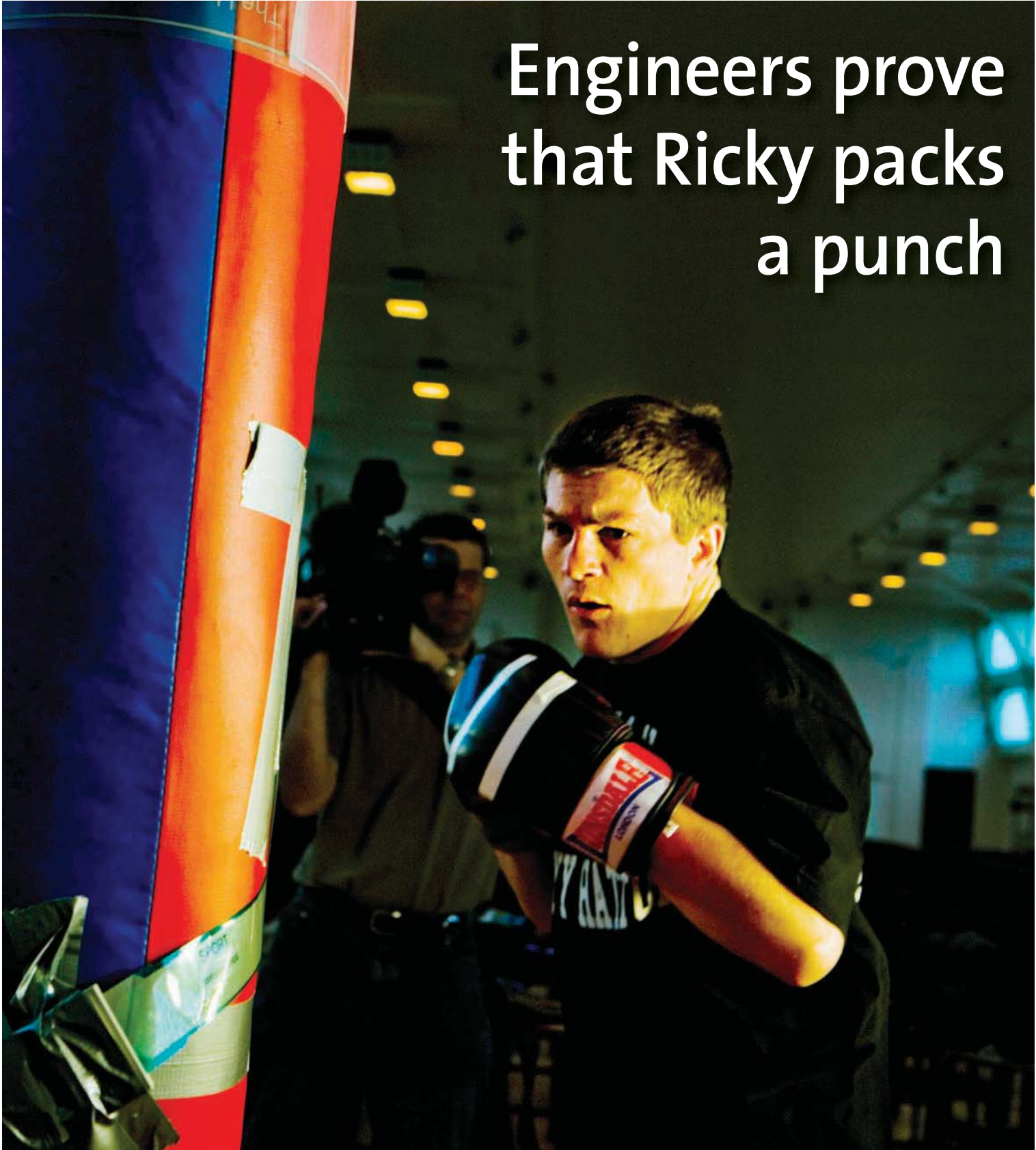


# UniLife

A young man in a black t-shirt and boxing gloves is shown in a boxing stance, punching a large, cylindrical bag that is red and blue. The bag has some white tape on it. In the background, a man in a grey shirt is visible, possibly a referee or trainer. The setting appears to be an indoor gym or training facility with overhead lights.

Engineers prove  
that Ricky packs  
a punch

## Features



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## Letter from the President



July means graduation for many of our students, and each graduation not only brings to an end another cycle of higher learning, but also signals a new beginning for our graduates as they begin professional lives enriched by the myriad formal and informal learning opportunities they have experienced in Manchester.

For the rest of us, graduations sometimes prompt useful – if not altogether comfortable - introspection.

Just how rich is the Manchester student experience? How well prepared are our graduates for professional employment? Have those who may wish to start businesses of their own had opportunities to acquire entrepreneurial skills? Have all our graduates developed advanced skills of disciplined, rational thought and critical analysis? How well can they assimilate, investigate, analyse and apply abstract concepts and systems? How well do they understand the difference between fact and opinion, validity and truth, inductive and deductive reasoning? How competent have they become as presenters, advocates and communicators of complex ideas? Have they learned to be team players?

What has their Manchester experience meant in terms of personal development? Have they been encouraged to confront their own personal beliefs, values, assumptions, expectations, hopes and fears? Has their university education helped them develop global perspectives, encouraged them to reflect on wider social and environmental issues and challenged them to accept the kinds of personal responsibilities that will make them informed, engaged citizens wherever in the world they choose to live? How reliably can they identify prejudice, in themselves and in others? Are they ready to exercise leadership, whether in professional, business or civic life?

Above all, perhaps, how well have they been prepared to be lifelong learners?

It is interesting that in asking how well Manchester graduates have been prepared for the worlds of work and citizenship, the knowledge they have acquired is secondary - and rightly so. With the total quantum of human knowledge now doubling every six years or so, higher learning is not essentially about acquiring a body of knowledge. It is about learning how to learn, about being open to new worlds of thought, improved ways of doing things, new technologies, new paradigms, new problems. A learning disposition is the most precious outcome of higher learning; without it, a university education has a frighteningly short half life.

Accepting such conventional wisdom – for none of this is novel – raises some probing questions for teachers. How consciously, deliberately and explicitly are the curricula we develop designed to deliver the educational and personal outcomes we value? How clearly do we relate what we are teaching – and how we are teaching - to the particular skills, intellectual disciplines and personal qualities we are trying to encourage? How deeply and systematically do we understand relationships between the pedagogy and learning outcomes? How often do we even ask ourselves such questions? Perhaps we should devote an entire meeting of Senate to a discussion of such things – or are these matters best left to schools, discipline clusters or individual teachers?

I will be delighted to listen to some answers.

Professor Alan Gilbert  
President and Vice-Chancellor

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## Engineers prove that Ricky packs a punch

**Measurements taken by engineers at the University have shown that local boxing hero Ricky 'The Hitman' Hatton really does live up to his name.**

The World Champion boxer was put through his paces at the University by a team from the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering (MACE).

Ahead of his recent title fight in Las Vegas, a team of impact engineers led by Dr Qingming Li worked with biomechanics equipment specialists Biosense Medical Ltd to gauge the strength and speed of Hatton's best shots.

And the results will give little comfort to Ricky's future opponents, for the data collected suggests Hatton is capable of landing a right-handed punch with around 400kg of instantaneous force behind it

- around 10 times more than an average person with no boxing expertise can manage.

To calculate this, the University called in Biosense Medical, which attached a force sensor to a 30kg punch bag. Special video technology - normally used for tracking projectiles in laboratory conditions - was also used to calculate the speed of the punches which came in at an average top speed of 25mph - giving opponents a reaction time of less than one tenth of a second. His fastest effort was clocked at 32mph.

Impact expert Dr Li said: "As one of the country's top universities for engineering, we were delighted to be challenged to come up with a way of measuring Ricky's formidable punching prowess.

"It was certainly a very different project from the type we usually work on, but it demonstrates the

expertise and versatility we have within the department."

Researchers are keen to stress that the measurements were not taken under scientific conditions and they are now keen to repeat this experiment to verify their findings.

But they believe the data gives a sound indication of the power and speed that faced Jose Castillo - the man Ricky was due to fight as *UniLife* went to press.

Ricky, from Hattersley, said: "It was great working with the experts and the technology, and for me it was really interesting to see just how fast and hard I can hit."

ITN News broadcast Ricky's visit to the University ahead of his fight.

## The Whitworth Art Gallery Wins VisitBritain Quality Marque



**The Whitworth Art Gallery at The University of Manchester is now a Quality Assured Visitor Attraction, having achieved the British Tourist Authority's official endorsement of high standards.**

The prestigious award was given following a detailed assessment of the quality of service and attention to the needs of visitors throughout the venue. The Whitworth was described as 'lively and entertaining' with particular praise reserved for the remarkable variety of the artworks on display and its iconic RIBA award-winning sculpture court. The highly popular award winning café was also commended, as were the hands-on activities for children within the galleries.

The Whitworth's Director Dr Maria Balshaw said: "It is essential that the Whitworth's international reputation for its unique collections is matched by the quality and service offered to visitors. That our standards have been recognised in this way fully endorses our continued commitment toward the visitor experience."

## In brief



The team at the Centre for Chinese Studies and the Confucius Institute with students (Professor Hong Liu, Dr Wu Fangmin, Karen Wang and Catriona Dobson).

### China Summer School

**The University has been selected as the sole management agent for the DfES China Summer School for 2007. The contract is worth almost £250,000.**

The Summer School is part of a government initiative to increase UK student mobility and to encourage students to take advantage of opportunities to work, research and study abroad as part of their HE courses. This programme is open to all UK-based undergraduates and 200 funded places, together with 20 Widening Participation Bursaries are on offer.

This programme will be managed and delivered by the Centre for Chinese Studies in partnership with Beijing Normal University, the partner of the Confucius Institute. Successful candidates will be spending three weeks in Beijing this summer, with full funding from DfES, to learn the Chinese language and culture, to meet and interact with Chinese young people and to visit businesses and gain insight into the fastest growing economy in the world.

### UniLife

**This is the last issue of UniLife until after the summer break, the next issue will be 1 October 2007 and the deadline for the submission of stories is 13 September.**

If you have news or information that you would like to circulate to the campus in the meantime, please email [uninews@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uninews@manchester.ac.uk).

If you do not receive a regular copy or would like to update or amend your mailing details, please email [uniads@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uniads@manchester.ac.uk) or call 0161 275 2113.

## Students 'bag' green prizes

The winners have been announced of the University's Cool It! Competition which challenged students to create something imaginative that would get people talking about climate change and persuade people to behave in a more environmentally sustainable way.

With some 45,000 staff and students on campus, if every individual decreased their carbon footprint even a little, the impact would be significant, not only in reducing emissions but also in cutting the University's sizeable energy bill.

The range of entries was impressive, including photographs, poems, cartoons, paintings, drawings and three-dimensional sculptures. Prizes included air-miles-free organic shopping for a year, mountain bikes for green transport, vouchers for outdoor clothing and equipment, wind-up radios, and the Rough Guide to Ethical Living and Ethical Travel. Later in the year the top entries will be exhibited around the campus and at key locations around the



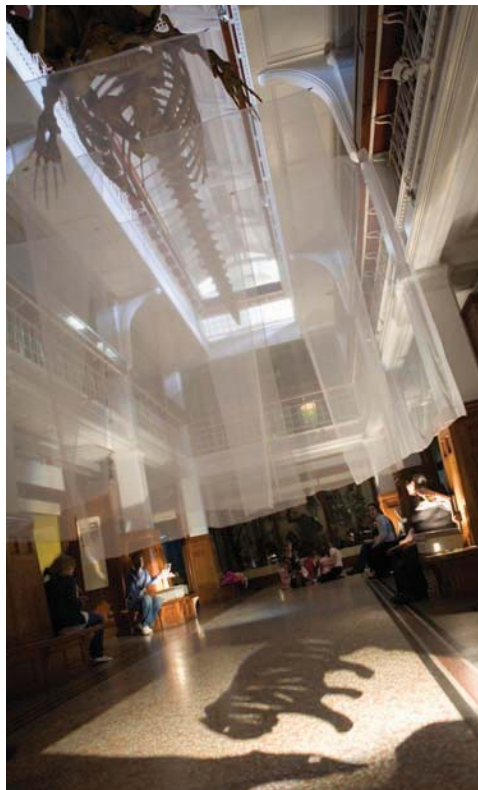
city to spread the message and support Manchester's aim of becoming the UK's greenest city.

First prize winner Grace Payne (pictured) from the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures said of the competition, who bagged the first prize with her entry "Plastic Bag, Plastic Bag" - a bag made from plastic bags - said: "To have ethical living promoted at University is really

important, and I think a competition like this can raise awareness and really catch people's imagination. I'm so chuffed to have won and I hope my entry will inspire people to think about things they can do to live more sustainably."

A big thank you to everyone involved and to the Alumni Fund for their support.

## Imagine Their Shadows



**The Manchester Museum will launch a new exhibition 'Imagine Their Shadows' in August. It is the culmination of a new outreach project between Manchester Museum, Places Matter!, Horse and Bamboo Theatre, artists-in-residence and young children in Manchester. The exhibition will include photographs and written text about the project, displayed alongside a film exploring the meaning of the Museum and its objects to the children.**

Eight children from the Rusholme Children's Centre were involved in visits to the Museum where they were encouraged to explore the Mammals Gallery. Informal discussions took place between the children and adults, sharing their feelings and ideas about the space. The children developed 'stories' and explanations of how the animals might feel about being in the Museum, what the Museum is there for and where the animals came from. They worked with Horse and Bamboo Theatre to explore making shadows and used shadow puppets of animals in the gallery to illustrate their 'stories'.

By using the spaces within the Museum in new ways, the exhibition demonstrates the success of the project and how children from a very young age interact, learn and enjoy the spaces within the Museum. The outcomes will be evaluated by the University Performance Learning and Heritage Unit. The exhibition will run throughout August in the Life Lab area on the third floor of the Museum.



# Japanese proves to be a popular culture

**The University's new Japanese Studies programmes which are being offered at the University for the first time from September 2007 have proved highly popular with applicants.**

In a major strategic investment by the Faculty of Humanities, the new discipline has made three initial appointments in Japanese Studies: Ian Reader, formerly Professor of Religious Studies at Lancaster University. He will be joined in August by Dr Peter Cave, a social anthropologist of the University of Hong Kong, and historian Dr Mara Patessio of Cambridge University.

From September a full range of undergraduate programmes in Japanese Studies is being introduced as well as a new discipline area of East Asian Studies within the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures.

Jonathan Bunt and Yukiko Shaw join the Japanese Studies Unit from the Japan Centre. Jonathan who is Acting Head of East Asian Studies said: "This comes at a time when interest in Japan and Japanese has been growing worldwide as the economic giant has also become a cultural magnet for millions and this is reflected in the volume of applications to Japanese Studies at Manchester in its first year.

"Japanese has been taught at Manchester for many years through the Japan Centre partnership and has been increasingly popular, with degrees in Life Sciences and Mathematics with Japanese involving a year abroad as well as there being a rising enrolment on the optional Japanese languages courses through the LEAP programme."



The University's links with the University of Kyoto have led to an exchange agreement for some students, with several other leading Japanese Universities signing exchange agreements and a number of teaching and research collaborations under discussion.

The BA Japanese Studies is available as single honours - which has proved particularly popular - and as part of the Modern Languages with Business and Management degree as well as in combination with other Language-based area studies courses. Postgraduate research degrees are also being offered, and already the first PhD students, both working in areas of contemporary Japanese religion, have been registered.

## New writers sign up

**The Centre for New Writing in the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures has added prize-winning novelist M.J. Hyland to its staff of novelists and poets.**

The writer (pictured), who was recently awarded the Hawthornden Prize for her second novel *Carry Me Down* and the Encore prize for best second novel, has been appointed as a Lecturer in Creative Writing.

Co-Director of the Centre Dr John McAuliffe said: "We are delighted that M.J. Hyland has agreed to join the Centre for New Writing. She is a terrific writer, one of the leading members of the new generation of British and Irish novelists, and her experience as a writer coupled with her enthusiasm as a teacher will be a real boon to our students."

The author will join Martin Amis



at the Centre which has also appointed two new Research Fellows: Joe Stretch, a Manchester-based, first-time novelist and singer in "electro death pop band" Performance; Neil Rollinson, a poet whose

works "...ring with compassionate wonder at the universe," (Independent on Sunday). His fourth book *Demolition* will be published by Jonathan Cape in September.

## In brief

### Seeking investment clubs

**Manchester Business School researchers are studying investment clubs and need to make contact with more in the North West.**

The project is the first of its kind and takes an in-depth look at investment clubs, how they operate and how they make decisions. It presents participating clubs with a unique opportunity to not only contribute to the future development and research in the field, but also to learn from each other and reflect upon their own decisions.

Investment clubs have become increasingly popular with investors in recent years. According to Moneynet, since 1997 the number of UK investment clubs has increased from just 350 to around 7,000 clubs. In the same ten years the FTSE 500 index has almost doubled in value.

Professor Gary Davies said: "If you haven't considered investing in the stock exchange investment clubs are great ways to dip your toe in the water. Clubs have taken off because it's much less risky than investing on your own and people with a relatively low level of capital can join the Stock market as part of a group - often friends, family or colleagues - in much the same way as a lottery syndicate works, but with more chance of winning."

Participating clubs will be welcome to access the findings and results of the project, upon its completion. If you are an investment club and would like to take part in the project, please contact Shalini Vohra at [shalini.vohra@postgrad.mbs.ac.uk](mailto:shalini.vohra@postgrad.mbs.ac.uk).

### Composition awards

**PhD composer Diana Simpson has been awarded First Prize in the 2007 SCRIME International Competition for Electroacoustic Composition (Bordeaux, France).**

Diana received the award for her acousmatic work 'Anima Machina', her first work composed at The University of Manchester electroacoustic studios since starting her PhD research in September 2006. The prizes were announced at a concert in Bordeaux featuring all of the finalists works, where Diana diffused her piece in person.

Oliver Carman, also a PhD composer in electroacoustic music has also been awarded a prize in the prestigious 2007 Bourges International Competition for Electroacoustic Music (France).

Oliver received the prize in the Residency category for his work 'Amorphous Materials', premiered at the "Francis Dhomont at 80" MANTIS concert weekend at the Martin Harris Centre in November 2006. As part of his Bourges win, Oliver will work in residence next year for two weeks at one of the participating international studios.

Both composers made use of the University's electroacoustic studios for their works, a new electroacoustic research facility is to be completed in the months ahead.

## In brief

### Chinese visit

**A delegation from the University of Shandong, China, recently visited the School of Dentistry during a visit to the University to discuss opportunities for postgraduate studies.**

Shandong is one of China's top universities and is part of the 985 Project which aims to develop a group of world-class research universities for the 21st century.

The delegation met with Dr Nick Grey, Head of School, to look at the facilities and discuss potential opportunities for postgraduate studies in dentistry and for PhD students in Medicine and Dentistry to spend one year of their programme at Manchester, funded by the China Scholarship Council.

Dr Grey, said, 'We were delighted to welcome the delegation, they were very impressed by the dental school and its facilities and we would look forward to any future collaborations with them'.

### War and Our World

**The Hallsworth Conference, 'War and our World' is at the Manchester Conference Centre, 19-21 July 2007**

One of the most pressing issues of our time is the changing nature and consequences of war. The international conference, War and our World, provides an opportunity to address this recurrent feature of human society.

The conference is staged in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) In Place of War project with a performance event in the John Thaw Studio on 18 July, with Passion Pit & Theatre Tours International whose World Premiere of 'Child of Biafra' at the Contact Theatre will be performed on 19 July with a discussion panel to follow, and the Imperial War Museum North, where a drinks reception will be held on the final day.

Manchester staff can register at an early bird rate until 6 July. Email [wow@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:wow@manchester.ac.uk)

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

## Leading economist joins Manchester Business School

**The newly launched Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIIR) has appointed world renowned economist Professor Richard Nelson**

The Institute combines the strengths of two long-established centres at The University of Manchester - CRIC (Centre for Research in Innovation and Competition) and PREST (Policy Research in Engineering, Science and Technology) - and will be based in Manchester Business School (MBS).

At its launch, Professor Nelson (pictured right) gave a lecture on The Uneven Evolution of Human Know-how. In it he explained why some areas of medical and technical knowledge have advanced very quickly while others, particularly those dependent on "social technologies" involving interaction among people, have lagged behind

The existing centres both had well-established reputations in their field, but the old names no longer captured the breadth of the centres' research.

The new institute is at the heart of MBS' strategic focus on innovation across both the public and private sectors. It will continue to shape debates on innovation and technical change, building on its heritage.

Professor Nelson won the Honda prize for his pioneering research



into how emerging technology can improve global social conditions. He is currently director of the Centre for Science Technology and Global Development and the George Blumenthal Professor Emeritus of International and Public Affairs, Business and Law at Columbia University. His new position in the MIIR enables him to pursue research in one of the world's most renowned research environments, where he will spend one fifth of his time.

Professor Michael Luger, Director of MBS said: "Professor Nelson's knowledge, ideas and experience are a real asset to the Manchester Institute for Innovation Research, providing leadership to experienced staff and inspiration to the new generation of researchers who are coming through the School. His appointment is testament to the School's ability to attract world-class research talent to The University of Manchester and the city."

## Leading the regions

**The University's Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL) has been chosen to manage nine regional leadership development centres for the Training Development Agency for Schools (TDA) after becoming the largest single provider nationally of leadership development programmes for the National College for School Leadership (NCSL).**

CEL previously just ran the Liverpool centre but will now also be responsible for managing eight other centres across England.

Each centre provides a network of advisers, trainers and consultants - the National Training Team - to help each of the country's 23,500 schools and the 150 local authorities work through and embed 'remodelling' change programmes and professional development programmes to deliver the Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda. All centres will be expected

to have the same high standard as CEL.

Brendan Murden, Director of CEL, said: "The Training and Development Agency for Schools has recognised the contribution that CEL has made to the development of school leaders over the last ten years. It has entrusted us to lead the development work for the extended school workforce by appointing CEL as its managing agent for the nine centres.

"This is a tremendous achievement for the Centre and the University."

The type of work CEL will deliver includes: the introduction of professional development for teaching staff; working with partners to ensure greater and better managed collaboration through the delivery chain; the modernisation of schools, including the remodelling process.



## Lawyers go back to college in fight for world's poor

**Lawyers from some of world's leading firms have gone back to college in their bid to help the world's most vulnerable people.**

Thirty solicitors and barristers have completed a year-long specialist training course with the School of Law and Brooks World Poverty Institute at The University of Manchester and The British Institute of International and Comparative Law.

They are members of Advocates for International Development - or A4ID - which facilitates the provision of free legal advice and assistance in the developing world.

Launched in September 2006, the annual training programme covers subjects including development theory, debt, trade, micro-finance and corruption.

A4ID's Education Programme Director Katie Hutt said: "By obtaining a deeper appreciation of the intricacies of development, lawyers working through A4ID will manage and meet the needs of partners in the developing world more effectively.

"Skills used every day by commercial lawyers are of enormous value to developing countries, where access to legal expertise and resources can be limited.

"Some people might find it hard to imagine lawyers from major corporate firms promoting the land rights of pastoralists in Niger, the right to water in South Asia or access to justice for women and children in Pakistan.

"But this is exactly what's happening and through the training, member lawyers see the impact their work can make."



Advocates for International Development

## Nowgen's European Success

**Nowgen, the Centre for Genetics in Healthcare, is to be the base for two major European initiatives in genetics. Over 1 million Euros has been awarded by the EU Public Health Director General.**

Manchester will be the co-ordinating centre for DYSCERNE a project led by Dr Jill Clayton-Smith, Dr Bronwyn Kerr and Professor Dian Donnai to improve the diagnosis and management of patients from across the whole of Europe with birth defect syndromes. Manchester is internationally recognised for its expertise in dysmorphology and developed the bid in collaboration with major centres in Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, France and Poland. An electronic diagnostic network will be developed to improve accurate diagnosis, essential for the management of rare conditions. Doctors from all European countries will be able to submit information about their patients and access expert advice. Guidelines for management will be developed and disseminated and improved information will be made available to patients.

Nowgen – a partnership between the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool and Lancaster and the

Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust - is already the UK base for Orphanet ([www.orpha.net](http://www.orpha.net)) a database of information about rare diseases, orphan drugs, specialist clinics and research initiatives. It is freely accessible to professionals, patients, industry and the public and receives over 20,000 thousand hits per day and is the largest database of its kind in the world. Orphanet also produces an excellent regular electronic newsletter synthesising scientific advances in rare diseases. The recent award of further EU funding will allow the scope of this important project to be extended. Orphanet is a key partner in EPPOSI, the European Platform for Patients' Organisations, Science and Industry and members of the Nowgen team regularly contribute to EPPOSI's meetings.

Professor Dian Donnai, Executive Director of Nowgen, said: "Manchester's genetics expertise has enabled us to win these key awards which will further enhance the North West's reputation in healthcare. These initiatives are further examples of our innovative approach to genetic medicine"



## Cooling down our sweltering cities

**Sweltering summers in the city may become more bearable in future years, thanks to a new study probing the heat contributed by buildings, roads and traffic.**

Researchers at the University will use a small plane and a car fitted with advanced equipment to map out the surface temperature of central areas of Manchester and Sheffield.

The data collected will be combined with climate change forecasts to produce a detailed picture of how urban 'heat islands' push up the temperature during the hottest months.

One of the aims of the three-year study is to produce a series of tools, that will help planners, designers and engineers decide the best way of adapting the urban landscape to bring greater human comfort during hot and sticky spells.

The SCORCHIO project (Sustainable Cities : Options for Responding to Climate Change Impacts and Outcomes), is being led by The School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering (MACE).

As well as increasing levels of human comfort, adapting buildings will also help reduce harmful carbon emissions. For example, reducing the amount of exterior glass could lower temperatures and cut the demand for electricity-hungry air conditioning systems and desk fans.

At the moment the effects on the urban landscape or the heat released by human activities within cities are not considered in standard climate change research. But they have been shown to be potentially very significant.

Project leader Geoff Levermore, Professor of the Built Environment, said: "Our urban and city areas are becoming increasingly unhealthy, dangerous and uncomfortable to work and live in, and are remarkably vulnerable to global warming.

"Actions by planners, designers and building owners are required in the short term if cities are to avoid becoming ever more vulnerable in the long term."

## In brief



### Education award for Professor

**Professor Philip Withers from the School of Materials has won a prestigious prize for innovation in engineering education.**

Professor Withers and his team have developed a web-based 3D journey through a jet engine, which supports science and physics requirements of the National Curriculum.

Students can choose the materials to design their engine from a set of Master Materials cards – which can also be used to play a game similar to ‘top trumps’. If their design is successful their plane will take off and achieve good environmental performance.

Professor Withers and his team tested ‘Journey through a Jet Engine’ on a special audience at last year’s Science Day at Buckingham Palace. The display is now on show at Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester.

For winning the Royal Academy of Engineering / Nexia Solutions prize, Professor Withers received a £10,000 prize and a special trophy at a glittering bash in London.

### New library

**A new Technical Textiles Library has been established in the Joule Library, thanks to generous support from The Clothworkers’ Livery Company.**

The developing resource will help underpin student education, research and ongoing professional training for local industry.

University Librarians Diana Leitch and Martin Snelling recently welcomed a delegation from the Company and the School of Materials to the official opening.

The Joule Library is thought to have the largest collection of textile publications in the world.

## The appliance of science

**The University is to play a key role in a new £2m project that aims to deliver a wood-powered all-in-one generator, cooker and fridge into third world communities within five years.**

The SCORE project (Stove for Cooking, Refrigeration and Electricity) brings together four major UK universities, a leading US research centre, a multi-national electrical goods manufacturer, an international charity and numerous universities in Asia and Africa.

The proposed device will incorporate an electricity generator, a high-efficiency cooking stove and a refrigerator, and will be fuelled by burning biomass products.

Dr Artur Jaworski from The School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering (MACE), will lead vital research into the thermoacoustic engine design for the SCORE device.

One of the great advantages of using thermoacoustic technology is the device will not contain any toxic, flammable or ozone depleting substances and will be reliable due to a lack of moving parts.

Dr Jaworski said: “A multi-purpose thermoacoustic device such as this, powered by biomass, has never been attempted before. Although we have wide experience of this technology and applying it in different ways, this new and exciting project will require plenty of ingenuity and innovation.

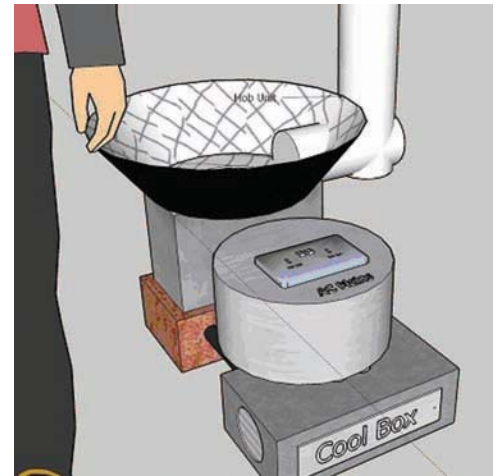
“With the depth of experience and expertise we have assembled as part of this international project,

we are confident we can meet our aims, deliver a viable appliance and make a real difference to people living in the developing world.

“The benefits could be huge, ranging from better health due to the correct storage of medicines, to improved education through electricity for computers and lighting, to a higher standard of living through the creation of employment opportunities and associated businesses.”

Dr Jaworski will work closely with academics at The University of Nottingham, Imperial College London and Queen Mary, University of London.

Universities in developing countries in Africa and Asia will also assist with the design, development, production and introduction of the device.



## Double honour for diabetes research projects

**Two University of Manchester scientists have been awarded international prizes for their research into the peripheral nerve damage suffered by people with diabetes.**

Dr Caroline Abbott, in the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, has won the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) young investigator ‘clinical’ award for research that revealed that British Asians were three times less likely than white Europeans to suffer nerve damage caused by diabetes.

Meanwhile, Dr Sally Price, in the Faculty of Life Sciences, made it a Manchester double after being awarded the equivalent EASD young investigator prize for ‘scientific’ research into the debilitating condition.

“Nerve damage is one of the major complications of diabetes and is the largest cause of non-traumatic foot amputations in the UK,” said Dr Price, who carried out her postdoctoral work in Professor David Tomlinson’s lab.

“My research examined gene changes between nerves from healthy rats, diabetic rats and those from diabetic rats treated with compounds known to prevent nerve damage in rodents.

“These studies suggested many genes could play a role in converting the effects of high glucose into nerve damage in diabetes. Further investigation confirmed the precise role these genes played.”

Dr Abbott’s clinical research into the condition involved

identifying the most effective testing methods for predicting foot ulceration caused by neuropathy and discovering that diabetes patients from South Asian descent were three times less prone to nerve damage than whites.

“More recently I have been investigating the reasons why Asian people with diabetes living in the UK have less peripheral nerve damage and how this relates to altered microvascular flow,” said Dr Abbott, who works in Professor Andrew Boulton’s lab.

“The ulcer-prediction methods we employed in our research are now widely used in the diabetes clinical setting. I am delighted to win this award as acknowledgement for the work we have carried out over the past 10 years.”



# Clues to new genes behind rheumatoid arthritis

**Researchers have identified evidence of several new genes behind the chronic inflammatory disease rheumatoid arthritis (RA), which affects 387,000 people in the UK.**

Professor Jane Worthington and her team at the University's arthritis research campaign (arc) Epidemiology Unit made their findings as part of the largest ever study of the genetics behind common diseases.

The £9 million Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium (WTCCC), which published its results in the journals *Nature* and *Nature Genetics*, has given a

major boost to the understanding of genetics of seven common diseases, including RA. It has identified a wealth of genes implicated in coronary heart disease, type 1 and type 2 diabetes, Crohn's disease, bipolar disorder and hypertension, as well as RA.

Professor Worthington and her team have implicated several genes in the development of RA for the first time. Previously two genes were known to explain 50% of genetically determined susceptibility. Now the team have replicated their results for one of the new genes and are working to validate others.

Dr Anne Barton, a clinician on the team, said: "We hope that this study may help us to discover why 40-50% of people do not respond to therapy. This therapy is expensive - £8,000 per patient per year for the newest biologic agents - and this work could show whether someone would respond well or not in advance, rather than by costly trial and error."

Professor Worthington said: "The WTCCC has been a fantastic example of collaborative effort in the UK. It has taken us to the place we are now, more rapidly and efficiently than if we had tried to undertake this study on our own."

[www.esnw.ac.uk](http://www.esnw.ac.uk)

# One-fifth of MEPs support decriminalisation of cannabis

**A wide-ranging survey of Members of the European Parliament - including Britain's representatives - has revealed strong support for the decriminalisation of cannabis across Europe.**

The team from the Universities of Manchester, Aberystwyth and the London School of Economics also revealed controversial attitudes to abortion, crime, defence and immigration among members.

Professors David Farrell from The University of Manchester, Simon Hix from the London school of Economics and Roger Scully from the University of Aberystwyth, contacted all 732 MEPs of whom 272 responded.

The study found that one-fifth of the MEPs felt marijuana should be decriminalised. One-third of British MEPs - much higher than the average- supported decriminalisation, though Dutch MEPs were the most liberal at 83%.

Other results included:

- 51% think there should be more harmonisation of national immigration policies - 32% of British MEP's agree.



- 70% think that women should be free to decide on abortion - 20% of Irish MEPs agree.
- 73% of MEPs think there should be EU-wide arrest warrants for serious crimes - 54% of British MEPs agree..
- 40% of MEPs think that the EU rather than NATO should be responsible for European defence - 29% of British MEPs agree.
- 40% of MEPs think that EU foreign policy should be a counterweight to the US - 64% of French MEPs agree.

Professor Farrell, Head of the School of Social Sciences at The University of Manchester, said:

"For much of its life, the European Parliament could have been justly labelled a 'multi-lingual talking shop'.

"But this is no longer the case: the EP is now one of the most powerful legislatures in the world both in terms of its legislative and executive oversight powers. The views of MEPs as shown in this survey may very well have a direct impact on policy and therefore on all citizens in the EU."

## In brief

### Dalton makes new appointment

**The Dalton Nuclear Institute has appointed Professor Bernard Kelly to the Chair in Nuclear Decommissioning Engineering.**

Professor Kelly will establish and then lead a new Research Centre for Nuclear Decommissioning Engineering within the University's School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering (MACE).

He will play a key role in driving forward research and education at the new Dalton facility in Cumbria.

### Optical solution for Ethiopian vision crisis

**A Manchester scientist will be returning to his continent of birth in a bid to help train young eye specialists in one of the world's poorest countries.**

Dr Vincent Nourrit, a visual optics expert at The University of Manchester, will be spending two weeks of his summer holiday teaching ophthalmology students in the highlands of northwest Ethiopia.

The new degree course at the University of Gondar is designed to address the chronic shortage of optometrists in a country where more than one million people are blind or suffer low vision.

"It is estimated that up to 80% of this blindness is either treatable or preventable but there simply aren't enough trained professionals to carry out the procedures," said Dr Nourrit, who is based in Manchester's Faculty of Life Sciences.

"This degree course - the first in the country - has been developed with a full curriculum, so the students will be able to go on and train other optometrists in the future."

Dr Nourrit, who was born in the north western African country of Burkina Faso, will fly out to Gondar in September to teach the intensive two-week visual optics component of the course to the students.

## In brief

### Pharmacy researcher wins Libyan national award

**A University of Manchester researcher has been named the Best Libyan International Student 2007 having published more than 30 papers before his PhD.**

Abdul Gbaj, who is researching the pharmaceutical aspects of genetic and tumour sciences at the University's School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, received his award from the Libyan Minister of Higher Education, Dr Akeel Hussain Akeel.

"When he told me I had won this award, I was very proud. There are 5,000 Libyan Masters and PhD students across the globe, 1,600 of them in the UK," Abdul said.

"I was very lucky to come to Manchester. I have worked with many good people, very strong people, such as my supervisor Professor Ken Douglas and Dr Phil Edwards, an ex senior scientist from Astra Zeneca."

Professor Kenneth Douglas has also been commended for his role as Abdul's supervisor and for his guidance of other Libyan postgraduates over the years.

### Centre Opens

**The Healing Foundation Centre for Tissue Regeneration, a newly established centre in the Faculty of Life Sciences will be officially opened in September.**

The Centre's aim is to advance our understanding of wound healing and tissue regeneration using a variety of model organisms.

To celebrate the opening they are planning an Opening Symposium on the 13 and 14 September, which will feature a series of talks on wound healing and tissue regeneration by a list of renowned international guest speakers, including Mark Ferguson, Min Zhao, Dave Thomas, Paul Martin, Antonio Jacinto, Elly Tanaka, Andras Simon, Jeremy Brockes, Jonathan Slack, Mike Levin, Koji Tamura, Ken Poss, Sabine Werner, Sabine Eming and Gus McGrouther.

An official opening ceremony in the Michael Smith Building is also planned. For further information and to register go to [www.manchester.ac.uk/healingfoundationcentre](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/healingfoundationcentre) or contact Rachel Abbott on 0161 275 5360.

## Stem cell laboratories open for business



Drs Daniel Brison and Sue Kimber, co-directors of the stem cell centre

**New state-of-the-art laboratories that will allow scientists to make stem cells and turn them into tissue suitable for human transplantation were officially opened last month.**

The two sterile labs will serve the UK Centre for Tissue Regeneration and the Northwest Embryonic Stem Cell Research Centre, which is based in the University's Faculty of Life Sciences and at St Mary's Hospital.

"The centre's laboratories will be some of the best equipped in the country producing stem-cell lines to Good Manufacturing Practice standards so they can be used for transplantation at a future date," said Dr Sue Kimber, Co-director of the stem cell centre.

"We aim to build on the strong relationship between the NHS Trust and the University to enable us to deliver state-of-the-art medicines for treatment of a wide range of diseases."

Scientists believe that stem cells - master cells that have the potential to turn into any kind of human tissue - could be used to replace diseased cells in patients suffering from currently incurable diseases like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes and cancer.

The North West Embryonic Stem Cell Centre will ask patients on IVF programmes to donate eggs and embryos that would ordinarily be discarded and develop them in the lab under licence from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

Infertile couples will be among those to benefit from the new research centre as knowledge gained about embryonic development will assist the hospital's IVF programme.

The stem cell centre, which was funded by a £2million grant from the Northwest Development Agency (NWD), is a joint project between The University of Manchester, the Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital NHS Trust, the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research and The University of Liverpool.

## Now anxious people can counsel themselves

**People suffering from anxiety disorders can help themselves using approaches based on cognitive behavioural therapies (CBT), according to a new book by a University of Manchester psychologist.**

Dr Warren Mansell spent over a decade studying cognitive behavioural approaches to psychological problems before writing *Coping with Fears and Phobias - a Step-by-Step Guide to Understanding and Facing your Anxieties*. He now believes that with the right guidance people can apply techniques from CBT at home, and possibly avoid long NHS waiting lists to see therapists.

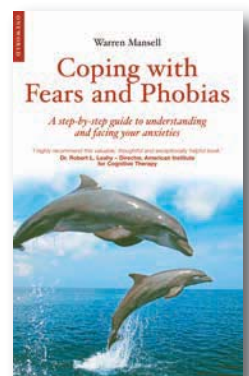
Anxiety disorders affect around 20% of the UK population, and can lead to addictions, self-harm and inability to work or interact with others. Cognitive

('how you think') behavioural ('what you do') therapies approach them by looking at how people think about themselves and the world, and how their actions affect their thoughts and feelings.

Dr Mansell said: "Cognitive behavioural therapies focus on a person's current problems and difficulties, and look for ways to improve their state of mind now. With the right guidance this is something that people can work on without a therapist, enabling the approach to help far greater numbers of people."

The approach described in the book was developed after gathering detailed feedback on existing self-help books from service users with anxiety problems, and incorporates the most recent advances in CBT.

Dr Mansell continued: "Fear is a normal emotion that we all experience at times, but when it leads to phobias, panic and worry it can have a huge impact. But people can learn to cope better with their anxieties, and often overcome them completely, by developing helpful strategies and learning to accept uncertainties."



## Teaching Excellence Awards

**This year sees the second round of Teaching Excellence Awards to staff who have made an outstanding contribution to teaching and learning in the University.**

Professor Bob Munn, Vice President for Teaching and Learning writes: "Goal Four in the Manchester 2015 strategic plan is "Excellent Teaching and Learning". We expect high standards of all staff involved in teaching, and we particularly celebrate those who make a special contribution to the goal of excellence.

"The annual Teaching Excellence Awards recognize people who have made a real difference to the student experience. Often the recipients are teachers, but since teaching is increasingly a collaborative effort, we also look to reward those who support teaching. I congratulate this year's winners, and look forward to their continuing contribution towards making The University of Manchester a place known for excellent teaching and learning."

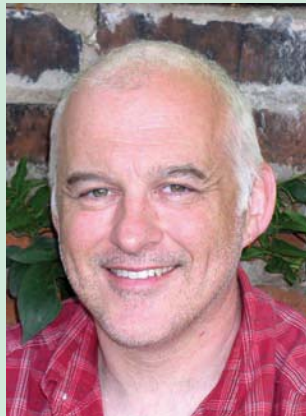
The four winners are:



**Matthew Cobb, lecturer in Zoology and Programme Director for Zoology BSc.**

Matthew says: "Much of my teaching is focused around providing Zoology students with the skills they don't realise they need. Many want to work in conservation generally seeing it as something to do with heat-haze, with giraffes lolling in the distance. The reality is that it's just as likely to involve looking for invertebrates in the Rochdale Canal."

Working with the Museum he has developed problem-based learning on Human Evolution. Professor Richard Reece says: "Matthew is one of our most highly regarded and innovative teachers. He excels at what he does and is a highly effective instructor and teaching administrator." (see also page 13).



**Richard Prince, Senior Teaching Fellow in Pharmacology and the Faculty of Life Sciences coordinator for the CEEBL.**

Richard has introduced a range of enquiry-based approaches into his teaching including using popular films dealing with important topics in clinical pharmacology to stimulate the students' enquiry.

Richard's says: "I have a strong belief in involving students as partners in the development of teaching material. I have attempted to capture students' imagination and attention by placing material in either real life, or humorous contexts. I have focused strongly on developing materials to promote active learning"

"Traditionally Pharmacology been regarded as a difficult subject but Richard has been instrumental in changing this by embracing enquiry-based learning" says Professor Mark Dunne.



**Susan Mackay, IT Officer in the Faculty of Humanities.**

Susan's award reinforces the partnership between academic and support staff in teaching and learning. She has not only supported development of major e-learning projects across the Faculty but has also had an impact on outreach through the Children's University and school workshops.

Susan says: "A belief that communication and collaboration are key to successful and productive working relationships informs my approach to the role of learning support. These create an environment for the successful facilitation of student-centred, student-led e-learning."

Susan's colleagues Annie Morton and Catherine Franc, said: "Her expertise is invaluable; she shares this with IT novices like ourselves, enthusing us in turn to reflect upon our provision and try out new things under her guidance."



**Michele Warren, lecturer in the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences.**

A physics background has meant that, Michele has had to be creative in applying her specialist knowledge to the needs of students studying geological sciences.

She says: "I try to understand what students are having difficulties with and thus how best to enable them to make some progress. I offer multiple paths into material so that students with diverse prior knowledge can find a point from which they can start to learn."

Professor Richard Patrick says: "Michele is a proactive and innovative teacher who, as an excellent researcher, exemplifies the type of academic who excels at both that the University needs to deliver 2015."





## Distinguished Achievement Awards

Staff and students were recognised for their achievements across all areas of the University's activity last month with the presentation of the annual Distinguished Achievement Awards.

The awards are made to researchers, undergraduate and postgraduate students and teachers from each Faculty with a general award also made to one individual outside these categories who have shown outstanding achievements in their roles.

The awards were presented by President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert who, in his opening speech said: "In the University's strategic plan – *Towards Manchester 2015* – it is made plain that in order to achieve our aim of being in the top 25 of all universities in the world by the year 2015, we have to be a people-centred University, which values the work which its staff and students do, providing encouragement, and a dynamic environment in which contributions are recognised and successes acclaimed.

"It was with this desire to reward and recognise the outstanding achievements of our staff and students at the forefront of our thinking – whether for service to the University generally, for innovation, scholarship or world-class research – that we created the Distinguished Achievement Awards.

"I have been astounded by the quality of the achievements and by both the depth and breadth of activities in which are medallists are engaged."

### RESEARCHERS OF THE YEAR

#### Dr Ludi Simpson (School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities)

Dr Simpson is nationally and internationally recognised for his work on social statistics. His challenge to the accuracy of the 1991 Census directly influenced the conduct of the 2001 Census.

His recent work on ethnic segregation has been widely recognised and his research on migration has challenged the scientific basis of concerns about increased racial and ethnic segregation in the UK.

#### Professor Andrew Sharrocks (Faculty of Life Sciences)

Professor Sharrocks nomination is based on three outstanding publications in *Nature*, *Molecular Cell* and the *EMBO* journal within the 2006 calendar year.

The nomination is strengthened by his outstanding track record of outputs, which includes a series of papers in top molecular biology journals over the past decade.

#### Dr Stuart Pickering-Brown (School of Medicine, Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences)

Dr Pickering-Brown has been described as a brilliant rising star in the University and a leading

world player in the highly competitive field of genetics of neurodegenerative disease. His widely-published research is in the field of dementia. In addition to his MRC New Investigator award, he now holds grants of more than £800K from the Medical Research Council.

#### Professor Aimin Song (School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences)

Professor Song has established a world-leading position in nanoscale electronic device research, which is now the foundation of substantial investment in a university spin-out company – Plastic ePrint Ltd. This company was created in 2006 to demonstrate plastic RF smart cards and drivers for flexible displays.

His work has had world-wide impact in his field and recently he has been awarded the Royal Society Brian Mercer Award and the House of Commons Rolls – Royce Prize in recognition of his achievements.

### POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS OF THE YEAR (WILKINSON MEDAL)

#### Xuejun Lui (School of Computer Science, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences)

Xuejun is described as an outstanding research student. Her research was on the development of

computational methods for the analysis of data from high-throughput functional genomics experiments, specifically from microarray experiments. This is a hugely important application area in Computational Biology and significant advances in this field will have a massive impact on many aspects of biological and medical research.

Xuejun has published three papers in the very highly regarded *Bioinformatics* and *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, has developed three publicly available software applications and has received awards for her presentations.

#### **Julie Huxley Jones (Faculty of Life Sciences)**

Julie is described as being outstanding in her academic activities recognised by publications and talks at conferences, plus invited seminars to other universities. Julie has driven the work that has been presented and published and has been involved in science and society interactions at a national level.

Julie's PhD research topic has been on the Molecular Evolution of the Vertebrate Extracellular Matrix and her work was been widely commended both in the UK and at conferences and seminars overseas.

She has also played a major role in developing "Standing up for Science", a guide for young scientists and the media booklet.

#### **Kenichiro Onishi (School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities )**

Ken graduated in December 2006 with an MA in International Politics with merit. He is a Japanese national who had been profoundly deaf since the age of two. He came to the UK in 2001 and undertook an English Language Foundation Programme at UCL before embarking on his second first degree, a BA in Politics, at Salford. He also undertook additional studies to improve his English and to familiarise him further with British Sign Language.

Ken originally registered on the Advanced Diploma in International Politics in 2005 and made excellent progress on the Diploma route and progressed to the Masters route. Ken is keen to demonstrate to the other disabled students that, with the right support, and a determination to succeed, anything is possible.

#### **Katherine Berry (School of Psychological Sciences, Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences)**

When published Katherine's studies on psychosis will be the largest and most rigorous in the field to date, and the inclusion of data from key workers will make her work an important addition to the therapeutic alliance.

Her findings are novel and exciting and significantly advance our understanding of psychosis, which will have implications for the day to day care of people with schizophrenia and other serious mental health problems.

### **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF THE YEAR (WILKINSON MEDAL)**

#### **Katherine Potter (School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences)**

Katherine is described as a well organised, intelligent and ambitious Chemical Engineer who produces work of the highest quality. She is also

involved with peer mentoring and Peer Assisted Study Scheme (PASS) and has attended and contributed at national and international conferences on peer mentoring.

Katherine is expected to graduate this year with first class honours. In 2004-05, Katherine was also President of the Chemical Engineering Society.

#### **Mary Sattenstall (School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences)**

In addition to being a "perfect" Master of Pharmacy student who always obtains first class exam marks, Mary has been involved in numerous social and academic committees, voluntary work and leading the Peer mentoring scheme for the School of Pharmacy. Through her role as Faculty student Enquiry- Based Learning (EBL) co-ordinator, Mary has greatly assisted in the design and delivery of the first year Pharmaceutical Chemistry EBL course.

Mary is described as a fantastic collaborator who is always enthusiastic and creative.

#### **Edward Gates and Stephen Gallagher (School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, Faculty of Humanities)**

Edward and Stephen are third year students in Art History and Visual Studies. who established an Art History Society of which they are jointly president.

Under their leadership, the Society started a newsletter, organised local visits to complement coursework and has taken charge of a peer mentoring system for new students.

Edward has worked both in the Whitworth and Manchester City Art Galleries as a guide and mentor to parties of children under the Widening Participation banner. He has also represented the University in dual slalom. Stephen has worked for an international, ecumenical organisation in Paris and in museums in Berlin.

#### **Louise Stephen (Faculty of Life Sciences)**

Louise, who has just finished her Genetics degree was the Senior Student Co-ordinator for the Faculty Peer Assisted Study Scheme which she and her fellow leaders piloted and which is now the biggest of its kind at Manchester.

She is described as having contributed a huge amount including setting up PASS committees and taking care of individual students with serious personal issues – all while maintaining her excellent academic performance.

### **TEACHERS OF THE YEAR (STOPES MEDAL)**

#### **Dr Nick Grey (School of Dentistry, Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences)**

Nick is described as an outstanding teacher who, along with his colleagues have turned around the undergraduate learning and teaching experience in the School of Dentistry over the past two years.

Nick is known as a highly entertaining and effective teacher and he has lectured abroad extensively.

He has also been highly involved in the development of the new Manchester Dental Programme which has brought together students from here and Manchester Metropolitan University with dental care professionals.

#### **Kate Sayer (FEPS School of Materials)**

As a Teaching Fellow Kate teaches all years of the

BSc (Hons) Textile and Design Management Programme and has a significant teaching load. She has introduced a number of exciting and innovative teaching initiatives including Problem and Enquiry-based learning and WebCT, several of which have been adopted by colleagues.

Kate has taken the lead in using the latest anti-plagiarism software to check work which has also been more widely adopted.

Her main area of research is in pedagogy and she has received funding for several projects, she is currently researching innovative ways of teaching technology.

#### **Ian Pople (School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures, Faculty of Humanities)**

Ian has been nominated for his commitment to teaching and the innovative thinking he has brought to the courses at the University Language Centre.

He has established three new undergraduate courses for visiting and exchange students providing the opportunity to engage with interesting and relevant linguistic and cultural content. All these courses have an element of peer assessment. His most inspirational teaching has been on the Creative Writing for Non-native speakers of English where his teaching has been motivational but the output from students has been equally so.

Ian's work is thought to be transforming the nature of language learning within the Language Centre.

#### **Dr Matthew Cobb – (Faculty of Life Sciences)**

Matthew is Programme Director for Zoology teaching a number of units.

In 2006 Matthew Launched an innovative Enquiry-based learning programme on human evolution funded by the Centre for Excellence in Enquiry-Based Learning (CEEEL), this is to be repeated in the coming year and offered to other degree programmes.

He has now begun the complete revitalisation of the Zoology degree programme which includes informal lectures, trips, practical activities for first years and the launch of a newsletter (see also page 11).

#### **Janet Vale, (Faculty of Life Sciences) – General Category**

Janet Vale has dedicated more than 40 years to teaching pharmacology to students in FLS: medics, dentists, nurses and pharmacists and although only part-time she has one of the Faculty's highest teaching loads. She has successfully managed to blend traditional and modern teaching methods. Janet is also Programme Director for Life Sciences, co-ordinator of the Pharmacology course for pharmacists and facilitator of Problem-Based Learning in Medicine.

Janet is also head of the Academic Advisory Service having provided confidential advice and support for students across the whole University for many years.

Janet is described by a colleagues as a "dedicated teacher who always puts students first" and a "model professional".

## Manchester Business School Helps Save Literary Landmark

A team of MBA students from Manchester Business School is helping to restore the home of one of the city's best-loved writers, Elizabeth Gaskell. The team is giving cutting-edge business advice to the £2 million restoration project.

The initiative aims to restore 84 Plymouth Grove - home to novels such as *North and South* and *Wives and Daughters* - to its former glory and convert the building to become a centre for the study of the Gaskell Family and provide a community space for the surrounding Ardwick area.

The Manchester Business School MBA team has been tasked with generating funding to restore The Gaskell House - which played host to Victorian glitterati such as Charles Dickens and Charlotte Bronte. This will supplement funding already secured from The Architectural Heritage Fund and English Heritage and help to provide matching funding for their forthcoming Heritage Lottery bid.

Professor Michael Luger, Director of Manchester Business School said: "We're delighted to be working with Manchester Historic Buildings on what is such an important project for the city - it's great to see our students strengthening links with the community in such a tangible way. Elizabeth Gaskell broke down social barriers with her writing and the project is a good example of how MBS is breaking down barriers between business theory and practical action."

The project headed up by The Manchester Historic Buildings Trust and supported by Business in the Community, The Gaskell Society, Friends of 84 Plymouth Grove, English Heritage, the Architectural Heritage Fund and Manchester City Council also sees the team working to secure commercial sponsorship and developing community initiatives at Gaskell House to engage with local residents. The project is due for completion in 2009 and the restored Grade II\* building will house a reconstruction of the Gaskell's grand drawing and dining-rooms, and community space for educational activities.

Janet Allan, chairman of Manchester Historic Buildings Trust said: "The Trust is delighted to be working with such an able multi-national team from Manchester Business School. They will be instrumental in securing the future of this important heritage building and its community use."

[www.thegaskellhouse.org](http://www.thegaskellhouse.org)

## Manchester Outreach in Action

University representatives visited Nairobi in Kenya at the beginning of the year to promote undergraduate study at Manchester.

Drs David Allison, Keith Burdett (Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences) and Adrian Bell (Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences) were able to build-on and strengthen relationships with a number of key schools, and further the Manchester Outreach programme.

Interviews were held on Pharmacy, Medicine and Engineering during the visits, and the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science's 'High Achiever' scholarship scheme was launched. The team also hosted informal discussions with Year 11 and 12 students on how to choose a



Dr David Allison with pupils from Brookhouse Senior School

university and fill in an UCAS form as well as why they should consider Manchester. Question and answer sessions allowed small groups to get academic and career advice about specific subjects.

Despite the heavy workload the team also found time to enjoy a school dinner Kenya-style, and the trip was felt to have been a great success, with many of the students and teachers indicating an interest in the University.

## Celebration of Students as Partners in Widening Participation Event

Staff from across the University were recently invited to a lunchtime event that took place in the Whitworth Hall to celebrate the many different forms of involvement our undergraduate and postgraduate students undertake in relation to the widening participation activity of the University.

During this academic year over 500 university students have led, taken part in and developed the wide range of activity we offer to young people and schools and colleges predominantly across Greater Manchester. This student-led event offered widening participation ambassadors opportunities to feedback firsthand the reasons for their involvement, the impact they are making on young people and its benefit in terms of their own skills development.

The event consisted of a University-wide exhibition with stands staffed by students and a series of presentations on particular projects and initiatives delivered by a mixture of students, schools and college



staff and pupils who are benefiting from our widening participation work.

Paul Shone from the Student Recruitment, Admissions and International Development Division, who worked with the students to organise the event, said: "This event was the perfect opportunity for our students to highlight the very important role they play as "success stories" of progression into Higher Education and how they are crucial partners in the achievement of our ambitious widening participation goals. The

presentations that took place were particularly powerful and credit should be given to all the students from across the University that made this event such a success."

Further information about the different ways our students are involved in widening participation can be obtained from Paul Shone [paul.d.shone@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:paul.d.shone@manchester.ac.uk) / 57668 in the Student Recruitment, Admissions and International Development Division.



# Volunteers of the Year

**Inspirational winners of the inaugural University of Manchester 'Volunteer of the Year' Awards were commended at a special awards presentation held during national Volunteering Week at the beginning of June. The new Awards recognise the valued efforts of University students, staff and alumni who contribute to the community.**

All winners received cheques for £500, second places received £300 and third places £200, made payable to the organisations where the participants volunteer. Prizes were presented by the President and Vice-Chancellor, and by Anna Ruewell of BP who sponsored the Awards. The awards were judged by representatives of voluntary organisations, alumni and by a wide range of staff drawn from across the University.

Jane Ratchford, Director of the MLP, Careers & Employability Division, which managed the awards, said: "We received many impressive entries which clearly demonstrate the dedication and generosity of so many members of the University. We hope that everyone connected to the University will take pride in, and draw inspiration from, the fantastic achievements of our colleagues, and recognise the important role that volunteering has to play in the University's engagement with the community."

## The winners are:-

### Students

Medical student Vivienne Birch won the student category, thanks to her outstanding work across various different volunteering roles, including tutoring Somali children in an after-school club, assisting refugee and asylum-seeking doctors, and working with homeless, disadvantaged and mentally disabled people. Vivienne said: "I realise now that for me to get the most out of university and life, I need to be involved in projects that help others in the local community. This has had a

hugely positive impact on me, and those who I help."

Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology student K. Lenah Molton came second for her work on autism, and Psychology student Rebecca Kelly third.

### Staff

Veronique Rizzuto, Secretary in the Teaching and Learning Assessment Office, was voted Staff Volunteer of the Year, as a founder member, trustee and treasurer of a charity which works to raise the standard of living in a poverty-stricken area of Dessie in Ethiopia. Colleague Kate Jelen, who nominated Veronique, said: "Veronique is a tireless worker for charitable causes, who sees projects through and makes them happen. She is an inspiring and persuasive ambassador for this tiny but productive charity."

Runners-up were Rob Hadley, Senior Photographer at the Materials Science Centre, and Dave Lithgow, Business Analyst in the Student Support Project Team.

### UK alumni

The UK alumni category was topped by Dr Daniel Morris, a 1999 Medicine graduate who set up the Ol Malo Eye Project, which organises outreach surgical camps in Kenya in order to combat the risk of painful blindness amongst the nomadic Samburu tribe.

Alumnus Dr Giles Ledlie nominated Daniel for the award, saying: "I have seen firsthand the massive difference that Dan's work has made to the tribe.

Not only is he saving their sight, but he also runs a general medical clinic alongside his operating tent, which treats hundreds of patients every day."

John Wallace Hemingway, a 1959 Physics graduate, came second; joint third were Caroline Greaves, Mathematics with Spanish graduate in 2005, and Stephen Dilworth, a 2002 graduate in Financial Services.

### International alumni

Bernice Heloo, 1992 graduate in Adult Education Literacy for Rural Development, won the international alumni award for her role as President of a pan-African organisation which works to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and children, advocating for better access to prevention, treatment, care and support.

Bernice's colleague, Gertrude Nunoo, said: "Mrs Heloo has brought hope to many women and children who would otherwise have died by now. She uses her own resources and time to help the disadvantaged and has raised hopes in situations of hopelessness."

Runners-up were Maria Ilincheva-Cherkashina, Masters graduate in Development Management and Administration in 2004 and Professor Mohammad A Mannan, Postdoctorate in IDPM in 1990.

Several students, staff and alumni also received recognition in the Highly Commended category. See the Volunteer of the Year website for more details:

# What's On

## Contact Theatre

Thu 19 - Sat 21 July 7.30pm

### Child of Biafra by Ben Okafor & Justin Butcher

This is the true story of a former child soldier. Ben Okafor who became a child soldier, aged 13, when the revolutionary secessionist state of Biafra was invaded by Nigerian in July 1967. Forty years on, this acclaimed roots-reggae artist tell his story. African story-telling interweaves physical theatre, archive footage, Igbo chorales and the irrepressible hi-life music of West Africa, to re-create Ben's childhood journey through the fields and fortunes of war. Featuring a Nigerian-British cast and a choir drawn from local Nigerian communities.

Mon 16 July

### Playing God created & written by Paula Garfield, co-written by Rebecca Atkinson & Definitely Theatre

The moving and humorous tale of John - a deaf, happily married family man, who finds his life turned upside down when an audiologist and his wife move into the area. A letter arrives, which sends his marriage spinning into turmoil and prompts a betrayal he can never forgive; a betrayal which has lifelong consequences for his deaf child, Ruby.

Oxford Road, Manchester  
Tickets/Info 0161 274 0600  
[www.contact-theatre.org](http://www.contact-theatre.org)

## Tabley House

Small conference and meeting rooms available year-round. Licensed for weddings and baby-naming ceremonies.

### Tabley House

Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0HB 01565 750151  
email [enquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk)  
[www.tableyhouse.co.uk](http://www.tableyhouse.co.uk)

## Courses for the Public

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) runs a large and varied programme of courses designed for adults studying part-time, whether for pleasure or personal/professional development. Most are open to beginners and no prior knowledge is assumed unless stated. Concessions are available to staff and graduates of The University of Manchester. Brochures and application forms are available on request.

CCE, 1st Floor, Humanities Devas Street  
0161 275 3275  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/continuingeducation](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/continuingeducation)

## Burlington Society

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

Burlington Rooms, Schunck Building,  
Burlington Street (next to JRUL)  
0161 275 2392  
[www.burlington.man.ac.uk](http://www.burlington.man.ac.uk)

## International Society

Sat 7 July

### Lake District visiting Coniston Water Festival and Windermere

Sun 8 July

### Tatton Park's 1940's weekend

Sat 14 July

### Peak District visiting Poole's Cavern and Buxton Carnival Day

Sun 15 July

### Anglesey (with guided tour)

Sat 21 July

### Blackpool

Sun 22 July

### Warwick Castle

Sat 28 July

### Formby and Southport

Sun 29 July

### Quarry Bank mill (with tour) and the Dunham Massey country estate

Sat 4 Aug

### The Robin Hood Festival in Sherwood Forest

Sun 5 Aug

### Cumbria visiting Kendal and Sizergh Castle and Gardens

#### Opening hours

Mon-Fri 9.30am - 7.00pm (during term time)

Mon-Fri 9.30am - 5pm (during vacation)

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959

email [int.soc@anchester.ac.uk](mailto:int.soc@anchester.ac.uk)

[www.internationalsociety.org.uk](http://www.internationalsociety.org.uk)

## Chaplaincies

### St Peter's House Chaplaincy

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP

11am Holy Communion

12.15am Bible Study

12.45 Lunch (1st Sunday)

6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)

#### FOYER 10am - 5pm

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

Precinct Centre 0161 275 2894

email [sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk)

### RC Chaplaincy, Avila House

Mass Times (term-time only)

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

Chaplaincy

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

Tues, Thurs: 12.15 pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel

Oxford Road (opposite the Students' Union)

0161 273 1456

email [info@rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk](mailto:info@rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk)

[www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk](http://www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk)

### The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

Hillel House, Greenheys Lane.

0161 226 1139

email [rabbiiy@hotmail.com](mailto:rabbiiy@hotmail.com)

[www.rabbiiy.com](http://www.rabbiiy.com)



## The Whitworth Art Gallery

### DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

#### Trade and Empire: Remembering Slavery

until April 2008

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

#### Shisha: Rusholme Project to 8 September 2007

Subodh Gupta's awe-inspiring and monumental sculptures evoke the sights and sounds of India. For the *Rusholme Project*, Gupta works with everyday objects used by South Asian communities to explore Rusholme's 'curry mile'.

#### Sleeping Beauties: Walter Crane and the

Illustrated Book until March 2008

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

#### A Secret Service: Art, Compulsion, Concealment

until 29 July 2007

The human fascination with secrets is explored in this exhibition featuring the work of 15 international artist whose practice centres on the creation of secret worlds or the exposure of hidden facts.

#### The Uncertainty of Identity: The Biographies of Things

to March 2008

This exhibition explores the contexts in which the identity of an art or design object is formed and destabilised - creating its 'life history' or 'biography'. Where does the object come from and who made it?

#### Featuring Walls: celebrating three centuries of wallpaper decoration

to 30 Sept

Featuring Walls shows off some of the Gallery's most visually stunning and inventive decorations to explore wallpaper as a signifier of social status, a source of imaginative inspiration and a reflector of our cultural preoccupations.

#### Living Room: 14 July - 29 Sept 2007

Walk around an out-of-the-ordinary living room where you become part of the furniture and discover that the furniture has a life of its own. Created for children from 6 months to 11 years by Whalley Range All Stars, a street theatre company with an international reputation for unusual work in unusual spaces. Co-commissioned by The Whitworth Art Gallery and Manchester International Festival.

#### The Textile Gallery

The new displays are arranged thematically around subjects such as Rites of Passage, Inspiration for Design and Recycling, with each highlighting the wide geographical and historical range of the collection.

#### TOURS AND EVENTS

Every Saturday at 2pm there is either an Exhibition Tour or an Eye-Opener Tour.

#### Collection Exhibitions Archive Now Online

The Whitworth's online 'Collections Catalogue' now allows you to browse and search selected exhibitions held at the Gallery over the past 10 years. Follow the link from homepage at:

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

#### The Whitworth Art Gallery

Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 7450

email [whitworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:whitworth@manchester.ac.uk)





## Jodrell Bank

This summer, Jodrell Bank Observatory is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Lovell Telescope in its summer pavilion 'The Hot Spot' on the lawns beneath the Telescope.

*Wed 11 Jul 2pm, Wed 1 Aug 1.30pm  
(children's special)*

### Guided Walks around the Arboretum

Explore the 35-acre Arboretum with its 2000 species of trees and shrubs and National Collections in the company of an experienced guide.

*Fri 20 Jul 9pm to 12.30 am*

### Harry Potter Star Party

3D shows, portable planetarium shows, wizard activities, astronomy talks, telescopes available to see stars & planets (weather permitting) and lots more. Admission by ticket only, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows can be ordered at the same time as ordering tickets. Tickets are £6 for adults and £5 for children and include refreshments.

*Mon 23 July to Fri 27 July 2pm*

### Ask an Astronomer

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

*Fri 3 - Sun 5 Aug*

### First Light

The First Light Arts Weekend celebrates the time 50 years ago when the Lovell Telescope made its first observations, detecting signals from our own Milky Way galaxy.

Further details available soon. Booking advisable.

**For tickets and further information contact  
Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre,  
Macclesfield, Cheshire  
01477 571339  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank)**

### Summer opening hours

Every day 10:30am to 5:30pm, until Sun 28 Oct.  
Closed on Fri 6 Jul and Thu 4 Oct.

## John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

The John Rylands Library on Deansgate houses one of country's greatest collections of printed books, manuscripts and archives. It is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful libraries in the world. Both the building and its collections are of outstanding international significance. The Library has just reopened after a £16.5 million transformation. *The Unlocking the Rylands project* will enable thousands of people to access the Library for the first time. Displays from the permanent collections will be complemented by a programme of changing exhibitions, starting with *The Silk Road & the Search for the Secrets of Silk* in partnership with The British Library.

### Public opening hours

Mon and Wed-Sat 10am-5pm

Tues and Sun 12pm-5pm

### Reader opening hours

Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

FREE ADMISSION

### The John Rylands Library

150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH

0161 275 3764

email [jrul.special-collections@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jrul.special-collections@manchester.ac.uk)

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



## The Manchester Museum

### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- **A Place For Everything: Making Order Out Of Chaos**
- **After Life**
- **Wild Britain** (to 27 August)
- **Between Two Cultures: A Dialogue in Jewellery** (to 2 Sept)
- **Revealing Histories - Remembering Slavery**

### TALKS AND EVENTS

#### Big Saturday - Roman Day

*Saturday 14 July, 11am - 4pm*

Ring 0161 275 2648 for further details and booking.

#### Harry Potter Days

*Thursday 26 and Friday 27 July, 11am - 4pm*

Find out about the real magic of plants and animals, and take part in wizardry activities! Ring 0161 275 2648 for further details and booking.

#### Café Scientifique

*Monday 2 July, 6.30-8pm*

Genesis Machine: Engineering Life

Book online at: [www.cafescientifique.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.cafescientifique.manchester.ac.uk)

#### Ideas Café

*Monday 9 July, 6.30-8pm*

Jordan Baseman

Screening and discussion of Baseman's work. Booking required on 0161 275 2648.

#### Ideas Café

The work of a classical taxonomist - recent fieldwork on Siberian spiders.

*Monday 16 July, 6.30-8pm*

Dr Dmitri Logunov discusses his fieldwork and research into species in Siberia and Central Asia. Booking required on 0161 275 2648.

### SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Between 30 July and 31 August join in free daily activities in the Discovery Centre (11am-4pm) and special activities including: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1-3pm Meet the Curators

### Opening hours

Open: Tues-Sat 10 - 5pm

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

FREE Admission

### The Manchester Museum

Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 2634

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



## Music and Drama at Manchester

*Thursday 19 July, at 5pm*

### In Place of War

International Premiere of In Place of War will bring six international theatre practitioners to the UK to work on a new piece of theatre that will be premiered at the Contact Theatre. The performance will be preceded by a panel, in which the international practitioners will talk about their work.

**The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama**

Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL

0161 275 8951/8950

email [boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk)

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

## Gig Guide

### MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 & 3

*Sat 7 July*

#### Napalm Death

#### Front Line Assembly

**Sonic Boom!** The NWs biggest Under18s Rock Night

*Mon 9 July*

#### Rebecca

*Tues 10 July*

#### Thomas Dolby (tbc)

#### Shiny Toy Guns

*Sat 14 July*

#### The Cardinals + The Red Sea

*Sun 15 July*

#### Ozomatli

#### Sikth

*Tues 17 July*

#### The Fabulous Thunderbirds

*Thur 19 July*

#### Gym Class Heroes

#### Feist

#### Soulsavers feat: Mark Lanegan

*Fri 20 July*

#### John Power

*Sat 21 July*

#### Carjack Mallone

### Tickets from:

Students' Union, Oxford Road  
Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Cafe (c/c) 0871 2200260

Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

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The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Limited's (UMIP) free seminar this month is on Research Contracts & Project Management Techniques, Tools & Tips.

The seminar takes place on **Wednesday 18 July**

9.45am to 12.30pm at the Core Technology Facility (CTF)  
46 Grafton Street (off Oxford Rd), Manchester, M13 9NT

The seminar will be presented by Janet Knowles from Eversheds LLP, Solicitors & Fiona Saunders, Business Manager, from UMIP, EPS Team.

Please book online at [www.umip.com/events](http://www.umip.com/events)



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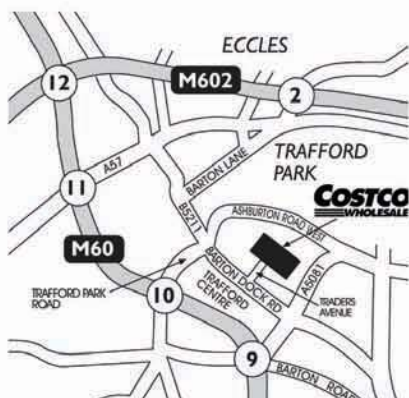
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## Daddy longlegs or Crane fly?

### Why is taxonomy necessary, why do scientists need to name new species?

Many people think that museums are about their permanent displays and temporary exhibitions. Not always so ... At The Manchester Museum the insect collections number over 3,000,000 specimens, forming the 3rd-4th largest collection in the UK and the best in North-West. Hidden behind the scenes, these massive collections underpin the accumulation of biological knowledge, provide references for the natural units (as labelled by specific names), and act as an ecological database through the data associated with specimens.

Common English names, as well as common names in other languages, are often misleading. For instance, the English name 'daddy-longlegs' is equally applicable to the three unrelated organisms: (1) the crane fly (family Tipulidae), (2) the harvestmen (order Opiliones), and (3) a group of spiders (family Pholcidae). In order to have a common ground and to know exactly what are we talking about, every living species on this planet needs a name. This is what scientists called taxonomists try to achieve. Dr. Dmitri Logunov, Curator of Arthropods in the Manchester Museum, is one of them. As a professional taxonomist, he is involved in primary research on Spider biodiversity of Siberia, Central Asia and the Mediterranean. He has discovered and described more than 100 new spider species to date.

The need to continue fieldwork and taxonomic studies lies in the very fact that earth's biodiversity remains poorly understood and yet



unexplored. Scientists have been able to inventory and describe no more than 12% of existing insect species. There is a chance that the bulk of unknown species will biologically decimate before scientists will have collected them. In May-June 2007, Dmitri participated in the international Russian-British expedition to remote and poorly studied regions of East

Kazakhstan, where he undertook intensive collecting on various insects and spiders. Some results of this trip accompanied with general information about how classical taxonomists work now, will be presented during his talk. The work of a classical taxonomist – recent fieldwork on Siberian spiders on 16 July in the Manchester Museum.

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Next issue is 1 October 2007

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### News and story ideas

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online [www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news)  
Deadline Noon 13 September

## Events Contact

### Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead

tel 0161 275 2922  
email [unievents@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:unievents@manchester.ac.uk)  
Deadline Noon 13 September

## Adverts Contact

### Ads and distribution queries

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