



Be Curious is back!

The University is once again welcoming members of the public to campus to find out about the world-leading research being carried out by our academics and students.

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Key investments put Leeds at forefront

Two multi-million pound investments in advanced equipment will enable Leeds academics to carry out world-leading research and make new discoveries.

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Student conference focuses on Sustainable Futures

The role of live art in changing perceptions and managing green spaces in Lahore were amongst the research projects discussed at the University's first Student Conference on Sustainable Futures.

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A helping hand for Unity

Students and staff used their handprints to create 'Unity pledge' artworks, a visual demonstration of a shared commitment to unity.

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Leader column

Brexit: Working together

Nearly nine months have passed since the public voted by a small majority to leave the EU. The result was very disappointing to many of us, but the reality is that the UK is embarking on a path to implement the outcome of the referendum: Article 50 is expected to be triggered imminently. So, nine months on, what more do we understand about the impact of Brexit on the University, the wider higher education sector and the science and research community?

Following debates and votes in both the Houses of Commons and Lords, the bill which enables Article 50 to be triggered was finally passed without amendments. This was hugely disappointing, especially for those of us who wanted to secure - ahead of Brexit negotiations - long term residency status for EU citizens currently living in the UK. Despite the bill ultimately being passed, we can take some heart from the outspoken support for this important issue in the House of Lords and, to an extent in the Commons, during the debates and earlier votes.

I know that this is bitterly disappointing on many levels. It is increasingly unacceptable to have so little certainty about something of such fundamental importance to the lives of a great many colleagues: people who have been selfless in supporting the University and the wider public good in the UK, often for many years.

However, recent developments suggest that we might be beginning to see early signs of a more enlightened approach, at least from the perspective of higher education. While she gave no promises, the Prime Minister's speech on Brexit in January was positive on the subject of science and research and the importance of continuing to welcome people from across the world to work in our universities and cutting edge industries. Her rhetoric needs to be followed up quickly by practical action.

Similarly positive noises could be heard in the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, David Davis' white paper speech to Parliament last month; but his statements also fell short of providing the certainty we are all seeking. By its own admission, the Government is analysing



the impact of Brexit across at least 58 different UK sectors, so we must keep up the pressure to ensure that the voice of higher education is clear and consistent and that it is supported by our political representatives and industry partners.

You will recall that, as well as the fundamental issues of residency and a progressive approach to immigration, we are also focused on access to multilateral research collaborations and funding that recognises academic excellence. This underpins the success of UK universities and will be an important prerequisite for the success of the Government's industrial strategy and the important issues of international development supported by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). If the Government's mantra is 'Global Britain', it has to realise that all these issues are interdependent and require a joined-up approach to policy development.

The sector is lobbying hard. The Russell Group and Universities UK are focused on: the rights of current EU staff and their families; financial certainty for undergraduate and postgraduate students from the EU who want to study in the UK from 2018 to 19; continued access to the EU research framework Horizon 2020, and a place at the table to inform the development of its successor (FP9); and continued UK participation in Erasmus+, a scheme highly valued by our students.

Above all, we want to avoid a hiatus in research funding for UK universities and to achieve certainty for existing and future students and staff. Lobbying can be a time-consuming, often tiresome process but the welcome amendments to the Higher Education and Research Bill announced at the end of February show what can be done when the sector sticks to its principles.

As the Government's longer-term position crystallises, the University will continue to nurture existing research collaborations and student exchanges, play its part in maintaining the important contribution made by students and academics from EU member states, and prepare for a post-Brexit future which maintains a strong international ethos.

Our international strategy – which will be discussed at Senate and Council later this

month – has five priorities: recruiting talented students and staff; enriching student experience and enhancing employability; increasing world-class collaborative research outputs; increasing global partnerships and funding; and raising the University's global profile and reputation. Determined action in each of these areas will ensure that we continue to develop as a truly international institution, with high academic standards and the self-confidence to look outwards.

In the meantime, we continue to attract and welcome talented staff and students from around the world and to drive research and innovation across borders. 39% of the 121 academic appointments made in 2016 were from other countries, international undergraduate student applications have increased by 18% since last year, and our online distance learning offer has a strong international following. We were awarded 18 Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships in the latest application, a 33% success rate and the most the University has ever been awarded in a single call. We have also had success with a number of Newton grants, we are optimistic about our GCRF bids and we see evidence of a growing number of strong publications with overseas partners.

There is no doubt that the Brexit vote and the aftermath of political uncertainty has unsettled us all and that there are obvious risks ahead.

That said, I can be equally clear that by working together we will continue to protect and promote the interests of **all** staff and students; argue stridently for continued collaboration in Europe; maintain our commitment to high quality, research-led education and research-based learning; invest further in people and infrastructure to improve the quality and impact of our research and innovation; and strengthen our international ambitions, enriching life on campus and building successful partnerships around the world.

With risk comes opportunity and a requirement to change quickly and intelligently to ensure the long-term academic and financial sustainability of the University.

Keep up to date at www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff

Public engagement



The Public Engagement team get ready to welcome the public to campus (l-r): Jennie Hall, Dr Alexa Ruppertsberg, Dr Charlotte Haigh, Dr Clare Gee

Be Curious puts our research centre stage

Leeds and Yorkshire are the focus of this year's Be Curious festival, when the University will again welcome members of the public on to campus to find out about the world-leading research being carried out by our academics and students.

The inaugural Be Curious festival in 2016 saw over 1,000 visitors to campus, many of them visiting the University for the first time. Around 200 academics took part, including professors and PhD researchers, and 50 student ambassadors were on hand to guide and advise those new to campus.

"We were delighted to have such a positive and enthusiastic response to the first Be Curious event," says one of the organisers, Dr Charlotte Haigh of the Public Engagement team. "For this year's event we wanted to bring things closer to home and show people how the research we do is bringing real, tangible benefits to local people, the city and region, as well as the wider world.

"Be Curious not only attracts new audiences to the University, it also helps our academic community to think about the impact of their

work. It challenges them to tailor their messages to different audiences and find creative ways of describing and demonstrating their research to make it accessible to the general public."

Professor Pam Jones, Pro-Dean for Research, Faculty of Medicine and Health, attended the last event and says: "It was inspiring to see the visitors' natural curiosity in the work we do. It is so important that as academics we share our enthusiasm for our research, and the Be Curious event allows us to do just that."

More details of the programme and activities can be found overleaf and at www.leeds.ac.uk/becurious

Parkinson Building, 25 March 2017 from 10am

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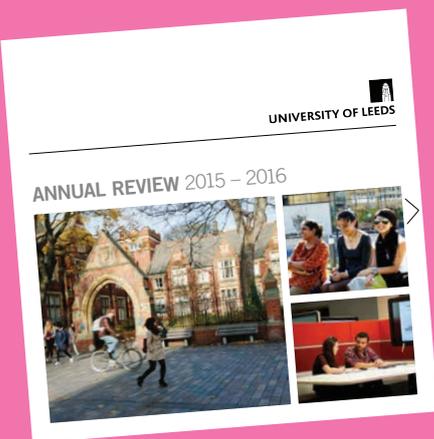
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About the Reporter

The Reporter is the University's staff magazine and goes out to 7,600 colleagues. It is produced by the Internal Communications team.

If you have an idea for a story or want to comment on this issue please contact us at the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk or 0113 343 6699.

The front cover shows 'Giving unity a hand' (clockwise from left): Robin Fishwick, Emma Temple (both University Chaplaincy), Jemma Stern and Kari Medalla (both International Student Office)



Annual Review available

The University's Annual Review 2015 – 16 is now available. A first tranche has been sent to some of our main stakeholders, and further copies are available from the Print and Copy Bureau.

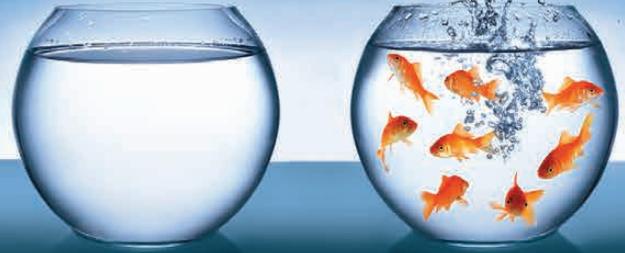
To avoid duplication, Nancy Gillen in the Communications team n.m.gillen@leeds.co.uk can provide a list of the people who have received the Annual Review to date. Colleagues who wish to send copies to their own contacts or organisations are asked to advise Nancy of the names and addresses of the recipients.

Stay up to date with University news and events:

-  [universityofleeds](https://www.facebook.com/universityofleeds)
-  [@UniLeedsStaff](https://twitter.com/UniLeedsStaff)
-  [universityofleeds](https://www.instagram.com/universityofleeds)
-  [University of Leeds](https://www.linkedin.com/company/universityofleeds)
-  leeds.ac.uk/forstaff

News

An invitation to Be Curious – find out, explore and investigate



Be Curious 2017 will see the University's Parkinson Court filled with a range of stalls allowing visitors to campus to get involved with our research and 'have a go' at some interactive activities.

This year's event has the theme of 'Leeds and Yorkshire'. There are a host of things to find out about, new strategies to understand and prevent foot-and-mouth disease in Yorkshire; 'Wetropolis', a flood demonstrator showing how extreme rainfall events caused floods in the region; and the chance to have a personal health check and find out how the information can be used in research that can benefit people living in the Yorkshire region.

Visitors will be encouraged to take part in experiments, visit our state-of-the-art microscopes, view contemporary art, hear diverse voices from Leeds Kirkgate market, create biographies, learn about sustainable cities, and decode 'cryptography' by learning how secret messages can create and protect information.

Parkinson Building, 25 March from 10am

There will be five themed 'activity zones', exploring:

- **Science and Engineering:** Improving lives in Yorkshire through science and engineering
- **Culture:** Enriching lives in Leeds and Yorkshire
- **Climate and Water:** Climate change and water research benefiting Leeds and Yorkshire
- **Cities:** Leeds as a sustainable city
- **Health:** Towards a healthier Yorkshire

You can find the full programme at www.leeds.ac.uk/becurious

Lasting tribute to Olympic-winning Brownlees

The University's new £5m Leeds sports facility is to be named after our most successful alumni athletes, Olympic heroes Alistair and Jonny Brownlee.

The Brownlee Centre sits alongside a new 1 mile (1.6km) cycle circuit – one of the longest in the country – at the Bodington playing fields in north Leeds. The centre is due to open in April and will be the UK's first purpose-built triathlon training base, providing a permanent home for the world-class Leeds Triathlon Centre.

Combining a strength and conditioning training suite, physiotherapy, medical and other support services, the centre will enhance facilities for both cycling and triathlon in the region. Partnership funding from Sport England, UK Sport, British Cycling and British Triathlon is contributing £1m to

the project, with the remaining funding provided by the University.

"This is a real honour," says Alistair Brownlee. "Having the UK's first purpose-built triathlon centre in Leeds will ensure that the city continues to be a hub for triathlon. It is a real boost for both participation and elite sport in the area and will hopefully help the next generation of Leeds athletes on their journey to Olympic success."

Suzanne Glavin, Head of Sport and Physical Activity, says: "We're really pleased to acknowledge the fantastic sporting success of the Brownlees in such a practical, permanent

way. We are so proud of Alistair and Jonny and of their continuing relationship with the University – from regular training at our facilities to the inspiration they give to students, staff and members of the public with their achievements."

Four of the six Team GB Rio games triathlon competitors – including another alumnus Gordon Benson – will be based at the new facility. The site will also continue to be used for grass sports including football and rugby. The next phase of development will see three additional grass pitches, scheduled for completion in September 2017.

News

A helping hand for Unity

Students and staff from the University used their handprints to help create five 'Unity pledge' artworks that will soon be displayed around campus as a visual demonstration of a shared commitment to unity.

The Unity Canvas Roadshow asked people to take a 'Unity pledge' and make a verbal commitment to unity. Pledgers acknowledged their responsibilities and duties towards all the people who work and study at and visit the University, before each putting their hands in paint and making a handprint. Collectively, the prints will form unique images, including a map of the world.

Farhat Yaqoob, from the University Chaplaincy and Team Unity, who organised the roadshow, says: "Our responsibilities entail being kind to each other, treating each other with respect and dignity, serving as a guardian for everyone, so being proactive in our humanity towards each other." She explains: "In essence, our aim is to emphasise our shared values and our commitment to inclusivity of all our staff and students, past, present and prospective.

"This new project is quite different from previous Unity events, and we teamed up with lots of different services and helpers to get it off the ground. Our supporters included the schools of Fine Art and Chemistry, the Faculty of Medicine and Leeds University Business School, Leeds University Union, the Lifelong Learning Centre, Estates, Catering, the Print and Copy Bureau, and many more. Apologies

if I've left anyone out!

"To maximise the number of people taking part – and to be truly unifying, as far as we can be – we took the canvases on tour and visited sites around campus. We had a fabulous response, with hundreds of people taking the pledge and making their handprints."

Those taking the pledge also made donations to support the charity *Medicins Sans Frontieres* – sometimes known as *Doctors Without Borders* – the international humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency medical aid in war-torn regions and developing countries affected by endemic diseases.

"We asked for donations too, as we felt it was important to give people the opportunity for people to reinforce their social responsibility as global citizens," explains Estates' Leonard Wilson, who helped bring the idea of the Unity Canvas to fruition.

The finished Unity canvases will be displayed in prominent spaces on campus.



HOST UK

The International Student Office is looking for families willing to offer international students an opportunity to spend a day or weekend with a British host family. So far this academic year, 140 students have been on visits.

If you are from the UK, you and your family can support this cultural exchange by becoming volunteer hosts with HOST UK, inviting international students to stay with you. It is a chance for you to offer students a homely break from their studies, giving them

a memorable experience of the culture and way of life in the UK.

The visit is very much a two-way process: chatting, exchanging ideas, eating together, sharing common interests, talking about

hobbies, having one or two outings in your area, or joining a community activity.

If you would like to know more about becoming a host, or if any students are interested in a visit, please contact Jemma Stern at the International Student Office.

News

SAMUEL HERTZ
DARE Prize winner
2017



Breaking sonic boundaries: the DARE Art Prize winner

A composer working with sounds below the limits of human hearing has been announced as the winner of the inaugural £15,000 DARE Art Prize by Opera North and the University.

Samuel Hertz will spend the next year in collaboration with our researchers and Opera North staff to create ground-breaking new work. He aims to work on an electro-acoustic chamber piece, using transducers to produce low frequency sounds that can be felt rather than heard, and the effects these might have on wellbeing and mood.

"I'm honoured and excited by this opportunity to work with the University and Opera North in an investigation of the sonic and bodily relations between humans and the environment," says Samuel. "I expect this year will be enlightening and productive both for my practice and the practices of my collaborators in our joint expedition into the drama of the unheard

realm of infrasound. I'm very thankful for this opportunity to work with the people and resources from both institutions, and cannot wait to begin."

The collaborative process with Samuel begins this spring, with the outcome of the year-long collaboration due to be revealed in March 2018.

Aimed at challenging artists and scientists to work together on new approaches to the creative process, the annual Art Prize is part of a programme to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the DARE partnership between Opera North and the University. For the past decade, DARE has combined the best of both organisations to deliver an outstanding and challenging



Winner Samuel Hertz

Winner Samuel Hertz is announced by Opera North's Projects Director Dominic Gray. © Malcolm Johnson

programme, which leads cultural thought, learning and practice. Over 150 projects have been initiated, engaging practitioners, academics, students and audiences.

A series of events celebrating the anniversary is also taking place at the Howard Assembly Rooms. On 24 March, Stefan Collini will give a lecture, 'Speaking of Universities', an analysis of the changes made to universities in recent years. A screening of the *The Great Beauty* will be shown on 8 April, and Tariq Ali will be giving a lecture entitled 'The Dilemmas of Lenin' on 21 April.

More information is at www.dareyou.org.uk/

A year of treasures

The Treasures of the Brotherton gallery celebrated its first birthday in February.

Billed as the University's gateway to over 200,000 rare books, manuscripts and objects housed in Special Collections, the gallery welcomed more than 20,000 visitors in its first year. It hosted over 70 public events including theatre, music, talks, hands-on sessions and crafts. During an exhibition, the gallery will display around 100 items at its Parkinson Building base.

Last November, the University's Special Collections was awarded Accredited Archive Service status by The National Archives. As part of the gallery's birthday celebrations, Keith Sweetmore from The National Archives presented Joanne Fitton, Head of Special Collections and Galleries, with the official certificate.

He said, "This award celebrates the achievement of the University in managing and caring for its archive collections. It recognises the work of everyone, from senior managers to team members and volunteers,

in opening up these collections for use and enjoyment by staff and students, as well as by the wider community in Leeds and further afield."

Stella Butler, University Librarian, says: "The Treasures gallery has provided the University with a showcase for the rich research resources held in the Library's Special Collections. It has also provided spaces where conversations about the treasures and the research around them can be shared with a wide range of audiences.

"I am incredibly proud of the gallery's success, which could not have been achieved without the commitment of Library staff working with academic colleagues."

Special Collections at the University is the only institution to have five collections designated by Arts Council England as nationally or internationally significant. These are the English Literature Collection, the Cookery Collection, the Romany Collection, Leeds Russian Archive and the Liddle Collection.

The gallery provides visitors with a taste of the vast collection of rarities held at the University and hopes to encourage more people to research their interests further in the Special Collections facility in the Brotherton Library.

The University's Special Collections is awarded Accredited Archive Service status by the National Archives



Research and innovation

Key investments put Leeds at forefront

Two key multi-million pound investments in advanced equipment will enable Leeds academics to carry out world-leading research and make new discoveries.

Wellcome Director Dr Jeremy Farrar officially opened the Astbury BioStructure Laboratory, which represents an investment of £17m in biological research equipment. Amongst the equipment hosted by the lab is a 950 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer and two 300 kV electron microscopes. These are amongst the most powerful devices of their kind in the world. The new hardware means University scientists can now study bacteria, viruses, and the macromolecules that dictate the life and health of our cells at near atomic level in three different ways.

Professor Sheena Radford, Director of the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology, says: "The equipment the University has invested in will create the capability for world-leading biological research here in Leeds, which the city can rightly be proud of. We anticipate it will be sought after by researchers in Europe and beyond and we look forward to sharing our expertise with them."

Leeds researchers also helped to develop the new £6.8m Advanced Imaging Centre, which has the potential to transform the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from cancer, heart disease and musculoskeletal diseases. The centre is a collaboration between the University, the University of York and Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, and comprises identical MRI (Magnetic resonance imaging) facilities at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) and the University of York.



The new MRI scanner at the advanced Imaging Centre

Researchers at the Centre will work on a new imaging method which could boost the signal in MRI scanners by up to 200,000 times. This will give new insights into the workings of the human body in health and illness, and has the potential to make the development of new drugs more effective.

The technique, which is known as Signal Amplification by Reversible Exchange, or SABRE, has been developed by scientists at the University of York. It works by temporarily changing the magnetic properties of substances that occur naturally in the body, of drugs, without changing their molecular structure. Tests have shown that the method is successful, and the new facilities will be used to develop the technique for use with patients. Doctors at LGI will be able to use the equipment for standard MRI scanning of patients as well.

The centre has been funded through the Clinical Research Infrastructure Initiative, led by the Medical Research Council, with co-funding from the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and Arthritis Research UK.

Research team leader BHF Professor Sven Plein (Medicine) says: "The new method has the potential to transform the way patients are diagnosed because we will be able to see bodily processes such as metabolism, or inflammation, in much greater detail than with current methods."



Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor, and Dr Jeremy Farrar at the official opening of Astbury BioStructure Laboratory

News in brief

Leeds is top UK university for environmental impact of research

A *Times Higher Education* news story highlights Leeds' position as the top UK university for environmental impact of research and eighth in the world between 2011 and 2015. The ranking is based on field-weighted citation impact (from Elsevier's Scopus database). Utrecht University in the Netherlands came top, followed by Stanford, Stockholm and Harvard. The University of Oxford came ninth.

Supplier framework – photography

A mandatory supplier framework for stills photography has been introduced and is now live. Colleagues should not book any photographer who is not on the agreed list. However, the supplier list is flexible and a new supplier can be added at any time, subject to financial and creative checks. Please visit goo.gl/rr7KqN for more information or contact s.underwood@adm.leeds.ac.uk

University programmes secure Global Challenges research funding

University researchers successfully secured support from Research Councils UK's new £1.5bn Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), aimed at using the country's world-class research expertise to address issues affecting people in low and middle income countries. Leeds researchers involved are Dr Rupert Quinnell (School of Biology), Dr Helen Elsey (Leeds Institute of Health Sciences), Professor Karen Lucas (Institute for Transport Studies) and Dr Ghazala Mir (Leeds Institute of Health Sciences). The awards represent the first phase of research funding anticipated from the £1.5bn Global Challenges Research Fund. The 41 awards are led by the Medical Research Council, and supported by AHRC, BBSRC, ESRC and NERC.

Campus

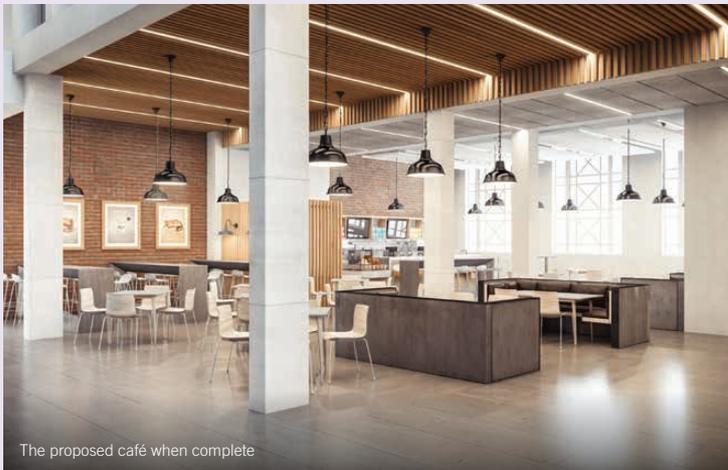
Creating an integrated campus for Engineering and physical sciences.

A programme of works has started for the £96m investment to create an integrated campus for Engineering and physical sciences.

This is the biggest financial single investment ever made in our campus and is part of our £520m campus plan to help secure our position as one of the UK's top ten research universities.

The new development will bring together research and teaching across engineering and physical sciences, to inspire new ways of working across disciplines, strengthen industry collaboration and support world-class student education.

To include new homes for the schools of computing and physics and astronomy, this investment will also provide specialised teaching spaces and will be the hub for our new Bragg Centre, providing facilities and expertise to support multidisciplinary materials research involving



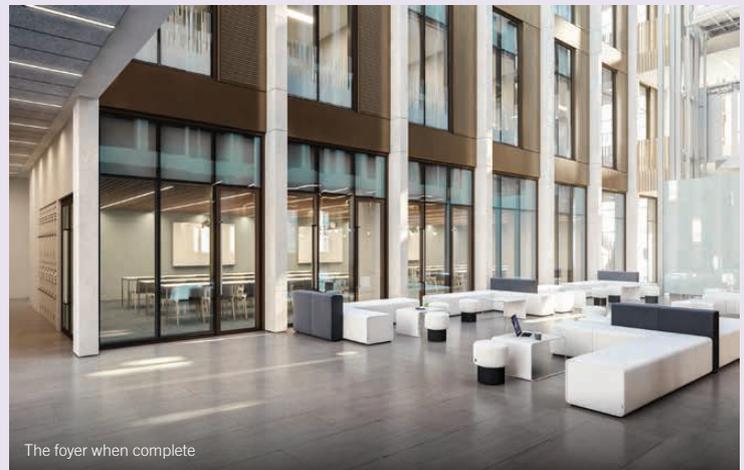
The proposed café when complete



The Old Mining Building when complete

physicists, chemists, biologists and engineers. This development will also integrate world-leading research in Robotics and Information, Communications and Technology (ICT).

Phase one of the project will see the demolition of the former Estates Building and the Old Boiler House, which are located near the Old Mining building on Woodhouse Lane. Installation of hoardings may affect your current route to and from buildings. There will also be some noise disturbance as work gets underway. Staff, students and visitors are advised to plan their route as site hoarding will be in place and access routes will change. For more information, visit campusdevelopments.leeds.ac.uk



The foyer when complete

Expansion plans for School of Earth and Environment

The University Capital Group recently gave the go-ahead to exciting plans for a £7.5m investment for the School of Earth and Environment into level 7 and 10 of the Staff Centre building, together with the creation of a new collaborative space for the Priestley International Centre for Climate.

The expansion marks the continued success and growth of the school, which continues to maintain its strong foundations of world leading research excellence and being a national

market-leader in student recruitment. This investment will also enable the establishment of both the Priestley Centre research platform and a Met Office Joint Research Unit. This will realise the Priestley Centre mission to promote interdisciplinary climate solutions research of the highest standard.

A programme of enabling works is currently underway to facilitate the creation of more office and meeting room space. The project is scheduled for completion in autumn 2018. To accommodate the expansion works, staff currently on levels 7 and 10 will be relocated to new homes on campus.

The scheduled moves are as follows:

- **IT Workshop:** March–May
- **Print and Copy Bureau Warehouse:** March–April
- **Post Room:** March–May
- **Bragg Cluster moves to EC Stoner East L6:** June–October (following completion of previous works)
- **Logik Centre moves to Lifton Studios, University Road:** March – July

Campus

New chapter begins as the Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies building opens

An award-winning scriptwriter was among the scores of alumni returning to the University's School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies to celebrate the opening of its new home.

As part of the opening celebrations, former Head of Fine Art Barry Herbert cut a ribbon to officially open the building. Later, Peter Morgan, one of the country's leading screenwriters, took part in an 'in conversation' event in the Great Hall with Griselda Pollock, Professor of the Social and Critical Histories of Art.

Peter, who graduated from the School with a degree in the History of Art in 1985, is famed for writing a wide range of successes, ranging from *The Queen and The Last King of Scotland* to *Frost/Nixon* and *The Damned United*. He is also the creator and writer of *The Crown*, a Netflix

television series which recently won the Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series – Drama.

Professor Abigail Harrison Moore, Head of School, said: "Our students are very excited to be working in the amazing new studio, workshop and teaching areas.

"Studying in this impressive space for art and culture at the heart of the campus will enable them to continue to benefit from the unique inter-disciplinary approaches to the subjects that our School is celebrated for nationally and internationally."



Former Head of Fine Art Barry Herbert opens the refurbished building



Leading screenwriter Peter Morgan in conversation with Professor Griselda Pollock



Edward Boyle Library now fully open

All levels of the Edward Boyle Library have fully opened to students and staff.

With all six floors now open, the library offers over 2,000 study spaces and is already proving popular for exam revision. The Edit Room café provides a place for a welcome break.

Jane Saunders, Head of Collections Services, says: "It's lovely to open up the full building to our students again. The area that was opened

in September had already been really well received, including the new Research Hub for postgraduates on level 13.

"Students will see some empty book shelves, but these will be filled with social science books from the Brotherton Library over the summer. The newly designed interior has allowed us to upgrade all the study spaces, for both individual and group study.

"I'd like to thank everyone for their patience while the building work was taking place around them over this period of time."

The Edward Boyle has been undergoing major refurbishment since 2015 and reopened, in part, in September 2016. It part of a much wider group of listed Brutalist buildings at the University designed by Chamberlin, Powell & Bon, constructed in the 1960s and early 1970s. The restoration of the building accentuates the original design intent of the building.

Students

Welcome to the 2017-18 Student Executive

The new Student Executive for Leeds University Union has been voted in. What do they want to achieve during the next academic year?

Jess Bassett (Business) has been voted in as Activities Officer. In her campaign, Jess pledged to introduce a Union loyalty card, solve Union space stress and improve efficiency.

New Welfare Officer Chloe Sparks (History) intends to focus on mental health, prioritise student safety and tackle financial stress.

Jack Palmer has been re-elected as the Union Affairs Officer and will look to continue his work from last year, as well as enhance representation, fund the cost of living, and shape the future strategy.



R-L: Jess Bassett, Chloe Sparks, Jack Palmer, Zak Kaf Al-Ghazal, George Bissett, Natasha Mutch-Vidal

Zak Kaf Al-Ghazal (Law) was voted in as Education Officer, and will push for 24-hour libraries, secure mental health training for personal tutors and make lecture capture compulsory.

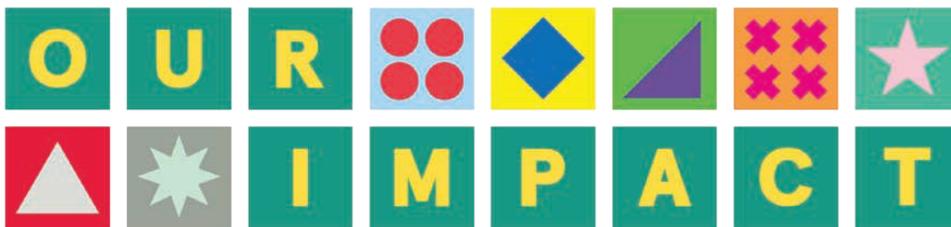
The new Community Officer is Theatre and Performance student George Bissett, who has pledged to lower deposits and rent and grant free help with bills.

Finally, Natasha Mutch-Vidal (French and Portuguese) was voted in as the new Equality and Diversity Officer, and will seek to embrace

diversity and engage collectively.

The Editor of the student newspaper, *The Gryphon*, was also elected. Reece Parker (English) promised to launch a weekly column for the Union Exec, deliver *The Gryphon* into halls, and provide a paper that truly represents students.

In total, 6,561 students cast their votes for the new Exec.



LUU Impact Report published

LUU recently published its Impact Report, detailing and celebrating many of LUU's achievements during 2015/16. Highlights from the report include achieving 92% satisfaction in the National Student Survey, reaching over 24,000 members of LUU clubs and societies, and offering over 1,000 employability opportunities to students.

The full report can be found on the LUU website at impact.luu.org.uk



National Student Survey

National Student Survey 2017 is live

The National Student Survey (NSS) has now launched at Leeds and is open to eligible undergraduates until the end of April at www.thestudentsurvey.leeds.ac.uk

The survey has undergone some changes since last year, with some questions removed and new sections added relating to engagement and student voice. However, the format remains the same, asking students the extent to which they agree with a series of statements about their educational experience at Leeds.

The NSS is a nationally recognised annual survey which provides students with an

opportunity to give their honest opinions on what they like about their time on their course, as well as things that they feel could be improved. The results are used internally as part of our ongoing review of our provision, and externally to help inform the choices of future applicants to higher education. Responses to student surveys are very important to the University as schools and faculties compile action plans taking into account student feedback.

The survey should take around 10 minutes to complete and students responding online receive 100 free printer credits for their participation. Results will be available in August.

Students

Student conference focuses on Sustainable Futures

Research into the role of performance and live art in helping to change perceptions of climate change, tackling the growing environmental impact of 'fast fashion', and managing urban green spaces in Lahore were the winning projects in the University's first Student Conference on Sustainable Futures.



Forty students from all levels and across all faculties took part, showcasing their research, projects and creativity relating to an aspect of sustainability. The conference theme – 'Sustainable Perspectives on Future Challenges' – encouraged a wide range of entries around eight key sustainability areas: cities; communicating sustainability; society and community; biodiversity and climate change; innovation and technology; society and community; food and agriculture; and governance and policy.

A capacity audience of over 100 people listened to the welcome address from Professor Tom Ward, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education, and saw Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and

Innovation, present the winning students with their awards at the end of the day.

Louise Ellis, Head of Sustainability, says: "We were absolutely delighted with the response to our first student conference, from students who entered submissions to people who wanted to come along and hear the presentations. The range of subjects covered was incredibly broad, and really demonstrated the enthusiasm and passion our students have for building sustainability into their own interdisciplinary research. It was so successful that we're already planning a second conference for 2018."

More details of this year's conference can be found at sustainability.leeds.ac.uk



Most Original Concept

Winner: Clare Martynski (Performance and Cultural Industries), 'The role of performance and live art in transforming worldviews'

Highly Commended: Mary Loveday Edwards (Design), 'The use of nostalgia at the ideation stage of permaculture design'

Most Effective Visuals

Winner: Ana Perez (Design), 'What we know affects what we do – exploring fashion sustainability and its perception by young consumers'

Highly Commended: Katie Thomas (Earth and Environment), 'People and nature in harmony? Understanding a consumer ethical dilemma'

Best Conference Poster

Winner: Rizwana Alam (Geography), 'The governance of urban green spaces: challenges and a way forward to sustainable development'

Highly Commended: Vishnu Sunil Kumar (Chemical and Process Engineering), 'To tree or not to tree? Assessing carbon stock distribution along an altitudinal gradient in the Western ghats'



Winner of the Most Original Concept, Clare Martynski



Members of the Sustainability team (l-r): Jenny Barlow, Rebecca Ewan and Issy Petersen-Adams



Winner Rizwana Alam and Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation Professor Lisa Roberts

In the news

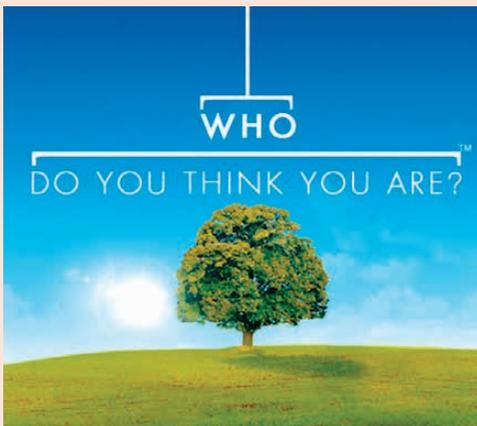


Professor Tim Benton (Biological Sciences) has produced the British Food report, commissioned by Morrisons, revealing that **just half of the food consumed in the UK comes from British farmers**. He suggests we build a stronger local supply chain to minimise “system risks” posed by climate change and recent political events. This was featured on the BBC and Sky News, and in the *Guardian* and *Yorkshire Post*.

BBC Online featured research led by Dr Phil Livermore (Earth and Environment) that discovered a **jet stream within the Earth’s molten iron core**. This was found using the latest satellite data, which have helped provide the sharpest X-ray image yet of the planet.

Dr Victoria Honeyman (Politics and International Studies) talked on BBC Radio 5 Live about the headlines surrounding the Supreme Court news and **different motivations around triggering Article 50 and Brexit**.

Professor Derek Scott (Music) explained to actor Warwick Davis on BBC One’s *Who Do You Think You Are* how his great-grandfather went from playing Irish music to African-American music.



Research by Professor Simon Lewis (Geography) and Dr Greta Dargie (Geography) has mapped the **largest peatland in the tropics**, an area larger than New York State in the Congo Basin in Central Africa, containing 30 billion tonnes of carbon. This was featured in the *New York Times*, the *Guardian* and the *Washington Post*.

Professor Gary Williamson (Food Science and Nutrition) discussed the **effects tea and coffee may have on our bodies and health** on *BBC One*.

Moaza Al Matrooshi, now 24, had her **ovarian tissue frozen** when she was nine years old by Professor Helen Picton (Medicine). Coverage in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *CTV News*, *Guardian*, *Telegraph*, *Independent* and on BBC Radio 4’s *Six O’Clock news* all positioned Leeds at the forefront of ovarian tissue freezing.

Research led by Dr Liz Watson (Geography) suggests that **ash clouds are more common over northern Europe** than previously thought, though the general frequency of volcanic ash clouds over northern Europe is still generally quite low. This research was covered in the *Daily Mail*, the *Sun* and on *BBC Online*.



Research by Dr Matthew Mount (Business) found that **villages without a pub were prone to fall apart** while communities with just one had the highest sense of wellbeing, happiness and social cohesion. However, communities with more than one pub do not see an increase in social cohesion. The research was featured in the *Times* and on *BBC Radio 2*, and *TalkSport* also discussed the study.



Dr Anna Weighall (Psychology) was interviewed on BBC 5 Live about **power naps**, and conducted a sleep experiment with the presenter, as part of the radio station’s Sleep Week.

Research by Dr Sam Smith (Leeds Institute of Health Sciences) finding that many **women stop taking the breast cancer medication tamoxifen because of side effects** that may not always be due to the drug featured on *ITV News* and also in the *Sun*, *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express*.

Professor Alastair Hay (Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine) discussed the **toxicology of VX, the nerve agent used to kill Kim Jong-nam**, on BBC News 24. Clips from Professor Hay’s interview were also used in various BBC radio news bulletins, including Radio 2, Radio Scotland and Radio Leeds, and also on selected Australian radio stations.

A study led by Professor Peter Stockley (Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology) has found a **‘hidden code’ in a virus responsible for the common cold**, and the team now thinks a cure could be found within a decade. This research was featured on *CNN* and *Fox 4*, and in the *Telegraph* and the *Sun*.



Honours



John Plane, Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry, has been awarded the Vilhelm Bjerknes medal 2017 by the European Geosciences Union (EGU) for distinguished research in atmospheric sciences.

Professor Plane is a world-leading expert in the chemistry of the Earth's atmosphere. His research involves field observations, laboratory and theoretical studies, and the development of atmospheric models, in order to understand the interactions between the different atmospheric regions.

EGU is Europe's premier geosciences union, dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the Earth, planetary and space sciences for the benefit of humanity. The medal is named after Vilhelm Bjerknes, a leading atmospheric scientist of the 20th century.

Professor Plane at the launch of the University's Priestley International Centre for Climate



Senior University academic **Professor Anne Neville** was made an Officer of the (Most Excellent) Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the New Year's Honours list for services to engineering.

Her team's work has contributed to the understanding of how and why metallic components in hip joints degrade, how chemicals in oilfields can be used to mitigate corrosion/wear and how new developments in lubricant technology will impact on the fuel economy of engines.

Professor Neville's research expertise lies in the study of processes occurring between surfaces, including corrosion, friction and wear and crystallisation. Much of her work involves using advanced surface analysis techniques and high-powered electron microscopes to understand at the nanometre-scale how processes will affect a system's or object's performance.

A project funded by the University to help young people aim for a place in higher education won the 'Organisation Inspiring Schools' award at the Child Friendly Leeds Awards.

In partnership with national charity **IntoUniversity**, the University has established centres in Beeston and Harehills which run after-school sessions with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, aimed at raising their attainment and aspiration. The centres are funded with support from several alumni and donors including the Asda Foundation. Our students also volunteer at the centre, mentoring and encouraging young people.

Louise Banahene, Head of Educational Engagement, says: "The University is very proud of its work with Leeds IntoUniversity, helping young people to access higher education. The centre works to normalise the university environment so that pupils can get used to the idea of student life and what to expect."

Professor and Barrister, **Surya P Subedi**, OBE, Professor of International Law, has been appointed a **Queen's Counsel (QC)** for his "exceptional contribution over a sustained period at the international level to develop international law and to advance human rights".

Distinguished legal academics and law practitioners are appointed as honorary QCs by the Queen upon the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor after assessment of the nominations by senior representatives from the field of law and justice. The award is made to lawyers and legal academics who have made

a major contribution to the law of England and Wales outside practice in the courts.

Professor Subedi said: "I feel extremely honoured to have been appointed an honorary QC. As an institution with a global outlook, the University of Leeds has provided a congenial and stimulating environment that is conducive to making a contribution to a wider national and international community. It would not have been possible for me to develop international law and advance human rights without the assistance of my colleagues in the School of Law and I am grateful to them."



Other recipients of honours with University links included:

- **Professor Jane Francis**, Director of the British Antarctic Survey and former Dean of the Faculty of Environment (Dame, services to polar science and diplomacy)
- **Professor Carol Smart**, formerly School of Sociology and Social Policy (CBE, services to the social sciences)
- **David Wilkinson**, consultant vascular surgeon and Postgraduate Dean, Yorkshire and the Humber (MBE, services to the NHS)
- **Karen Darke** – Alumna, Chemistry and Geological Science 1992 (MBE, services to sport)
- **Dr Helen Livingstone** – Alumna, Medicine 1989 (MBE, services to end of life healthcare)
- **Angela Cox** – Alumna Microbiology 1981 (OBE, services to education)
- **Nicola Adams**, double Olympic champion and honorary graduate (OBE, services to boxing)

News

European Research Council successes celebrated

Since 2007, Leeds ERC grant-holders have secured €57m of highly competitive funding, awarded for cutting edge, step-change research.

At a celebratory drinks reception, Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, congratulated Leeds ERC grant-holders on their success in securing such prestigious funding, valued for its contribution both to overall research income and in promoting truly innovative research.

Professor Roberts emphasised the importance of keeping this momentum going so that the University maintains a strong presence across EU funding. Ben Williams, Head of European Funding, added that their ongoing input to help identify and motivate future candidates, will be invaluable in helping to achieve this, as will promoting the bespoke support available from the RIS EU Funding Team.

The evening also saw the launch of a new public lecture series coordinated by Anna Harrold from the RIS EU Team, in collaboration with the ERC=Science² project. Monthly talks will see Leeds-based ERC grant-holders across a range of fields showcase their ground-breaking research. You can book your place now with the EU Team: eufunding@leeds.ac.uk

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation

26 April: *Bioenergy: Do we have to exploit nature or can we learn from it?* Dr Lars Jeuken, School of Biological Sciences 16:00, Conference Auditorium 2

24 May: *What is the Mechanism of the True Chronic Effect of Dietary Polyphenols?* Professor Gary Williamson, School of Food Science and Nutrition 16:00, Worsley Medical Lecture Theatre 7.35

21 June: *When Tommy Came Limping Home: Exploring the gendering of care for First World War disabled ex-servicemen*, Dr Jessica Meyer, School of History 16:00, Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre

You can check the latest event details on For Staff



Trans Equality policy launched

A new policy aimed at supporting current and prospective trans students and staff has been launched and is now available for download.

The Trans Equality policy outlines the University's principles and commitment to providing an inclusive environment for our trans staff and students. It was drawn up by the Equality Policy Unit after wide consultation with a number of groups at the University, including input from Leeds University Union and the LGBT Staff Network.

The University's Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands says: "The University is a proud and diverse community. The increasing number of students and staff who identify as trans are an integral part of who we are and what we do, and the introduction of this policy and the support it provides is very welcome."

Emma Healey, LUU's Equality and Diversity Officer, says: "The fight for trans rights has often lagged behind many other social movements and it's an area where many people lack knowledge and confidence. This has meant there have been students and staff who haven't been supported as well as they deserve.

"Fortunately, during my term in office, trans support has started to become a broader priority – in the University and wider society. This policy is a great example of the Partnership in action and means that trans staff and students know what support they are entitled to. However, it's vital that this isn't just a policy that exists in the background; we must all work to embed it into our everyday lives. Whether that's asking people what pronouns they prefer, offering support to someone who is transitioning or campaigning for gender neutral toilets, trans inclusion and acceptance is the responsibility of all of us."

A document to accompany the policy, providing further guidance and training on the practical implementation of the policy, is in development and will be available later this year. For more information go to goo.gl/sytVu7

Support for revised Athena SWAN Charter Principles



On behalf of the University, our Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands has pledged that Leeds will continue working towards the achievement of the Athena SWAN Charter aims, including a commitment to ten new key principles.

The Athena SWAN organisation aims to promote gender equality and the role of women working in higher education. From 2015, the Athena SWAN Charter expanded to recognise work undertaken in business, arts, social sciences, humanities and law; it includes professional and support, as well as academic roles. It considers activities and initiatives introduced by institutions that address gender equality more broadly, not just barriers to progression that affect women. There is also a new focus on tackling discriminatory treatment experienced by trans people (see column opposite), and a commitment to consider the intersection of gender and other factors wherever possible. As a result of the changes, earlier this year, the University publicly restated its commitment to the Athena SWAN principles.

Professor Steve Scott, Dean of Maths and Physical Sciences, is the University's Athena SWAN lead. He says: "As an institution committed to equality and inclusion, we have been working to the principles of Athena SWAN for several years, making our first faculty submission in 2009. The revised Charter encompasses all eight faculties and all categories of staff.

"To help us reach the goals set out in University's Gender Action Plan to achieve a more inclusive environment, structures and processes are already in place that enable us to share best practice across the institution. These will also be important in enabling us to achieve Athena SWAN accreditations in faculties and as an institution."

Full details of the revised Athena SWAN principles can be found at goo.gl/pB9bUI

Events

Annual Staff Benefits Fair

4 April, 10.30am-2pm in the Refectory

The Staff Benefits Fair is a chance for existing colleagues and new starters to find out about the opportunities the University has to offer.

Please come along and find out more about the wide range of benefits and discounts available to University staff. We are expecting to have around 30 stands and there will be

the opportunity to get information on pension schemes, to sign up for an NUS extra card, and to find out how to travel between Leeds and York on the bus for just £6 return. Visitors will also have the chance to join My Club Nissan and make savings of up to 24% on a brand new Nissan vehicle, including the electric range.

Inaugural Lecture by Professor Alan Mackie, Chair in Colloids Chemistry (Food Science and Nutrition)

Friday 21 April at 6pm in the Great Hall

Food is not just an assembly of nutrients but has texture and structure, involving the interaction between ingredients at many different length scales and this affects the way we perceive and digest it," says Professor Mackie.

I believe that a better understanding of the link between food structure and digestion

can be used to offer better dietary advice to help combat diseases such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, irritable bowel disease and many others. In this talk, we will follow our food on its journey into the body in an effort to understand how we might tailor food to help us stay healthy."

A drinks reception in Parkinson Building will be held at 5pm and the lecture will be followed by a reception and buffet. Please advise Matthew Taylor m.i.taylor@leeds.ac.uk if you would like to attend.

Healthy Week: Save The Date!

Healthy Week will take place from 15 – 21 May this year, so get the date in your diaries now!

Some exciting news about this year is that the week will be focussed on staff and it will all kick-off with a festival on 15 May. We'll also be searching campus to find some Healthy Week Heroes to encourage colleagues to get involved.

We've got a huge range of activities planned for the week from outdoor yoga and rooftop gardening in the sunshine, to a slimming support group and mindful flash-mob. We've even got Wednesday morning tea, toast and a chat and opportunities for staff to discover campus in a new and fun way!

And if none of that appeals to you, we want you to tell us your own ideas that we can help you to bring to life. Keep an eye on the Staff Twitter account for more news: [@UniLeedsStaff](https://twitter.com/UniLeedsStaff)



Megan Ellis, Sapa Vietnam, 'Life in the Rice Paddies'

Eye on Asia photographic exhibition 13-23 March, Parkinson Court

All are invited to attend this year's Eye on Asia exhibition, featuring 40 stunning photographs taken in the countries of East Asia by students and staff.

The annual event has been running since the early 1990s and is organised by level two students from the University's East Asian Studies (EAS) department. As well as showcasing some superb artistic talents, it is also a chance for people to buy their favourite photograph. Prices start at just £1 for A5 postcard format, and all money raised goes to Rose Charities – rosecharities.org – specifically to the eye unit in a rehabilitation centre in Cambodia and an orphanage in Vietnam.



How doctors learnt to see with their ears – celebrating the 200th birthday of the stethoscope

The stethoscope is the badge of the doctor for the very good reason that it enables them to 'see' inside the chest. Of course the seeing is done by listening: the doctor hears a patient's heart beating and lungs expanding and contracting, and interprets their sounds to come to a diagnosis.

Doctors didn't always have this skill, nor this instrument. In fact it was invented just 200 years ago, and the Faculty of Medicine and Health is celebrating its bicentenary. The inventor, René Laennec, produced something very different from the stethoscopes of today. He devised a rigid wooden cylinder which was necessarily monaural. Yet the device was enough to make the interior of the living body no longer mysterious but capable of being visualised.

The University has one of the very few Laennec-pattern stethoscopes in the world (pictured), and will be using this to commemorate Laennec's remarkable invention with a series of events and activities. This began with a public lecture by Laennec's biographer, Professor Jacalyn Duffin, earlier this month; and continues with performance projects for schools around the invention and use of the instrument; an exhibition curated by the Thackray Museum; and a debate on the future of the stethoscope.

For more information visit medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/stethoscope

Save the date!

Staff Festival – 30 June – Get ready for World Carnivals!

The Staff Festival will be back in June – and this year's promises to be bigger and better than ever. All staff are invited to come along with friends and family. Fun for all ages is guaranteed, with lots of activities, rides, entertainment, competitions and delicious food and drink. More details will be sent out nearer the time but, in the meantime, be sure to put the date in your diary.

FAQs

Suzanne Glavin, Head of Sport and Physical Activity



Tell us about your background in sport.

With a twin and elder brother alongside a super-proud Welsh, sporty Dad and five rugby mad uncles, I seemed destined to be a sportswomen. As a child, on weekends I played in the park with my brothers and cousins and anyone else who wanted an informal game of cricket, baseball, football, touch rugby, tennis... I then discovered netball at school and played competitively, reaching international standard at 18, then rugby union at uni and up until the age of 25.

I've always loved the team spirit, the competition and the humour associated with club and team sport. I've met some amazing people from all walks of life and love how sport can be a real leveller. It has always given me a sense of achievement and an opportunity to form new friendships and connect with people. The pinnacle was being when I represented my country in the 1991 inaugural Women's Rugby World Cup, facing the New Zealand haka.

At the ripe old age of 45, I ran the London Marathon in the Olympic year and raised over £2,500 for the Alzheimer's Society as my dear mum was a sufferer. I have completed the Great North Swim three times and currently run, cycle and do some great exercise classes at The Edge for fitness and wellbeing. But I hung up my competitive team sport boots a long time ago!

I've worked in sport for the last 30 years as a development officer, coach, facilities manager, consultant, policy developer and leader of a sports volunteering organisation in a range of local, regional and national posts.

It sounds cheesy but I have a genuine belief in the power of sport and physical activity in making people's lives better.

What made you want to come to the University?

The opportunity of leading a large and diverse service with excellent staff who are doing their best to help members of the University's community to be active - be that as a Gryphon, a scholar, a child learning to swim, an everyday student or a member of staff taking part in a led lunchtime run or yoga class.

As Head of Sport, what are you doing to improve sport at the University?

Refreshing our existing strategy with a view to creating a customer-led approach. I'm asking the SPA team and student reps whether what we provide good? Does it meet your needs? What are we doing well and what do we need to improve? What do we need to do more of? Are we inclusive enough in what we provide for all our students and staff?

I'm looking at national trends, external funding priorities, existing usage figures, allocation of space, memberships and value for money. I'm facilitating workshops with a wide range of academic and non-academic staff to better understand better what motivates our staff and students motivations to be active. I'm listening to both issues and some amazing solutions.

I'm also tackling the thorny subject of space and its utilisation. Do we have enough for all our students to be active in and play sport on? With the help of the SPA management team, I'm creating a University Sport and Physical Activity facilities plan so that we can ensure that we don't get left behind our competitors and that we make well-informed investments into new facilities based on sound customer insight and need.

What has been your greatest challenge so far?

Getting to grips with the variety in my role. A typical day could be signing off payments for casual staff at The Edge, meeting the Brownlee brothers to talk about our new Brownlee Centre and cycle circuit, dealing with monthly accounts, holding staff meetings, doing some physical activity, signing off press or social media releases and attending a student forum.

Tell us about this year's Healthy Week.

It's going to be great, with a focus on health, wellbeing and activity. It will be supporting staff who want to make a change to their daily routine to feel better about themselves by getting more active and taking positive action to improve their overall wellbeing.

What's your most frequently asked question?

Do we have the budget to do it? Do we have the space to do it in?

What do you like doing in your spare time?

Catching up on home life with my partner, family and friends, walking, cycling or swimming in the Peak District, pub quizzes with the neighbours, watching rugby, listening to music.

What's your favourite sport?

Rugby Union.

What three items would you want on a desert island?

- 1) A picture book of family and friends.
- 2) An iPod - do they have solar charged ones?
- 3) A knife.



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