



Reporter

Issue 579
January 2014



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How more meaningful engagement will play a major role in the University's future activities.

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Leader column

A good new year...

2014 is already off to a strong start with positive advances in research and student education. The European Parliament's seven year budget was ratified at the end of November 2013 and includes the sum of €79.4bn for Horizon 2020. This is a rare opportunity to tap into a growing funding stream for research, and of course the University has a good track record of 'winning' European funding. For the first time, the Commission has indicated funding priorities over two years, providing researchers with greater certainty on the direction of EU research policy.

Calls for the 2014 budget – worth around €7.8bn – are already open and include European Research Council grants for top scientists and Marie Curie fellowships for young researchers. Industry facing calls (€1.8bn) cover ICT, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics and biotechnology. €2.8bn is set aside for Horizon 2020's seven societal challenges in: health; agriculture, maritime and bioeconomy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflective societies; and security.

It is essential that we put our best foot forward in attracting Horizon 2020 funding while continuing to build on recent progress with the UK research councils and other funders. At the time of writing, there are important signs of progress in two major competitive bidding exercises. If successful, the first (with the Medical Research Council) will provide funding of at least £6m to develop an MRC Bioinformatics Centre at the University and the second (with the Economic and Social Research Council) will provide a similar level of funding to develop a Consumer Data Research Centre. Congratulations to Professor Sir Alex Markham and Professor Mark Birkin who led these bids and to a great many staff across the University who supported their development. Hopefully, success in these areas will provide a platform for a wider initiative on the development of big data research and associated educational initiatives, and joint working with a range of external academic, NHS and industry partners.

We are also building on the University's recent success in attracting research council funding for doctoral training centres in arts and

humanities and the environment and also the renewal of the Wellcome Trust PhD programme in biological sciences. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has now announced funding for its Centres for Doctoral Training, including three at Leeds in the areas of bioenergy; fluid dynamics; and tissue engineering, regenerative medicine and bioengineering, with total allocations likely to be in the region of £11m. Again, I congratulate all concerned in achieving such a strong outcome.

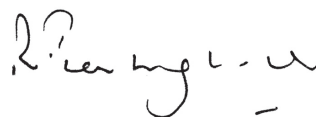
Meanwhile, the Student Education Service is developing apace, ensuring an equitable experience for all students across the whole life cycle of application, admission, study and co-curricular opportunities, and progression to employment or postgraduate study. The SES's commitment to provide training and development opportunities for staff and improved levels of support for the academic community will ensure strong foundations for the future.

We should take particular pride in the fact that we have continued to build on the University's commitment to spot talent early and to boost the aspirations, attainment and achievement of students from more challenging backgrounds. The University's most recent report to OFFA* and HEFCE on progress on access and widening participation tells a very positive story. Total spend on financial support, outreach and student support was nearly £13.5m in 2012/13; more than 'one in three' of our students received financial support; and first year full time entrants from low socio-economic groups was more than 22%, without any compromise on the level of attainment achieved by the students being recruited.

These successes and examples of innovative practice in curriculum development, quality enhancement, the use of new technology, and the importance of archives and special collections in educational development were discussed at the third annual student education conference. With almost 500 people crammed into the Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre and with vibrant workshop and poster sessions, the conference provided an inspirational start to 2014.

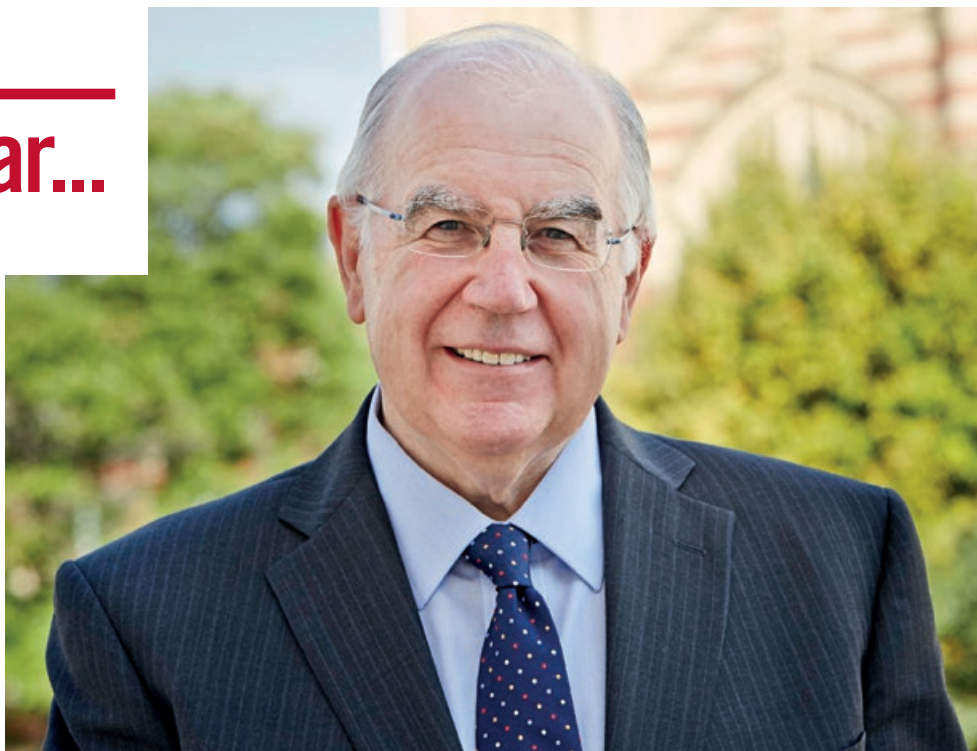
Finally – and on a less positive note – (at the time of writing) there is still no sign of the government's grant letter to HEFCE. There are ominous signs of a further squeeze on HEFCE's teaching funding and perhaps new constraints on research funding, already starved of inflationary increases over the past five years. I will update the University as soon as more information is available but our aim should be to cope with any reductions without breaking stride.

Against this background, growth in opportunities in European research funding over the next seven years, success in interdisciplinary research and the development of our doctoral training centres, and the continued quest for excellence and innovation in every aspect of student education will be fundamental to the success of the University in moving forward.



Alan Langlands

*Office for Fair Access.



News

Engaging Leeds



The conference exhibition proved very popular

Inspirational speeches from Martin Bean, Vice-Chancellor of the Open University and founder of FutureLearn, and Sophie Duncan, Assistant Director of the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE), provided the perfect beginning and ending to the third Student Education Conference (SEC).

This year's highly topical theme was 'Engaging Leeds' – a subject of particular interest to those directly involved in student education, which also has an impact on colleagues across the University. Delegates heard how broader, deeper and more meaningful engagement across a range of areas will play a major role in the University's future activities. Martin Bean entertained a capacity audience, challenging them to think about how excellence in both face-to-face and digital learning and teaching can help engage even more effectively with new audiences. Closing the conference, Sophie Duncan talked about why public engagement matters, how it can benefit both community and institution, and suggested innovative and effective ways of engaging.

"This year's SEC was a fantastic success, attracting nearly 500 people," says Dr Kelvin Tapley, Chair of SEC Steering Group. "It gave people the opportunity to look at engagement in many forms, from how to establish deeper communication with and understanding of our students and local, national or global communities to working with different industries to get their input into the courses we offer students. It was also a great chance for colleagues to think about how we can work together to use our resources most effectively, share good practice and consider new collaborations."

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands welcomed delegates to SEC3, saying: "Only a few universities could hold a conference like this

and, having read the abstracts, no other could mount such a rich and diverse programme. This reflects the University's central commitment to the integration of world-class research, scholarship and education and the pursuit of academic excellence. It is also a tribute to all of you who work hard to inspire and enrich the lives of our students."*

As well as the two keynote addresses, SEC3 featured five sets of symposia, 19 parallel sessions and 13 workshops, an exhibition area featuring over 30 student education-related stands, and the announcement by Professor Vivien Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education, of the names of those colleagues who have been awarded 2014 University Education Fellowships.

**Read the transcript of Sir Alan's welcome speech in the My Week column for 13 January at www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/*



Dr Anne Tallontire (School of Earth and Environment) receiving her award from Viv Jones (r)

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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:

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Web: www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/reporter

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 SEC3 delegates in Parkinson Court. Thanks to Karen Cooper for the photograph.

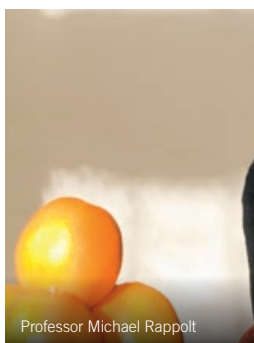
News

Shedding light on membrane structures

Professor Michael Rappolt has been appointed as Leadership Chair of Lipid Biophysics (School of Food Science and Nutrition). He is a leading authority on investigating the structure and dynamics of lipid membranes using small-angle X-ray scattering. His recent research activities have concentrated on the study of drug/membrane interactions with potential applications to drug delivery and food.

Professor Rappolt says: "Improving nanostructural data retrieval and data analysis is an evergreen research topic, in particular when applying synchrotron light techniques. I've developed important concepts and strategies to understand membrane structure, rigidity and curvature, and studied dynamic processes like in-membrane fusion in depth."

As Leadership Chair, Professor Rappolt will integrate new experimental possibilities in



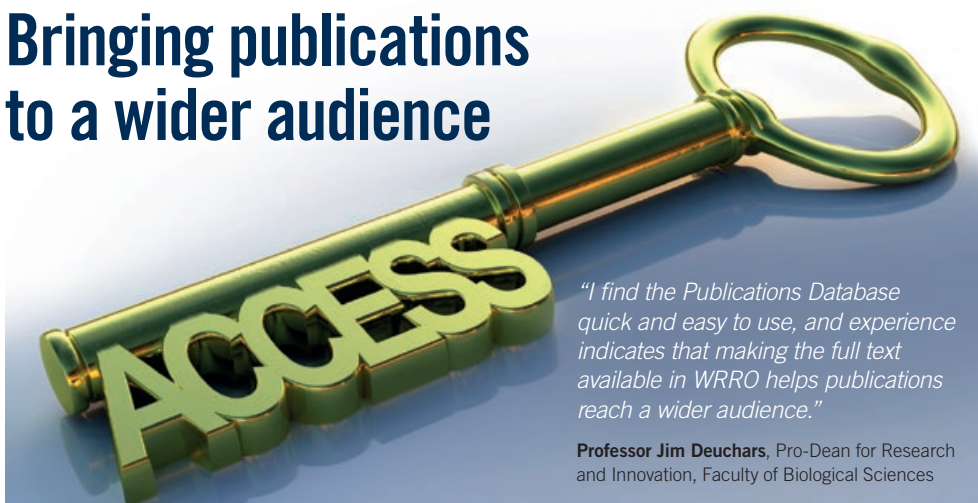
Professor Michael Rappolt

nanostructure research, collaborating with international colleagues, as well as with colleagues from the School of Food Science and Nutrition and related research groups at the University. His research topics will concentrate on characterising crystallization processes in food, the investigation of colloid interfaces and the determination of particle structures on the nanoscale. He also seeks to transfer standard measurement techniques applied in food research – such as mechanic (sound and shear) and thermodynamic sample manipulations to synchrotron sites – to

understand food on a smaller (nanometre) and faster (microsecond) scale.

Professor Rappolt received his MSc and PhD in physics from the University of Hamburg and achieved his habilitation at the University of Ljubljana in the Faculty of Health Sciences. He was Senior Researcher at the Synchrotron Trieste Outstation (Italy), Institute of Biophysics and Nanosystems Research (Austrian Academy of Sciences), before becoming Assistant Professor at Graz University of Technology.

Bringing publications to a wider audience



"I find the Publications Database quick and easy to use, and experience indicates that making the full text available in WRRO helps publications reach a wider audience."

Professor Jim Deuchars, Pro-Dean for Research and Innovation, Faculty of Biological Sciences

Authors can raise their research profile and improve the citation and impact of their research through using the University's new publications policy. As well as ensuring that research reaches a wider audience, the policy is helping people comply with funders' open access policies and also meets the requirements of the next Research Excellence Framework.

"Our publications policy promotes 'green open access'," explains Librarian Dr Stella Butler. "That means making research outputs freely available via our institutional repository, White Rose Research Online (WRRO). Most of the items added to WRRO will be journals or conference proceedings but, wherever possible, the policy also applies to all forms of research output. There's growing evidence that making publications freely accessible over the internet accelerates research – citation rates increase and new connections are made between researchers and disciplines."

Visit <http://library.leeds.ac.uk/open-access> to find out more about the publications policy and open access.

The key points of the policy are:

- authors need to add bibliographic details of all research outputs to the University's publications database (symplectic elements)
- authors should add full-text copies of research outputs to WRRO by uploading them via the publications database.
- copyright permitting, research output will be made open access in WRRO
- authors should use a standardised institutional affiliation 'University of Leeds' in all research outputs
- in addition to adhering to University policy, authors should comply with the funders' policies relating to open access and research data management.

News

Academic honoured for policing and community work

Congratulations to **Dr Alistair McFadyen** – a Special Constable with the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) and a full-time senior lecturer in Systematic Theology (School of Philosophy, Religion and the History of Science) – who was awarded an MBE for services to policing and the community in this New Year Honours list.

“For once, I was completely lost for words when I learned that I was to receive an MBE for my work with the police,” says Dr McFadyen. “I’m doubly delighted that the award recognises the work I do as an operational police officer alongside the things I’ve done to bring the two worlds of policing and academic study of religion together, hopefully to the enrichment of both.”

“Awards are given usually to (lucky) individuals. Much of my academic work has been arguing



Dr Alistair McFadyen

that we’re not only individuals, we’re part of organisations with colleagues and stand in traditions and follow in the footsteps of others. So this award rightly throws light on the excellent community engagement work being done by colleagues in the police and on the support and encouragement I receive from an extraordinarily wide range of people at the University, where there’s a strong culture of innovation and support in engaging non-academic institutions. Colleagues in the Centre for Religion and Public Life, the Security and Justice Research Group, Arts Engaged and the Volunteering Hub, to name but a few, have been



Keir Starmer QC

immensely supportive and encouraging of ideas for ‘crossover’ work between the police and the University, whether they’re concerned with academic research or student opportunities.”

Also recognised this year was alumnus **Keir Starmer QC**, who receives a knighthood for services to law and criminal justice. A former Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Starmer (Law, 1985) has maintained his links with the School of Law, returning regularly to take part in special events. Coincidentally, he invited Dr McFadyen to a ‘round table’ discussion held at the University last year to discuss research into on-street grooming.

News in brief

Lady Hale visits Temple North Women’s Forum

The School of Law hosted the inaugural event of the Temple North Women’s Forum, established to support, encourage and inspire women in the legal profession and supported by Inner and Middle Temple. Special guest was Lady Brenda Hale, the only female Justice and Deputy of the UK Supreme Court. Lady Hale held a Q&A session with law school students before holding a public event attended by judges, practitioners, academics and students. Her conversation with Dr Iyola Solanke (School of Law) covered topics from the UK’s relationship with the European Court of Human Rights to judicial diversity.

For information contact i.solanke@leeds.ac.uk



Lady Hale poses with Leeds students Heba Rousan (l) and Titilayo Olaleye



Students enjoying the salsa lesson

Exploring Caribbean histories and culture

Forty students from Abbey Grange Academy, selected from the school’s Jamaica Society, its Global Justice Group and year 12 pupils taking music, photography and art, attended an event organised by the Institute for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies. Multi-lingual Caribbean Histories and Cultures examined how Caribbean culture is expressed through music, dance, and literature. It included a group salsa lesson, a talk on contemporary Caribbean music, workshops on health and environment in Haiti and photography of Caracas, and presentations on writer Patrice Chamoiseau and salsa rhythms. The event took academic discussions into a community environment, forged links between Leeds students and national and international communities, and emphasised the importance of cultural expression.

Chinese University of Hong Kong’s 50th anniversary

Our Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands was among some 40 university presidents and vice-chancellors attending the Chinese University of Hong Kong’s (CUHK) 50th anniversary celebrations. The four-day event included a Presidents’ Forum, where delegates discussed the changing demands and forces that will shape future of higher education.

Several Leeds academics were in Hong Kong for meetings which coincided with the anniversary celebrations. These included Adam Tyson (School of Politics and International Studies) and Jieyu Liu (East Asian Studies) who attended a Global China Group on family transitions, ageing and social security in China. Professor Jon Lovett (School of Geography) took part in workshop on forests and carbon credits (organised as part of the United Nations’ REDD+ initiative) and researchers from Theology and Religious Studies participated in a workshop on religion, conflict and peace in the contemporary world..



Delegates at the CUHK celebrations

Sustainability

Campus of the future takes shape

Key buildings and facilities on campus are set to be transformed in the next five years, continuing the University's already substantial programme of investment in our estate.

More than £100m of funding for the highest priority capital projects was approved in principle by Council at the end of last year. Work has already started on taking some of the schemes to the next, more detailed stage of the approvals process. This will ensure they enhance the student experience, contribute to growth, improve academic performance and strengthen the sustainability of the University's infrastructure.

"This level of investment means we can carry out some large-scale improvements and make some exciting changes on campus," says Director of Facilities Management Dennis Hopper. "Some of the projects are linked to strategic plans and associated works that have already started. For example, the refurbishment of the Edward Boyle Library will bring it up to the same world-class standard as the new Laidlaw Library, and work on the Leeds University Union Building will ensure that we continue to provide excellent facilities for our students.

A scheme to refurbish the Worsley Building – the biggest building on campus – will help to consolidate the School of Medicine's excellent facilities under one roof. This in turn will release space that will enable Leeds University Business School to expand.

"Several of the capital projects are interrelated in this way, and careful planning is required to make sure projects are completed on time, so that subsequent phases can begin as scheduled," continues Dennis. "As projects are approved, we'll communicate details to students and staff, so that people know exactly what's happening and when."

Other major projects include those planned for the Clinical Sciences Building and Wellcome Trust Brenner Building at St James's, the School of Dentistry, the Institute for Transport Studies, refurbished space for the School of Physics and Astronomy and improvements to the University's power infrastructure.



The Leaders for Leeds event took place in LUU's Riley Smith Hall

City Leeds the way

The Leaders for Leeds network celebrated its first birthday with a conference in December hosted by Leeds University Union.

Opened by Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Leeds City Council, the event attracted over 100 stakeholders from across the city, including colleagues from the University, students, and people involved in the third sector, NHS, financial services, retail and law.

"Leaders for Leeds started from a conversation about creating a new culture of leadership in

Sustainability

Sustainability Strategy – the story so far

A wealth of ideas, opinions and suggestions have been brought together by the Sustainability Service, as it unveils the result of months of brainstorming and discussions held to help shape the University's first Sustainability Strategy.

Colleagues, students and members of the local community were all involved in the engagement process, which will ensure that the University has a Sustainability Strategy that clearly shows how seriously we take responsibility for our economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts.

"We're now in the final stages of developing the Sustainability Strategy, so would like to share the story so far and hear people's thoughts on our progress," says Director of Sustainability Louise Ellis. "You can see how our consultations and focus group discussions have translated into artwork, and then into the development of the strategy itself, by visiting the Sustainability Strategy website."

The extensive engagement process provided us with interesting discussions and great ideas, which we were able to develop into five main themes:



1. A collaborative organisation
2. Embedding sustainability
3. Knowledge and capacity
4. A positive partner in the community
5. Resource management

These themes will contain commitments, targets and indicators to ensure that sustainability is at the heart of everything we do, and will help us work together, in our research, student education and operations, to have a positive impact on society.

"We aim to have the final Sustainability Strategy ready to be signed off in the spring," continues Louise. "Before then, there's still plenty of opportunity for people to comment on our progress so far and to make more suggestions."

The Sustainability Strategy website can be found at www.leeds.ac.uk/sustainability/strategy. There's also a short film about the process which you can watch at <http://youtu.be/UXCASTpEtR0>

Leeds that supported people who wanted to make a difference and generate change in the city," says Rebecca Malby, Director of the University's Centre for Innovation in Health Management and founder member.

"The ethos behind it is that everyone can be a leader and that the city has a responsibility to support and develop those people committed to making positive change.

"The network is open to all and connects people from different spheres of life to share experience, knowledge, develop new solutions together and voice major issues faced by our city today. In just one year it's made some great strides in improving collaboration in the city and supporting the development of strong relationships to create sustainable change to benefit all."

As well as looking at the positive impact the network has had so far, the conference also collectively worked on a range of challenges that the city faces in 2014 and beyond.

These included: a campaign to tackle high-cost lenders; how the city can maximise the opportunities offered by the Tour De France; keeping Leeds graduates in Leeds; getting the city more involved with Carnival; helping schools and academies establish their own student leadership groups; and establishing our own collaborative best city leadership programme.

Tom Riordan says: "Leaders for Leeds is a great example of civic enterprise for the city and has generated a real buzz and momentum since its launch a year ago. I am delighted to support the ideas that are being generated by bringing together leaders from the public, private and third sectors"

Leaders for Leeds meets regularly throughout the year and sessions are open to everyone; if you would like more information visit <http://leadersforleeds.com/about-us/>

What members are saying...

"Leaders for Leeds is not a project – it is a network where we co-create the future, because we are the future. We aren't giving the answers, but we'll help you bump up against each other to find your own answers."

"I've become more networked to people who matter – and that doesn't necessarily mean being connected to people at a more senior level in organisations, I mean about people who matter, who are making contributions on a daily basis, to move Leeds forward as a city."

Sustainability

Footsteps Fund paves the way

From school visits to skydiving – the Footsteps Fund is supporting a whole host of student activities for Leeds University Union.

The fund, administered by the Alumni and Development team, brings together gifts from over 11,000 supporters around the world, the majority being former students of the University. Their gifts, one-off donations and regular payments, have been channelled towards a wide range of projects since the Alumni Annual Fund was first established in 2004.

Over the past two years, eight LUU societies have received gifts from the fund – enabling them to widen their appeal and create still more opportunities for students:

- Six new Firefly dinghies have upped the **Sailing Club's** game, rising eight places in the BUCS ranking in one year, while a new bowling machine and slip-catching cage is

helping the student **Cricket Club** to sharpen its skills and run training sessions with local schools

- **Leeds Student Radio** is equipping a new high-tech recording studio, while **LSTV** has invested in HD cameras, enabling them to film to a much higher standard and stream events live on YouTube
- A new trampoline means that members of the **Trampolining Society** can now train to a much higher standard and underpinned their successful bid to host the national universities contest next month, while the practice mats bought by the **Cheerleaders** has helped them become the top team in the UK

- New parachutes means that more students will be able to experience the thrills offered by the **Skydiving Society**, while funding for the **Teddy Bear Hospital** will enable this group to expand their work taking health and lifestyle messages into schools.

LUU Activities Officer Greg Sturge explains: "It's really exciting. It shows the fruitful partnership between the Union and the University. Societies are a big part of students' time at Leeds and it is wonderful that the fund – and its donors – are making such a positive contribution towards that experience."

Research and innovation

Showcase of research talent

Inspiring talks, accessible and informative posters and inventive short films were all part of the fantastic display of current and future talent on show at the 2013 Postgraduate Research Conference.

The fourth Showcase event, which took place in the Great Hall and at Parkinson Court, is now a firm fixture in the University calendar. Over 100 entries for five different competition categories were received, making it a real celebration of the significant contribution that our postgraduate researchers (PGRs) make to the research profile of the University.

The coveted Postgraduate Researcher of the Year award went to Martin Muir (Faculty of Engineering) for his work on optimising the design of aircraft components. Runner-up was Jim Tiernan (Faculty of Medicine and Health), while David Shearing (Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communication) and Claire Nash (Faculty of Medicine and Health) shared joint third prize.

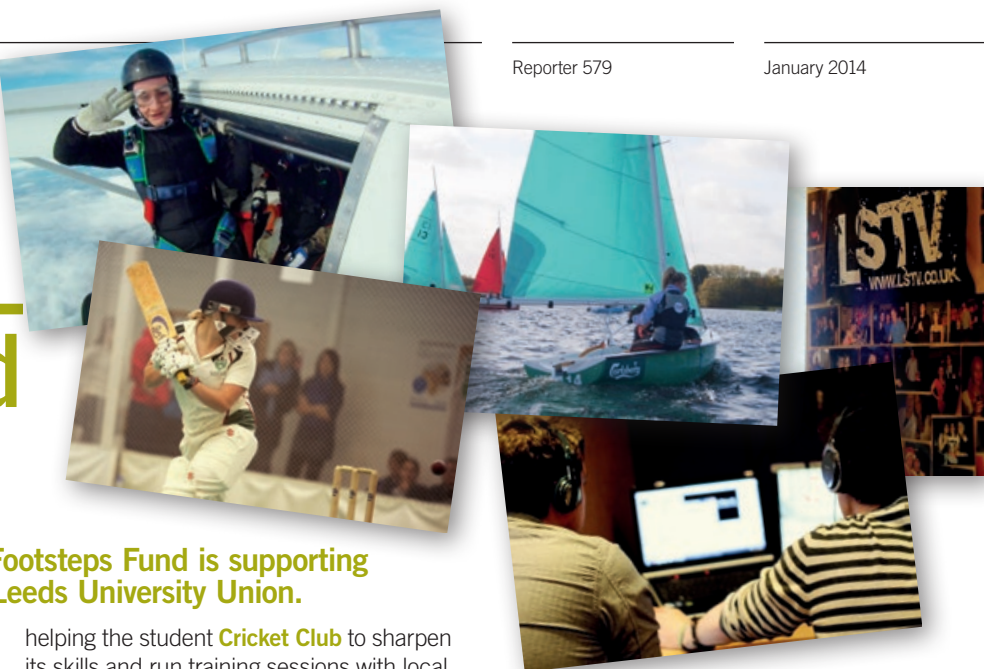
Joint winners of the Image of the Year award were Matt Amison (Faculty of Environment) for his photo of a ship in high seas, and Alex Wright (Faculty of Medicine and Health), for an image of a patchwork quilt incorporating highlights and themes of his 'PhD life'.

Winner of the Research Poster of the Year

was Nicola Buckland (Faculty of Medicine and Health) for her clear and eye-catching explanation of how images of diet-related foods can affect food intake. Photo category winner Alex Wright also won first prize in the Showcase Movie. The innovative Thesis Twitter Conference was back again this year. The winner was Marco-Felipe King for his engaging tweets about 'superbugs' in hospitals, while Saima Ahmed carried the public vote for her tweets about delirium in stroke patients.

"It was another great year for Showcase," says Chair of the organising committee, Dr Tony Bromley (Staff and Departmental Development Unit). "The standard of entries was extremely high and highlighted the calibre of the research that's being carried out by postgraduate students at Leeds. The conference also gave us some great examples of how even the most complex research can be made understandable and relevant to a non-specialist audience."

For more information, you can visit www.pgrconference.leeds.ac.uk and see the films on www.youtube.com/ldspgrconference



Matt Amison's winning photo: Taming the untameable seas



Alex Wright's winning photo: Stitching it all together: my PhD life as a patchwork quilt

"The Showcase conference does what it says on the tin... it demonstrates that postgraduate researchers are at the heart of the research activity of this University. Everybody should attend to witness the wide range of excellent work and the talented students from across the faculties."

Dr Peter Gardner, Institute of Psychological Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health

Research and innovation

Starting THE CONVERSATION

Leeds has become a Founding Partner of The Conversation, a new online website focusing on topical issues from the academic and research community.

The Conversation was set up to be an independent source of news and views, delivered direct to the public. On top of providing an easily accessible platform where the public can read about and discuss current affairs, the website also provides mainstream media such as the BBC, with a good source of commentary. From February, new sections for Arts and Culture and Education will shortly be added to join the existing strands for Business and Economy, Environment and Energy, Health and Medicine, Politics and Society, and Science and Technology.

As a Founding Partner, Leeds receives exclusive benefits, including access to regular public engagement training for academics and data on how many people are reading the articles.

Articles are usually between 800 and 1,000 words and are commissioned by specialist editors. If you're interested in contributing to The Conversation, contact the press office (pressoffice@leeds.ac.uk / 34031), which can help advise on how best to pitch your idea and recommend strategies for promoting your work to the wider media, too.

Dr Nick Robinson

(School of Politics and International Studies)

"My research focuses on the nature of the representations within videogames and their social and political consequences. The Conversation asked me to write four articles, but unfortunately I only had time to write two: 'How Hiroshi Yamauchi and Nintendo changed the world' and 'Realistic war games have collateral damage of their own'.

"There's no shortage of material to write about and The Conversation is a good way of making academic knowledge accessible to the general public. The process is very quick and professional, but sometimes it is very difficult to write the words required in the timeframe, given the demands of academic life!"

Dr Terry Kee

(School of Chemistry) on The Conversation

How did you get involved?

I was asked to comment on a piece of scientific research that claimed to have found evidence of extra-terrestrial life. The Conversation asked me to write something that would summarise my view. As a result, I've written two articles about life from other planets: 'Life on Mars or life from Mars? It's how it formed that matters' and 'Proof of alien life? You need a lot more evidence than that'.

Tell us about the process

It was a fairly easy and straightforward in terms of commissioning, writing and deadlines. They sent me an email telling me the word count and broad layout and I simply wrote the article and sent it over.

The editor tweaked it to The Conversation's format, dropped in a few appropriate pictures and sent it back to me. Editorial additions were pointed out and there was nothing added that I couldn't sign off. The whole process was exemplary.

I was particularly impressed by their efficiency. Both times I got the articles back within a couple of hours.

Would you encourage other academics to get involved?

Absolutely. You can use The Conversation to get your own work, interests and thoughts out into the public domain, and it can also be used to critique work. The wider public need to know that sometimes what is being disseminated in the media may not be true.

One thing that I like is that articles become almost like a live blog after they've been published, meaning that people can read and respond to them. It's really important to get feedback from the public and I've had all sorts of comments, some of them agreeing and some disagreeing with me. This is where The Conversation opens up debate and people are more likely to express their views because they can put them across quite easily. You can't do this to the same degree with a printed magazine or journal.

Visit <https://theconversation.com/uk> to find out more and read current articles.



Dr Terry Kee

Inspire our students

Serving the world – Careers at the United Nations

The University hosted its first ever careers presentation by the United Nations (UN) last term, when John Ericson, Chief of the Outreach Unit in the Office of Human Resources Management at the UN Secretariat, spoke to over 600 students about careers offered by the UN and how to pursue them in terms of further qualifications and relevant work experience.

“We secured Mr Ericson’s visit from with the help of Dr Kweku Ampiah from the School of Modern Languages and Cultures,” says careers consultant Dr Steve Carter. “Originally, the plan was for him to give a single talk in a 300-seat lecture theatre but the event was so oversubscribed that he agreed to repeat the session. Both talks filled up quickly, so the second talk was also streamed live*. The presentation covered aspects such as the UN’s role within the international community, the different roles available, organisations affiliated

to the UN, how students can prepare for a job within the UN, and the application process and voluntary opportunities.”

Mr Ericson also met academics from Law, Politics and International Studies, and Business. He was so impressed with the calibre of the questions and the enthusiasm shown by the students that he’s agreed to return next year to give a similar presentation. This means that Leeds joins Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics on the UN itinerary.



Bringing the UN to the University (l-r): Dr Kweku Ampiah; Dr Bob Gilworth, Director of the Careers Centre; Glenys Hastings, Employer Liaison Manager; Dr Steve Carter; and Sam Matta, Careers Centre IT and Web Services Manager

“This is a momentous achievement for the Careers Centre and for the University, especially keeping in mind the strategic plan to raise our profile and enhance our standing as an international university by 2015,” continues Dr Carter. “This is an exemplary case where colleagues from across the University worked with the Careers Centre to provide our students with direct access to a unique and hugely popular employer.”

*The recording and PowerPoint presentation are at <http://careerweb.leeds.ac.uk/untalk>.



Photographs featuring enterprising girls and women who have participated in the CEG programme were on display at the conference

Photo © Johanna Hilton

Connecting enterprising women and girls

Seventy-five young women from three secondary schools in Leeds had the opportunity to network with successful entrepreneurial women from Yorkshire at a recent conference hosted by the University.

The conference – part of the Connecting Enterprising Girls (CEG) programme set up by Ruth Dass (School of Performance and Cultural Industries) – was organised by girls from Leeds East Academy. The audience heard a series of talks on the theme of

‘Accessing university’ from speakers including Rachel Reeves MP, Baroness Margaret Eaton, Leeds City Council (LCC) Chief Executive Tom Riordan, and our Head of Educational Engagement, Louise Banahene.

CEG raises aspirations by connecting girls to successful women through the sharing of personal stories. Piloted by Leeds East Academy in partnership with LCC and the not-for-profit organisation, Connecting Enterprising Women (CEW), it has been extended to two local academies, John Smeaton Community College and David Young Community Academy.

Lindsey Strachan, from Educational Engagement at the University says: “The University was delighted to host this conference. We’re committed to making our courses available to the brightest and best people regardless of background and programmes like this play an important role achieving this aim.”

Ruth Dass, Director of CEW, explains: “Future plans for the programme include an exhibition in London to mark International Women’s Day on 8 March. The exhibition will feature 100 portraits by photographers Nick Grogan and Johanna Hilton, accompanied by extracts from the individual stories of the girls’ and women’s journeys through life. We’ll also be delivering a further series of activities for Leeds schools in partnership with Leeds City Council.”

For more information please see the programme website at <http://connectingenterprisinggirls.co.uk/>

Valuing our people

Team talk – Employer Team, Careers Centre



What's the role of the Employer team?

Our role is to give students as much access to prospective employers as possible by organising regular employer presentations, drop-in days, employer-led workshops and 10 recruitment fairs each year. We also administer the employer vacancy jobsite and post approximately 4,000 jobs per year. We work with international, national and local employers and actively encourage employers to meet students face to face on campus.

Who's in the team?

There are eight of us. Team Manager Glenys Hastings manages employer engagement on campus. Kim Tepielow, Anita Wong and Anne Foggitt head up the employer presentation and talk programme, ensuring that we offer students a diverse range of employers and industry sectors. Matthew Preston works with local employers and actively promotes exclusive graduate and internships opportunities. Shabana Hussein and Dan Conneely support the marketing of graduate and internship opportunities and the never-ending 'inbox' of the Employer Team emails and last but not least, Imogen Johnson manages the Graduate and Internship Recruitment Fairs.

How many events do you organise?

We hosted a staggering 182 events last semester, the smallest being individual employer-led mock interviews with students and the largest the October Graduate Jobs and Internships Fair, which attracted 109 organisations and over 3,800 students. We're organising 104 for this semester and are still taking bookings!

What are the benefits of the Employer Team running employer events?

We've developed a deep understanding of the graduate job market and have extensive event experience. From the employers' perspective, it's becoming increasingly apparent that they prefer a centralised approach as this gives them exposure to the maximum amount of students possible. This is also very important to them because their recruitment budgets are getting tighter each year.

We also work with the different faculties organising targeted events, such as the Engineering and Computing Fair, Business and Finance Fair and Expo event, with very successful results.

What challenges does the team face?

The employer organisations that come to campus are all very busy and liaison with their recruitment departments can be quite involved in the run-up to an event. We have to consider each organisation's recruitment needs and their budget before we can suggest the best course of action for them.

Historically, some organisations are tied to faculties and tend to work directly with them, which can lead to missed opportunities for the

wider student audience. So, we're working with the faculties to promote the ongoing value of a central approach, which gives wider access to employers and ensures consistency in terms of the commercial relationship between all stakeholders.

What other projects are you working on?

We're currently running a pilot scheme with a number of student societies. Rather than them hosting their own employer events, we are encouraging them to support our events so that we don't dilute student attendance. The Society Committee will develop their employability skills by engaging with the employers, marketing the events to members and looking after logistics on the day, but it will mean that we produce top-quality events. We're working with the student societies to plan the type of employer events they'd like to see on campus in the future.

What does the team get the most satisfaction from?

Our events provide our students with a platform to meet prospective employers face to face and to make that critical first impression. The feedback from both parties tells us that these opportunities really do lead to future offers of employment and this is what pleases us all the most!

Employer experts (l-r): Dan Conneely, Imogen Johnson, Shabana Hussein, Glenys Hastings, Anne Fottit, Kim Tepielow and Matthew Preston.

In the news



Professor Michelle Peckham (School of Molecular and Cellular Biology) was invited onto BBC Radio 4's *In Our Time* with Melvyn Bragg. Along with two other guests, Sir Colin Humphreys and Jim Bennett, they discussed the historical development of the **microscope**, an instrument that has revolutionised our knowledge of the world.

Professor Timothy Devinney (Leeds University Business School) gave a video interview to Canadian newspaper *The Globe and Mail* on the limits to **growth in China**. According to Professor Devinney, the biggest barrier to development is not its institutional development but trusting citizens to make independent decisions.

Dr Alexander Beresford (School of Politics and International Studies) made appearances on BBC One's *Breakfast* and ABC News (Australia) where he talked about **Nelson Mandela's** legacy and the possible impact his death might have on the political future of South Africa.

Professor Tim Benton (School of Biology) talked about **food wastage** and overeating in an article for the *Huffington Post*, Canada. According to Professor Benton, 'If everyone in the world chose to live like your average North American, it would require four Earths to produce all the necessary food'. He was also interviewed on the Canadian station CBC Radio.

Chloe Hamilton at *The Independent* wrote an article about her experience of the **Leeds MOOC**, Fairness and Nature: When Worlds Collide. The MOOC (massive open online course) was run by Professor Jon Lovett (School of Geography).

Symbol, Pattern and Symmetry, The Cultural Significance of Structure, the new book by Professor Michael Hann, Chair of Design Theory in the School of Design, was mentioned in Belgium publications *Het Laatste Nieuws* and *Le Vif*. The articles, which are about Belgian singer-songwriter Stromae, look at the importance of mathematics in **fabric designs**.

A research project led by Professor Andy Gouldson (School of Earth and Environment) investigated how **Kolkata (India)** could be transformed into a low-carbon economy. Among other findings, the study revealed that people spent the same on energy in Kolkata as they did in Leeds – around 10% of their income. The research received significant coverage in the Indian media, including articles in *The Economic Times* and *Times of India*.

The implementation of **liquid-cooled servers** at the University won 'best technology innovation' at this year's Computer Weekly European Datacentre Awards. Senior Lecturer Dr Jon Summers (School of Mechanical Engineering) was quoted in an article by *Computer Weekly*. He talked about how successful the project had been, particularly with regard to its environmental benefits.

The University hosted the media launch of Brake's **Road Safety** Week. The event received coverage on BBC One's *Look North*, which included comments from Professor Oliver Carsten (Institute for Transport Studies). A video was also uploaded on to the BBC Radio 5 Live website in which Dr Daryl Hibberd (Institute for Transport Studies) tested reporter Rowan Bridge's driving in the University's driving simulator.



Dr Charlotte Evans (School of Food Science and Nutrition) talked to presenters Charlie Stayt and Louise Minchin on BBC One's *Breakfast* about new research from the Family Food report which found that households are eating four portions of **fruit and vegetables** per day instead of the recommended five.

Professor Robert Black (School of History) was included in *The Times Literary Supplement's* **Books of the Year** for his new biography of Machiavelli. It has been described as 'immensely learned and deceptively easy to read'.

Head of the Academic Unit of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, Professor Andrew Hill, was quoted in a BBC News online article about **women's insecurities**. The article focused on Rebecca Adlington, who recently admitted to being insecure about her looks on the reality TV show *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here*.

Duncan McCargo, Professor of South East Asian Politics, explored Thailand's escalating **political crisis** and its implications in his article written for *Nikkei* (Japan). He was also quoted in *The Independent* commenting on Thailand's former Deputy Prime Minister, Suthep Thaugsuban, who has been at the centre of the crisis.

The friends and relatives of Oury Jalloh, a German asylum seeker who burnt to death in a Dessau police cell in 2005, are urging police to **reinvestigate** the death. Dr Iyiola Solanke (School of Law) was quoted in a *Guardian* article following the story.

Our people/honours

Emeritus Professor of Educational Psychology **Dennis Child OBE** has received the 2013 Lifetime Achievement award from the British Psychological Society's Psychology of Education Board. Professor Child has made a significant contribution to psychology applied to education over many years, and was described by one of his nominators as a true educator who speaks directly to the student and always begins the educational encounter "where the student is at".

Professor Denise Bower (Institute for Resilient Infrastructure) has been invited by Lord Wolfson to be a judge for a £250,000 Garden City Prize competition.

Professor Simon Kay (School of Medicine), who performed the UK's first successful hand transplant, has been named Clinical Leader of the Year in the Health Service Journal awards.

Two Leeds historians have been awarded a prize for editorial achievement by the American Historical Association for their commentary on the medieval St Albans Chronicle. The St Albans Chronicle is one of the most important sources for the history of England during the reign of Richard II and the early years of the Lancastrian dynasty.

Wendy Childs, Professor Emerita of Late Medieval History, taught in the School of History from 1975 to 2007 and was Head of the School from 1991 to 1994. The late **John Taylor** taught in the School from 1950 to 1989 and was Head of the School from 1979 to 1982. Their commentary on the chronicle was carried out with the translator Leslie Watkiss and resulted in an edition described as "a remarkable achievement... hard to fault" by a reviewer in the *English Historical Review*.

Stephane Hess, Professor of Choice Modelling in the Institute for Transport Studies, has received the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Outstanding Young Member Award 2014. The award recognises a distinguished younger member of a TRB standing committee who has demonstrated exceptional service to TRB and achievements in transportation research, policy or practice. The award consists of a plaque and a \$2,500 cash award supported by Stantec Inc. Stephane's main research interests lie in the use of advanced choice models for the analysis of travel behaviour.

Tracy Shildrick, Professor of Sociology and Social Policy, has been awarded a British Academy prize for her collaborative writing on poverty in Britain.

The Peter Townsend Policy Press Prize was awarded to Professor Shildrick and her co-authors Professor Robert MacDonald (Teesside University), Professor Colin Webster (Leeds Metropolitan University) and Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite (Durham University) for *Poverty and insecurity: life in low-pay, no-pay Britain*, published in 2012.

Professor Shildrick's research was conducted in Teesside, and focuses on the men and women who've fallen out of old working-class communities and must now cope with drastically reduced opportunities for standard employment.



Professor Tracy Shildrick. Photo © British Academy



Dr Martin Seeger receives his award from His Excellency Pasan Teparak

Dr Martin Seeger, Associate Professor of Thai Studies, has received a rare honour from the King of Thailand, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Dr Seeger received the Fifth Class of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn from the Thai Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency Pasan Teparak. The award recognised his work in promoting better understanding and appreciation of Thailand and its culture to people in the UK.

Dr Seeger said: "To be recognised for my work in the field of Thai Studies is really magnificent and very special. This prestigious award shows the importance of Thai Studies at the University of Leeds and the impact it has."

The honour comes as Thai Studies at Leeds – which Dr Seeger played a key role in establishing – prepares to celebrate its tenth anniversary. Since its introduction, East Asian Studies has been working closely with, and received considerable support from, the Royal Thai Embassy in London. The Embassy has repeatedly offered internships to students and given annual awards for outstanding academic achievements, as well as offering three scholarships to British postgraduate students to undertake research in Thailand.

News

Researchers grapple with nuclear legacy



Photographs show facilities at the NNL in Cumbria

The University will lead an £8m national research programme looking at ways of dealing with Britain's nuclear waste.

The Decommissioning, Immobilisation and Storage solutions for Nuclear Waste Inventories (DISTINCTIVE) project, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), will start in February and brings together ten universities, the nuclear industry and the government's nuclear advisors.

More than 40 doctoral and post-doctoral researchers will work over the next four years on a raft of issues, including finding the best ways of handling different types of spent fuels and dealing with nuclear sludges in ponds and silos at nuclear power stations.

Professor Simon Biggs, Director of the Institute of Particle Science and Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering, who will lead the project, says: "The project is primarily focused on developing new technologies and providing confidence in the safe storage and disposal of legacy waste. The UK is a technology leader in this field and the core aim of this project is to maintain and further develop that skill base."

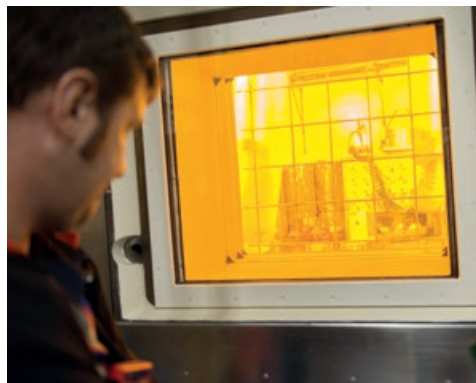
The National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL), Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Sellafield Limited will be partners, alongside the universities of Leeds, Birmingham, Bristol, Imperial, Lancaster, Loughborough, Manchester, Sheffield, Strathclyde and UCL.

Much of the UK's legacy waste is at the Sellafield site in Cumbria. Sellafield Limited's Research Alliance Manager Neil Smart said: "Today, Sellafield faces a challenge where there is no blueprint: emptying and demolishing

some of the most difficult and complex nuclear buildings in the world; the decommissioning of historic reactors, reprocessing facilities and associated legacy ponds and silos.

"We look forward to engaging in these projects and benefiting from the outcomes, not only in terms of the science and technology but also the skilled people developed through these projects, with the potential to enhance our workforce long into the future."

The project follows an earlier Leeds-led project, announced by EPSRC in 2007, known as DIAMOND.



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Sheilagh Ogden 0795 755 1818
s.j.ogden@leeds.ac.uk

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Burley area, walking distance to University, car park, suit professions/postgrads/small family. £650 per calendar month. Rent for individual rooms vary.

0794 626 1312 cme6tc@leeds.ac.uk

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Marah Gardner 0797 393 3510
m.gardner@leeds.ac.uk

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minmwa@leeds.ac.uk

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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 12 February, 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

Opera North 2014 Winter Season

The season started this month with a new production of Puccini's thrilling *The Girl of the Golden West*, set during the heady days of the California Gold Rush and directed by Aletta Collins.

On 7 February, Tim Albery's bleak, yet vividly energetic 2008 production of Verdi's *Macbeth* marks the bicentenary of the composer's birth. Additionally, from 14 February conductor David Parry and director Annabel Arden bring together leading soloists, including Lesley Garrett, and the Orchestra of Opera North for a new semi-staged performance of *From Paris with Love: Puccini to Piaf*.

<http://www.operanorth.co.uk/>



Leeds University Union Opera Society – *The Elixir of Love* 5-8 February, Riley Smith Hall

LUU Opera Society will be performing its next production, *the Elixir of Love*. Donizetti's first great comic opera, this is a tongue-in-cheek reinterpretation of the Tristan and Isolde myth. Nemorino buys a 'love potion' from quack doctor Dulcamara, in the hope of winning the love of Adina, the most popular girl around. When she chooses to run off with Belcore, a student sponsored by the army, Nemorino enlists in order to pay for another bottle of the elixir. Luckily, before it's too late, Adina realises that she loves Nemorino and falls into his arms...

Visit www.operasoc.co.uk for information or reserve tickets by emailing mail@operasoc.co.uk. Tickets £4-7.



The Enemy Within – a film about cancer

**Wednesday 12 February, 6.30-8.30pm,
Clothworker's Centenary Concert Hall,
School of Music**

The Enemy Within looks back over the last 50 years of the battle against cancer and explains some of the major breakthroughs in chemotherapy, radiotherapy, surgery and other areas. Following the screening, a panel of leading researchers will take questions about issues raised in the film and about cancer research and cancer treatment.

This free event is being jointly organised by Cancer Research UK, Yorkshire Cancer Research and the Stratified Medicine Innovation Hub at the University.

Please register and book at <http://bit.ly/19yuvim> – it's anticipated that this will be a popular event so book early to avoid disappointment. If you have queries contact Linda Ko Ferrigno on 0113 343 7833 or l.koferrigno@leeds.ac.uk

Museums at Night



Kelvyn Laurence Smith

Cast your vote to win the University an artist for the evening!

The Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery and University of Leeds' Special Collections could win a visit by renowned typographer and printer Mr Smith and his Letterpress Workshop as part of the national Museums at Night event on 15 May.

This is one of only our venues in a competition organised as part of the BBC's Culture 24 Connect10, but, to win, **Leeds bid needs votes**. Public voting is open until 28 January at <http://goo.gl/hSEbG8>

Kelvyn Laurence Smith runs the successful Mr Smith Letterpress Workshop, creating contemporary typographic prints using traditional wood and metal type. The exhibition and family-friendly workshop will give visitors the opportunity to print letterpress prints, and a chance to see some of the diverse and rare collections held by Special Collections.

FAQs

David Gray, Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council

Tell us about the role of Council.

Council is the University's governing body, ensuring that the University fulfils its obligations as a charity, and that – as a recipient of public funds – it acts in an appropriate way. It's broadly responsible for any key decision taken by the University.

We meet six times a year and also spend another two days taking a more strategic overview of what the University is trying to achieve. Discussions range across student-related issues, the development of the estate, research performance, finances, spinout companies – basically, the full ambit of University activities.

Who sits on the Council?

Council has 23 members, 14 of whom are lay people not directly involved with the University. The wealth of experience offered by these members is exceptional. Recent appointments include people from Yorkshire Water, M&S and PwC, so you can see the quality of the expertise.

Other members are the Vice-Chancellor, two of the student Executive, four elected members from faculties, and two elected members of support staff. The over-riding obligation for everyone is to act in the University's best interests, irrespective of any 'constituency' they may represent.

How can colleagues find out about more about what happens at Council?*

Dates for Council meetings are published in the almanac. The agenda, together with the minutes from the previous meeting, is put on the intranet (up to two weeks) prior to the next meeting. This gives people a chance to read them and contact one of the members if there's anything they want to discuss. There's also the Reporter Gazette which comes out after each meeting, and gives a report on business discussed and decisions taken. Compared to industry, the process is extraordinarily transparent.

*Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/secretariat/council.html for more information about Council.



What are the major challenges for the University in 2014?

There are three principal areas – students, research and engagement. We're in the early stages of reviewing our strategy. In terms of students, we need to ensure that our campus experience is the very best, meet our recruitment numbers without compromising on quality, and continue to recruit high achieving students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. We need to look at our research strategy to ensure it enhances our performance, income and infrastructure, playing to our existing strengths and taking advantage of new opportunities, such as those offered by big data and robotics. And we must see where there's scope for furthering international collaborations as well as examining how we can engage more fully with local stakeholders.

How does legal world compare to higher education?

Higher education is similar to law in that if you have the best people with the right values, you are likely to have the best organisation. Both sectors employ highly intelligent people so, when you are looking to implement change, you need to engage fully with your people and ensure you have a convincing argument. Like law, higher education has become more business-like and competitive, and we have to adjust to the realities of that situation.

Compared to law, the great thing about higher education is the obvious good that it does. It's fabulous to be part of an institution that finds solutions to problems, gives young people great opportunities and is engaged in activities that have such a positive impact.

What's your most frequently asked question?

From Council members it's 'What else can I do to help?', otherwise it's 'What is it that you do exactly?'!

Tell us about your Yorkshire connections.

I was born in Leeds and went to Leeds Grammar School before going away to study law. I returned and spent my working life here until 2002 when I began a weekly commute to London for 10 years.

I am indebted to the University for helping me to choose law; after attending several fantastically entertaining lectures given here by a criminal law professor called Brian Hogan, I knew law was for me. My wife is an alumna – graduating in law before becoming the first female trainee to join Eversheds in Leeds – and my sister gained her doctorate and worked here for 30 years, so the connections are pretty strong.

How do you spend your leisure time?

Sport is my main passion. I support Liverpool FC, which might seem strange for a Yorkshireman, but I'd absolutely no interest in football until I met my wife. She was a season ticket holder and emotionally attached to Liverpool, so I quickly developed an interest in it! Years ago when we didn't have much spare time, she gave the ticket away, since then we've been on the waiting list for another – along with 20,000 other people. Now we beg, buy or borrow tickets, so any Liverpool FC supporters out there with spares, please get in touch!

I play golf and love horse racing, particularly National Hunt, and as our home is equidistant from Ripon, Wetherby and Catterick racecourses, I'm perfectly placed!