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## **New centre to transform medical imaging**

A £6.8m facility is set to transform the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from cancer, heart disease and musculoskeletal diseases

Page 3

---

## **A book for opera lovers**

A Leeds lecturer unveils her latest book detailing the history of University partner and collaborator, Opera North

Page 10

---

## **Commonwealth Scholars aiming to make a difference**

How our 48 Commonwealth Scholars plan to take back and use new learning in their home countries

Page 14

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## **Postgraduate stars shine brightly**

Postgraduate Research Conference 2014 results

Page 8

## Leader column

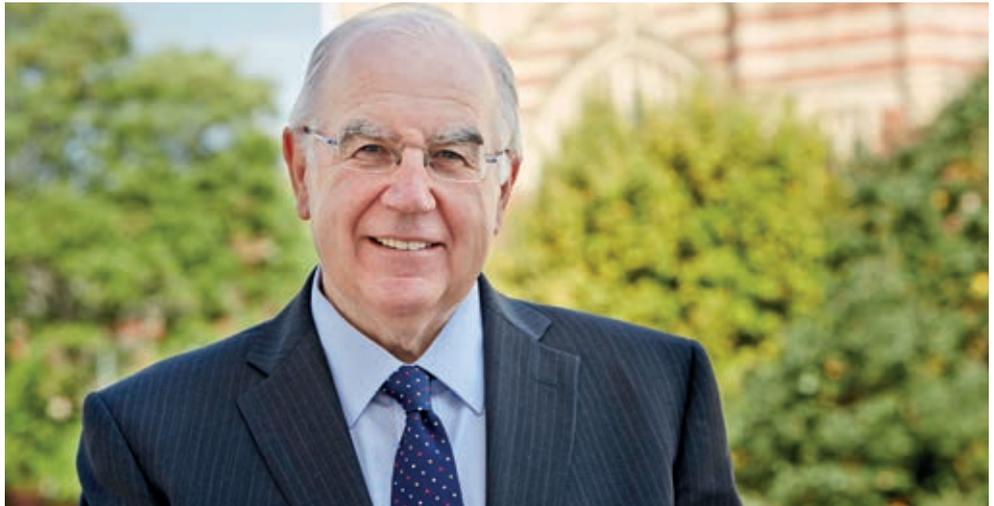
# Think global, act local!

With some 2,000 delegates present, I recently contributed to the ninth Confucius Institute Conference in Xiamen. This global conference involves over 440 Confucius Institutes, together with Confucius Classrooms, and attendees included representatives from 126 countries and their Chinese partners. The main aims of the conference were to mark the progress of the institutes, share best practice, create new links within the network, and learn about the new language and cultural programmes being introduced by the institutes. I took this opportunity to reflect on the power, influence and intellectual rigour of universities as a means of strengthening Sino-British relationships, highlighting the importance of new education and research opportunities for staff and students and the need to ensure that these are underpinned by the principles and practice of academic freedom at all times.

Although only in its second year, our own Business Confucius Institute at the University of Leeds – developed in collaboration with the University for International Business and Economics in Beijing – has proved extremely successful, its popularity suggesting a real appetite for learning Mandarin and developing greater business and cultural links with China, both at the University and across the wider community in Yorkshire. Of course, this new venture builds on a 50-year commitment to excellence in Chinese Studies at Leeds, now nested in East Asian Studies in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies. This diversification to embrace many other languages and cultures is of course consistent with the University's wider international ambitions.

I hope that our direct links with China will be further strengthened in 2015-16 by the Faculty of Engineering's proposed collaboration with Southwest Jiaotong University (SWJTU). The intention is to create a 'Joint School' that would allow up to 300 students per year to register for dual degrees from both SWJTU and Leeds. This initiative aims to increase the number of high-quality students that we recruit from China and to enhance our international research profile and collaborations. Subject to some final negotiations, the Joint School aims to start the student recruitment process in January, with admissions to new academic programmes – which start in September 2015 – in the Spring.

The founding of this Joint School has long been in the planning and represents another significant milestone in our approach to international partnerships and recruitment. As our first experience of implementing out-of-country provision on this scale, the project offers us an excellent institutional learning opportunity, consistent with the University's broader internationalisation strategy.



Peter Jimack, with strong support from his faculty, the international office and the marketing team, has developed this partnership with great care and deserves success.

Of course, as we reach out to form new academic partnerships across the world and commit to strengthening education, research, innovation and our economic, social and cultural ties with the Leeds City Region, we need to ensure that we have a fit-for-purpose campus. With Beechgrove Plaza providing a new focus to the eastern entrance of campus and the Laidlaw Library nearing completion, we are on the right track. The pace of change will accelerate in 2015 as we undertake a major programme of building and refurbishment work. Taking into account the University's strategic objectives, key projects have been prioritised and several are already advanced in construction, design or feasibility terms.

The first half of the year will see the School of Geography relocate to larger premises in refurbished areas of the Garstang, Manton and Miall Buildings. It will share existing teaching laboratories with Biological Sciences and have new, expanded facilities to support top flight research. Also due for completion is the link between the Psychology building and its annex at 41 University Road. This will foster a strong community of postgraduate students, currently accommodated in the annex, and improve the provision of staff offices and flexible teaching and meeting spaces. Likewise, the refurbishment of the School of Mathematics – striving to be one of the strongest in the UK – will provide new working areas for academic staff and students. The accommodation for the state-of-the-art Leeds Institute of Data Analytics is also progressing well, and work has started on the multi-storey car park which will be situated on the south side of the EC Stoner Building.

Other projects in the pipeline include the relocation of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies to the current Geography building; consolidation and refurbishment for the School of Medicine, releasing space for expansion of Leeds University Business School on the western campus; a substantial upgrade of the Edward Boyle Library; refurbishment and expansion of Leeds University Union; some new facilities for the Institute for Transport Studies; and extensive refurbishment of three floors in the Engineering building, leading on to a major development to link engineering and

physical sciences in the north-east quarter of the University.

Already open and fully functioning is our new, government-backed centre in robot design and construction in the School of Mechanical Engineering, which is of huge potential importance. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council National Facility for Innovative Robotic Systems has the most advanced suite of robot building equipment in the UK and is expected to become a key centre for robotics in the North. It brings together academics from the University's faculties of Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences, Medicine and Health, and Environment. Key objectives will be to make new appointments in this area and to form partnerships with companies interested in developing cutting edge robotics technology.

The Medical Research Council, too, has committed £6.8m to a new imaging research centre to be based at Leeds and the University of York, which aims to change the diagnosis and treatment of patients with heart disease, cancer and musculoskeletal disease. The University will also receive a further £1.1m grant to explore how cells operate and evolve as a result of disease. Of course I look forward to more announcements of a similar nature in the coming year!

And, finally, to the REF, dubbed by a colleague as "nerve-racking but necessary". The results will be made public on 18 December; they will be pored over, analysed and digested, and will of course influence the further refinement and implementation of our research strategy. I anticipate that there will be cause for optimism but, naturally, there will also be areas where action is needed to ensure that we do better in the future. Thankfully, there is a well-deserved seasonal break to enjoy before that work and the other challenges that 2015 will bring. I therefore wish you and your families and friends a peaceful, relaxing and restorative break over the next couple of weeks and take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the University.

Alan Langlands

## News

# New national centre to transform medical imaging

**A new £6.8m research centre and medical imaging facility will transform the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from cancer, heart disease and musculoskeletal diseases.**

The centre – funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) as part of a £230m package for universities – will be established at Leeds Teaching Hospitals and the University of York.

Researchers from Leeds and York will work on a new imaging method which could see the signal in MRI scanners increase up to 100,000 fold. This will give new insights into the workings of the human body, and has the potential to make the development of new drugs more effective.

The technique, which is known as Signal Amplification by Reversible Exchange (SABRE), has been developed by scientists at the University of York. It works by magnetically labelling drugs or substances that occur naturally in the body, without changing their molecular structure, making the method very safe and versatile.

Together with doctors at Leeds Teaching Hospitals, our researchers at Leeds will be responsible for applying the technique to patients. A new imaging centre with a new MRI scanner, patient facilities and a laboratory is being installed at Leeds General Infirmary.

Professor Sven Plein, leader of the research team from the School of Medicine, says: “This

is a great example of bench to bedside research that we hope will have a profoundly positive impact on the lives of patients. With colleagues at York, we hope that this technique could in future be applied to every MRI scanner in the country, massively enhancing how medical professionals diagnose illness in patients.”

The University has also received a further MRC grant of £1.1m to explore how single cells in the body operate and evolve as a result of disease. The project aims to improve diagnosis of genetic diseases, as well as to study how early stage cancer cells evolve and how they develop into aggressive forms of cancer.

Professor David Bonthon (School of Medicine), who is leading the project, says: “We hope that the new discoveries we make during this project will translate very quickly to benefiting patients. This facility will allow us to develop internationally competitive research programmes in genetics and other areas of biomedicine.”

The new facility will be managed jointly by the University and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Experts from the Faculties of Biological Sciences and Mathematics and Physical Sciences will also be involved in the project.



Members of the project team: (l-r standing) Peter Swoboda, Bara Erhayiem, David Ripley, Adam McDiarmid, Sven Plein, John Greenwood, John Biglands, David Buckley, David Broadbent; (l-r sitting) Gavin Bainbridge, Laura Dobson, Margaret Saysell.

## Contents

### News

Page 3

### Opportunities for students

Page 6

### Research and innovation

Page 9

### News

Page 11

### Infrastructure and Sustainability

Page 12

### International/Community Engagement

Page 14

### Valuing our people

Page 15

### In the news

Page 16

### Our people/honours

Page 17

### News/small ads

Page 18

### Events

Page 19

### FAQs

Page 20

## About the Reporter

The *Reporter* is the University of Leeds' staff magazine, produced eight times a year. More than 7,600 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 (l-r) Mike Jestico, Laura McVeigh and Gemma Gossedge.

## News

# water@leeds winners

**This stunning image from the annual water@leeds photography competition will be used to publicise water research at the University and, it's also hoped, exhibited on World Water Day on 22 March.**

The atmospheric black and white image of the Humber Bridge from Dr Sami Tarsuslugil (School of Mechanical Engineering) was judged the overall winner. More than 170 colleagues entered the competition, which had five categories: Nature, Maritime, Holiday, Leeds, and You. Competition judges were Professor Joseph Holden (water@leeds Director), Tom Knowland (Leeds City Council), Dr Jim Brogden (School of Media and Communication) and Rachel Stockton (Groundwork Leeds).

The images and details of all the winners can be found at <http://goo.gl/VynU4f>

## Helping kidney patients make informed choices

**Leeds academics are part of a team who have produced a new information booklet from Kidney Research UK that's helping patients with failing kidneys to make informed choices about renal replacement treatment such as dialysis or a transplant.**

*The Dialysis Decision Aid Booklet* is designed for people who have, or know someone with, chronic kidney disease to help them understand more about kidney disease. It gives balanced information about all dialysis options, and enables them to think about which treatments fit best into their lives.

The booklet was developed by the Yorkshire Dialysis Decision Aid group with the involvement of patients, carers and kidney professionals. The research was led by Dr Hilary Bekker (Leeds Institute of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health), and involved University colleagues

Dr Anna Winterbottom, David Meads, and Drs Paul Baxter and Susan Clamp.

Other co-investigators came from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Sheffield NHS, the Universities of Sheffield and Keele, with lay support from the National Kidney Federation, and the Sheffield Kidney Patient Association. The research was funded by Kidney Research UK in collaboration with Baxter Healthcare Ltd, the British Renal Society, and Renal Association.

For more information and to download a free pdf of the booklet visit <http://goo.gl/nli7dJ>



Dr Bekker and consultant nephrologist Dr Andrew Mooney who was part of the research team

## Names added to University's First World War roll of honour

**A service of remembrance was held in Parkinson Court to rededicate the University of Leeds' Brotherton War Memorial 100 years after the start of the First World War.**

The stories of the 25 men, who all had connections to the University were uncovered by community researcher David Stowe, who has been working alongside academics to explore the 'Leeds Stories of the Great War', part of the University's Legacies of War project (see Reporter 580).

Following a welcome to the service by Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands, the former Poet Laureate Sir Andrew Motion read his poem *The Death of Harry Patch*. Students gave details of some of the fallen, before all 25 names were read out. School of Music fourth year student Will Blackstone then played *The Last Post* to herald two minutes of silence.

David Stowe says: "It remains a mystery why these names were not included on the original roll of honour, but the stories that have unfolded are remarkable. They all served in the Great War, and while not all deaths were the result of action or active service, they

are no less tragic following accounts of such bravery and courage."

Professor Alison Fell, who leads the LoW project, adds: "Our research has revealed the diversity of the staff and students who lost their lives during the war. Like all those associated with the University today, they came from all walks of life and from all over the world."

The Memorial is situated outside the entrance to the Brotherton Library. Its 18 panels bear the names of 328 men and officers with connections to the University.

## News

# New Head of Physics for University

**Professor Helen Gleeson OBE has been appointed Head of Physics and Astronomy, and will also become the Cavendish Professor of Physics. She will take up the post in January.**

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands says: "We're delighted to have recruited a researcher and academic leader of Professor Gleeson's international standing. We already have a strong track record of excellence in student education and research in physics and astronomy and Professor Gleeson will be at the forefront of building on these foundations."

Professor Gleeson's main research involves experimental studies of liquid crystals; and she was head of the University of Manchester's School of Physics and Astronomy from 2008-2010. In 2009, she received an OBE for services to science.

She has been Chairman of the British Liquid Crystal Society, editor of Liquid Crystal Today and is an active member of Women in Science Engineering and Technology (WiSET).

Professor Stephen Scott, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, says: "I am really pleased that we have managed to achieve such a strong appointment to the Cavendish professorship at Leeds. I look forward to working closely with Helen to deliver a major programme of investment in physics and astronomy, including the proposed new physics building."

Professor Gleeson believes that the announcement of the '250 Great Minds' campaign, a new initiative set to recruit 250 early career academics in the next three years, will accelerate the University's research ambitions.

"The move of my research group to Leeds, together with the new capital plans and the investment in early career researchers, offers a real opportunity to grow a centre of excellence



Professor Helen Gleeson OBE

in soft matter physics at Leeds," says Professor Gleeson.

"I look forward to being closely involved in career development activities for early career researchers and in the University's equality and diversity initiatives. Both are areas that I have championed over the past few years."

## Professor Jones, in the library, with the candlestick

**The Laidlaw Library may still be a building site, but a number of staff, students and invited guests – many of whom are donors to the University Campaign – were given a sneak preview of the facility at a special 'Hard Hat Dinner'.**

Organised by the Alumni and Development team, the event began with guests being kitted out in hard hats and high-visibility jackets for guided tours of the building led by staff from construction contractors Shepherds.

After a champagne reception and welcome speech from Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Vivien Jones, guests were led into the library's café area, currently a concrete shell, which had been specially decorated for a three-course candlelit dinner prepared in University House. During dinner, a performance by the stage@leeds theatre company illustrated the role that libraries continue to play in the student experience.



Guests enjoying themselves at the Hard Hat Dinner

## Opportunities for students

# Pilot scheme aims to widen participation in postgraduate study

**This year the University is participating in a pilot project – the Postgraduate Support Scheme (PSS) – which will investigate and test a range of ways to attract under-represented groups into postgraduate education.**

As part of this work, the University was able to offer postgraduate financial support packages to 68 students commencing postgraduate taught (PGT) study with us in September this year. Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands attended an event to welcome and congratulate students taking part in the scheme, which is piloting financial and academic initiatives, investigating the role of information, advice and guidance, and collecting large datasets to inform and support evaluation.

Students are undertaking PGT for a variety of reasons, such as to gain new skills or enter a profession, or as a stepping stone to a career in



(l-r): Nathanya Laurent, Noorjahan Goffar, Cleveland Bertram (representative from PATH), Louise Banahene

research and academia, and all are committed to making the most of the opportunity for further study. The welcome event was also attended by stakeholders and partners, including employers who we hope will be able to offer our PGT students support in the form of skills workshops, mentoring or work shadowing opportunities, and possibly funding.

Louise Banahene, Head of Educational Engagement, says: "It's clear from the number of applications received and the scholarships awarded that finance is a barrier to postgraduate study and for many the gateway to their chosen profession. The University of

Leeds is committed to widening access to higher education and postgraduate education is the new frontier for widening participation.

"Our scheme is part of a broader partnership with the universities of Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, Warwick and York – 'Widening access to postgraduate study and the professions' – and is part-funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the University's own Alumni Footsteps Fund."

*"Without this funding I would not be studying for a Masters today. I simply could not have afforded it. I would have continued working in my retail job."*

**Noorjahan Goffar**, PSS recipient



## Launch of the new 'Language Zone'

**Students and staff are welcome to the University's newly refurbished Language Zone on level 2 of the Parkinson Building, whether they are studying a language for their degree programme or learning independently.**

New features include a video wall, recording areas, facilities for visitors to bring and use their own mobile devices, and an improved layout to relax, study and browse language learning resources such as audio and video materials, language learning software, TV channels, newspapers and magazines in over 40 languages. Visitors can access materials in any language they choose, participate in the Language Exchange Scheme, or gain ideas and support from the language adviser.

Dr Peter Howarth, Director of the Language Centre's facilities, says: "We can now provide an attractive space for learners and teachers to use the advanced audiovisual technology we have available to research and experiment with techniques to enhance language learning, such as the use of mobile devices, communication via social media, the designing of apps, gaming and more.

"We're very confident that this new investment by the University will help to enhance the experience and success of language learners for many more years. Above all, it demonstrates visibly that the University really takes languages seriously."

The Language Zone is open six days a week.

Find out more about the Language Zone at <http://goo.gl/4CpK32>

## Opportunities for students

# RAG Week a success

The Leeds RAG (Raise and Give) society had a full week of fundraising across campus in November, as staff and students got involved by signing up to a RAG Week event or donating to the Community Fund.

The week included all-singing, all-dancing flash mobs, FIFA tournaments, a *Take Me Out* dating show, and abseiling down the Michael Sadler Building. The abseil alone raised over £1,000, with 22 students taking part. The University's libraries donated £2,000 from student library fines to the Community Fund, and Special Collections digitised the front covers of the Tyke magazine that Leeds RAG produces.

Sarah Calvert, President of Leeds RAG, says: "I'm unbelievably proud of RAG Week 2014.

Our presence across campus has been greater than ever and our events throughout the week have been incredibly successful – I really hope we've shown everyone how much fun you can have with Leeds RAG while raising money for some fantastic causes."

The money raised goes into the Community Fund, which is then distributed to small, local charities. Leeds RAG is the official fundraising society of Leeds University Union and organises events all year round.



Third-year Pharmacology student Beth Billingsley abseils down the Michael Sadler Building

## Student Education Service – website testing

The Student Education Service (SES) is set to launch two new websites in the new year and is looking for academics and SES staff to help test them before they go live.

The new development will combine content currently held on 16 different University websites, and present it on two separate sites – one dedicated to staff, one to students.

The new sites reflect many of the changes in service delivery which have taken place as a result of the formation of the SES, with the web project embracing diverse areas, from the International Office and postgraduate research and operations to student counselling and study abroad.

Some 8,500 current pages have been reviewed and streamlined into around 800, split between the two sites. The

development aims to provide staff and students with quicker, easier access to information and greater consistency in design.

That design has been developed by the University's web team, and takes into account the growing trend to browse online on tablets and mobiles. It should dramatically improve the experience for users, regardless of the type of device being used, and follows consultation with students and staff.

The project is now at the testing stage. Feedback so far has been positive, and the project team is keen to hear from members of staff who would be willing to help test the site.

Anyone interested should email [sescommunications@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:sescommunications@leeds.ac.uk)

## Digital discovery – iPads@LUBS

More than 1,000 new Masters students at Leeds University Business School (LUBS) have received an iPad to use during their studies – the largest deployment of its kind across any UK business school.

"Giving students – and staff – iPads enhances their digital literacy skills," explains Catherine Wilkinson, Blended Learning Enhancement Manager. "Embedding iPads into the curriculum complements the student experience and equips students with crucial abilities for the modern workplace."

The initiative is supported by the Faculty Blended Learning team, together with academic and student iPad champions. The student champions will represent and support their cohort by:

- being the main point of contact for fellow students
- providing students with tips and advice on how best to use their iPad and proposing new ways to enhance their learning process
- producing student-created content to help students in future years
- assisting with the evaluation of the project, providing a 'hands on' experience to help the Blended Learning team to come up with new ways in which learning activities can be redesigned.

iPad Champion Michael Assin is impressed: "The future of education lies in the integration of technology into active learning. LUBS is pioneering in this aspect. The ability to find information whenever or wherever you are, provided by the iPads, widens access and broadens the potential for the learning of every student."

Find out more at

<http://lubswww.leeds.ac.uk/tablet> or email [blendedlearning-lubs@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:blendedlearning-lubs@leeds.ac.uk)



## Opportunities for students

# Celebrating Excellence in Postgraduate Research

The research stars of tomorrow had a chance to shine at this year's Postgraduate Research Conference – Showcase 2014, with a record number of postgraduate research (PGR) students submitting entries.

Now in its fifth year, Showcase celebrates and promotes the significant contribution that our postgraduate researchers make to the research profile and academic life of the University. Participating in the conference competitions gives PGRs the opportunity to share their research with the wider research community and get valuable feedback. It also enhances their skills of presenting, writing, preparation of posters and, above all, communicating their research to a non-specialist audience.

Befitting such an important and high-profile event, this year's conference took place in the Great Hall, with open exhibitions of posters and images occupying the Baines Wing and Parkinson Court.

Presenting the awards, Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands praised the quality of the entries, and also emphasised the importance of PGRs, saying: "A vibrant postgraduate community is essential to the future of the University. It's important that we continue to invest and support and encourage people to take part in research and shape the future of our institution."

For more details visit [www.pgrconference.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.pgrconference.leeds.ac.uk)



Gemma Gossedge receiving Postgraduate Researcher of the Year by Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands

### The University of Leeds Postgraduate Researcher of the Year

- Winner** – Gemma Gossedge (Biomedical and Clinical Sciences), *A new paradigm for bowel cancer surgery*
- Runner-up** – Joanna Elvy (Transport Studies), *Towards socially inclusive sustainable mobility: The role of social capital in participatory transport planning processes*
- Joint third place** – Nick Edwards (Design), *First line of defence – wiping out infection*  
Felicity Edwards (Biology), *Maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services in tropical landscapes*

### Three Minute Thesis

- Winner** – Mike Jestico (Psychology), *The power of photo-elicitation*
- Runner-up** – Nick Tasker (Philosophy, Religion and History of Science), *What you didn't know you knew about language*
- Joint third prize** – Lesley Ellis (Sociology and Social Policy), *Disabled or Dwarf? The influence of a mobility aid in the discrimination of women with Dwarfism in public spaces*  
Ella Holdsworth (Law) for *If the tag fits, wear it. If the tag doesn't fit... what then?*

### Postgraduate Research Poster of the Year

- Winner** – Laura McVeigh (Medicine), *Bubbles for Cancer*
- Runner-up** – Amy Hunter (Healthcare), *Absorbing Lives*
- Third prize** – Tugba Aktar (Food Science and Nutrition), *Food with Feelings*

### Postgraduate Image of the Year

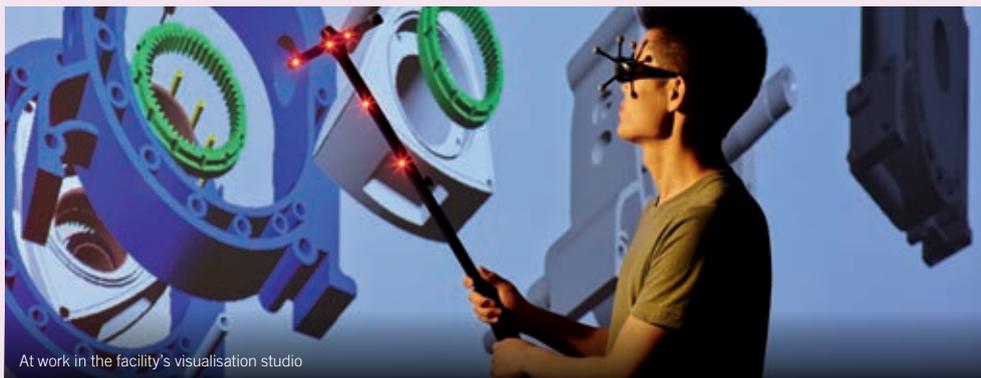
- Winner** – Fraser Macrae (Genetics, Health and Therapeutics), *The Clot Thickens*
- Runner-up** – Peter Steward (Biological Sciences), *Misunderstood*



Postgraduate Image of the year – *The Clot Thickens* by Fraser Macrae

## Research and innovation

# National facility for innovative robotics opens



At work in the facility's visualisation studio

**A £4.3m government-backed investment is set to put the University at the forefront of UK robot design and construction.**

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) National Facility for Innovative Robotic Systems was opened at the University's School of Mechanical Engineering on 22 October.

The centre features the world's largest multi-material 3D printer capable of making objects with soft and rigid parts, a second 3D printer which works on a smaller scale, and a laser micro jet cutter, which focuses a laser beam through a jet of water to cut hard material, even diamond, with extreme precision. Other features of the facility include a machine which

prints electronic circuits onto robots and a 3D visualisation studio for robot builders to inspect digital models of robot designs in fine detail.

Facility Director Dr Bob Richardson says: "We looked at the most innovative and exciting robots being developed across the world and asked ourselves what kit we'd need to build something even better.

"Leeds already has a great track record in robotics for surgical applications, patient rehabilitation, prosthetics, and exploration, but the new facility will revolutionise our ability to turn new concepts into reality. We'll be able to make robots that are smaller, more intricate, more flexible and more integrated than ever before."

The EPSRC is investing £2.6m in equipment for the new facility, part of a £85m nationwide fund for national equipment to support research into

robotics and autonomous systems, advanced materials and energy storage.

Professor Philip Nelson, EPSRC's Chief Executive says: "EPSRC will continue to encourage research, discovery and innovation in this field, one of the government's Eight Great Technologies, and supplying funds for capital investment for equipment is an important strand of our support."

A further £1.2m was invested by the University for equipment and lab improvements and a £0.5m investment by industry gives the facility its £4.3m total investment.

The research of the new facility will involve the University's schools of Mechanical Engineering, Computing, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Chemical and Process Engineering, Medicine and Environment.

## Big-hearted fish feel the heat

**A Leeds professor is amongst a group of international researchers soon to be heading to the Antarctic Peninsula as part of a three-year investigation of the icefish – one of nature's great curiosities.**

Icefish have a cardiovascular system unlike anything else seen in nature, with massive hearts, colourless blood and extra wide blood vessels. They are the only known vertebrates without respiratory pigments, which gives them them a ghostly white colour.

Without haemoglobin to carry oxygen around their bodies, icefish blood contains about 10 times less oxygen than that of other vertebrates. They have survived for millions of years in the Southern Ocean because oxygen dissolves better at low temperatures, allowing just enough oxygen to be delivered to an icefish's organs because the extremely cold waters it lives in also reduces its metabolic rate.

Global warming is pushing up ocean temperatures; the Antarctic Peninsula has risen by 3°C in the last 50 years and the west Antarctic ice sheet by more than 0.1°C per decade. Professor Stuart Egginton (School of Biomedical Sciences) is among the team that will examine whether icefish will be able to cope with these changes.

He says: "We think these wonderful fish, which are currently found in healthy numbers (and form the basis of a profitable fishery), may be facing a lethal double whammy. Their metabolism will increase in warmer seas and that will require more oxygen. At the same time, the increased temperature will mean that the amount of oxygen their blood can carry will decrease.

"Apart from the great loss that these unique species would be to the diversity of nature, icefish are an excellent bioindicator for the health of the ecosystem in the Antarctic."

Expeditions in 2015 and 2017, backed by the US National Science Foundation's Polar Program, will take a team from the universities of Leeds, Alaska, Ohio, British Columbia and Gothenburg. The team will be based at the United States' Palmer Station along the Antarctic Peninsula.



Professor Egginton on a previous trip to the Antarctic

## Research and innovation

# A book for opera lovers

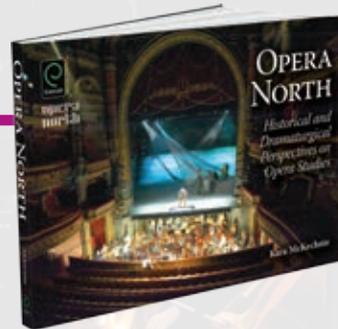
**A Leeds lecturer has unveiled her latest book detailing the history of University collaborator, Opera North.**

*Opera North: Historical and Dramaturgical Perspectives on Opera Studies* details opera production through history, ethnography and production analysis for staff, scholars and lovers of opera. Dr Kara McKechnie (School of Performance and Cultural Studies) examined the workplace behaviour of the much-loved opera company through its rehearsal and performance spaces, following the production cycle from first rehearsal to first night, detailed by images from Opera North's 35-year history.

Dr McKechnie was granted unprecedented access to the company's archives and daily routines, interviewing key staff past and

present, made possible through DARE, Opera North's long-standing collaboration with the University of Leeds.

Lecturer in Dramaturgy and Literary Management Dr McKechnie says: "It has been an intense and inspiring four years of research, thanks to the generous support, openness and artistic excellence of everyone at Opera North. The study aims to cater for audiences beyond the academic sphere, such as friends, patrons and audiences of Opera North, experts in their own right, as well as readers involved in the opera industry. It aims to reflect Opera North's principle that opera is for everyone."



Dr Kara McKechnie

Richard Mantle, General Manager for Opera North, says: "I am immensely pleased to celebrate the publication of Kara's study of Opera North, a fascinating exploration of this company's history and work."

The book was launched at Opera North's Howard Assembly Room on Tuesday 28 October.

*Opera North: Historical and Dramaturgical Perspectives on Opera Studies* by Dr Kara McKechnie, is published by Emerald (ISBN: 9781783505012). Priced at £49.95, it is available to order online from <http://goo.gl/f1cu3Q>

## Grant supports researchers to take next career steps

**A new £2m investment by the Wellcome Trust and the University will help develop the next generation of researchers.**

The two-year award is an Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF), comprising £1m from the Wellcome Trust, match-funded by the University. It will be used to support a number of activities across the University, including helping research staff develop their independent research careers through provision of financial and mentoring support as they apply for external fellowships.

The funding will also support researchers to undertake short secondments within a different research group at Leeds, a different university – within the UK or internationally

– or within one of the University's industrial partners. The secondments will help research staff develop skills in new disciplines; for example, giving applied health researchers the opportunity to spend time in a clinical management team to observe their challenges and dilemmas.

Professor Paul Stewart, who leads the award, says: "We want to help our post-doctoral staff take the next step towards becoming world-class researchers and this funding from the Wellcome Trust will help about 20 people do just that.

"A key aspect of this funding is the ability it will give staff to work across different disciplines, which is something we're really keen to develop as a University."

The award will also provide additional training to help research staff develop new skills and support the recruitment of highly-skilled people to support existing projects.

Funding will also be given to support public and patient engagement to promote activities, events and lifelong learning opportunities for researchers, students, patients and members of the public. This will include hosting events at the Leeds Festival of Science in March 2015, establishing a University-wide open day giving the public the chance to access research, and starting a biomedical 'science slam', to communicate research to the public through a theatrical performance in Leeds.

## News in brief

### Anti-Bribery Policy now in place

The University has adopted an Anti-Bribery Policy, written to deal with a change in the law and giving staff practical guidance on likely key issues.

The policy, together with guidance, can be found at <http://goo.gl/Pd8MCj>. A training programme for staff can also be offered by the Staff and Departmental Development Unit – contact [www.sddu.leeds.ac.uk/](http://www.sddu.leeds.ac.uk/) for details. If you have any questions relating to the policy contact Adrian Slater at [a.slater@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.slater@adm.leeds.ac.uk) or Alan Thomson at [a.c.thomson@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.c.thomson@adm.leeds.ac.uk)

### Colloquium in honour of late Professor Cliffe

A two-day colloquium was held in Cape Town, 20-21 October, in honour of the late Emeritus Professor Lionel Cliffe. Supported by the University and with seven of the 24 speakers having direct links to Leeds, the meeting attracted scholars from across the continent to discuss the theme 'Democracy, Land and Liberation in Africa Today: Bridging Past and Present Scholarship'.

### Evidence to Defence Committee

Dr Adrian Gallagher (School of Politics and International Studies) gave oral evidence to the House of Commons Defence Committee on 'The situation in Iraq and Syria and the threat posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant' (ISIL). As one of four experts, Dr Gallagher answered questions on the legal grounding for expanding the current UK assistance in Iraq to potentially intervening in Syria to address the threat posed by ISIL. More information can be found at <http://goo.gl/bm1M4x>

## News

# Report and Accounts 2013-14

**The University continues in good financial health: it has a strong balance sheet and robust financial plans that set exacting student recruitment targets, ambitious improvements in research performance and significant efficiency improvements.**



Jane Madeley, Finance Director

Following a challenging cycle in 2012, it is pleasing to report that student recruitment recovered well, with growth in the intake of home/EU undergraduates (and an improvement in the quality of the intake) and with a return to growth in international recruitment. This, combined with the impact of the second year of the new fee regime and growth in research income of 3%, delivered a total income growth of 7%.

An operating surplus of £39m (6.6% of total income) is an improvement of £17m. This results primarily from strong student recruitment, and the fact that we did not spend all of the planned strategic investments in the year. As the level of our strategic investments builds in the short term, we can expect the operating surplus percentage to come under pressure again.

Capital investment has increased to £62m and, given our ambitious plans, is expected to grow further: we are on track to invest up to £100m in strategic developments and £500m in our capital programme over the next five years.

At £236m (23% higher than 2012/13), tuition fee income now accounts for 40% of total income. Home/EU undergraduate intake grew by 8% and postgraduate recruitment by 24%, with total student numbers across all years in line with last year. Fee income from our Home/EU students has increased by £29m (28%), predominantly due to the impact of the second cohort of students recruited under the £9k fee regime. We also report a pleasing 19% growth in international fee income. International student numbers across all cohorts and years

increased by 12%. Our intake for postgraduate programmes deserves specific mention, growing by 26%.

Underlying research growth is 5% when revenue and capital expenditure are considered together. We saw significant growth in European Commission funding (19%) and in UK Industry funding (12%). Overall, we secured nearly 600 new research awards (in line with last year) with a total grant value of £132m.

Our new strategic plan calls for a major step change in research income. This will require significant academic investment, coupled with significant investment in new and existing research facilities; exploitation of disciplinary and interdisciplinary research opportunities; growth in the numbers of high quality Postgraduate Research students; and new collaborations and partnerships to help unlock new funding opportunities. To this end, we have embarked upon a major programme of academic development, and have also deployed a major part of our Higher Education Innovation Funding to develop and sustain external relationships in a number of industrial sectors through our sector hubs.

The increase in staff costs is £15m (5%), reflecting a programme of academic investment, including 22 professorial appointments (Academic Leadership Chairs). Increases in other operating expenditure were attributable to three factors in particular: planned new investments in infrastructure and maintenance to upgrade teaching facilities; the improved undergraduate financial support package; and planned investment to create an

integrated Student Education Service which will provide consistent, high quality support for our students.

The strength of our balance sheet and performance in 2013/14 give us a solid financial platform to underpin our new ambitious strategic plan. The further strengthening of the balance sheet and our effective financial management provides us with the platform and confidence to move ahead with significant new academic and capital investments which underpin our new strategic plan. As we continue to recognise the interdependence between – and the importance of – both academic and financial sustainability, we are focused on ensuring that the investments that our financial strategy supports are aligned to delivering our strategic objectives.

At the same time, we are operating in particularly uncertain times, significantly influenced this year by political and economic uncertainty alongside the new norm of volatility created by the intensification of the market. We continue to be vigilant to ensure that we have early sight of emerging financial pressures and protect our ability to manage them as they arise.

**Jane Madeley**  
Finance Director

### Key figures

Operating surplus £39m  
Total income £587m

## Infrastructure and Sustainability

# Embedding sustainability in all areas

**A Sustainable Construction Standard has been developed to set minimum requirements for all new University developments and refurbishments over £1.5m, further embedding sustainability into University operations.**

Sustainable design principles will be incorporated into University capital projects, from conception through to construction and operation. This will reduce environmental impacts by optimising natural light and ventilation, using natural/sustainable materials, and ensuring that building projects use low carbon design principles.

The standard also aims to improve social and economic impacts and opportunities. There are requirements to source local materials, to reduce the social impact of key materials (eg, quarried aggregate), and to establish opportunities for local employment and skills developments through the contractors employed by the University.

As well as construction projects, University tenders now incorporate an assessment of the sustainability performance of companies bidding for contracts. Before a contract goes out to tender, it is reviewed for potential risks and opportunities. This information is then used to question and assess the companies bidding for the tender and, for high-risk contracts, can form a key part in the tender process with specific requirements embedded into final contracts.

As an example of this, in recent tenders for laptops and computers, issues around labour rights, such as long working hours, sexual harassment and bonded labour, were identified as common and therefore a high sustainability risk.

However, as Sustainability's James Dixon-Gough explains, sometimes making decisions or dealing with these issues is not clear cut: "In some procurement categories we lack the necessary influence to encourage change by ourselves, but by working with purchasing consortia or other partnership organisations we can increase this influence.

"For example, to tackle the labour issues identified in recent laptop and computer tenders, the University became a founding member of Electronics Watch, an independent monitoring organisation working to achieve respect for workers' rights in the global electronics industry. As a University, we spend between £3-4m a year on computers; it may seem a lot, but it's a small part of the market that we aim to influence. Through developing standard contract clauses that relate to working conditions, which are backed up by auditors in the supplier countries, Electronics Watch will exert pressure on suppliers."



An artist's impression of how the new car park will look

## New car parking arrangements

**Work has started on the University's new multi-storey car park (MSCP) and is expected to continue until December 2015.**

The MSCP is being constructed in front of the EC Stoner Building and in the interim 160 spaces will be lost due to the building footprint. Measures will be taken to try to ease pressure in this parking zone by offering spaces at two

of the University's residential sites. The gravel area in front of EC Stoner will also continue to be used for parking. However, it is expected that the works will affect permit holders, staff who purchase daily tickets, and colleagues who arrange parking for visitors on the University main campus car parks.

"The works will mean there's a reduction in the number of visitors allowed access to the car parks during the week, so it's particularly important that departments pre-book visitors to campus at the earliest opportunity," explains Facilities' Majid Khan.

"Due to the scale of the project, there may also be disruption to traffic flows on campus, with large delivery vehicles and possibly temporary traffic lights in operation during the construction period.

"Of course, we'll give advance notice of changes that are due to come into operation, but would like to apologise to colleagues for any inconvenience this project causes."

Further information is at <http://goo.gl/wc8tVv> or follow [@carparkingatUoL](https://twitter.com/carparkingatUoL) for regular updates.

## Infrastructure and Sustainability

# Sustainability round-up

### Crocus planting

The annual crocus planting session took place in St George's Field this year, with more than 20 staff and students attending the event. The crocus is a vibrant wild flower that will brighten up campus, and also improve biodiversity in line with the University's Biodiversity Action Plan. As effective pollinating plants, crocuses will help encourage an increase in campus bee populations.

### October Harvest provides a feast

Vegetables from the University's sustainable garden were used to provide soup for lots of hungry, cold students and staff during an October Harvest event held to celebrate the garden's first birthday.

As well as members of the Campus Bee Network, and the University's Catering and the Sustainability teams, external stakeholders also took part in the celebrations. Representatives from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Kew Gardens, Bardon Grange, and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) were all on hand to talk to people about their work and how it encourages sustainability.

### New website on the way

Sustainability is currently working on launching a new website to accompany the launch of the Sustainability Strategy. This site will mirror the look and feel of the strategy and communicate the message not only across the campus, but locally, nationally and even internationally. The site will provide engaging, relevant and interesting information about how the University is working as a whole to embed sustainability into the core of all its functions and operations. It's hoped the site will go live in the new year. In the meantime, keep up to date with sustainability news at <http://goo.gl/OdSybw>

### Bin there, done that

Cleaning services have launched a new scheme to recycle used chewing gum. The bright pink 'Gumdrop' bins can be found in 10 different locations on campus, encouraging people to dispose of their chewing gum properly. The scheme's primary purpose is to recycle the gum and the bin into other products. Once the bins are full, they are returned to Gumdrop Ltd, where the gum and the bins are recycled into new bins or other products such as plastic rulers, combs, food containers and cutlery.

Sustainable garden

## Module uses campus as a 'living lab'

**Thirty-four students have signed up for the University's first elective module devoted to sustainability, with more to follow in the spring term.**

Part of the Discovery Themes, the module – Creating Sustainable Futures – is available to first year undergraduates. It gives insight into sustainability in the global context, and also here at the University with case studies on student changeover, waste, community relations and sustainable laboratories.

Sustainability has been working with module leader Professor William Young to create the assignments for the module which use campus as a research space. Looking at energy behaviours, bicycle parking capacity, and biodiversity on campus, students will gain an

insight into how the campus is managed. The University will also feed the data gathered into campus plans.

The initiative supports the University Sustainability Strategy, in particular the Knowledge and Capacity theme, by increasing student skills in sustainability and improving their employability, as well as equipping students with the skills to create a more sustainable future.

For more information see <http://goo.gl/pgPLxX>

## Christmas shutdown 2014

The University is implementing this year's Christmas shutdown between 24 December and 5 January, and colleagues are asked to turn off as much unneeded equipment as possible to reduce annual carbon emissions.

Where possible, staff should switch off PCs, photocopiers, and other electrical equipment during the Christmas break. A well-supported shutdown can make significant savings in energy and carbon emissions for very little effort.

An update on the impact of the shutdown on our energy use will be available in the new year.

## International/Community Engagement

# Commonwealth Scholars aiming to make a difference



**With 48 students from 16 Commonwealth countries studying here for their Masters or PhDs, the University is currently home to the highest number of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows in the UK.**

The students gathered at a celebratory reception in October, jointly organised by the Scholarship and International teams, welcoming them to the University and celebrating their success in achieving these highly competitive awards. The event featured speeches from Professor Edward Spiers (Faculty of Arts) and Richard Middleton (Commissioner of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission) who outlined the aims of the programme.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC) brings the best and brightest students from across the Commonwealth into UK universities. Applicants must produce a development plan where they outline how their studies will contribute to the development of their home country.

Current Scholars aim to make a difference in their home countries, and study a wide

range of subjects including public health and engineering, fine art and theatre studies. Their development plans can suggest improvements in areas such their country's economy, community, culture or environment.

Satrohan Nauth and Shafeek Alli are both currently studying for their Masters in Environmental Engineering and Project Management. Both hope to use the knowledge, expertise and skills obtained in their home country Guyana. "I want to ensure sustainable development and a greener Guyana. I want to share my knowledge with students by lecturing part time at the University of Guyana," says Satrohan.

"I'm very grateful the CSC provided me with an opportunity of a lifetime; without this scholarship I would have never been able to afford to do my Masters so early in my career and especially in the UK."

Osasuyi Dirisu is from Nigeria and is in the third year of her PhD in Public Health. She says the support she gets from Leeds is excellent: "My supervisor was very responsive when I initially applied; they understood my topic and the approach I wanted to take. I used to work in

Lagos in a drug rehabilitation centre and my current research is about the use of cannabis amongst adolescents in Nigeria. It's quite unique – there has not been any other in-depth study focusing on this age group. When I finish I want to go back home and help to develop intervention for young people using drugs."

Head of the International Office Jacqui Brown comments: "It is a reflection on the quality of the University of Leeds and its reputation in Commonwealth countries that so many CSC scholars have chosen Leeds for their study. These students will go on to make a real difference in their home nations and as Leeds alumni they will be able to draw on strong networks of our graduates across the world. Ensuring that the impact made by our education, research and alumni community is globally relevant is a key strand of the new University Strategy. These amazing individuals and inspiring scholars are a great example of how we do that and how Leeds makes a positive contribution to global development."

More information about Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships and the application process can be found at <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk>



Osasuyi Dirisu



Satrohan Nauth



Shafeek Alli

## Valuing our people

# Team talk – Leeds University International Concerts team

### Who's in the team?

The University Concerts team consists of Jillian Johnson and Jessica Ward, with support from the School of Music Facilities Manager, the technical staff and a team of dedicated volunteers who act as concert stewards

### What do your roles involve?

The planning and day-to-day administration of the University's public concerts series, and – with the help of our Honorary Curator Philip Spellacy – the Clothworkers' Centenary Concert Hall (CCCH) foyer exhibition programme. Jillian is Artistic Director of the series inviting the performers who give the concerts; Jess manages the office, looking after the contracts, the box office, etc.

### What's the latest news from the team?

We are about to launch our first major Early Music Festival in February. We have run Early Music events before and they have proved popular with audiences. February's Festival will be the first to be included in the national Early Music Calendar and we are pleased to say is already creating interest around Yorkshire and further afield (for more details see page 19). We are also expanding our 'Discover more' programme with pre-concert talks, opportunities for the audience to meet performers and composers and some participatory workshop events. In January we will be linking up with BBC Radio 3 for a screening of its *Ten Pieces Project* – a film to bring ten noted pieces of classical music to a young audience. This will be a free event for parents and children as part of our Family Concert series.

### What are your strengths?

The concert series provides a significant contribution to the cultural life of the city and region. We programme a wide range of musical genre, ranging from 'early music' to contemporary works where we are (metaphorically, since the invention of music notation software Sibelius) waiting for the ink to dry on the page!

### How long has the team been together?

Jillian has been organising the Concert Series since a 'short term' appointment 12 years ago (the previous incumbent got a better offer from the Proms!). Jess has held the post of Concerts Administrator for nearly three years.



Jessica Ward and Jillian Johnson

### How many events do you organise per month?

We hold weekly 'Free on Fridays' lunchtime recitals during term time and an average of two ticketed concerts a month. Lunchtime concerts last 50 minutes to allow time to rush from your office or lab to the concert hall and back again in your one hour lunch break. There is no need to book – just turn up. For those with a more leisurely timetable we have coffee and tea available from 12:30pm and concert-goers are welcome to eat their sandwiches in the foyer before the performance. Ticketed events feature larger scale performances in a standard concert format.

### What does the team get the most satisfaction from?

For job satisfaction, this must be one of the best! The University has provided public concerts for over 100 years (we celebrated our centenary series in 2013). Being responsible for the events in "one of the finest chamber music venues in the region" – the *Yorkshire Post's* words not ours. Bringing world class performers to the University

Series, providing a performance platform from up-and-coming young performers, entertaining our audience (of all tastes and ages) with music they know they will like and also giving them delightful surprises and, in recent years – with the new Family Concerts programme – introducing a new audience to the excitement of live performance. It is also heartening to know that there is support from the University and the general public to ensure that the series can maintain its high standards. This season we have been delighted to receive additional funding from the University, charitable trusts and generous anonymous donations from individuals. Last but not least a full house!

### What's next for the team?

In January, we start planning the October 2015 – June 2016 programme. After a spectacular refurbishment of the Artists' Green Room (now the Audrey Burton Room) in the spring of next year we're also looking forward to a major re-development of the Concert Hall foyer which will improve the whole concert-going experience for the audience.

## In the news



Dr Jordan Boyle (School of Mechanical Engineering)

In October, the new £4.3m Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) National Facility for Innovative **Robotic Systems** was opened at the University. The event was picked up by various media including the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, *The Yorkshire Post*, BBC News online and BBC Radio Leeds. Dr Jordan Boyle (School of Mechanical Engineering) and Graham Brown, facility manager, were interviewed by BBC One's *Look North*'s business correspondent Danni Hewson.

Ahead of the release of new film *The Imitation Game* starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley, Professor Barry Cooper (School of Mathematics) wrote about how the opinion of British mathematician **Alan Turing** has changed over time in an online article for *The Guardian*.

A study by researchers based at the University of Leeds and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, led by Professor Chris Twelves (School of Medicine), looked at two clinical trials of more than 1,800 women who had **breast cancer**. It found that those with the advanced triple negative form of the disease lived five months longer when taking the cancer drug eribulin. The story was widely covered in the press, with features in *The Times*, *The Herald*, *The Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Mail*.

Professor Mark Harris (School of Molecular and Cellular Biology) was interviewed by BBC Radio York and BBC Radio Leeds in October about **Ebola**.

To mark the anniversary of **Robert Louis Stevenson's** birthday, *The Amateur Emigrant*, a novel originally censored, was distributed in Edinburgh with chapters and paragraphs from the original text reinstated. Dr Julia Reid (School of English) was interviewed ahead of the release by BBC Radio Scotland's *Newsdrive* and also quoted by *Scotland on Sunday*.

In November, the European Space Agency's (ESA) Rosetta released a comet lander on **Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko**. Professor John Plane (School of Chemistry) commented on what the comet lander would be looking for in *The Telegraph* online.



ESA/ATG medialab; Comet image: ESA/Rosetta/Navcam

The image of the comet was taken with the navigation camera on Rosetta (ESA/Rosetta/NavCam)

Professor Simon Poulton (School of Earth and Environment) commented on new research published in *Science*, and co-led by Yale University and Georgia Institute of Technology, which looked at how low levels of **oxygen** on Earth delayed the development of life. His comments were featured on the BBC News website.

On **World Stroke Day** (29 October), Professor Anne Forster's (School of Medicine) call for action for better long-term care for stroke patients was included in features warning of the risk posed to women by strokes on BBC *Breakfast* and BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.



A study by an international team of scientists including researchers from the University of Leeds has shown a recent increase in atmospheric **hydrogen chloride**, a substance linked to the destruction of the ozone layer. *The Globe and Mail* and *International Business Times* both featured the story and included a quote from Professor Martyn Chipperfield (School of Earth and Environment), who led the modelling work for the study.

Professor David Allen (Leeds University Business School) was interviewed on BBC One's *Inside Out Yorkshire and Lincolnshire* about West Yorkshire Police. The force has switched its notebooks for **digital devices** to help record crime more efficiently.

After the start of four new **MOOCs**, including the University's course 'World War 1: Changing Faces of Heroism' (jointly run with the BBC), *The Yorkshire Post*, *The Scotsman* and the *Western Morning News* all reported on the success of the courses, with tens of thousands of people signing up. Professor Alison Fell (School of Languages, Cultures and Societies), lead educator on the course, was quoted in the articles and also took part in a BBC Radio 4 *Woman's Hour* discussion about heroines in the First World War.



## Our people/honours

**Peter Buckley OBE**, Professor of International Business at Leeds University Business School, has been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Professor Buckley is a world-leading authority on international business and is one of 34 social scientists to be honoured by the Academy this year for their contribution to social sciences. The Fellowship is the second major honour that he received this year as he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in July.

He says: "I am delighted that my work has been recognised and I would like to thank my colleagues at Leeds for their help and continued support."

**Professor P A Muhammed Basheer** (School of Civil Engineering) has been elected to the Royal Academy of Engineering as one of the 59 new Fellows admitted this year.

"It is the outcome of the belief in whatever little contribution that I made to the profession by those who were behind my nomination and the two selection committees which took the ultimate decision to put my name forward to other fellows," he says. "More importantly, this is a tribute to all those who worked with me during the past 27 years in the field of durability of concrete, particularly in the area of non-destructive testing and structural health monitoring. Without their support and friendship I would not have been able to achieve anything."

**Dr Costas Velis** (School of Civil Engineering) has been awarded a Terford Premium Award in the 2014 Publishing Awards by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).

This annual prize acknowledges "work judged by peers to be of exceptional quality and benefit to the civil engineering and science community", and was for one of the four best papers published in the 27 peer-reviewed journals of ICE in 2013. Dr Velis's winning paper – 'Integrated sustainable waste management in developing countries' – examines the latest concepts for waste and resources management in developing countries, providing the most up to date global overview, indicating progress with waste collection and also big outstanding challenges.

The paper can be viewed on ICE Virtual Library.



The LVM team (l-r): Dr Rebecca Randell, Dr Rhys Thomas, Dr Roy Ruddle and Dr Darren Treanor

The **Leeds Virtual Microscope (LVM)** has won the Medical Devices and Diagnostics award at the Yorkshire & Humber NHS Innovation Awards. The multidisciplinary team is made up of Dr Darren Treanor, Professor Phil Quirke, Dr Rebecca Randell, Dr Rhys Thomas, John Hodrien and Dr Roy Ruddle. The LVM is the result of an eight-year collaboration between Leeds Teaching Hospitals and the University. LVM systems have been in regular use within St James' Hospital for more than four years, and are also used to redefine National Screening Programme Guidelines for certain cancers.

A team including colleagues from the School of Medicine has been shortlisted by the British Medical Association (BMA) for a 2014 BMA Patient Award for their booklet – ***Dialysis: making the right choices for you***. The book was rated as a highly commended patient resource by the BMA and their independent patient liaison group. For more information see page 4.

**Gregory Radick**, Professor of History and Philosophy of Science, has been elected President of the prestigious British Society for the History of Science (BSHS). The BSHS supports the international history of science, technology and medicine. Professor Radick will oversee the Society's activities during his two year term and will present his work on the early history of genetics during his presidential address at the July 2015 conference.

Masters student **Gary D Rubin** (Interdisciplinary Ethics Applied) won the Institute of Business Ethics' postgraduate Student Essay Competition for his paper 'Does the fact the financial sector is heavily regulated leave any place for ethics?'. The paper looks at the nature of regulation and ethics in financial firms, discusses how ethical behaviour leads to trust, and argues that regulations alone are no substitute for ethics and the ability to think critically through ethical dilemmas.



Winners (l-r): Hazel Fermor, Sami Tarsuslugil, Danielle Miles and Anthony Herbert

A Leeds team of early career researchers has won the **Royal Society of Chemistry's ChemistryYES competition**. The competition was one of several elements of the Biotechnology Young Entrepreneurs Scheme, developed to raise awareness of the commercialisation of bioscience ideas among early career researchers.

Danielle Miles (Chemistry), Hazel Fermor (Biology), Anthony Herbert and Sami Tarsuslugil (both Mechanical Engineering) are all members of the Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (imBE). They were asked to create an imaginary company based on realistic yet hypothetical science, then learn how to put a business plan together before pitching to a panel of judges.

## News

# Unite our ideas

## World Unite Festival 2015

Leeds University Union is hosting the annual World Unite Festival from the 6–15 February 2015. The Festival celebrates global diversity, bringing together participants from all around the world to join in with the largest celebration of its kind in the UK.

Now in its eighth year, the Festival hosts a large and varied selection of cultural events including fabulous foods and dance displays, an International Film Festival and the Learn the Lingo series where you can get the chance to learn a new language. A regular feature at the festival are the Think talks – a series of academic talks on global and cultural issues.

New for 2015, the Laughter Project will be exploring the concept of humour and comedy through open mic, lectures, workshops and a laughter booth that will be in the Union foyer for the whole week. All this is completed with the



Two international students decorating Chinese lanterns

Festival's finale, a cultural performance evening, where different LUU societies show off talents traditional to their country and their culture.

The World Unite committee is looking for even more events for the Festival. If you are interested in hosting an event or contributing a talk to the Think series, or have an idea that you would like

to put forward, please submit:

- the name of the event/talk
- a 50-word description
- ideal time/location

Send your ideas to Sarah Plumb at [s.plumb@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.plumb@leeds.ac.uk) by 5 January 2015.

## Small ads

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### Other

#### FAMILY ACTIVITIES @ THE EDGE

Family swimming lessons, kids climbing tasters and climbing clubs, family breaks in our outdoor centres, junior memberships from as little as £14.25pm and partner promotions – The Edge and Sport & Physical Activity has it all!

[www.leeds.ac.uk/theedge](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/theedge)

#### DO YOU LIKE PANCAKES?

£20 gift voucher reward for completing 4 week trial investigating effects of consuming natural ingredients added to pancakes on cholesterol and triglycerides (ethical approval UoL MEEC 13-027 and LTH NHS Trust CP14/11315).

Samantha Sutulic 0113 343 0064, [food27@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:food27@leeds.ac.uk)

## Events

### Future Cities – Great Hall, Wednesday 4 February 2015, 10am-3.30pm

Leeds Social Sciences Institute (LSSI) is inviting people to attend a one-day conference that will consider the opportunities and challenges facing cities of the future.

Future Cities will include keynote speeches from Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Leeds City Council, on 'The challenges for the city of Leeds'; John Urry, Lancaster University, on 'Living in the city of the future'; and Sir Alan Wilson, University College London and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds, on 'Science and the future of cities'.

The conference is being staged in response to the government's Foresight Future Cities Group on which Sir Alan sits as Chair of the Lead Expert Group and for which John Urry authored one of the first reports, 'Living in the City'

The group aims to identify the opportunities and challenges faced by UK cities in the future, which they need to embrace in order to be resilient, adaptable and thrive.

LSSI works to support and enhance the social sciences at the University Of Leeds. It fosters interdisciplinary and international research

collaborations, promotes relations with external partners in the public, private and third sectors and builds capacity through the provision of training and skills development for the next generation of research leaders.

For further information about the conference please contact Susan Darlington at [s.darlington@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.darlington@leeds.ac.uk) Attendance is free but it is necessary to book in advance at <http://goo.gl/sdY5o1> Places are limited by the size of the venue and so early registration is recommended.



Emma Kirby, Jake Arditti, Fantasticus, Leah Stuttard

### Leeds Early Music Festival – a new festival for the North Feb 27 – 8 March 2015

Following the success of two recent Early Music weekends a new early Music Festival is being established in the North of England.

Hosted by the University of Leeds International Concert series in the Clothworkers' Centenary Concert Hall, it will provide Early Music enthusiasts with a spring treat. The repertoire encompasses the Medieval to late Baroque, with a starry cast of performers including Dame Emma Kirby, Jake Arditti, Jacob Heringman and the ensemble Fantasticus. There will be opportunities for participation

when the Festival hosts a playing day and workshop with the British Lute Society.

The Festival will also feature, with Dame Emma, a Leeds alumnus and graduate of the School of Music, tenor Michael Solomon Williams.

For further details see <http://goo.gl/7nqrQH> or, for general information, contact the box office at [concerts@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:concerts@leeds.ac.uk) or call 0113 343 2584.

### Take part in LGBT History Month

Following a successful trial run in 2014, the University's LGBT staff network is planning a second informal research-focused event for LGBT History Month in February.

The network would especially like to hear from academic staff and/or postgraduate research students, who are currently working on topics associated with, for example, historical and cultural representations of homosexuality, the gay rights/gay liberation movement, transgender-related issues or queer theory.

People submitting may also be interested in the University's and LUU's broader LGBT History Month programme when there will be the opportunity to discuss their research with a wider audience.

To register your interest, please contact [lgbt@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:lgbt@leeds.ac.uk) by no later than 16 January 2015.



## FAQs

# Amanda Jackson, Community and Housing Policy Officer

### Tell us about your job.

The focus of my role is to foster good relations between the University and the local community. The majority of my work is within inner north-west Leeds where most of our students live, acting as the main liaison for the local community and developing the University's policy to encourage a more sustainable local community to benefit all residents.

### Why does the University need a Community Officer?

Although the number of students living in traditional family housing has fallen in most neighbourhoods in inner north-west Leeds, students of the city's universities still represent 45% or more of the total population in many areas. While the majority of our students contribute to the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of local communities, some require support to integrate and contribute positively to their community.

### What have you been working on recently?

The start of each year is a bit of a balancing act between responding to complaints about start of year parties, and proactively working on education campaigns to prevent noise disturbance and other social issues occurring.

We have recently completed our Get to Know Your Neighbour campaign, which aims to make students aware that they are living amongst an already established community as well as fostering a greater sense of community for all residents. A team of student volunteers, supported by me and colleagues from the students unions, visited just over 1000 households in the local area, to encourage residents to get to know each other and distribute our new *Living in Leeds Guide*.

I have also been working on developing a pilot for a staff mentoring scheme which would see community and University benefits from partnering University staff with community groups.



### Students are often given a bad reputation. What are your thoughts on this?

Whilst a disruptive student household can have a really big impact on their neighbourhood, permanent residents and our students alike, thankfully these are a minority. From my experience of working with students, I find that our students want to have a positive impact on other people's lives and when encouraged to do so they will quickly change their behaviour when they realise they have caused a problem.

### Why is it important for the University to establish good community relations?

It is important on a number of levels. From a sustainability perspective, we have an obligation to ensure that the University, and our students, have a positive social, economic and environmental impact on society. It is also critical that the University is not seen as an 'ivory tower' – we do not exist in a bubble. Having someone who is active in the community, helps us to realise our strategic aims to become a Positive Partner in Society.

In terms of our students as local residents, we must ensure that the behaviour of the irresponsible minority does not impact on their student experience, or affect our future students from being welcomed as residents.

### What's the most rewarding part to your job?

Working with such a diverse, wonderful and inspiring group of people. From our students

who give up their free time to volunteer and contribute to local communities, colleagues at Leeds University Union who work hard to represent and integrate our students, to the local community champions and representatives who work tirelessly to make the neighbouring communities great places for everyone to live.

### Who would be in your 'super group'?

Music is a great interest of mine. I'm a huge fan of the new wave, post-punk and gothic rock genres in particular. Any super group would really have to include iconic legends such as Ian Curtis, Robert Smith, Sid Vicious and Siouxsie Sioux.

### You've been pictured in the Reporter three times now, how does it feel being a campus celeb?

My new-found fame is becoming a little bit of a running joke with colleagues across campus. I am looking forward to hearing what they have to say about me featuring again.

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

More often than not it's a question relating to my hair colour. I do have a flair for bright hair colour, but don't tend to stick with a colour for very long. It's usually a good indicator of when I last saw a local resident by the comments on my change of hair colour.



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