

MMU



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

The Newsletter of Manchester Metropolitan University

Digital Issue 128 | July 2011

Inside

- Installation of new Chancellor
- Teaching Awards 2011
- Graphene v graphite?
- MBS Week
- Improving internal comms
- Teaching science & engineering
- Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery
- Paranoia endangers children
- Flying to victory
- Acting on the staff survey
- Launch of Uni-Rec Limited
- Digital business
- Focus on SIPs
- The culture of digital
- New chapter in publishing
- Taking over the kitchen
- WiFi and Fireflies in the Park
- MMU People
- News in Brief





Editor's Welcome

Dear Colleagues

This newsletter is the last in the series launched in 1990 as we move to a new electronic format in September that combines the publication with staff digest messages so that news is more immediate and inclusive.

The new publication will be sent out each Friday and will continue to celebrate staff and student successes and achievements by reporting news from all areas of the University alongside policy and strategy developments to keep you all well-informed.

In the meantime, this newsletter leads with news about Dianne Thompson, CEO of the Camelot Group of Companies, who was installed as our new Chancellor on 12 July.

The issue also reports news from faculties and each central division. Highlights include the teaching awards promoted by the Students' Union, news of a student whose work is exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery in London, the first winner of MMU'S Learner of the Year Award plus an update on changes in internal communications. The In Briefs section covers prestigious awards and appointments conferred on staff, progress on the Birley Fields campus, the appointment of new Readers/Fellows and more Manchester+ discounts, amongst other items.

I hope you enjoy this issue and would ask managers to ensure that it is accessible to staff not on e-mail.

Brenda McClean



Our new Chancellor

Dianne Thompson, a former student and lecturer and now Chief Executive Officer of Camelot, was installed as Chancellor of the University on 12 July at a ceremony in Manchester Town Hall.

Addressing over 300 specially invited guests, staff and students, Vice-Chancellor Professor John Brooks said: “I am pleased to extend a very warm welcome to you all on this very special day in the life of the University. Today, we celebrate the installation of our new Chancellor who is only the third in our history as a university.”

Alan Benzie, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Governors, officially installed Dianne as Chancellor and invited her to uphold the privileges and rights of the University, saying: “The Chancellor flies the flag for the University - locally, nationally and internationally – and in this respect we could not have hoped for a better friend and ambassador than Dianne Thompson CBE.”



In response, Dianne said: **“My links with the University and the city of Manchester stretch back almost 40 years and I’m incredibly proud and honoured to accept the role of Chancellor.**

“Universities such as Manchester Metropolitan are engines of learning and enterprise for their region. Over 40% of students come from low-income households, so in giving these students a chance to succeed, the University transforms the lives of individuals and benefits the whole region.”

(continued)

Dianne Thompson joined Camelot in 1997: as chief executive she has developed and driven the company's strategy for responsible growth which has seen National Lottery sales increase by more than 20% since 2002. More than £26 billion has been raised for more than 360,000 projects across the country and a staggering £2.2 billion is expected to be raised for the London Olympics.

Dianne started her career as a marketing trainee at the Co-operative Wholesale Society. She studied English and French at the then Manchester Polytechnic and taught marketing at the Business School for seven years in the 1980s while simultaneously running her own advertising agency.

She added: **“The University has had a very positive impact on me, both in terms of my learning and in my career progression. I am very much looking forward to bringing all the experience I’ve gained during my career to this new role and helping to further MMU’s great work and reputation in every way I can.”**

The newly-installed Chancellor was then presented with six symbolic gifts, created by graduates and staff of the Faculty of Art and Design and presented by individuals representing the University’s many communities and partnerships.

Dianne Thompson succeeds two distinguished predecessors, the Duke of Westminster and High Court Judge Dame Janet Smith.



The Chancellor with the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Harry Lyons.



Pro-Chancellor Alan Benzie, Chancellor Dianne Thompson and Vice-Chancellor Professor John Brooks.



Tony Mulligan, Miceal Barden (Head/School of Law), Chris Robson (on behalf of Jane Woods), Louise Quinn, Haleh Moravej, SU President Rob Croll (holding Chris Green's award for best course rep) and Mel Powell.

Teaching awards 2011

The second Students' Union Teaching Awards ceremony to honour outstanding academics took place on 10 May attended by 90 guests.

More than 800 students nominated lecturers, tutors, supervisors and course reps in eight different categories, with **Mel Powell** of Marketing and Retail winning the Best Overall Teacher accolade for "putting her life and soul into teaching her course".

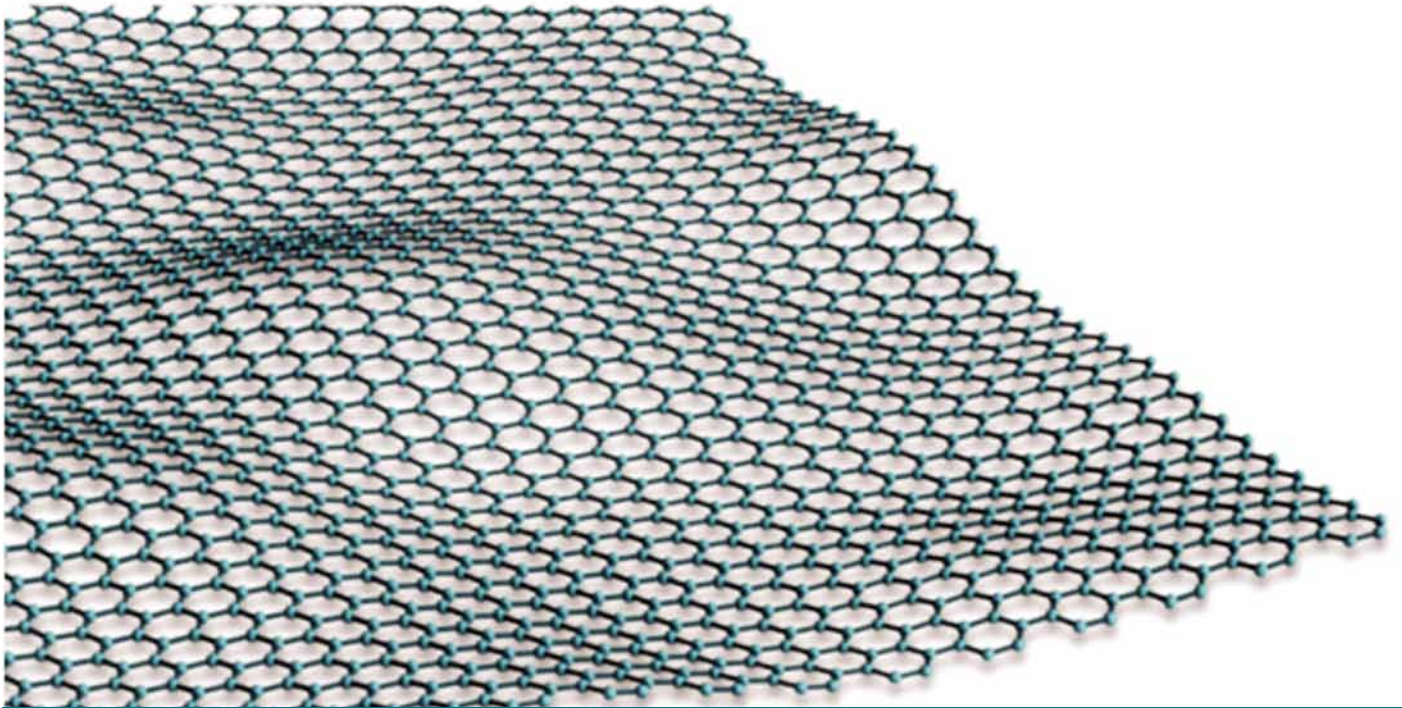
Louise Quinn (IoE) won the Best Personal Tutor award for being "approachable, enthusiastic, encouraging and professional" while **Haleh Moravej** (Food & Tourism Mgmt) was named Best Supervisor for "inspiring and motivating her classes beyond the call of duty".

Tony Mulligan of the IoE won the Outstanding Feedback award for his continuous, in-depth, constructive and useful feedback which simultaneously "provided information and support" even in his spare time. The Outstanding Innovation in Teaching award went to **Jane Woods** of the IoE for her exceptional ability to keep classes engaged. **Mick Hillman** of Geography & Environmental Mgmt took the prize for Outstanding Teaching for Employability for making the subject achievable for all students.

The Best Course Rep category was won by **Chris Green** who "never let anyone down" and **Joss West-Burnham** of IDS was presented with the President's Award.

Outdoor Studies was deemed the Best Course for being so enjoyable and creating many job prospects while the **School of Law** was judged Best Department for its exceptional facilities and staff.

Go to www.mmunion.co.uk/news/article/6001/271/ for further details and images.



Graphene - a single sheet of carbon with exciting properties.

Graphene v graphite?

Graphene may be the new kid on the block of materials science, but it's not such an effective electrode as its boring relative – graphite - according to research in the School of Science and the Environment.

The 2D nanomaterial caused immense excitement when its free-standing form was isolated by scientists at the University of Manchester in 2004. Graphene consists of one-atom-thick layers of carbon and possesses physical and chemical properties that have put it at the forefront of developments in high-speed electronics.

“As an electrode, graphene has proved superior to traditional noble metals and carbon-based materials,” states Dr Craig Banks of the chemistry and environment science team.

“Our research focused on its ability to conduct electrons but, despite reports, we found that when used as a sensor graphene doesn't exhibit its usual unique properties. In fact, graphite, which has many layers of graphene, turns out to be a better option.

“These findings raise questions about graphene's future applications in electrochemical sensors,” says Craig who collaborated on the research with Dale Brownson. Their paper is published in *The Analyst*.

Most recently, the research team reported that graphene can be beneficially utilised as a super-capacitor material to store energy ready for rapid use, as required for the emergency doors of the Airbus 380 for example.

A research team's study of the applications of graphene was one of the top five papers most accessed in the Royal Society of Chemistry's journal, *The Analyst*, this year.



VC Professor John Brooks with Martin Dexter, Technical Officer for Galleries in Art and Design.

MBS Week

More than 100 events took place during the 2011 Mind Body & Spirit Week, 32 of them completely new to the MMU programme. While 560 members of staff attended the pre-booked sessions, many more attended the drop-in events which were held across all campuses.

This year's Learning at Work Day also took place during MBS Week when 145 members of staff received nationally-recognised certificates for development and training from VC Professor John Brooks, pictured above with Martin Dexter who won the first MMU Learner of the Year award.

Staff Development and Training Officer Alison Laithwaite, who organises MBS Week, explained: "This new category of award recognises a person whose learning has made a real impact and difference to the University, their team or their customers.

"Martin is not only the first candidate to complete his ILM Diploma in First Line Management but, as part of his diploma, his projects have led to the opening of the Holden Café Gallery, a vibrant and active social space where students can meet and work together. He is also the brains behind the Acoustic Lounge that features live music each month during term."

Martin said he was pleased and proud to win the new award: "The Acoustic Lounge started with a blank page," he said, "and now needs filling with musicians to keep up the momentum!"

Improving internal communications



A working group, the Internal Communications Strategy Group (ICSG), was established to examine and recommend improvements across all elements of our internal communications. The 18-strong group, chaired by PVC David Crow, comprises heads of department and service directors from across all faculties and central services.

A strategy paper for staff communications was recently presented to Directorate and the recommendations were unanimously approved. The overall aim is to more effectively manage a range of communications to and from all staff.

Gary Hughes, Director of MC&D, explained: “The key to the strategy is the creation of a staff news web channel – in place of the daily staff digest, internal and monthly newsletters, we will be publishing a Friday news update of all relevant stories via this channel.

“A primary objective is to celebrate the successes of staff and students and give greater prominence to our achievements. Stories will be gathered using a similar mechanism to the current staff digest, and the ability to send an urgent all-staff e-mail will be retained.”

The launch of the staff news web channel this September is the first stage in a major revamp of all staff communications which includes the implementation of an events calendar to give forward visibility for all events at faculty and service area levels, as well as a small ads-type marketplace in January.

Gary adds: “Looking beyond January 2012, we will be addressing the content, design and usability of the entire staff intranet.”

More information on the changes will be available over the coming weeks.



Yvette and Dave with a model globe that has been adapted by science technicians to illustrate how the sun appears to move when viewed from earth.

Teaching science and engineering

A 26-partner EU-funded project involving schools, museums and universities in ten countries will be launched at the end of the summer to develop new materials for science teaching in primary schools.

The €2.5 million ENGINEER scheme, aimed at making science and engineering more accessible to children, seeks to integrate science curriculum topics into a series of engineering design challenges to encourage student-led problem-solving.

Outreach work led by science museums in each European partner country will roll-out the materials to a total of 27,000 students.

Dr Dave Heywood and Professor Yvette Solomon of the Education and Social Research Institute are leading the teaching materials design element of the project and will be responsible for developing the engineering design challenge units.

Professor Solomon explains: “The project is based on a model developed by the Boston Museum of Science, now widely used in primary schools throughout the USA.

“Evaluation has found that incorporating engineering into science teaching using inquiry-based methods results in raised student interest in both subjects.”

As the scheme aims to be more inclusive by encouraging girls into science and engineering, Professor Solomon has also taken on the role of project adviser on gender issues.

Dr Heywood adds: “Engineering deserves a much higher profile in the curriculum and we are hoping that this project will achieve that outcome.”

ENGINEER is being led by the Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem.



Exhibiting at the National Portrait Gallery

Fine art student Catherine Parsonage is one of only 55 artists from across the world selected to exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery in London this year.

She was selected from over 2,300 entries for the BP Portrait exhibition and her painting, *Untitled*, of her student friend Charlotte Horrillo will be on show until 18 September. The painting – pictured here – began as an exercise in reflecting illness and mortality and developed into a contemporary image employing the translucent skin tones and glazes from Early Netherlandish art.

BP Portrait is a mixture of revealing paintings of celebrities such as Glenda Jackson, Peter Capaldi and AP McCoy, as well as intimate and personal images of friends and family. It also features professional and new artists from the UK, USA, Spain, Holland, Latvia, Israel, Iran, Canada and China.

Catherine's work has been seen at group exhibitions in Manchester and in Munich as a result of an Erasmus study award at the Akademie Der Bildenden Kunste. She is also the winner of the Basil Alkazzi Scholarship and takes up a place to study at the Royal College of Art in September.

She said: "I'm really pleased to have my work on show at such a prestigious gallery. The fine art course has given me opportunities to truly develop my technique and my thinking. The tutors are brilliant and I've been really influenced by their practice."



Hands-off sports coaching: the politics of touch.

Paranoia endangers children

Children's lives are being put at risk because sports teachers and coaches are too scared to touch the children they teach, even when their safety depends on it, according to new research at MMU.

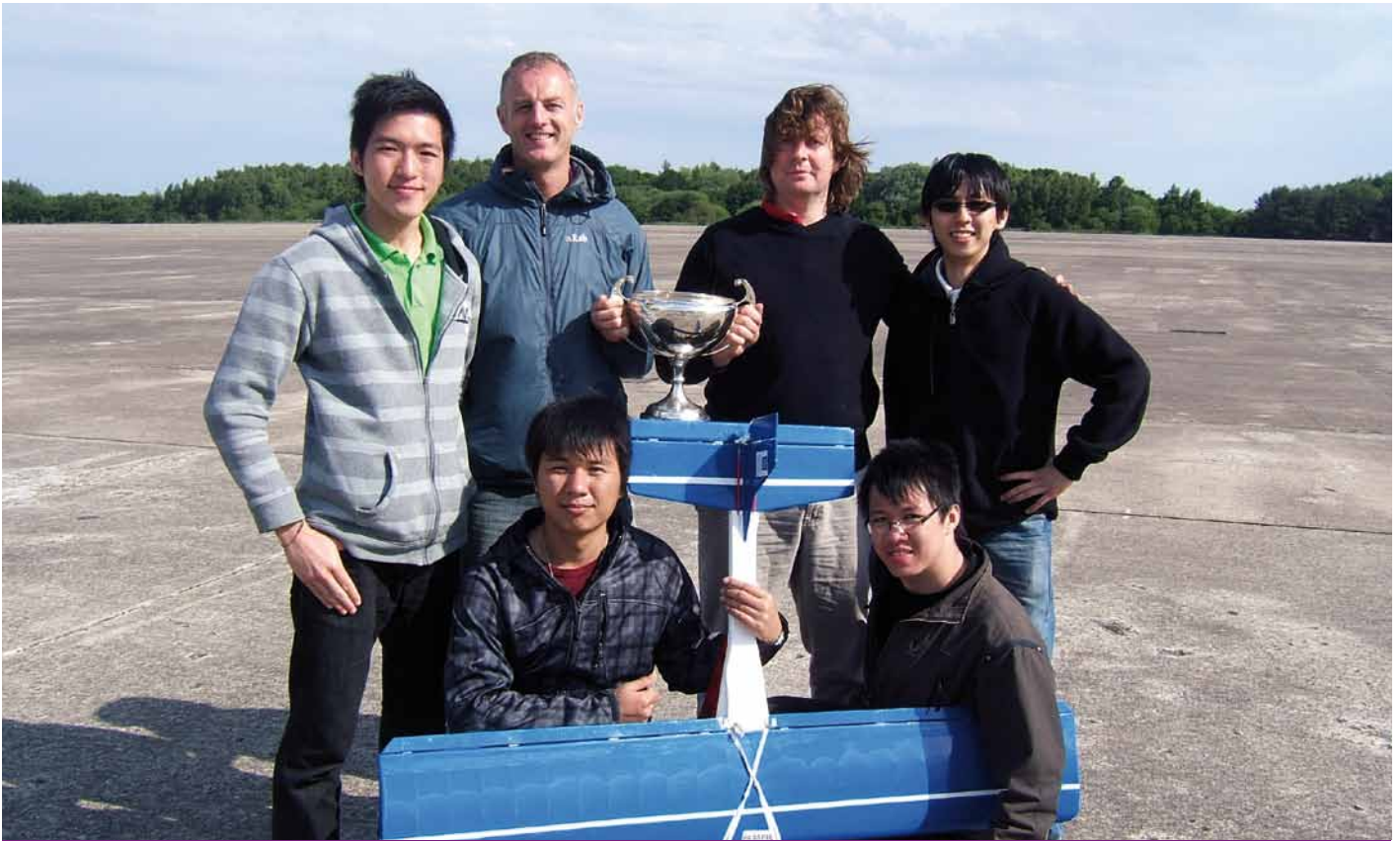
Professor Heather Piper of the Education and Social Research Institute and senior lecturer in exercise and sport science Dr Bill Taylor, with Dr Dean Garratt of the University of Chester, are investigating the impact of the 'no touch' culture in the sporting world, interviewing more than 60 coaches around the country.

"Coaches are overwhelmed with confusing rules about what constitutes appropriate behaviour," says Heather, "leaving them too scared to have any physical contact with their pupils."

Nigel Deeley, a coach at MMU's Football Academy for teenagers, describes coaching young people today as a "bear pit". He operates a strict no-touch rule and if he needs to move a child he does so by placing his hand on his/her head while injured teenagers are given an ice pack to apply themselves to avoid any accusation of impropriety.

This 'moral panic' in the sports world over the last decade has been prompted by high-profile cases, says Heather: "Coaches are afraid of breaching child protection policy and guidelines or being investigated for assault or abuse. In many cases, coaches are safeguarding their own reputations ahead of the safety of the children they teach."

The ESRC-funded study will be published later this year.



Back: Ghee Chyuan, Ian Kennedy, Paul Aldred and Beng Hao. Front: Kang Kai and Siew Hon.

Flying to victory

Mechanical engineering students flew to victory in the British Model Flying Association University Challenge as they beat Liverpool University in the final fly-off to win the Jetex Cup.

The University team - masters student Paul Aldred and undergraduates Ong Ghee Chyuan, Beng Hao Tan, Ghee Chyuan Ong and Siew Hon Tay, all from Malaysia - saw their self-designed aircraft take to the skies over RAF Elvington, near York, for the annual engineering race.

The plane was modelled in the labs using 3D computer-aided design and built in four weeks from components laser-cut from balsa and plywood for quick manufacture and accuracy.

“The brief was to transport as much water as possible in a limited time,” said Ian Kennedy, senior lecturer in design engineering, “and the challenge was to design a light, strong and stable aircraft capable of being quickly reloaded with a container of water.”

“The students also earned marks for a technical report and presentation to the Model Flying Association. They did a splendid job!”

Ian adds: “The key skills needed are an understanding of the materials and their properties plus knowledge of the manufacturing methods available. We encourage students to utilise the skills learned during the course and taking part in competitions like this is an enjoyable and practical method of learning and a good way to develop future employment skills.”



Acting on the staff survey

The last MMU Newsletter included an update on activity in relation to the staff survey which included the running of focus groups to further explore the issue of workload.

During May, external facilitators held eight focus groups with staff from across the University and their summary report is currently being considered by the Continuous Improvement Board which oversees the work on the staff survey, liP and continuous improvement activities.

Head of ODTD Josie Elson said: “The report provided useful rich data which we need to consider thoroughly to identify the right solutions. Although there was too much to consider in one meeting, even at this early stage we have some ideas about improvements that can be made.”

One of the key issues that came out of the staff survey was that many people do not feel there are channels to feed their views upwards and that Directorate don't listen or respond to the views of staff.

To address this, Directorate members will meet staff informally in café venues across the University for 'Coffee and Conversation' and colleagues are invited to drop in for a chat over coffee and cake to discuss any issue.

Members of the Directorate will be interested to hear your thoughts on a wide range of questions such as how can we improve cross-team working and what you think students value most. Feedback on topics discussed and ideas and suggestions raised will be reported before the end of each term.

For the list of venues for Coffee and Conversation, go to the In Briefs section at the back of this newsletter.



Natasha and Victoria are responsible for recovering both commercial and student debts.

Launch of Uni-Rec Limited

The University has launched a new subsidiary company, Uni-Rec Limited, to recover unpaid debts via the courts in a move that brings legal debt recoveries back in-house after outsourcing for some years.

Credit Control Manager Paul Sheil explained that rising legal costs make an in-house operation a more cost-effective, efficient option for MMU as litigation recoveries have been unsatisfactory in recent years: “Of the £118m invoiced this year for tuition/hall fees and commercial enterprises, we will end up pursuing debts of around £1m via the courts.

“The objectives of Uni-Rec, which started trading in June, are simply to maximise income from debts, retain greater control of legal and enforcement activities and reduce the recovery period through the courts. With legal actions of around £1m, we have to ensure our processes are robust but fair, carried out to the highest possible standards, and always aimed at minimising costs and bad debt charges to faculties.”

Recently, Natasha Walker and Victoria Jones, two fully qualified and experienced solicitors, joined the team. With expertise in commercial and civil litigation, they are both well-versed in recovering debts through the court process and are committed to ensuring the success of Uni-Rec.

Colleagues are invited to contact Natasha or Victoria with any questions or queries regarding Uni-Rec (Tel: 0161 921 8000, Fax: 0161 921 8001 or e-mail n.walker@mmu.ac.uk or v.a.jones@mmu.ac.uk).



Dr Angel Salazar and Professor Cusumano.

Digital business

Dr Angel Salazar of the Business School attended the recent annual MIT Digital Business Center conference in Boston by special invitation to share his research work on the platform strategy and innovation capabilities of ARM semiconductors with academics and business executives.

Dr Salazar says: "The focus of my study with MIT Professor Michael Cusumano is on ARM's IP platform model, dynamic capabilities and the development of partner communities.

"ARM, based in Cambridge, is the world's leading intellectual property semiconductor company with 2,000 employees, revenues of \$500 million and over six billion designed microchips based on their blueprints globally. The company is at the centre of an 800 plus partner-embedded microchip ecosystem with firms such as Apple, Microsoft and Nokia amongst other leading global brands."

During the course of the conference, Angel agreed to produce an executive innovation policy report with the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council on the future of incubation. He also established links between the community of technology firms and start-up entrepreneurs in Boston and Manchester. More specifically, these communities orbit around Boston World Partnerships and Innospace and Techcelerate in Manchester.

Most recently, in partnership with MMU Enterprise, MIT Enterprise and Microsoft plus other organisations, Angel co-founded AIDA Technology, a new technology start-up to be based in Innospace to develop disruptive technology to complement next-generation personal medical data management platforms.



Richard Chen, All Saints SIP Supervisor, addresses delegates at the Network event.

Focus on SIPs

The annual conference of the One Stop Shop Network for managers of student hubs in UK universities was hosted jointly by MMU and Salford University in May when delegates from 35 universities were welcomed to the Geoffrey Manton Building.

Organised by colleagues across SAS, the Capital Projects Office and Marketing, the first day of the conference was sponsored by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, architects of the new building at All Saints that will house SAS, the Business School and the new Student Hub. Delegates were treated to a presentation on the design concepts for the new building by the project architect, Simon Doody.

Further presentations and workshops over the two days focused on the Customer Service Excellence award, which a number of universities are beginning to look towards as the service standard for campus one-stop shops.

Commenting on the two-day event, conference coordinator Richard Chen said: “Fact-finding task groups proved a highlight of the first day. Armed with sheets of tricky questions, delegates roamed the campus SIPs at All Saints and the MMSU Advice Centre to assess our student-facing information and advice services.

“We had asked for ‘warts and all’ feedback and, after a nail-biting wait for the groups to reach their verdicts, the experts gave us excellent scores on friendliness and efficiency and good advice on how we might build on our strengths in the new building.”



Dave Carter, Deputy VC Professor Gerry Kelleher and Tony Foggett in front of a digital sculpture produced by Professor Keith Brown.

The culture of digital

The future of digital provision at the University was the focus of a seminar at the end of May attended by over 40 people from MMU and local digital businesses.

The event was organised by PVC Penny Renwick who says: “Digital skills are essential for employment in almost every profession nowadays so we are reviewing and evaluating the way we keep pace with the rapid changes in the world of technology. We’re also looking at any adjustments that need to be made to match the expectations of employers and students.”

As part of the event, an exhibition of digital projects was held in the Geoffrey Manton atrium which showcased sophisticated motion capture technology, digital sculpture, film production and design.

Keynote presentations from Dave Carter (Director of Manchester Digital Development Agency) and Tony Foggett (MMU graduate and CEO of Code Computer Love) set the scene for an interesting debate about the digital research agenda and ensuring that the University teaches the skills that businesses need as well as the attitudes that graduates need to make their way in the digital sector.

Penny adds: “This review is really about developing a consistent story that we can tell about the way we use cutting-edge digital technology in disciplines right across the University.”

The review will be completed by September 2011



Students Lucia Cox (left), Iris Feindt and Katie Slade at the Manchester Book Market – the first time MMU has had a stall at this event.

New chapter in publishing

A new Manchester-based press launched by MMU students and alumni in May attracted 100 people from the regional literary community to celebrate its debut title, *Panopticon*, a collection of 12 short stories by seven North West authors.

Pandril Press is the brainchild of former creative writing students, Paul Beatty, David Chadwick, Ros Davies, Lucia Cox, Iris Feindt, Alison Jeapes and Nicky Harlow. Their aim is to encourage and promote emerging regional writing talent and they have all contributed stories to the first title.

The all-new anthology features a satire on Manchester's corporate culture, a drug-related tragedy in a gritty northern community, a surreal journey into the work of a great master, and a romantic experiment in China. The collection also includes tales of an apartment block of gossiping women who talk their way to calamity and a revered oracle who can read anyone's future but his own.

Sherry Ashworth, senior lecturer and tutor in the Writing School, said: "*Panopticon* is a real testimony to the talent and enterprise of our graduates. This group of writers were determined to get their voices heard - and they have wonderful voices, fluent, memorable. We admire their energy and ability to get things done, and we wish them well in the future!"

Lucia and Iris sold not only *Panopticon* but also the first novel from the Hidden Gem Press, owned by Sherry Ashworth and her husband.



Chef lecturer Steve Vardy emphasises the importance of teamwork in preparation for service.

Taking over the kitchen

Sixty schoolchildren from Manchester Grammar School visited Hollings in June for a Master Chef activity week that promotes courses in hospitality management and forges an essential business liaison with schools.

This is the fifth year MGS has visited the faculty for the event which allows their pupils aged 11 to 15 years to experience food development, production and service by working in the training kitchens and food technology department.

The highlight of the week comes on Friday when the 'super chefs' provide two types of restaurant service and the 'customers' - parents and teachers - opt for either fine dining in the Park View restaurant or the more informal international food court in the Garden restaurant.

The Master Chef event has been the catalyst for developing links with other schools as it not only promotes hospitality management programmes but generates income through short courses at Hollings for pupils and staff development for their teachers.

Ian Ainscough, who set up the links with the school, said: "This event has also helped to develop the focus of a themed management project for our second year degree students. They supervise the pupils as they cook, prepare the restaurant to a specific theme and serve food for up to 50 paying customers.

"Feedback from students indicates that they enjoy working in a live environment as it helps to develop their employability skills."



A Manchester first - Craig Martin and John Hyatt test one of the *Fireflies*.

WiFi and *Fireflies* in the Park

The ‘public realm’ improvement works in and around the All Saints Park are now well underway thanks to MMU working with Corridor Manchester to secure European funding.

The work includes a terraced seating area, new flagstone pavements, recycling points, solar-powered lighting, cycle parking, a new pedestrian crossing on Oxford Road, WiFi access, I-Trees to aid learning and a communication screen on the Mabel Tylecote Building.

Director of Facilities Heather Wilson said: “The project aims to provide an external social learning space which creates a place to relax, study and play at the heart of the campus that will eventually link through to the new Birley Fields campus in Hulme.”

The public artwork commissioned for the Park promotes an environmental sustainability theme. Professor John Hyatt (Director of Miriad) and Dr Craig Martin of the Manchester School of Architecture have made a series of solar-powered sculptures based on the concept of the firefly, caught briefly by children in jars, and informed by research into the insect and how it achieves its flashing light.

Powered by the sun, the Fireflies flash in four colours (red, green, white and yellow) whilst also emitting three notes tuned to F, C and G, the 12-bar basis of a million popular songs. They are totally green with components that can be used again and are activated by the light of their environment.

MMU People

Young scientist earns UK prize



Science lecturer Dr Craig Banks has been awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry's top award, the **Harrison-Mendola Memorial Prize**, for his contributions to the understanding of carbon materials, in particular graphene and its application as an electrode material.

RSC prizes for the "most meritorious and promising investigations in chemistry" are awarded to researchers in their twenties and early thirties working in the UK.

Craig, Reader in Electrochemical and Nanotechnology, has published over 190 papers with an h-index of 32 and has launched two spin-out companies to develop point-of-care breath analysis devices and drug driving sensors. He is the inventor of 11 patents and recently co-authored the book, *Understanding Voltammetry* with Richard Compton (Oxford University).

Chairing international business



Heinz Tuselmann, Professor of International Business and Director of the Centre for International Business and Innovation (CIBI) in the Business School, has been elected as **Chair of the Academy of International Business**, a major learned society.

This high-profile and prestigious appointment will see Heinz representing the Academy at HEFCE, the Economic and Social Research Council and other research funding bodies. He will also spearhead the Academy's input into the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework and at the standing committees of the learned societies in management and business.

The appointment highlights the contribution Heinz has made in the field of international business and signifies the external recognition and standing of the Centre which was commended in the 2008 RAE. CIBI is the only international business centre in the UK to simultaneously hold ESRC and Leverhulme Trust Fellowships and an Advanced Institute for Management Scholarship.

2011 Eminent Scientist



The award of **Eminent Scientist of the Year in Cardio-Pathology** has been conferred on Mark Slevin, Professor of Cell Pathology, by the International Research Promotion Council (IRPC) which promotes academic and research programmes in science and medicine in developing and underdeveloped countries.

The selection for the award, agreed jointly by the World Scientists Forum with the IRPC, relates to Professor Slevin's work and ongoing collaboration with the St Pau Hospital, Barcelona, where he was Professor in Vascular Biology during a sabbatical year. His research focused on the importance of angiogenesis (new blood vessel growth) in the development of atherosclerosis, the main cause of heart disease and stroke.

Mark says: "Underdeveloped countries have higher rates of major diseases and serious viral infections resulting in unacceptably low-life expectancy and poor quality of life. The aims and objectives of the IRPC helps to find novel strategies and solutions to these problems."

Joining NICE



Dr Abebaw Yohannes, Reader in Physiotherapy, has been invited to be a member of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Topic Expert Group on lung cancer which has been identified as an area for quality standards development.

A physiotherapist, Dr Yohannes lectures in respiratory diseases, palliative care in lung cancer, pulmonary rehabilitation and cardiac rehabilitation, and is widely published in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The Department of Health commissioned NICE to develop quality standards to act as markers of high-quality, cost-effective patient care in the treatment and prevention of diseases and conditions.

NICE is also central to supporting the Government's vision for an NHS focussed on delivering the best possible outcomes for patients through clinical effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.

News in Brief

2011 Readers and Fellows

The Professoriate Committee met to consider the round of applications for 2010/11 and the following people have been successful:

Felicity Colman, Reader in Screen Media

Steven Hurst, Reader in Politics

Nick Costen, Reader in Cognitive Computer Vision

Craig Banks, Reader in Electrochemical and Nanotechnology

Andrew Thomas, Reader in Physical Geography

Adam Bevan, Senior Enterprise Fellow

Neil Reeves, Senior Research Fellow

Ofsted inspection

The University's Primary and Secondary Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses have been rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted, with straight 1s across the board, the highest possible grades and rankings.

In Secondary teacher training, Ofsted praised the clear identification of trainees' needs, excellent mentoring and support plus close collaboration with schools.

In Primary TT, the inspectors acknowledged the high-quality of support, innovative units of study and options, strong track record of widening participation for trainees with non-traditional qualifications and the high value given to the trainee voice.

Additionally, Post-Compulsory Education and Training was awarded satisfactory grades and regarded as "very effective" in linking theory to classroom practice and having very good pastoral, academic and specialist support.

Penny Sweasey, Head of Programmes at the IoE, said: "This outcome identifies MMU as a Category A Provider and will ensure that we remain a leading light in shaping the future of teaching in the North West and nationally."

Good news on graduate jobs!

Making employability the top priority is paying off for MMU graduates according to government-compiled statistics*.

2010 leavers were more likely to be in work – and more likely to be in a good job – than graduates in 2009. Six months after graduating last summer, only 8.3% of leavers were still looking for work while 69.4% were already in graduate level occupations. *(continued)*

News in Brief

Graduate jobs are a top priority at MMU and employability is now an integral part of courses with special initiatives that include: 'employability champions' in every faculty, the MMU Professional (skills) Passport, employability fairs on campus and a free recruitment service to employers that advertised over 1,100 work experience, part-time and graduate vacancies in the last year.

Rita Lewin, Head of Student Employability and Success, said: "The picture for our graduates is looking better - we cannot control the job market but we can endeavour to prepare graduates as well as possible for life after university."

Employment among MMU graduates has now risen with more than 90% in work or undertaking further study. * Destination of Leavers in HE survey.

Coffee and Conversation

'Coffee and Conversation' provides an opportunity for any member of staff to drop in for a chat, a coffee and cake with members of the University's top management team (the VC, Deputy VCs, the Directors of Finance, HR, Services, MCD and the Registrar and Deans of Faculty).

Three or four members of the management team will be on hand at each session and are looking forward to talking to you in an informal and relaxed environment about any issue that you'd like to discuss. Coffee and Conversation sessions have already been held at the Hollings and Gaskell campuses and will run on the following dates:

26 July – between 1.30 and 3.30pm Holden Gallery Café

6 Sept – between 10am and 12noon Aytoun Refectory

20 Sept – between 1.30 and 3.30pm John Dalton Refectory

22 Sept – between 10am and 12pm Didsbury Refectory

29 Sept – between 10am and 12pm Valentino's Café, Crewe

So pop in anytime between the times shown for a complimentary morning coffee or afternoon tea.

MMU's Fairtrade banner

A collaboration on Fairtrade produce between embroidery students and the Environment Team earlier this year has led to two students producing a large, striking banner for the Team to use at their events to attract current and prospective students to the Fairtrade ethos.

Rachel Edwards and Olivia Heron, pictured here, completed the 8-metre-long banner made from Fairtrade cotton just before their final exams. The wording was created with Fairtrade produce - coffee beans, bananas, jelly beans and roses – which was then manipulated in Photoshop and screen printed.



News in Brief

Universities help local job seekers

A new initiative – The Works – has been launched to help unemployed people in Moss Side and Hulme to gain new skills and to find work.

The Works gives job-seekers ten days prior notice of vacancies and offers a new way for local people to access employment and to acquire the skills needed to apply for jobs. Specialists from Next Step, Connexions and partner organisations are on hand to offer guidance and visitors can use the extensive IT suite.

The Works is a partnership of Manchester's two universities, City South Housing and Manchester Solutions, and is supported by the hospitals as well as businesses such as The Cooperative, Royal Mail, the Post Office and Asda.



Steve Grant (Corridor Manchester), Dave Power (City South) and Mary Heaney.

Director of Services Mary Heaney says: “We believe that Manchester is the only city in the UK where universities are having this type of managed impact on jobs and training.”

Working with England squads

Sport experts Nigel Deeley and Craig Boyd (pictured) from Exercise and Sport Science joined two England football teams in June, travelling to Denmark and Mexico for international games.

Nigel joined the Under-17 squad for the FIFA World Cup in Mexico to support head coach John Peacock while Craig, a leading sports physiologist, accompanied the England Under-21s to Denmark.



Sport and Marketing Manager Phil Cook said: “Having two members of staff involved in England squads gives our students first-hand experience and guidance when it comes to working with international elite footballers. They will gain valuable techniques in physiology testing and player preparation from Craig while Nigel’s role coaching and vetting allows him to pass on to students expert knowledge on training methods.”

Followers of football will have noted that the U-17s lost to Germany in the quarter-finals and the U-21s narrowly missed out to progress past the group stages of the tournament.

News in Brief

Birley Fields goes ahead

Plans for MMU's £110 million Birley Fields campus in Hulme have now been passed by Manchester City Council and work will start on the development next April.

The plans combine academic, community and residential use and are backed by politicians, housing groups and the NHS.

Local people helped to shape the plans which include a sports hall, drama studios and other facilities available for community use while the phased building of student accommodation will depend on demand. Sustainability is a key theme for the campus, with green technologies such as force ventilation, solar-heated water, car park berths for electric cars and proposals for public and sustainable transport.

Do you want to be a school governor?

The University has been asked to flag up school governor vacancies in South Manchester to all staffing groups.

No particular qualifications or experience are needed to become a governor and you would not be expected to be an expert on education matters.

Governors play a strategic role in school management: they meet termly to discuss the running of the school, its overall ethos and direction as well as budgets, policies, special education needs, targets, exclusions and appeals against dismissal.

Governing bodies monitor and evaluate progress in school development and achievements and play an important role in accountability. Head teachers are accountable to the governing body which, in turn, is accountable to parents, the local authority and ultimately the DCSF.

School governor vacancies currently exist in Hulme, Ardwick, Rusholme, Moss Side and Longsight - for further information or details on how to apply, please go to: www.manchester.gov.uk/governors/info/2/do_you_want_to_be_a_governor

New printers

The MMU Print Project is now under way, with the replacement of the Sharp printers/photocopiers being successfully rolled-out at all sites.

The new printers allow staff to print, photocopy and scan to their MMU e-mail account. In addition, all documents sent to print are saved for 48 hours, giving colleagues that much time to print or delete them. Members of staff can also use any of the new printers – in any building and at any campus.

Find out more at www.mmu.ac.uk/mmuprint or e-mail mmuprint@mmu.ac.uk with specific questions.

News in Brief

Green League

The University was ranked 17th in the UK in the People & Planet Green League which assessed the environmental and ethical performance of 142 universities, scoring them on their actions and attitudes towards green living and awarding them a First, 2.1, 2.2, Third or Fail.

The table was topped by Nottingham Trent, Gloucestershire and Worcester, with MMU arguably the rising star having climbed from 91st in 2007 to 27th last year and now joining the Top Twenty.

The University scored especially well on its environmental policy, dedicated team, ability to engage students in environmental campaigns, Fairtrade practices and carbon management, having cut its carbon footprint by 5% in 2010.

Start saving even more!

There is now a huge range of re-loadable shopping cards available through MCR+ that give you discounts at ASDA and Sainsbury's as well as high street stores such as Marks & Spencer, Debenhams, Top Shop and much more. To access discounts as part of the staff benefits scheme, or enter the latest competitions, visit www.mmu.ac.uk/staff/benefits

And congratulations to the winners of the latest MCR+ competitions! John Burgess from Student Services won £200 of shopping vouchers and Priscilla Chan from Clothing Design & Technology won a Weber BBQ worth over £300.

Editor: Brenda McClean

(Tel 0161 247 3412 / b.mcclean@mmu.ac.uk)

This publication has been designed in-house by the Design Studio.

Printing Out?

If you are considering printing out any of the pages in this newsletter, you may wish to go to the print dialogue box of your PDF reader and change the page scaling to 'multiple pages per sheet'. You will then be able to print out two easily readable pages of the newsletter on a single A4 sheet. And don't forget to set your printer to print on both sides if you have the option.