



Breaking news!

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Leader column

New beginnings

On 25 September 2013 – the first day of the academic year – the University will welcome an estimated 6,300 undergraduate students from the UK and the European Union, 600 students from other continents, 3,500 postgraduate taught students, 700 PhD students, post-docs, new faculty and professional staff and one new Vice-Chancellor. Each has received a warm welcome from a University that has a fine heritage, strong values and a commitment to academic excellence, and this is greatly appreciated.

I am proud to be the University's twelfth Vice-Chancellor and I will strive from the outset to serve the whole community well, sustaining an environment that advances the creation, diffusion and application of knowledge. This means a University that is enriching and inspiring for students, with a dynamic, internationally competitive research base and a vibrant PhD and post-doc community: an institution which has a positive economic, social and cultural influence on the city and the country. I envisage a self-confident University with a healthy respect for academic freedom and critical independent minds – a community of scholars committed to high standards and continuous improvement, willing to trumpet its successes.

These are very early days for me, with only tantalising glimpses of the University's work on arts and culture, human health, climate change and global society and business. I have also enjoyed brief visits to the Astbury Centre and stage@leeds, and I was impressed by the University's handling of a recent visit from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the energy generated by the Alumni and Development team and our students at the campaign weekend. I have a growing appreciation of the size, shape and dynamics of the campus and I have enjoyed my preliminary meetings with the deans and other senior staff. I hope to visit all schools and services in the coming months and strongly encourage staff and students to introduce themselves when I am out and about on campus.

Perhaps the most striking features for me so far are the University's commitment to learning and teaching of the highest quality, the success of the Leeds for Life approach, which fuses the academic and co-curricular experiences of our students, and the gold standard achieved by Leeds University Union and its compelling vision for student life and Partnership with the University. The University's commitment to spot talent early and to boost the aspirations,



attainment and achievement of students from challenging backgrounds is rightly a source of pride and we will continue to work with our alumni and supporters to encourage much-needed scholarship support and promote student enterprise and internship programmes.

The University is defined nationally and internationally by the quality of the education and research we provide and the talent we attract. As the world becomes smaller but more complex, serious research-intensive universities like Leeds have to be internationally competitive and collaborative. The mobility of people and programmes, the trend towards collaborative research and the interconnectedness of universities are already driving curriculum development and opening up wider research horizons. Despite the economic realities facing the country, international cooperation must not be defined solely in terms of financial opportunity or commercial diplomacy. There are more important issues at stake, which play to the altruism and expertise of the University.

Against the background of an expanding world population and an unfair distribution of resources, we have a responsibility to engage with climate change, global health challenges, and questions of energy, food and water security. We have to cast light on the social and economic impact of these issues, understanding the human and ethical implications of our responses and encouraging open and informed debate. We will also have to accommodate new technology with the potential to change the way we think about the acquisition of new knowledge, the way we learn and the way we assimilate and analyse large, interlinked data sets for research.

The University cannot be a passive observer in all of this – we should be willing to reach out to other parts of the world and be a significant international gathering point for these discussions. Existing initiatives like water@leeds are leading the way and others will follow.

These are some early thoughts from a new Vice-Chancellor who feels privileged to have such strong foundations to build on. To quote from Alvin Kernan's memoir *In Plato's Cave*, these ideas will have to be "smoothed against the grindstone of accumulated knowledge from the past and the real, present needs of an effective educational system". My challenge is to find the right balance between continuity and change – to maintain a line of sight to all that is good from the past whilst recognising the imperatives and the opportunities that will help us shape the future.

My final words of appreciation are reserved for Professor Michael Arthur who stepped down as Vice-Chancellor at the end of August to take up his new post at University College London. Michael has been a huge asset to the University and the city of Leeds over the past nine years – his achievements and the warmth of his personality will have enduring respect and he will always be welcome here. He has shown great personal kindness towards me in recent months and I look forward to working with him in the Russell Group and, hopefully, on other UK-wide projects.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Langlands'.

Alan Langlands

News

Works starts on landmark library building



Professor Vivien Jones, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Student Education, gets to grips with the digger



Members of the Library team, many of whom will be working in the new building

Building work on the University's new £27.5m undergraduate library site has begun, with a ground-breaking ceremony marking the official start of the 72-week project.

Our then Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur donned safety gear and took to a JCB to break the first piece of ground on the site. He was watched by University colleagues, many of whom will be working in the new library when it opens in early 2015.

Also present for the ceremony were representatives from the building contractor Shepherd Construction, Leeds City Council and architects ADP.

The library is the first city-fronting building the University has commissioned for over 30 years and will result in a highly sustainable landmark building that will provide an IT-rich and flexible facility for our students. It is designed to provide 1,000 reader seats, flexible training rooms and a café, plus flexible space for 6,800 linear metres of book stock.

Professor Arthur said: "The University of Leeds already has one of the best academic libraries in the country and the addition of the new undergraduate library will further enhance that. This is a major investment which will ensure that the University continues to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students and world-class facilities for staff."

Nominate your Health and Safety stars

Nominations for this year's Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Health and Safety open this month, recognising and celebrating great health and safety practice at the University.

The awards, which are supported by the campus trade unions, aim to develop staff and student engagement and reward inspirational people whose innovation and leadership make a real difference to the University.

As well as the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety, which will be personally chosen by Sir Alan Langlands, there are four other categories:

Unsung Hero – colleagues who conscientiously make a real contribution to health and safety

Team who have worked together to make a health and safety change

Driving Health and Safety Change – colleagues who inspire or lead others to create and/or drive through changes

Supporting Health and Safety – colleagues with specific voluntary or official roles supporting health and safety who fulfil their role exceptionally.

Nominations are invited from all colleagues, and should include supporting evidence and background information. Any change(s) described must have happened between 2 September 2012 and 1 September 2013.

The closing date for entries is Tuesday 12 November 2013 at 5pm, and the prize-giving ceremony will take place in January 2014.

More information and application forms can be found at <http://goo.gl/COFoIB>

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About the Reporter

The *Reporter* is the University of Leeds' staff magazine, produced eight times a year. More than 8,500 copies are distributed to our staff and stakeholders. The *Reporter* is produced by the Communications team.

If you have an idea for a story, want to write a letter, comment on this edition or would like to voice your opinion about University matters, please get in touch:

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If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the magazine, please email internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk, quoting your staff number, or, if you are external to the University, your name, postcode and preferred email address.

The front cover shows University Librarian Stella Butler and Alice Smart, Leeds University Union's Education Officer. Photo by Simon and Simon.

News

New senior appointments for Medicine and Dentistry

Two new Deans have been appointed; Professor Paul Stewart is now in post as the Dean of Medicine and Professor Helen Whelton is due to take up her post as Dean of the School of Dentistry in October.

Professor Stewart, previously at the University of Birmingham, is a European Research Council Advanced Investigator, a practising clinical endocrinologist, an NIHR Senior Investigator, a trustee of the British Heart Foundation, and Chairman of the Medical Research Council Training and Careers Board. As a member of Panel 1 (Clinical Medicine), he is also heavily involved in the Research Excellence Framework.

He says: "I am already aware how well regarded the Leeds undergraduate course is both nationally and internationally. Challenges lie ahead and we must continue to recruit and train the best doctors we can to take forward the delivery of excellent healthcare regionally, nationally and globally, instilling the highest professional values.

"For a top 10 UK university, aligned to the second largest NHS trust in the UK, the opportunities for innovation and internationally excellent biomedical research are immense. We have many areas of existing strength (notably in cancer, musculoskeletal disease and cardio-metabolic medicine) underpinned by outstanding clinical trials units, but we must raise our game. Nurturing the next generation, strategic recruitment and enhanced partnerships with Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust and other faculties across the University will be essential if we are to develop a highly regarded biomedical research engine in the UK. Ensuring we have an estate that is fit for purpose across

the campus will be an integral part of delivering educational and research priorities. This is such a pivotal time for medicine at Leeds and I am genuinely excited by the challenge."

With a background in epidemiology, public health and preventive dentistry, Professor Whelton's plans include an ambitious international clinical research programme which will address questions about the links between oral health and general health. It will draw on the skills of academics in health and science disciplines outside dentistry and will build on her previous success in leading large national and international multidisciplinary research teams.

Professor Whelton says: "I look forward to working with colleagues at Leeds to build on their investments in excellence and innovation to bring the dental school to the forefront of international dental education and research. The University provides an outstanding context to achieve this goal and the team at the dental school have already positioned it for future success."

Of her work with students, she says: "In my previous role as Dean of the Graduate School in the College of Medicine and Health at University College Cork, I found the students to be a real source of inspiration and energy; they were the engine that drove much of the development at the school."



Blue plaque for Braggs



Dr Chris Hammond, Life Fellow in Material Science, then Pro-Chancellor Linda Pollard; Charles Bragg, great-grandson of W H Bragg; Professor Michael Arthur

A blue plaque celebrating Nobel Prize-winning research at the University that revealed the structure of crystals and revolutionised science has been unveiled at the house where it all began.

The development of x-ray crystallography by William Henry Bragg, Cavendish Professor of Physics (1908-1915), and his son William Lawrence Bragg, then a research scientist at Cambridge, paved the way for ground-breaking discoveries in the physical sciences, biology,

engineering and medicine, including Watson and Crick's work on the structure of DNA.

Bragg family members, then Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur and senior academics attended the unveiling at Whin Brow, near Scarborough. The Braggs were staying there in summer 1912 when they began discussing a letter from a former student of W H Bragg about experiments by Max Laue showing that x-rays were diffracted by crystals. The Braggs developed x-ray crystallography technique over the next two years.

Sustainability

Devonshire's drive for sustainability

Colleagues at Devonshire Hall have been working hard to carry on improving their sustainability, with the University's first electric-powered vehicle supporting their quest to use fewer resources.

The Renault Kangoo ZE (Zero Emissions) moves mail and small stores between the campus and residential sites – including Devonshire Hall – travelling 60 to 75 miles per week. The battery can last for over 100 miles until it needs to be recharged, which takes up to eight hours.

Devonshire Hall was awarded an environmental Gold Standard by the Green Tourism Business Scheme in 2012, and has recently been shortlisted, along with residences from Durham and Edinburgh, for the Green Tourism Goldstar Awards 2013.

"We're really keen to do well in these awards," says Mike Leonard of Residential and Commercial Services. "Devonshire has also been improving the way it manages food waste. Used vegetable oil from the halls is taken away for subsequent use in biodiesel, and food waste is taken to an anaerobic digestion plant near Wakefield."



Devonshire Hall staff assist with the unloading of new replacement light tubes (l-r): David Fawcett, Darren Rayworth, Maggie Cooper, Helen Williams-Taylor, David Dunn, Susan Robinson, and Colin Sykes

Waste not, want not!



(l-r): Janet Willis, Mike Howroyd, Martin Ashcroft

Coming back from your summer holidays, you may have spotted our new eye-catching stickers and posters urging you to use the correct bins when getting rid of your rubbish.

As part of a drive to improve recycling and save money, this rebrand is a result of a recent waste audit which found that people were not putting their waste into the right bin, favouring the general waste bins instead. Our waste contract imposes charges to sort and recycle the contents of general waste bins but the other bins – like paper and plastics – have a value if segregated at source.

"We lead the sector when it comes to the way we manage our waste," says the Sustainability team's Mike Howroyd. "We have innovative contracts, allowing us to achieve very high recycling rates, but we're capable of much more. If we all made the effort, we could reduce the cost of waste management, moving us closer to a cost-neutral waste management system, which will greatly benefit the University."

The designs were developed in-house by Martin Ashcroft, a student from the School of Design, who produced a whole series of promotional tools including the bin stickers,

posters and an online A-Z which tells people exactly what can be recycled and where on campus.

"This was a great opportunity for me to give something back to the University, while at the same time developing my portfolio and getting my name out into the design world," says Martin. "What could be a better gallery for my work than every building on campus for many years to come? I'm proud to have worked with the Sustainability team and Cleaning Services and I truly hope that my contributions will help towards the University's already renowned work on building a more sustainable University."

Janet Willis, Cleaning Services Manager, comments: "This work is long overdue. With the development of these new communications, I hope people can be much more confident about how to use our bins. If they're in any doubt, a comprehensive online guide has been developed along with the reuse website, so now there really is no excuse for not recycling at the bin."

The rollout commenced this month and covers campus and off-campus residential sites. For more information, contact sustainability@leeds.ac.uk or visit the waste pages of the sustainability website www.leeds.ac.uk/sustainability

Research and innovation

All together better

The Sustainability Research Institute, based in the School of Earth and Environment, has joined forces with Asda for what is thought to be the largest ever study to focus on attitudes to sustainability in the UK.

Over the next two and a half years the project will help find ways to create more sustainable and affordable products for supermarket customers and benefit the local and global environment.

Dr William Young, who heads the SRI's Business and Organisations for Sustainable Societies (BOSS) research group, will be leading the project, building on BOSS's already strong reputation for developing strategic partnerships and research projects. One researcher will be embedded within Asda, helping to shape communications, look at new product development and examine large-scale shifts in customer behaviour.

Dr Young says: "We're looking at what will work for the mainstream customer, and not necessarily those who are already committed to a 'deep green' lifestyle. This means working

within people's busy lives, desires and needs, so that reducing food waste, for example, becomes a habit and a way to reduce household food costs.

"This is an exciting partnership, amplifying our research expertise to an enormous scale to which researchers rarely have access. We'll be pioneering research methods and tools that will be significantly important in the move to a low-carbon society."

Paul Kelly, Asda's External Affairs Director, adds: "We've joined with the University of Leeds in a UK first to help change attitudes to sustainability and to bring new, improved and affordable sustainable products to the shelf edge. Not only does this make sense for retail as a whole, it makes sense for customers and will continue to save them money in the long term."



Catch ripple, by Yee Wei Kheoh



Untitled, by Richard Lewis

Let your photos make a splash!

All staff, students and alumni are invited to enter the 2013 water@leeds photography competition, with the chance of winning a place in the water@leeds fundraising calendar.

The overall theme is water and the following wide-ranging categories have been identified to help the judging process:

- Water and Landscape
- Microscopic Water
- Water and Weather
- Water in the City
- Water and People
- My Research

The 12 winners will be included in the water@leeds calendar, with the overall winner featured on the cover and inside.

To enter your photographs, visit www.wateratleeds.org/events/, contact geodcl@leeds.ac.uk or 0113 343 8246. The closing date is Monday 14 October.

Research and innovation

KRISTAL system improves access to research grant information



KRISTAL, the 'one-stop shop' which replaced COSTA for proposal creation, grant management and reporting, has now been live for six months. Engagement with the system to date has been high, with approximately 1,000 applications and new awards processed via KRISTAL since its launch.

KRISTAL gives grant holders timely access to their grant expenditure via a self-service portal and eliminates the need to wait for monthly reports. The Investigator Grant Report (IGR) extends the functionality of the old Investigator Month End Report (IMER) and provides information on expenditure and commitments, including staff salaries, to give a more accurate picture of the funds available to spend. Grant holders can access their IGR

reports via <http://goo.gl/xKEw75> and a user guide is available at <http://goo.gl/5qYOYn>

KRISTAL also incorporates document management functionality, where key documentation relating to grants is stored. Grant holders who would like to access these documents can be given access to the Documentum system via the KRISTAL portal. Contact your Faculty Research Manager for more information.

Research and innovation

Inaugural event to address colorectal therapies

A new national centre for innovation in colorectal therapies is hosting its inaugural 'annual event' in Leeds to stimulate novel and exciting ideas to advance patient care.

The event - Accelerating technology for patient benefit in colorectal disease will be held at the Royal Armouries on 17 October and brings together world-leading speakers, scientists and engineers.

The vision of the National Institute for Health Research Colorectal Therapies Healthcare Technology Co-operative (NIHR Colorectal Therapies HTC) is to combine the international reputation of Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust in patient care, education and research with leading research in nanotechnology, engineering and biosensing at the University, in order to generate new ideas and interventions that target areas of unmet clinical need.

Following a successful regional launch in May, the NIHR Colorectal Therapies HTC is looking to expand its network and reach out to open-minded and innovative individuals and organisations to drive the development of new technologies for application in colorectal disease. The event is open to clinicians, creative scientists and engineers, industry partners and patients with experience of colorectal disease.

Professor David Jayne (School of Medicine), Clinical Director of the NIHR Colorectal Therapies HTC, says: "It will be a fascinating day leading to fruitful partnerships that will develop the next generation of innovative treatments for patients with colorectal disease."

For details visit www.colorectaltherapieshtc.eventbrite.co.uk or follow on Twitter @ColorectalHTC

Project celebrates a decade of research

A University team researching the risk factors, progression and treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) has celebrated its tenth anniversary.

The Leeds Aneurysm Development Study (LEADS) began in 2003 as part of Hamad Al-Barjas's Doctor of Medicine project. Under the leadership of Professor Julian Scott (School of Medicine) it has become one of the largest repositories of data and tissue samples relating to AAA in the world, with over 1,300 participants.

As well as colleagues from across the School of Medicine, LEADS also involves input from academics from the faculties of Biological Sciences and Engineering. Nationally the team has collaborated with the Aneurysm Genome Consortium and RESCAN, and LEADS' work has resulted in the publication of many key papers and studies

"I'm proud of the team we have here and what we have achieved together," says Professor Scott.

"LEADS has gone from strength to strength. Not only has it yielded some fantastic academic papers and presentations over the years, it has fostered a new generation of academic vascular surgery trainees, from undertaking student selected component (SSC) projects at medical school through to taking up academic foundation posts and clinical fellowships and lectureships, based on LEADS data."

The study continues to recruit patients to learn more about the abnormalities identified in clot structure and function and vascular smooth muscle cell behaviour and is moving towards identifying novel treatment targets in these areas. The aim is also to learn more about the unique cardiovascular risk profile of patients with AAA and how it can be modified.

Valuing our people

Team talk – Mediation Service team



Here to help (l-r): Helen Wilson, Gayle Garland, Julia Bell, Martin Pelan, Jane-Marie Stocks, Simon Webster, Carolyn Keirs, Professor Alastair Hay and Jane Holmes

What does the Mediation team do?

Mediation is a way of enabling staff who are experiencing conflicts at work to resolve them in a confidential and safe environment. We help individuals and groups of staff examine what has gone wrong, identify the issues, communicate with each other and look to the future. We don't force anyone to take part, and we don't take sides or judge a situation.

Who's in the team?

We currently have 11 mediators from across the University. We all have other jobs, including technical, support, professional and managerial, and academic roles. This means that there are always mediators available who do not work

in the same area as colleagues who are using the Mediation Service, and we try to avoid mediating in a situation within our own faculty or service. We are all qualified, accredited and experienced in supporting staff through resolving workplace conflict.

We're really well supported through Wellbeing, Safety and Health and have a mediation co-ordinator to do the admin – currently Helen Wilson (Acting Co-ordinator) and Yawen Ho (who is on maternity leave at the moment). The co-ordinator should be your first point of call if you want to contact the Service, although we're all happy to come and talk to teams about what we have to offer.

How many people have used the service?

Since its start in 2007 there has been an average of between 10 and 12 cases a year. We dealt with nine mediation cases during the 2012/13 academic year. These varied in size between two-party cases and larger, group cases, so this year we've helped approximately 25 people. We've also given advice and information in response to a number of queries which haven't led to a mediation session.

What happens in a mediation session?

Once colleagues have agreed to start mediation, the co-ordinator will invite all parties involved to have an individual meeting with two mediators, who work in pairs on each case. We encourage individuals to identify the issues and ways to move forward. What is discussed in this meeting remains confidential and participation is entirely voluntary.

The aim is to work towards facilitating a joint meeting for all parties where the issues can be discussed together and a mutual, positive way forward identified. As mediators it is our role to help the parties make sense of the difficulties they are facing and assist them in reaching an agreement they are all happy with. We work to a 'one-day' model of mediation, which means that we aim to have individual meetings with all parties followed by a joint meeting between all parties on the same day wherever possible.

What is the most rewarding thing about being a mediator?

It's immensely rewarding to see two people walk out of a room smiling and talking to each other, who only earlier that day did not want to be in the same room together. That's a really good feeling to have, knowing that we helped them get their working relationship back on track.

What's the strangest question you've been asked?

"Mediation - I like the sound of that - is it like yoga?"

Take part in LGBT History Month

The University's LGBT Staff Network is planning an informal research-focused event, open to both staff and students, as part of LGBT History Month this coming February; and is now inviting expressions of interest from potential participants.

The Network would especially like to hear from academic staff and/or postgraduate research students, who are currently working on topics

associated with, for example, historical and cultural representations of homosexuality, the gay rights/gay liberation movement, transgender-related issues or queer theory, and who would be interested in using the University and LUU's broader LGBT History Month programme as an opportunity to discuss their research with a wider audience.

To register an interest in delivering a short talk or paper as part of this event, or for further information, please contact lgbt@leeds.ac.uk



New guide offers school governors partnership advice

A new resource timed to coincide with the 2013/14 academic year offers advice and support to colleagues who volunteer as school governors and who are seeking to establish partnership activities with the University.

Recognising that governors are a valuable link between the University and local schools and colleges, our Education Outreach teams have developed the *School Governors' Guide*. This provides an overview of the varied activities and partnership opportunities the University offers to primary schools through to post-16 providers, and includes sections on the Student Talent-spotting team, Access to Leeds, accessing the University's student volunteers and financial matters.

If you're a school governor or thinking of becoming one, please email educationoutreach@leeds.ac.uk to request a copy of the guide or to discuss partnership working with your school or college in more detail.

Inspiring leaders

This summer saw members of staff 'graduate' from the Inspirational Leadership Programme, run jointly by Commercial Services and the Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU).

Valuing our people

Personal resilience and mindfulness courses

Two popular courses run by the Staff Counselling and Psychological Support Service (SCPSS) will once again be available to colleagues during the next academic year.

Four new workshops have been added to the Personal Resilience suite, to provide a range of two-hour workshops to help people develop skills, strategies and opportunities for managing and responding to challenging times and experiences.

- Values and direction – knowing what matters personally and professionally
- Mindfulness and attention skills to steady and focus your mind
- Switching off – relaxation and sleep
- Active approaches to worry
- Developing assertiveness and working with confidence



New workshops

- Working with habitual thinking patterns – thoughts are not facts
- Working with change and uncertainty
- Understanding and managing anxiety and panic
- Working with stress and emotion

"The workshops help participants share their knowledge and experiences, and identify and increase their personal resources. Each workshop is independent, but they also dovetail together," explains SCPSS's Sally Rose. "The suite will run twice over the year, once in autumn and once in spring."

The workshops tend to book up quickly so reserve your place as soon as possible:

<http://goo.gl/Z0fqK1>

Mindfulness training

Are you feeling stressed, stuck or struggling to concentrate and manage increasing demands on your attention? Mindfulness training reduces the negative effects of stress and improves self-management and personal effectiveness. The next courses start in early October; to register email staffcounselling@leeds.ac.uk

Other courses are:

- Dealing with people in distress
- Shedding light on the dilemmas of leadership

You can find more information about these via the link above.

"The aim of the ground-breaking programme was to help participants focus on making a difference in their leadership roles and their careers at the University, in the context of rapid change in the higher education sector," explains Richard Handscombe of Commercial Services.

At the core of the programme were four workshops with a strong focus on Commercial Services as an organisation:

- Purpose, direction, and decision-making
- People, performance and teams

- Change
- Managing stress/pressure

Participants from the three divisions of Commercial Services – Sport and Physical Activity, Catering, and Conference Sales and Marketing – were divided into four groups, each tasked with undertaking a project addressing a specific business challenge, such as improving communications and service, reducing stress levels and making staff feel more valued.



Inspire our students

Summer School flourishes

Forty-five students from around the world came together this summer to take part in the fourth Leeds International Summer School (LISS) – the most since the Summer Schools began in 2010.

LISS aims to give the students an opportunity to experience academic and social life at the University, get to know Leeds as a city, and put Yorkshire on the map for them. During the four-week session the students choose to study topics such as the Olympic sporting legacy in the UK, the English country house, popular music from the North of England, and the Brontës – all designed to reflect local heritage and culture.

Fridays are reserved for field trips that complement the modules: this year students visited Castle Howard, went down a coal mine at the National Coal Mining Museum, saw sporting venues at the Velodrome and Old Trafford in Manchester, visited the Brontë museum, and even the Drax Power Station for a module on renewable energy. Social trips are also organised – a seaside trip to Whitby, a visit to York, and a weekend in London, including a sword-fighting demo at the Globe Theatre and a tour of the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, were among those on offer this year. Leeds students who act as social assistants make sure that everyone settles in quickly and no-one is ever bored.



LISS 2013 students at Saltaire

LISS is attracting interest from around the world, not just from the University's Study Abroad partners. This year, for the first time, five students from the world's largest women-only university in Riyadh attended, mixing with others from the USA, Canada, France, Norway, China, Australia, Japan and Singapore. Some of the students come back to Leeds for postgraduate study or recommend Leeds to their friends – more this year than ever before.

Students always return home raving about LISS and Leeds, and such word-of-mouth recommendation is invaluable. Helena Wong, who came from the Hong Kong Baptist University this year, said: "In Leeds I tried a lot of things I never tried before. I really loved the experience in Leeds. It changed my life and I will never forget about it."



LISS 2013 social assistants with a Riyadh student

Satisfaction remains high in 2013 National Student Survey

The University has maintained its level of performance in this year's National Student Survey (NSS), with 87% of our final-year students saying they are satisfied with their experience at Leeds.

This is the same as our 2012 overall satisfaction score and means we remain above the sector average of 86%. With the exception of a single point drop in Teaching, we have improved or maintained our scores across the other six question categories, with the greatest increases in Assessment and Feedback (up two percentage points to 71%, equalling the sector average for the first time) and in Learning Resources (up two percentage points to 90%). Satisfaction with our Students' Union remained at 90%, putting us significantly ahead of the 68% sector average.

We maintain our reputation for having one of the highest response rates in the sector.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education Professor Vivien Jones said: "This is a good, solid result for us, and I am delighted that all the hard work of academic and Student

Education Service colleagues continues to be recognised and appreciated by our students. Once again, the survey produced an excellent response rate and it is testament to the good relationships we have with our students that so many of them were engaged and keen to give their opinions.

"As always, there are areas where we can do better, and I was disappointed that our score in the Teaching category went down slightly – from 90% to 89% – but this is still above the sector average and is an area where I know we can make further improvements. We also need to continue to work on Personal Development, where our score remained static at 81% satisfaction, just below the sector average. It is vital that we improve our engagement with our students in helping develop their employability and their acquisition of key work and life skills."



SOCIAL INNOVATION ZONE

Supporting social improvement through student-skilled projects

Help is at hand for social organisations and charities searching for volunteers thanks to a cross-University project that is matching our students' skills and requirements to specific tasks and initiatives.

The Social Innovation Zone (SIZ) comes under the under the Enterprise at Leeds umbrella and currently involves Leeds University Union (LUU), Leeds Enterprise Centre, Access and Community Engagement, SPARK, Sports and Physical Activity and the Faculty of Arts.

Organisations wanting specific projects carried out are matched to students who have the right skills to help and who want to build their skills and experience. The initiative also allows students the chance to develop their entrepreneurship skills, while supporting the progression of external social organisations.

"If there are any University staff out there involved with organisations that could do with some extra help, then SIZ may be the answer," says Emily Carlill of Leeds Enterprise Centre. "Similarly, if colleagues know students looking to broaden their experience or add news skills to their CVs, they should contact us."

Housed in the LUU building, SIZ acts as a training, meeting, working and trading space for students and their partner organisations. To view the list of projects students can get involved with, and for more information about SIZ, visit the web pages at <http://goo.gl/DHyMj9>

Inspire our students

Goodbye and Hello!

Graduation day marks not only the end of a successful course of study but also signals the transition from student to alumnus.



Leeds students at graduation

At this summer's graduations, a major communications campaign was designed to engage the graduating cohort, to let them know what it means to be an alumnus and inform them about the benefits of being a member of this 200,000-strong community spread across 188 different countries.

Each graduand received a business card congratulating them, welcoming them to the alumni community and encouraging them to follow the University's social media channels. The card incorporated an alumni pin badge, which could be worn on the day and in the future, demonstrating their lifelong connection to Leeds.

Posters, pop-up banners and other displays showed eminent and inspiring Leeds alumni, in the hope that this year's crop of graduates would be assured that their degree opened up a host of possibilities for their life beyond the University.

Alongside the visual materials, we created the hashtag **#UoL2013** for use on social media. Promoted through several faculties, Leeds University Union, the Careers Centre and the Graduation Office, as well as the Alumni and Development team's Facebook and Twitter accounts, this hashtag took off and achieved a lively viral buzz around the entire two weeks.

As our new graduates postings were joined by messages of congratulations and photographs from previous years' graduates, these social media channels experienced a massive spike in activity and interaction, becoming a forum for transgenerational appreciation, pride and positivity towards the University.

The Leeds Alumni Facebook page gained an unprecedented 2,800 'Likes' in a fortnight, which equates to around 60% of this year's graduates, who are now on our social media channels, ensuring that the Alumni and Development team can continue to stay in touch with our newest crop of alumni.

In the news



Research from the Institute of Psychological Sciences found that looking at and smelling **healthy foods** could help improve self-control when dieting. The research, which was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behaviour, was picked up by the *Daily Mail* who quoted research student Nicola Buckland.

Dr Simon Lewis from the School of Geography co-authored a paper that was published in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*. The study, which looked into the slowing down of **deforestation** in the Congo Basin, was widely publicised, appearing in *New Scientist*, *The Korea Times*, *International Business Times* and on BBC News online. BBC Radio 4 also interviewed Dr Simon Lewis on the Today programme.

More than 15,000 bats were recorded by the Faculty of Biological Sciences as part of a recent study. The team recorded echolocation calls of bats in the Lake District in order to create **habitat suitability maps**. The study received wide recognition and was published on BBC News online and on the front page banner of Wired online. It also appeared in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* and *Science Daily*. Professor John Altringham was interviewed about the research on BBC Radio Cumbria.

Researchers from the University, led by Professor Dwayne Heard (School of Chemistry), discovered that an 'impossible' reaction at incredibly cold temperatures actually occurs with vigour, thanks to a phenomenon called **'quantum tunnelling'**. The research was widely recognised by the media and appeared in, amongst others, the *Los Angeles Times*, *International Business Times*, *Discovery News*, *Scientific American* and *New Scientist*.

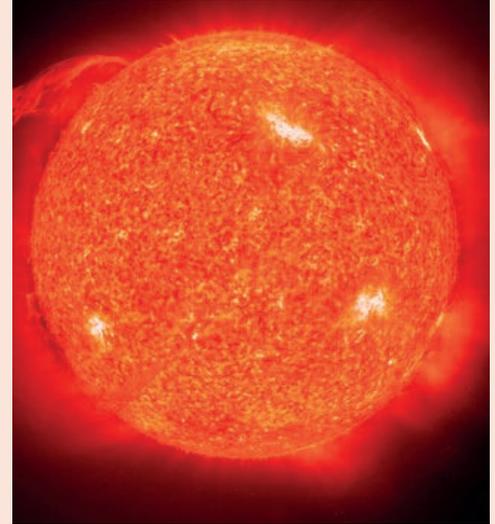
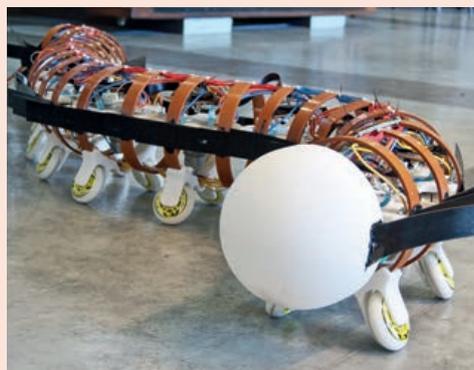
Professor Griselda Pollock (Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies) wrote an article for *The Telegraph* after visiting the 'Nature of Women' exhibition at The Mayor Gallery. In the article Professor Pollock asked the question "Does being a woman change **artistic output?**"

A joint study by the University of Leeds and the University of Bradford looked into factors which may increase the likelihood of **birth defects**. The research received national and international coverage, appearing in a range of publications including the *Times of India*, the *Guardian*, and the *Independent*. Lead author, Dr Eamonn Sheridan (School of Medicine), was interviewed about the new findings on BBC Radio 5 Live and BBC One's Look North.

Dr Joanne Maycock from the School of Food Science and Nutrition featured on BBC One's Britain's Favourite Supermarket Foods in July, where she spoke to presenter Cherry Healey about the nutritional benefits of **potatoes**.

A study of the **cosmetic tourism** industry, led by Professor Ruth Holliday (School of Sociology and Social Policy), found that 98% of patients would repeat the procedure again in the same country and at the same medical facility. Professor Holliday talked about the findings, which challenge common perceptions about the safety of overseas treatment, on BBC Radio 5 Live and was interviewed for articles in *Therapy Today* and the *Guardian*.

The University announced that it is to open a new £4.3 million national robotics facility, set to make the University of Leeds a world leader in **robotic research** and construction. The story was covered by *Electronics Weekly*, *Professional Engineer* and the *Yorkshire Post*. In addition, Dr Jordan Boyle (School of Mechanical Engineering) was interviewed about the new facility on BBC Radio Leeds.



Professor Steven Tobias (School of Mathematics) was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme. He discussed his research on the cyclic nature of the **Sun's magnetic field**.

The pioneering work of William and Lawrence Bragg was explored in a BBC Radio 4 Bragg on the Braggs programme. Melvyn Bragg visited the lab at the University where the pair made their breakthroughs in **x-ray crystallography**. Dr Tom Edwards (School of Molecular and Cellular Biology) and Dr Chris Hammond (School of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering) were also interviewed.

Research conducted at the University identified how plants set the **angles** of their branches, a mechanism that is fundamental in determining the shape of plants. The *Independent on Sunday* ran a double-page spread and quoted the lead author of the paper, Dr Stefan Kepinski (School of Biology).

The Wall Street Journal reported on the **falling crime rates** in the UK. Professor Susanne Karstedt (School of Law) was quoted in the article and explained that the relationship between economic hardship and crime is not straightforward and can in fact be "counterintuitive".

In a letter to the *Guardian*, Dr Iyiola Solanke (School of Law) argued against the new campaign being trialled in London, aimed at illegal immigrants in the UK. Dr Solanke said the **mobile billboards**, which had been displayed in areas of London, could "damage Britain's reputation abroad".

Our people/honours

Professor Ian Charles Hunter (School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering) has been elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK). This honour recognises some of the UK's most accomplished engineers from academia and business. Sir John Parker GBE FREng, President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, says: "We warmly welcome our new Fellows to the Academy. With their expertise, knowledge and vision, we will continue to strengthen our ambition of providing authoritative, impartial and expert engineering advice to government and to develop the Academy's growing impact and influence on a global stage."

Dr Susan Hamer, Organisational and Workforce Development Director at the NIHR Clinical Research Network, has been named as one of healthcare's 50 most 'Inspirational Women' by the Health Service Journal (HSJ).

The HSJ Inspirational Women list has been inaugurated to recognise outstanding leaders who are driving change and innovation in healthcare and influencing health policy. Women on the list were nominated by readers of HSJ and judged by a panel of 15 sector leaders. Alastair McLellan, editor of HSJ, said: "It was not enough [for nominees] to be influential. The judges were clear that they were looking for people who live the values they espouse – the authentic leaders."



Professor Michael Sheppard (Provost and Vice-Principal), John Fisher and Professor David Eastwood (Vice-Chancellor)

The University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, **Professor John Fisher**, has been awarded an honorary Doctorate of Engineering by the University of Birmingham.

Professor Fisher graduated from the University of Birmingham in 1976 with a first-class honours degree in physics. He was awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition

of the impact of his work with the Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering. Special mention was made of Professor Fisher's flagship programme, '50 active years after 50', and its potential to make a positive difference to the quality of human experience and its course of development, the breadth of his contribution to academia and his organisational leadership.

Two of the University's academics – **Professor of Renaissance Drama Martin Butler** (School of English) and Chair in Language **Professor Janet Watson** (School of Modern Languages and Cultures) – are among the 42 new Fellows from 18 different UK universities elected by the British Academy. Fellows are highly distinguished academics, recognised for their outstanding research and work across the humanities and social sciences. The new appointments span the full range of the Academy's subject areas, from history to psychology, economics to law, literature to philosophy and languages to archaeology.

Professor Lord Nicholas Stern, President of the British Academy, said: "The humanities and social sciences celebrate the study of what it means to be human and how we relate to the world around us. They can also help us tackle many of the challenges faced in this country and the world as a whole. Our new Fellows, from across the UK and world, are world-class experts in the humanities and social sciences and can play a vital role in sustaining the Academy's activities – helping select researchers and research projects for funding support, contributing to policy reports and speaking at the Academy's public events."

Leeds University Union's (LUU) Student Advice team received the Innovative Activity Award 2013 at the Student Money Advice Awards organised by the National Association of Student Money Advisers (NASMA). The awards recognise, celebrate and reward the excellent work being undertaken by the association's members across the UK. The award recognised LUU's food parcel project.

Di Pedder, LUU's Membership Services Manager, has been awarded Staff Member of the Year at the NUS National Awards.

The team at **Weetwood Hall** – which is owned by the University – was named as the 'Top Team' at the Leeds Hotels and Venues Awards, seeing off competition from the city's other top hotels and conference centres. Michael Longstaff, General Manager, said: "We are very proud of what we have achieved in recent years and this is a further endorsement of the hard work and dedication of the team. Everyone has a part to play in the achievement of this accolade and it is a proud moment that we can enjoy and use as a platform for continued success."

News

Teamwork and partnership lead to crime-fighting success



University Secretary, Roger Gair, and Alan Cain at the opening of the new Security Office. The office, at 175 Woodhouse Lane, has been refurbished to offer staff and visitors a modern, spacious and professional environment

The hard work and experience of the University's Security team is really paying dividends for our students according to figures from the latest *Complete University Guide*.

Figures for 2012/13 show that within a three-mile radius of the campus the number of burglaries fell by 58% and robberies fell by 55%. The University has gone up 15 places in the *Complete University Guide* league table.

Head of Security Services, Alan Cain, highlights two successes in particular: the arrest of a prolific burglar, which ended a one-man crimewave after he was apprehended by University security officers; and the excellent work of Police Liaison Officer PC Matt Guy and the University's Crime Prevention Advisor Andy Gordon-Platt on Project Immobilise, which has done much to destroy the second-hand market in stolen laptops and mobile phones in the area. Alan explains: "These successes are clear evidence of the high level of effectiveness of the partnership the University enjoys with West Yorkshire Police."

Director of Facilities, Dennis Hopper, says: "These statistics have a big impact on students when considering where to study, and the team deserves congratulations – as, of course, do West Yorkshire Police."

The work of the Security team has also earned them recognition in the 2013 Security Excellence Awards – the UK's most prestigious industry awards. The team has been shortlisted for two awards – it is in the running for the Security Training Initiative of the Year for its Knives and Edged Weapons Awareness Programme and defence training, and, along with teams from Leeds Metropolitan University and Leeds City Council, it is also up for the Counter-Terrorism Solution of the Year for the arrangements it made for hosting the Chinese Olympic Committee and team last summer. Security Operations Manager Malcolm Dawson has been shortlisted as Security Manager of the Year.

Small ads

Professional services

ELECTRICIAN. PART P REGISTERED Contact Good Connections for repairs, installations, alterations, periodic inspections and PAT testing. Prompt timekeeper. Good value rates. www.goodconnectionselectrician.co.uk
Richard Sykes 0777 249 9414
good_connections@btinternet.com

LEGAL ADVICE

Divorce, separation, children and financial disputes, pre-marital and cohabitation agreements, Collaborative family law and mediation. FREE INITIAL HALF-HOUR MEETING

Contact Paul Lancaster 0113 207 0000
plancaster@LawBlacks.com

WILLS AND PROBATE SOLICITOR

Wills, inheritance tax, care home fees, Lasting Powers of Attorney and probate services. Five minutes from campus, 10% discount if you bring this advert.

Nick Rhodes 0113 207 0000, nrhodes@lawblacks.com

Other

ORANGES AND CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

You are invited to take part in a research project. Requirements:

- age between 30–60
- heavier than average (BMI \geq 25 kg/m²)
- no known CVD or diabetes
- non-smoker

See the link below for more information.

Abdurrahman Sweidan
www.food.leeds.ac.uk/orangejuice
cvd2013@leeds.ac.uk

FOOD SUPPLEMENT ON HEALTH

Non-smoking males will receive £40 for completing this 12-week research project in Food Science and Nutrition, by having a tablet food supplement daily. Some urine and blood samples will need to be collected.

Contact: prconion@leeds.ac.uk
Registration: www.survey.leeds.ac.uk/onion/

FANCY FREEMASONRY?

We are an old established Lodge, founded in 1794. For more details, see our web page.

www.philanthropic.org.uk
secretary@philanthropic.org.uk

House/flat/room to let

HOUSE TO LET Two bedroomed house in village location east of Leeds with excellent transport links. £350 pcm. Phillip Murphy 0791 333 0042, p.j.murphy@leeds.ac.uk

NICE TWO BEDROOM FLAT Hyde Park, within walking distance from campus. Flat is located in a quiet cul-de-sac with private parking. Suit professional/postgrad. £480 pcm (includes bills and council tax).

Joep Cornelissen 0031 628 171 577
j.cornelissen@leeds.ac.uk

HOUSE TO LET Four bedroom family house in Oakwood area, rent negotiable.

Gregory Houseman 07855499748
greg.houseman@gmail.com

Small ads can be submitted online at <http://smallads.leeds.ac.uk> The charge is £7 for 10 words or part thereof (University members) or £10 (general public). The deadline for the next issue is 16 October 2013 at 4pm. Advertisers are independent of the University. The University makes no warranty or representation as to (a) the accuracy of ads or (b) the quality of goods or services advertised. To the full extent allowed by the law the University excludes all liability.

Contact the Reporter on 0113 343 6699 or the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk

Events

This year's Light Night will once again see familiar buildings and spaces across the city host a variety of events. This year the Civic Hall will be transformed by a giant outdoor projection and soundscape into an enormous ticking, whirring clock. Events on the University of Leeds campus include:

Beneath the Forest Floor – an immersive, intimate and interactive workshop at Stage@Leeds

Invisible Structures – which explores, through art and science, objects that can only be seen using light at the Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery

Lauren Redhead on the organ, playing experimental and multimedia music at the Clothworkers, Centenary Concert Hall

Pablo Fanque Returns, where unique artefacts from Special Collections will be on display at the Brotherton Library. The Library will also host dramatic readings of ghost stories and music from local grammar school children.

To see timings and all events taking place during Light Night, please visit <http://lightnightleeds.co.uk/>



First World War in Retrospect Conference at Weetwood Hall

Weetwood Hall is presently organising a *First World War in Retrospect Conference* to take place 28 July–1 August 2014.

The conference has been planned by Dr Peter Liddle, Conference Director, and Colonel Alan Roberts, Military Consultant, for like-minded enthusiasts to listen, reflect, network, share knowledge and acquire a fresh perspective. Full details can be found at <http://goo.gl/fknwXE>

The conference is part of a new approach that University-owned Weetwood Hall has developed within its conferencing sector, called Inspirational Conventions & Events. More details of this approach will be outlined in a future issue of the *Reporter*.



Weetwood Hall

Phoenixes and Dragons: an exhibition of Chinese costume

An exhibition of beautiful and rare costumes from the Qing Dynasty is now on display at ULITA – An Archive of International Textiles (formerly the University of Leeds International Textiles Archive) from 24 September to 29 November at St Wilfred's Chapel on the Western Campus.

The Qing Collection comprises over 200 nineteenth and early-twentieth century Chinese embroideries and tapestries, mostly acquired by Professor Barker of the Department of Textile Industries and his son during their work in China in the 1930s. The Qing Dynasty extends from 1644 to 1911, and was the last imperial dynasty. An extensive range of decorative motifs were used to decorate textiles, often destined for garments. This exhibition highlights the costumes in the collection, including several examples of dragon robes and female jackets, skirts and



Han bride's jacket, late 19th century

ornate collars. Many fragments of costumes are also displayed, including sleeve bands, rank badges and dragon robe panels.

The complete collection of costumes is being exhibited together for the first time. Due to their fragility, this exhibition may be a rare opportunity to view several of the garments, including a women's jacket couched with metallic thread and a tapestry-woven bride's robe.

For more information, please visit <http://goo.gl/f4pGUQ>

Open Access Week 21-27 October

Open Access Week is an opportunity for the research community to learn more about the potential benefits of Open Access publishing – free, immediate, online access to the results of scholarly research and the right to use and re-use results.

The University of Leeds will be hosting its first Open Access Fair on **Monday 14 October from 10.00am - 4.00pm in Parkinson Court**. Find out about the institutional repository, meet some of the Open Access publishers and learn how

making your publications freely available can raise the profile, and maximise the impact, of your research.

Two special Open Access sessions are available on: Tuesday 22 October, 2.30 - 3.30pm: **Introduction to Open Access** (<http://goo.gl/qwNp4W>); and Wednesday 23 October, 12.15 - 12.45pm: **Digital Dates on Open Access** (<http://goo.gl/UIMBzI>)

For further information about Open Access see <http://goo.gl/AQi8D6> and <http://goo.gl/1OYbMZ> or email openaccess@leeds.ac.uk

FAQs

David Owen, Residence Manager, and Mass Njie, Residence Service Supervisor St Mark's Residences

What does your job involve?

David - Working at St Mark's has been quite varied over the last few months as we had to get the building ready for when new students arrived in late August. We had a large intake of new appliances – around 400 fridge-freezers, 200 washing machines and 350 sofas, not to mention all the irons, kettles and vacuum cleaners that needed to be distributed!

Mass - Since then we've been welcoming and supporting the 526 students who now live here in various ways, including sorting the huge amounts of post they receive.

What is the most rewarding thing about working here?

D - I really enjoy meeting our new students and helping them after their journey here. For some students we're the first people they meet after long flights and trips from all over the world, and it's nice to see them respond to our warm welcome.

M - For me, it's also great to see the students start to feel more at home as time progresses. I like the change we see as people grow from being nervous and unsure to confident and having the time of their lives.

Tell us more about St Mark's

D - St Mark's is solely a postgraduate (PG) hall, which is new for the University as previously PG students were split between the residences. PG students have different needs and wants from undergraduates and the resources and meeting rooms at St Mark's cater for these.



Mass Njie and David Owen outside St Mark's

M - St Mark's has a large central outside space with an internationally-themed garden featuring plants and trees from all over the world. Residents can use this space all year round – including the summer months – as their degrees require them to be here for longer than undergrads.

What are the strangest parts of working here?

D - At the end of the year we find some very odd items that people leave behind and end up giving a lot to Leave Leeds Tidy. We also find thousands of Morrisons bags, which have to be recycled, too!

M - When some of our international students arrived, I became a 'one time only' bed maker for people who weren't sure what duvets were or how to make up their beds.

What is your most frequently asked question?

M - "What happens if I order a parcel that is too big to fit through the postbox?"

D - Mine's also post related – "Has my parcel arrived?" As part of our service, we take in hundreds of parcels every weekday, from Amazon packages to huge parcels full of treats from family and friends at home.

If you could share a flat with four people, who would it be and why?

D - It would have to be at St Mark's! I think Rick Stein would be an inspirational cooking partner who would love the large kitchen space; James Dyson, the talented inventor, because I'd love to pick his brains and perhaps he'd invent a new gadget for us; Ellen MacArthur, the solo yachtswoman, who would have great stories to tell as we enjoyed the new sofas; and Jools Holland, a very talented artist who could share his music and play in our common room.

M - I would choose to share with my girlfriend Abbie because she is very organised and a good cook, too; Bob Marley because he'd provide us with great music; Al Pacino because we'd hear good stories and he'd provide great entertainment; and finally Karl Pilkington because I think he's one of the funniest men out there.