

MMU

The Newsletter of Manchester Metropolitan University

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Manchester
Metropolitan
University

As part of MMU's commitment to its Green Travel Plan and sustainability, new secure cycle shelters and showering units have now been installed to add to existing facilities to encourage more staff to cycle to work.

Travel Plan Coordinator Andrew Hough says that the University intends to keep implementing new measures which promote sustainable travel, especially as the new campuses start to develop.

The new facilities are initially for staff only. The secure cycle shelters are outside the Geoffrey Manton Building at All Saints and beside the Behrens Building, in the courtyard at the Didsbury campus. To apply for access please contact the Car Park Office on ext 2989/carparkpermits@mmu.ac.uk.

New shower units are on the ground floor of four buildings – Geoffrey Manton, Aytoun, Cavendish North and the Simon Building at Didsbury.

For more information on these facilities please contact Andrew Hough on ext 1364 or e-mail a.j.hough@mmu.ac.uk.



The new shelter outside the Geoffrey Manton Building has space for 20 cycles.

Funding of over £1.3 million has been received by MMU's Science Learning Centre North West from the DCSF to continue its operations as part of the National Network of Science Learning Centres, taking the Centre up to 2011 and bringing with it a further £50,000 for investment in supporting IT equipment.

The new contract will allow the Centre to focus on contemporary science and new curriculum initiatives across the 5 to 19 age range while supporting the science element of the teaching of maths, design and technology. Jan Green, Executive Director of the Centre, says: "The funding allows some 5,000 additional training days to be provided to help teachers deliver world-class science education in their schools, and we have been tasked with coordinating science-related CPD provision across the region."

Opened in 2004, the Science Learning Centre has provided 6,000 days of innovative continuing professional development to the teachers, technicians and teaching assistants of the region.

In The News

Send news items to Gareth Hollyman (ext 3406/g.hollyman@mmu.ac.uk) or Anna Fenton (ext 3406/a.fenton@mmu.ac.uk) in the Press Office.

To sign-up for News Alerts, go to www.mmu.ac.uk/news/email.

11 Sept **The Press Association**

Dr Gladys Pearson conducts a study that shows many older people are not getting enough protein to keep their muscles strong and nerves healthy.

12 Sept **The Scotsman**

Senior Research Fellow Dr Heather Piper found some teachers are ordered not to apply plasters on the cuts or grazes of pupils without parental consent.

24 Sept **Century Radio**

Psychologist Dr David Holmes talks about Gordon Brown's speech.

21 Oct **Manchester Evening News**

Dr John Hindley, Environmental Sustainability Manager at MMU, hosts an exhibition to demonstrate ways for offices to reduce their carbon footprint.

22 Oct **Manchester Evening News**

The designer and sculptor, Thomas Heatherwick, returns to Manchester for an event showcasing budding talent organised by MMU's head of contemporary craft, Professor Steve Dixon.

22 Oct **The Daily Mail**

Biologist Prof Joanna Verran establishes that mobile phones are an ideal breeding ground for germs.

29 Oct **Manchester Evening News**

MMU student Nikki Douthwaite creates a portrait of Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton using 250,000 tiny dots of paper.

31 Oct **The Nation on Web**

Dr Nessar Ahmed talks about the increasing susceptibility of diabetics to retinopathy, cataracts, atherosclerosis, neuropathy, nephropathy and impaired wound-healing.

31 Oct **The Huddersfield Daily Examiner**

MMU poet Simon Armitage releases his latest collection of poems about the veterans from the Gulf, Bosnian and Malayan wars.

7 Nov **Liverpool Daily Post**

Dr Philip Sykas carries out research on the embroiderer Carole Hawkins for an exhibition.

11 Nov **Manchester Evening News**

World-leading thinker and author Dr Edward de Bono opens the Centre for Serious Creativity and Constructive Thinking.

14 Nov **Whitby Today**

Professor Paul Magrs comments on the release of his new book in his science fiction/contemporary fiction series.

Poetry Prize



Above, from second right – finalists Allison McVety, Mike Barlow, Mandy Coe, Helen Mort, Lesley Saunders, Rosie Shepperd – with Carol Ann Duffy (left) and James Draper (right).

The Writing School's recently-launched Manchester Poetry Prize, a major new international competition celebrating excellence in creative writing, officially opened the 2008 Manchester Literature Festival in October.

The £10,000 award, the second largest prize in British poetry, attracted over 1,100 entries from 30 countries from which six finalists were selected: Mike Barlow, Mandy Coe, Allison McVety, Helen Mort, Rosie Shepperd and Lesley Saunders.

The judges – Gillian Clarke, Imtiaz Dharker and MMU's Professor of Poetry, Carol Ann Duffy – were delighted with the overall range and quality of the 4,700 poems submitted and say that the competition was "a joy to judge".

Dr Lesley Saunders, a Research Fellow in the Department of Education at the University of Oxford, and Mandy Coe, a former welder from Liverpool, impressed the judges with their contrasting but brilliant styles to jointly receive the £10,000 inaugural award. The Manchester Young Writer of the Year Award went to Helen Mort, who received a cheque for £2,000.

Cover Image: Mandy Coe, Helen Mort, James Draper, Lesley Saunders and Carol Ann Duffy.

MMU 2009 Institutional Audit

The 2009 QAA Institutional Audit at MMU takes place over five days next autumn. While the exact dates are to be confirmed, the schedule includes a briefing visit of three days some five weeks before the audit. The Briefing Paper which forms the basis for scrutiny by auditors will have been submitted five weeks prior to the briefing visit.

The University is waiting to hear whether a separate collaborative partnership audit will be requested following submission of the Collaborative Partner Register. The Academic Coordinator for the audit is Peggy Cooke, who is responsible for quality assurance across the Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care and who has been seconded half-time to work with Philip Lloyd and colleagues in CASOE.

A new, dedicated website set up for the audit includes a staff-only site containing minutes of the Institutional Audit Working Group and drafts of the Briefing Paper. Peggy says that the website provides an opportunity for staff to "own" the Briefing Paper as they can add their comments, provide information or make corrections to it. She would also like to hear from colleagues who can provide information that may be of value to an audit team for reporting in the Briefing Paper, so that it is an accurate reflection of practice across the University.

Peggy Cooke can be contacted on ext 6246/2534 (p.cooke@mmu.ac.uk). The website for the institutional audit can be accessed at www.mmu.ac.uk/audit/.

MMU's drive to attract more people from non-traditional backgrounds is being boosted by GMSA Pathways, a new search site for higher education courses that opens doors for BTEC students. The Greater Manchester Strategic Alliance (GMSA) delivers the region's Lifelong Learning Network, a HEFCE-funded project run through MMU – see www.gmsa.ac.uk.

Enterprising Fellow!

The success of the Poetry Prize (see above) owes much to James Draper who organised the competition in his capacity as an Enterprise Fellow. The Fellowships were set up to encourage staff to generate sustainable income – in this case from entry fees.

Working closely with Professor Carol Ann Duffy and Dr Alf Louvre, James put together the proposal for the Manchester Writing Competition, a project that has increased the international profile of The Writing School and established Manchester as the focal point for a major literary prize. He says:

“We hope that the success of this year's competition will attract potential commercial sponsors and partnerships for the Manchester Fiction Prize which we'll be launching in early 2009.”

An exhibition about the culture and traditions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held on 7 November in the Geoffrey Manton Building was attended by large numbers of staff and students.

Designed to promote and illustrate Saudi Arabian culture, traditions and industry, visitors were able to take advantage of the free raffle organised by SA Airlines offering free flights to the country, henna hand painting and national foods along with coffee, tea, biscuits and dates. Men, women and children were also invited to have their photographs taken wearing traditional dress – robes, jewellery, headdresses – which were developed on the spot.

Visitors to the exhibition, including children from seven local schools, were welcomed by Deputy VC Professor Kevin



Dr Fawzi Bokair with Professor Bonnett and Dr Raid Al-Baradie.

Bonnett and the Saudi Arabian Cultural Attaché Dr Fawzi Bokair. Professor Bonnett said: **“More and more, we are welcoming students from all over the world. We want students to broaden their horizons at university and we aim to promote understanding where often there is misunderstanding.”**

Sponsored by the Saudi Arabian government, the exhibition was organised by MMU PhD student Dr Raid Saleem Al-Baradie and engineering student Omar Al-Sayari, with members of the Manchester Saudi Students Society.

A Day to Remember!

Marilyn Barnett rediscovered forgotten details of her wedding day when she brought two 8mm films to the North West Film Archive for their Home Movie Day in October.

Now Research Secretary at the Research Institute for Health and Social Change at Elizabeth Gaskell, Marilyn married Bernard on 30 June 1974 at Stenecourt Synagogue in Salford and the day was recorded by two family friends - but both films were only ever seen once a couple of years later on a borrowed projector.

Seeing herself on screen nearly 35 years later, Marilyn was astonished, saying: “I really don’t remember being filmed and it was a huge surprise to see myself getting ready to leave my parents’ house. And very moving to see family and friends, some of whom are no longer with us.”

International Home Movie Day began six years ago in the USA and this year the NWFA decided to hold the first event in



Inset, Marilyn Barnett signing the register in 1974 and, recently, with Charlie Windmill of the NWFA assessing the film of her wedding day.

the North West – just for MMU colleagues. Marilyn and other members of staff went home with their films on DVD, now more aware of the value of archive film for its cultural and social significance. And the Archive has acquired three film collections and is hopeful of a fourth!

The NWFA can advise on caring for your home movies - contact Nick Gladden or Emma Hyde on ext 3097 for more information.



Gill Hemus talks about restructuring in HR

“As you know, the University is currently going through significant change and the Human Resources Division has recently been restructured to ensure that it is fit for purpose and able to support that change.

Operational teams are now headed by three business partners - Doug Hall, Audrey Rodgers and Joanne Tracey – to provide a full and professional service to all staff. In addition, there are two further developments – the centralisation of recruitment, and a new section dealing with Reward and Planning which has been established under the leadership of Anna Patra (see profile on page 7).

We are putting considerable effort into improving our customer focus and in delivering a proactive, responsive service as we strive to support managers and staff in delivering their objectives. There is much we can do to help deliver both structural and cultural change to ensure an improved working environment for our staff and an improved learning environment for our students.

Our objective is to develop a learning organisation where there are exciting opportunities for staff to develop their skills and achieve their aspirations. We intend to ensure that structures are right for the job that has to be done and we are keen to improve our engagement with staff as we continue to underpin an organisation where there is no place for inequality or discrimination.

There will be an opportunity in the new year for colleagues to help to shape a staff engagement strategy for the University, and focus groups will be advertised. I would ask as many people as possible to please come along and make your views known! ”

Gill Hemus

Director of Human Resources

Working with the de Bono Foundation



Dr Edward de Bono and VC Professor John Brooks outside the Delaney Building where the new Centre is based.

World-leading thinker and best-selling author Dr Edward de Bono opened the Centre for Serious Creativity and Constructive Thinking within the Institute of Education at the Crewe campus on 12 November.

The establishment of the ground-breaking Centre is a world first for the University following the signing of a long-term agreement between MMU and the de Bono Foundation UK to work together in the teaching and advancement of education, scientific knowledge and research.

A lateral thinking expert, Dr de Bono has advised multinational corporations and governments on ‘intractable’ problems. His techniques to help people think in a more efficient manner are being directed at local organisations and the schooling system in a link-up with the Institute of Education.

Dean of the Institute of Education Andy Jones said he was “delighted that the Foundation has chosen to work with the Institute in this way. De Bono’s systems and approaches to creative thinking and problem solving will be of great value to professionals and trainees in all areas and we will continue working across the University to fully exploit the potential of this unique partnership.”

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Brooks said: “Working with the Foundation will act as a catalyst to further expand MMU’s knowledge economy including financial and professional services, education, retail, sport, leisure and engineering, both in the UK and overseas.”

To celebrate the opening, the Foundation worked with Smart City Futures* to deliver a week of workshops and talks addressing various challenges for Manchester, including how businesses can think more creatively about solutions to the current financial crisis.

** a collaboration of the Greater Manchester universities and Manchester College in partnership with civic leaders, professionals and citizens in the city.*

Head of Nursing



Paul Tubbs has been appointed Head of Nursing, a new post carrying responsibility for advising the Faculty of HPSC on nursing-related issues arising from the Department of Health or the Nursing and Midwifery Council: he also has programme leader duties for nursing courses.

A Registered General Nurse, Paul completed his training in the Royal Navy where he discovered he was “good with patients and clinically dexterous”. He specialised in renal and urological nursing and, after working as a clinical nurse specialist, moved into nursing education to teach nursing practice and theory. Prior to joining the Faculty, he was Head of Pre-registration Nursing at the University of Chester.

A qualified Registered Clinical Nurse Teacher, Paul has a Certificate in Education and an MEd in Continuing Education from Sheffield University.

Although nursing applications to MMU are “buoyant,” Paul is interested in retention, stating that 60% of students who ‘choose’ to leave the programme do so for ‘personal reasons’ - and he wants to know what they are so they can be rectified!

He is also keen to promote cross-departmental collaboration to widen the scope for interprofessional learning as well as giving nursing students more of a ‘university experience’. One of his primary objectives is to make MMU the university of choice for nursing in south Manchester.

The online enrolment system, successfully introduced last September for returning undergraduates, was extended to a wider group this year including new first year entrants.

The number of students eligible to enrol online this year was 23,534 and 19,654 have used this method.

Alan Dove, Director of Planning and Management Information, said: “The volume of use is a clear statement of preference and fitness for purpose. Queries from new entrants concerned ID numbers or the format of passwords, which is normal for those engaging with network accounts for the first time. There were less than ten queries from returning students.”

Five new members have been appointed to the Board of Governors for a period of three years.

Mr Graham Brady, MP for Altrincham and Sale West, is a Member of the Treasury Select Committee, Shadow Minister for Europe and a former Shadow Minister for Schools. Born in Salford and educated at Altrincham Grammar School, he was the youngest Conservative MP at the time of his election in 1997. Prior to entering Parliament, he was Public Affairs Director at the Waterfront Partnership and had previously worked at the Centre for Policy Studies and Shandwick plc.

Mr Alex Connock's background is in research and production for radio and television. He is the Chief Executive of Ten Alps plc, a factual media group that he co-founded with Bob Geldof in 1999, which produces TV documentaries for worldwide broadcasters and investigative journalism for Channel 4 Dispatches. It also has a major role in the government's Teachers TV project, a groundbreaking video website for educators.



Mr Norman Harrison, who started his career in the nuclear power generation sector, is CEO of the UK Atomic Energy Authority and previously Director of its Dounreay Division. A native of Manchester, he is a chemist by profession, achieving a top national award when qualifying as a graduate of the Royal Society of Chemistry.



Mr Bhupendra Mistry, a specialist adviser on community cohesion, has held senior positions in regeneration and community development. A Board Member of Carnegie (UK) Trust, the Greater Manchester Policy Authority, the Cabinet Office Advisory Board (Office of the Third Sector) and the BBC World Service, he has also served as a former Director of NACRO, the crime reduction charity.

Ms Wendy Wright is the Principal and Chief Executive of Macclesfield College. A psychologist by discipline, she is Chair of the Communities of Cheshire Partnership, the NW Regional Forum of Aimhigher, the Cheshire and Warrington Equality and Diversity Advisory Group and the Cheshire 14-19 Engineering and Manufacturing Diploma Forum. She is a member of several strategic boards and committees.



Staff wishing to contact Governors should do so via Marie Morrissey, ext 1390 (m.morrissey@mmu).

Reward and Planning



A new post has been established in HR to help develop reward structures for the future and to support the University's strategic planning process. Anna Patra, Head of Reward and Planning, says that such posts are increasingly the norm in large institutions where staff are such an important factor in their success.

The 'reward' side of Anna's job is much more than just job evaluation and pay, she says: **"It's the total package which we offer to employees – pension schemes, childcare vouchers, season ticket loans and welfare schemes – it's how we begin to set ourselves apart from our competitors. Coordinating this in one location helps us to use our size as an employer to achieve good deals for our staff."**

The planning aspect of her work incorporates a new approach in the field of HR, centring on supporting the existing strategic planning process to resource the University's future direction. This initially means understanding the workforce profile and challenges for the future.

Previously HR Manager/Reward and Policy at Eversheds, one of the largest legal firms in the UK, Anna was responsible for reward policy and direction across the UK and overhauled the benefits package across the company's ten regional offices.

An MMU graduate with a degree in public administration and an MA in HR Strategy, she worked for various local authorities before being appointed Head of HR at Stockport College in 1991, just as FE colleges became independent of LAs.

A Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, Anna says that workforce planning is one of the most challenging roles in HR: "It links into all aspects of HR as well as strategic planning, all of which impact on the future success of any organisation."



Heading up history

Professor Martin Hewitt, an historian specialising in the interdisciplinary study of the nineteenth century in Britain, took up the post of Head of the Department of History and Economic History in October.

Martin joins us from Leeds Trinity and All Saints (part of the University of Leeds) where he started as a lecturer in 1991 and was latterly Director of Research and Professor of Victorian Studies. Instrumental in the development of the well-known Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies, he was also the founding editor of the *Journal of Victorian Culture*, the leading British journal in its field.

A history graduate and doctoral student of Oxford University, he is proud to have been supervised by Asa Briggs, one of the most prominent twentieth-century historians of the Victorian period. He holds a Masters from the University of New Brunswick in Canada and an MBA from Warwick, and lectured at the University of Hull and the LSE for brief periods before moving to Leeds.

Manchester has been a particular focus of Martin's studies so he is no stranger to the city, which features in both his publications and research on the culture and cultural institutions of the nineteenth-century city: it has also informed much of his broader interests in popular lecturing, diaries, and the historiography of the nineteenth century.

Professor Hewitt, who is developing a website on Victorian Manchester, is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Honorary Secretary of the British Association for Victorian Studies, and a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council Peer Review College.

Staff News

Professor Callum Thomas has been invited to become a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. This prestigious organisation, established in 1866, is the world's oldest continuously-in-existence aeronautical society and lists all the great aviation pioneers as Fellows. Fellowship is the highest grade attainable and is only bestowed upon those in the profession of aeronautics or aerospace who have made outstanding contributions, attained a position of high responsibility or have had long experience of high quality. Callum has been an adviser to the UK Government, the European Commission, the World Economic Forum and the Airports Council International on aviation, environmental and sustainability issues.

Heinz Tüselmann, Professor of International Business and Director of the Centre of International Business and Innovation, is serving on the Standing Committee of the Learned Societies in Management and Business where he represents the Executive Board of the Academy of International Business. This umbrella group of the major academies and learned societies in management and business, coordinates joint activities and approaches vis-à-vis government departments, the ESRC and other funding bodies.

Mark Stubbs has been appointed to the new post of Head of Learning and Research Technologies within the Learning and Research Information Services directorate under Dr Phil Range. Mark has also been appointed Professor of Learning and Research Technologies in recognition of his contribution to research and scholarship in this area.

Professor Carol Haigh joined MMU in October as Professor in Nursing from the University of Salford where she was Reader in Patient Experience at the Salford Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Collaborative Research, School of Nursing.

Head of Marketing and Communications **Emma Leech** Chaired the Chartered Institute of Public Relations' education journalist of the year awards at the House of Commons in October. She also spoke at the UUK/UCEA/Guild HE conference later in the month as it focused on *Effective communications during industrial disputes* and chaired a panel on RAE communications organised by UUK/HEFCE in early November.

Student of the Year



Josie Gabi has come a long way since leaving her native Zimbabwe, having overcome family bereavement, chronic ill health and exile from her own country in her struggle to better herself. Such bravery and resolve has earned her the 2008 Xcel Student of the Year Award (Education).

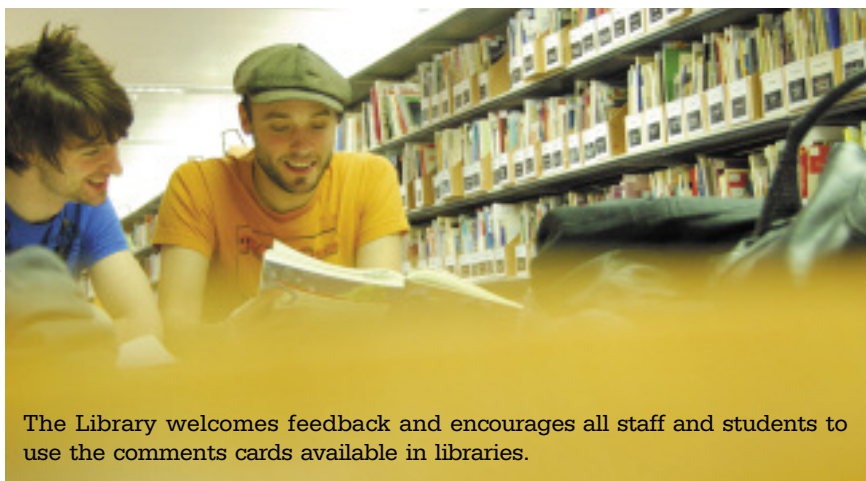
A doctoral student on the early years programme, Josie came to the UK in 2002 with her husband and two children to study for a degree in childhood studies in "circumstances that are inconceivable to most people" according to her tutor, Teresa Curtis, who nominated Josie for the award.

Josie was diagnosed with a debilitating condition, her husband became seriously ill with diabetes and when her father died she was unable to attend the funeral because of the political situation in Zimbabwe. "Josie never let any of her troubles interfere with her studies, never asked for mitigating circumstances," says Teresa, "Few people know of the obstacles she has overcome and all the while she has been mentoring colleagues and has created peer-study support groups with other students."

Awarded by Xcel, Britain's first and largest careers e-magazine for multi-ethnic and minority group students, the competition celebrates the achievements of those from challenged backgrounds who have demonstrated excellence.

Other MMU students who were nominated by staff, and who were commended by Xcel, include Eva Amos (social sciences), Margaret Troy (health and IT) and Kwaku Adjekum (computing/web) respectively.

MMU Library Services are delighted to have gained Customer Service Excellence Recognition (formerly Charter Mark). As with all such standards, the University is required to be reassessed regularly, proving that performance levels have been maintained and that services continue to improve in response to customer needs.



The Library welcomes feedback and encourages all staff and students to use the comments cards available in libraries.

Date for your diary – Manchester Histories Festival is scheduled for 21 March 2009. MMU is collaborating with the University of Manchester and the City Council to create a major festival of popular history together with projects for schools and colleges linked with community groups, local societies, universities and cultural institutions.

If you are keen on local history, the organisers would like to hear from you – contact clare.pye@manchester.ac.uk to contribute ideas or volunteer, or check out the developing website at manchesterhistoriesfestival@org.uk.

Don't forget to vote! – Staff are reminded that the closing date for voting on the introduction of the Congestion Charge in Greater Manchester is 10.00pm on 11 December 2008.

Voting forms were sent out at the end of November to all those entitled to vote on the Congestion Charge – if you have not received your form, phone 0800 234 6100 now and kick up a fuss! Go to www.gmfuturetransport.co.uk to see how funds will be spent in your area.

MMU now has access to NewsFilm Online, a service funded by JISC and supported by EDINA that provides downloadable news stories and programme scripts from the ITN/Reuters archives.

More than 3,000 hours of footage for the period from 1910 to 2007 are contained in this fascinating and informative collection of films and stories, including 'Gasoline Car Replaces Electric Tram' (1 March 1918), the 'Death of Stalin' (9 March 1953) and 'Mandela Release' (11 Feb 1990). For links to access the service, please see www.library.mmu.ac.uk/ersource/rbnfo.html.

Dr Hamed El-Said, Reader in International Political Economy in the Centre for International Business and Innovation, has just completed a nine-month secondment with the United Nations (Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) where he headed the research programme and team on Security Governance.

He conducted a major research project on globalisation, radicalisation and extremism and presented his findings to the UN in New York in October. The report has now been distributed to all member country governments and is published by the UN as an official policy document.

Research successes

In the five months to October, the RED Office has been involved in research council proposal bids valued at over £12 million. Listed here are some of the notable successes of recent bids.

ESPRC Grant – Dr Ian Loram, Reader in Neuromuscular Control on Human Movement in the IRM, is leading a three-centre research project looking at the role of ‘Intermittent predictive control systems’ governing human movement and posture. The award of £609,000 interfaces between engineering and life sciences and received glowing reports from all four reviewers.

NERC Grant – Dr Ed Rhodes of Environmental and Geographical Sciences has been awarded a three year responsive-mode grant from the Natural Environment Research Council. MMU is part of a £479,000 joint collaboration with The Natural History Museum and York

University to study ‘Biotic responses to environmental change: dwarf mammals of Mediterranean islands as evolutionary experiments on the Quaternary’.

EPSRC First Grant Scheme – Dr Ling Qian of Computing and Maths has been awarded £272,000 for a three year project, ‘A hybrid turbulence approach for simulation of breaking waves and their impacts on coastal structures’, MMU’s first grant under this scheme which gives new academics the credentials needed to compete for responsive-mode research funding against experienced applicants from UK universities.

Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) – Dr Mark Stubbs from Learning and Research Information Services has been awarded £400,000 for the project ‘Institutional Approaches to Curriculum Design’ which will pilot agile, demand-led curriculum design processes that promote flexible delivery and enhance learner employability.

Wellcome Trust, Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship – the Fellowship,

‘Skeletal Muscle: dynamic form and function’, has been awarded to Dr Emma Hodson-Tole under the sponsorship of Professor Costantinos Maganaris and Vasilios Baltzopoulos of the IRM. Some £250,000 over four years will allow Dr Hodson-Tole to work with leading scientists in the fields of neuromuscular motor control and biomechanics.

Professor Val Edwards-Jones, Acting Director of RED, says that these successes are due to the increased numbers of research council applications and the improved quality of the submissions, adding: **“The research culture continues to emanate throughout MMU, and researchers and grant support officers involved with the preparation of the applications should be commended.**

“Staff who would like help with putting together a research proposal should contact the RED office for support and advice. We are hoping to receive further positive outcomes from the outstanding bids of over £12 million.”

Taking KTPs to another level



Professor Paul Ainsworth, Dr Valentina Stojceska, Rhodri Morgan, Robin Jones (MD, Village Bakery) and Dr Helen Rigby (Business Development Manager, Hollings).

A KTP partnership between the Hollings Faculty and The Village Bakery in Wrexham has been instrumental in the opening of a new £3 million purpose-built factory manufacturing gluten-free products.

The state-of-the-art factory was officially opened in October 2008 by the First Minister for Wales, Rhodri Morgan, and attended by Professor Paul Ainsworth and colleagues Dr Helen Rigby and Dr Valentina Stojceska who were invited to meet the Minister.

Professor Ainsworth, Director of MMU’s Manchester Food Research Centre, said: “This is our second KTP project with The Village Bakery – the first was to establish food quality systems and update methods across the product range while the current project was set up to move into gluten-free production and the development of new products.

“The company had no experience in the development and baking of gluten-free products but we have researched gluten-free bread, cakes and snacks for a number of years, and a previous KTP with a company in Cumbria received several awards for our work on free-from products. The new factory will avoid all risk of cross-contamination.”

When fully operational the new factory will produce over 2,500 loaves every hour, equivalent to 4 million loaves a year, for marketing in the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Tailoring courses

MMU staff have designed up-to-date programmes that anticipate the London Olympics and respond to regional business needs.

In the run-up to the 2012 Olympic Games, the Business School has designed two new full-time degrees in sports management, which started in September, and sports marketing management scheduled for 2009.

The sports management course caters for 200 students and its Facebook advert received over 1,000 hits prior to September. Modules on both courses include commercial aspects of sport, economics and finance for sport and leisure, operations management and decision-making.

Richard Warren, UG programme coordinator at the Business School, said: "These courses are aimed at people who want careers in stadium management, sports events, leisure and recreation, or who want to work for companies supplying sports goods."

The courses have been developed with input from an industry advisory panel including Trafford Community Leisure Trust, Cranford Communications and Manchester United Football Club.

Research by the NWDA shows that 8,350 companies work in the sports industry in the region, employing more than 97,000 people with an annual turnover of £6.5 billion.

At MMU Cheshire, the county's first MBA degree was launched earlier in the year to support a boom in regional business which has seen 6,000 new jobs created in the last six years.

Diane Wright, Acting Head of Business and Management Studies, said the programme was an opportunity to build on the existing synergy with The Co-op, Bentley, Air Products and local borough councils. It also offers businesses a unique opportunity to develop staff in ten manageable blocks of five days over two years.

Modules cover a variety of business issues including managing human performance and customer value, financial analysis and strategy development. Participants also benefit from a study trip to China and an Outward Bound weekend.

The part-time MBA complements the MBAs offered at the Business School and is being taught by the staff of both faculties who expect the flexible nature of the course to be attractive to middle managers all over Europe.

Remembering Louise Da-Cocodia

The Cariocca Education Trust has been re-launched in recognition of the work of the late Louise Da-Cocodia, a former Governor of MMU who cared passionately about education and devoted much of her time to community and voluntary initiatives.



The Louise Da-Cocodia Education Trust aims to address barriers to education, training and employment for African-Caribbean students and undertakes research to influence local and national policies. The Trust works with businesses, the education sector and community groups to address these issues, and is involved in supplementary educational programmes such as Saturday Schools for BME children and young people, in particular those of African-Caribbean heritage.

MMU was the venue for the re-launch of the Trust on 10 October which attracted over 150 people from the academic and local community. Law lecturer Paul Okojie, who acted as adviser to the Trustees, is pictured here with The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Mavis Smitheman.

The event was sponsored by the Institute of Education to mark its partnership work with local community groups.

The Dean of MMU Cheshire, Dennis Dunn, was the international guest of honour at the recent 50th anniversary celebrations of Guangzhou Sport University (GZSU) in China.

Dennis was greeted by the University President and the Minister of Education who extended their good wishes to their UK counterparts as advanced preparations for London 2012 get underway. Dennis says that the Faculty is looking to develop links between GZSU and sports science at MMU Cheshire as "each of our institutions is considered pre-eminent in the field". The Faculty is a designated UK pre-Olympic and Paralympic training camp.



Dennis Dunn and the GZSU students who won gold medals at the Beijing Olympics last summer - Fu Haifeng (Badminton), Xi Xingfang (Badminton) and Xi Dongmei (Judo).

Passport to success

As part of the University's employability strategy, a new development is being piloted that will allow students to demonstrate to prospective employers that they have the skills and qualities relevant to their future career and employment.

MMU's Professional Passport, managed by Penny Renwick, recognises that while employability is at the heart of vocational and professionally-recognised courses, many valuable activities are not formally recognised through degree programmes.

The Passport is a non-compulsory, non-credited award: students must earn a total of at least 100 points from participation in activities that develop employability skills such as academic development, work experience, volunteering and enterprise, plus other areas including international, cultural and social awareness.

The cross-University team working on this initiative has consulted employers, locally and nationally, and the pilot has been met with enthusiasm. Launched by the Student's Union to programme reps, up to 100 final year undergraduates are being recruited for the pilot phase.

The award will be assessed via written documentation and an interview, including a presentation, with industrialists, careers staff and academics.

Further information from Jan Moore (j.moore@mmu.ac.uk) or Ruth Ashford (r.ashford@mmu.ac.uk) who are also working on this initiative as part of the Kitemarking Working Group.



MMU DEC's out all buildings

It is now law for all large public buildings to have a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) on show in the entrance which rates the energy efficiency of the building and how efficiently its occupants are using energy.

Sam Pickles, MMU's new Carbon Reduction Manager based in the Environment Team in Facilities, explains: "The certificates rate the building with a score from A to G, just as you see when buying a new fridge or a new car - so every time we leave lights or computers on, or windows open when the heating is on, we make the rating worse.

"It's a way for everyone at MMU to see how energy efficient their building is – it also highlights the best and worst performers and where we need to think about how we can all cut energy use."

While all universities have got DEC's for some of their buildings, MMU is alone in going one step further than the law requires and producing a certificate for every building.

Sam Pickles is seen here hanging the Display Energy Certificate for the Ormond Building - rated 'C' which he says is a good start given the age of the building and he's confident it will be improved next year.

Wearing pink



Learning Support Officer Helen Bell of MMU's Speech Pathology Clinic raised over £120 making and selling pink cards and cakes for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

Over £1,000 has been collected across the University for this year's 'Wear it Pink' Breast Cancer Campaign coordinated by coMMUni, the University's volunteering project.

coMMUni supports both staff and students who want to volunteer. It acts as a gateway between the University and the not-for-profit sector, developing a culture of volunteering and enabling the local community to access MMU resources. Funded through the HEFCE Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund, it has supported over 400 volunteers to work on projects in the last year.

The next major event is a present wrapping day for Manchester's Royal Infirmary. Staff and students are invited to donate Christmas gifts which will be wrapped by volunteers and given to sick children. Gifts suitable for all ages up to 21 years must be new because the children are vulnerable to infection.

Wrapping takes place on 10 December in the All Saints SIP and coMMUni staff look forward to being run off their feet - please come along, deliver your presents and treat yourself to a mince pie at the same time!

Gifts may be delivered to the coMMUni shop in the Students' Union on Oxford Road or handed in to the Student Services reception on the Crewe and Alsager campuses. Further details from info@communi.org.uk/0161 247 2211.

What's On

E-mail events to m.barham@mmu.ac.uk

3 Dec: Curating Knowledge: Research Seminars and Presentations
MIRIAD, 2-3.30pm, ALL welcome.
Maynard Building, Alsager Campus.
allen.fisher@mmu.ac.uk

4 Dec: Unions Online: E-campaigns, Facebook, Twitter and Beyond
Lecture by Eric Lee, Editor of LabourStart
www.labourstart.org. Aytoun Bldg,
Main Lecture Theatre, 6pm.
h.mathieson@mmu.ac.uk

5 Dec: 14-19 Diploma Conference
A golden opportunity to learn about
widening participation. 9.30-3.30pm,
Geoffrey Manton Bldg.
m.j.williams@mmu.ac.uk

9 Dec: The Peatbog Project
EGS Seminar by Professor Nancy Dise
of MMU. Rm E0.05, John Dalton East.
Sandwich lunch 12.45pm.
egs@mmu.ac.uk

**10-13 Dec: Capitol Theatre
Presents Harvest**
Written by Richard Bean, directed by
David Salter. £7/£4 concessions.
7.30pm, Mabel Tylecote Bldg.
Box Office: 0161 247 1306.

**12 Dec: Charity Five-a-Side
Football Tournament**
Raising funds to help support the English
Federation of Disability Sport in delivering
world-class events for disabled athletes.
Wilbraham Road, Whalley Range,
Manchester.
c.millerchip@mmu.ac.uk

13 Jan: Morphology of Ocean Floors
EGS seminar by Dr Neil Mitchell,
University of Manchester. Rm E0.07,
John Dalton East. Sandwich lunch
12.45pm. egs@mmu.ac.uk

**16 Dec: Geographies of Building
Stone: Place, Decay and Repair**
EGS seminar by Dr Tim Edensor of MMU.
Rm E33, John Dalton East. Sandwich
lunch 12.45pm. egs@mmu.ac.uk

**20 Jan: Lichens, Metals and Rare
Earth Elements**
EGS seminar by Dr William Purvis of the
Natural History Museum. Rm E0.07, John
Dalton East. Sandwich lunch 12.45pm.
egs@mmu.ac.uk

**22 Jan: Public Sector Pay Policy and
Inflation: Implications for Industrial
Relations**
Lecture by Alastair Hatchet, Director of
Incomes Data Services. Aytoun Bldg,
Main Lecture Theatre, 6pm.
h.mathieson@mmu.ac.uk

**27 Jan: Contested Performance
& the Production of Everyday Golfing
Landscape**

EGS seminar by Dr Chris Perkins,
University of Manchester. Rm E0.05,
John Dalton East. Sandwich lunch
1-2pm. egs@mmu.ac.uk

**3 Feb: Reading the Desert's Breath:
Insights into the Kalahari Sands**
EGS seminar by Dr Andrew Thomas of
MMU. Rm E0.05, John Dalton East.
Sandwich lunch 1-2pm.
egs@mmu.ac.uk

**10 Feb: Climate Change Science in the
Environment Agency – what matters?**
EGS seminar by Dr Harriet Orr,
Environment Agency. Rm E0.05, John
Dalton East. Sandwich lunch 1-2pm.
egs@mmu.ac.uk

**14 Feb: "The author as Producer?
Yes, but..."**
MISST seminar by Malcolm Miles,
University of Plymouth. Rm 302,
Geoffrey Manton Bldg, 1-2pm.
[mist@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:misst@mmu.ac.uk)



MMU graduate Nikki Douthwaite with her portrait, made from paper dots, of Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton. The image was featured on News at Ten and BBC Northwest Tonight as well as in *The Daily Telegraph* and local newspapers.

Nikki spent 12 weeks painstakingly sticking each of the tiny dots on to an 8 x 5" canvas, a technique she used whilst studying on the interactive arts degree after being inspired by the pointillism work of the French painter, George-Pierre Seurat. Where Seurat created images using dots of coloured paint which the viewer's eye then blends, Nikki used dots of paper cut by a hole punch which she applied with tweezers and double-sided sticky tape.

A lifelong Formula One fan, Nikki decided on the portrait after attending the British Grand Prix just days before graduating.



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

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