford generous pay settlements over the next few years.

Indeed, the first call on university payroll costs must, prudently, be to ensure that the sector as a whole can continue to meet its pension obligations to past and present employees. Pension schemes, like any other investment funds, are being placed under immense pressure as the global credit crisis continues to impact on equity markets, bond rates and, more profoundly, the very size of the economy itself.

Ensuring the security of pension arrangements seems bound to add substantially to the payroll costs of all UK universities, next year and for years to come.

The blunt truth is that *every one per cent increase* in The University of Manchester's payroll bill – whether from salary increases, increased pension costs or other factors – *costs more than £4 million per year*. That is the equivalent of supporting around 100 full-time jobs at average salary levels.

The University of Manchester is budgeting for a small surplus in 2008-09, and it would be sheer folly for us to countenance deficit budgeting in current economic circumstances.

The University community as a whole is therefore facing a difficult period in which carefully managing payroll costs will be the price we have to pay for maintaining strategic momentum and preserving the strengths of the institution for the future.

These are issues that will be confronted openly and transparently as plans are made and budgets developed in Schools and Faculties and by the University as a whole in the weeks and months ahead.

I am sure that there will be healthy debate and disagreement about what we can afford and what our priorities should be. Conducted in a constructive manner, that collegial process will enhance the capacity of the University to emerge strongly and competitively when in due course the recession lifts.

These are the thoughts that I will be taking with me into the open meetings with colleagues that are being arranged over the next few weeks.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

The President and Vice-Chancellor will deliver a short presentation on "The Global Financial Climate and its Impact on The University of Manchester" at an Open Meeting for all University staff to be held at 12.30pm on Friday 5 December 2008 in the Cordingley Lecture Theatre, Humanities Bridgeford Street Building. The meeting will be followed by a question and answer session. Places at the meeting will be allocated on a "first come first served" basis.

Ceremony to install new Chancellor will celebrate ground-breaking achievers

Property developer Tom Bloxham MBE will be installed as the Chancellor of the University at a ceremony later this week.

Tom, was elected to the position following a ballot of the University's alumni, staff and the members of the General Assembly.

He takes over the role from broadcaster and journalist Anna Ford, the first woman Chancellor in the Victoria University of Manchester's history, and Sir Terry Leahy, the chief executive of Tesco and former Chancellor of UMIST. He will hold the position for seven years.

Tom, who is co-founder of the property company Urban Splash, graduated from the University in 1986, with a degree in politics and modern history. And in 2007 he returned to receive an Honorary Doctorate.

Following his installation as Chancellor, on Wednesday 3 December, 2008, the University will honour some of the leading minds from the world of science, business and music.

Computer scientist Sir Tim Berners-Lee, who is credited with inventing the world wide web, will receive one of four honorary degrees. The others will be made to Sir Bernard Lovell, Eddie Davies and Edward Gregson.

Sir Bernard Lovell, founder of Jodrell Bank Observatory, led the team that developed H2S radar during WWII and was knighted in 1961 for his pioneering work in radio astronomy at the University.

Philanthropist Eddie Davies OBE is involved in a number of businesses throughout the world. He is owner of Bolton Wanderers Football Club and has strong links with the University.

Edward Gregson, who is a former principal of the Royal Northern College of Music, is a composer of international standing.

Staff will be able to watch the installation ceremony live on the University website at the web address below.



Top economist joins University

One of the world's leading economists and experts on international development and the environment has joined the University.

Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta will work part-time as a Professor of Environmental and Development Economics at the University's Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) and Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI).

The renowned academic will help conduct research into the link between Third World poverty and localised environmental problems.

Sir Partha was knighted in 2002 for services to economics and he has been President of the Royal Economic Society and the European Economic Association.

He has pioneered the development of sophisticated measures of wealth, saving and consumption to include environmental impacts of human activity so as to assess whether contemporary economic development is sustainable.

www.manchester.ac.uk/installation

Drama students get in on the act with Hollywood star

One of the country's leading actors has returned to the University to pass on some top tips to those looking to follow his lead.

Toby Jones – who appears in the new Oliver Stone film 'W' and Ron Howard's 'Frost/Nixon' - studied drama at the University between 1986 and 1989.

And he recently returned to the campus to give current students of the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures an insight into acting and Hollywood.

"Acting is more than putting on a costume and saying 'you're on': you must absorb life away from stage or screen so that your characterisations are more real," he told them.

"And it goes without saying that acting is a frustrating career, whether you get your big break in Hollywood or not, because it's such a chaotic life.

"But to some extent, anyone who decides to be an actor is drawn into it and there's not a lot you or they can do about that."

Toby is widely known for roles that include Truman Capote in 'Infamous' and the voice of Dobby the House Elf in 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets'.

And in 2002 he won the Laurence Olivier Theatre Award for best actor in a supporting role for "The Play What I Wrote".

He agreed to visit the campus after being asked by his childhood friend, Professor James Thompson.

Toby and Professor Thompson went to the same school and then studied drama together at the University.



"When I see Toby acting today, I can see the same person who performed when we were 13 in school plays," said Professor Thompson.

"The technique was there already and he already was a fine performer. But his training at Manchester and later the Lecoq School of Acting in Paris gave him more precision. It really is quite astounding what he can do.

"This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to discuss approaches to acting with one Britain's most successful actors.

"We are most grateful for Toby's continued support and interest in our work at the drama department."



Students off to roaring start in testing TV challenge

Some of Manchester's brightest and quickest student minds are continuing to battle it out on the small screen, in the hope of winning the prestigious University Challenge title.

In September the four-strong University team progressed through the first round of University Challenge with ease, beating Bristol University by 285 to 70.

In the second round, in November, they beat York University by 280 to 80.

And now members of the four-strong team – captained by Languages, Linguistics and Cultures PhD student Matthew Yeo – are preparing to take on London School of Economics in the quarter finals.

If they win this next encounter, they know that just two more matches could stand in the way of becoming the second team from the University ever to win the title.

And they certainly aren't a team that will be giving in without a fight.

In preparation for the gruelling final stages of the competition Matthew and his team-mates – Henry Pertinez, 27, Reuben Roy, 22, and Simon Baker, 21 – have been practising hard.

They have been taking part in a gruelling series of up to six mock University Challenge style matches a week.

And their opponents in these training matches have been accomplished teams of past University team members – who have all reached the semi-finals or higher – who the team admit are “astonishingly good”.

Stephen Pearson, from the John Rylands University Library, who has selected and coached the teams since 1997, believes that this is a team that could walk away with the title.

Team captain Matthew admits winning the title would be the fulfilment of a long-standing ambition, but he says being chosen to take part is a real honour.

“University Challenge is the most competitive of all quiz shows and I have watched it since I was 11 years old,” said Matthew

“I am very lucky to say I have been chosen for the team – which is a fantastic honour.

“We have been told by the captain of the winning 2006 team that we have the potential to go all the way. I think we do have a very good chance – but so do the other seven teams that have got this far.”

“The filming isn't as terrifying as you might think – particularly because we have already done quite a lot of practice.”

Over the past 11 years, Stephen Pearson – who was a member of the University's University Challenge team in 1996 – has come up with a gruelling selection process.

First applicants have to fill in a 100-question paper quiz, in exam conditions. And then the highest-scoring candidates take part in a buzzer-style quiz.

The team (pictured with University Challenge host Jeremy Paxman) are scheduled to battle it out in the quarter-finals of University Challenge in the New Year.

Starters for 10...

Some of the questions already faced by the team this year.

Q: Variants of what given name link Frankish rulers whose nicknames include the Elder and the Short, and a companion of Frodo, Sam and Merry in *The Lord of the Rings*?

A: Pippin

Q: From the 1920s, the Serbian mathematician Milutin Milankovic advanced the hypothesis that identified a combination of various factors governing the occurrence of which geological periods?

A: Ice ages

Q: In North America, duck hawk is an alternative name for which bird, one of the world's fastest?

A: Peregrine falcon

Q: In 2007, which title was shared for only the fourth time in its history when Seb Sanders and Jamie Spencer tied on a seasonal total of 190 wins?

A: British flat racing Champion Jockey

Q: The painter Frank Brangwyn, the priest Father Damien who ministered to the leper colony of Kalaupapa, the American inventor and chemist Leo Baekeland and the actress Audrey Hepburn were all born in which country?

A: Belgium

Q: 'Dilegua, o notte! Tramontate, stelle! Tramontate, stelle! All'alba vincerò! vincerò, vincerò!' are words which are sung in which operatic aria?

A: 'Nessun Dorma' (from *Turandot* by Puccini)



Top orchestra premier music composed by student

Talented student David Onac has had a piece of music premiered by members of the BBC Philharmonic.

Pianist David, aged 23, who is studying for a PhD in music composition at the University, was commissioned to write the piece for flute, viola and harp as part of a chamber music series.

And the seven-minute composition, called Beginnings, has been premiered by principals from the orchestra at the Sir Martin Harris Centre.

“David shows great promise and we were delighted to be able to work with him,” said Richard Wigley, general manager of the BBC Philharmonic.

“Our chamber music series in collaboration with the University's Music Department is very productive, and we hope to run other stimulating events like this in future.”

University to open legal advice clinic in East Manchester

Families living in east Manchester are to have access to free legal advice – from University students.

The School of Law is to open the new legal advice clinic in Openshaw next year, in conjunction with New East Manchester and the charities LawWorks North and Manchester Settlement, which was founded by the University in 1895.

The centre will be staffed by students, working under the supervision of legal practitioners. And it will be co-ordinated by an administrator, funded by New East Manchester and employed by the Manchester Settlement.

The new clinic will operate in addition to the University's existing Legal Advice Centre, which has been offering free legal advice to the public since November 2000.

Director of the Legal Advice Centre Dinah Crystal has been involved in setting up the new centre.

"We're delighted to be announcing this new venture which will allow our staff and students another opportunity to participate in clinical education and to put something back into the local community," said Dinah.

"The students will be supervised by local lawyers."

The pro bono clinic will be based at Manchester Settlement's new centre which is being built on Ashton Old Road, Openshaw.

The building will be called "The New Roundhouse in recognition of the Settlement's original home 'The Roundhouse' on Every Street Ancoats, which was subject of a LS Lowry drawing in the early 1900s.

Manchester Settlement was founded by the University in 1895 though strong links continue today.



Student drives shoppers up wall with hot gadget

Enterprising student Vernon Kerswell is set to drive Christmas shoppers up the wall with a revolutionary new toy.

Last year Vernon, who is a student at the Manchester Business School, set up Extreme Fliers, selling a range of easy-to-fly remote control miniature helicopters and UFOs.

He sold more than 2,000 of his helicopters nationwide. And his success led to him winning the University's Venture Out business ideas competition.

This year the University has taken the unusual step of allowing him to use his industrial placement year to work for his own company.

And now – as the Christmas toy market gets in full swing – he's about to launch the micro Anti-Gravity Car, which is an ingenious remote controlled car that can be driven up walls and even upside down across the ceiling.

Vernon has already worked hard to develop his business in China, which he believes will enable him to produce toys that are desirable and durable.

"You can't just walk into China and do business," said Vernon. "It has taken over two years to find the right partners, learn the language to communicate, establish the right people as well as develop the products."

More information about Vernon's business can be found at the web address below.

In brief

Graduate recruitment remains buoyant despite credit crunch

Graduate recruitment fairs have attracted record numbers of employers, despite the global economic downturn.

The recent Science, Engineering and Technology Fair and the Law Fair were both sold out, with each drawing 100 exhibitors. And there are plans for hundreds more employer-led presentations and workshops.

Tammy Goldfeld, Assistant Director of the MLP, Careers and Employability Division, said: "We have been pleased that many companies, even those experiencing financial difficulties, are taking a long-term view to resourcing, by keeping the vital graduate talent pipeline open.

"Leading investment banks and other financial institutions, for example, remain very active on our campus despite the turbulence in the markets."

In addition to the careers fairs, increasing numbers of students are taking a greater interest in their career development.

Student transforms engineering business during her summer vacation

A talented student who used her summer vacation to get an early taste of management has won national praise.

Claire Hoey, who is studying International Management at the University, spent 10 weeks at Croft Engineering Services as part of the Shell Step scheme, which offers tailor-made work placements to hundreds of students.

During her short time with the company Claire has been credited with transforming the marketing strategy, after carrying out work on market segmentation and multi-lingual marketing materials.

And her success has led to her being named as the national runner-up in the Shell Step finals.

"Claire has clearly thrived in the working environment and gained new skills," said Andrew Eddy, Director of Shell UK.

"Her project has had a tangible impact on Croft Engineering Services' bottom line, showing how companies can benefit from such raw talent. Claire is a deserving award-winner and I wish her every success in the future."

Claire, who is from Llandudno, said: "Considering the quality of the other work done by the other students, it's a real privilege to have been named the runner-up."



Ending physics puzzle is music to the ears

For years physicists have tried in vain to find a way of blasting atoms with electrons or ions AND hold them still at the same time.

But now University physicist Professor Andrew Murray has solved the puzzle, after being inspired by his days playing guitar in a rock band.

Professor Murray and his team have developed a gadget that can hold atoms still while they bash them with beams of electrons using high power sound reinforced amplifiers.

Trapping atoms at temperatures close to absolute zero has already produced many insights into physics, and may be critical to the development of quantum computers.

But the force fields of lasers and magnetic fields needed for this are not compatible with flying beams of electrons or ions.

And that meant the only way to study the effect of blasting atoms with such beams - which provides much of the knowledge of atoms we have today - has been to do it when the atoms are moving, which produces limited results.

Finding a way to kill the magnetic fields almost instantly and hit the cold atoms before they start moving is a problem that has troubled physicists for years.

But Professor Murray has come up with the answer, after hitting on the idea of employing high power PA amplifiers used in rock concerts to produce the magnetic fields needed to trap the atoms.

These amplifiers drive a set of coils similar to those found in speakers and trap the atoms in a new way - allowing researchers to avoid the problem of disruptive magnetic currents spoiling the experiments.

Professor Murray says this innovation will allow physicists to discover much more about the collisions with atoms and molecules that happen in the Earth's upper atmosphere, in stars, in many forms of commercial lighting and in lasers.

Beethoven epic officially Britain's best classical publication

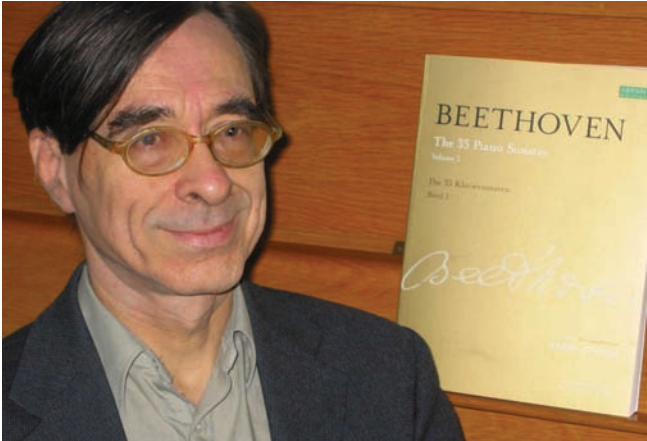
The work of a leading music researcher – who spent 10 years poring over every note of Beethoven's piano sonatas – has won national recognition for his latest work.

Professor Barry Cooper, from the University's School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, meticulously studied every authentic source of every Beethoven piano sonata.

His research resulted in a new edition of all 35 sonatas, that is believed to be the truest representation of the composer's work.

And now his three-volume work – published in collaboration with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music - has been named as the 'Best Classical Publication' of the year by the Music Industries Association.

Professor Cooper - who is widely known for completing the first movement of Beethoven's



unfinished tenth symphony, premiered at the Royal Festival Hall in 1988 – said: "What I've done is try to reproduce what Beethoven actually wrote – and what he meant to write – more accurately than in any previous edition.

"What I've also done, which has not been done before, is to relate what Beethoven wrote to

what we know about the notation and performing styles of his day, wherever there's any uncertainty. This detailed commentary should be of great help for all performers."

Included in Professor Cooper's book are three sonatas that have been omitted from recent collections, which Beethoven wrote as a boy.

The art of science on display in sketchbook exhibition

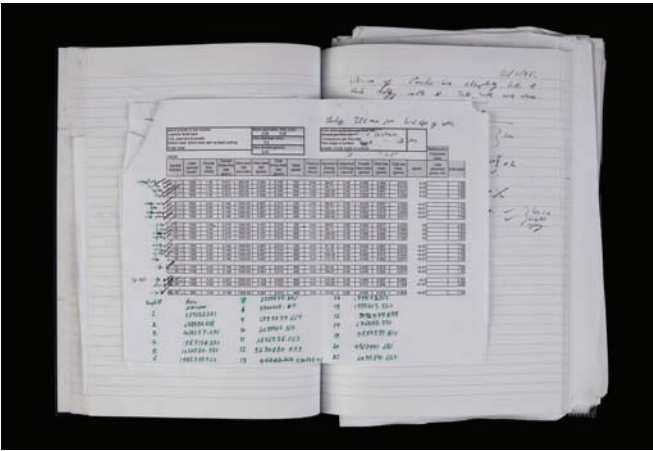
When researchers write complex calculations in their notebooks, few will be too concerned about their artistic value.

But now the scribbles of a number of academics from the University feature in a new exhibition, which also features the sketches of the fashion editor of Marie Claire.

The exhibition - 'Reflective Stories: Using sketchbooks and journals in art, design and related subjects' – features journals and sketchbooks from children and students, as well as professionals in the fields of art, media and design.

It aims to demonstrate the ways artists and designers reveal their thinking and critical reflections.

Featured among the exhibits are entries taken from the lab books of University laser researchers Dr Marc Schmidt, Dr Andrew Pinkerton and Dr Zengbo Wang, as well as notebook pages belonging to archaeology expert, Professor Tim Insoll.



They were encouraged to submit their work by jewellery artist Sarah O'Hana, who is part-way through a PhD in the University's manufacturing and laser processing group and who aims to encourage greater collaboration and understanding between art and science.

"There are plenty of artists who are very keen to find out what is going on in the labs of scientists and engineers and draw inspiration from that," said Sarah.

"For scientists, engaging with artists takes them completely out of their comfort zone. But there is huge potential for bringing these two cultures together and as an artist with some insight into the world of science and engineering, this is an exciting prospect."

The Reflective Stories exhibition will remain on display at the Holden Gallery at Manchester Metropolitan University until December 12.

Manchester scientist goes cloud-hopping in the Pacific

An international investigation into how the massive swathes of clouds that hang over the Pacific are affecting the global climate is being spearheaded by a Manchester scientist.

Professor Hugh Coe, from the University's School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, is leading a 20-strong group of cloud and climate experts on the mission, in Chile.

As part of the £3million project Professor Coe is seeking to determine how and why these immense clouds form.

And the findings could lead to the clouds – which can be bigger in size than the USA – being more accurately represented in global climate models and greatly improve predictions of future climate change.

Professor Coe and his team, which includes scientists from the Met Office and from the United States, have been swooping in and out of the low-lying clouds – collecting detailed measurements of the cloud's properties.

By using newly developed cloud and dust probes on the research aircraft, the scientists are examining exactly how the clouds form, how reflective they are and what determines their lifetime.

They are also looking at whether man-made pollution, from extensive mining in Chile and Peru, plays a role in changing cloud properties.

"These are some of the largest cloud systems in the world and we know they must play a very significant role in climate change, yet we know that climate models do not represent them very well," said Professor Coe, who is Director of the National Centre for Atmospheric Science Airborne Research.

"This campaign is a fantastic opportunity to make cutting-edge measurements in a unique environment and merge them with state-of-the-art climate models.

"By working closely with the Met Office and international colleagues in this way, we hope to finally hit some of the uncertainties in current climate models on the head."



Manchester in £5 million hydrogen technology drive

The University is at the forefront of a £5million drive to produce the technology for making clean, cheap and sustainable hydrogen energy.

The 'Delivery of Sustainable Hydrogen (H-Delivery) consortia' brings together partners from industry and from 13 leading UK universities.

And it has been awarded £5million over four years by the UK Research Councils' SUPERGEN programme.

The consortia will undertake research into methods for the chemical and electrical generation of sustainable hydrogen and the conversion of hydrogen and associated by-products into alternative industrial feedstocks and fuels.

It will also look at the socio-economic appraisal of novel hydrogen production technologies as well as policy measures to promote the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon, hydrogen economy.

Professor Christopher Whitehead, from the School of Chemistry, will lead Manchester's involvement in the new initiative to deliver innovative technologies to make hydrogen energy.

As part of the project Dr Whitehead and his research group will investigate the use of non-thermal plasma technology combined with suitable catalysts to extract hydrogen from methane in natural gas and biogas.

"Hydrogen energy is believed to have a significant role to play in addressing the twin challenges of climate change and energy security," said Professor Whitehead.

"However, existing methods of hydrogen production are not currently cost-competitive with fossil fuels."

"An important component of the H-Delivery consortia's work will be to raise the public profile of hydrogen energy research through knowledge transfer and outreach activities."

The other universities in the consortia are University of St Andrews, Newcastle University, Cambridge University, Strathclyde University, University of Birmingham, University of Warwick, Imperial College, Heriot-Watt University, Cardiff University, Oxford University, Brunel University, and Leeds University.

Water cleaning system scoops top award

A Manchester invention that provides a low-cost and continuous way of cleaning water has scooped a major industry award.

The Arvia water treatment process, which allows the continuous removal and destruction of toxic and non-biodegradable pollutants, scooped the Water Award in the Institution of Chemical Engineers's Awards for Innovation and Excellence 2008.

Arvia Technology was founded by Dr Nigel Brown and Dr Ted Roberts of the University's School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science at the beginning on 2007.

The company was spun out of the University's School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science with assistance from UMIP, the University's commercialisation and intellectual property arm.

In brief

Scientist awarded prestigious fellowship

Scientist Dr Gillian Farnie has become the second Breast Cancer Campaign scientific fellow at the University, receiving a grant worth almost £460,000.

Dr Farnie, who is one of four recipients of a Breast Cancer Campaign scientific fellowship nationwide, will investigate why people become resistant to breast cancer treatments.

When a patient is diagnosed with breast cancer several different treatments including chemotherapy and radiotherapy are the recommended treatment options. However, about 30 per cent of people will develop resistance to these treatments and will see their breast cancer return.

"I aim to use my scientific knowledge of breast cancer stem cells to test new ways of improving current treatments and to get them translated into patient benefit in the not too distant future," said Dr Farnie.



Link between alcohol-industry sponsorship and hazardous drinking in sportspeople established

Researchers from the University have found a link between hazardous drinking among sportspeople and sponsorship by the alcohol industry.

As part of the study, researchers interviewed 1,300 sportspeople, around half of which were sponsored to some degree by the alcohol industry.

And they found those sportspeople receiving support from an alcohol sponsor were more likely to engage in binge drinking.

They found the effect was more significant when the deal included free or discounted alcohol, and also when sportspeople felt there was an obligation for them to drink the sponsor's products or attend their establishments.

A growing body of research has already detailed the drinking behaviour of sportspeople, including peer pressure and the increased opportunities for consumption.

But this is the first time a link between sport sponsorship and hazardous drinking by sportspeople has been investigated.

Study author Dr Kerry O'Brien, (pictured) who is based in the University's School of Psychological Sciences, said: "Sportspeople receiving direct



alcohol-industry sponsorship of any kind - including payment of competition fees, costs for uniforms and the provision of alcoholic beverages - reported more hazardous drinking than those not receiving sponsorship.

"Similarly, those receiving free or discounted drinks from sponsors and those sportspeople that felt they were required to drink their sponsor's alcohol product at their establishments reported even higher levels of drinking.

"While finding that provision of free or discounted alcohol is linked to higher-reported drinking seems common sense, we needed to show clearly that

this form of sponsorship occurs, and that it is actually associated with hazardous drinking."

The research, say the authors, raises serious ethical issues for sports administrators concerned with the health of sportspeople.

Dr O'Brien added: "We suggest that health and governmental organisations need to work with sporting organisations and clubs to find ways to sever links with the alcohol industry, while still ensuring sports groups have sufficient financial support."

The research was conducted jointly between the University and the University of Newcastle, in Australia.

Parkinson's research nets £1,000 prize

Neuroscience student Daniel Ko has won a prestigious prize for the presentation of his research into Parkinson's disease.

Daniel, aged 22, who is studying for a PhD in the Faculty of Life Sciences, was presented with the £1,000 Dennis Pooley Memorial Prize for his work on changes to a specific protein associated with Parkinson's, which he presented to the Progress-Advancing Parkinson's Research conference in York in November.

The prize - set by Marjorie Pooley in memory of her husband Dennis who suffered from Parkinson's - aims to inspire and motivate young researchers in the field.



New research finds way to restore colour to white hair

Scientists at the University have discovered a way to potentially restore colour to white hair.

When people lose their hair as a result of skin disorders, they can find that it grows back white - rather than retaining their original colour.

But now researchers at the University have been looking at whether a synthetically produced peptide, called K(D)PT, may be able to restore colour to hair after illness.

Pigment in hair is usually stimulated by a group of peptide hormones collectively known as 'melanocyte stimulating hormone' or MSH.

And the research has found that K(D)PT, which is related to MSH, also has some pigmentation stimulating effects.

The study, by Dr Ralph Paus, in the School of Translational Medicine, found that K(D)PT increased the amount of pigment in the hair follicle significantly.

But the effect was only identified in instances where it had been administered to a follicle after pre-treatment with Interferon type II, known as IFN-γ, which was used to mimic the sort of inflammation that is present in disorders that cause the hair to fall out, including 'alopecia areata' and 'telogen effluvium'.

The research was carried out in the laboratory by researchers at the University and in Germany. It is not yet ready for direct use on patients.

CONNECTIONS

Connecting the Teaching and Learning Communities.

Issue 1

December 2008



Meeting the challenges of a new era

I wonder if Bev Moseley, Ian Dawes or Graeme Reid remember me? I doubt it, but I certainly remember them. It's perhaps a rather well-worn cliché, but we really do remember good teachers. These three were my favourite lecturers while a student at Edinburgh University.

Collectively they did so much more than clarify the muddy waters that were my understanding of biochemistry and cell biology. Rather, for me, they were the embodiment of rigorous academic excellence and each contributed to shaping my future research career.

Of course I would love to think that they have also shaped my teaching career but you'd have to ask my students about that. But isn't that the great thing about teaching? You get the chance to try to capture the imagination of the next generation.

How many of your students will become renowned researchers, captains of industry, even future lecturers or professors who may then try to engender the same enthusiasm they felt themselves as students?

Thinking about the issue of teaching and learning within the context of this University, the National Student Survey results for 2007/08 have been published and they make interesting reading.

There are a number of subject areas in which Manchester has performed exceptionally well and the stories behind some of these successes are highlighted elsewhere in this issue.

As well as pointing to our top-performing areas the National Student Survey also points to areas where there is room for improvement. Our students deserve the best and the Review of Undergraduate Education aims to ensure they get it.

The recommendations from the Review are now being implemented and substantial progress has already been made. Students should be experiencing the impact of changes in a number of areas including the support of academic advisors, the widespread use of eLearning technologies and a range of innovative developments in their curriculum.

While the changes being made this year are already substantial there will be more to come. Connections

Connections is a new publication dedicated to keeping staff informed about the campus-wide drive to make sure teaching and learning, here at the University, are world-class.

This first edition has been published within the pages of UniLife although future Connections will be available as a PDF from:

www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/

If you would like to contribute to Connections by telling us about your teaching and learning developments and the way you are implementing the recommendations from the Review please contact: Gabriel Sayyed in the Teaching and Learning Support Office: gabriel.sayyed@manchester.ac.uk

"The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards."

Anatole France

will keep you abreast of developments with news from Faculties and Schools, reports from the "chalk-face" and feedback from students.

It has been an interesting six months for me since taking on the role of Vice-President for Teaching and Learning. In that time I've been impressed by the enthusiasm of our students for the changes that are underway. I have also been struck by the commitment of staff and their eagerness to rise to the challenges ahead. Given this impetus I am convinced that the Manchester Experience will become the benchmark by which other universities will be judged.

Professor Colin Stirling
Vice-President Teaching and Learning



Review plans to make Manchester Experience world class

Plans are moving apace to recognise the successes of the University's top graduates with a Manchester Medal, in the wake of a campus-wide Review of Undergraduate Education.

From 2009 up to one per cent of the University's most distinguished graduates will receive a Manchester Medal.

The Medals will be awarded in recognition of a graduate's outstanding academic attainment and will identify them as being equal to the world's top graduates.

The Manchester Medal initiative is one of a number of developments being introduced this year following the Undergraduate Education Review carried out in 2007.

The Review was established to identify and build upon the excellent examples of teaching and learning already in evidence across the University, while recognising the increasing national pressures on undergraduate teaching and the need to continually improve.

It has resulted in a programme of work designed to ensure the University is a premium provider of world class undergraduate education, in line with the 2015 goals.

Developments, already ongoing, include a £10 million refurbishment of teaching

spaces, detailed planning work to build a new Learning Commons on the site of Moberly Tower, the piloting of Higher Education Achievement Reports and the deployment of the virtual learning environment, Blackboard.

It has also resulted in the agreement of a set of core principles to underpin what the 'Manchester Experience' should be for undergraduate students.

According to the Review, the University's strong commitment to teaching and learning should be reflected in the plans, priorities, values and structures of the University and should be expressed in superbly designed curricula, which are informed by a clear sense of the purpose of higher learning.

The Review also points to the desire to create richly interactive learning communities, high quality on-line learning environments, as well as outstanding academic and student support services.

Since the publication of the Review's report earlier this year, the Undergraduate Review Strategy Group – chaired by Vice-President (Teaching and Learning) Professor Colin Stirling – has been directing the implementation of the recommendations.

And in his discussion document that launched the review, the President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert said: "This University has

no destiny other than as a large, multi-purpose, research-led institution of higher learning.

"Its mission is to engage, not resist, the contemporary realities of mass higher education, including the large and variegated student constituencies that come with higher levels of social inclusion.

"No less committed to the highest international standards in research or education than any of the world's elite universities, Manchester actually seeks to differentiate itself from them as an institution at once more inclusive, more multi-functional and better able to serve diverse educational purposes superbly well."

The University's Review has already won the backing of student leaders. Chris Jenkinson, the Students' Union Academic Affairs Officer, said: "The Students' Union welcomes the highly important work done by the University over the past year in reviewing the quality of teaching and learning, recognising both strengths and weaknesses in teaching practice and looking to personalise learning and improve the standards of feedback.

"The involvement of student representatives and students has been - and must continue to be - key to the Review in ensuring the proposals and their implementation improve the quality of education and are in the interest of students."

Building on the findings of the NSS

The National Student Survey is designed to gather feedback on what students have to say about their academic experience and helps prospective students make informed choices about where and what to study.

The results from the survey are one of the measures that are used in the work of the UK's quality assurance framework.

And this year some areas of the University – such as Physics and Dentistry – have ranked amongst the highest in the country.

As well as the Schools mentioned here further details will be available from www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/tlso



Music courses hit the right note with students

Music: 95% overall student satisfaction

Regularly refreshing courses has proved a hit with music students, who have been keen to sing the praises of their courses.

Staff believe the combination of research-led teaching and a personalised approach to learning is part of the reason levels of satisfaction in Music were high in this year's National Student Survey.

Talented student musicians receive one-to-one tuition on their favoured instrument from specialists, who are assigned to them throughout their three years of study.

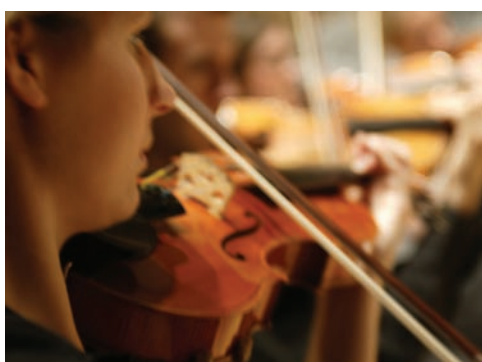
And after the first year, there are no compulsory elements to the course – allowing students to completely personalise their course, in consultation with academic tutors.

Staff point to the inseparable nature of the research and student learning in the School, with staff and students actively engaged in composing, performing and writing about music.

And out of the classroom they highlight the learning opportunities that include the University Chorus and Orchestra, the contemporary music ensemble, the Baroque orchestra, chamber choir, string orchestra, wind band, big band and world music choir.

Each of the units is supported by online resources and several of the units now place technology at the heart of learning.

Contact Dr James Garratt for further details on 275 4955.



Dental School gets teeth into improved communication

Dentistry: 96% overall student satisfaction

Improving communication has been at the heart of efforts to boost the student experience in the School of Dentistry.

Last year levels of student satisfaction in the School were relatively low. But now the School has bucked the trend with a positive response to the National Student Survey.

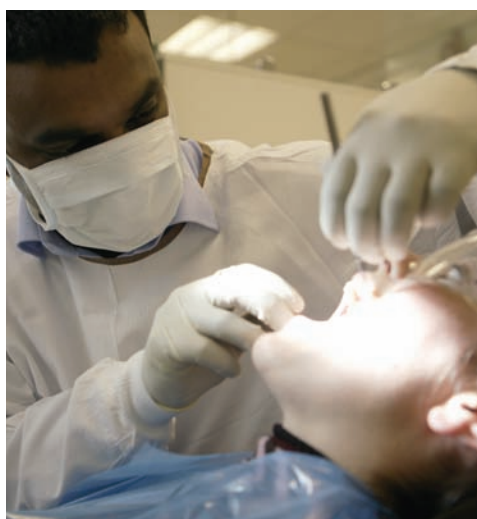
And the School puts the improvements down to its determination to listen to students, respond to their requests and reply to their issues.

Head of School Dr Nicholas Grey responded to individual e-mails and introduced an open door policy, as well as taking a high visibility approach around the School.

The School has also made more effort to pass on positive news and started a blog, which reports successes in a friendly way. Staff say they have made a concerted effort to act on any student concerns.

Staff and students have also fostered stronger relationships with social events such as videos, quizzes, paint-balling and the Dental School Review.

Contact Dr Nicholas Grey for further details on 306 0222.



Lessons from fellow students boost success in Life Sciences

Biology: 98% overall student satisfaction

A scheme where students learn from fellow students has proved a real success in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

As well as traditional lectures and tutorials, students in the Faculty also spend regular slots of time with specially trained students from the year above, as part of the Peer Assisted Study Scheme (PASS).

And the Faculty has already found that the results of students participating in the PASS sessions are significantly better than those who choose not to.

The format provides staff with instant feedback, as the PASS student leaders meet with academic co-ordinators to offer information on aspects of the teaching that is being delivered.

In addition to the PASS system, the Faculty of Life Sciences also points to its review of the undergraduate curriculum and admissions procedures, which involve every prospective student being interviewed and meeting with existing students, as factors in its NSS scores.

In this year's National Student Survey, 95 per cent of the Faculty's students said they were satisfied overall. And the Faculty put their success in this partly down to the PASS system.

Contact Professor Richard Reece for further details on 275 5582.



The blackboard is here, on a screen near you

Thousands of students across the campus are learning from the Blackboard . . . but there's not a piece of chalk in sight.

The Blackboard Learning System is the new web-based virtual learning environment that is already delivering course materials to more than 15,000 students who make over a 200,000 hits per hour at peak times!

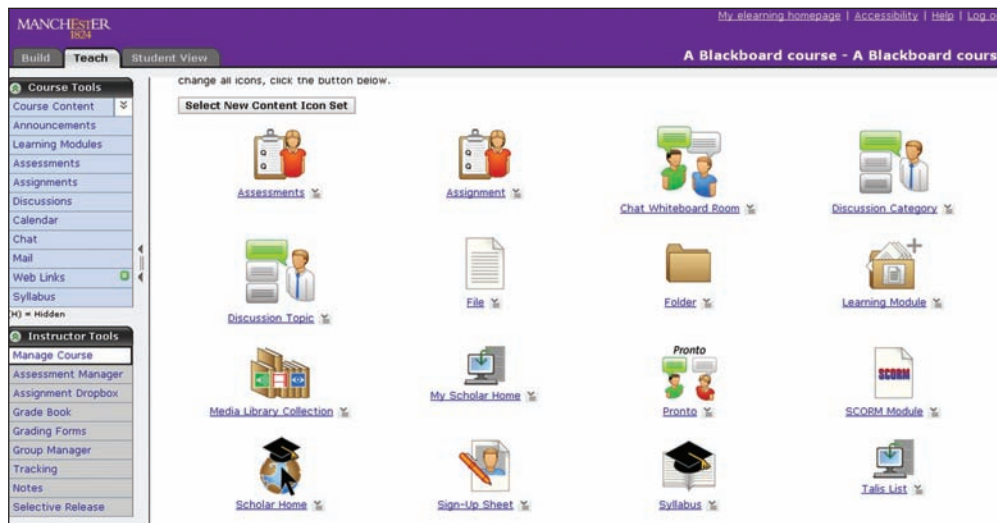
It provides students with access to teaching, learning and assessment materials and activities, as well as providing interactive discussions with teaching staff and other students.

And with students often juggling their studies around employment and social lives, Blackboard is popular because it provides students with flexible access to resources – at any time of the day or night.

The Review of Undergraduate Education stresses the importance of eLearning as a key element of the teaching and learning culture of the University. It points to this as a means of providing one of the richest possible learning environments for students.

In the School of Social Sciences more than 3,000 students on the BA Economics course are already using Blackboard to access information about their course.

Led by BA Economics course director Dr Peter Lawler, the School is already using the technology to improve communication between staff and students.



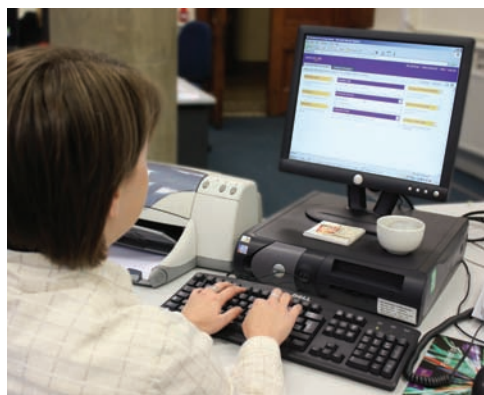
Dr Lawler said: "We think Blackboard provides a much more reliable, and, to be frank, a more unavoidable mode of communication through use of the announcement tool combined with delivery as pop-up messages.

"In this way we can maintain a running narrative with students throughout the year, reminding them of upcoming deadlines, the need to attend tutorials and lectures, where to get advice on exam preparation and so on.

"Additionally it can act as a central repository for programme-level information that can either be viewed online or downloaded to wherever an individual student prefers to keep such information.

"In combining information provision with targeted and timely communication the overly passive quality of simply uploading to a designated web space can be overcome."

Ultimately the School is looking forward to using Blackboard to provide two-way communication between staff and students – offering the chance for students to have their individual concerns addressed by staff in a timely and personal fashion.



Staff forums

The Review of Undergraduate Education has led to a number of recommendations for the future of teaching and learning at the University.

Colleagues can discuss various aspects of their implementation at the Manchester Forums.

The Forums are online discussion areas that are open to all staff who have a University username and password. They can be found at <https://forums.manchester.ac.uk>

Meanwhile the report from the Review of Undergraduate Education – as well as subsequent reports on progress and the implementation of recommendations – can be found at www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/tlso

Students take thousands of books out to Africa

Children in one of the poorest countries in the world now have access to thousands of text books – thanks to the efforts of a group of students from the University.

The six students collected more than 27,000 text books from secondary schools across Greater Manchester, during their final year studies.

As well as persuading the schools to part with the disused books, the students found a place to store them, catalogued them and boxed them ready for distribution.

And – while juggling the demands of their courses – they also raised the £7,500 they needed to ship the books out to schools in the Kagera region, in Tanzania

Now the books, worth an estimated £300,000, have been delivered to 20 schools, where the syllabus is broadly the same as in the UK.

Grace Boyle – who organised The Manchester Book Project alongside fellow students Ben Jeffery, Natasha Galilee, Joshua Gallimore, Amy Guest and Mariana Pavlovic – says it was worth the effort.

“The whole project was absolutely fantastic,” said Grace, who even persuaded Manchester band ‘I am Kloot’ to become involved in their fund-raising. “I’d do it again in a heartbeat.

“Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world. Quite aside from the waste of burying these textbooks in a landfill, it makes far more economical sense to ship them over to Tanzania.”

Grace and the team spent three weeks in Tanzania overseeing the distribution of the books to schools, which involved meetings with government officials, collaborating with local and national media, organising community events and dealing with the logistics of distribution over 1,000 kilometres.

The Manchester Book Project was one of 11 similar projects being run across the country by READ International.

And this year Grace – who has just completed a Masters in Chemistry – is working with READ as part of their central fund-raising committee.



Manchester students 'Love Withington'

Students from the University have made a ‘clean sweep’ in Withington, as part of a new campaign to improve the area.

They teamed up with local residents and students from Manchester Metropolitan University to clean up areas around Withington and Old Moat.

And as part of the event – which took place as part of ‘Make a Difference Day’ they also asked passers-by how they thought the area could be improved.

The event also marked the launch of ‘Love Withington’, which will link together the efforts of local individuals and organisations who wish to see Withington prosper, around the themes of respect, pride, engagement and celebration

More than 180 questionnaires were completed on the day, which will be used to plan future ‘Love Withington’ events that will benefit the community.

John Allen, volunteer coordinator at the University, said: “This was a great event that shows how local residents and students can work together to improve and celebrate the area they live in.”

www.readinternational.org.uk



Lecturer builds friendship between schools

A primary school in Lancashire is reaching out to a school in the Gambia, following the intervention of a lecturer from the University.

Dr Paul Shore, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, visited the Kabakoto primary school, in the Gambia, while visiting University students who were on their industrial placement at the MRC Unit.

He had visited the school as part of a trip to see the work of the UK-based Gambian Schools Trust, which provides practical assistance to schools in the Gambia.

And he was so struck by what he saw that he helped the school to twin with St Paul's Constable Lee Primary School, in Lancashire.

Volunteers give youngsters a sporting chance

More than 100 students and members of staff have enrolled in the Sport Volunteer Scheme, which provides coaching for after-school sports club and local leagues, as well as organizing events and tournaments in the community.

University Sports Development Officer Imogen Williams said, “Most volunteers get involved because they want to give something back to the community.”



Mike's Mission

Considering that he's in charge of campus-wide activities with an annual turnover of nearly £50 million and employing about 800 people, 38-year-old Mike Shore-Nye seems remarkably at ease.

But then he has been used to large-scale commercial responsibility from a relatively early age. He used to run all Wetherspoon's pubs in Greater Manchester, for instance, and before that he was responsible for all Majestic Wines' outlets between Nottingham and Perth.

"I covered nearly 90,000 miles in one year," he says. "My car actually self-combusted one day."

Well, you need that sort of experience and sense of humour to do his job.

As Director of Sport, Trading and Residential Services – STARS for short – Mike's mission is "to seek to excel" in delivering and developing services across the University: accommodation, catering, conferences and events, sport and leisure, health and safety. The task seems to be huge, but Mike seems cheerfully unfazed.

"I enjoy responsibility and making things happen," he says. "This is the biggest operation of its kind in the country – and it was an irresistible challenge for me. I am lucky enough to have the support of a very strong senior management team."

Since he arrived just over a year ago, the Residences Department has been completely restructured under his leadership: "We needed to help the residences to be more efficient and more effective by encouraging joined-up thinking and team work across our three residential campuses. It's all about communication."



For all his commercial and organisational nous, he has a strong sense of service. He talks enthusiastically about his mission to enhance the student experience and support the community of the University. Clearly, through his past experience, customer care is critical.

He cheerfully traces his clear sense of leadership to his family background, being the eldest of five boys.

"I suppose I always had a sense of responsibility and leading the pack," he says unpretentiously. "I always enjoyed being in charge. I always worked and played hard at school. And I had some inspirational teachers."

He had a very strong interest in literature – still has – and rugby, and he was Head Boy of his Cheltenham school.

He went on, in 1988, to York University, where he read Eng Literature (special interests being Anglo-Saxon and the Victorian novel), played for the

rugby team, took a big interest in student politics and became Vice-President of the Students' Union. And, significantly as it turned out later, he joined the Wine Society. He obviously enjoyed life to the full, even adding DJ-ing to his cv.

"I enjoy being involved in a lot of activities," he says.

After three happy years, he emerged into the 'real' world unsure of what to do.

After a variety of jobs in London, he got his first "proper job" – in the wine trade. He started as a trainee manager with Majestic Wines – and stayed with them for seven years, finishing up in a senior management position, responsible for that vast area of the UK, from Nottingham to Perth.

He then sought the opportunity to take on another challenge – with Wetherspoons.

"It was a shock to the system – from fine wines to alcopops," he says. "The job introduced me to the hard edge of city life, a massive amount of interaction with young customers - and experience of complex business and change management." Hardly surprising, since he was commercial manager for the chain of Lloyds No 1 brand of city-centre, late-night bars across the UK.

He was still only in his early thirties. His next move was to be responsible for Wetherspoons in Greater Manchester.

"It was a big challenge," he says. "Amongst other things, I opened a lot of new pubs in the area. I enjoyed it a lot, but then I felt that I wanted to put my experience to a different application – to give something back to the world."

He thought of possibly going into charity retail, but was attracted to a job in the university sector, particularly helping students to get the most out of their undergraduate experience.

The opportunity came at the University of Liverpool, where he worked for three years, with similar responsibilities to those he has here, but on a somewhat smaller scale.

"I really enjoyed it and felt more fulfilled," he says. "I was delighted to get the job of Director of STARS."

The figures for this self-funded department certainly are big – from hall fees, University-leased housing, conferences and events, catering, sports and, a new venture, IT provision. STARS IT has succeeded in landing a million-pound deal to supply internet services into some of Manchester's biggest private halls, as well as providing broadband to our own students' rooms.

"There is a tremendous variety in the job and a lot of challenge," he says. "That's what I enjoy."

He also enjoys family life and his leisure pursuits. He and his wife, Fiona, have two children – Harry, aged six, and three year-old Sophie. They enjoy walking as a family and he likes his sport, particularly golf and squash. And, naturally, fine wine.

Clearly, the influence of his own undergraduate experience lingers on – and, clearly, those years at Majestic weren't wasted.

CV

Name

Michael Shore-Nye

Position

Director of Sport, Trading and Residential Services, The University of Manchester

Career

April 2007 -
Directorate of Sport, Trading and Residential Services, The University of Manchester

Jan 2004 – March 2007
Director of Residential and Leisure Services, University of Liverpool

Oct 2000 – Dec 2004
Senior area manager for Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, Wetherspoons (also commercial and marketing manager for the Lloyds No1 Bars brand)

Dec 1991 – Oct 2000
Majestic Wine Warehouses, joined the company as a graduate trainee and progressed through to regional manager

1991
Graduated from York University with a BA (Hons) in English

What's On

Courses for the Public

Thurs 4 Dec, 7- 8.30pm, £7

Searching for Life Beyond the Solar System

Professor Ian Morison

The story of our ongoing quest, and the unexpected findings it has revealed, from one of Jodrell Bank's most eminent and popular scientists.

Fri 12 Dec, 10am-4pm, £45

The Victorian Christmas

Dr Julie-Marie Strange

A look at how the customs for the 'traditional' Christmas originated and how they became integral to the festive season.

Thurs 22 Jan, 10am-4pm, £45

Lord Byron – Romantic Icon

Dr Alan Rawes

The 221st Anniversary of Byron's birth, a good day to focus on his life, poetry and influence using material from the Byron Archive at the John Rylands Library, Deansgate

Courses in the evenings starting in January 2009

6 Tuesdays from 6.30-8.30pm starting 20 Jan, £82
Big Bangs, Little Bangs and Everything in Between
Dr Tim O'Brien, Dr Rob Appleby and Dr Sean Freeman
Explaining the rules that govern the creation and destruction of matter, shaping our universe on the largest and smallest scales.

6 Mondays from 6.30-8.30pm starting 19 Jan, £82

Human Happiness and the Way to Well Being

Steve Taylor

Exploring how we can change our lives, our thinking and our state in order to enhance our well being from the author of best selling book, *Making Time*.

8 Tuesdays from 6.30-8.30pm starting 20 Jan, £106

Writing Situation Comedy

Jenny Roche

Covering the special features of situation comedy and the basics of writing for radio and TV.

10 Thursdays from 7pm-9pm starting 22 Jan, £130

Ancient Egypt – After Tutankhamun

Victor Blunden

Exploring the even greater kings that followed this iconic leader and the many battles that were fought to rule the lands of the Nile Valley.

6 Thursdays from 6-8 pm starting 29 Jan, £82

Alone or Together – the Psychology of Thinking

Joanne Hinds

Exploring the psychological implications of group work across a range of topics.

For more information and an application form, please visit our website

CCE, 1st Floor, Ellen Wilkinson Building

0161 275 3275

www.manchester.ac.uk/coursespublic

Jodrell Bank

EVENTS

Christmas at Jodrell Bank

2- 23 Dec

Try something different this Christmas. Enjoy a visit to Jodrell Bank, experience the unique Lovell Radio Telescope, wander around the Arboretum and take a journey to Mars in the 3D theatre. Then sit down to a wonderful home cooked three course Christmas lunch.

Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre

Macclesfield, Cheshire

01477 571339

www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/viscen

Contact Theatre

Mon 1 & 8 Dec, Free

The Monday Drop

If you feel that you have the passion and commitment to enhancing your experiences in a creative innovative theatre environment please drop by to learn different styles and techniques of Performance Art. Call 0161 274 0625 to find about what The Monday Drop is all about.....

Wed 3 Dec, 7.30pm, £5

Verbally Challenged

5 writers - 10 minutes on the clock - five mini-plays to entertain, inspire and compete for your vote. Come along to debate, comment and feedback, as the audience vote for their favourite and make one lucky writer the winner of £100 prize money.

Fri 5 & Sat 6 Dec, 7pm, £4

Centre Stage – The Mythical Beat

Grass roots youth music showcase featuring the finest local talent in grime, hip hop, bassline, soul, R&B and Dubstep with drama, dance, digital and visual arts.

Fri 12 Dec, 7.30pm, £8/£5

Push

Four spoken word artists challenge themselves and each other, pushing their art form in this showcase of diverse, risk-taking, original work. Under the guidance of performance poet Chloe Poems the artists have developed new work for this celebration of words.

Wed 17 Dec to Sat 20 Dec, 7.30pm, £8/£5

Kwaidan – Japanese Ghost Stories

Kwaidan - Stories and Studies of Strange Things by Lafcadio Hearn, London-Brazilian Dende Collective and CYAC create a world where dark forces and evil spirits interact with humans and change their destinies forever.

Oxford Road, Manchester

Tickets/Info 0161 274 0600

www.contact-theatre.org

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy

SUNDAY WORSHIP

11am Holy Communion

12.15am Bible Study

12.45 Lunch (1st Sunday)

6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)

FOYER 10am - 5pm

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

Precinct Centre

0161 275 2894

email sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk

RC Chaplaincy, Avila House

Mass Times (term-time only)

SUNDAY: 7pm (in the Holy Name Church) next door to Chaplaincy

Mon, Wed, Fri: 6pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel

Tues, Thurs: 12.15pm 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 rabbiiy@hotmail.com

www.rabbiiy.com



John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

Visit the historic John Rylands Library on Deansgate, central Manchester, home to one the country's greatest collection 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.

Close-up Session: every Thurs 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.

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

The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Lindow Man: A Bog Body Mystery

until 19 April 2009

The discovery of a preserved body of a man in a peat bog at Lindow Moss, Cheshire, in 1984. Seven different people provide a range of perspectives on the life and death of a man who returned to us after nearly two thousand years.

Lindow Moss: A Place of Finding

Mid-December until 19 April 2009

This photographic exhibition documents the landscape at Lindow Moss; the mysterious place where the preserved body of Lindow Man was found.

Sat 6 Dec, 11am to 4pm

Harry Potter Day

What dastardly spells and plants will be in the new Harry Potter film? Discover the magical world of real plants and animals from the Museum's collection, from owls to mandrakes, and take part in some wizardly activities. For the lucky few, you can book onto a Harry Potter-themed behind-the-scenes tour of the herbarium plant store, set in the Hogwarts-style tower.

Fri 12 Dec, 11am to 12noon

Magical Magic Carpet

Winter-time magic for under 5s and their families

Mon 22 Dec – Wed 24, Mon 29, Tues 30 Dec and Fri 2 Jan, 11.30am – 3pm

Lindow Man Yuletide

Celebrate the old festival of Yule. Make a sprig of mistletoe to add to our nature tree or draw a winter scene.

MANCHESTER CAFÉ SOCIETY

Manchester's Café Society is a place where, for the price of a glass of wine or a cup of coffee, anyone can explore the latest ideas in science, culture and the arts. Talks are either in the café or the Museum's Discovery Centre.

Wed 3 Dec, 3-5pm

Human remains: issues and challenges

Opening hours

Open: Tues-Sat 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



Music and Drama at Manchester

Wed 3 Dec, 1.10pm

The University of Manchester Baroque Orchestra
Italy abroad: a programme of Italianate concerti grossi by composers working in eighteenth-century London, including Handel, Geminiani, and the celebrated English composer William Boyce.

Thurs 4 Dec, 1.10pm

Stanzas for Music

A vocal recital based on the poetry of Lord Byron, given as part of the interdisciplinary 'Adapting Byron' conference being hosted by The University of Manchester's Byron Centre, 4-5 Dec.

Thurs 11, Fri 12, Thurs 18 and Fri 19 Dec, 7pm

Directorial and Performance Projects

An exciting and interactive evening of theatre in which third year students present twenty-minute extracts from a diverse range of classical and contemporary plays.

Thurs 11 Dec, 1.10pm

Quatuor Danel Lunchtime Concert

Weinberg in genial serenade mood, juxtaposed with Shostakovich at his darkest and most introspective in the famous autobiographical quartet dedicated officially 'to the Victims of Fascism and War' but unofficially to himself.

Thurs 11 Dec, 2.30pm

Quatuor Danel Seminar

The String Quartets of Mieczyslaw Weinberg, with Prof. David Fanning

Fri 12 Dec, 7.30pm

Quatuor Danel Evening Concert

Another favourite lollipop of the Russian Quartet tradition prefixes Weinberg's enigmatic 14th. Then Weinberg in more romantic mood – the work of a teenager, revised late in life – prefixes Schnittke's despairing yet hauntingly beautiful Piano Quintet, dedicated to the memory of his mother.

Sat 13 & Sun 14 Dec, 7.30pm

The University of Manchester Chorus and Symphony Orchestra

Due to last year's sell out season The University of Manchester Chorus and Symphony Orchestra will be giving two performances of Mendelssohn's dramatic oratorio *Elijah* in the magnificent surroundings of Whitworth Hall. Featuring rising star George Humphreys in the title role. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Thurs 18 Dec, 1.10pm

A Garland for Sir John

Celebrating 80 years, 55 of which have been spent in the pursuit and passion of music, this programme brings together fellow composers and musicians in a tribute to Sir John Manduell CBE, whose life has been spent furthering the cause of music worldwide from his many important spheres of work in the UK.

Thurs 18 Dec, 7.30pm

Ad Solem – The University of Manchester Chamber Choir

The first half will be made up of English choral anthems, including works by Stanford, Harris and James McMillan, with the very festive second half including the four Christmas motets by Poulenc and Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols featuring Olivia Jageurs on harp. by Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis and Wayne Shorter.

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 and 3

The Roots

Tues 2 Dec - £18.50 Adv

The Pigeon Detectives

Wed 3 & Thurs 4 Dec - £17.50 Adv

Black Stone Cherry

Fri 5 Dec - £14 Adv

The Levellers

Sat 6 Dec - £19.50 Adv

The Wildhearts

Sun 7 Dec - £18.50 Adv

The Hold Steady

Wed 10 Dec - £14 Adv (RESCHEDULED DATE)

Alabama 3

Fri 12 Dec - £16 Adv

Dashboard Confessional

Sat 13 Dec - £15 Adv

D12, Obie Trice & Royce Da 5'9

Sun 14 Dec - £18.50 Adv Doors 7pm

Biffy Clyro

Fri 19 Dec - £16.50 Adv (SOLD OUT)

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

Centre for New Writing

Mon 1 Dec, 6.30pm, Whitworth Hall, (£5/£3)

Martin Amis Public Event: Literature and Science

The Centre's Professor Martin Amis will turn his attention to the relationship between literature and science, and the interplays, parallels and tensions which exist between them.

Thurs 11 Dec, 7pm, John Rylands Library, 150

Deansgate (Free, booking essential)

The Rylands Poetry Reading, Novelist and poet

Elaine Feinstein

Novelist, poet, biographer and critic Feinstein has published over 30 books, many addressing the recent history of European Jewry. Her most recent novel is *Russian Jerusalem*.

Mon 15 Dec, 6.30pm, Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall (MHC), (£5/£3)

Novelist DBC Pierre

Having funded a nomadic lifestyle by working as a designer, photographer, film-maker and cartoonist, DBC Pierre's first novel, *Vernon God Little*, erupted just before his fortieth birthday.

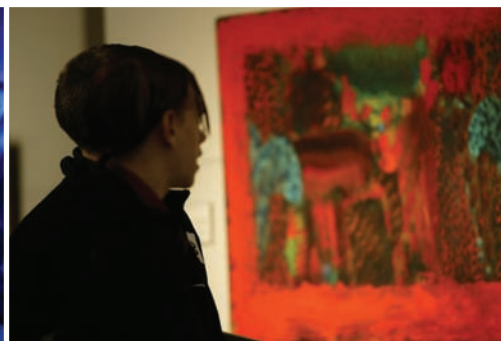
The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

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The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

Cloth and Culture NOW until Dec

This exhibition aims to examine textile as both a global language and as a medium that can express a sense of local and regional identity.

Masterclass Series: Thurs 11 Dec, 10.30am – 4.30pm, Tickets £25, booking required.

Drawing Stonehenge until 23 Dec

Work by six artists whose challenge was to respond artistically to the biggest ever archaeological dig at Stonehenge in August 2007.

Some Smaller Things until Summer 2009

Inspired by, and acting as a counterpoint to, the iconic status of Stonehenge, a new selection has been drawn from the Whitworth's collection of drawings and prints.

Putting on the Glitz, Wallpapers and Wallcoverings With That Extra Something until Oct 2009

Traditionally, wallcoverings incorporating precious metals could only be afforded by the wealthy. For those aspiring to wealth, such luxury was highly desirable. Putting on the Glitz explores how this desire has been (and can still be) satisfied, both by the real thing and extremely effective imitations.

Art and Labour's Cause is One, Walter Crane and Manchester 1880-1915 until Sept 2009

The exhibition features items such as book illustrations, political cartoons, socialist emblems and works of art.

EVENTS

Colourful Sundays

Every Sunday 1.30pm - 3.30pm, Family Friendly, Free Drop into the gallery any Sunday afternoon for free and fun creative activities at Colourful Sundays. Suitable for all ages, no need to book.

Tuesday Talks

Each week an artist, thinker or critic talks about their work, influences and inspirations, 11am -12.30pm.

Envisioning Utopia, (two day conference)

5 and 6 Dec

Examine the dynamic between the urban and pastoral in utopian visions of a socialist future.

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

International Society

WINTER TRIPS

Sat 6 Dec

Lincoln Christmas Market

Sun 7 Dec

Lake District visiting Keswick Traditional Christmas Market

Sun 9 Dec

Yorkshire Dales visiting Haworth and Grassington Dickensian Christmas Fayre

Sun 14 Dec

Chester Zoo Frost Fair

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Discover the Whitworth

Putting on the Glitz at the Whitworth



There's plenty of sparkle in the Whitworth's latest exhibition, which brings together a collection of metallic wallpapers.

Glittering highlights of this rare collection are now on display in a new and glamorous display; 'Putting on The Glitz'.

The exhibition has already caught the attention of flamboyant designer and TV presenter Laurence Llewelyn Bowen (pictured here at the opening of the exhibition with Gallery Director Maria Balshaw (left) and Curator of Wallpapers Christine Woods).

Laurence, probably best known for his appearances on the hit TV series Changing Rooms, has worked closely with wallpaper manufacturer Graham & Brown for more than five years. And examples of his own designs have been included in the exhibition.

Traditionally, wallcoverings incorporating precious metals could only be afforded by the wealthy. For those aspiring to wealth, such luxury was highly desirable.

The exhibition explores how this desire has been (and still can be) satisfied, both by the real thing and by extremely effective imitations. Ranging from luxury 19th century gold-decorated leather, through to the bold designs of the 1960s and 70s as well as fabulous new jewelled wallpapers, the exhibition reveals our ongoing appetite for spectacular walls.

'Putting on The Glitz: wallpapers and wallcoverings with that extra something' is now on display at the Whitworth Gallery and runs until September 2009.

Meanwhile, the Whitworth Art Gallery is to host a conference on the work of Walter Crane - entitled 'Envisioning Utopia: British art and Socialist Politics, 1870-1900' - on December 5 and 6.

The conference will examine the dynamic between the urban and the pastoral in utopian visions of a socialist future and explore the role of visual art in formulating and articulating these political ideals.

More information is available by emailing waltercranearchive@gmail.com.

 www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

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