



Funding to help reduce the risk of heart disease

Professor Mark Kearney speaks about plans for his research team, having just received funding of £1.4m from the British Heart Foundation.

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Increasing international reach

Leeds and China's Southwest Jiaotong University (SWJTU) launch a joint school to deliver world-class teaching and research in engineering.

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Leader column

Days decrease, and autumn grows, autumn in everything.

Robert Browning's view of the world is certainly true in universities. This is our busiest time of year – a time to harvest recent successes and to prepare the ground for the year ahead. It is also a time to think about winter's chill or – as it is known in Whitehall – the comprehensive spending review!

I was pleased to lead a University delegation to China at the end of October to celebrate the formation of the University's first overseas joint school, in partnership with Southwest Jiaotong University (SWJTU). The Leeds-SWJTU Joint School is an important milestone in our drive to increase the University's international reach. It will be based in Chengdu – one of China's largest cities - and taught in English using the Leeds curriculum with important additions to meet the needs of Chinese students. The Joint School – which received the endorsement of the Prime Minister David Cameron – has strong support from the Chinese Ministry of Education to recruit up to 1,200 of the brightest high school students in China over four years, beginning with an initial



University Academic Fellows at the welcome event in the Great Hall

cohort of 200 undergraduates in September 2016. A significant number of these students are likely to spend time in Leeds.

The opening of the Joint School is the culmination of many months of careful planning, and I would like to thank colleagues both here and in SWJTU for their determination and hard work, particularly our Dean of Engineering Professor Peter Jimack who has led this initiative with distinction.

The University of Leeds has major strengths in education and research across engineering and transport having twice won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for its work in these areas. SWJTU has particular strengths in transport-related engineering and is a key centre in China for high speed rail innovation with 'National Key Research Laboratories' in track transportation and traction power. The new School will address future skills requirements in these and many other areas and both universities are committed to extending the collaboration to include postgraduate programmes and research links.

Many of the students we welcome from SWJTU will build a lifelong attachment to the University and the city of Leeds. The strength and enduring nature of the relationship our former students have with the University was brought home to me during this year's Big Get Together. Initiated by our Alumni and Development team and held over nine days in September, alumni in 32 countries organised 54 events including picnics, barbecues and a cycle ride around Kuala Lumpur! I cannot over-state how much we value the support of our alumni, whether they are giving careers advice, funding scholarships, arranging internships, establishing networks or even – as will be the case during a forthcoming visit by the Reverend Richard Coles to deliver our annual alumni lecture – providing wry observation and entertainment. Recent get togethers with alumni in New York, Boston and Toronto simply reinforce this message.

Later this month we will be hosting 'One Day in Leeds' for some of our most senior alumni. They will hear directly from some of the undergraduate and postgraduate students that



Sir Alan Langlands and Xu Fei, President of SWJTU, try out a high speed train simulator at SWJTU

they are supporting, as well as academics who will showcase the great strides that alumni and other donors are enabling them to make in fields such as robotics, cancer treatment, advanced materials, arts and culture. Those attending will also get some very exciting news about our 'Making a World of Difference' campaign which I will touch on in the next edition of the *Reporter*.

Helping talented academics to develop their careers and boosting our research strength is a cornerstone of our Strategic Plan. The first cohort of 75 University Academics Fellows have now arrived in Leeds. I was delighted to attend a welcome event for many of them and inspired by their enthusiasm and ambition, and their level of engagement with representatives from the University's strategic research themes and interdisciplinary research platforms. This introductory session was the first part of a brand new programme designed to support career progression during their fellowship. I believe that our fellowship scheme is unique in its scope and scale and we will do everything we can to give the UAFs the knowledge and opportunities they need to build strong, independent research portfolios and, in time, to deliver innovative research-led teaching.

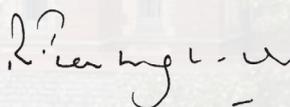
Recruitment of the second cohort is already well underway; we received some 2,700 applications for the 90 fellowships – an extremely heartening result and an increase of 20% compared to the first year of the scheme. These high-quality candidates represent 110 different nationalities and Schools are now busily long-listing and organising preliminary interviews. Later stages will see candidates visiting the University, presenting seminars and being interviewed. Our aim is to complete recruitment by the end of the year wherever possible.

The arrival of our UAFs will enhance and strengthen important areas of our research. This investment comes alongside significant external funding for initiatives such as the Leeds Institute

for Data Analytics, the Astbury Centre for Structural and Molecular Biology, the National Facility for Innovative Robotic Systems; and of course our own plans for enterprise and innovation; the integration of engineering and physical sciences; and cultural collaboration. There is some important ground work in place and I believe that we are entering a new, more outward-looking phase that will bring many of our research capabilities and achievements the external recognition and support they deserve.

We are broadening our external focus, too, by bringing the Leeds story to wider local, regional and national audiences. The forthcoming impact event – Investing in Knowledge, Creating Opportunity – will be the first time we have presented the breadth of our activities, and their economic, social and cultural impact, to the city region and beyond. We have invited people from industry, local government, business, health and education to come and find out about the significance of the University and the contribution we make in five key areas – economic impact, research, student education, community, and international reach and influence. The event will encompass a panel discussion, expert speakers and an exhibition in Parkinson Court that showcases examples of how our researchers are meeting global challenges. I hope that it will fix firmly in people's minds the valuable contributions we already make to the wide range of communities in which we operate, and raise awareness of the huge potential that exists for further growth, collaboration and partnership working.

And autumn grows...



Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands

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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

Tel: (0113) 343 6699

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 Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands with President Xu Fei of from SJTU.



Alumni at the Big Get Together in Hong Kong
© LorraineChoy Production

News

Welcome to the new corporate website

After extensive research and testing with user groups, the University's new corporate website has launched – www.leeds.ac.uk

It incorporates several new features to improve the experience for users, who include prospective students and staff, research partners and funders, as well as current staff and students.

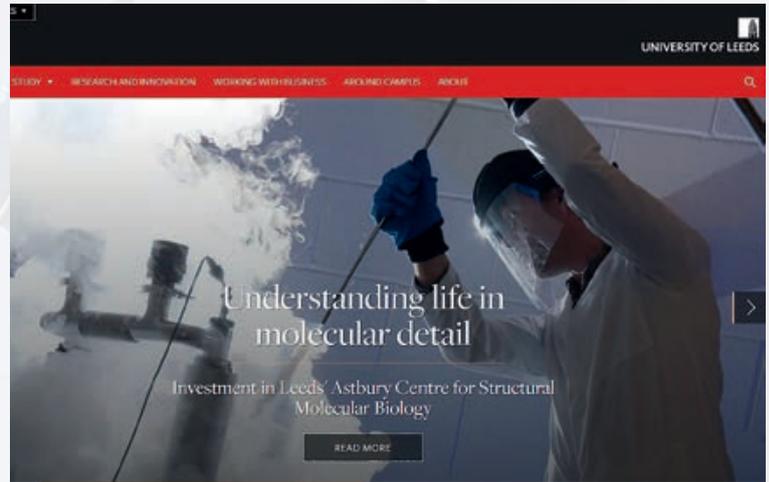
Improvements to the site include:

- 'responsive design' to help the increasing number of users on mobile phones and tablets
- a simplified approach to navigation which works across all devices and helps users understand the depth of content in the site
- improved search function (applying technology used on the students.leeds.ac.uk site)
- greater visibility for events listings and more eye-catching presentation of events, including the ability to carry images

- an improved campus map, accessible across devices, which pulls in Google's Street View of campus
- greater flexibility to respond to changes in material and messages that we want to publish and highlight
- a new 'spotlight' feature to showcase in-depth research stories and investments in Leeds
- improved events listings, including an 'at a glance' calendar.

View a quick guide to the new site at goo.gl/06gSe3

Send any comments or questions about the site to Head of Digital Communications Hannah Love at h.e.b.love@adm.leeds.ac.uk



Campus map update

Locations have been added to the campus map and information about opening times, links (where needed) and other details can also be included. If you have suggestions or amendments to the map use the online form at goo.gl/90Qrov

"The new site looks fantastic, really impressive and just what we need."

Neil Howson, School of Healthcare Marketing Manager

Professor Mark Kearney

Funding to help reduce risk of heart disease

University researchers looking into strategies to counteract the risk of heart disease in people with diabetes have received funding of £1.4m from the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

The funding was announced as part of BHF's new research strategy, which commits the charity to spending over half a billion pounds on research in the next five years. Over 3.3m adults in the UK are diagnosed with diabetes, over 280,000 living in Yorkshire and the Humber. These individuals have a much greater risk of developing heart disease, because the high levels of glucose in their blood can affect the walls of their arteries. This makes people with diabetes more likely to develop fatty deposits in their arteries, a major risk factor for developing cardiovascular disease.

BHF Professor Mark Kearney and his team hope to discover whether targeting a protein found in the lining of blood vessels, called insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF1), could reduce the risk of fatty deposits forming. IGF1 binds to another receptor in blood vessels, known as the insulin receptor and blocks the action of insulin. This means that insulin can't move

glucose from the blood into the body's cells and a person's blood glucose levels remain high.

Professor Kearney, says: "Heart disease is the main cause of premature death for people with diabetes. We hope that with this BHF funding we will be able to develop new ways to treat the heart and circulatory complications suffered by people with type 2 diabetes, which are so urgently needed."

Medical Director of BHF Professor Peter Weissberg, adds: "BHF exists to end the suffering caused by all forms of heart and circulatory disease and we're committed to funding the very best researchers doing the highest-quality research to achieve that goal."

The news coincides with the appointment of PhD student Nele Warmke, from Hamburg, who has been funded by the University's Footsteps Fund to study for her PhD with Professor Kearney's research team. The Footsteps Fund combines gifts from thousands of alumni and other supporters to provide a range of student scholarships and opportunities.



Research and innovation

Managing the world's waste – and why it should be a global political priority

The management of waste on a global scale is the subject of a new seminal report – *Global Waste Management Outlook (GWMO)* – which Dr Costas Velis (School of Civil Engineering) and his research team played a key role in producing.

Dr Costas Velis gets to grips with waste management



Requested by the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) governing council, *GWMO* presents a global outlook on the challenges, trends and policies relating to waste prevention, minimisation and management. It links to the newly agreed Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

As well as being part of the core author team, Dr Velis was co-author of a chapter looking at the global status of waste management. “I had the pleasure of contributing in areas of my expertise, such as the global picture, marine litter, technologies for resource recovery from waste, and circular economy aspects,” says Dr Velis. “My additional role in the core author team was that of the overall academic advisor, ensuring scientific rigour.”

“*GWMO* is not just a comprehensive account, but also a call for action to international decision-makers. Our objective is that the international community will welcome *GWMO*, making sound management of solid waste a key priority in the new millennium, and delivering tangible societal and environmental benefits, especially for the least developed parts of our planet.”

Speaking about why this report is so important, Dr Velis says: “Release of the first ever *GWMO* is a milestone for the waste and resource management sector, and I am extremely pleased to have had the opportunity to contribute to this achievement. For the first time we were able to look around the planet and compare how solid waste is managed across the entire spectrum of socioeconomic and environmental development, from the poorest to the most affluent. Working to fulfil the mandate of UNEP was a great pleasure, but also a major challenge – having to coordinate with experts dispersed around the world!”

Dr Velis lectures in Resource Efficiency Systems at the University, and coordinates a recently established network on Circular Economy and Resource Recovery (CERRY) as part of the Cities and Sustainable Societies Theme. He serves on many international initiatives, including the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) Globalisation and Waste Management Task Force, and chairs the scientific committee of the Waste Atlas Partnership.

The *GWMO* report can be found on UNEP's website at goo.gl/RS8e0c

More improvements to grant management system

As part of the ongoing development of the KRISTAL grants management system, a new version of the *Investigator Grant Report* has been launched. This has been significantly improved in content, usability, look and feel, and for the first time an email version has also been produced.

“The report allows grant holders to easily monitor the status of their grants,” says the Research and Innovation Service's Clive Gray. “Summary screens show at a glance how your portfolio of live grants is performing against budget; from these you can drill down to explore and find more detail. Other screens show recent expenditure, commitments and income for any period you wish to view.”

“Now there is also a spreadsheet version which will be emailed out to grant holders after each month end. The format of this is similar to the QlikView report, but with information spread across a number of tabs that can be accessed directly or through hyperlinks. This email will be sent from the address ‘Research Report’, so please keep an eye out for it!”

The online version can be accessed through the Reporting Tools section in the KRISTAL portal at goo.gl/Z3YH9. A quick-start guide can be found at goo.gl/1ISCAG

New update to Publications Policy

The University's Publications Policy encourages staff to register for an ORCID identifier. This unique digital personal identifier can be applied to research outputs, awards and professional activities, allowing items to be linked to an individual and helping staff ensure that their work is attributed correctly. Some publishers and research funders (for example, the Wellcome Trust) already require applicants to use an ORCID identifier. Registration is straightforward and quick; more information about how to register and use an ORCID identifier can be found at orcid.org

The University has recently taken out a subscription to ORCID which will allow us to use the IDs within University systems. As the first stage in this integration, plans are underway to allow staff to register their ORCID identifier through the Employee Self-Service. This facility should be available by December 2015.

Research and innovation

Sounding out risks to hearing

The history of hearing risk and protection in the music and sound industries is being explored by Dr Annie Jamieson, post-doctoral researcher in the history of medicine and technology (School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science). Her 'Audible Concerns' project looks at current attitudes and behaviour of professional musicians and sound engineers.

Annie conducted a pilot study amongst 230 such professionals, finding that 98% of respondents believed their hearing was at risk from their work; 68% reported changes in their hearing but only 11% used hearing protection all of the time. She has also been developing a

network of stakeholders, including academics, practitioners and industry representatives, through workshops and educational seminars.

Annie has recently secured an internal grant through the University's Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) award to undertake a six-week placement with ACS Custom – specialists in hearing protection in the music industry – where she will spend time attending conferences, learning the manufacturing process in the ACS laboratory, and working with artists using the ACS products in live performance.

On why research in this area is important, Dr Jamieson says: "There are mounting concerns about the risk to hearing through music, especially in young people, with recent studies suggesting that as many as one in five under-

25s already have some hearing damage. This is a growing area of research in many disciplines, but relatively little attention has been given to the musicians and sound professionals who produce the music that can potentially damage hearing and act as role models for young fans.

"This group also presents a unique and important case in occupational health because their hearing – the foundation of their careers – is threatened by the very nature of their work. There is a common concern that using hearing protection might reduce their ability to do their jobs. Increased understanding of attitudes within this group, combined with historical analysis of the development of the technologies of live performance that both allow and encourage greater volume in music, will help to develop and implement practical solutions."



10 years of ethics at Leeds

In a week that saw headlines about a fuel emissions scandal, the Government debating the country's responsibilities to refugees, and reports about alleged corruption at FIFA, the University's Interdisciplinary Ethics Applied Centre (IDEA CETL) celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Speaking at the celebration dinner, Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands said he did not doubt the value of rigorous teaching in ethical decision-making. The aim of the Centre – to equip students and professionals with the ability to identify, analyse and respond effectively to ethical issues – is clearly as important today as it was 10 years ago. He also commended the Centre's efforts to embed ethics across programmes at the University and was encouraged by the growing numbers of professionals taking the Centre's online Masters courses and the increasing list of organisations benefiting from its training and consultancy.

Among the guests were senior members of the University as well as partners in distinguished



The IDEA CETL team at the anniversary celebrations

professional, academic and public bodies including the Chartered Banking Institute, Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, Institute for Accountants in England and Wales, Royal Academy of Engineering, British Academy, and Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Centre's Director Professor Chris Megone thanked guests for their continued support: "Our unique approach is heavily reliant on partnership for its success – students and professionals want to consider ethical issues in their discipline and in the context of their profession. Through partnership we can ensure that ethics is grounded in practice and enable individuals to apply ethical principles in their own context."

So what about the next 10 years? Building on its successful partnerships in seven faculties, the Centre wishes to fulfil its aspiration that all students at Leeds graduate with confidence in

ethical decision-making. Through its training, consultancy and online programmes, it continues to inform public policy and to enable students and professional bodies to benefit from its high-quality research in areas such as responsibility and climate change, integrity and leadership, and the ethics of big data.

The Centre held an interdisciplinary ethics conference to celebrate its anniversary. Presentations from this and previous conferences, events and research seminars can be found at www.idea.leeds.ac.uk

Transforming professional practice through our distinctive ability to integrate interdisciplinary research, consultancy and education in applied ethics.

Students

Studying in a Digital Age



A new 'Studying in a Digital Age' module is now live on the VLE (virtual learning environment) for use by over 700 students. This five-credit online module will support students as they develop digital literacies.

It will deliver training which will enable students to take advantage of the digital resources the University possesses, for example the VLE, lecture capture and digitised archival materials.

The aim is for students to become critically aware of how to use these platforms on campus and to skilfully explore digital material beyond the University.

To encourage more schools to take the module next year, it was showcased to Directors of Student Education (DSEs) and Pro-Deans at the end of September. It will be presented at the Student Education Conference in January.

Rafe Hallett (School of History) is the module leader and has overseen its design and deployment. "There was considerable interest," says Rafe. "We received a really positive reception at the event and I've had multiple enquiries from DSEs who want to adapt it in their school."

"This module takes the creativity and experience that students have in relation to the digital world and tries to refine that for academic purposes. It also gets students to reflect on their online identity and presence."

The supernumerary module is in its pilot year, with 750 level 1 students enrolled from Geography, POLIS and the Lifelong Learning Centre. The plan is for the module to be rolled out in many more schools next year and, if the feedback is positive, to become a compulsory module for all incoming students, so that Leeds students and graduates will be dextrous in the digital world.

Professor Neil Morris, Director of Digital Learning at the University, comments: "I think the module that has been created is a fantastic illustration of the quality of the University and the dedication of the staff who work so hard to enhance the student experience."

For a taster of the module, see the introductory video at goo.gl/AAeNnb

Showcase for Technology-Enhanced Learning

The Faculty of Medicine and Health held a 'show and tell' event during the summer to showcase some great examples of innovative practice in technology-enhanced learning and student education.



Dr Karen Lee and Dr James Pickering at the event

Technology-enhanced learning is a key focus across the Faculty, offering students a range of e-learning resources to complement classroom learning. From apps to e-books, 360 degree virtual tours to mobile learning, the resources on offer have received great feedback from students on their usability and usefulness. This standard and range of provision and practice makes the Faculty one of the most innovative in the country.

The event was focused on sharing best practice on the development and implementation of e-resources with staff from across the University to help widen awareness and potential of technology enhanced learning with other faculties and schools.

"With greater accessibility to technology, it is essential we create resources which are pedagogically grounded, not only to improve the student experience but also their knowledge and skills," says Dr James Pickering, one of the organisers of the event.

For more information contact Dr James Pickering at j.d.pickering@leeds.ac.uk



manifesto
 man·i·fes·to \ ,ma-nə-'fes-()tō
 noun
 a written statement declaring publicly the intentions, motives, or views of its issuer.

Partnership

University signs Manifesto for Public Engagement

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands signed the Manifesto for Public Engagement (PE) on behalf of the University during the pepnet meeting in September.

The move means we have now joined the long list of signatories committed to providing high-level strategic support for public engagement. Speaking at the signing, Sir Alan said: "Universities are changing. We can no longer just sit up here on the hill. We have to be connected, responsible, accountable, relevant and involved. This should come naturally to Leeds. Our motto *Et augebitur scientia* holds good here. It is an invitation to people to join in the thrill of creating and disseminating knowledge."

The signing of the Manifesto will help to support and recognise the commitment of academics from across the University to maximise the value and coherence of the breadth of public engagement activity that goes on across all disciplines in both research and student education.

"For the University, the challenge is making our public engagement more coherent without losing the energy, creativity and spark that has got us to this point. The University's responsibility is to enable public engagement, not to run it," added Sir Alan. "I really believe in the importance of this work."

To get involved in public engagement you can join pepnet, a network for everyone involved in public engagement, events, pathways to impact and involvement activities, which is now supported by the Public Engagement team. Sign up to the pepnet email list for access to learning and networking opportunities and help build an engagement presence across all services and disciplines lists.leeds.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/pepnet or contact the PE team, tel x31149, email peteam@leeds.ac.uk

The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement launched the Public Engagement Manifesto in 2011; it has three objectives:

- we believe that universities and research institutes have a major responsibility to contribute to society through their public engagement, and that they have much to gain in return
- we are committed to sharing our knowledge, resources and skills with the public, and to listening to and learning from the expertise and insight of the different communities with which we engage
- we are committed to developing our approach to managing, supporting and delivering public engagement for the benefit of staff and the public, and to sharing what we learn about effective practice.

Enterprise

Fashion for the masses

The history of fashion is being brought to life with a series of public talks this autumn by 'The Enterprise of Culture', a research project based at the University, and the Marks & Spencer Company Archive.

The 'Understanding Fashion' series of talks and events explores what fashion reveals about us and our society and offers public audiences an opportunity to see gems from the unique M&S Company Archive collection and to see fashion in a whole new light.

The programme is part of a pan-European research project, The Enterprise of Culture: international structures and connections in the fashion industry since 1945. The Leeds project is funded by Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA) and led by Professor Regina Lee Blaszczyk (School of History).

Professor Blaszczyk says: "We are excited to be collaborating with the M&S Company Archive on this public programme. These events build on the excellent resources in the M&S Company Archive and home in on the Enterprise of Culture's (EOC) focus on the business history of fashion. This series will help the public to put fashion retailing in its broader social context and connect everyday

styles to the idea of cultural encounters."

The next talk – *History under wraps* – will see special guest Lorraine Hamilton Smith from the London College of Fashion come to the M&S Company Archive on **Friday 20 November at noon** to talk about underwear in the 1950s and 1960s. The session will explore changes in lingerie, from the very first M&S bra in 1926 to today's innovations, and will show how smalls can help us gain a bigger understanding of history.

Booking for the event is essential as places are limited. Entry is free and light refreshments will be available. To reserve a place and for details email companyarchive@marksandspencer.com or call 0208 718 2800.

For more information about the EOC and future events, go to www.enterpriseofculture.leeds.ac.uk or email enterpriseofculture@leeds.ac.uk



People

Mentoring programme expands

As part of its commitment to attracting, retaining and developing its staff, the University is making a significant investment in its mentoring scheme.

The Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU) has been encouraging colleagues to become mentors or mentees. The search for participants is ongoing and all staff are invited to take part.

Professor Catherine Noakes (School of Civil Engineering) has been a mentor to early career researchers. She says: "I've found the experience of mentoring enjoyable and rewarding. The process allows you to get to know a person and understand their aspirations in their career, as well as how this fits with other aspects of their life.

"As a mentor I try to encourage mentees to find their own solutions, but I have found that I can help with demystifying some of the processes in the University and, at times, challenging preconceived ideas about what they can or can't do. It is particularly rewarding when you see a mentee step beyond their comfort zone and achieve something much more than they had set out to do. I have also found that being a mentor has helped my own personal and professional development. I have learned to listen to others better, and I have gained a huge insight into the different challenges, barriers and opportunities that shape academic career development."

The experience is especially beneficial for mentees, as Dr Miller Alonso Camargo-Valero



Professor Catherine Noakes and Dr Miller Alonso Camargo-Valero

(School of Civil Engineering) – who is now a mentor – explains: "The mentoring programme gave me the opportunity to be in control of my professional career and set clear and achievable goals. As a mentee, I was able to freely discuss my career aspirations with a senior academic, who was independent from my postdoctoral post and duties. I benefited from advice and guidance from my mentor, who was very generous about sharing previous experiences and the way in which both success and failure help you shape your future achievements. The programme helped me rapidly progress in my academic career, to become an independent researcher working as a lecturer, and to mentor PhD students in my role as postgraduate tutor."

Colleagues interested in acting as a mentor should be:

- experienced professionals prepared to share their career journey to help and support the professional and career development of others
- passionate about their own and others' learning and development
- willing to attend a half-day mentoring development session
- able to offer 90 minutes per month to a mentee.

Email Sarah Farrell (SDDU) at s.farrell@leeds.ac.uk for details about becoming a mentor or mentee.

Mentoring local communities

The Sustainability Service has launched a new Community Mentoring Scheme offering University staff the opportunity to mentor and support community organisations across the city. The scheme gives staff the professional development benefits of a mentoring scheme while utilising their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of local communities. It matches academic, professional or support staff mentors with a local organisation seeking support with a specific area of work, such as writing a funding bid or developing a marketing campaign. The scheme is open to all staff members and it's anticipated that the support requested will be as diverse as the knowledge and skills of staff. The Sustainability Service has a strategic commitment to ensure that the University is a positive partner in society and our knowledge is used to support local organisations. For more information visit sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/

All smiles for School of Dentistry award



The School of Dentistry (Faculty of Medicine and Health) has had its application assessed and approved to receive a Bronze award in the Athena SWAN programme.

Making the award, the Equality Challenge Unit congratulated the School and other institutions receiving awards, commenting: "In an ever-changing higher education landscape, we realise that participating in the Charter is a significant undertaking, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank and

congratulate all those who participated for their demonstrable commitment to tackling gender inequality."

The date for the award ceremony will be announced shortly.

Campus

New Leadership Development Strategy

A project to define and develop the leadership skills needed for our University's future has been initiated by the University Executive Group (UEG).

Following the recent launch of our Strategic Plan, UEG recognises the value of investing in the development of existing, new and future leaders across the University to enable the effective delivery of academic excellence in a fast-changing world.

The design of a new Leadership Development Strategy is being undertaken in partnership with CoCompany, acknowledged experts in achieving organisational performance through leadership excellence. Internal Leadership and Organisational Development Consultant Sarah Gray has been appointed to facilitate the delivery of this strategic project and will work closely with senior colleagues and their leadership teams over the coming months.

"The project is well under way, with a number of interviews, focus groups and discussions having already taken place with a broad

range of colleagues to develop insights into current leadership challenges, strengths and development needs," says Sarah. "The findings will inform the design of an innovative and world-class range of leadership development interventions which reflect our University's vision and values. The aim is to agree a new Leadership Development Strategy supported by a range of leadership competencies by early 2016."

Our newly appointed Director of Human Resources, Francesca Fowler, adds: "The delivery of an effective Leadership Development Strategy will play a key part in underpinning our future success and in creating a positive working environment for all."

Further information about this project is available from Sarah Gray at s.gray1@leeds.ac.uk

Green Impact 2015/16 now launched

Green Impact was a great success last year, with three teams achieving Platinum level, four Gold, eight Silver, and 16 Bronze.

This year the Sustainability team is aiming to get more staff and students than ever before involved with the Green Impact programme.

Green Impact supports schools and faculties to make simple, tangible and effective policy and behavioural changes through criteria delivered by an online workbook. The criteria cover a broad range of issues under the sustainability umbrella, tailored to actions at the University and is in line with the four themes of the University's

Sustainability Strategy (being a positive partner in society, making the most of resources, building knowledge and capacity, and embedding sustainability through collaboration).

Staff teams are supported by student Green Impact project assistants, who complete a variety of sustainability criteria included in the workbook. Depending on how many criteria are completed, teams can achieve Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum or Platinum Plus awards.

"Green Impact is a great way for people to directly improve the sustainability of their workplace which, in turn, has a cumulative impact across the University," says Sustainability's Catherine Graves. "It gives staff the opportunity to do something different in their area. Teams who have completed Bronze are now encouraged to do a project, enabling people to be even more creative!"

We are now recruiting teams, so for more information visit goo.gl/CUFuyF or email Catherine Graves at c.a.graves@leeds.ac.uk

Health and Safety Policy 2015

Health and Safety Policy
October 2015

you + msc

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Following the biennial review of our Health and Safety Policy, the University has strengthened its commitment to wellbeing, safety and health in all areas.

As a result, roles and responsibilities have been refocused to encompass individuals' commitment to apply good health and safety practice to all University activities wherever they take place.

To complement the policy, a series of leaflets has been produced outlining the key responsibilities of heads of school/ service, line managers and academic tutors and all staff and students.

Printed copies of the policy and responsibility leaflets have been sent out to key health and safety contacts across the University. Electronic versions are available at www.leeds.ac.uk/safety

All staff and students are asked to familiarise themselves with their responsibilities outlined in the documents in order to understand their role in providing a safe environment for themselves, colleagues, students and others in the University community.

News in brief

Aerosol recycling

The new *Reuse* recycling and waste guide will be published soon and will include details of how to recycle all the main waste groups, including key changes to the way aerosols are recycled. Anybody with unfinished aerosols should contact Sarah Burdall – s.e.burdall@leeds.ac.uk – as these are now classified as hazardous waste and need to be properly processed. Any finished aerosols can be disposed of through the metal recycling stream.

Car parking update

As a result of the new multistorey car park opening in January, a limited number of additional annual permits will be made available from January 2016. Staff will be able to apply during November and an all-staff email will be sent to notify staff that the process is open. Please visit www.leeds.ac.uk/carparking for further information.

Campus

Bringing our art to a wider audience



Dr Helen Mort gives a reading of her poetry

New, enthusiastic audiences are now visiting the University's public artworks following the launch of the Campus Public Art Trail in the summer.

Members of the public, students and staff are following the Trail, which forms a key part of the University's Public Art Strategy and Public Art Project – both of which were introduced in June. As well as the sculptures themselves, the Trail includes creative writing contributions from students, new poems by poets Linda France and Dr Helen Mort (the University's Douglas Caster Cultural Fellow) and space where people can write their own creative responses to the works. New signage has been installed for the artworks, and interpretative storyboards are displayed in the Parkinson Court and The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery.

"Social media played an integral part in attracting new audiences and the Trail quickly proved popular, especially during Open Days," says Professor Ann Sumner, Public Art Project Officer. "It's a great introduction to campus for new students and staff, and is also being used by conference delegates."

The Autumn Programme of Public Art is now well under way. It began with a sell-out Heritage Open Day tour, followed by art

historian Ben Read speaking about Eric Gill's controversial 'Christ Driving the Moneychangers from the Temple', and Town Hall and Brotherton Library lunchtime lectures. More events will be announced during the term; keep up to date with these at library.leeds.ac.uk/art-gallery

"We're keen to engage with our staff and students, so if people have a favourite artwork on campus or write a poem or review about one, we'd like to hear from them. We also hope that people will send us their #sculptureselfies or come to one of the lunchtime talks about art," continues Ann.

Next year will see exhibitions at the Gallery dedicated to the sculptors Michael Lyons and Mitzi Cunliffe and their approach to public art. In the meantime, a staff focus group is being organised for November. If you're interested in participating and feeding into the 2016 programme – which will have a textile theme and will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Man-Made Fibres Clothworkers South Building – contact the Gallery at library.leeds.ac.uk/art-gallery



Lenten Cover by Mike Lyons (b-1943), currently on loan and situated on the Western Campus



Tai Chi in Beech Grove Plaza

Spotlight on Public Art – the Vice-Chancellor's choice

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands recently chose William Chattaway's 'Hermes' – prominently located on the side of the Roger Stevens Building – as his favourite public artwork on campus for Spotlight on Public Art – Autumn Selection. Read his comments at goo.gl/peljBQ The work is also on one of five new campus art postcards available in the Gallery shop in Parkinson Court.

Environmental Management System introduced

The University is committed to embedding sustainability through knowledge, engagement, collaboration and innovation through its Sustainability Strategy. The newly launched Environmental Management System (EMS) will play a key role in helping us deliver many of the environmental objectives in this Strategy.

"The EMS provides us with a systematic approach to managing – and minimising – the impact our activities have on the environment," says Sustainability's James Dixon-Gough.

"As part of funding bids, evidence of a fully implemented EMS is often requested to show that the environmental impacts will be managed appropriately. Additionally, due to the breadth and depth of our research, teaching and operational activities, if we do not have an Environmental Management System in place there is a real risk that we will miss legislation

and regulation that could lead to expensive fines or damage to our reputation."

The EMS has been developed alongside the Health and Safety Management System. It will not change the way in which many colleagues carry out their day-to-day work: however, there are a few key things that everyone can do to ensure that the EMS is as effective as possible:

- if you notice any unmanaged environmental impacts on campus let us know via sustainability@leeds.ac.uk This could be as

simple as a lights being left on unnecessarily or more high-priority issues such as fly-tipping or waste contamination

- think about how your job impacts on the environment. Check to see whether there are any related procedures and contact us at sustainability@leeds.ac.uk if you are not sure.

We will soon be releasing training to all University staff which will provide more detail about the EMS and how you can contribute to its success.

In the news



The *Times*, *Guardian*, *Independent*, BBC World Service (TV and radio) and *Mirror* all reported on research that suggested **venom from a Brazilian wasp could help to fight cancer**. Dr Paul Beales (School of Chemistry) featured in the extensive national and international coverage.

Research by Professor John Altringham (School of Biology) featured on the *One Show*. The research examines **the effects of roads and railways on bats**, as well as the mitigation measures installed to help them cross.



After being challenged by BBC Radio Leeds to **build a robot in five days** Dr Jordan Boyle (School of Mechanical Engineering) featured on the Liz Green show to explain the process.

Professor Timothy Devinney (Leeds University Business School) was interviewed by Canada's *Globe and Mail* about how **climate change may impact on the world's economy**.

The *Telegraph*, *Mail Online* and *Sun* reported on research led by Dr Anna Weighall (School of Psychology) which has shown that a large number of British people are getting as little as five hours' sleep a night. In a related item, a *Good Morning Britain* film crew came to campus to film a night in the Sound Asleep Laboratory in Baines Wing, where presenter Katy Rickitt had her **sleep patterns** analysed by Dr Graham Law (Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine), who was also interviewed on camera.

Professor Daryl O'Connor (School of Psychology) discussed the 'Reproducibility of Psychological Science' project, which **replicated 100 psychological studies** in high-powered journals, on the Radio 4 show *More or Less*.

Dr Raul Fuentes (School of Civil Engineering) was interviewed on the BBC One series *Canals: The Making of a Nation* about the construction of **the Foulridge Tunnel**.

Professor Cath Noakes (School of Civil Engineering) and Dr Marco-Felipe King (School of Civil Engineering) featured in the *Daily Mail* and BBC online about the development of a new **computer simulation that can show the spread of infections in hospital wards**.

Dr Stephen Wright (School of Chemical and Process Engineering) talked to *Sky News* about **plane evacuation times** after experts praised the swift evacuation of 170 passengers from the UK-bound BA plane that burst into flames at Las Vegas airport.

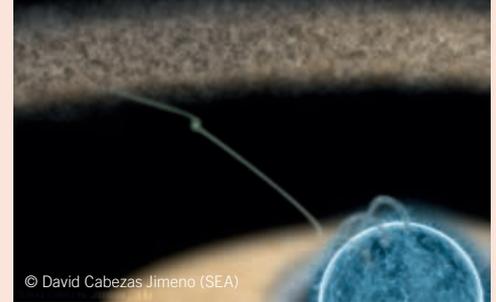
The *Daily Mail*, *Independent* and *Cosmopolitan* reported on the case for a **shorter working week** after Professor David Spencer (Leeds University Business School) wrote for *The Conversation* about the benefits of three-day weekends.

The *Guardian*, *Daily Mail* and *Sun* reported on news that the University had received £4.2m funding to develop **robotics research**.

Dr Sean McLoughlin (School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science) was interviewed and featured in the *International Business Times* commenting on the **Haji tragedy** in Saudi Arabia.

Professor Janet Cade (School of Food Science and Nutrition) featured in *Forbes*, the *Guardian*, *Times*, *Independent* and *Grazia*, which all reported on new research that suggests that the movements involved in **fidgeting may counteract the adverse health impacts** of sitting for long periods.

The *Telegraph*, *BBC News*, *Mail Online* and the *Times* reported on research that suggests that **offshore wind farms could pose a greater threat to protected populations of gannets** than previously thought. Professor Keith Hamer (School of Biology) oversaw the study.



The *Daily Mail* reported that astronomers have successfully peered through the 'amniotic sac' of a star that is still forming to observe the innermost region of a **burgeoning solar system** for the first time. Study lead author Dr Ignacio Mendigutía and co-author Professor Rene Oudmajer (both Physics and Astronomy) featured in widespread international coverage.

ITV Calendar News interviewed Professor Nicola Stonehouse (School of Molecular and Cellular Biology) to discuss the **safety and effectiveness of the HPV vaccine**, following news that a Lincolnshire woman has set up a campaign group to investigate possible side effects from the vaccine.

Dr Jessica Meyer (School of History) featured in the *Telegraph* describing how the First World War changed **notions of heroism**, in an article prompted by the six men who tackled a gunman on a Paris-bound train last month.

Professor Surya P Subedi (School of Law) was interviewed by the American Society of International Law to discuss **the role of the United Nations** and international law and the place of human rights.

Dr Steve Carver (School of Geography) featured on *BBC Breakfast* discussing the future of the countryside and his involvement with new charity **Rewilding Britain** which seeks to restore nature and reintroduce species such as wild boar, lynx and pelicans.



Honours

Kairen Skelley, Head of the University's business start-up service, SPARK, was announced as the Education Enterprise Champion at the National Enterprise Educator Awards. Aimed at celebrating excellence in enterprise education, the award recognises Kairen's exceptional and inspirational commitment to supporting student and graduate entrepreneurship. "It's lovely to be personally recognised with this award. Watching students fulfil their ambitions to launch and develop their own businesses is the most rewarding part of my job," says Kairen.

The University has also been nominated as the Entrepreneurial University of the Year in the 2015 Times Higher Education awards, and are a National Business Awards finalists for The Duke of York Award for University Entrepreneurship in November.

Professor Anthony Cohn (Professor of Automated Reasoning, School of Computing) has been elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. Fellows of the Academy are the elite of the UK engineering sector and include both academics and leading engineers at top engineering firms. Professor Cohn says: "I am very honoured to have been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Engineering and delighted that the research of my team at Leeds has been recognised in this way."

The **Digital Learning Team**, which is responsible for the University's external digital learning channels such as iTunes U, educational areas of YouTube and free online courses – sometimes known as MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) – received the Association for Learning Technology's Learning Technologist of the Year award.

Professor Neil Morris, Director of Digital Learning, says: "The Digital Learning team has produced a large number of digital learning materials and online courses over the past couple of years, which have been used and enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of learners worldwide. It's great to get this recognition for all their hard work."

Full details are available at goo.gl/OtR3tg

Professor Elaine Martin OBE (Head of School of Chemical and Process Engineering) has been elected to the Trustee Board of the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE). The Board comprises 13 trustees elected by and from the 1,500-strong Fellowship and is chaired by the President, Professor Dame Ann Dowling.

"I'm absolutely delighted to have been elected," says Professor Martin. "The RAEng is going through a period of change. It's becoming more transparent, focused and action-oriented, and this is a fantastic opportunity to influence the scope and strategy of the organisation at a relatively early stage in its transition period.

"As members of the Trustee Board, we are responsible for overseeing the work of the RAEng's 12 committees, and I hope to play a bigger part in some of these during the course of the next three years. I'm also absolutely passionate about bringing the experience and knowledge I gain back here to benefit Leeds. Making those important contacts, having key information and knowing what's going on at a strategic level in the RAE will be hugely beneficial to us."

More details about Professor Martin's appointment can be found at www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/



Dr Parikshit Goswami, Lecturer in Textile Technology, is one of 25 Indians across the world to receive a Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Samman Award for helping to create a positive image of India. Dr Goswami from the School of Design has been awarded this prestigious award for his contribution to the textile technology industry. He is also introducing a new MSc Textiles course at the University.

The NRI (Non-resident Indians) Welfare Society of India organises the Awards to recognise and celebrate Indians excelling in their chosen profession.

Delia Muir, a Patient and Public Involvement Officer at Leeds, has been awarded a two-year Public Engagement Fellowship by the Wellcome Trust to take public engagement in new and exciting directions.

Delia works with patients to help shape medical research, clinical trials and healthcare practice. She says: "I'm delighted that this Fellowship will allow me time to spend with practitioners working in verbatim theatre, social science and participatory research. I'll be able to see how they deal with creative and ethical challenges, and examine the ethical implications of turning real patient data and testimony into performance."

Manoj Sivan MD has been awarded the prestigious European Academy prize for his work on a home-based rehabilitation robotic device (hCAAR) for enhancing arm recovery after stroke. The research work (MD degree) was undertaken in the departments of Rehabilitation Medicine and Mechanical Engineering.

Dr Susan Hamer, Director of Nursing, Learning and Organisational Development at the NIHR Clinical Research Network, has received another accolade after being named one of 2015's top leaders in nursing by the *Nursing Times*. Recognising nurses from across the country, the influential individuals come from a variety of fields, from frontline nursing to research and academia.

Leeds University Business School alumni **Dr Angel Gurria** and **Emily Cummins** have been recognised as two of the first AACSB 100 International Influential Leaders making an impact in the world through business acumen, leadership or entrepreneurial success.

School of Mathematics

News

Transforming maths

The School of Mathematics has been transformed into a 21st century working environment with the completion of extensive refurbishments to meet the needs of its students and staff. The refurbishments took place between June 2014 and August 2015 and cost £5.5m, providing a variety of new facilities for students and staff.

Professor Alastair Rucklidge, Head of the School, says: "The aim was to provide an excellent working environment for teaching and research in mathematics by bringing the School up to modern standards of accommodation. The refurbishments included bringing more light into the building, substantially improving the working area for undergraduate students, having a more welcoming space for Open Days and other social events, bringing PhD students into the heart of the School, rationalising the size of staff offices, and allowing space for future expansion. In fact, our plans have already

outgrown the space we have and we are looking forward to phase four in the next few years."

At an event to celebrate the refurbishment, Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands cut the ribbon to open the new School and turned on its new art installation, *The Infinite Perspective Vortex*, which sits in the reception area and reflects the School's research strengths in fluid dynamics. The artwork was created by members of the Superposition team, who explore and celebrate the relationship between art and science. Further information can be found at thesuperposition.org

Chinese culture for all

Culture Month, organised by The Business Confucius Institute at the University, has shown the local community why the UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange matters, with a diverse range of event demonstrating the power of cross-cultural collaboration.

This theme was clearly on display in a unique art exhibition combining Chinese painting styles with distinctly British subject matter. The artists, Chinese diplomat Mr Wang Ying and Nobel laureate Professor Sir Konstantin Novoselov, even created a painting together live at the Grand Opening. An 'East Meets West' fashion show and exhibition continued the cultural fusion at Leeds Light Night, drawing huge crowds at Leeds Civic Hall.

Elsewhere, award-winning martial arts and dance performers from China brought the public to their feet in an enthralling display of grace, agility and power at Leeds Town Hall, and 'From Shore to Shore' told the

stories of Chinese communities in Leeds and West Yorkshire in a moving play at Oriental City Chinese Restaurant.

Following President Xi Jinping's visit to the UK we were honoured to welcome Minister Councillor Mr Jin Xu from the Chinese Embassy in London to close the Culture Month, giving the Business Confucius Institute Annual Lecture at Leeds University Business School.

Visit bit.ly/CultureMonth for photos, videos and more.



A dancer from Capital University of Physical Education and Sports in Beijing performs as part of the 'Beauty of KungFu and Dance' event

Small ads

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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 Friday 27 November at 12 noon. 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

Images from
the Sausmarez
exhibition

Maurice de Sausmarez 1915-1969 The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery 21 October – 10 February 2016

A prominent figure among mid-20th century British artists and educators, de Sausmarez trained at the Royal College of Art just prior to the Second World War. His seminal book, *Basic Design: the Dynamics of Visual Form*, was published in 1964. Highly respected as an inspirational teacher, de Sausmarez was an important participant in national discussions on the organisation of art training and education, well-known as a public speaker and broadcaster.

He moved to Leeds in 1947 when he was appointed Head of the School of Drawing



and Painting at Leeds College of Art. Soon afterwards, the University appointed de Sausmarez to help establish its new Department of Fine Art. He was the first Head of Department from 1951 to 1959.

Drawing from the University's collections and including loans from other institutions and private collections, the exhibition includes many of de Sausmarez's paintings, drawings and prints, together with displays of archival material. The exhibition is guest curated by Dr Hilary Diaper.

More information at goo.gl/300hWz

How Culture Matters: A Four-fold Exploration

Monday 12 – Thursday 22 November

The University is to host a series of free public events with cultural partners across Yorkshire as part of *Being Human 2015*, the UK's only national festival of the humanities.

How Culture Matters: A Four-fold Exploration has been made possible by a grant from festival organisers, the School of Advanced Study, University of London. It is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy, with additional help from the Wellcome Trust.

To find out more about the Leeds events, contact Mike Bellhouse on 0113 343 2430 or lhri@leeds.ac.uk

Writing the City: Bradford and British Asian Diasporas

Thursday 12 November, 5-8:30pm,
Bradford College's Dye House Gallery

Dr Seán McLoughlin (School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science) joins researchers, writers, oral historians and others to explore the diverse and changing cultural representations of British Asian Bradford since the 1960s.

We Are What We Keep

Saturday 14 November, 10am-4pm,
Merrion Centre

A hands-on, drop-in session and interactive talk on curating family archives led by historian Dr Laura King (Arts Engaged Fellow).

Performing Violence

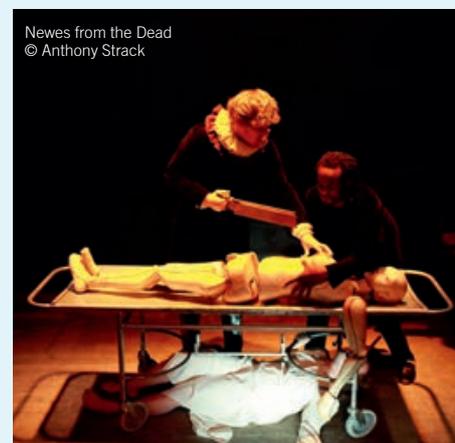
Tuesday 17 November, 6-7:30pm,
The Tetley

Professor Max Silverman (School of Languages, Cultures and Societies) and Dr Matt Boswell (School of English) will work with local teenagers, exploring the complex relations between artistic culture and violence, and featuring a national short film competition. In collaboration with Opera North.

News from the Dead

Thursday 19 November, 6pm,
Thackray Medical Museum

An innovative evening using puppets to explore the history of women's rights, medical history and conceptions of the human led by Professor Jane Taylor (School of English).



News from the Dead
© Anthony Strack

University of Leeds Carol Service

Tuesday 1 December,
5.30pm, the Great Hall

All staff, students, alumni and friends are very welcome.

Music will be provided by Leeds University Union Music Society and singing will be accompanied by the University Staff Centre Choir, with other special guests to be announced. Mince pies and mulled wine served after the service.

This year we will be supporting a local refugee charity. If you would like more information or would like to get involved, please get in touch with Katherine Norman, Chaplaincy Service Manager, on 0113 343 5071.

More details can be found at www.leeds.ac.uk/chaplaincy



Remembrance Day

Wednesday 11 November 2015,
10.55 am, University Precinct

There will be a short act of remembrance including two minutes silence at 11am in front of the Leeds University Union Building.

The service will be led by the University Chaplain and a representative of LUU. A number of senior University officials will attend, including the Vice-Chancellor and the University Secretary.

This will be followed by laying of wreaths at the University War Memorial in the Parkinson Building.

The Road to Paris: Accelerating international action on low-carbon cities

Tuesday 10 November, 6-8pm,
Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre

In late November, the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

will meet in Paris for the 21st Conference of Parties to try to decide a binding global treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While official negotiations are at a state level, cities have a significant role to play in the discussions and the implementation of change, and it is a timely

opportunity for experts in this field to present the key findings from their areas.

Chaired by Senior Research Fellow Katy Roelich, the panel includes Andy Gouldson, Professor of Environmental Policy, and John Barrett, Professor of Sustainability Research.

FAQs

Professor Andy Gouldson, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Professor of Environmental Policy

Tell us how you came to be at Leeds.

At school I wanted to be a designer and furniture maker. I got an apprenticeship but had to wait for 18 months to start, so had to think of something to do in the meantime. I'd enjoyed economics at A level so I thought I'd go to university for a year – but I enjoyed it so much that I stayed. After that I did a Masters in Environmental Policy, which I loved. Then I started a publishing company, wrote a book and did a PhD at the London School of Economics, where I got a job and stayed for 10 years before coming here.

You've just been appointed Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research). What do you aim to achieve?

My remit is to look after and support interdisciplinary research initiatives and especially the themes across the University. The aim is to make sure that these develop as well as they can and that the University offers the right kind of support for people to do cross-university interdisciplinary work which is outward looking and impact driven.

We've been hearing about the themes – can you explain what they are?

The themes are in areas where globally there are major challenges and significant opportunities for us to bring together academics and research capabilities from across the University to have a major impact. We've got seven themes already established – cities, energy, food, health, water, culture and high-value engineering. Internally, I think we can learn how to support them more effectively, and to transfer good practice and ideas from one area to another, especially around how we organise and develop interdisciplinary working. I think we can look for more innovative ways of combining disciplinary expertise in interdisciplinary research and engaging with different partners externally to ensure our work has the greatest possible impact. We can

also encourage the different themes to work together more. The really innovative ideas and opportunities are often in the areas where they meet, and by combining their strengths we can multiply the impact.

A lot of the themes are well aligned with external partners already, but I think we could make much more of these partnerships, for example through close joint working or what might be called co-production of research agendas. We could develop other partnerships too, of course. To do this we should communicate what we are doing. There are world-class areas of strength at the University and we should let people know about them.

What are your own research interests?

Five years ago we were asked to do a study looking at opportunities for Leeds to become a low-carbon city. Through that we developed a new way of understanding the opportunities to decarbonise cities, and this has helped different cities to engage with a tricky agenda. Since then, I've been working all over the world on low-carbon cities and climate change. We've done studies in Brazil, Peru, India, Rwanda, China, Indonesia and Malaysia and in the UK – so that's taken over most of my research life!

COP21 – the United Nations Climate Change Conference – is coming up in Paris. What would you like to see happen?

Everyone is hoping that the Kyoto Protocol, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, gets renewed and strengthened.

We are a small part of a big global community working on cities and climate change. We are collectively hoping that there will be major progress, and that cities will be given a prominent role and be brought into the broader climate change debate more fully – that is the ultimate impact goal. We did a piece of work recently that showed if cities made low-carbon actions, a revenue stream worth \$16tn would



be created from the energy savings. This is a massive economic opportunity, so we have shown that it is both environmentally and economically sensible for cities to take climate action. I'm feeling positive – there has been a real upsurge in support and interest from enough cities to make me think this may lead to meaningful change.

What's your most frequently asked question?

On climate change, it's whether the relatively easy stuff that we could do now will make it more possible to tackle the harder stuff that we'll have to do if we want to avoid dangerous climate change. It's not clear whether we should do the easy stuff because we'll break the deadlock and build some capacities and establish some momentum for deeper change, or whether we're just wasting time and should only focus on more fundamental solutions now.

Tell us about your favourite city.

I love Hong Kong. I've spent a lot of time there over years and have also been a visitor at the University. I like the vibrancy and intensity of it – and the alternative corners of the city that most people aren't so aware of.

What are your interests?

I should say something interesting here shouldn't I?! I like music, mountains, walking, nature... but I have young children, so in reality it's more often Minecraft and guinea pigs!

What would the title of your autobiography be?

'Really?!'