

STAFF UPDATE

Exclusively for staff at The University of Manchester

ENRICHING TEACHING AND LEARNING

The recent appointment of Professor Colin Stirling as Associate Vice-President for eLearning (see *UniLife* profile on page 12) signals the University's renewed commitment to the *Manchester 2015* goal of "enriching face-to-face teaching and learning through the provision of highly interactive on-line learning environments" and to invest heavily in technology-enhanced education.

One important element of this is to ensure the right infrastructure is in place, which is why the University is upgrading its present virtual learning environment (VLE), from WebCT Campus Edition, to the next generation product, the Blackboard Learning System (Vista edition).

Blackboard is being implemented in three phases. In the first phase, 16 pilot projects from across all four Faculties will be deployed in Blackboard for the start of the new semester.

A wider group of exemplar projects will then be identified for the second phase of development designed to go live to students at the start of the second semester (February 2008). Faculties have been busy identifying suitable exemplars, while the Blackboard team have been auditing existing WebCT Campus Edition courses to ensure all those

that need to be migrated can be scheduled to move into the new VLE at an appropriate time in semester 2.

Phase three will see Blackboard go live to all staff in February 2008 and the migration plan for WebCT Campus Edition courses will be completed by the end of the 2007/08 academic year. A comprehensive training and support programme will be put in place to ensure that individual staff have the skills needed to take advantage of this new environment. The Campus Edition of WebCT will continue to be supported until the end of the 2007-08 academic year and is expected to close in September 2008.

Feedback from pilot users of the new VLE has been very positive. Roger Pearson, Learning and Assessment Developer and eTutor for the Manchester Leadership Programme said, "the new VLE has many new, and more enhanced features than WebCT. For administration and teaching there are far better student group management and assessment tools. A richer educational experience can be created whereby students are able contribute to their own learning through, for example, peer review and collaborative blogs, or reflect on their own learning with a personal journal".

Regular updates on progress with the implementation will available as it progresses through the three phases.



NEWS CHANGES

Readers will have noticed some changes to *Staff Update*. This is part of a strategy aimed at giving staff more choice over how they receive news about the University.

Staff have expressed a wish to see more news online and receive fewer printed publications, as a result we have made more news available on the staff intranet. Over the coming months we will be developing the online news site further.

The Internal Communications Office is aware that a significant proportion of staff do not have ready access to email and the internet and we are therefore continuing to make news available via the printed publications.

For those who do have internet access, it is now possible to opt out of receiving printed copies of *UniLife* and *Staff Update* each month. If you wish to opt out please complete the form at the back of this

issue in full and send it in. Unfortunately we cannot accept submissions on behalf of other people. Staff who wish to opt out must do so personally.

Classified ads can now be viewed and submitted online at:

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

For news online visit:

www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/news

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DR MARY TULLY

Dr Mary Tully has won the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's prestigious 2007 Chemist and Druggist Practice Research Award Medal.

The medal is given to researchers who have made a significant contribution to the field of pharmacy practice research and are expected to become a leader in their field.

Dr Tully, part of the Drug Usage and Pharmacy Practice research group at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, was presented with the medal at this year's British Pharmaceutical Conference (BPC) last month.

DESTINATIONS OF GRADUATES

University and Faculty level results from the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey 2005/6 are now available to view at the following URL:

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/staff/dlhe

The web page also includes a list of individuals who have access to School level reports, and results from the 2004/05 survey. Data can also be accessed nationally on the HERO website:

www.hero.ac.uk

If you require any other DLHE report, for specific purposes, these may be obtained from Shermain James, Information & Research Analyst at the MLP Careers & Employability Division.

Contact shermain.james@manchester.ac.uk / 52828.

MILITARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Military Education Committee, MEC, is a committee of the three Greater Manchester Universities that maintains an oversight of the three student service units: OTC, UAS and URNU. More information can be found at

www.cse.salford.ac.uk/mec.php

As part of its remit, the MEC runs two dinners per year with a guest speaker who is a senior member of one of the armed services or an interesting national body. This is organised as the self-funding Defence Dining Club and the dinner venues are usually at one of the universities, this time it is at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Rear Admiral A M Massey CBE will be talking about the Royal Navy before dinner on 6 November 2007. Members of staff and partners are welcome at £30 a head. Please send your cheque and contact details to Dr Linda Jackson at Academic Administration, Humphrey Booth House, The University of Salford, The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT.

Any member of staff who might be interested in serving on the MEC should contact Professor Bev Pardoe at b.h.pardoe@salford.ac.uk.

HELP BOOST STUDENTS' EMPLOYABILITY

Hundreds of leading employers will be visiting the campus this autumn with jobs and career opportunities. The MLP, Careers and Employability Division would like colleagues from across the University to help them promote this extensive portfolio of careers events which aim to give our students and graduates a head start in the competitive job market. Key events this month include:

4 October: Manchester Student Part-Time Jobs Fair

Helping students to gain valuable work experience for their CVs, as well as boosting their finances, by introducing them to opportunities for part-time, casual or temporary paid work with employers across Greater Manchester.

11 October: Ethnic Diversity Fair

Information and jobs fair aimed at Black and Asian students and graduates, featuring exhibitors from a wide range of professional sectors who are committed to equal opportunities and developing a diverse workforce.

24 October: Finance, Business and Management Fair

Over 80 leading recruiters from these sectors will be promoting their graduate vacancies, placements and internships for 2008 at this well-established fair.

25 October: Science, Engineering and Technology Fair

Over 95 leading recruiters from these sectors will be promoting their graduate vacancies, placements and internships for 2008 at this highly-regarded fair.

31 October: Know Risk – The Big Event

A specialist event to introduce students to career opportunities in the insurance sector, with over 20 of the industry's leading names attending. Practical tips, informative workshops and the launch of the Know Risk Business Strategy Game.

For more information on these and other careers events, see our full listings online:

www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/careers/aboutus/events

COULD YOU MENTOR A STUDENT?

The award-winning career mentoring programme, Manchester Gold, links undergraduates and postgraduates across the University with people working in their chosen career area.

There is a demand for mentors based within the University. The MLP Careers & Employability Division, which manages the scheme, is therefore inviting University colleagues to volunteer as mentors and provide valuable insights into graduate careers in areas such as academia, industrial research and development, human resources, marketing, engineering, ICT, arts administration, etc.

As a mentor, you will not only get the satisfaction of boosting the career development

and prospects of a student, but can also gain skills and experience to further your own career development. These include:

- Practising and enhancing management and coaching skills.
- Networking with other mentors and establishing links with others in the University and in industry.
- Gaining satisfaction from helping someone develop their potential.
- Sharing knowledge and experience gained at work.

Participation is free. The programme involves around 12 hours of your time over an academic year and includes a short induction programme, where you will meet your mentee for the first time.

You will then be asked to meet with your mentee around four times between November and April.

Specialist strands provide additional support for diverse student groups who might feel they need it; namely, international, ethnic minority, disabled and LGBT students, as well as female students wishing to enter male-dominated career sectors, such as engineering.

Further details on Manchester Gold, including a registration form, can be found at:

www.manchester.ac.uk/manchestergold

Contact Anna Lomas, Manchester Gold Manager, on 0161 275 2828.

STUDENT SATISFACTION

The School of Physics and Astronomy scooped the £1,000 prize on offer for the best response rate overall in this year's Undergraduate, Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research Student Satisfaction Surveys, which took place in March. Seen below accepting a cheque from Professor Bob Munn (Vice President for Teaching and Learning) are students Pete Millington, Alex Knight-Percival and Jessica Miles.

Presenting the cheque, Bob Munn said that the University placed great importance on students' views about their experience at The University of Manchester and how it could be improved, but to get accurate feedback it was important that as many students as possible took part, and the £1000 prize was intended to encourage them to do so!

The students have decided to put the money towards their new common room, something which will be of benefit in the School for years to come.

Is there something which would benefit students in your School? Encourage them to take part in the 2008 Student Satisfaction Surveys, and perhaps they will win £1000 for the School. Look out for further information about the surveys in the New Year.

Results from the 2007 surveys are being analysed and published – see the Student Experience website for more information: www.manchester.ac.uk/studentexperience.



UMIP - COMMERCIALISING YOUR IDEAS

The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Limited (UMIP) is a limited company, wholly owned by The University, that has responsibility for managing the commercialisation of your Intellectual Property.

Complementing the 'Guide to UMIP' which was released earlier this year, UMIP will be releasing their Licensing Case Study booklet later this month. This booklet contains a series of interesting case studies from across the Faculties which will give you a flavour of what licensing is like, your colleagues' experiences and what

companies interested in licensing-in technologies are looking for.

The booklet also provides information on how UMIP can assist you in commercialising your Intellectual Property via licensing.

UMIP's new Licensing Case Study booklet, 'A Guide to UMIP' and additional guides covering IP and Confidentiality, Licensing, Spin Out companies, Consulting and Research Contracts can be downloaded from the UMIP website at

www.umip.com/research

SOFTWARE TO BOOST TEACHING AND LEARNING

Software to enable staff to be able to take part in discussions and post documents to assist in the enhancement of teaching and learning has been launched.

The Clearspace forums will also include a section devoted to graduate education to enable academic and administrative staff to share good practice in all areas of postgraduate research degree administration and management.

The time-honoured way to enhance teaching quality is for colleagues to discuss what they are doing and how it is going, sharing problems and solutions, joys and sorrows. In a university as large as this, with increasing pressures on time, opportunities to meet and discuss like this are often limited.

Clearspace software removes many of the constraints of time and place by offering an opportunity to conduct discussions online. Teaching staff will be able to post information likely to be helpful to other people, to raise issues about teaching and learning, and to ask for advice. You can choose to be notified when there are new posts on topics that interest you, and you can propose new topics – the intention is that the structure and content to develop in the ways that users find most helpful. We hope that Clearspace will help to grow a mutually supportive community of practitioners, so helping to improve how we teach and enhance what students learn.

Clearspace is used by numerous organizations worldwide, including universities such as Harvard,

SPORTS VOLUNTEER SCHEME 2007/08

Applications for the Sports Volunteer Scheme in 2007/08 are now open. The Scheme aims to get students and staff to undertake voluntary work within the community.

Most volunteers coach, this could be running an after-school club at a local primary school, coaching at a local club or running sports festivals and tournaments.

Joining the scheme will cost you nothing but your time. You will be reimbursed for travel expenses and the scheme will pay for your leadership and coaching qualifications.

If you are interested in:

- Sharing your passion for sport
- Supporting your local community
- Developing skills in leadership, communication and teamwork
- Doing something rewarding and satisfying

then the Sports Volunteer Scheme is for you!

For further information visit

www.sport.manchester.ac.uk/sportsvolunteer

or contact Emma Williams at sportsvolunteer@manchester.ac.uk or on 0161 275 6990 ext 56990.



Yale, Cambridge and Warwick, the BBC, and companies such as IBM, Toshiba, Amazon, PricewaterhouseCoopers and GlaxoSmithKline.

To see the University's Clearspace forums go to

<https://forums.manchester.ac.uk/clearspace/index.jspa>.

Staff members can log on using their normal University user name and password.

Further information about the forums can be found on the TLAO website at

www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/tlao/enhancement/talentforums

UNILIFE/STAFF UPDATE OPT OUT FORM

Please fill out this form in full if you would like to opt-out of receiving printed copies of both *UniLife* and *Staff Update* each month.

Job Title _____

Faculty/Division/School/Department _____

Room Number & Floor _____

Building _____

Site/Campus _____

If this is a recent change of address (ie in the last three months), please give previous details.

Faculty/Division/School/Department _____

Room Number & Floor _____

Building _____

Site/Campus _____

Please return this form marked 'Opt out' to Janice Brown, Internal Communications Office, Communications, Media and PR, Beyer Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road.

CONGRATULATIONS



Paul Westland (Student Systems, EPS Faculty) and **Kerry Hyland** (School of Materials) got married on 22 July 2006 at Cooling Castle Barn, near Rochester in Kent. They spent their honeymoon in Jamaica.

WOOD ST MISSION

The winner of the Wood Street Mission Draw for the month of September is: **Ms Kate Sapin**, School of Education (Continuing Education). The winning number was 269.

CAMPUS CLOSE-UP

The winner from July was **Rebecca Platt**, Undergraduate Admissions Administrator, School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences who correctly identified the photo as being of the Vimto statue outside the Sackville Street Building. Rebecca wins a free lunch at KroBar.

Additional desk calendars and a limited number of wall planners are available by request to uniads@manchester.ac.uk

TRAINING UPDATE

These are just a few of the courses we have available. Visit the training website to see the full list of courses.

Courses available at Staff Training and Development Unit

Book online at:

www.manchester.ac.uk/training

Don't forget to bookmark the web address so you can check for additional courses.

For more information:

email courses-stdu@manchester.ac.uk or telephone 52525

OCTOBER 2007

Training Skills for Occasional Trainers – MS38

9.30am - 4.30pm
16 October 2007

Manual Handling Risk Assessment – HS18

9.30am - 12.30pm
18 October 2007

Presentation Practice – P32

9.30am - 1pm
19 October 2007

IOSH Working Safely – HS78

10am - 4pm
25 October 2007

NOVEMBER 2007

Developing Your Staff – MS20

9.30am - 12.15pm
1 November 2007

Presentations for Beginners – P30

9.30am - 4.30pm
2 November 2007

Fire Awareness Training – HS41

10am - 12.30pm

Fire Evacuation Marshall Training – HS47

1pm - 4pm
5 November 2007

Some of our more popular courses fill up very quickly. If a course is full we will add you to a waiting list and notify you of any available future dates. Where courses are heavily oversubscribed we will try to arrange additional dates and will notify those on the waiting list first.

Courses available from IT Services Division

Book online at:

www.manchester.ac.uk/itservices/trainingcourses

Don't forget to bookmark the web address so you can check for additional courses.

For more information email: itscourses@manchester.ac.uk or telephone 56102

OCTOBER 2007

How to spot rogue emails and fake websites

2pm - 4pm
16 October 2007

Using Advanced Forms and Switchboards in Access

10am - 12noon
16 October 2007

Using the UoM Web Calendar

10am - 1pm
17 October 2007

Getting Started with Tables in Microsoft Access 2003

10am - 12noon
17 October 2007

Managing Long Documents in Word 2003

10am - 1pm
18 October 2007

Getting Started with Microsoft PowerPoint 2003

2pm - 4pm
18 October 2007

Creating Queries in Microsoft Access 2003

2pm - 4pm
22 October 2007

Using the Outlook Calendar

10am - 12noon
24 October 2007

Protecting Your Computer from Viruses and Spam

2pm - 4pm
24 October 2007

Using Mail Merge in Microsoft Word 2003

2pm - 4pm
25 October 2007

Getting Started with Excel 2003

10am - 12noon
30 October 2007