

# *your manchester*

The Magazine for Alumni and Friends  
August 2008

## New Chancellor Tom Bloxham

*Friday night on the town*

*Embryonic ideas*

*'The future's green'*

*Rag's colourful history*





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President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert



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# welcome to *your*

Welcome to this latest edition of 'Your Manchester', the magazine for alumni and friends of The University of Manchester.

As you will see from the cover of this magazine, we have a new Chancellor, elected by alumni and staff, who will take-up his role in August. As a graduate of the University and a successful public figure in his own right, I am sure that Tom Bloxham will prove to be a powerful figurehead and ambassador for the University. As well as welcoming his election, I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Anna Ford and Sir Terry Leahy for all their sterling work as Co-Chancellors. They both played an important and influential role in the inauguration of the new University and the promotion of its interests over the past four years, both in public and 'behind the scenes'.

As you will see from some of the stories covered in this magazine, the University continues to make real progress towards meeting the Goals set out in the *Manchester 2015 Agenda*, our ambitious strategic plan to position The University of Manchester as one of the world's leading universities.

Step change improvement is perhaps best illustrated in the research field, where research grant and contract income has grown by over 40 per cent in just three years, and where we are beginning to witness the world-leading impact that our Research Institutes are having in fields as diverse as cancer studies, poverty reduction and nuclear science. Indeed, the University is emerging as a genuine research powerhouse with total research expenditure during the first three years growing from £269 million in 2004-05 to £375 million in 2006-07.

This research success was confirmed in a league table compiled by the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and based on the number of awards received from the five major research councils. This showed Manchester in first place having been awarded 163 research grants, followed by Cambridge with 158 grants. In a similar vein, the widely read *Research Fortnight* published its own 'Research Success Rankings' and stressed that: "in terms of sheer volume, both of applications and awards, there is a clear break between the

'Big Five' (Imperial, Cambridge, Manchester, University College London and Oxford) and the rest".

One notable success in the research field occurred in September 2007, when we were able to announce the successful outcome of a competitive bidding process to Tesco plc to create a Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) in partnership with the University. The investment from Tesco will be at least £25 million over five years and will lead to the establishment of a Research Institute of genuine international significance which will help tackle climate change and deliver a revolution in green consumption.

In the teaching and learning field, applications to study at the University remain buoyant and last session saw record levels of enrolment by international students and students enrolled on programmes relying predominantly on on-line and distance learning. There has also been a continuing programme of investment in academic facilities and support services.



# manchester

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All that said, this University, like kindred universities around the world, faces a real challenge in addressing the urgent need for quality improvement in the undergraduate learning experience in an age of 'mass' higher education. Following a major strategic review of our undergraduate education, we are currently implementing some far-reaching changes in the way that we teach students. We are confident that the changes we are making will benefit students, establish a distinctive 'Manchester' approach to undergraduate study and provide a lead for other universities to follow.

There is no better illustration of the commitment that we are making to our students and our staff than the transformation of the campus itself. We have now completed Phases One and Two of our ambitious Capital Programme, which together amount to £401 million worth of new state-of-the-art buildings and facilities. These are described in detail elsewhere in this magazine.

Transforming our very good university into a world leader in higher education was

never going to be an easy task and building sustainability into our ambitious agenda was always going to present the greatest challenge. But due to the commitment, creativity and hard work of our staff we are firmly on track. We are also grateful for the valuable and practical support that we are receiving in this task from our graduates around the globe and this magazine contains many examples of the support that alumni offer to specific projects and initiatives.

I thank you for your continuing support of the University and I hope that the highlights that we have selected for the pages of this magazine will give you a flavour of the range of the University's activities and successes over the past year.

Professor Alan Gilbert  
President and Vice-Chancellor

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# Around the campus...

## New-look campus

The first two phases of the University's ambitious plans for improving the campus are now nearing completion with £400 million of the current £620 million Capital Programme now achieved. This is the largest building programme ever undertaken at a UK university.

University Place, the new £65 million flagship building for the University with its distinctive rotunda on Oxford Road, was opened in April 2008 and is set to become the focal point for major events and a point of first contact for prospective students and members of the public.

Other completed projects include the Stopford teaching labs, Functional Biology, the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre, Smith Building, the Chemistry Building, the new multi-storey car park, the spectacular John Rylands refurbishment on Deansgate (see page 18 for more details), the Alan Turing Building (Astronomy, Mathematics, Physics and Photon Science) and the Arthur Lewis Building (Humanities). There has also been a major programme of investment in public areas between buildings on the campus.

Work on phases Three and Four will begin shortly.



University Place



Alan Turing Building



Arthur Lewis Building



## Professor gives Beethoven a hand

Music Professor Barry Cooper has published what he considers is the definitive version of Beethoven's 35 sonatas.

Professor Cooper spent ten years examining the pieces, which include three little-known works that Beethoven wrote when he was twelve. The result is a three-volume publication that contains Professor Cooper's revised manuscripts and a 150,000-word commentary to assist performers.

He 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.

And 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. If you know the sonatas well, you'll certainly be able to tell the difference."

Professor Cooper is one of the world's leading Beethoven experts and is widely known for completing the first movement of Beethoven's unfinished tenth symphony, premiered at the Royal Festival Hall in 1988.



Graduation day: Sammy Gitau with his programme director, Dr Peter Mann

## Miraculous journey ends with graduation

A former Kenyan slum child who found a University of Manchester prospectus in a dustbin finally achieved his dream of gaining a Masters degree in December 2007.

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

Sammy became his family's breadwinner at the age of 13 when his father was killed in a hammer attack. After he was beaten by angry mobs for thieving he became a drug seller in 1997.

But after reading references to his country on a page about a course at the University's renowned 'Institute for Development Policy and Management', Sammy established a community resource centre which lobbies for fresh water and an electricity supply, as well as helping young men to come off drugs and find a job.

A group of wives of local and international officials helped Sammy to convert cargo containers into classrooms from which he could teach skills such as carpentry and computing to disenfranchised youngsters.

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

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

"You just say, get me out of here and I will do anything. I will go back and stop children going through the same kind of life as me.

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

## Super scanners to fight terror and tumours

Scientists from the School of Materials have developed a 3-D colour x-ray machine which can detect hidden explosives - and elusive tumours.

The prototype scanner creates three-dimensional colour images of objects in a fraction of the time needed for existing x-rays.

Unlike normal x-ray machines, it can distinguish between different materials and be programmed to tell the difference between bone, flesh and skin or to recognise drugs or hazardous substances.

The scanner has greater detection powers because it picks up all the light present in an x-ray beam - whereas existing machines detect only some wavelengths. It means detailed images can be created in one simple scanning motion, reducing the scan time from hours to just a few minutes.

Professor Robert Cernik, from the School of Materials, said the new system could eventually replace existing CAT scans in medicine, as well as being used to detect hidden drugs and weapons at customs or to test for problems in aircraft design.

"Current imaging systems such as spiral CAT scanners do not use all the information in the x-ray beam", he said. "We use all the wavelengths present to give a colour x-ray image. The method is highly applicable to biomaterials, with the possibility of specific tissue identification in humans or identifying explosives, cocaine or heroin in freight."



## International Student of the Year

Manchester student Stephenie Siew Jean, a 24-year-old medic from Malaysia, has been named International Student of the Year.

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

More than 1,500 students from 127 countries entered the sixth annual International Student Awards - run by the British Council to highlight international students and their contributions to life 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, Stephenie has won a Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Student Prize. She has also participated in a regional debating tournament and been involved in 'Save a Baby's Life Society'.

## Breakthrough in birth-defect research

Scientists have discovered how to prevent certain craniofacial disorders in what could ultimately lead to at-risk babies being treated in the womb.

University researchers, working with colleagues at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research in Kansas, have successfully treated mice with Treacher Collins syndrome – a rare genetic disorder characterised by underdeveloped facial bones, absent or deformed ears and occasionally cleft palate.

The team had previously found that the condition, which affects one in 10,000 individuals, was caused by a mutation in a single gene called TCOF1. They later discovered that this mutation causes cells, known as neural crest cells, to die prematurely in the early stages of pregnancy resulting in the facial anomalies.



*Professor Mike Dixon, Faculty of Life Sciences*

Now, writing in the journal *Nature Medicine*, the researchers have shown that preventing the neural crest cells from dying allowed mice with the Treacher Collins gene to develop normally. The principle, say the authors, could also be applied to other single-gene birth defects.

"This is the first time that a congenital defect has been successfully treated and provides genuine hope within a realistic timeframe of one day preventing these conditions in humans," said Professor Mike Dixon from the Faculty of Life Sciences.

## Major entrepreneurial fund for new ideas

Manchester has launched a unique £50 million venture fund for University entrepreneurs by teaming up its in-house intellectual property company UMIP with MTI, the UK's leading technology investment manager.

The Fund, which was officially launched in April 2008, will provide opportunities to invest in businesses emerging from the University's 'five-star' rated academic

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

President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert said the initiative established a hugely creative vehicle for providing academics with access to capital to develop the world-leading research into world-beating companies.

## A bog body mystery

Lindow Man, the 2,000 year old body found in a peat bog at Lindow Moss near Wilmslow in 1984, has re-visited The Manchester Museum as part of a special exhibition. On loan from the British Museum, he will be on display until 19 April 2009.

'Lindow Man: A bog body mystery' will explore the different stories relating to Lindow Man, and look at what he means to us today. Seven people with particular connections to him have been interviewed for this exhibition. Their personal experiences provide a unique insight into the impact that he has had on their lives, and those of many others.

A number of groups including pagans, archaeologists and curators, have been involved in consultations which have informed the way his body has been put on display, with emphasis being placed on



displaying him in a respectful and sensitive way and preparing visitors for their encounter.

 [www.lindowmanchester.wordpress.com](http://www.lindowmanchester.wordpress.com)

## Manchester moves up academic world ranking

The University's ranking in the 'Academic Ranking of World Universities' carried out by the Institute of Higher Education at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University (which is generally regarded as the most reliable of international rankings) has risen to 48th (from 50th in 2006, 53rd in 2005 and 78th in 2004). This places the University 9th in Europe in 2008, up from 24th in 2004.

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert said: "The improvement in the University's positioning is encouraging and the gap between this University and those ranked above it is narrowing, but there is no scope for complacency. There remains a long way to travel to get to our 2015 goal".

## Sporting Success



Two of the University's sporting venues have been selected to appear in the official London 2012 pre-Games Training Camp Guide.

The Manchester Aquatics Centre and the Sugden Centre will both be available for use by athletes from all over the world in the lead up to the London 2012 Games.

The Aquatics Centre will be used for swimming, diving, synchronised swimming

and water polo whilst the Sugden Centre will be used for badminton, basketball, fencing, taekwondo, indoor volleyball and wrestling.

More immediately, law student and swimmer 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 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."

## University honoured with Green Gowns

The University has been recognised for its environmental practices and commitment to sustainability in the 'Green Gown Awards' for various initiatives in student residences, including installing recycling centres, auditing energy usage and distributing charity bags for Cancer Research UK. The Green Gowns Awards are now in their fourth year and have become the most prestigious recognition of best practice in universities and colleges.

The University's new Chancellor  
talks about his vision for  
Manchester



# New Chancellor

Even as a schoolboy in London, Tom Bloxham MBE had his eye on Manchester, but not even he could have imagined when he started here as an undergraduate that 25 years later he would have played such a pivotal role in changing the face of the city and the region beyond – and become Chancellor of the University.

No-one could be more delighted and enthusiastic about taking on the challenge. “It is a huge pleasure to have been elected,” he says. “I am looking forward to doing what I can to help the University achieve its aim of becoming world-class and standing alongside the best.”

He is very supportive of the University's clearly-stated ambition. “The merger

was a good thing and Alan Gilbert has real vision,” he says. “That is very important. If you don't know where your destination is, you're never going to get there.”

He sees quite a few parallels between the University's progress and outlook – and that of the company he has built from scratch over the last 20 years, Urban Splash, which has earned international respect for the part it has played in regenerating Manchester and its region by breathing new life into disused buildings and city-centre living.

“Like the University, we are proud to be based in Manchester, but we are also proud to be a national and international brand,” he says. “Both of us have a positive impact on the city,

the region and other parts of the UK – and beyond.”

As if to prove the point The Wall Street Journal Europe has added to the acclaim, praising Urban Splash's lead in using environmentally-friendly techniques in its developments – another parallel with the University's green policy.

Still only 44 years old, Tom Bloxham maintains a youthful appearance – and a youthful outlook. From his spacious glass-walled office in Urban Splash's headquarters in Timber Wharf, he surveys the Castlefield scene of regeneration where he started as a young graduate, with no formal training in property, 20 years ago. And the new skyscraper of the Hilton Hotel

nearby symbolises further the amazing success of his vision.

"When I arrived in Manchester in 1982, it was a culturally vibrant city, but it was a synonym for post-industrial depression," he says. "The buildings were black, bomb sites still existed and at six o'clock the shutters came down. The change has been phenomenal – it's a positive place now, a lively European and, indeed, a world city."

No-one has done more to make it what it is – and no-one enjoys it more. He helped to create the bars and clubs for which the city is renowned now – and he makes full use of them. He is a hard worker, but by no means a workaholic. He is modest, likeable and good-humoured – and looks back fondly to his student days.

He read Politics and Modern History. "I had three great years," he says. "University gives you time to think about problems and teaches you to think for yourself. In the first year, I was in Oak House, which was great – and I still have friends from that time. I also spent a lot of time in the Middle Bar and the Cellar Bar in the Students' Union. I would encourage all students to enjoy their time here - and get as much out of it as I did. I just wish I'd got a better degree, but I was a mediocre student academically and in my second year I started up in business. By my third year, I was set in my ways – running my own business – and opened a shop." He got a 2:2, though the University gave him an Honorary Doctorate a couple of years ago.

As an entrepreneur, he started modestly, "selling posters and records in the Union", developing into this "Bigger Splash" business and then diversifying into bars. Then, in 1989, came the Castlefield venture. Now, Urban Splash is hailed by The Times as "one of

the best-branded developers in the regeneration business, pioneering the rebuilding of Victorian factories into loft-style apartments and working closely with the public sector to develop mixed-use communities on abandoned brownfield sites".

His reach has spread to other cities – Liverpool, Sheffield, Walsall, Birmingham, Plymouth, Bradford, and Leeds. Tom is a socially-conscious, caring man. "There's still a lot to be done," he says. "If you go a mile outside Manchester city centre in almost any direction, there are pockets of poverty and areas crying out for economic regeneration."

Again there are parallels with the University, with its interest in the underprivileged, as witnessed by the work of the Brooks World Poverty Institute.

He also has a wider cultural interest. For the past eight years, he has been Chairman of North West Arts and a member of the Arts Council. He also chairs the Manchester International Festival, which was inaugurated last year and will take place again in 2009.

Tom is very much involved in the city at all levels and, as Chancellor, he is keen to build on the connections between the University and the city. "I welcome the strong links that exist, exemplified by Alan Gilbert and Sir Howard Bernstein," he says. "And I see the University as having an even bigger role in the future of Manchester."

A married man with two teenage sons, Tom enjoys life. His interests include ski-ing and Manchester United. And of course, he supports and attends a lot of arts events.

He is positive, enthusiastic and a man of action. Tom Bloxham MBE is "thrilled at the prospect of being Chancellor of this great University."

## Election of the Chancellor

The process to elect a new Chancellor of the University was completed on Wednesday, 4 June 2008. Mr Tom Bloxham was duly elected to serve as the next Chancellor of The University of Manchester in the ballot of Staff, Alumni and General Assembly members. He secured just over 51 per cent of the valid votes cast and will take up post on 1 August 2008 for a period of seven years.

The total number of voting papers issued across the three constituencies was 52,884. 9,186 valid votes (just over 17 per cent of the voting papers issued) were cast during the voting period, approximately 25 per cent were returned by post, and almost 75 per cent were cast via the secure voting site.

The total number of votes cast were as follows: Thomas Paul Richard Bloxham 4695 and Irene Zubaida Khan 4491.

The alumni constituency comprised of the 40,000 members on the Alumni Register. A notification was placed in Your Manchester 2007, which invited alumni to register for elections and receive information on the proceedings of the Alumni Association.\*

Since 2004, the role has been carried out jointly by 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 plc and former Chancellor of UMIST. This was the first election of a Chancellor since the establishment of The University of Manchester in 2004.

The Chancellor is the officer of the University fulfilling the function of non-executive Chair of the General Assembly and presides over Congregations of the University for the conferment of degrees.

\*If you are not on the Alumni Register and would like to be involved in such processes in the future please ensure your email address is continually updated on the alumni community website:

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/  
yourmanchester](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester)

If you do not have access to the internet then please contact the Division of Development and Alumni Relations at the address shown on page 3, providing your details and indicating that you wish to be kept informed of the proceedings of the Alumni Association.

# Uncovering Cancer

Cancer remains the UK's biggest killer and its incidence is increasing by about 1 per cent each year. But survival rates are also on the up thanks to pioneering scientific research

Two teams of researchers at the University are currently unravelling what happens when breast cancers spread from their primary site to other parts of the body, making them much more difficult to treat.

Dr Andrew Gilmore is examining a process called 'anoikis', where the body ambushes and kills rogue cells which are moving around the body. Current breast cancer treatments have been designed to kick start anoikis in an attempt to kill the cancer cells. However, cancer cells somehow learn how to avoid being destroyed by this process, which means the treatment no longer works.

Dr Gilmore said: "Understanding more about how the body's natural defences work, and why breast cancer cells can avoid them, will help to develop new drugs that can kill invasive cells that have become resistant to standard treatment."

Meanwhile, other research could finally uncover how a group of proteins prevent breast cancer cells from dying. Professor Nigel Bundred, Dr Robert Clarke, Dr Gillian Farnie and Dr Keith Brennan have discovered that 'Notch' proteins are found in higher levels in breast cancer cells. These proteins seem to protect the cells from being

killed by the body's natural defence mechanism, and also by anti-cancer drugs like chemotherapy. As a result these breast cancer cells are able to spread to other areas of the body and form new tumours.

Dr Brennan said: "Notch proteins appear to shield breast cancer cells from the body's natural defences and also from chemotherapy. This research will help to uncover exactly how Notch proteins have this effect, and whether inhibiting the action of these proteins may be one way of making chemotherapy treatments more effective."

In Manchester, much of the research activity – from uncovering the basic biological principles of the disease to conducting clinical trials on the latest cancer therapies – is centred on the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC).

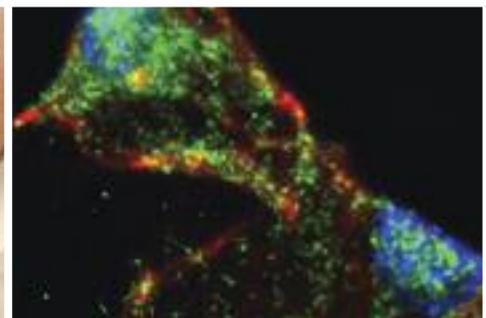
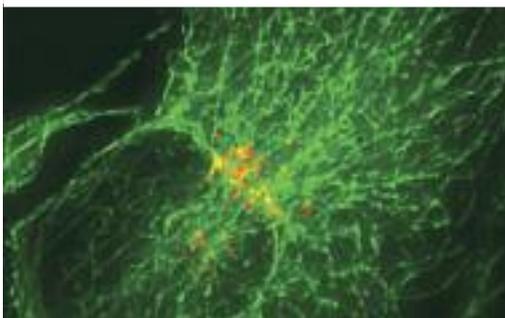
Founded two years ago, the MCRC brings together scientists and clinicians from The University of Manchester, the Paterson Institute of Cancer Research (PICR), Christie Hospital and Cancer Research UK with the aim of creating a world-class centre for comprehensive cancer research.

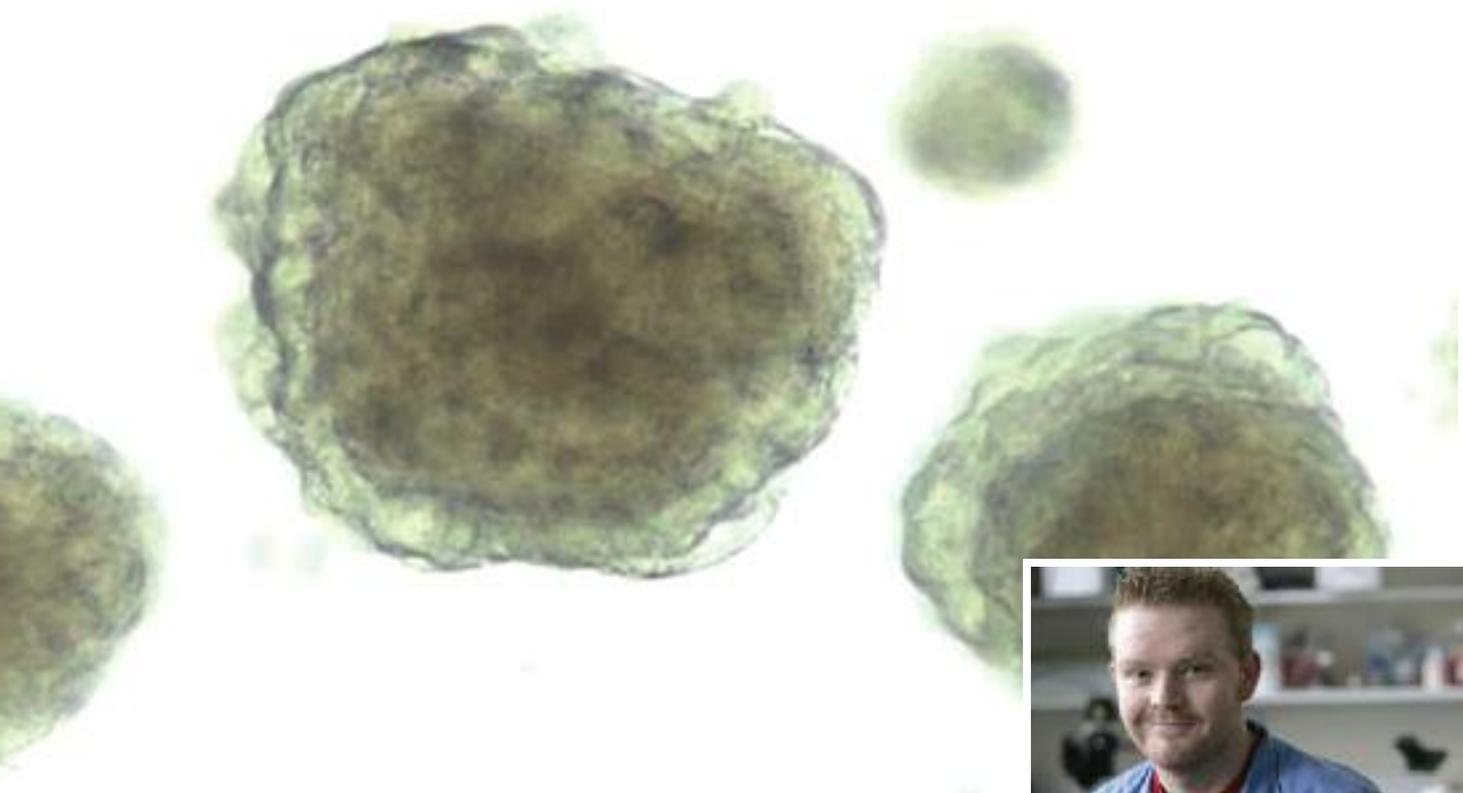
Now the Centre is making a number of key appointments of research group

leaders in a variety of partnerships with major investors in cancer research such as Cancer Research UK (CR-UK), Breakthrough Breast Cancer, the PACCAR Foundation, the Wolfson Foundation and the Department of Health. The Muriel Edith Rickman Foundation has also provided generous funding to support the Muriel Edith Rickman Chair in Breast Oncology and associated laboratories.

The first step is to expand Christie Hospital's clinical trials unit into the biggest Phase I unit in the world. Phase I trials are the earliest trials in the life of a new drug or treatment. Currently the unit has 2,000 patients a year taking part in 80 trials; this will increase to 100 trials in the first year after completion.

The unit's expansion will be assured thanks to the further development of PICR's translational research laboratories, where scientists work closely with the unit's clinicians to monitor the effectiveness of new treatments. This expansion will strengthen the MCRC's clinical research portfolio to include, for example, breast





cancer and leukaemia, as more world-class researchers are recruited.

Professors Caroline Dive and Malcolm Ranson, scientific and clinical research group leaders respectively, explained that the new facilities are a real step forward because they greatly enhance our ability to expand and accelerate work on new therapies. "It's good for the science and good for the patients because we will be able to invite more people onto a wider range of trials."

The MCRC will also create a drug discovery unit to develop targeted treatments for specific forms of cancer. Traditionally, drug discovery has been largely within the pharmaceutical industry but the enhancement of the in-house capability will enable the creation of new treatments which can be taken through toxicology tests and then entered into clinical trials, thus bringing together basic, translational and clinical research.

In addition this year will see the opening of a groundbreaking breast cancer research centre to investigate the very earliest stages of the disease to identify new ways of detecting and preventing it. Defects in the way cells interact and communicate with each other and their surroundings are some of the first steps of cancer development.

Finally a centralised tissue biobank will provide researchers at five surgical sites with a standardised source of tissue, blood and urine samples. MCRC Director, Professor Nic Jones, said: "Our goal is to create a world class cancer research centre by 2015. There is still much to do and the scale of the challenges, particularly when recruiting in an internationally competitive field, cannot be underestimated, but I am optimistic that our ambitions will be realised."



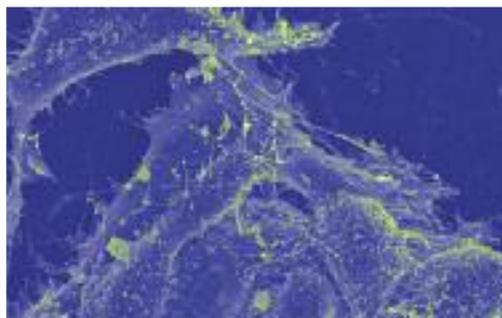
**Paul Kay**  
**Your Manchester Fund**  
**PhD Scholar: Cancer 2015**

Your Manchester Fund has provided financial support to outstanding Manchester graduate, Paul Kay, whose PhD research project is contributing to Cancer 2015 - one of the Fund's five priority themes.

Recently a human protein which expresses itself in a number of human lung cancer cells but not in normal lung tissue has been identified. It is thought that this protein could be involved in the transformation of normal cells to cancer cells. Paul hopes that his PhD project will achieve a better understanding of this transformation. He intends to extend this research to the analysis of breast tumours.

"The money was of great importance to me and I am grateful for the support the alumni have offered. The money not only contributed to my living expenses, but also my tuition fees. My studies would not be possible without it."

See page 41





# Green consumption

Supermarket giant Tesco has teamed up with The University of Manchester in a £25 million investment that will bring together the world's leading experts to tackle climate change and help deliver a "revolution in green consumption"

The Sustainable Consumption Institute will promote fresh thinking and explore vital areas of research such as how customers can be persuaded to buy green products and services, how business can adapt and how to train the next generation of environmental leaders.

Projects already under way include research into low carbon lifestyles and the role of new technologies in delivering them. Outcomes could range from making paper from chicken feathers to fuelling delivery vans with plastic milk bottles.

Tesco Chief Executive Sir Terry Leahy said: "At Tesco, we know our customers are concerned about climate change and expect us to be taking the lead in helping create a greener future. Making a real difference to global problems will take time, but our support for this partnership with one of the country's top universities marks another major milestone on the road to a low-carbon future."

Drawing on expertise from all four of the University's faculties, Manchester will lead and co-ordinate a wide range of focused research programmes.

In addition to supporting research, the SCI is committed to training the sustainability researchers of the future through its Doctoral Training Centre. The first intake of students will occur in September 2008.

The SCI also plans to develop an on-going programme of workshops and lectures highlighting current issues in green consumption and to share innovative thinking. The SCI recently hosted Tim Lang from City University, and a Commissioner with the Sustainable Development Commission, who addressed the roles of Government and supermarkets in delivering a sustainable food system.



**Stephen Woolaghan**

**Your Manchester Fund PhD Scholar: Science and Society**

Ferrying goods by customers and across the supply chain will always involve road transport but Manchester has done cutting-edge work to reduce carbon emissions. This includes Your Manchester Fund PhD Scholar, Stephen, who is currently researching into more environmentally friendly transportation, specifically the application of fuel cells, electro chemical batteries and super capacitors for electric vehicles.

*See page 41*

## Organic panic

New research suggests that buying locally grown organic produce may sometimes be more damaging to the environment than nipping down to the supermarket for produce that has been driven hundreds of miles across the country!

The findings from Manchester Business School are likely to make shocking reading for the conscientious consumer attempting to reduce the carbon footprint of the weekly shop.

The researchers found that using the car to do the weekly supermarket run probably cancelled out gains made by buying locally grown food. But the equation is hugely complex according to their 200-page report, commissioned to inform government policy on the environmental effect of food production.

"There is certainly insufficient evidence available to state that organic agriculture overall would have less of an environmental impact than conventional agriculture," concluded the researchers. "In particular, organic agriculture poses its own environmental problems in the

production of some foods, either in terms of nutrient release to water or in terms of climate change burdens."

The evidence suggested that for some products, organic agriculture has a more damaging impact on the environment than non-organic. Organic milk was particularly singled out, for while it has higher levels of nutrients and needs less fertiliser, its production generates more carbon dioxide emissions - and producing organic milk uses 80 per cent more land.

The researchers also concluded that buying locally produced food was not necessarily a guarantee of any green credential. They suggested that the best way to reduce the carbon footprint of food production and consumption was to leave the car at home and walk - or take public transport - to the supermarket.

"The available data suggests that, looking at UK food transportation as a whole, the environmental impacts of car-based shopping are greater than those of transport within the distribution system itself," the report said.

Until a life-cycle analysis calculates every aspect of a food product's environmental impact it is not possible precisely to measure which forms of production are best. Factors to be taken into account would include uses of land, water, fertiliser, transportation, packaging and refrigeration.

Professor Ken Green who led the study said: "If you are concerned about the carbon footprint of foods, there can be a good case for importing some of them even if they can be grown in the UK. The evidence available so far shows that local is not always the best option for the environment."

Although there may be benefits in terms of biodiversity and the aesthetics of the countryside, it is not possible to say that all organic food is better for the environment than all food grown conventionally, he added. "If you look carefully at the amount of energy required to produce these foods you get a complicated picture - in some cases, the carbon footprint for organics is larger."



# “It caused me to think about who I am”

The Manchester Leadership Programme is only three years old but its rapid success reflects a unique approach to 21st century living and working. Alumni are heavily involved in giving of their time and expertise

The programme has enlisted some powerful alumni to help equip students for modern citizenship, entrepreneurship and above all leadership. Manchester graduate Sir Terry Leahy (BSc Hons Management Science 1977), Chief Executive of Tesco, and the Rt Hon Hazel Blears, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, are amongst the programme's distinguished guests who are helping to engage students with today's leadership challenges, whilst broadening their intellectual and cultural interests.

The programme (launched by President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert) was developed with an ambitious agenda to help address some of the aims of the University's 2015 strategic vision. In making a positive contribution to communities in Manchester - as well as further afield in the UK and overseas - the programme aims to produce rounded, confident, effective graduates who are able to meet the leadership challenges of the 21st Century.

The programme has two elements: a credit-rated Leadership in Action module that students complete as part

of their degree, plus 60 hours of voluntary work.

Academics from a range of disciplines have been involved with the programme including law, engineering, business, geography, life sciences, medicine, politics and economics. In this way leadership can be explored through a variety of contexts and themes ranging from bioethics, energy and globalisation to poverty, wealth creation, entrepreneurship and human rights.

Presenters include leading academics and alumni such as David Buckley (BSc Hons Electrical and Electronic Engineering 1984), Managing Director at Goldman Sachs International who presents on the subject of leadership and business ethics. This topic has also been led by two alumni at BP, Dr Brian Gilvary (PhD 1987, BSc Pure Mathematics 1984), Group Vice-President for Global Integrated Supply and Trading Business and Dr Angela Strank (PhD 1982, BSc Hons Geology 1975), Technology Vice-President for Lubricants. Their session engaged students with current leadership challenges within BP including the accident at the Texas City refinery, and the implementation of ethical

working practices in emerging markets such as Eastern Europe and Africa. Sir Terry Leahy has delivered a keenly anticipated session on 'Building a Business of Leaders'.

But it is not only alumni with long established careers from the world of business and commerce who have been engaged with the programme. Recent graduate, Amelia Lee (BA Hons Combined Studies 2004), is a Youth Co-ordinator for ICA:UK, an organisation which aims to create more humane and sustainable communities. Amelia's presentation to students gave them an insight into the role youth leadership can play in developing sustainable communities in the UK and overseas.

Other external presenters, who have led sessions on campus or given interviews for the online version of the Leadership in Action module, include Lord Dennis Stevenson, Chairman of HBOS and Chair of the House of Lords Appointments Commission, Barbara Stocking, Director of OXFAM (GB), and the Rt Hon Hazel Blears.

It is also planned to use alumni to promote the volunteering aspect of the



programme. Dr Daniel Morris (MBCChB 1999), an Ophthalmic Surgeon, last year won the University's Alumni Volunteer of the Year (UK) Award\*. Shortly after he graduated, Daniel completed a sabbatical with the nomadic Samburu tribe of Kenya, half of whom are at risk of developing trachoma and blindness.

Supported by fellow alumni who act as clinicians and fund-raisers, he returns to Kenya each year to run outreach surgical camps. Daniel's work has been recognised by the Kenyan government and he is a member of the National Kenyan Trachoma Task Force. Daniel has agreed to return to the University to talk to MLP students about issues relating to health and poverty, and the transformational power of volunteering.

The MLP is proving popular with students from all disciplines and following a pilot with 75 students in 2005, the numbers grew to 462 students this year and a further 600 places will be offered in 2008/09. Feedback from those having participated points to its success in helping to shape their futures and boost their employability.

Manchester graduate, Anna Bryant (BSc Hons Biology and Industrial Experience 2006), took the MLP in 2005 and after graduating set up her own ethical tourism company. Anna said: "Before the MLP I didn't know what I would do after university. It caused me to think about who I am, what my strengths are and what is possible. The presenters inspired me to think I would like to start my own business and to make it as ethical as possible."

The University sees great potential in stepping-up alumni engagement with the MLP and is keen to hear from

alumni who could lead a session on campus or take part in a recorded interview for the online unit (or have suitable personal or professional contacts who could do this), or who are involved in community development and have suitable volunteering opportunities for MLP students. Although a significant amount of volunteering is focussed on Manchester, there are many student volunteers across the UK and overseas.

General feedback on the aspirations of the MLP is also welcomed. Alumni interested should contact the Director of the MLP, Jane Ratchford at [jane.ratchford@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jane.ratchford@manchester.ac.uk).

\*For more information about Volunteer of the Year Awards visit the web address below.

[www.volunteeroftheyear.careers.manchester.ac.uk/2007/winners](http://www.volunteeroftheyear.careers.manchester.ac.uk/2007/winners)



**David Buckley**  
**BSc Hons Electrical and Electronic Engineering 1984**  
**Managing Director, Goldman Sachs International**

"The Manchester Leadership programme is a truly outstanding initiative, whose strength is drawn from the unique mix of lectures and tutorials which are combined with a period of voluntary service in the community. This gives MLP students an understanding and appreciation of the key leadership issues that face our society today, and helps equip them with practical experience that will help them face the leadership challenges of the 21st century. As an alumnus of the University, I have been delighted to have been asked to run the session on 'leadership in business ethics', a topic that I feel strongly about and one which has broad global relevance in today's society. This has enabled me to leverage my business experiences since graduating, and always results in engaging and challenging debate with the students."



# Embryonic ideas

A new Research Institute will examine pressing ethical debates such as the genetic selection of human embryos - under the guidance of a Nobel prize winning scientist

Science and technology are now moving at such a pace that new and difficult ethical questions seem to be thrown up almost daily. Manchester's newest research institute is on the case, however, and has already begun investigating some of the world's most complex problems.

Topical debates will be bread and butter to researchers at the Institute of Science, Ethics and Innovation, for the aim is to

examine how the social and ethical consequences of science and technology can be managed in a way that protects people - and makes their lives better.

"What is new and urgently required is serious work at the interface between science, ethics and innovation," said Sir John Sulston, the 2002 Nobel Prize winner and pioneer of genomic research who is chairing the new

initiative. He will be joined by Professor John Harris, a world-renowned authority on bioethics in Manchester's School of Law who has published more than two hundred papers and has appeared in most of the leading philosophical journals in his field.

Sir John said that the role of science and technology in society needed to be examined, both locally and globally. "We need to consider the adequacy and justification for that role, as well as the forms of regulation and control that are appropriate," he added.

Many of the topics that will fall under the remit of the multi-disciplinary Institute will offer great opportunities to produce research in the pursuit of progress towards a better future for humanity, Sir John said.

For example researchers will look into genetic selection of human embryos and the conflicts of interest between parents, the unborn child, social groups and society. They will also be examining the funding disparity in healthcare research between diseases of the developed and developing world.

Other knotty problems will include the ethics surrounding different models of healthcare - from a US style system that rations by wealth to a British model that aims to provide free access to care at the point of delivery.

Global trade, the free-market economy and 'fair trade' initiatives will also be under the spotlight at the Institute, alongside climate change and the ethics of conflict between bioenergy and food supply in developing countries.

Researchers also have an interest in the genetic manipulation of humans and animals - and the mixing of their genes and cells to create hybrids. They will be looking into ethical questions thrown up by stem cells, transplantation and reproductive ethics.

Sir John has scholarly interests in more generalised issues of human rights and justice in common with Professor Joseph Stiglitz, also a Nobel Laureate, who was recruited by the University to chair the Brooks World Poverty Institute researching global poverty.

Professor John Harris, Research Director of the new Institute and joint Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of Medical Ethics,



Sir John Sulston

said: "The transition process for new scientific and technological developments from discovery, through proof of principle to the clinic or marketplace, raises acute issues of social and global justice.

"These justice issues are also very much the concern of the Brooks World Poverty Institute and the intention is for these twin Manchester Institutes, each chaired by a Nobel Laureate, to work closely together to create a centre of excellence in these complementary fields that is second to none in the world."

As part of the University's aim to become one of the world's top 25 universities by 2015, it views iconic appointments such as John Sulston's as key to attracting the best scholars and students from around the globe.

The President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert said: "We already have a reputation for research and policy engagement in the fields of development economics, development studies, sustainability, healthcare governance and ethics, sociology and politics, as well as a strong reputation in science. The role of this Institute will be to build on this through world-leading research on science, ethics and innovation."



**Pendeep Gill**  
**Your Manchester Fund PhD Scholar: Regenerative Medicine**

Your Manchester Fund scholar, Pendeep, is currently researching a PhD at the University investigating whether or not adult brain cells could have the potential to divide and generate new neurons, thus having regenerative potential.

See page 41



# Regaining our Gothic Glory

One of Britain's greatest buildings - the University's John Rylands Library – has reopened after a painstaking three-year restoration programme costing some £17 million

An iconic scholarly institution, as well as one of the most beautiful libraries in the world, The John Rylands safeguards what many people see as Manchester's Crown Jewels.

The unique collection of one million books and manuscripts includes a very famous treasure - the St John Fragment. This unassuming piece of papyrus is probably the earliest piece of the New Testament in existence, dating from around 125 AD, and of enormous historical and cultural importance according to the Library's Head of Special Collections Dr Stella



Butler.

The library was created by Enriqueta Rylands, wife of the enormously wealthy cotton tycoon John Rylands who died in 1888. She spent a quarter of a million pounds - a huge sum in late Victorian England - on its construction, and an even larger sum purchasing the collections of books and manuscripts.

Work started in 1890 and after nine years the magnificent neo-gothic building opened to the public on 1 January 1900.

The John Rylands Library's collections were internationally important from the outset. In 1892 Mrs Rylands purchased 43,000 volumes from the library of the Spencer family of Althorp. Assembled in the early 19th century by George John, second Earl Spencer, the Spencer Library was one of the finest in the world. It

contained some of the best examples of early printed books from the fifteenth century, including a renowned collection of Caxtons and early Bibles.

Another purchase in 1901 of over 6,000 manuscripts collected by the Earls of Crawford further enhanced the academic standing of the Library. The collection contains some of the most beautiful examples of calligraphy ever produced, including the famous Rylands Haggadah.

Other highlights include exquisite medieval illuminated manuscripts, the Gutenberg Bible as well as the personal papers of distinguished historical figures such as Elizabeth Gaskell, John Dalton and John Wesley.

"When the John Rylands Library opened in 1900, it was acclaimed as one of the finest examples of neo-Gothic architecture in Europe," explained Dr Butler. "The Grade I listed building has gone from strength to strength ever since.

"It's an amazing building: the magnificent façade is merely a taster for the breathtaking interior, whose central feature is the cathedral-like historic Reading Room."

Individual elements of the interior are also remarkable, she added, including the stonework, metalwork, windows and bookcases. And the heating and ventilation system was extremely sophisticated for the time and it was one of the first buildings in Manchester to be served by electricity."

However Dr Butler explained that by the late 1990s, 100 years of pollution and Manchester weather were beginning to take their toll. "We began to worry about the condition of the building and of the collections it held," she said.

The University wanted to increase public access to the collections but the physical restrictions of the original building design made this difficult.

So the 'Unlocking the Rylands' project was launched to conserve the building and its collections and to improve physical access and facilities for visitors with the addition of a new entrance wing.

The renovation was funded by a £8.3 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £3 million from the European Regional Development Fund plus generous contributions from The University of Manchester, trusts, foundations, businesses and individual donors.

Many of the library's million books and manuscripts were moved to a Cheshire salt mine to protect them during the three years of closure. The dry and stable atmosphere provided ideal conservation conditions.

But the effort was worth it, enabling major conservation including the cleaning of much of the interior stonework to reveal its delicate shades of pink and red.

Around 8,000 damaged glass roundels in the windows were replaced and the two magnificent stained glass windows in the historic Reading Room were cleaned and repaired. A new pitched roof covered with Westmorland green slates - planned in 1890 but never completed - now covers the building.

The new extension provides a glazed entrance hall with lifts to all floors, improved visitor facilities and a shop and café. The upper floors now house a purpose-built new reading room, a conservation studio and state-of-the-art storage areas for the collections.

The library's new director, Jan Wilkinson, said it was "a great privilege" to be taking over at this important time in the Library's history. "The successful completion of this prestigious project stands as a very tangible tribute to all involved," said Ms Wilkinson who was formerly Head of Higher Education at the British Library in London and takes over from the retiring director Bill Simpson.

"Now we feel that the building is once again true to what Mrs Rylands intended to achieve all those years ago. It is a powerful acknowledgement of her tremendous vision and determination, and of her unrivalled generosity in furnishing a library for the city of Manchester and the wider world."

Since the library re-opened it has already won several awards including a prestigious 2008 RIBA Award (North West). This was awarded to eleven buildings in the North West for their high architectural standards and substantial contribution to the local environment.

Over the past few months, more than 60,000 visitors have flocked through its doors - a powerful affirmation of the University's aim to make the Rylands' treasures accessible to all, while

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/library](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library)



# The favourite Friday

Remember those dodgy dives where you used to hang out on a Friday night? Chances are they have been transformed into cool student-centred venues attracting an altogether more sophisticated crowd.

When once student night life revolved around fug-filled pubs, late-night drinking dives and dodgy curries spiked with industrial amounts of chilli, now there are dozens of smart café-bars, restaurants and clubs to choose from around the city – no doubt one of the reasons why The University of Manchester is the most popular in the country. The contemporary 24 hour social scene is a reflection of what today's savvy students want on a night out.

The transformation probably began with the 'Madchester' phenomenon in the 1980s: the era of the Hacienda club and its many legends including New Order, the Stone Roses and Happy Mondays.

But there was a time only a few years earlier when the Students' Union really was the epicentre of university life because venturing further afield was a pretty hit-and-miss affair.

Thirty years ago if you did go out, popular haunts included pubs like Tommy Ducks and the Swinging Sporrán opposite UMIST, plus hipper places like Rafters, where Joy Division met Tony Wilson – who sadly died last year – at a 'Battle Of The Bands' in 1978.

Then there were the late night drinking dives like the 'Conti' and Cypress Tavern. Afterwards it might be a mouth-numbing curry at the Koh-I-Noor or Star Of India on



Images courtesy of Manchester Archives and Local Studies, Central Library Manchester

# night hang out

Oxford Road (Rusholme and the 'Curry Mile' had yet to be invented).

Students who were really hard up headed for the legendary 'Plaza' where the menu had minimal choices - one a 'killer' laced with chilli and cheap chicken, which Charlie, who ran the place, would only let you have if he knew you could handle the suicide!

Even further back in the 1960's, Manchester pubs were largely smokey blokey enclaves where the only 'wine' might be the cheapest kind of port or sherry.

Newscaster and journalist, Anna Ford (BA Hons Economics 1966), the first-

ever woman President of the Students' Union in 1966, recalls a highlight being trips to The Railway Inn on Burton Road: "It was tiny and very welcoming with some old men who were tolerant of, and even friendly, towards students."

Ten years later, DJ, writer and broadcaster Mark Radcliffe (BA Hons English and American Studies 1979) recalls that things had not moved on that much.

"The main bars I went to were in the union because pubs were not as welcoming to students in those days. We did used to go to The Friendship Inn in Fallowfield, and also The Salutation behind the Royal Northern College of

Music and the now demolished Tommy Ducks in town which had lots of pairs of women's knickers stapled to the ceiling. Class!

"It was tricky in those days because all the pubs closed at 10.30. We used to go for a late night drink at the semi-legendary Continental Club.

"The only place we could afford to eat out was the Plaza on Upper Brook Street. There you got chicken biryani with a choice of medium, hot, suicide or even killer sauce. Just a pile of pilau rice, a few scraps of what might have been chicken, and a bowl of the hottest chilli sauce you ever tasted."

Cookery writer and broadcaster Sophie Grigson (BSc Hons Mathematics 1982) lived in Hulme, now demolished and re-built. In the late 1970's and early 1980's, it was anarchic, edgy, and above all cheap to live in. There was not one single restaurant.

"My local was The Grant's Arms – the nearest to the flat where I lived for most of my university years, and to a whole host of friends who lived in the nearby Crescents. The landlord was a large brawny chap who used to herald closing time with a shout of "Sup up and Sod Off".

"Also nearby was The Factory, home to so many of Manchester's great bands.

"Other drinking haunts in the city centre were the Swinging Sporan, right beside the UMIST campus. And we might venture to either the Old or New Conti.

"The Old Conti was extra dingy. You had to knock on the door, say you were medical students and then delve down into the basement. Iffy though it was you did often meet interesting people down there. Anyone from a craggy-faced sculptor to local villains."

Next-door to Sophie's bygone Hulme was Moss Side, in those days packed with shebeens and other 'dives' like the Nile Club on Princess Road. But by the late 1980's and early 1990's Manchester was rapidly changing from a depressed post-industrial city to become the centre of the 'Madchester' phenomenon. And that was reflected in a more sophisticated student social life.

Mark Radcliffe's radio colleague Nemone Metaxas (BSc Hons Psychology 1995), recalls: "Dry Bar was always a

good watering hole before a night spent dancing off the effects in the Hacienda. And I loved the little funk club Man Alive that was nestled under the Mancunian Way. You couldn't avoid dancing because pretty much all the floor space was the dance floor."

Another 'Madchester' graduate is BBC newsreader Sophie Raworth (BA Hons French and German 1991). "When I arrived, the scene was more to do with pubs and clubs. By the time I left, the new type of bars and the gay village around Canal Street were just starting up, bringing with them a whole new buzz to the city. I remember the opening of Mantos on Canal Street when there were virtually no other bars there. The Dry Bar on Oldham Street became a regular haunt for us all too. And then there were the old favourites - The Ducie Arms, hidden away near Whitworth Park where I lived in the first year, the Cornerhouse bar which was always the place to meet if we were heading into town and The Wheatsheaf in Didsbury was my local in my final year (and frequently full of Coronation Street stars)."

By 1997, when Simon Morrison earned his MA in Novel Writing, Manchester's transformation into a '24 hour city' was almost complete. As Simon points out, much of the credit for that change can be laid at the door of the late Tony Wilson, the pioneering spirit who had championed Manchester at its grungiest.

"By the 1990's, his Dry Bar on Oldham Street was the key place to be seen. You would actually have to queue for the privilege of giving them your money in exchange for beer. And even then the doormen might not like the look of you and turn you back from that hallowed portal, like some St Peter in a puffer jacket.

"The thing that underpinned the musical environment of Manchester was how it linked up - how Factory Records lay behind much of what was going on and how the bands were related to one another. And so you'd be in Dry and look over, and there would be Sean Ryder or Mani from the Stone Roses. And to a suburban London kid, that just made the whole experience so edgy and cool."

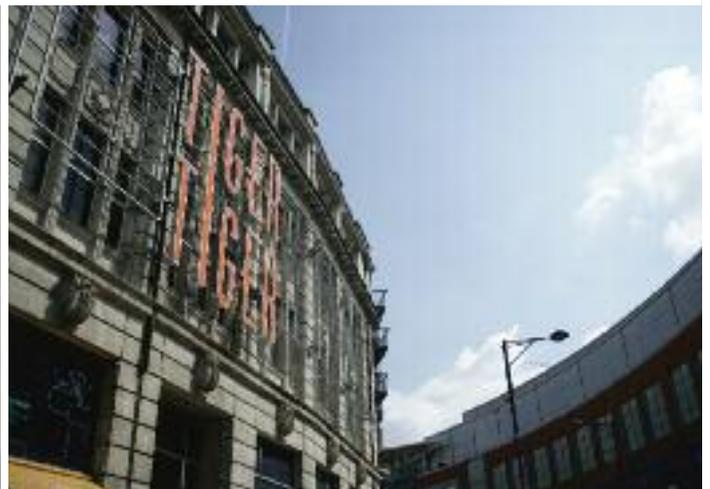
That 'coolness' is one which still intrigues the current generation of Manchester University students. Tom Skinner, who graduated in Biochemistry in 2006 and is now General Secretary of the Students' Union agrees that Manchester's social life is a major factor in its appeal.

"Pubs now target students and consult them about what they want. There are so many clubs and pubs; everything from cheesy discos nights to R & B indie and dance nights. But it's basically become a corporate business."

Rusholme is still the main place where students tend to eat out he said, and there is a 'good buzz' about the Students' Union although now there is more competition. Fallowfield has a lot more café-bars and in town there are places like Tiger Tiger and all the pubs and clubs around the gay village. "I love hearing about Manchester in the old days," said Tom. "It seems to have been a lot less commercialised and I think it had a lot more soul."

Where did you hang out in Manchester? Join in the alumni discussions at the web address below.

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester)





*Tom Kilburn and Freddie Williams*

# Digital 60

## Celebrating the Birth of the Computer Age

On the 21 June 1948, shortly after 11 o'clock in the morning, an event took place here at The University of Manchester which would start a technological revolution and change all our lives. The event was the birth of the world's first stored-program computer

The machine that successfully ran the first digitally stored program on that day was known as 'Baby' by its creators Freddie Williams and Tom Kilburn. The birth of the 'Baby' ranks alongside the splitting of the atom as perhaps the most significant scientific achievement in the University's long history. With its memory and stored-program, the machine which ran in that small workshop on Coupland

Street in 1948 really did go on to change the world.

The 60th anniversary of this momentous event was celebrated at the University a few weeks ago with a whole series of events titled 'Digital 60', which involved school students, academics, IT industry figures and some of the men who worked alongside Freddie Williams and Tom

Kilburn on the original project. A working replica of The Baby built for the 50th anniversary celebrations was also demonstrated in front of hundreds of school children in a live video link-up with the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Manchester.

The surviving pioneers of the Baby design and development team – Geoff



Left to right: Dai Edwards, Freddie Williams, Tom Kilburn, Alec Robinson and Tommy Thomas

Tootill, Dai Edwards, Alec Robinson and Tommy Thomas - were awarded the University's Medal of Honour and a special British Computer Society Anniversary Medal at a Celebration Dinner hosted by the President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert.

By the end of the war, there were a number of groups in the UK and the USA working on the development of Electronic Digital Computers and all of them were aware that the provision of an effective means of electronic storage was crucial to their future success.

Freddie Williams started work in July 1946 on a form of digital storage using a Cathode Ray Tube, at the Telecommunications Research

Establishment (TRE) at Malvern. In December 1946, he moved to The University of Manchester to take up a chair in Electro-Technics. He continued to work on the digital storage system, and Tom Kilburn, who had been in his group at TRE, was seconded to Manchester to continue the work with him.

By 1 December 1947, Williams and Kilburn had worked out the methods of operation of the Cathode Ray Tube; the next step was to build a small computer around a CRT memory, to subject it to the "most effective and searching tests possible". Work on building the Baby took place in the first half of 1948, and was mainly carried out by Tom Kilburn with the assistance of Geoff Tootill.

The first program to run successfully, on 21 June 1948, was to determine the highest factor of a number. Freddie Williams later commented: "A program was laboriously inserted and the start switch pressed. Immediately the spots on the display tube entered a mad dance. In early trials it was a dance of death leading to no useful result, but one day it stopped, and there, shining brightly in the expected place, was the expected answer. It was a moment to remember. This was in June 1948, and nothing was ever the same again."

With the Baby proving both the effectiveness of the what was now known as the Williams-Kilburn Tube and the basic stored-program concept, work was immediately started, with



The Williams-Kilburn Tube provided computers with the first random access memory (RAM)



Replica of the Baby, built in 1998 for the 50th anniversary celebrations



Late Tom Kilburn, Chris Burton and Jeff Tootill standing in front of the Replica Baby

increased manpower, to design and build a more realistic, useable, computer based on the Baby. This was achieved between late 1948 and late 1949, in two or three incremental stages, with the Manchester Mark 1. This in turn was used as the basis of the design of the world's first general-purpose commercial computer, the Ferranti Mark 1.

Tom Kilburn went on to found and lead the Department of Computer Science at the University, the first in the UK. The Department continued to develop large-scale prototype machines (most of which were developed into commercial products) until the mid-1970s, but it then became clear that the machines were

no longer the limiting factor in what computers could be expected to do.

The challenges for today's computer scientists lie in the areas of software development, producing user-friendly interfaces, integrating computer-based systems into organisations and dealing issues surrounding the size and capacity of modern computers. Many of these challenges were touched upon by Professor Steve Furber CBE, the designer of the BBC Micro, in a special lecture that he gave to an invited audience of more than 200 people on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the 'Birth of the Baby' entitled: 'The Relentless March of the Microchip'.



**Kevin Sharp**  
**Your Manchester Fund PhD Scholar: Science and Society**

Your Manchester Fund Scholar, Kevin, is currently researching a PhD at the University in the area of Machine Learning for Systems Biology. Using computer technology, Kevin is able to analyse biological systems such as gene expression and cellular signalling, with potential future use in the development of cancer therapies. See page 41



# Going on the 'Grand Tour'

Manchester students are joining their forebears of the Grand Tour and going overseas as part of their education...

Every year, more than 550 Manchester students spend either a year or a semester overseas as part of their undergraduate degree course studying at an overseas university, undertaking an industrial placement, teaching or doing voluntary work. For many students, this period abroad offers the opportunity to gain practical experience of conversing daily in a foreign language and exploring a different culture and way of life.

In many respects, today's undergraduates are following in the footsteps of wealthy young gentlemen of a bygone age who would embark on a so-called 'Grand Tour' (usually to visit Italy and possibly Greece) to complete their education.

It was not until the 1960s, when air travel became more affordable, that work and study placements overseas became available to students as a part of their formal university education. Until then placements abroad were discouraged and

seen by many as diluting the intellectual content of degree programmes, even for those studying a foreign language.

Among the pioneers was, Dr Jeff Greenleaf (PhD Physics 1969, Diploma 1964) who remembers his visit to Bratislava in Czechoslovakia, which was then firmly behind the Iron Curtain.

"We flew from Ringway to Vienna, where we were met by our hosts who escorted us by coach across the border to

Bratislava. Early next morning, we were formally welcomed to Bratislava University in one of the staff common rooms. We had expected that this would take place over a cup of coffee, but to our amazement, we were all each given a substantial glass of vodka, and invited to toast each other in the traditional Czech manner - which was to drink it straight down. That was quite an abrupt and unexpected start to the visit, but was to be repeated on many occasions".

Jeff's visit took place at a remarkable time in Czechoslovakian history during the 'Prague Spring' when Alexander Dubcek, who became leader of the Czech Communist government, embarked on a series of reforms which included the relaxation of censorship and the right of citizens to criticise the government:

"There was generally huge optimism and exuberance for this new freedom, and as each month passed people felt more and more confident. We met many people during our visit, and they felt free to speak openly".

Jeff returned home in early August 1968, just two weeks before the Prague Spring was abruptly crushed by the invasion of Soviet tanks: "As I listened to the BBC news it was hard to believe that those familiar places we had so recently visited were now under the control of occupying forces".

Alan Mc Dowell (BSc Hons Electronics 1971), who spent time working in Norway for LM Ericsson and lived in student accommodation at Oslo University, also remembers the local alcoholic beverage that greeted him.

"The local drink was 'Akvavit', which was similar to vodka, but flavoured with caraway seeds. Its alcoholic content is especially strong – and deadly if your host works in a university chemistry lab with access to 98 per cent by alcohol".

Alan also fondly remembers the frequent parties where they would eat "raw meat, smelly cheese and pickled fish". That didn't put him off Norway, however, and following graduation he returned there for 13 years. When asked if he would recommend the student exchange experience, Alan comments: "You can use your charge card for goods and chattels but experiences are priceless".

The introduction of the European Union's Joint Study Programme (1976) and

ERASMUS (1987) made it easier for millions of European students to spend part of their degree in one of more than 30 participating countries. While there are now far more opportunities for Manchester students to study abroad than ever before, the common experience of new cultures and different ways of life seems unchanged over the years.

Helen Frater, currently studying a BSc in Textile Design and Design Management at Manchester, writes about her recent exchange experience in Sweden:

"I absolutely loved it. Endless parties, meeting people of all nationalities, being taken to gigs by Swedish boys in Gothenburg, canoeing with a mad Spanish boy, spending hours in the huge charity shop, having sleepovers, cooking massive dinners, laughing until we cried and our stomachs ached, staying up all night because I was having too much fun to go to bed, drinking extra strong coffee during early morning Swedish class, looking out the window and seeing snow, meeting our teacher in cosy little cafés and chatting for hours ...these are a few of the memories that I will never ever forget.

"There was an important work element too – I really enjoyed my design project and my 'experimental knitting' class. I really feel that all this has improved my employability. It has broadened my experience and textile skills and when I go back and work in England I will take back with me a little bit of Swedish inspiration. I have learned so much that I'm going back next semester!"

Beyond Europe students from Manchester also take part in the Worldwide Exchange Programme heading to partner institutions in USA, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Latin America.

Kieran Hayde, who is currently studying a BA in French and Spanish, writes about her exchange experience in Mexico:

"I spent five months studying at La Universidad de las Américas in Puebla, Mexico, a private university, situated in the central part of Mexico. It was a lot smaller than Manchester University with about 8000 students and everything you needed was on campus. My first impression was disbelief – the campus was like a film set with manicured lawns

and a huge fountain. I soon got used to the sunny afternoons; eating tacos by the lake amongst the pestering pet peacocks, jumping on the yellow bicycles and riding around campus and lying beside the pool.

"I lived in private accommodation, in a two bedroom apartment with a friend and although we paid a fraction of what we pay here in Manchester we had a balcony, a roof terrace and a gym! Situated a mere one hundred metres from the great pyramid of Cholula (the widest pyramid in the world), I sometimes ask myself why I didn't stay there. Mexico is a fantastically diverse country and each state has its own distinct character. It is a huge country and we spent many of our weekends travelling to see as much as possible. We saw Aztec and Maya ruins, danced in the carnival of Veracruz, relaxed on Caribbean beaches and bustled through the streets of Mexico City.

"Living in Mexico taught me so much. I perfected my Spanish (and Mexican slang!). I learned to eat everything with hot sauce and to drink tequila without flinching. I discovered how lucky we are in the UK to have access to education despite our economic backgrounds, which so many of us take for granted. I realised that there is a whole world out there waiting to be discovered and how important it is to make the most of our opportunities by seeing as much of it as possible."

It seems our fascination for travel has little changed since the times of the 'Grand Tour' and the following words of Lord Byron (1788-1824) could almost apply today: "I am so convinced of the advantages of looking at mankind instead of reading about them, and of the bitter effects of staying at home with all the narrow prejudices of an Islander, that I think there should be a law amongst us to set our young men abroad for a term among the few allies our wars have left us."

Thank you to all our alumni and students who submitted anecdotes of their student exchange experiences, following our request via Your Manchester Online. To read all of these in full please visit the web address below.

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/  
yourmanchester](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester)



# Putting the Fun into Fundraising

From smutty magazines to cross dressing and kidnapping, Rag Week at Manchester has had a colourful history

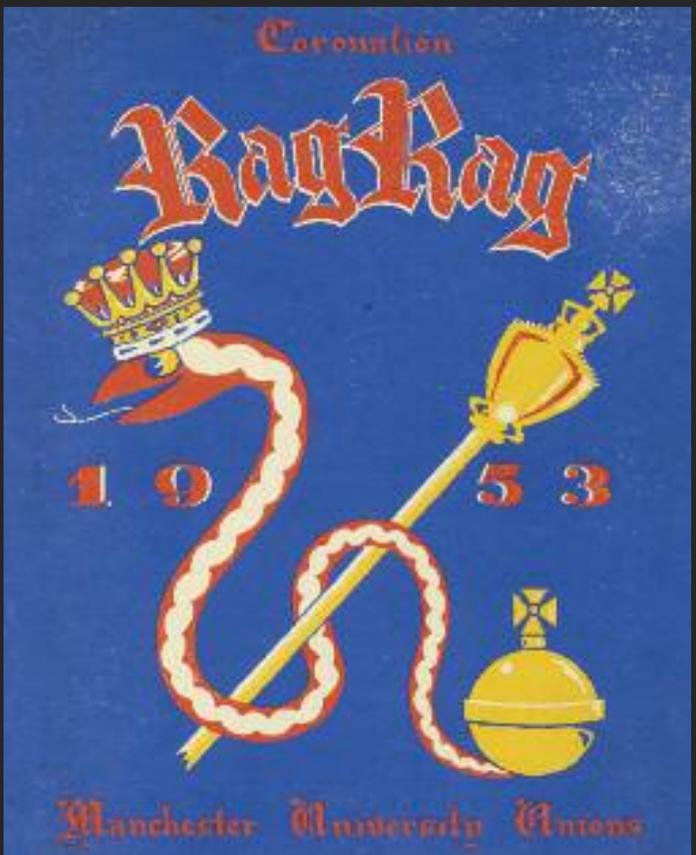
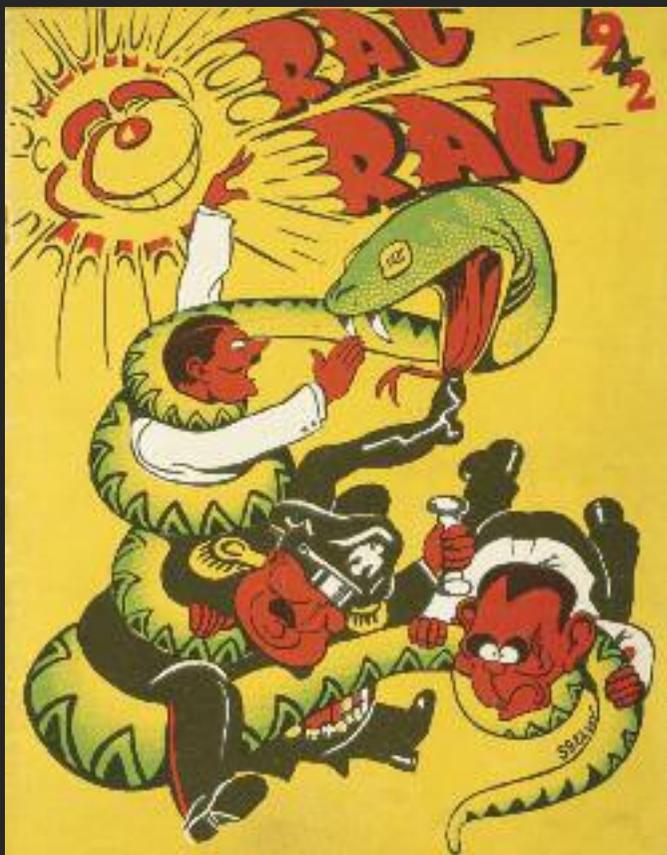
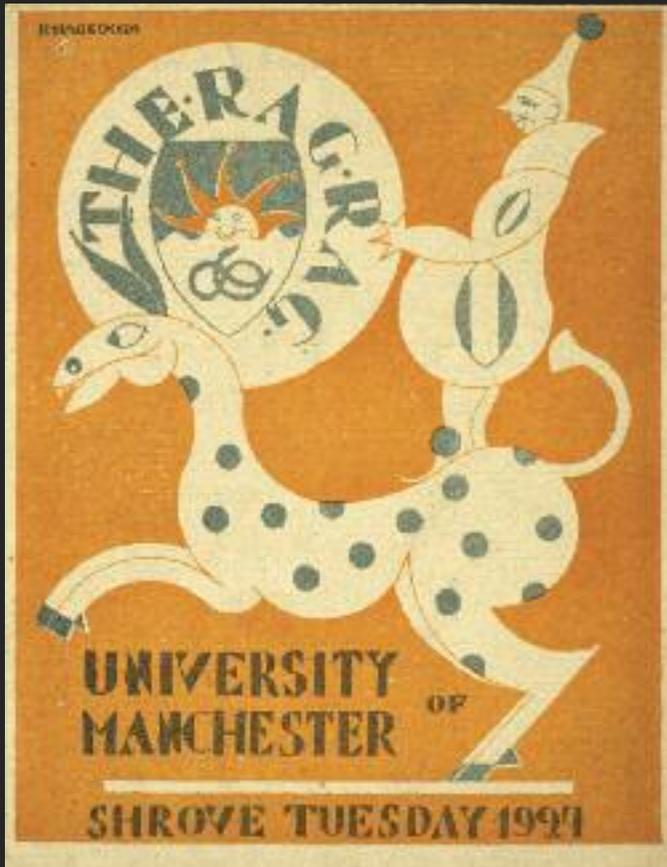
To the casual observer the annual high jinks of Rag Week may look like an excuse for students to annoy the locals, but its long and illustrious history makes Rag Week very much a part of the fabric of student life.

For the most part Rag Week has been tolerated by the citizens of Manchester because as far back as the 1920s it started to collect funds for charities, specifically local hospitals.

That doesn't mean however that it has always been totally respectable.

Whilst it has an undeniable fundraising power (last year it raised a staggering £120,000), Rag is about undergraduates giving vent to their high spirits in all the ways they like best. So it turns out to be revealing about the way students and their preoccupations have changed – and of course how some elements of University life haven't!

Early precursors to Rag were torchlight processions in fancy dress with an obligatory bacchanalian element to mark the Prince of Wales's visit in 1887 and Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee ten years





later. But it wasn't until 1908 that the Rag pantomime became a feature, later attracting such acts as George Robey, Harry Lauder and George Formby. By 1910 Rag finally became recognised as a university institution and all classes on Shrove Tuesday were cancelled to enable the students and local apprentices to take part.

1924 was an eventful year, heralding the arrival of the Rag mag – a fundraising magazine which bears little resemblance to the advertising vehicle that's handed out now.

With beautifully illustrated covers designed initially by the artist Karl Hagedorn, the early Rag mag was a

witty compendium more akin to something like Punch than the smutty joke book it turned into in later years:

Writer Anthony Burgess, who admitted to contributing to it with 'scabrous ingenuity' in the late 1930s, observed that it was 'a male venture that was expected to skate about the black hole of obscenity'.

In 1939 a 'Meunuch Edition' promising 'peas in our time' seems rather innocent compared to 1965's 'For Adults Only' issue with its cheesecake images of likely candidates for the title of Miss Rag.

And Burgess's description seems far more appropriate to the 1970s when Rag was in its heyday.

Adverts for venues such as Mr Smith's, 'Manchester's topless night spot on Brazil street', meant the Rag mag wasn't exactly popular with a more politically correct student body. In fact it was banned from sale in the union in 1984.

Nevertheless Rag mag continued to serve its purpose of promoting the event, as it still does today.

Of course Rag is famous for its stunts. Like the Bogle stroll, a gruelling 55 mile walk in a figure of eight around Greater Manchester – though there is a 27 mile version for 'wimps' and a bike ride too.

"It's quite physically challenging," says Will De Bala, the 2008 Rag Chair. "You start around 9pm and walk through the



night. When I did it we finished around 4pm the next day. No we didn't drink or anything, you wouldn't be able to get through it."

Compare this to 1970s graduate Stephen Angell's (BSc Hons Electronics 1978) recollections of the Bogle: "We did all 55 miles or so via the pubs and were absolutely knackered after it. We never did any practice, you'd just set off in the clothes you were wearing at the time. There was nothing about health and safety either as far as I can remember, no St John's Ambulance or anything like that."

Part of the Rag was to let off steam he added. "So it really was fun and frolics".

Cliff Inman (BSc Hons Physics 1959) agrees, although he was involved in a Rag caper which resulted in a visit to the University by the Deputy Chief Constable of Manchester.

He explains that a group of boys dressed up as St Trinians schoolgirls - at the insistence of their female friends - and went in search of somewhere to have a game of hockey. The idea was to shake a few buckets and collect cash along the way.

"We found the perfect place. Manchester High School for Girls. But no sooner had we started to play than a gym mistress came out to remonstrate with us and as she was a rather

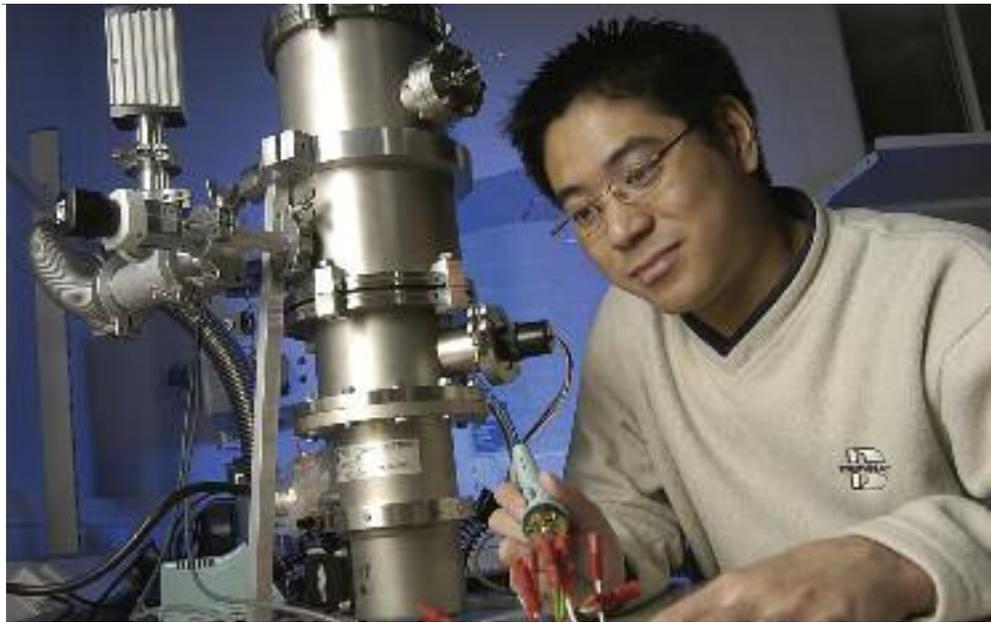
attractive young gym mistress, we kidnapped her," he recalls.

"We took her back to UMIST in our bus and entertained her and she really entered into the spirit of it."

Unfortunately, the school itself didn't see the funny side when they received a ransom note. The police were summoned.

"As a result the Deputy Chief Constable of Manchester came to college and told our professor that our behaviour was not condoned at all," recalls Cliff.

"So after he had gone we were called in and given a ticking off. However, the smirk on the professor's face told us that we weren't as much in the doghouse as we could have been."



# Manchester is a magnet for Chinese students

Tens of thousands of Chinese students are willing to spend three times their average salary to study at a British University and Manchester is a top choice

Ni He is one of the 50 000 Chinese students currently studying in the UK. Soon he will complete his PhD in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and leave The University of Manchester to return to his home town HangZhou where he hopes to find a lecturing post in a local university.

As the second biggest higher education recruiter in China, Manchester has almost 1500 Chinese students. So why is a British University education so popular given the average student pays fees of £8,000 a year – which according to Ni He is over three times the average annual salary in China?

Ni He explains; “The one-child-policy in China has made parents very willing to invest huge amounts of money in their child’s education and they will start saving for this as soon as the child is born. And being a member of the World

Trade Organisation has given Chinese citizens much easier access to passports and opened up opportunities”.

The trend is likely to continue. China now has the world’s fastest growing economy and is undergoing what has been described as a second industrial revolution. There are around 9 million people in China applying for university places and it is anticipated that by 2020 this will have increased to 20 million. The country is unable to meet the rapidly increasing demand for higher education and this is driving Chinese students abroad for their studies.

The University is keen to cultivate its relationship with China but according to Tim Westlake, Director of International Development, the focus is on “partnership and collaboration, not numbers”.

The University has developed a wide-range of constructive links with a number of universities and research organisations in China. Tsinghua University, China’s top science and engineering institution, is a strategic partner, working closely with the Dalton Nuclear Institute. Fudan is another strategic partner collaborating closely on joint research projects with the University.

Of course British students also want to visit China and last year the University ran a Chinese summer school programme for the first time, on behalf of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The programme gave 200 undergraduates from English universities the opportunity to experience China at first hand. They visited Beijing to learn the Chinese language and to explore the rich cultural heritage as well as contemporary life in



China. The students got to know young Chinese people through job shadowing and social events.

Many of the participants reported that the experience had profoundly changed their views on China. Mark Lees, 22, recently graduated from the University reading Aerospace Engineering. He said: "The programme was a great opportunity to experience the Chinese culture and see the rapid development underway in the run up to the Beijing Olympics."

Chinese studies at the University can be traced back to the early 20th century, when Edward Harper Parker was appointed Professor of Chinese at the Victoria University, a post that he held from 1901 to 1926. He had been in consular service in China prior to his academic career and published a number of influential books on Chinese history, culture and religion.

From the late 1920s to 2004, research about China continued at both UMIST and the Victoria University of Manchester ranging from Chinese school improvement programmes to Buddhism, social anthropology, minority linguistics and business management.

In 2004, following the establishment of The University of Manchester, the Centre for Chinese Studies was created to bring together existing research from across schools and faculties. This initiative is supported by a £900,000 investment from the University's

Strategic Investment Fund, as the first phase of £2.5 million pledge. The Centre aims to develop a world leading research institute focusing on modern and contemporary China with associated undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

The University also has a Confucius Institute for teaching Chinese as a foreign language in the UK. Teachers supplied by the Confucius Institute in Manchester have enabled St Paul's Primary School in South Manchester to become one of the first in the UK to teach Chinese as part of its curriculum.

Director of the Confucius Institute Professor Hong Liu said: "Manchester has the largest Chinese community outside London with more than 30,000 ethnic Chinese living and working in the city. China is important: Mandarin is spoken by more than a sixth of the world's population and Chinese economic power is growing exponentially. So it's an important job to bring Chinese culture to the wider

community - and the work done by St Paul's is helping us to achieve exactly that."

When considering his country's future and its links with the West, Ni He is full of optimism and: "The future looks bright for China", he says. "My people are very hard-working and dedicated, working up to twelve hours per day helping productivity growth. I am looking forward to returning and helping to raise my country's profile by drawing from my experiences here in Manchester."

When Ni He returns to China he will join The University of Manchester Alumni Group in China which now has over 2,700 Manchester alumni. The group is currently co-ordinated by Manchester graduate Haijie Lin (Colin) MSc International Business 1999. More information about the China Alumni Group can be found at the web address below.

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/  
yourmanchester](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester)

The University's Careers Service offers many innovative programmes designed to improve the career prospects of its Chinese graduates and to help recruiters find top talent. Among its many initiatives, the Chinese Graduate Fair at Manchester attracts nearly 2,000 students and graduates as well as leading employers from China and the UK, including The Bank of China, Watsons, Neusoft and KPMG. The Careers Service is keen to work with any employer looking to hire students, and offers recruiters a comprehensive range of services, many of which are free of charge. Similarly, the Careers Service would be delighted to hear from any alumni who would be willing to share with students their experiences of job hunting following UK study. Please contact [amanda.wood@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:amanda.wood@manchester.ac.uk)



**Dr Nina Murray**  
(MBCbB Medicine 1937)

One of our oldest graduates, 94-year-old Dr Nina Murray has recently had her autobiography, *Ninachka: The Making of an Englishwoman*, published by Hamilton Books.

Nina was born in St Petersburg, Russia, in 1913. The Communist revolution stripped her family,

Russian nobility, of their land, money, privilege and title.

With the help of her father's English friend, her family was able to escape and this led to their settling in Manchester in 1921. Nina's biography continues through her survival of the Second World War, her doomed marriage, the murder of her father, rape, and the almost endless consternation of family problems.

The book also delves into her medical training at the University and her career which she began as a GP, before becoming an eye specialist in Buxton, Derbyshire.



**Michelle Goodman**  
(MEng Hons Aerospace Engineering 1999)

Flight Lieutenant Michelle Goodman, 31, has become the first woman to be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The award was in recognition of the courage she displayed during her deployment to Iraq in June 2007, when as Aircraft Captain of an

Incident Reaction Team (IRT) Merlin Helicopter she flew into an extremely dangerous area of Basra City to rescue a casualty.

Upon hearing the news of this historic award, Flight Lieutenant Goodman commented: "I am truly honoured to be awarded a DFC, but without both my crew and all the engineering support personnel, the rescue would not have been possible. This is not an award just for me, but recognises all the soldiers, sailors and airmen, who, day in and day out, put their lives on the line for the British public to remain safe."

# Alumni in th



**Mathew Horne**  
(BA Hons Drama and Screen Studies 2000)

Mathew is well known for his role as Gavin in the BBC3 comedy, *Gavin and Stacey*. The comedy hit recently won the coveted Audience Award, voted for by the public, at the

Bafta Television Awards in London.

Mathew has also appeared in various memorable roles in the hugely popular *The Catherine Tate Show*. Other recent roles include starring as Leo in *Roman's Empire*, a guest lead appearance in *Robin Hood*, and co-starring in *Billy Goat*, a modern adaptation of the fairytale, all for the BBC.

As well as appearing alongside Kylie Minogue in her one-off television special for ITV, Mathew also recently co-presented *Big Brother's Big Mouth* and the NME Awards for E4.

Mathew is currently filming the lead role in the forthcoming comedy horror film *Lesbian Vampire Killers* and is also writing and preparing to co-star in his own comedy sketch show for BBC3.



**Richard Harvey**  
(BSc Hons Mathematics 1971)

Richard has received widespread media coverage, including the BBC Documentary 'Adventure Capitalist' and a fascinating interview on BBC 5 Live, for his charity work in Africa.

In July 2007, aged 56, he left his top business position as Chief Executive of the insurance giant Aviva (parent company of

Norwich Union) and he and his wife, Kay, are now working as volunteers with the charity, Concern Universal; helping to improve the daily lives of communities in Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique.

One of his projects in Kenya has involved tackling problems with cooking arrangements in a school near Nairobi. Traditional forms of cooking are over an open 'three-stone fire', which is neither healthy nor fuel-efficient. Richard has demonstrated that by installing a simply-designed new stove, wood fuel consumption can be reduced by 50 per cent.

With his experience of corporate environmental policy, he has a unique insight into the growing interest in carbon-offsetting schemes and plans to recruit British companies to support this, and other vital work. Further information about Richard and Kay's gap year with the charity can be found at [www.concern-universal.org](http://www.concern-universal.org)



**Sir Ian Gibson**  
(BSc Hons Pure and Applied Physics 1969)

Sir Ian was appointed Chairman of supermarket group Wm Morrison on 13 March 2008, replacing Sir Ken Morrison.

Sir Ian is also Chairman of Trinity Mirror and was Chairman of BPB until 2005. He spent 30 years in the motor industry and was President of Nissan Europe.

Sir Ian said: "This is a great opportunity for me to work with one of the UK's leading companies and I am looking forward to being part of the dynamic and challenging supermarket sector once more".



**Jennifer Vel**  
(BA EconHons Economics 2006)

Jennifer, 24, has been elected as the youngest member of the Seychelles National Assembly.

Jennifer, who hopes to draw from her experiencing at Manchester (particularly for budgetary issues), has many aspirations for the future. She said "there are social problems in the Seychelles - though it's not a poor country. Teenage pregnancy is a particular issue so my

vision is to provide a training programme which will help these mothers into work. I would also like to see better academic faculties here. For example more university places would be a long term aim."

Professor Rorden Wilkinson, academic advisor on the Manchester/Seychelles programme, said: "It is pleasing to see the impact that The University of Manchester education has had on the administration and development of a small island state. We wish Jennifer all the very best in her role".

# e spotlight



**Phil Jones**  
(BA Economics 1978)

Phil, Executive Director of the Manchester Food and Drink Festival, celebrated its tenth anniversary this October.

Now a fixture in the city's calendar, the festival has expanded massively since its first outing. Phil claims: "It started off as a bit of a nice indulgence and it's now become an all-year round huge organisational event!"

Phil began his career as a punk gig promoter and following graduation he spent some years in London working with artistes such as Curtis Mayfield, REM and the Stone Roses.

Twenty years ago, he returned to Manchester, co-directing a festival for the 1996 Olympic bid. Despite failing to secure the Games, the festival took on a life of its own, with sponsorship from Boddingtons and Granada TV, it became the Boddingtons Manchester Festival of Arts and TV.

The Festival reached the end of its tenure in 1996 and, rising from its ashes, was a celebration of Manchester's food and drink industry; The Manchester Food and Drink Festival, now the biggest urban food festival in Europe!



**Professor Mike Ferguson**  
(BSc Biochemistry 1979)

Professor Ferguson, Dean of Research in the College of Life Sciences at the University of Dundee, has been awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours List for his services to science.

He has published over 200 peer reviewed research

papers and given numerous invited lectures at Scientific Meetings around the world. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (1994), the Royal Society of London (2000), the Academy of Medical Sciences (2007) and made a member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (1999).

His research takes a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the biochemistry of protozoan parasites that cause tropical diseases, particularly the trypanosomatids that cause human African Sleeping Sickness, Chagas' disease and leishmaniasis.

To read more alumni profiles please go to the news section using the web address opposite. More eminent alumni can also be found in the 'distinguished alumni library'.

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester)

# Alumni news round up



## A Portrait of The University of Manchester

'A Portrait of The University of Manchester' is now available for purchase. It was successfully launched by Anna Ford on 2 July 2007 at a drinks reception in the Manchester Museum with more than 150 alumni subscribers present. Members who have not yet purchased their copy of this fascinating illustrated book covering the past, present and future of higher education in Manchester can do so via the University's gift shop:

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/giftshop](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/giftshop)



## Annual General Meeting 2008

At the Alumni Association AGM on 6 March our Chair Andrew Spinoza (BA Hons Combined Studies 1982) kindly agreed to continue in his role for a further three years. Those present thanked Andrew, who is Managing Director of a local PR company, for his sterling contribution over the past three years.

The next Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association will take place on Wednesday, 4 March 2009.

## Your Manchester Online (YMO)

The University's alumni community, Your Manchester Online (YMO), is going from strength to strength since its launch last year and there are now nearly 20,000 alumni who have registered.

Special features such as the alumni directory (where alumni can access details of other alumni) and the events booking system (where alumni can book to attend events and pay as necessary using a secure credit card facility) remain popular. Other new features include an In Memoriam section where alumni can post tributes to their friends and loved ones; a library showcasing our distinguished alumni; and

a message board where alumni can send in specific requests to share with other alumni.

Your Manchester Online is proving particularly valuable when organising events and reunions in the UK and overseas as it provides a fast and effective communication tool.

Your E-News is a regular electronic newsletter which is distributed to YMO registrants six times a year. A recent E-News communication triggered visits to 'Your Manchester Online' by 39,000 separate users with more than 13,000

alumni logging in over a two-day period - a huge peak of hits on the website.

If you have not already registered for Your Manchester Online you will need to do so first before gaining full access to the site. To do this you will need your Alumni ID number which appears on your membership card and is also printed on the address sheet with this magazine. Once registered, please remember to update your profile making as many sections 'public' as possible. This will enable fellow alumni to contact you easily and allow the alumni directory to work more effectively.

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester)

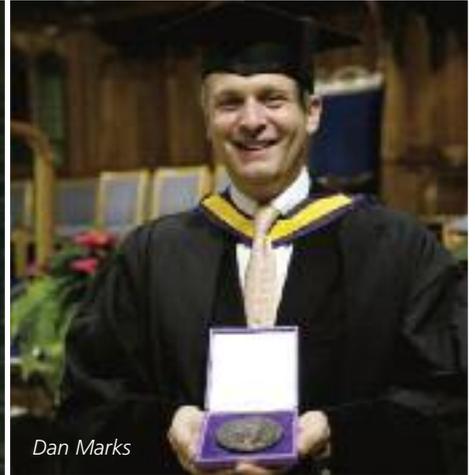
## Outstanding Alumni Awards



Professor Pat Troop CBE



George Rigg



Dan Marks

The achievements of three former students have been recognised with Outstanding Alumni Awards in 2007.

Outstanding Alumni Awards are given to former students who have achieved distinction within their profession, have provided exemplary service to the University, or have made an outstanding contribution of a personal humanitarian nature.

Professor Pat Troop CBE, Chief Executive of the Health Protection Agency, was the first of the three to be presented with the Award during the July 2007 graduation ceremonies.

Pat studied medicine at Manchester and achieved an MBChB in 1971 followed by

an MSc in 1979, going on to enjoy a fascinating career which has had a significant impact on the health of the nation. It was her innovative work on food and health that led directly to the Government's 'five-a-day' campaign persuading people to eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables every day.

George Rigg (BSc Science 1960) received his award for his distinguished career in electronics and computing. The award was presented during the programme of activities arranged for the visit by the North American Foundation for the University of Manchester in October 2007. George and his wife Jane are also providing personal support for a PhD

scholarship in Energy Engineering (the Rigg-NAFUM Scholarship).

The third recipient Dan Marks (BA Hons Economics 1985) received his award in recognition of his contribution towards the televisual world. Dan is Chief Executive of BT Vision, BT's new entertainment division that delivers a range of television, information and retail services through the broadband connection.

The Outstanding Alumni Awards take place annually. If you have any suggestions for future recipients please send these to Annette Babchuk by emailing [alumni@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@manchester.ac.uk) or telephoning +44 (0)161 306 3066.

## New Graduates

The Alumni Association was promoted at graduation ceremonies in July and December 2007 by current students working at an exhibition stand, where they distributed memorabilia and literature and responded to the graduands' enquiries. They spoke to over 75 per cent of graduands – capturing their contact details and encouraging them to register on our Alumni website, Your Manchester Online.



## The Your Manchester Insights Programme

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Exploring issues and solutions to make a difference



# The cutting edge

Come and hear eminent academics share their secrets with alumni and friends

'The most influential academic in the world today' as the Sunday Times called Professor Robert Putnam, a recent guest of the University's Alumni Association. Professor Putnam presented the 2008 Cockcroft Rutherford Lecture, arguing that while immigration and diversity offer long term benefits, they pose short term challenges to social cohesion. Professor Putnam is the Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard and Visiting Professor and Director of the Graduate Programme in Social Change at The University of Manchester.

Other honoured speakers have taken part in the 'Your Manchester Insights' Programme, our exciting new lecture series designed to showcase the excellence, relevance and topicality of research going on at The University of Manchester.

This provides alumni with the chance to hear from eminent academics involved in ground breaking research - and to engage in discussion and debate.

So far, Professor Andrew Loudon, Professor of Animal Biology, has explained circadian clocks and how they control our daily rhythms of sleep and hormone rhythms. He also discussed what goes wrong when this system is disrupted.

In addition, we have heard from Professor Phil Diamond, Director of Jodrell Bank, who recalled 50 years of Jodrell Bank and delved into the future to describe a vision for the observatory and those who work there.

The next event in the Programme will be a lecture given by Professor Colin Sibley, Professor of Child Health and Physiology. His lecture, entitled 'Finding Solutions to Problem Pregnancies', is on Thursday, 25 September 2008. Despite many improvements in obstetric practice and care it is estimated that more than half a million women around the world die each year as a result of pregnancy and childbirth - and millions more become ill or disabled. This lecture will describe some of the work being undertaken to better understand the placenta and what goes wrong with this organ in cases of pre eclampsia and IUGR, two of the most common diseases of pregnancy.

Future Your Manchester Insight events are planned for Manchester, London and a number of international cities. To read more about our events or to book your place, please visit the web address below.

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester)

## Shaping Your Manchester

This will be a unique event held across the campus in June 2009. The event will celebrate the amazing research being undertaken at the University, work that would not have been possible without support from alumni. The event will see key academics from across the University discussing their ground breaking research.

## Alumni Dinner in London

Another date for your diary: There will be an Alumni Dinner in London on Thursday, 11 December 2008. This will be held at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, London and will be hosted by the President and Vice-Chancellor.



# Remember Manchester

and say something about yourself

When you remember The University of Manchester alongside your other commitments in your will, you make a statement about the importance you attach to education, and the role that universities play in tackling vital issues and moulding the responsible leaders of tomorrow.

A legacy to Manchester reflects your vision and your values. Please visit our website or contact us today if you would like more information.

Louise Hancock  
Research and Legacy Manager  
email [louise.hancock@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:louise.hancock@manchester.ac.uk)  
tel +44 (0) 161 275 7230

 [www.manchester.ac.uk/  
alumni/donorprogrammes/legacy](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/alumni/donorprogrammes/legacy)

# Your Manchester Fund

Together we're shaping the world of tomorrow

Your Manchester Fund (the re-branded Alumni Fund giving programme) is making a difference for thousands of current Manchester students, thanks to the University's alumni and friends who so generously provide financial support.

## Alumni Welcome Scholarships

These Alumni Welcome Scholarships are offered to high achieving undergraduate students joining the University from who come from backgrounds which are under-represented in higher education, especially those from the Greater Manchester area. They are valued at £1,000 and aim to support students during their first year of study as they make the transition into campus life. The scholarships complement the University's own scholarship programme, allowing Manchester to offer one of the most generous needs-based scholarship programmes in the UK.

A total of 74 undergraduate scholars have benefited this year. The following four represent only a sample of the many messages of thanks we have been asked to pass on:



**Akinola**  
**BEng Mechanical Engineering**

Akinola, 23, has always been fascinated by engineering-related subjects and was keen to study at Manchester.

When talking about the scholarship Akinola says: "It has enabled me to save enough money so I can afford all of my books for my studies - engineering books are very expensive. I would like to thank the donors as this kindness has helped me a great deal".



**Shona**  
**BSocSc Criminology & Social Policy**

Shona, 28, left school at an early age and it was not until much later in life that she decided to return to education.

Coming from one of the more deprived areas in Manchester, she says: "I never wanted to be a product of my environment and to be brushed under the carpet. I am so thrilled to be given this chance. As I walk down Oxford Road I still have to pinch myself. I really can't believe I am here."



**Charlotte**  
**BA American Studies**

Charlotte, 21, is delighted to have received support via an Alumni Welcome Scholarship which means that she has been able to give up her current, part-time job working in a bar and focus entirely on her studies. "Juggling working in a bar and studying for a degree used to be exhausting with late nights and early morning starts. Now I can concentrate on my studies and fully explore all the exciting modules I am currently undertaking as part of my American Studies course."



**Abdul**  
**BSc Biomedical Sciences**

Abdul, 20, has long wanted to work in the area of medicine and sees his degree in Biomedical Sciences as a stepping stone into this.

He is extremely grateful for additional funds provided by donors to support him in his studies and has shown his appreciation by doing some fundraising of his own. He was recently involved in a Sky Dive with the charity Kidscan, raising money for children with cancer.

*Help us support more students like Akinola, Shona, Charlotte and Abdul. Support Your Manchester Fund today and trigger an immediate match for your gift – see page 43.*

# Developing Country Scholarships

The University has a target of providing 750 'equity and merit' scholarships for students from developing countries.

Launched in 2007, with a pilot programme focusing on Uganda and Malawi, students supported by Equity and Merit Scholarships are studying on courses that are likely to be of greatest benefit to their home country. Philanthropic partnerships are already playing a pivotal role in this programme by providing assistance towards living costs, currently around £10,000 per year. Your Manchester Fund provided 7 scholarships during 2007/8, alongside a further 3 provided by the North American Foundation for The University of Manchester (NAFUM). Among the recipients are:-

## **Badru MA International Development Management**

Badru undertook his undergraduate degree at Makerere University in Kampala, where he graduated in 2004 with a first class degree in Social Work and Social Administration.



Once he has completed his masters degree at Manchester he intends to return to Uganda and use the skills which he has acquired to improve the quality of life of fellow Ugandans.

His message to donors is; "Thanks for helping me to live my dream. Your donation is making someone realise their potential in life rather than leaving it to luck. In addition, although I am here as one person, my presence is an inspiration to hundreds of Ugandan parents and children who are struggling to make a break-through in life."

## **John Paul BEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering**

John Paul, 19, is from the Luwero region of Uganda, where his parents are both teachers in rural schools.



John Paul has an outstanding academic record receiving ten distinctions in the Uganda Education Certificate (UCE), and receiving four 'A' grades in the Advanced Certificate. John Paul did not only gain the highest results in his school and district in his UCE exams, but he also had the second highest results in the whole of Uganda.

John said; "This scholarship has given me an opportunity to do what I had always dreamt of - 'engineering' in a top university, which wouldn't be possible otherwise. To my sponsors, I would like to express my gratitude and thank them for offering me such a dream opportunity."

*Help us support more students like Badru and John Paul. Support Your Manchester Fund today and trigger an immediate match for your gift – see page 43.*

## Research for Society

Your Manchester Fund is also supporting outstanding Manchester students as they make the transition into research programmes on campus, joining world-class teams seeking to address major national and international issues. These scholarships are focused on six priority research themes: World Poverty, Cancer 2015, Carbon Reduction, Science and Society, Regenerative Medicine and Social Cohesion.

One of the 19 2007/8 recipients is Adrian Roper who is undertaking research into the psychological and neural bases of associative recognition memory, with a particular focus on processes linked to ageing and diseases such as Alzheimer's.

Adrian comments: "Without this alumni funding it would not have been possible for me to continue my studies and start my PhD. The reality of completing a research project over the course of three years is that while you still need essentials such as accommodation, the workload requires a focus and dedication that generally precludes working to support oneself. This Scholarship allows me to concentrate on completing my research to the best of my ability without worrying about the long term funding of my work. Thank you so much."

*Help us support more students like Adrian. Support Your Manchester Fund today and trigger an immediate match for your gift – see page 43.*

## Student Resources

Your Manchester Fund also supports a wide variety of projects and programmes across campus to enrich the academic and wider university experience for the student body as a whole.

One distinctive award made in 2007/8 is supporting student-led community-based initiatives linked to the 'Manchester Leadership Programme' (see page 14 for more information about MLP). Your Manchester Fund has provided a minibus to facilitate MLP students getting to and from their volunteering projects easily and safely, providing greater accessibility to community locations across Greater Manchester and opening up wider opportunities for community and school-based programmes.

Funding has also been allocated to other projects including DisabledGo Access, a brand new internet service designed to provide the best possible information for the 2,800 students across campus with a registered disability, so they can quickly identify and draw on the ever-widening range of support resources available across campus.

*Help us do still more to enrich the student experience. Support Your Manchester Fund today and trigger an immediate match for your gift – see page 43.*

# New from 1 August 2008!

## Add a match and deepen the impact of your giving

### New Government matched funding programme for gifts to higher education – 2008-2011.

The UK Government has announced a programme to encourage gifts from alumni and others to support English higher education institutions. For you as a former Manchester student – wherever you are in the world - this means we can add at least a third to the value of any gift you make to Your Manchester Fund, and potentially much more. For UK donors this 33 per cent bonus will be applied both to the gift level and to the value of Gift Aid that we can claim on your gift.

We will put the additional match to work in support of your preferred priority across campus. So if you want your gift and the additional match to support the full range of outstanding students such as those highlighted in pages 40-41, simply make a gift to the overall Your Manchester Fund today (you can use the Gift Form opposite). You can also ear-mark your support for one or other of the different types of scholarship/award within the overall Your Manchester Fund.

As the adjacent table shows, the minimum additional impact on your gift is 33 per cent, and through tax recovery you may be able to more than double the value of your net contribution to Manchester.

Gift value after Gift Aid and Government match is applied				
	Gift level	Net gift level after tax relief to donor	Value to Your Manchester Fund	Leverage over and above your net gift level
<b>International</b> (assuming no in-country tax recovery)	£100	£100*	£133	33% (minimum)
<b>UK standard rate tax payer</b>	£100	£100	£170	70%
<b>UK higher rate tax payer</b> (assuming tax recovery through UK tax return)	£100	£75	£170	127%

\*For donations to the North American Foundation (NAFUM) the net contribution may be significantly lower. Similar tax deductions may apply in other countries.

### There has never been a better time to start or to increase your support for outstanding students on campus.

How your support can make a difference for individual students					
Donor	Number of donors	Net annual contribution from each donor	Net value of each donor's gift to Your Manchester Fund	Combined annual value to Your Manchester Fund	New Scholarship recipients
<b>UK donors giving £20/month</b>	5	£240 (£180 if higher rate tax payer)	£408	£2,040	Two additional Alumni Welcome Scholarships for undergraduate students from Greater Manchester
<b>Single international donor</b>	1	£6,000	£7,980	£7,980	An additional PhD Scholarship in one of our priority themes
<b>Single UK higher rate tax payer</b>	1	£4,400	£10,000	£10,000	An additional Developing Country Scholarship.

The matched funding programme is available for gifts to priorities across campus. Certain limits may apply. Please contact Chris Cox, Director of Development - tel (44) (0)161 275 2620, email Chris.Cox@manchester.ac.uk – for further information.

**Make a difference today and make your giving go further – use the form opposite to support Your Manchester Fund!**



# Alumni Benefits

Your Alumni Association membership card entitles you to over 40 special discounts and offers. See our alumni communications website below. For a full listing and click on 'benefits and services' – you will need to register first if you have not already done so. We have highlighted some of our latest benefits below, full details are on our website.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/yourmanchester)



## Spirit of ADVENTURE

Save up to £150 off a Spirit of Adventure cruise per person

## Commemorative Jewellery

An extended range of Commemorative Jewellery for The University of Manchester is now available including a fun charm bracelet



Is offering its Diner Card free of charge to our alumni members for a 2 month trial period

## BLACKWELL

Specialist publications and academic books are available to all our alumni members at a discount of 5 per cent



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