



Reporter

Issue 554
December 2010

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Double impact: two new publications have been launched highlighting how the University is having an impact on global issues. **Page 14**



Integrating innovations: from the Centre for Integrated Energy Research are (l-r) Professors Paul Williams and William Gale and Dr Susan Grant-Muller.

Two projects to transform the future

The Centre for Integrated Energy Research and Building Sustainable Societies: Work, Care and Security are two new transformation fund projects.

This overview looks at the scope and aims of each project, and the work already underway to establish both initiatives so they can begin to make important contributions to the breadth and reputation of the University's research portfolio.

The Centre for Integrated Energy Research

"The aim of the Centre for Integrated Energy Research is to make a conscious and sustained effort to link innovation in energy policy with innovation in energy technology. The aim is to create a 'virtuous circle' in which advances in the one drive or enable progress in the other," says Professor William Gale (School of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering) who is leading the project.

"The University is internationally recognised as a very strong player in energy research, and the Centre will build on this reputation to create a step change in energy research across campus, especially in the Faculties of Environment and Engineering. The University already has a very large, diverse energy portfolio, from basic science and engineering through to economics and policy. There's also a long-standing interdisciplinary culture, and

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THE REPORTER

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<http://reporter.leeds.ac.uk>

STORIES AND LETTERS

Story ideas and letters are welcomed as hard copy or in email. The deadline for the next issue is Thursday 23 December.

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"An opportunity to bring together different disciplines to think creatively about difficult social challenges that we face locally and globally."

Two projects to transform the future

[continued from front page]

the Centre will capitalise on this by linking science and technology with policy and economics; and leveraging links to other areas of existing strength at Leeds, such as socio-technical systems design (which is itself an existing transformation fund activity).

"The Government and the EU have ambitious energy targets. Meeting these will involve the cumulative result of incremental improvement and there may also have to be some radical changes that make a difference to people's lives. We need to ensure that we offer solutions that work with other social and business imperatives not against them, and that requires joined-up thinking. We want to shape interventions – at local to international levels – and deliver the tools needed to enable, enhance and accelerate the move towards low carbon, secure, economically viable and socially equitable energy systems."

The Centre will be officially launched next year, and in the meantime the search is beginning for talented individuals to fill key academic positions and a Centre co-ordinator post. All the academic positions are shared between two schools – for example, Mechanical Engineering and SPEME – to really integrate and establish strong bonds between the areas. The other key participants are the School of Earth and Environment and the Institute for Transport Studies.

"At the end of our initial five years, I'd like to see a very well-funded, vibrant Centre that contributes strongly to shaping national and global thinking in areas such as energy for transport," continues Professor Gale. "Our intent is that we'll be able to point to tangible examples of where we've had impact and been successful in defining and responding to the needs of both industry and government in the UK and internationally. All the pieces and the capabilities are here at Leeds already. What the new transformation fund positions us to do is to move beyond ad hoc interdisciplinary collaboration in energy to delivering highly integrated outcomes for an interconnected world, thus greatly magnifying our real impact on the world."

Building Sustainable Societies: Work, Care and Security

"An opportunity to bring together different disciplines to think creatively about difficult social challenges that we face locally and globally," is how Professor Anne Kerr (School of Sociology and Social Policy) sums up the aims of the Building Sustainable Societies project.

"It's focused around three very distinct areas of strength in our research capacity – work, care and security – and the intention is to invest in and build on these areas to develop intellectual traffic between different disciplines within Leeds University Business School and the Faculties of Medicine and Health and Education, Social Sciences and Law.

"One area is around how to organise and support both work and care as societies age and support needs increase. The second strand is security and justice, focusing on how local experiences of crime and security shape the broader global agenda and vice versa. The third area will examine the future of healthcare delivery, evaluating how services are, and can be, implemented and managed in a way that makes the best use of resources.

"Our project will explore the links between these three main themes, drawing together leading social scientists from across the University. It will welcome the participation of others keen to add to understanding of the social arrangements needed to enable people to work, care and live together sustainably in the future, and to build the evidence base needed to shape the thinking of decision-makers at every level.

"In all areas of the new project, team members already have successful external partnerships – with Carers UK, the TUC, the City of Leeds, West Yorkshire Police, for example – and new work will now commence to extend and develop the broad range of partnerships needed to sustain, stimulate and energise the project. We're also planning a series of masterclasses for staff and students and will be building exciting new opportunities for students through placements and supervised projects.

"We will soon be making new appointments designed to bring the very best talent in our field to Leeds to work with us in the years ahead, and we will be formally launching the project at a special event on 14 June 2011. By then we'll have established our Advisory Group and website, produced our first set of position papers and will be working closely with our external partners to deliver our first set of new research activities.

"The Building Sustainable Societies project is a great opportunity to develop integrated solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing societies today."

Contact Anne Kerr or any of the leadership team for more information on Building Sustainable Societies



Building Sustainable Societies (l-r): Professors Jason Ralph, Sue Yeandle, Mark Stuart, Adam Crawford, Jeremy Higham and Anne Kerr.

Royal visit to celebrate research into eye disease

His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent GCVO was briefed on ongoing eye research, met researchers and toured the laboratory facilities at the Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine during a recent visit to supporters of Yorkshire Eye Research.

Yorkshire Eye Research – the northern branch of the National Eye Research Centre (NERC) – has raised more than £600,000 since 2000 to support projects identifying the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of eye disease. Prince Michael of Kent was visiting in his role as Patron of the NERC, a role he has held for 24 years.

Yorkshire Eye Research projects include work by University researchers to develop a simple

DNA screening test for the most common form of glaucoma. They are also investigating why premature babies are at risk of retinal damage, resulting in severe sight loss in early infancy, and the causes of three devastating diseases that cause childhood blindness – inherited retinitis pigmentosa, cone-rod dystrophy and microcornea.

The charity is also raising money to secure a Chair in Clinical Ophthalmology



HRH Prince Michael of Kent meets nurses from St James's, Alice Van Lare (centre) and Frances Cassidy.

within the Section of Ophthalmology and Neurosciences at the University. This post would help promote high-quality clinical research in Yorkshire and complement the existing vision science teams.

On the right track: recruiting, funding and retaining talented researchers

Thinking ahead, robust networks and thorough preparation are the keys to recruiting, gaining funding for and keeping talented researchers, according to the eminent plant scientist Christine Foyer (Institute of Integrative and Comparative Biology), who joined the University as a Professor in Africa College in 2009.

Next year, Christine and her team will be joined by Guillaume Queval, who has been awarded a mobility research grant under the EU Marie Curie Fellowship (MCF) scheme. He will be working on the regulation of cell division by reduction-oxidation (redox) status, in particular on a tri-peptide thiol called glutathione which is an important antioxidant. Guillaume is the latest in a series of researchers from within the European Union that Christine has recruited and helped to find funding.

"I always aim to have two researchers in place, one junior researcher recruited via Initial Training Networks (ITN) and another more senior researcher on a Marie Curie Fellowship," says Professor Foyer. "Calls for



Professor Foyer in the lab with two of her research team.

applications come twice a year, in February and August, and I tend to respond to both. Applications for grants are extremely competitive and it's very hard work putting one together, but perhaps we don't exploit the opportunities as much as we could.

"Of course, you have to have the right candidates, those who have already shown promise, from good institutions. I get to know about good people through my networks abroad – for example, I got to know Guillaume because he was doing a PhD with a colleague in France. We met and talked about what he'd like to do as a post-doc and he said he'd like to come to the UK. I didn't have a grant available, so the only way it was feasible was via an MCF.

"Before you submit a proposal, it's very important to meet the person and make sure you have the same aspirations. If you have time to develop a relationship, there's much more chance of making the proposal successful. It's a long-term commitment so I try to minimise the possibility of things going

wrong. With Guillaume, he visited Leeds twice – once to have a look at the lab, the campus and city, then again to write the proposal with me. By doing this, you discuss every element of the proposal and both have a really clear idea of how it's going to work. It's a lot of effort but very rewarding and you both make a commitment to see things through – which, of course, also gives the project more chance of success.

"In general terms, I take a methodical approach to putting in applications. Also, if you can be flexible about what you work on, you can re-orientate what you do to fit with the grant request. It's also worthwhile talking to colleagues who can advise you. There's lots of help within the University in terms of understanding the requirements – I can't tell you how much I've benefited from the European office! If you're well prepared and think ahead, when an opportunity comes along you're ready to look at it carefully and really make the most of it."

www.africacollege.leeds.ac.uk **W**

Robotics, society and ethics

Robotics technology and the impact it is having, and could potentially have, on society was the subject of a recent 'Robotics Retreat' attended by 13 leading researchers, including Professor Mick Wallis (School of Performance and Cultural Industries).

"The retreat allowed us to explore some of the key ethical, societal and legal issues presented by robotics research in contemporary society," explains Professor Wallis. "We spent three days in intensive debate, role-play, and collective drafting of some key documents. And the schedule included a café scientifique, to remind us that public opinion, knowledge and desires are very diverse."

Most people are familiar with the use of robots in industries like car manufacture or in situations too dangerous for people, such as bomb disposal and undersea exploration. Now, robotics is poised to move into a new era in which it becomes a ubiquitous enabling technology with applications touching every aspect of our lives, from cars that drive themselves to uses in household appliances and toys. However, this move into everyday use potentially raises a number of ethical concerns – such as robot autonomy, privacy and data collection – and it's important that researchers and research sponsors address and take responsibility for these concerns at an early stage of a project.

The interdisciplinary retreat was commissioned by the Societal Issues Panel of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) in conjunction with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), as part of an ongoing agenda to promote responsible innovation. It was the first time that researchers from across the robotics community were brought together with key researchers from the arts, humanities, law and social sciences. The group set out steps, including a code of practice, to ensure that the benefits of robotics technology are considered alongside societal concerns.*

Vivienne Parry, science broadcaster and lead facilitator at the event, said: "This was an extraordinary event and the involvement of arts and humanities made a great difference to the quality and range of discussion."

Professor Wallis was Principal Investigator for the 'Emergent Objects' research project co-funded by the AHRC and EPSRC as part of the 'Designing for the 21st Century' initiative. See www.emergentobjects.co.uk/ for more details.

*Source: EPSRC at www.epsrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/2010/Pages/ethicsofrobotics.aspx



An embodied conversation: Isabel Jones and 'SpiderCrab', a prototype robot designed by Emergent Objects at the University to be a responsive dance-partner. (Photo: Geoffrey Fielding)

New look for University House's Function Floor

Hosts of VIPs – politicians, industry leaders and ambassadors amongst them – have been through the doors of University House, many of them to attend events in rooms on the Function Floor.

Now the Function Floor is to undergo a refurbishment, enabling the University to continue its long tradition of providing meeting facilities and excellent hospitality for our faculties and schools, as well as many external clients.

"We like to think that the top quality services provided by the Function Floor have played a vital part in enhancing the University's reputation through the years," says Bev Kenny, Head of Catering and Conferencing. "Now, as part of our commitment to constantly upgrade our facilities, Commercial Services has approved a project to improve and refurbish the Function Floor."

The largest space, the Woodhouse Suite, is to be completely refurbished, with new carpeting and a suspended ceiling and lighting.



It will also include an acoustic folding wall system to divide the suite into the Great and Little Woodhouse Rooms. The entrance, stairs and corridors of University House will have new carpets and full redecoration.

"We always listen to customer feedback, and they have been telling us that they want a smarter, more professional ambience," continues Bev. "I'm sure that our customers' experience will be greatly enhanced by these changes."

The work will take place early in 2011 and the Function Floor will re-open at the beginning of March. Customers can keep up to date with the project via www.meetinleeds.co.uk **W**

Embassy reception for Japan alumni

Nearly 100 Leeds alumni, together with 40 other guests, attended a special reception at the British Ambassador's Residence in Tokyo, making it the largest event of this kind staged by the University in Japan.

Guest of honour was Dr Shuhei Toyoda, President of Toyota Boshoku Corporation and Leeds alumnus. Also present were the British Ambassador Mr David Warren, Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur, International Director Dr Judith Lamie, Head of School of Modern Languages and Cultures Professor Mark Williams, Research Professor in Translation Studies Tony Hartley, Programme Manager (International) Adam Getliff, Enterprise & Innovation Office, University of Leeds Japan Representative Aiko Mizumori and Academic Fellow in Japanese Studies Dr Kweku Ampiah.

"The event went extremely well. We were delighted to see so many of our alumni,

as well as guests from commercial and educational institutions and some of our students who are currently studying in Japan," said Dr Lamie. "Celebrating the recent successes of the University and communicating our overall vision and ambitions for the future will really help us to build stronger relationships with our alumni – especially those living near Tokyo.

"Our alumni are important ambassadors and we want to actively engage them in raising the profile of Leeds in Japan. They can offer valuable connections within industry and education, and an occasion such as this reception offers an opportunity to find out more about their careers and

how the University might work with them in the future. The event also gave us an opportunity to re-engage with industrial partners. It demonstrated the richness of our connections in Japan and the diverse talent of our alumni.

"A second, smaller reception held in Osaka later in the week saw industrialists networking with academic and government partners in a truly valuable event for all concerned."

The University is currently in touch with more than 1,000 alumni across Japan, some 450 of whom live in the greater Tokyo region.



Renewing links with Leeds (l-r): Toshihiko Okamoto (International Construction Management and Engineering 1991), unknown guest, Mariko Okamoto (Applied Translation Studies 2002) and the Vice-Chancellor.

News round-up


New archive at University for history and philosophy of science scholars

The archives of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science (BSPS) have been brought together and catalogued for the first time and are now housed in the University's Library. The archive spans the years 1948-2000 and was catalogued by Peter Vickers, a former postgraduate student in the Department of Philosophy, supervised by Professor Steven French, a past President of the Society. The archive joins that of the British Society for the History of Science, and together they offer a unique set of resources for scholars in the history and philosophy of science.

The BSPS has existed for over 50 years and holds regular meetings at the London School of Economics, as well as an annual conference that attracts scholars from around the world. It also publishes *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, supports numerous conferences in the philosophy of science across the UK and funds a postgraduate scholarship.

Further details can be found at www.thebsps.org/ 

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act became law on 1 October 2010, replacing previous legislation and making equality law simpler and easier to understand. The Act provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all. It covers the same groups that were protected by existing equality legislation and extends some protections to the following: gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; and pregnancy and maternity. The legislation also strengthens particular aspects of equality law, and includes a mixture of rights and responsibilities that have been introduced for the first time, changed, been extended or stayed the same. For more information go to www.equality.leeds.ac.uk/ 

12 Days of Fitness at The Edge

Experience 12 days of Fitness at The Edge for only £12! Providing full access to all of the new facilities, which include a 200-station, fully air-conditioned Fitness Suite as well as the 25m eight-lane pool, extensive class programme, climbing wall, café and much more. It's the perfect way to come and try the fantastic new facilities.

To book your 12 days, simply email edgemembership@leeds.ac.uk or call the Sales and Marketing team on 0113 343 7406 to book an appointment. Offer available in December only.

Centre for Global Development launches in Leeds



Delegates attend the launch event.

The new Centre for Global Development had its official launch recently, with an event that included exhibitions, presentations and a stimulating discussion on the theme of 'rethinking global development'.

The evening was introduced by the Centre's director, Professor Gordon Crawford (School of Politics and International Studies), who said: "This really is a re-launch, given that this new Centre has emerged from the old Centre for Development Studies that was originally established back in 1984, and I'd like to pay tribute to former directors who sustained the centre for more than a quarter century.

"The re-naming as the Centre for Global Development reflects the reality of the contemporary global world characterised by globalisation and growing interconnectedness, with poverty and inequality being common issues in all regions of both the Global South and North. A key *raison d'être* of the Centre is to bring together the research and teaching activities that go on in different parts of the University in the area of global development, as is evident from the range of exhibits here from different Schools and Departments."

Speakers at the launch were introduced by the Centre's deputy director Dr Ricky

Kalliecharan (Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development). They included Duncan Green, Oxfam GB's head of research, who spoke on 'Rethinking global development – crisis as opportunity'. Professor Jenny Pearce (University of Bradford) talked about rethinking the meaning of participatory development and Professor Armando Barrientos (University of Manchester) on rethinking poverty reduction and the role of cash transfers. Finally, Professor Ruth Pearson from the University of Leeds presented on rethinking feminism and gender justice in the global economy.

An example of the Centre's activities is its lead role, with the Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York, in a new and dynamic WUN network on Transformative

Justice. This aims to generate a research paradigm shift in the area of responses to mass violence and human rights abuses. An international conference will be held at the University to explore this emerging research theme on 12-13 May 2011.

Future events will include a postgraduate research event in early 2011, bringing together PhD students across the University involved in global development research. Through such interactions it is intended that synergies in inter-disciplinary research and teaching activities can be enhanced within the University and with external partners.

For more information, and to listen to the presentations made at the launch, visit www.polis.leeds.ac.uk/centre-global-development/ **W**



Launching the Centre for Global Development (l-r): Professors Jenny Pearce, Gordon Crawford and Ruth Pearson, Oxfam's Duncan Green, Professor Armando Barrientos and Dr Ricky Kalliecharan.

What does the University look like?

A clear and complete picture of the people that make up the University's staff will be available from early next year, thanks to a comprehensive exercise currently being undertaken to gather equality data.

"It's really important that we have an accurate record of our staff in terms of ethnic origin, disabilities, gender identity, sexual orientation and religion, so that we can ensure our policies are shaped to meet people's needs and that we fulfil our legal requirements," explains Sarah Hubbard, acting head of Equality Service.

"Previous processes didn't gather sufficient equality data – indeed some staff may have joined us before this information was even

a requirement – so now we're asking all University employees to complete the survey. This will give us a comprehensive profile of our staff.

"Our staff are an incredibly valuable asset and it's through them that we will achieve our vision. It's essential that we effectively measure and monitor how our recruitment, staff development and promotion practices operate to ensure that we make the best use of our people. There is also a legal requirement to monitor data and to promote equality under the 2010 Equality Act, so it's important that we find out about areas of under and over-representation, or barriers to equal treatment, that we might need to address in future.

"There is a 'prefer not to answer' for all options on the survey, although it would help us if people complete as much of the information as possible. I'd also stress that the survey is completely confidential and that responses will only be used for statistical purposes; no individual staff member will be identifiable."

All staff will be sent a copy of the survey, or given one by their managers, to complete in private. If you have any questions about the survey, please visit www.equality.leeds.ac.uk/for-staff/good-practice-guidance/data-monitoring-why-is-it-important/ or email equality@leeds.ac.uk **W**



This year's *Living it Green* campaign in student residences got off to a great start, with enthusiastic Environmental Representatives – Reps – now in place on most sites encouraging their fellow residents to think about environmental issues.

“Student involvement in sustainability issues in our residences started in 2005, and it's since gone from strength to strength,” says Mike Leonard, Residential Services (RS). “Environmental Reps sit on Residents’ Committees and work with other student volunteers and site staff to provide students with information about issues such as energy conservation, waste management, alternative transport, and the *Leave Leeds Tidy* and *Green Streets* recycling campaigns.”

“The benefits of using students as Reps is that they are talking to their peers and can actively enlist volunteers on their sites,” explains Rose Hampton, Leeds University Union. “Reps do a great job of raising awareness of issues throughout the year and really do make a difference – on some sites participation in recycling has gone up from 20% to 98%.”

“As well as benefiting their environment, Reps also get to learn skills such as marketing, planning and communication – which help make *Living it Green* a success and also contribute to the Reps’ CVs. We give them special training, too, and they get a toolkit with information to help them encourage other residents to take a sustainable approach.”

RS looks after around 7,400 bed spaces on 13 sites in Leeds, and surpasses other privately-run residential sites in established environmental practices that are managed on University residential sites.

OWLs update

The OWLs energy monitoring initiative is continuing; this year, five blocks at Lupton Residences have had the electricity monitors installed. “We took a baseline by monitoring energy use for three weeks and we’ll evaluate future performance against that,” says Liz Watson, who is on a Sustainable Development placement.

“During the rest of the year, we’re going to be trying to find ways of encouraging residents to monitor and reduce their energy consumption. Initial trials have had positive results with some flats saving up to 27%, although net block savings have been more modest with some flats increasing usage slightly. We hope to find the right incentive and keep the momentum going with positive messages and promotion of the scheme.”

Liz is on a placement sponsored by 2 Save Energy which produces the OWL energy monitors.

Want to own an OWL?

Liz has two standard OWLs and three OWL Micros to give away. All she wants in return is to receive a short report on the benefits users experience after using their OWL wireless electricity monitor at home for a month. The first five people to email energysave@leeds.ac.uk will receive an OWL. The closing date is 31 December 2010.



At the bike hub: Dr Lizzie Reather with Barney Caven (right) and mechanic Tony Woodrup.

Join the chain gang

Thinking about cycling to work, but can't quite make the leap into the saddle? Look no further than the Bike Users Group (BUG) – a group of colleagues from across the University that can offer advice, information and support about most aspects of cycling in the city.

“Whether you want to know suggestions for quieter cycle routes, what to look for when buying a particular kind of bike or maintenance tips, members of BUG can help you,” says Will Crocombe (School of Medicine), joint-Chair of BUG.

BUG has been established in its present form for around 10 years and now has nearly 200 members. As well as providing advice, BUG is also proactive in working with the University and other local organisations to promote cycling to work as a cheaper, healthier and often quicker alternative to going by car or public transport.

“The group is expanding rapidly and we’re seeing increasing numbers of enquiries from colleagues interested in taking the cycle option,” says joint-Chair Dr Lizzie Reather (Faculty of Medicine and Health). “Cycling to work has become a lot easier in the last months, with the introduction of the bike hub – a free, bi-weekly, drop-in maintenance facility – improved security, more safe cycle parking and new routes.

“Elsewhere in the city, students from both universities can take advantage of the bike hire scheme Velocampus, and the railway station now has a dedicated Cyclepoint. Based on a successful Dutch model, this initiative offers commuters secure, fully staffed storage for hundreds of bicycles, a maintenance and repairs service, bike rentals and information.”

If you'd like to find out more about BUG, visit their website

www.leeds.ac.uk/leedsbug/ **W**

A typical question to BUG

Is it normal to feel tired most of the time cycling to work and back every day? I have been doing this for eight weeks now from Armley, five days a week, 2.5 miles each way...and some days it feels like I'm doing it for the first time! Will this improve or should I take a break or do more?

And some answers...

- Check the basic mechanics first (a sticky hub, rubbing brakes, etc), then your set up (saddle height, reach, etc) – the bike hub folk will be able to help with this.
- For best results make sure your tyres are pumped up to pressure (it usually says on side of tyre)
- Do you ride out of the saddle up hills? It might be quicker, but few can sustain this approach over a long period – you'd be better off spinning away in the saddle.
- Think about fuel – do you eat breakfast before you leave home and perhaps something before you leave work at the end of the day?
- Eight weeks isn't that long to become a superwoman, keep at it :-)

Faculty focus

Leeds University Business School

Each edition of the *Reporter* takes a look at one of the University's nine Faculties – here, Dean of the Leeds University Business School Professor Peter Moizer tells us more about the faculty.



Peter Moizer



Faculty facts

Leeds University Business School

Faculty facts

Unlike other University faculties the Business 'faculty' is represented by one School – known as Leeds University Business School. The School is organised into subject divisions of Accounting and Finance; Economics; International Business; Management; Marketing; Work and Employment Relations, and supported by multi-disciplinary research groups and 12 cross-disciplinary research centres. These centres play an important role in fostering boundary-extending research covering the broad spectrum of business, economics, management and policy issues.

Leeds University Business School is one of the most influential business schools in the UK and the latest Research Assessment Exercise (2008) placed us in the UK top ten for the quality of our research. The School's international focus has helped it bring together 120 research students and staff from over 60 countries.

The School has retained its place in the top 100 in *The Economist's* prestigious world rankings of full-time MBA programmes. It's ranked 97 in the world, making it the highest-ranked MBA in the Yorkshire region and 35 in Europe.

<http://business.leeds.ac.uk/> **W**

<http://business.leeds.ac.uk/research-degrees/> **W**

Faculty news

The Business School shares the University's aspiration to be recognised as a top 50 global business school by 2015 and has made substantial progress towards this goal.

Following recent rapid growth, we have reviewed the School's longer term strategy and revisited how to achieve the vision and objectives in a consistent, united way. The market is changing rapidly and we face increasing pressure to defend and grow our position and stakeholder base. Following the Browne review and recommendations of the Comprehensive Spending Review differentiation will become increasingly important, so we need to be clear on our positioning within the market at a University and School level.

We attract high levels of UK/EU applications at undergraduate level and remain a selecting school (not going to clearing). The postgraduate market, too, is buoyant. The challenge now is to defend and grow our position in an increasingly competitive market. In 2010, we saw a 30% increase in international applications, as a result of focus on international marketing activity, improved admissions processes, alignment of international equivalent qualifications, introduction of new International Business programmes and a surge of new Chinese students. Our objectives are to increase

quantity, quality and diversity of international students, so we'll continue to focus on key markets and increase activity in secondary markets such as Malaysia and Kenya. In addition, we're building presence in new markets in Russia, North America, and Eastern Europe.

As part of our strategy of becoming a recognised centre of excellence in capacity building for research in management and economics, the Business School has made a significant investment in training and development for postgraduate research students. This includes the introduction of a suite of new research methods modules and research development workshops. A major innovation has been to include compulsory credits as part of the three year PhD degree. This ties in with our objective of treating a PhD as an academic apprenticeship where the focus is on developing a wider range of skills as opposed to just writing a research thesis.

The School's new Virtual Experience provides online access for students interested in Leeds but who cannot attend an open day. This site offers students the chance to meet our programme directors, professors and staff, as well as students and alumni talking about their experiences at Leeds. It also offers a virtual tour of the School to give students a feel of the facilities and surroundings.

www.virtual.business.leeds.ac.uk **W**

Raising the profile of the Business School is crucial to our success, as this will aid recruitment and secure greater loyalty from existing students, as well as raising



perceptions with our other stakeholders. To help support our students to get the most out of the learning environment, we want to be innovative and responsive in our teaching. We aim to personalise each student's journey from initial enquiry right through to their graduation and beyond. To do this, we're expanding our blended learning provision and embedding an understanding of global challenges more fully into the curriculum and student experience.

A full MBA programme re-design took place in 2010, updating the curriculum with key themes of leadership and sustainability, and incorporating an additional international component through the introduction of international study tours to China and Europe. We believe our MBA offers students real personal development and connects them to our network – especially our global alumni, other faculties and employers – combining academic excellence.

It is our strong interdisciplinary connections with other faculties that differentiates us from other Business Schools and the range of joint degree programmes and research activities we undertake are testament to this. For example, the Centre for International Business (CIBUL) works alongside the Department of East Asian Studies in the Centre for Chinese Business and Development (CCBD) and major public-sector bodies and private companies. It is the UK's premier research centre in the field of international business and is a leading centre internationally. The Centre for Employment Relations, Innovation and Change draws on the expertise of internationally renowned



scholars at the Business School and the Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law. We also house the Centre for Socio-Technical Systems Design, established to make Leeds a leader in the field of socio-technical systems design, to create processes and environments that marry an understanding of human behaviour with technical expertise. This centre has been established for just over a year, and involves a variety of disciplines including Business, Civil Engineering, Geography, Mechanical Engineering, Psychology and the School of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering. The 20-strong team has also forged strong external relationships and works in partnership with many organisations including Rolls-Royce, Arup and the Emergency Planning College.

The School has an established calendar of events for students, alumni, and business leaders. We are proud to have welcomed a range of high profile speakers and events including visits from government ministers Yvette Cooper and Alistair Darling and the first ever public event run by the Independent Banking Commission to debate the role of banks in the UK. We also run Corporate Wisdom – a lecture series for senior business leaders in the region.

Alumni play an increasingly pivotal role in building our reputation. They are integral in raising our profile, influencing rankings and helping us build programmes for the future. We are working to develop and strengthen alumni links, increase engagement both in the UK and abroad and ensure current students understand the importance of their participation as alumni and, ultimately, ambassadors of the future for the School.

Re-creating the traumatic experience of Katrina survivors.

December 2010

Learning through experience

A dark, hot, and secluded basement corridor in a University building became temporary home to several 'disaster victims' earlier this year, in a simulated learning exercise to help students hone their reporting skills.

The 'victims' were student actors playing the role of people forced to shelter in a Houston basketball stadium for days after Hurricane Katrina tore through America's southernmost states. It was here that journalists got to hear their stories for the first time, and it was this situation that second year Broadcast Journalism students were challenged with replicating. Their task was to interview the traumatised survivors and report their stories without doing them further harm.

"The students carried out the interviews with skill, compassion, and professionalism," says Dr Chris Paterson, Institute for Communications Studies (ICS). "They really impressed the professional journalists who had come from the DART Centre for Journalism and Trauma in London to conduct the exercise.

"The simulation was run by head of the European DART Centre Gavin Rees, together with former Reuters Director of News Stephen Jukes – who helped create the simulation exercise. He and other professional journalists designed it to train fellow journalists how to report on disasters and deal with victims of trauma. This was only the second time the exercise has been conducted with undergraduate students in the UK, although similar exercises have run in some leading US journalism schools and postgraduate journalism programmes here in the UK.

"The exercise was funded by the Interdisciplinary Ethics Centre (IDEA/ CETL), under the directorship of Professor Chris Megone, and the ICS, and was a component of the new Broadcast Journalism Ethics module. This module is designed to facilitate research-led teaching, and the idea for this particular exercise originated from my own research on international journalism and past research collaborations with the DART Centre."

Letters



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We're keen to receive your letters on a wide variety of topics, from campus life to political and social issues in the wider world. Please note that all letters will be published at the editor's discretion, and may be edited for brevity. The letters policy is available online.

THE EDGE TOO STEEP?

The new sports and fitness facilities at The Edge are fabulous and something the University can be very proud of. However, more work could be done on getting the user price structure right.

There has apparently been a very mixed reaction to the substantial increases in user prices. While there is an appreciation that use of very good facilities should be charged at an appropriate rate, many people have, it seemed, complained about the rather monolithic price structure. This especially applies to those users who just want to use the fitness suite facilities and are not interested in the swimming pool, sports fields, climbing wall and other facilities.

Will the management team review this, and consider introducing a more differentiated price structure that caters for all kinds of sports facility users at the University?

Professor Christopher M Dent

Department of East Asian Studies, and White Rose East Asia Centre (WREAC)

Reply: Customer feedback is extremely important to us and we are committed to continuously reviewing and improving the service we provide.

Following a period of over six months of workshops and consultation

with current members and non-members, the message that consistently arose was for a flexible and simple new membership/pricing structure. We have sought to achieve this through the options that we have available at The Edge.

There are monthly and annual all inclusive memberships which are available at different prices for peak and off-peak hours. There are also pay-as-you-go prices for all our facilities (something that isn't offered in the private sector). We have introduced 12 for the price of 10 options for swimming, fitness suite and classes – great for those people who wish to use individual facilities on a regular basis.

Staff can also save up to 30% on their membership price by paying through the salary sacrifice scheme. Private sector facilities with comparable facilities are almost double the cost of The Edge. For example, Virgin Active is over £50 per month to join and with a contract that ties people in for 12 months or more.

Since we opened on 4 May, we have been overwhelmed with an excellent response in terms of usage of the facilities and the sales of memberships, and we feel confident that the current structure provides for the majority of our customers.

Sue Pimblett

*Sales and Marketing Manager
The Edge*

Language in the digital age

Modern language experts at the University are developing computer programs which could alter how languages are taught and used around the world.

Currently, many computer-based systems for teaching and translating languages are out of date or not user-friendly. While there is a wealth of information about different languages and vocabularies available on the internet, much is badly-organised and difficult to navigate.

Dr Serge Sharoff of the Centre for Translation Studies is working on three research projects – Kelly, TTC and Accurat – to bring things up to date. He has been awarded close to £700,000 from the European Commission in recent months to fund the work.

In the Kelly project, a set of word learning cards for some of the most frequent words in Swedish, Norwegian, Greek, Polish, Arabic, English, Chinese, Russian and Italian will be developed, along with a scientific basis for measuring learners' abilities in these languages.

According to Dr Sharoff, some language teachers are unhappy with the word learning cards currently available because of inconsistencies in grading. The Kelly project is designed to produce word lists from large

collections of data and adapt them into a new, learner-centred framework.

Dr Sharoff said: "Flashcards are useful for language learners but need to be graded in terms of difficulty. This grading exists but hasn't been done rigorously until now. Words will be classified individually and by 15 subject categories – such as food and drink, nature and animals – into a visual scheme. This will allow learners and teachers to deal with words systematically, by setting clear aims, planning studies and controlling progress."

TTC (Terminology Extraction, Translation Tools and Comparable Corpora) aims to provide new tools for translators by producing up-to-date term lists from original texts in French, German, Spanish, Chinese and Russian for rapidly developing areas, such as wind energy or mobile phones. This will be done by taking a variety of different methods utilising a large amount of original texts in these languages. Such term banks can be used for translation, including machine translation – using computer software to translate speech or text from one language to another – and computer-assisted translation tools – translators using computers to assist in their work – with multilingual content management tools.

The third project, Accurat, will research new methods and techniques to overcome one of the main problems of machine translation – the lack of linguistic resources for languages which are relatively under-represented on computers, such as Latvian, Estonian, Romanian, Greek and Croatian.

Dr Sharoff said: "The main goal is to find and evaluate new ways to exploit the properties of independently written while still similar texts in some languages in order to compensate for the shortage of resources for translation between them. Ultimately, this is to improve translation tools for languages that are currently poorly-served."



Leader of the three language research projects
Dr Serge Sharoff.

Leader column

Professor Michael J P Arthur
University Vice-Chancellor



By the time you read this, MPs will in all likelihood have voted on the contribution graduates will be expected to make towards their degrees from 2012 onwards.

The principle that students should meet some of the cost of their education – and that a higher education system with over 40 per cent participation could not be funded by taxpayers alone – was enshrined in law and public policy (in England) in 1997. Upfront fees were replaced some nine years later by a fairer system of contributions, which could be paid after graduation.

So it takes some doing for the coalition government to have rendered this issue so controversial and emotive.

Part of the explanation lies in the Lib Dem's misguided pledges on fees, which evoked heartfelt protests from young people, a blizzard of comment and debate and a fair amount of cynical political posturing. But it is the draconian nature and distribution of the £2.9bn government cuts to higher education (from a budget of £7.1bn) that has caused such unhappiness and has even raised questions about the very principle of graduate contributions.

Inconsistent decisions flying in the face of stated policies have also added to a sense of injustice; from 2012 onwards, universities charging students more than £6,000 a year will be required to satisfy increasingly stringent conditions for widening participation and access, while at the same time the government is abolishing the education maintenance allowance (EMA) and Aimhigher.

The proposed removal of government funding of some £3,700 from every undergraduate course – effectively withdrawing all direct funding from arts, humanities and social sciences courses – is deeply problematic, and sends the wrong signals about the value of these subjects. If one of the government's responsibilities is to bend and shape higher education in the national interest, it should maintain a stake

in the teaching of every student in the land, and the simplest way of doing that is directly funding every course. Their explanation – that this is a re-routing of government funding via the student fees loan (some 40 per cent of which will never be recovered) – although technically correct, is a complex message that is currently failing to win hearts and minds.

Concern around these issues has understandably obscured the positive elements in the government's fee proposals and there remains confusion about who is paying how much, for what and when.

Every day brings a different statistical analysis of the new fee regime but they generally agree that the poorest students will be better off. The Institute for Fiscal Studies forecasts* that those in the bottom 30 per cent of lifetime earnings would actually pay back less than under the current system, while only the highest-earning 30 per cent of graduates would pay back the full amount of their loans. That is an effective subsidy for the less well off from the taxpayer, and from wealthier graduates who will pay more. There are some 580,000 part-time students; under the current system, they are all paying upfront fees; in future they also will be able to borrow the full cost of their education and pay it back when they can afford to.

Debate and protest will continue until and beyond December 9, but my prediction is that the raising of the cap on fees to £9,000 will go through Parliament, to be followed later this month by more detail about the 40 per cent higher education cut in the funding letter from BIS to HEFCE, and then finally in HEFCE's funding letters to individual universities in January. We expect these letters and the proposed spring White Paper to provide more detail about our funding for the years up to 2014/15.

To be clear – we expect the government to have removed some £60m annually from our teaching budget by 2014/15 and the only realistic and viable way forward is an increase in fees, to a minimum of £7-8,000, if we wish only to stand still. Research and science funding has of course been protected (albeit with a cut in real terms of around 9 per cent by 2014).

Our world will begin to look very different. Decisions on fees will have to be strategic and reflect the quality of education we wish to provide; are we content to 'stand still', or will we generate enough to invest in more staff (or recruit fewer students) and facilities? We have set up a pricing and bursary review to bring forward an initial report to Senate (and Council) next month.

Differential fees will potentially cause volatility in student demand from year to year and across courses, and I am sure we will not be immune from this. If we wish to continue helping to support subjects through difficult times, we will have to generate larger surpluses to provide funds to take us through the lean years. Surpluses have sometimes been wrongly characterised as a lost opportunity; they will be vital to our future academic sustainability.

Finally, we will have to get better at what we do, and that will involve scrutiny of teaching standards. We need to ensure the Partnership Agreement helps to promote a balance of expectations and responsibilities between students and academics, so each understands and acknowledges the others' needs; so students understand how research guides their teaching and how they benefit from that, and all our academics appreciate what students need and deserve.

*www.ifs.org.uk/publications/5302

In the news



An article in *Men's Health* on strategies people can use to ensure they keep their **working hours** within manageable limits included comments from Dr David Spencer (Leeds University Business School).

Professor Andrew Hill provided expertise for the *Mirror's* feature on the **obesity epidemic**. Commenting on the increasingly common problem of obesity, Professor Hill said that people were fighting strong biological forces: "Our instinct is to eat whatever food there is – this would have helped our ancestors build up fat supplies which the body could use in times of famine."

The **Independent Banking Commission** panel debate held at Leeds University Business School attracted media attention. The event was mentioned on BBC1's *Breakfast*, *Radio 5 Live* and *Radio Leeds*, and a report on the discussions also appeared in the *Financial Times*.



Dr Andy Challinor (School of Earth and Environment) discussed **large-scale crop failure** on BBC Radio 4's *Farming Today* programme.

Minister of State for Universities and Science David Willetts gave a key speech at the Universities UK Annual Conference talking about future funding in which he specifically mentioned the **University spin-out Science Warehouse**. He said: "One service in particular lends itself to savings by sharing – procurement. Collectively, universities spend around £9 billion annually on non-pay costs, including procuring goods and services. They can save on that by acting in concert. I welcome HEFCE's recent proposals here, and urge universities to consider entering e-market places like Zanzibar or – for more specific services – Science Warehouse. The potential savings are very large indeed."

Dr Joanna Sadgrove was quoted in a *Metro* piece about gay people in Uganda forced into hiding after being outed by a newspaper. She said: "There is anxiety about **homosexuality in Uganda**, but it is a 'don't ask, don't tell' culture."

Dr Phil Livermore (School of Earth and Environment) was interviewed on *Radio Slovenia* about the **changing geomagnetic field** and possible consequences of magnetic reversals.

Two of the University's academics featured in media articles about **North Korea**. Professor Christoph Bluth (School of Politics and International Studies) wrote in the *Yorkshire Post* about the issues of succession facing the current leader Kim Jong-il.

Aidan Foster-Carter's article on the same subject for the *Financial Times* online, also featured as one of the *New Statesman's* 'must read' articles. He also appeared on several news programmes, including BBC Radio 4's *Today*, commenting on the escalating conflict between North and South Korea.

Professor Chris McCabe (Leeds Institute of Health Sciences) talked about the launch of **cancer drug fund** in broadcasts on *BBC1 South Today*, *BBC Radio Devon*, *BBC 1 Spotlight* and *Sky News*.

Professor Animesh Jha (Institute for Materials Research) was interviewed by *CNBC Europe* about the **shortage of rare earth minerals** and how the Chinese are tightening their export of these materials. China produces 97% of these metals, which are used to make many high-tech products, including flat-screen TVs and mobile phones. Professor Jha also commented in an article on *BBC News online*, saying: "The Chinese definitely feel they have total control of it [export] – just like the Middle East had control over oil."

Professor Clive Upton (School of English) featured in an article *Teen slang: What's, like, so wrong with like?* on *BBC Online*, and also appeared on BBC Radio Five Live's *breakfast programme* as an expert on **modern English language**.

Professor Howard Atkinson (Centre for Plant Sciences) appeared on Channel 4's documentary *What the Green Movement got Wrong*. The programme featured **environmentalists** challenging the movement they helped to create and advocating radical solutions to climate change.

Professor Francis O'Gorman (Head of the School of English) was on the *Today* programme discussing a speech Education Secretary Michael Gove made at the Conservative Party Conference on **teaching literature in schools**. Professor O'Gorman said that school literature should be accessible to all and discussed the importance of Britain's literary classics to a child's development.



Further details of press coverage can be found at <http://mediacuttings.leeds.ac.uk/index.aspx> **W**

Our people

School of Healthcare appoints new Chairs

The School of Healthcare has appointed two new Chairs as part of a planned strategic development to reflect a research intensive culture; **Professor Dawn Dowding** is the Chair of Applied Health Research and **Professor William Montelpare** is the Chair of Allied Health Sciences.



Professor Dowding completed her registered nurse training at St Bartholomew's College of Nursing and Midwifery, and has a BSc (Hons) in Psychology with Nursing Studies and a PhD in Psychology and Nursing. She is a health services researcher, nurse and recently completed a Harkness Fellowship in Health Care Policy and Practice, based with the Institute of Health Policy at Kaiser Permanente, Oakland, California. A fellow of the European Association of Nursing Scholarship, she is also clinical editor for the *Nursing Times* and a member of the Medical Research Council College of Experts. Professor Dowding has attracted over £1.2 million in external research funding from a variety of funding sources, published more than 30 articles in peer reviewed journals, and co-authored/co-edited two books on decision making in nursing. She comments: "I hope to bring international experience of healthcare delivery to the School, as well as my research into healthcare decision-making, to complement the strong clinical focus of existing research programmes."



Professor Montelpare began his research career in Canada specialising in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Exercise Science. He developed the undergraduate degree in Health Studies at Brock University before joining Lakehead University as Director of the School of Kinesiology. Progressing to Dean of Graduate Studies, he developed the first Masters in Public Health degree in Canada, and his radical approach of incorporating practice and academic study led to the broader adoption and recognition of public health as a respected area of postgraduate study. This pioneering programme was also the first Masters degree to be offered entirely online, and was accredited by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

"I hope to continue my research interests in Health Science across three key areas; the epidemiology of injuries, promoting health science and technology to young children and developing online programmes for curriculum delivery," says Professor Montelpare.

Honours

Send your honours to the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk

Professor Peter Knippertz is now a member of the editorial board of the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*. In other developments, he also gave an invited talk on his new ERC-funded project 'Desert Storms' at the Met Office and, together with Professor Stephen Mobbs, represents Leeds on the steering committee of a new initiative run through *BBC News* called 'The Weather Test: A BBC News partnership'. This project will study the predictions of a number of bodies and people using different forecasting methods and attempt to conclude which is most accurate

Mr Ernest Kirkby – a specialist in Plant Nutrition and former member of the Faculty of Biological Sciences – has been awarded a Doctor of Science (DSc) degree by the Higher Doctorates Committee. Mr Kirkby retired from the University in 1996 after 33 years. He was also Warden of Sadler and Devonshire Halls for some 32 years, and organised the Leeds Clog Dancers group.

Professor John Blundell (Institute of Psychological Sciences) has been appointed as the 2010 Distinguished Visiting International Scholar at Rhode Island University. During a short period in residence, Professor Blundell will present one public and one faculty lecture, meet with the Provost and Deans, deliver a research seminar and give talks to graduate and undergraduate students. Professor Blundell has also been awarded the British Nutrition Foundation Prize for 2010.

Surya Subedi (OBE), Professor of International Law at the University, has been appointed a member of new Human Rights Advisory Group being established by Foreign Secretary Mr William Hague. The Group will advise the Foreign Secretary about human rights challenges and the Foreign Office on the conduct of its policy. It will be chaired by the Foreign Secretary.

The History of Science Society has presented **Dr Gregory Radick** (Department of Philosophy) with the Suzanne J. Levinson Prize for Best Book in the Life Sciences and Natural History, for his book *The Simian Tongue: The Long Debate about Animal Language*. The History of Science Society is the world's largest society dedicated to understanding science, technology, medicine, and their interactions with society in historical context.

Professor Peter Buckley (Leeds University Business School) has been granted the Cheung Kong Scholar Chair Professorship by the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) in Beijing. The award was presented by UIBE President Professor Shi Jianjun. The selection of the Cheung Kong Scholar is based on a world-wide competition, and is intended to promote international development of Chinese universities by introducing world-class scholars and their academic achievements.

As a result of its recent inspection at the University, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) will use Leeds as an example of 'best practice' on how to manage multi-site studies at the MHRA Good Clinical Practice symposia being held in Manchester this month. Colleagues from the University – including those from the **Clinical Trials Research Unit** and the **Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust** pharmacy – were asked to contribute to a session on a multidisciplinary team approach to large multicentre trials

Congratulations to Leeds alumnus **Jon Hammond** (Geography 2002) who won two gold medals for Scotland at the recent Commonwealth Games in Delhi. Jon won the first medal with Neil Stirton in the 50m rifle prone pairs final, and followed it up a day later with a win in the 50m rifle prone when he fired a winning score of 696.9 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

Small ads

Small ads can be submitted online at <http://smallads.leeds.ac.uk> **W**

The charge is £7 for 10 words or part thereof (University members) or £10 (general public).

The deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, 5 January 2011 at 4pm.

For enquiries please contact Jenny on 0113 343 4027 or email j.bennett@adm.leeds.ac.uk

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For sale (general)

SLIM-LINE HOOVER DISHWASHER £135. Nearly new, excellent condition. **0794 028 5459** daricatt88@gmail.com

House for sale

OTLEY HOUSE FOR SALE Three-bedroom house with views of Dales, for sale in Otley with Dacre Son and Hartley. £219,950. **Richard Badger 0113 343 4644** r.g.badger@education.leeds.ac.uk

House/flat/room to let

1-BEDROOM CITY-CENTRE APARTMENT £590pm, available November **Ann Clements 0796 355 9837** ann@annclements.co.uk

Holiday home to let

STAITHES WATERFRONT FISHERMAN'S COTTAGE N. Yorks Moors. Wi-Fi www.northside-cottage.co.uk **0774 028 6588**

LAKE COMO ITALY APARTMENT and cottage Pateley Bridge, Nidderdale davidhawcroft@btinternet.com

SKI@LA PLAGNE Two-bed apt (sleeps six), in beautiful village of Montchavin, easy access to slopes, staff discount. **a.e.king@leeds.ac.uk**

MOROCCO: FABULOUS BERBER HOUSE in Dades Valley, High Atlas. Sleeps six (two doubles, one twin). Available Easter 2011, £450 pw. Can give lots of advice on your trip. www.saharaatlastours.com helencolley37@googlemail.com

Other

RESEARCH STUDY – £15! Take part in an exciting study looking at the influence of personality and daily stress on cortisol (hormone found in saliva). Participants receive £15 for completion of the study. **Please contact for more information. Nicola Gartland N.K.Gartland07@leeds.ac.uk**

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Double impact

Two new publications have been launched highlighting how the University is having an impact on global issues.

10 Ways to a More Sustainable World features a selection of University projects with the potential to have a significant positive impact in the field of global sustainability. The chosen ten include breakthrough discoveries, green products and technology, innovative spin-out companies and research projects which have informed key public policies. They were chosen following an intense University-wide competition, and showcase some of the world-class ways in which the University can have a major impact on the way we live today.

Speaking at the launch Pro-Vice-Chancellor for International Partnerships Professor Richard Williams, said: "Today it is more important than ever to demonstrate how the work taking place at universities impacts on the world around us. The *10 Ways* provides an opportunity to showcase the global impact of our work in the vital area of sustainability to a wider audience, including the business community, research funders, policy makers and the public."

Further information on the *10 Ways* can be found on www.leeds.ac.uk/research-and-innovation **W**



The latest edition of the University's flagship research and innovation magazine *Impact* has been published and is also available online. This issue looks at the latest techniques for targeting cancer, how Leeds research drives the low carbon economy, and the latest success stories in commercialising innovation.

To download a copy visit www.leeds.ac.uk/impact/ **W**

Noticeboard



The Adventures of Pinocchio – special offer

“Enchanting from start to finish” is how the *Guardian* has described Opera North’s production of *Pinocchio*.


In a fairytale world full of colourful characters, the audience join Pinocchio on his quest to become a real boy. He’s tricked by the sly Fox and clever Cat, his lying nose is pecked by woodpeckers, he’s captured in the Big Green Fisherman’s net and is even turned into a performing donkey.

Now University staff are entitled to 50% off adult tickets to performances of *The Adventures of Pinocchio* at the Grand Theatre in Leeds on 17, 23, 29, 30, 31 December. Not only that, tickets for children aged 16 and under are just £5.

To book call 0844 848 2720 and quote ‘Dare More’.

“When it is over, you want it to start again.” The *Times*

“...leaves adults as well as kids gasping with wonder and surprise. Beautiful stuff and enchanting from start to finish.” The *Guardian*

For further information about *Pinocchio* and other Opera North productions, visit www.operanorth.co.uk 

Staff Christmas Party 2010

There’s still time to get tickets for the 2010 Staff Christmas Party, which is being held on Friday 17 December – and this year, you can bring a friend or partner.

Once again, the event will see the Refectory decorated in a festive fashion where guests will enjoy a three-course dinner, followed by dancing to a live band and DJ or, if you prefer something quieter, just sit back, relax and chat in the Terrace Bar.

Staff are welcome to bring guests (one guest per member of staff) and tickets cost £25 each. The tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so order yours now!

To book go to www.leeds.ac.uk/comms/christmas or call Paul Ellingham on 31850. 



Beardsley and the Book Illustrators

A new exhibition of book illustrations from the University’s collections and also private collections is now showing at the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery.

Fancy & Imagination – Beardsley and the Book Illustrators celebrates the richness and variety of book illustrations during the period between 1890 and the 1920s.

The exhibition includes the work of major illustrators, including Aubrey Beardsley, Arthur Rackham, Harry Clarke, Edmund Dulac, Walter Crane, Kate Greenaway, Kay Nielsen and Jessie M King.

A complementary display, exploring the publishers, presses and printing methods of the 1890s, will be open to the public in Special Collections at the University. A catalogue related to the main exhibition and this complementary display will be available for sale in the Gallery shop.

The exhibition runs until 12 February 2011. Admission is free and the gallery is open from 10-5pm, Monday to Saturday. Further details are available on the website www.leeds.ac.uk/gallery/ 

Pyssla – Scandinavian Christmas Crafts

Inspired by the fairy-tale world of Kay Nielsen which can be seen in the current exhibition at the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, the Saturday Club presents Christmas craft fun. The free, drop-in activity is suitable for all ages and takes place at the Gallery on Saturday, 18 December 2010, 2-4pm. No booking necessary.



FAQs

Dr Stephen Turnbull

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

You're a leading expert on Japanese culture and religion – how did that come about?

It started when I was a little boy making model soldiers and I was fascinated by the Samurai warriors. Later on I took up judo when I was at university and decided to research who the Samurai were and what they did. When I began my studies, interest was unheard of in those days, particularly it being relatively soon after the Second World War, and I more or less had the field to myself. I remember asking to see a library book about Japan, and the last borrower had been nearly 40 years ago!

The first time I went to Japan it was 1970 and took me three days to get there and another three to get back, going across Russia in short hops. I was there for six weeks and came back home with all this fascinating information, almost as if I'd been to the moon! I've been going back ever since and now visit once a year usually for a research project.

What have you done with all the knowledge about Japan that you've amassed?

I teach a module called *Samurai and the Sacred* which is always very popular – this year I have 99 students. I've also written lots of articles and over 70 books – mostly popular books, rather than academic texts – and have advised film-makers such as the BBC and the Discovery Channel. Although my main specialism is Japanese religion, I've also studied Chinese and Korean history and military history in general.

You've recently come back from Hollywood – very glamorous! – what were you doing there?

I've been asked to be historical adviser on a new film that's being made starring

Keanu Reeves. The producers wanted it to be as historically and culturally accurate as possible, so they're consulting me – which is incredibly exciting!

The film is called *The 47 Ronin* and is based on a legendary event in Japanese history which involves a siege of a castle, mass suicide and ghosts! The 47 Ronin – or leaderless samurai – took revenge and killed a court official who was responsible for the death of their master. For this crime they were all sentenced to commit seppuku (ritual suicide). The story has become an important part of Japanese folklore and culture. Just a few years after the 1703 event, plays about it were being performed and the legend has now been the subject of more than 90 films. It's incredibly popular and crops up in all kinds of ways; the best thing I've seen was a towel with the 47 Ronin depicted in the guise of Hello Kitty!

How was your visit to Tinseltown?

I was very impressed with the professionalism of the people working on the film. I met set designers, stunt coordinators and scriptwriters, and even got to meet Keanu Reeves. He was a very nice, intelligent man who seemed fully involved with the process. He asked me questions about the legend and summed it up by saying: "So, basically, these guys became great heroes in Japan because they kicked ass" – which is more or less true. He was also kind enough to sign my DVD box set of *The Matrix*!

So, what can we expect from the film?

It's due for release in autumn 2012 and I honestly haven't got the faintest idea what will be on screen. I did have some input into the script but it seems the script-writer

is the least important person in the whole process and things get re-written, re-written again and then re-written a bit more! I do know that the director, Carl Rinsch, has got an excellent visual sense and I think the film will look amazing. They're also bringing in some fantastic creatures into the story – computer generated – which are based on beasts in Japanese religion and mythology, so that will make a really exciting evening's entertainment.

I'm very proud to be part of the project – I really think it will make the Japanese film industry intensely jealous and furious because they didn't think of it first!

What's your most frequently asked question?

Why are you interested in Japanese culture?

Is there a Samurai skill or character trait that you'd like to have?

No, not really. I've been fascinated by them for 45 years, it's almost my life's work, but I don't really find much to admire about them.

Who would you take with you on a delicate diplomatic mission?

I can think of several people, but they're the kind of people who would rather stay out of the limelight so I won't name them. Many people who work in those situations prefer to put themselves into the background, which I think is as it should be.

What about the future – have you got a major ambition?

I've published 69 books and they've been translated into many languages including German, Dutch, Japanese, Korean and Chinese. At the moment I've got several other writing projects on the go, so my aim is to publish 100 books!