



## Garden blossoms on campus

A new green space offers students, staff and visitors a multi-purpose sustainable garden – you can even eat the produce!

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### Focus on employability

The Faculty of Engineering's Employability Suite is relaunched, offering support to our students as they plan and prepare for employment.

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## Leader column

# Stimulating a new generation

**News of the £19m Doctoral Training Partnership award from the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) is a real boost to collaboration between the universities of Leeds, York and Sheffield.**

The funding will create the White Rose College of Arts and Humanities, which together with a further contribution of £4m from the three Universities, will see more than 300 fully-funded doctoral students recruited and trained over the next five years. The first cohort at Leeds will start in autumn 2014 across a wide spread of disciplines in the Faculties of Arts and Performance, Visual Arts and Communications. This prestigious award recognises the world-class strengths in the arts and humanities in Leeds and shows the power of collaboration in research, training and knowledge exchange.

Despite evidence to the contrary, there is still a tendency to see science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects as the only key to national economic recovery, but the majority of UK students still choose to study the arts, humanities and social sciences, disciplines that help us to understand ourselves, our society and our place in the world.

Making the case for the public value of the arts, humanities and social sciences in the post-election spending review in 2010, Sir Adam Roberts – writing on behalf of the British Academy – asserted that:

*“Each day thousands of gifted economists, lawyers, historians, linguists, philosophers, critics, geographers, sociologists, psychologists and anthropologists make important contributions to our shared public life – analysing the human and ethical implications of scientific and medical advances, exploring the social and economic impact of global issues such as climate change or international security, influencing new kinds of business innovation, uncovering new perspectives on our cultural heritage or undertaking reviews and enquiries which often lead to the revising or refocusing of public policy.”*

As the University plays its part in grappling with the big issues of our time – human health, the impact of climate change on energy, food and



water security, the sustainability of our cities and the importance of cultural development – we are seeing exciting new education and research initiatives at the intersection between disciplines. The new generation of arts and humanities doctoral students and their colleagues in the Economic & Social Research Council-funded Social Science Doctoral Training Centre will have a wide range of opportunities to contribute to this growing sense of inter-disciplinarity and to advance the social and economic health, wealth and reputation of the UK. They will expect the University to be in the vanguard of new ways of working.

More than ten years ago, Lord (Bob) May, then President of the Royal Society, talked of finding answers across the *“the indivisible...continuum from the arts, humanities and social sciences through to the biological and physical sciences.”* Whilst some continue to patrol the boundaries between disciplines, this University is showing every sign of breaking them down, opening new educational and research opportunities and generating new ideas for industry and public policy. As we move beyond REF 2014, with the process of research assessment moving only slowly from its single-discipline origins, there is an opportunity to fashion a new research strategy which is ahead of the game and operates across the Leeds continuum. The trick is to do this without compromising our underlying disciplinary strengths.

The AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership award is also an important reminder of the power of collaboration across institutions.

Since 1997 the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York, working with a range of partners from the private and public sector, both in the UK and overseas, have secured projects to the value of £130m. The University is also actively committed to working with the N8 (the eight most research intensive universities in the North of England) and is benefitting significantly from important research initiatives on the influence of arts and humanities on economic growth, the challenges of an ageing population and the drive for progress in nanotechnology, regenerative medicine and parasitology. The N8 is also leading the way in maximising the use of new and existing research assets, and there are important lessons here that will inform the development of new research platforms across disciplinary and university boundaries. Increasingly, the research infrastructure in universities is matching industry standards.

As I learn more about the work of the University and the can-do attitudes that are driving it, I am pleased to be part of a community that supports vibrant PhD and post-doc programmes, recognises the power of operating across the “indivisible continuum” and sees the positives in collaborating effectively with other universities. We will continue to build on these strengths for the future.

Alan Langlands

## News

# Celebrating our female high achievers

Photos by Lawrie Phipps



Bev Kenny



Professor Griselda Pollock



PhD Student Rawia El Rashidy

Ten outstanding female achievers from fields as diverse as dentistry, music, transport and catering – and including students, academics and support colleagues – were recognised by the University at this year's Women of Achievement event.

This annual event recognises women who have achieved an external prize or award in their field for outstanding research, teaching, scholarship or technical work since January 2010. The event and accompanying exhibition of photographs supports the University's Athena SWAN objectives for the recruitment, retention and advancement of women in arts and science disciplines across the University.

"This wonderful event really highlighted the contribution that women make to our institution.

It was especially pleasing that it took place within a couple of weeks of our success in the latest round of the Athena SWAN Charter awards\*," says Dr Jane Cahill, the University's Athena SWAN Manager.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor John Fisher and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Staff and Organisational Effectiveness Professor Dawn Freshwater hosted the event, which was held in the Council Chamber.

\*See page 10 for more information about the Athena SWAN Charter awards.

## Our Women of Achievement

- **Liane G Benning**, Professor in Experimental Biogeochemistry, School of Earth and Environment
- **Bridgette Bewick**, Associate Professor in Health Research, School of Medicine
- **PhD student Rawia El Rashidy**, Institute for Transport Studies
- **Cheryl Frances-Hoad**, formerly DARE Fellow in the Opera-related Arts and currently in the School of Music
- **Ella Jakubowska**, School of English student
- **Beverley Kenny**, Head of Catering and Conferencing
- **Professor Jennifer Kirkham**, Pro-Dean for Research and Innovation/Head of the Department of Oral Biology, School of Dentistry
- **Griselda Pollock**, Professor of Social and Critical Histories of Art and Director, Centre for Cultural Analysis, Theory and History (School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies)
- **Professor Sheena Radford**, Director of the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology

Details of the women's achievements can be found at <http://goo.gl/vGQbQP>. The specially commissioned portraits can be viewed on Level 13 of the Ziff Building.

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## About the Reporter

The *Reporter* is the University of Leeds' staff magazine, produced eight times a year. More than 7,500 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:

Email: [the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk)

Tel: (0113) 343 6699

Web: [www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/reporter](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/reporter)

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the magazine, please email [internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk](mailto: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 Leeds University Union's Anna-Marie Vickerstaff and the Sustainability team's Sam McCarthy in our new sustainable garden.

## News

# Unpicking the fashion industry

**A new three-year collaborative research project on the business history of fashion, based in the School of History, has been awarded €1m funding from the HERA II (Humanities in the European Research Area II) Joint Research Programme.**

'*The Enterprise of Culture*', headed by Professor Regina Lee Blaszczyk, Leadership Chair in the History of Business and Society, focuses on the fashion business since 1945. The project brings together academic and non-academic partners from the universities of Leeds, Erasmus Rotterdam, Oslo, St Andrews and Heriot-Watt, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London and the Centre for Business History, Stockholm.

"Fashion is often studied from a theoretical perspective, from costume or dress history viewpoints, or from a popular media-driven vantage point," explains Professor Blaszczyk. "This project breaks new ground, using the fashion business to examine how types of cultural encounters – between 'core' fashion cities like Paris and London and 'peripheral'

areas such as Sweden and Scotland, between style labs and the high street, and between fibre makers, clothing manufacturers and retailers – stimulated innovation, and created a new, competitive industry."

The team will hold interdisciplinary conferences and public programmes at major venues such as the V&A and will produce articles and books, a pilot oral history programme, and a website to share research with the general public. Each participating university will serve as a research hub, working with non-academic institutions, including archives, museums and fashion textile trade fairs.

Professor Blaszczyk says: "The city of Leeds has a long history as a production centre for textiles and clothing and the University hosts major research collections on campus that will be invaluable to our networked team: the M&S Company Archive and ULITA, an Archive of International Textiles. We're collaborating with the M&S Company Archive on a set of free public programmes, building on our ongoing partnership. This will include a series called 'Understanding fashion' in spring 2015, aimed at helping the public to put fashion retailing in the broader social context. We'll be working with ULITA to develop a programme on fibres and fashion, and the project also seeks to develop more local partnerships."

A public launch, organised in conjunction with the M&S Company Archive, takes place at the Clothworkers, Centenary Concert Hall on Thursday 5 December. It includes talks from the research team, archivists, curators and



Professor Regina Lee Blaszczyk

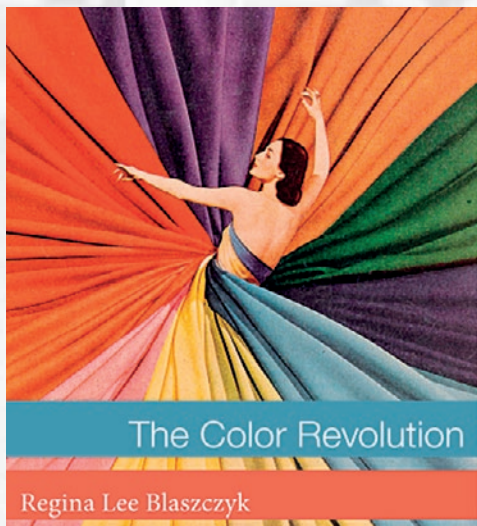


Image source: Hagley Museum and Library

industry experts, a visit to the M&S Company Archive, and an exhibition showcasing student entries to a competition, 'Sustainable fashion: next generation'.

The event culminates in Professor Blaszczyk's inaugural lecture at Leeds University Business School — 'The Colour Revolution' — which will trace the relationship of colour and commerce, from haute couture to interior design, describing the often unrecognised role of colourists in consumer culture.

For details contact Fiona Blair at, [f.blair@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:f.blair@leeds.ac.uk) or visit <http://enterpriseofculture.leeds.ac.uk>



The Color Revolution

Regina Lee Blaszczyk

## About the M&S Company Archive

**Since opening in early 2012, the archive has provided an excellent resource for over 2,000 students to engage with a valuable and varied collection in a dynamic business archive.**

"Working with academics across the University, the archive team helps support

and deliver projects on subjects ranging from gender studies to geography, store design to sustainability," says Katharine Carter, Company Archivist. "Our archivists also provide induction sessions and guest lectures on programmes including those at the Lifelong Learning Centre and the School of Design".

A key project with Leeds University Business School is enabling students to visit the archive reading room to research the history of corporate social responsibility and M&S. Working in teams, students deliver a presentation to the rest of the group – thus developing their research, teamworking and presentation skills. The archive has also worked with the School of Sociology to develop an

e-learning resource, 'Using Archives to Teach Gender'. This provides tutors with images, facts and teaching suggestions to integrate archives into courses linked to gender (<http://gender-archives.leeds.ac.uk/>)

In the School of History, Professor Blaszczyk, project leader for *The Enterprise of Culture*, has begun introducing the archive to her Level 1 and Level 2 students.

Find out how the archive is being used for independent research at <http://goo.gl/bc1nZs> and search the collection at <http://goo.gl/p8UaR2> Contact [companyarchive@marks-and-spencer.com](mailto:companyarchive@marks-and-spencer.com) or call (0)208 7182800.

## Sustainability

# Garden blossoms on campus

**Colleagues, students and members of the public have a new green space on campus to enjoy – and it can supply them with a few veggies to have with dinner, too!**

The new, multi-purpose sustainable garden was officially opened by Facilities Director Dennis Hopper in October. The opening event also gave visitors the chance to find out about a range of activities related to the sustainable garden, including the chance to make a bird feeder, learn about bats and watch cookery demonstrations featuring food from the garden. Located next to the Roger Stevens Building, the garden utilises previously unused space as a hub for biodiversity and supports the University's Biodiversity Action Plan.

"The garden was inspired by our Gold award-winning entry in the 2012 Chelsea Flower Show," says Louise Ellis, Director of Sustainability. "It's also an excellent example of collaborative working between the Facilities Directorate, Leeds University Union (LUU) and academic staff. It provides a place for people to enjoy quiet contemplation but also to cultivate and maintain an allotment-style edible garden. A 'traffic light' system will let visitors know which plants are ready to eat and how best to pick them."

The garden is a healthy, functioning ecosystem, with wildflower areas, soft fruit hedgerows, insect houses and pocket habitats. Rainwater

harvesting means that the garden will require no additional water to thrive and other innovative developments mean it can provide unique opportunities to carry out research.

"The Bardon Grange Project – an award-winning community food growing project hosted by LUU – will hold regular gardening sessions open to all," continues Louise. "This will include opportunities to plant, maintain and harvest the edible areas of the garden. Sessions will allow staff, students and the local community to learn new skills in growing food, inspiring people to do it themselves at home and set up local food-growing projects, and will show how much food can be grown in a sustainable way while being an attractive place to spend time."

Caroline Scott, the Bardon Grange Project coordinator, comments: "The garden shows that you can have a space that's abundant in terms of food while still being ornamental, beautiful and good for wildlife."

The aim is to build a core of regular volunteers to help maintain the garden. If you're interested in getting involved (experience not essential), conducting research or want to know more, email [sustainability@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@leeds.ac.uk) or [bardongrangeproject@luu.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:bardongrangeproject@luu.leeds.ac.uk)



Celebrating the Green Impact Awards 2013

## Green Impact 2013/14

This year's Green Impact campaign has launched countrywide. The aim is to achieve even more savings than last year, which saw collective savings of £87,080 and 345,404kg of CO<sub>2</sub> across the UK and highlighted the collective impact that simple actions and changes in the workplace can make.

Green Impact supports the University's departments and faculties to make simple, tangible and effective policy and behavioural changes through criteria set out in an online workbook. The criteria cover a broad range of sustainability issues, tailored to actions at the University. It's also a great way to get involved in making lasting changes and to fit positive actions into everyday work. At the end of the year, the hard work of staff is recognised with celebrations at the Sustainability Awards.

You only need two or three people in the department to begin a Green Impact team, and signing up is easy – visit [www.greenimpact.org.uk/leeds](http://www.greenimpact.org.uk/leeds), add your details and you're done! For support there are workshops and drop-in sessions, and the Sustainability team is always on hand to help.

For more information, visit [www.leeds.ac.uk/greenimpact/](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/greenimpact/) or contact Jennifer Scattergood at [j.l.scattergood@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.l.scattergood@leeds.ac.uk)

*"Before Green Impact, I was interested in how my workplace affected the environment but the sheer range of things to do was overwhelming. After joining, we were given a workbook which provided the structure we needed to start making a real difference."*

**Howard Collier**, Trial Co-ordinator and Environmental Co-ordinator (Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research)

*"It's nice to do something a bit different with your work day, like planting crocuses and meeting with your team."*

**Jenny Blackburn**, School Support Officer and PA (School of Politics and International Studies)



Going for growth (l-r): Caroline Scott (LUU) with the University's Martin Wooley, Steve Ainsworth, Dennis Hopper, Steve Winter, Mike Howroyd and Louise Ellis

## Sustainability

# In-depth travel can be miles better!

**A 5,700-mile train trip from Vietnam to Leeds this summer gave two Leeds academics real insight into the efficiency of long-distance travel.**

Lindsay Stringer, Professor in Environment and Development and Director of the Sustainability Research Institute, and Steven Orchard, a PhD student at the Institute, arrived home in September after the three-week trip.

“Long-distance travel is a regular feature of our research and we were conscious of the carbon footprint left by air travel, so we decided to look for ways to reduce the impact,” says Professor Stringer. “The train journey used only about a quarter of the carbon than would have been emitted if we’d returned by air. It was also about stimulating a wider dialogue concerning how we travel on University business and what we do while we’re travelling. The University’s strategy covers a range of different elements, so we sought to ‘join the dots’ between them and thought about how our journey could link alumni engagement, student education, research and so on.”

The pair stopped at Beijing, Ulan Bataar, Irkutsk, Moscow, Minsk and Bialystock. With help from the International Office and Alumni

and Development, they met up with several Leeds alumni. Mongolian and Polish alumni gave insight into environmental management challenges surrounding their national parks and provided useful student education opportunities by offering to host dissertation students. A former Environmental Sciences student who has established a sustainable travel company – [www.gobarefoot.org.uk](http://www.gobarefoot.org.uk) – even piloted a new tour with them in Yekaterinburg, while an MBA alumna met them in Moscow and provided ideas of how the University can further engage with alumni.

Find out more about the journey at <http://lindsaystringer.wordpress.com/>

As part of a broader event – ‘How can academic travel be more sustainable?’ – Lindsay and Steven will talk about their journey at a Sustainability Research Institute and Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy seminar on 13 November, 4.15 to 6pm, in the Roger Stevens Building LT17 (7.17). More information is at <http://goo.gl/dSVFYc>



Mongolia National Park



Lindsay Stringer and Steven Orchard



Trekking with horses in the Mongolia National Park

**The Travel Survey 2012-13 shows that more staff are choosing to walk or jog to work, although the numbers of colleagues travelling to work by car – shared or as a single occupant – have remained the same\*.**

Other results reveal that:

- 27% of staff and 35% of students with space in their cars would consider car sharing
- Staff would like to walk/jog more and cycle considerably more. Students would like to walk/jog less, travel by car more but also cycle more
- Emissions were on average 16.05kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per week per member of staff and 4.14kg per week per student
- For staff, 10% of emissions were from buses, 14% from trains, 1% from motorcycles and 74% from cars
- For students, 21% of emissions were from buses, 16% from trains, 2% from motorcycles and 54% from cars.

## Travel Survey results and updates

“The Travel Survey is important as we’re required to report to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on how our staff and students travel and the level of emissions from this travel,” explains the Sustainability Team’s Lisa Brannan. “It also helps monitor the success of travel initiatives, informs ongoing and future plans and secures a 15% staff discount on Metro cards.

“In other news, we’ve been awarded funding from the Department for Transport to install six electric vehicle-charging points on campus – one of only two universities awarded such funding – and our *UTravelActive* project has received funding for cycle parking improvements on campus in high-demand areas.”

Mode of travel	Staff	Change from 2012	Students	Change from 2012
Walk/jog	18%	+2	68%	-1
Bicycle	8%	-1	7%	-
Train	18%	+2	7%	-6
Bus	17%	-3	11%	+5
Car share	11%	–	2%	+1
Car as single occupant	26%	–	5%	+1

\* Usual mode of commuting travel 2013 compared to 2012

## Research and innovation

# Leeds high fliers study the skies



Dr McQuaid aboard the Skyship 600

**Two scientists from Leeds are part of a team taking to the skies in the world's largest airship – the Skyship 600 – to conduct one of most ambitious experiments on the atmosphere ever documented in a television programme.**

Dr Jim McQuaid and Dr Kelly Baustian (School of Earth and Environment) will be flying from coast to coast across the USA in a month-long expedition for the BBC Two series *Cloud Lab* (the project's working title). The team of British scientists will scrutinise insect life and the relationship between life and weather, as well as how hurricanes form. Dr McQuaid will be running the instruments on the ship and presenting findings to viewers and Dr Baustian will be analysing samples collected en route.

The team is also hoping to shed light on the creation of clouds and the relationship between diverse ecosystems and weather. During the trip, bats will be filmed using various technologies, revealing how they have learned to exploit these insect superhighways. Other experiments include researching the role of plants in maintaining the balance of the atmosphere and looking into the causes of wildfires.

The airship is a unique platform for exploring the atmosphere. It can maintain a stationary position, so the team is able to watch weather phenomena develop and then manoeuvre to get the best vantage point. It flies slowly and is exceptionally stable, making it the ideal base from which to conduct scientific experiments.

Dr McQuaid said: "Joining the *Cloud Lab* team is a great opportunity to observe

the atmosphere from coast to coast. We will encounter a wide range of different environments along the way, from the humid Florida coast through the dry desert around Albuquerque and onto Los Angeles and San Francisco on the Pacific coast. In addition, we stop off in New Orleans and fly up the path of Hurricane Katrina. The trip is very different from the usual airborne research campaigns I am involved in; having the film crew on board brings an added dimension of complexity."

*Cloud Lab* will transmit on BBC Two next year but, for now, their journey can be followed in real-time on Twitter: [@BBCCloudLab](https://twitter.com/BBCCloudLab)



Skyship 600 getting ready for take off

## Planning a research project this year?

**Before any research involving human participants can take place, ethical approval must be obtained. The principles of good research practice encourage the people involved to consider the wider consequences of their research and engage with the practical, ethical and intellectual challenges inherent in high-quality research.**

During the review process the risks and benefits for research participants and those carrying out the research are considered. The University's ethical review process is also an opportunity for researchers to seek advice from their Faculty Research Ethics Committee.

There is a wealth of information available at [www.leeds.ac.uk/ethics](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ethics), including tips for avoiding unnecessary delays in the ethical review process, advice on approaching and recruiting participants, example participant information and consent forms. The site also contains information about the Staff Departmental and Development Unit's (SDDU) 2013/2014 research ethics workshops and online training material.

The application form for ethical review is available at <http://goo.gl/1KMLDs>

Staff and students with questions about the ethical review process are welcome to contact the Senior Research Ethics Administrator, Jennifer Blaikie, [j.m.blaikie@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.blaikie@leeds.ac.uk), ext 34873, or a member of their Faculty Research Ethics Committee at, <http://goo.gl/dcG5YB> for advice.

## Research and innovation

# Engaging with the region

**This year's Research and Innovation Support Conference on Tuesday 3 December 2013 will offer sessions on everything from developing a culture of collaborative research to networking.**

The conference theme is 'Engaging with the Region'. In response to the recent economic climate, the UK government has established Local Enterprise Partnerships to support the development of economic growth in the local region. The conference plenary will consider how the research support community at Leeds can engage with local initiatives to help stimulate economic growth and competitiveness.

We are delighted to announce that the conference will be opened by our new Vice Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands, and the keynote speaker is Roger Marsh, Chair of the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Held at Weetwood Hall, this year the conference will offer a choice of 12 breakout sessions

covering topics including Horizon 2020; regional engagement; research leadership; the transition from industry to academia; facilitating researcher development; Library support for research, including open access publishing and research data management; harnessing social media to increase research impact; demonstrating good people management practices in research funding applications; and MRC programme grants.

Please book early to secure your place (£25 per person) at <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/RISAnnualConference2013>, no later than 8 November 2013. Please contact Lucy Kear, [l.e.kear@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:l.e.kear@leeds.ac.uk), if you have any queries.

Follow the conference on Twitter [@RISCONF13](https://twitter.com/RISCONF13)  
Follow the conversation [#RISCONF13](https://twitter.com/hashtag/RISCONF13)



The conference will seek to stimulate the region's economy

## News in brief

# New grant for stroke care research

Professor Anne Forster and colleagues based at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and the University have been awarded a £1.6 million National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Programme Grant for Applied Research to improve longer-term stroke care.

The early stages of the stroke care pathway are becoming more prescribed (treatment in acute and rehabilitation stroke units) but,

despite policy recommendations, strategies for longer-term care are not developed and stroke survivors and their families face a number of problems and challenges. The research aims to develop and evaluate key aspects of a replicable system of longer-term (nine months post-stroke) service delivery care strategy. The emphasis will be on improving quality of life by addressing unmet needs and enhancing participation.

## Social media platforms launched

The Research and Innovation Service (RIS) now has Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Pinterest accounts, a blog and a new area on its website, Research Funding, all dedicated to publicising and promoting research funding opportunities and success stories. Full details at <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk>

## Care conference



Pro-Vice-Chancellor David Hogg (third from right) at the Care Connect conference dinner

**Experts from six countries attended a University-hosted conference to explore different perspectives on supporting carers to manage work and care, an issue of growing importance for policymakers around the world.**

The conference brought together members of the Employers for Carers Leadership Group, including British Gas, the University's Equality Service and Employers for Carers, who recently contributed to the government report, *Caring and Employment*.

A conference dinner, organised by the University's Care-Connect: the Social Care Innovation Hub and CIRCLE (the Centre for International Research on Care, Labour and Equalities), also celebrated the launch of the book, *Combining Paid Work and Family Care. Policies and Experiences in International Perspectives*, edited by Professors Sue Yeandle (Director of CIRCLE) and Teppo Kroger. The dinner was attended by Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation David Hogg.



## Valuing our people

# Team talk – Digital Learning team

### What's the role of the Digital Learning team?

This is a question we get asked on a regular basis! Due to the high profile of FutureLearn, it's widely assumed that we're all about MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) but in fact that's just part of our remit. We're responsible for all of the University's external digital learning channels, which include iTunes U, educational areas of YouTube and Jorum. We encourage staff to showcase and share their work and resources worldwide through these platforms.

### Who's in the team?

Headed up by Neil Morris, Director of Digital Learning, we now have a full team in place. Carol Elston is Team Manager, managing the channels and working with academics to scope new courses. Stephen Livesey, Learning Technologist, works with Ben Pierce and Tom Hinchliffe to build courses, develop materials and oversee the platforms and content. Project Officer Leanda Johnson supports communications and the management of content; she's been instrumental in the recent launch of the University's iTunes U site. And last but not least, Team Support Officer Hazel Smoczynska makes sure it all runs smoothly.

### Tell us about the team's involvement with the FutureLearn project.

Few of us had heard of MOOCs this time last year but our first online course went live on 21 October to thousands of learners worldwide! We're one of over 20 partner universities working with FutureLearn and are taking part in the pilot launch of the online platform. Our course, entitled 'When worlds collide', was the second MOOC to be launched and we are looking forward to developing many more. Our next two courses are scheduled for February and March, so there's no time for complacency!

### What are the benefits of digital learning?

Digital learning has many benefits. For our students it plays an important part in the blended learning they enjoy; there are already



The Digital Learning team (l-r):  
Leanda Johnson, Tom Hinchliffe, Neil Morris, Carol Elston, Stephen Livesey, Ben Pierce and Hazel Smoczynska.

lots of digital resources available on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The recent MOOC initiative, to provide outward-facing platforms to promote our resources, will lead to the development of more quality materials that will be available for our campus students as well as learners worldwide.

This is a really exciting time; there are opportunities to share some of our best teaching and research with learners around the world. We also have the chance to showcase our University and encourage home and international students to study at Leeds.

### What other projects are you working on?

We have a number of MOOCs in the pipeline but we're also keen to work with academics to move to the second phase of our iTunes U launch and develop a number of iTunes U courses. We're also concentrating on the YouTube and Jorum channels, gathering content and defining processes to make using them easier for staff and students. We're aware that we need to spread the word; as a new team, we need to tell the University what we're doing and how we can work with people. We hope to have a website by the end of the year. In the meantime, we can be contacted at [digitallearning@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:digitallearning@leeds.ac.uk)

### Which teams or people in the University do you work with?

Even though we've only been around for a few months, it's true to say that we've worked with every faculty and many schools already! The iTunes U channel includes content from all faculties and we've liaised with colleagues from many schools to ensure that the content was ready for launch. As we develop the MOOCs we'll have close contact with lead academics and their school. Professor Jon Lovett and his colleagues in the School of Geography have probably seen more than enough of us during the past few months!

We also work closely with the Communications team, who have promoted the MOOC, the Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU), who support the MOOC forum, and the Library team who provide help with copyright issues.

### Tell us something about the team's work that would surprise people.

That's a difficult question. To many the surprise might be that we exist! It may also be a surprise to some that we have launched the University's iTunes U channel with over 350 assets and that our first MOOC drew huge interest from universities and organisations in Nepal – it's a truly international event!

## Valuing our people

# Double Athena SWAN success



The University's Faculty of Engineering and School of Medicine have both achieved Bronze level in the latest round of the Athena SWAN Charter awards announced by the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU).

"This is excellent news for the University and reflects our investment in ensuring support for the careers of women in our science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine departments," says Dr Jane Cahill, the University's Athena SWAN Manager.

"Of course, we will continue working hard with faculties and schools to benchmark and disseminate examples of excellence across all disciplines – arts and sciences.

"Our results reflect the overall trend which shows that medicine and engineering departments in particular are making headway on gender equality. Medical schools and clinical departments made up 30% of all successful awards in the latest round while engineering

departments were the second largest group, gaining 9% of all successful awards."

The Athena SWAN Charter awards have run since 2005, recognising the commitment of the higher education sector to address gender inequalities, tackle the unequal representation of women in science and improve career progression for female academics.

Since the University's original submission in 2009, the Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences (MaPS) has achieved Silver level and the School of Healthcare a Bronze award in recognition of their good practice.

Visit the Athena SWAN website for more information at [www.athenaswan.org.uk](http://www.athenaswan.org.uk)

## Valuing our people

# Last call for award nominations!

There's still time to nominate your health and safety heroes and heroines for one of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Health and Safety 2013 before the closing date of Tuesday, 12 November.

This year the awards are open to both staff and students whose inspiration, innovation and leadership have made a real difference to health and safety. As well as having their achievements recognised, winners could receive £250 in gift vouchers.

There are four award categories, each with their own criteria, and two special awards which will be selected from all the entries:

- The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety – the Vice-Chancellor will personally select the most inspiring entry from all applications to win £250 with this award.
- Beacons of Good Practice – the judging panel will select the most transferable applications from all nominations.

Full details can be found at <http://goo.gl/r2mnLQ>

## Celebrating the unsung heroines



A new exhibition curated by Special Collections and the Feminist Archive North celebrates forgotten or unacknowledged women high achievers in the field of science and technology.

The exhibition – in the entrance to Special Collections in the Brotherton Library – is raising awareness of the activities, initiatives and achievements from the Women's Engineering Society (1918) through the



WISE campaign of 1984 to the Bradford-based UK Resource Centre (1991). It includes a fascinating collection of materials that illustrate a rich history of activism to promote women's study and work in all branches of science, engineering, technology, construction and mathematics.

Among the women featured are 18th century astronomer, Caroline Herschel, and Rosalind Franklin, the biophysicist colleague of double helix discoverers Crick and Watson.

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



## Inspire our students

# Engineers focus on employability

**Employability was top of the agenda for students, staff and strategic partners attending the relaunch of the Faculty of Engineering's Employability Suite.**

More than 100 students attended the event, which was opened by Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education Vivien Jones. They took the opportunity to talk to the new Employability Team and to colleagues from the Faculty and University with links to employability and learning and teaching, such as Access and Community Engagement, Study Abroad, ERASMUS Work Placements, the Careers Centre, STEM Outreach and Leeds for Life.

Others attending the event included some of the faculty's current Toyoda-sponsored interns, Research & Leadership Scholars, Presidents of school-based societies – such as CompSoc CivilSoc and ChemSoc – and strategic partners from industry, including Proctor and Gamble and Rolls-Royce.

“The event was a great opportunity for us to promote the services we offer to students, both in the faculty and the wider University, as well as our new employability programme,” says Emily Timson, Employability Business Development Manager. “It was our first student event of this academic year and gave all our students the



Putting employability high on the agenda (l-r): Student Stuart Watt, Professor Peter Jimack, student Georgina Sims, Emily Timson, students Karolis Velicka and Ana-Luiza Cristea.

chance to experience a mini-networking event and employability fair. Those students undecided about which career path to take could talk with experts about their career ideas while others could gather information about internships, placements and graduate jobs. It was great for them to be able to meet students who are working in industry, as well as our strategic partners.”

Dean of the Faculty Professor Peter Jimack says: “As a faculty we are committed to supporting our students as they plan and prepare for employment. This is a process that starts from

the very first year of study and includes CV building, work experience and development of transferable skills as part of a modern engineering education. Our employability hub is a strategic initiative that will help us deliver this support, working closely with our colleagues in the Careers Centre. I'm delighted that we had such a well-attended and successful relaunch event.”

*‘I was very impressed with the employability facilities the students now have access to. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the University in the future.’*

**Stuart Perry**, Customer Logistics - UK/Eire, Procter & Gamble

# Engaging Leeds Student Education Conference 2014

**Bookings are now open for the third annual University of Leeds Student Education Conference on Friday 10 January 2014.**

This year's theme is 'Engaging Leeds' and the day will examine what engagement means to us as a university which is part of a local community, a national HE community – and even a global community. We will look at the various relationships we have with these

communities, how they are changing and how we are improving them. It will be an opportunity to share good practice with anyone involved in student education, to share successes and to forge new collaborative links in an intellectually stimulating and practically useful environment.

We are very lucky to have secured Professor Martin Bean from the Open University and Sophie Duncan from the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement as

our two keynote speakers. In addition, SEC3 2014 comprises five symposia, 19 parallel sessions and 13 workshops.

Places on symposia, parallel sessions and workshops are limited, so we advise booking early to ensure you get your first choices.

To find out more – and book your place – visit <http://goo.gl/lvngf>

## In the news



BBC Radio Stoke interviewed Dr Clifford Stott (School of Law) about the reaction of **Staffordshire Police** towards football fans after a game between Port Vale and Wolverhampton Wanderers in August.

Researchers at the University of Leeds and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, found that the **Earth's inner core** spins in an eastward direction, while the outer core spins westwards. Dr Philip Livermore (School of Earth and Environment), lead author in the study, was quoted by the *Hindustan Times*, Mail online, *Huffington Post*, *nu.nl* and *El Economista*.

Professor Edward Spiers (School of History) featured across numerous radio stations, including BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio Leeds, BBC Radio York and BBC Three Counties to discuss the **crisis in Syria**. The *Yorkshire Post* also published an article written by Professor Spiers in which he discussed the government's failed vote for military intervention in Syria.

Researchers at the universities of Leeds and Bradford are working with colleagues from Indiana University in the United States to develop a **robotic arm** that will aid children with their coordination. The *Hindustan Times*, *Yorkshire Evening Post* and *Science Daily* all picked up the story.

The mass pile-up of more than 130 cars at **Sheppey Crossing** in Kent was discussed by Dr Samantha Jamson (Institute for Transport Studies) on BBC Radio 4's Today programme. It was also featured on BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine programme, which included comment from Dr Frank Lai (Institute for Transport Studies). In a separate interview on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Professor Oliver Carsten (Institute for Transport Studies) spoke about Intelligent Speed Adaptation.

In a BBC Look North item, which included a discussion about Cygan the 1950s robot, Professor Martin Levesley from the School of Mechanical Engineering gave details of **robotic system** iPAM, which aids patients with physiotherapy exercises.

Minister for Universities and Science, the Rt Hon **David Willetts** MP, attended the University for a round table discussion hosted by new Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands. The meeting, which was attended by several business leaders from the region's medical technology industry, was reported by the *Times Higher Education* and the *Yorkshire Post*, which cited the Minister's praise for the University's work in this area.

Professor Mark Wilcox (Institute of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences) co-authored a research paper on the best ways to fight the **Clostridium difficile** infection. The research found that restricting the use of antibiotics could be vital in reducing the spread of C-diff. The story was widely picked up and featured on BBC News online, *The Times*, *Z News* (India) and the *Yorkshire Evening Post*.



A combined study by the universities of Leeds and Leicester examined death rates in **children's intensive care units**. The study found that even though admission rates were on the increase, death rates were at a record low. The new research was reported by BBC News online, *Yorkshire Post* and *Yorkshire Evening Post*.

The University announced its first Massive Open Online Course, 'Fairness and Nature: When Worlds Collide', in September. Several news outlets picked up the University's participation in the FutureLearn programme of new **MOOCs**, including BBC News online, *The Telegraph*, *Times of India* and *Financial Times*. Dr Neil Morris, Director of Digital Learning, was interviewed about the University's MOOC for a piece in the *Times Higher Education*.



The European Space Agency released findings from the satellite CryoSat, which discovered that **Arctic sea ice** is reducing in volume as well as area. Professor Andrew Shepherd (School of Earth and Environment) commented on the new findings in AFP, Sky News online Australia and BBC News online.

A study which looked at children's diets by examining individual **food diaries** was included on a Channel 4 News item. Dr Charlotte Evans from the School of Food Science and Nutrition appeared on the programme to talk about her research.

BBC Radio 4's Seven Ages of Science series looked at the **history of science in Britain** from the Restoration to the present day. Dr Elizabeth Bruton, Postdoctoral Researcher at the University, appeared on the Age of War programme to talk about how the demands of the war effort during the First World War provided an important impetus for scientific innovation.

Research by Professor Clive Brown from the School of Music, which asserts that musicians who have been striving for historically accurate performance have in fact been **misinterpreting** Classical and Romantic music for almost a century, was included in *Metro*. The coverage coincided with a concert Professor Brown and colleagues gave in the Clothworkers' Concert Hall, using performing practices reflecting those of the mid-19th century Leipzig tradition.



## Our people/honours

**Professor Sir Alex Markham**, MBBS, PhD, FRCP, FRSC, FMedSci, has been appointed as Director of Research in the School of Medicine.

Sir Alex, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Molecular Medicine Unit at St James' University Hospital, will chair a new School of Medicine Research Committee, reporting to the School Executive, which will develop and implement a Biomedical Translational Strategy for the School.

Sir Alex is an Honorary Consultant Physician for the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Yorkshire and a National Advisor to the Department of Health on gene therapy.

He has extensive experience of working with the pharmaceutical industry and was awarded the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1990 for his work on the development of DNA fingerprinting. He has served as Chief Executive Officer of Cancer Research UK (May 2003 to 2007) and as Chairman of the National Cancer Research Institute. He has also held senior advisory roles for the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust, the National Cancer Intelligence Network, and the National Institute of Health Research Advisory Board. He serves as a Member of the Government's Cancer Reform Strategy Advisory Board and is Chairman of the Office for the Strategic Coordination of Health Research Translational Medicine Board. Sir Alex was knighted for 'Services to Medicine' in the Queen's 2008 New Year Honours List and is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Paul Stewart, Dean of the Medical School, says: "This is an important step in the development and implementation of our innovative biomedical research strategy. Alex is an immense asset to the School and wider University-NHS interface and brings considerable expertise to this role."



Sally Bogg, Vanessa Styles and Ruth Denton from the IT Help Desk

**Leeds' IT Help Desk team** has become one of only two UK university services to be awarded Two Star certification from the international standards body, the Service Desk Institute.

Howard Kendall of the Service Desk Institute, said: "With the help of the OneIT vision and strategy, the Help Desk team...has a very good grip on the improvements they are implementing in order to achieve world-class

support. It is clear that staff are motivated and in tune with the staff and students they support, with a focus on continual service quality improvement."

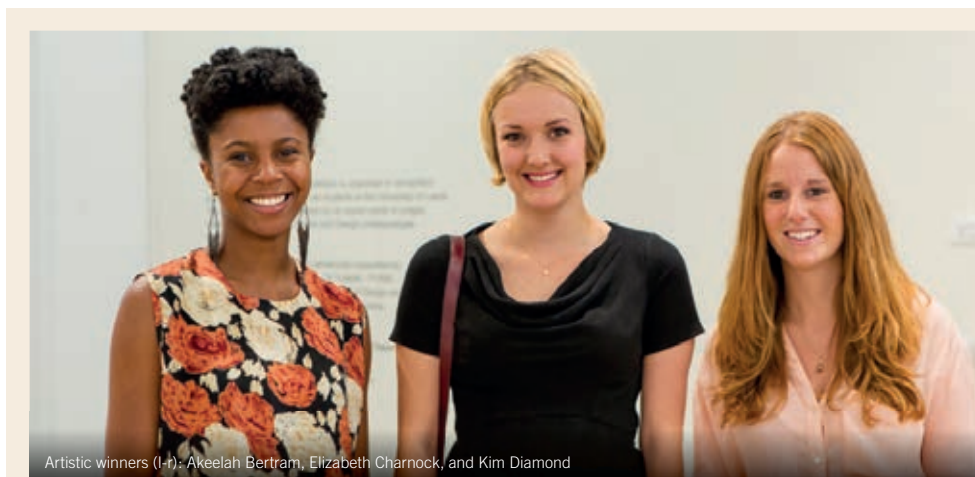
Finance Director Jane Madeley said: "For most IT users, the IT Help Desk is the visible front of house for the whole of IT services. Its focus on the user experience and the way the team puts University values into action is a credit to the whole IT organisation."

The **Careers Service** won two awards at the AGCAS Awards for Excellence – Student Engagement and the overall award for Excellence in the sector. The Student Engagement award was for: "Careers Registration – which directly connects every new and continuing student with the Careers Centre, has led to increased face-to-face and online interactions, along with powerful new data demonstrating the need for career guidance."

**Leeds University Business School's** status as one of Europe's top schools was confirmed in the latest *Financial Times* Global Masters in Management 2013 rankings. The School's flagship MSc International Business programme

climbed 12 places from the 2012 results and is now ranked 58th in the world in a league table of management programmes from 70 international business schools.

Nicolas Forsans, Programme Director, says: "Our MSc International Business has become, in a short period of time, a leading and internationally recognised programme in the field that compares very favourably against those of the very best world-class business schools. We do particularly well in areas that matter to students, such as employability, career prospects and the ability of our programme team to work with our students and enable them to achieve their personal, as well as professional objectives."



Artistic winners (l-r): Akeelah Bertram, Elizabeth Charnock, and Kim Diamond

Students **Akeelah Bertram** and **Kim Diamond** were named joint winners of the new Friends of University Art and Music (Leeds) (FUAM) Graduate Art Prize by judges Lisa Le Feuvre (Head of Sculpture Studies at the Henry Moore Institute), John Douglas Millar (critic and art journalist) and Professor Vivien Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education).

The winner of the popular vote – collected via the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery's e-voting feature – was Kim Diamond, closely followed by Elizabeth Charnock. The Prize was supported by FUAM (Leeds), the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies and the School of Design.

## News

# Transforming data management

Chief Information Officer Richard Corbridge talks about the work of National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network.



Research data developers (l-r): Roy Barton, Richard Corbridge, Nicola Yallup, Victoria Cornelius, Jessica Thomas, Richard Farr, Laurence Truman and Ben Walsh.

**It's an exciting time to be part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network. In case you didn't know, we're the research delivery arm of the NHS and our coordinating centre is based at the University, at Fairbairn House.**

Last year, over 630,000 patients in the NHS took part in clinical research studies that we helped to deliver. That's a three-fold increase in five years, which leads to a significant challenge: to develop information systems that can collect this volume of NHS research data and turn it into information that provides insight.

In response, our Informatics team is currently developing an infrastructure of systems that will ensure clinical research delivers the insight the NHS needs.

We will shortly launch a key part of this infrastructure: a data handling system capable of capturing information about all clinical research in real time. By early 2014, the Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS) will transform the way information about studies, levels of recruitment and other non-patient-identifiable information can be recorded, accessed and analysed. This system is attracting global attention, with the international clinical research community intent on learning from its development.

Alongside CPMS, the Knowledge and Information team has led the development of an information platform that will change the way the clinical research community can interact with key information, making multiple sources of data available in one place. The Open Data Platform (ODP) is the Clinical Research Network's response to the government's transparency agenda and provides access to an increasing number of research-related data sets and other useful links.

Teams at the University of Leeds have already started using ODP to ensure the clinical research they support fits with the wider, national strategy. By using the tool, they can also visualise their data in an engaging way and make it easily accessible to the right people.

To find out more, get in touch with the team at [crn.informatics@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:crn.informatics@nihr.ac.uk). You can also get updates on Clinical Research Network projects at [www.richardcorbridge.com](http://www.richardcorbridge.com)

## Small ads

### Professional services

#### 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](mailto:plancaster@LawBlacks.com)

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Wills, inheritance tax, care home fees, lasting powers of attorney and probate services. Five minutes from campus, 10% discount if your bring this advert.

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Richard Sykes 0777 249 9414  
[good\\_connections@btinternet.com](mailto:good_connections@btinternet.com)

### Other

#### 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](mailto:prconion@leeds.ac.uk)  
Registration: [www.survey.leeds.ac.uk/onion/](http://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](http://www.philanthropic.org.uk)  
[secretary@philanthropic.org.uk](mailto:secretary@philanthropic.org.uk)

#### BEEN FEELING DOWN LATELY?

Adults required for confidential research study exploring how thoughts and feelings related to suicide influence how people respond to stress. Involves completing questionnaire and individual tasks. Some restrictions based on health status.

Jessica 0113 343 6696  
[starlab@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:starlab@leeds.ac.uk)

#### ACTIVITY CENSUS STUDY

We're interested in the amount of activity people do. To be eligible for the study you must live or work in Leeds, have access to the internet and do little activity. EARN £40 LOVE2SHOP VOUCHERS

Ben b.morris@leeds.ac.uk

### House/flat/room to let

#### FANTASTIC 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Burley area, walking distance to University, car park, suit professions/postgrads/small family. £650.00 per calendar month. Rent for individual rooms vary.

0794 626 1312  
[cme6tc@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:cme6tc@leeds.ac.uk)

#### 2/3 BEDROOM HOUSE

Barn conversion to let 2014 – 10 Jan to 27 March. FF and DW, Dryer WM. Rent £100 pw and utility bills. Uni 15 mins, Gotts Park on doorstep. Owner off to NZ.

Kirk Mann 0113 279 5764  
[K.Mann@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:K.Mann@leeds.ac.uk)

## Events

# Chen Man – reflections on modern China

As part of the celebrations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our East Asian Studies Department\*, the Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery is hosting an exhibition by Chinese photographer Chen Man.

The exhibition - Chen Man – originates from the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art and includes pieces which offer both a reflection on the accomplishments of modern China and a critique of its rapid rate of development. These are common themes in Chen Man's work, whose rise to fame coincided with the explosion of consumer culture in China and an increasing desire for luxury goods. Best known as a fashion photographer, her images occupy a space between art and commerce, capturing the personalities and attitudes of a new generation of Chinese people.

The free exhibition runs until 15 December – no booking is necessary.



Chen Man, **Double Mickey 2**, 2006, photograph © Chen Man



Chen Man, **Young Pioneer and CCTV**, 2009, photograph © Chen Man

### The Art of Filling Space – Wednesday 6 November at 6pm, Great Hall

All are invited to attend the inaugural lecture of Professor Michael Rappolt, Leadership Chair of Lipid Biophysics (School of Food Science and Nutrition).

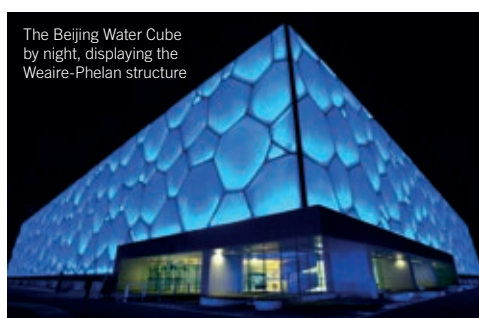
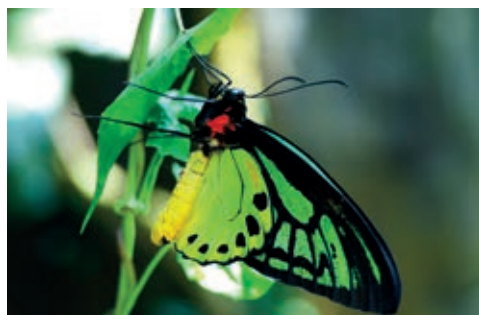
His lecture will highlight how nature has found various solutions to the challenges of filling

space and how we can explore and exploit these. After introducing some prominent examples such as studies of honeycombs, the structure of dry foam and the self-assembly of specific crystals in butterfly wing scales, Professor Rappolt will concentrate on his own research into the optimum 'packing' of micelles. Micelles are mostly round-shaped nanoparticles formed in water by lipid molecules, which constitute the major building blocks of cell membranes. They play an important role in food digestion and find wide applications in pharmaceuticals and food engineering. At high concentrations they may pack as simply as piled-up cannon balls; however, there are more complex arrangements, too. The examples will show that nature does not like empty spaces but filling space is not a trivial task!

Professor Rappolt is a leading authority on the use of x-ray scattering on investigating the structure and dynamics of lipid membranes. Recent activities have been concentrated on the study of drug/membrane interactions with applications to drug delivery and food.

This event is free and everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to take part in a drinks reception at 5pm and a buffet meal after the lecture, both taking place in the Parkinson Building, please contact the event organiser Matthew Taylor:

[m.i.taylor@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.i.taylor@leeds.ac.uk) or 0113 343 2959.



The Beijing Water Cube by night, displaying the Weaire-Phelan structure

### Annual Bolton Lecture – In to the Cold: the Life and Death of Galaxies, Wednesday 20 November, 5.30-6.30pm, Conference Auditorium 1

This year's lecture will be given by Professor Susanne Aalto, Head of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

Professor Aalto will talk about how the new ALMA telescope in Chile is taking us into a new era of astrophysics, opening our eyes to the 'cold' universe. Recently we have learnt that many galaxies pass through phases during which they produce winds that expel massive amounts of cold dusty gas. This lecture will describe the fundamental influence cold gas has on the regulation of the life, evolution and death of galaxies.

The lecture series is named after Scriven Bolton (1888-1929) whose bequest enables the University to provide an observatory in which undergraduates can learn practical astronomy.

For details of this free open lecture visit [www.physics.leeds.ac.uk/home/bolton-lecture.html](http://www.physics.leeds.ac.uk/home/bolton-lecture.html)

### University Carol Service: Tuesday 3 December 2013, 5.30pm, Great Hall

Music by Leeds University Union Music Society and singing accompanied by the Staff Festival Choir (other special guests to be announced).

All staff, students, alumni and friends are very welcome, and mince pies and mulled wine will be served after the service.

For information contact the Universities' Chaplaincy – call Sharon Almond on 0113 343 5071, email [chaplaincy@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@leeds.ac.uk) or visit [www.leeds.ac.uk/chaplaincy](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/chaplaincy)

### A Boy was Born – 6-7 December

The Clothworkers Consort of Leeds is teaming up with Wakefield Girls High School choir for performances of Benjamin Britten's *A Boy was Born*. Featuring a mixed adult choir and a part for children's choir, it is one of the most challenging pieces in the whole choral repertoire.

Friday 6 December, 7.30pm, Leeds Universities Catholic Chaplaincy (St Mark's Avenue, LS2 9BN)

Friday 13 December, 7.30pm, Jubilee Hall, Wakefield Girls High School (Margaret Street, WF1 2QS)

Visit the Clothworkers Consort of Leeds at [www.ccl.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.ccl.leeds.ac.uk)

\*A full report on the celebrations will be in the December issue of the Reporter.

## FAQs

# Rowan Grant, National Outreach Manager, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in Medical Devices



### Tell us about the new Centre that's just opened at the University.

The Centre is a collaborative research project, bringing together expertise from the universities of Leeds, Newcastle, Nottingham, Bradford and Sheffield, as well as a range of expert clinicians from across the UK. We also have 12 founding industry members embedded within our research projects, with many more forming an industry-wide network. Together we will research and develop advanced design and manufacturing methods for the medical device sector.

### Why is it such good news for the University?

Leeds is leading the Centre – with total funding of £5.7m, the largest manufacturing grant the University has received. We'll lead the development of stratified and personalised medical devices to better meet the needs of individual and groups of patients – driven by the ageing population expecting longer and more active lives. It means we'll be contributing the health and wellbeing of lots of people (in England and Wales there are approximately 160,000 hip and knee replacement procedures performed each year). Through our research we hope to develop devices that will keep working for a patient's whole life.

### So what does your role as National Outreach Manager involve?

I'm responsible for marketing the Centre to the industrial, academic and clinical community and building a network with them. We are doing this through a dedicated website ([www.mede-innovation.ac.uk](http://www.mede-innovation.ac.uk)), newsletters and social media, and events that bring together the whole community on topics such as regulation and innovation adoption. Our launch event is taking place on 10 January and I'm looking forward to meeting all the Centre's partners in person and learning from them how we can support them better.



### What's particularly exciting about the work of the new Centre?

I think it's all the work around safety, reliability, customisation and improving the health of people. Personally, I am excited to be working with colleagues across five universities. It will be a challenge but one that will be rewarding.

### What kind of medical devices do you think – or hope – will be commonplace in 20 years' time?

Put simply, we'd like there to be hip and knee replacements that support the patients' own body by repairing the natural tissues in situ. So, rather than a metal implant, with earlier intervention, surgeons might implant a biological scaffold along with the device, supporting the body's own cells to regenerate and allowing more rapid healing and restoration of function.

### Tell us about previous jobs and how you came to be at Leeds.

If anyone would have told me 10 years ago I'd be working in a science or engineering field I wouldn't have believed them! I worked as a Training Coordinator county-wide in Lincolnshire for Connexions: from that I went on to work in the University's Staff and Departmental Development Unit for almost five years. A friend told me about a role available in the Innovation and Knowledge Centre, working with Ceri Williams and John Fisher, in 2012. I've really enjoyed working in an industry-facing engagement role and pleased I've got another five years to build on the partnerships we've formed so far.

### What's your most frequently asked question?

"Could you write a case study on..." It's usually something that sounds very technical and requires me to ask a lot of further questions to understand the work going on and how it will impact on industry, clinic and patients.

### Which is your favourite building on campus?

I'm possibly biased but it has to be the new Medical and Biological Engineering (iMBE) building. It's a dream after we were temporarily based in Lyddon Terrace. Now we have brand new facilities and we sit among the researchers who we work closely with. I've also been leading a project to promote iMBE's achievements in the new building so that visitors leave feeling really excited about the work we're doing. Hopefully, that will be finished in the new year.

### How do you like to spend time when you're not at work?

I've been hugely into crafting for the past few years. I mainly make resin and acrylic laser-cut jewellery – some was sold in Selfridges a couple of years ago and featured in fashion magazines. I'm also a member of The Edge – the Kaiser Cycle classes are quite addictive!