



Be Curious 2017

Over 1000 visitors were welcomed to the University at this year's flagship Public Engagement event.

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Defining Leadership Excellence

Great leadership begins with leading yourself. A new Framework defines how.

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International Leeds

Pro-Vice-Chancellor: International, Hai-Sui Yu on why we must seize the opportunity.

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Behind the scenes: Brownlee Centre launch

Our new £5m sports facilities are now open. Hear about BBC Breakfast's live broadcast and how you can access the Centre's activities.

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Leader column

Tectonic shifts: politics, policies and the University

Every time I write one of these columns it feels like the tectonic plates of politics have shifted to some significant degree since my last offering. And so it is this time.

Most immediately, at the time of writing, we stand on the eve of a snap General Election, in which each of the UK's main political parties has set out their proposals to improve education.

Alongside this, the Higher Education and Research Act received royal assent in Parliament in the final days of the last administration, with the Government providing last-minute concessions which received cross-party support.

What all this external political volatility demonstrates is the need for universities to become ever more agile in order to adapt to change and cope with uncertainty.

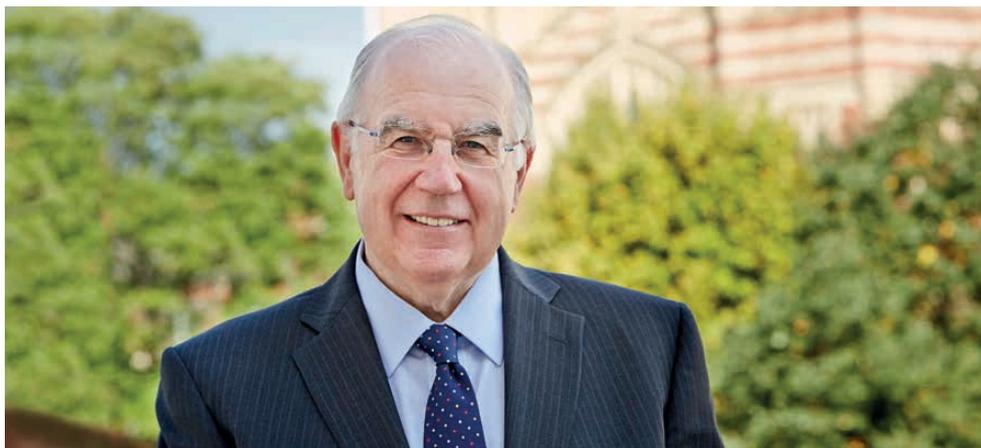
So, starting with the new Act, much of the core detail remains intact, with the establishment of a new regulator, the Office for Students, and the combining of the seven existing research councils into a single body: UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The explicit requirement for these bodies to work together is a positive move and progress will be assessed year on year.

Many of the points on which the sector lobbied have led to significant improvements in the legislation. There are specific measures to protect university autonomy and academic freedom; there is clear separation of 'quality' and 'standards', with institutions being afforded the freedom to set their own academic standards; and there will be tighter regulation of which institutions can become universities and award degrees. This is all welcome.

The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), through which the quality of teaching at universities will be assessed, also remains, although the Government has agreed to an independent review of it. Until that review reports, institutions will be able to increase tuition fees up to the rate of inflation, but there will be no differentiation based on TEF results.

Nonetheless, the Government is continuing with its plan to award universities gold, silver and bronze status, and next week we, along with most of our peers, will know our first TEF result.

Regardless of the outcome – and I have no advance knowledge – Leeds deservedly has an



excellent reputation for the standard of education and experience we provide to our students.

Our commitment to a genuine partnership with the student body and to providing research-based learning that promotes independent, critical thinking has been reflected in everything from our University of the Year award to consistently strong NSS scores.

With my normal health warning about league tables, we can most recently add to these successes fourth place in the Times Higher's Student Experience Survey, alongside further strong progress in the Guardian and Complete University Guide, both of which now place Leeds as the top large 'red brick' university.

And this underlines that the TEF will only be one of many measures by which prospective students choose where to study. We have to help them make that choice, for example, through events like open days, while helping to refine the metrics that underpin TEF.

Turning to the General Election, it is notable that higher education features significantly in the main UK parties' election manifestos, with all the parties' proposals requiring change in the sector.

As heavily covered in the media, the Labour manifesto contains plans to abolish tuition fees and reintroduce maintenance grants.

The Conservative manifesto restates the party's plans for universities to play a larger role in secondary education.

And the Prime Minister has maintained her target of reducing net migration to the 'tens of thousands', while confirming that overseas students will still count towards the statistics. This is alongside proposals for tougher visa requirements for students and a higher bar for those who want to stay and work after graduation. The Russell Group described these proposals as 'worrying', stating that it was likely to have a 'significantly negative impact on the attractiveness of the UK as a study destination'.

It is notable that Labour and the Liberal Democrats have also pledged to guarantee the rights of EU nationals living in the UK.

Whatever the outcome, we are stepping up support for all international staff with a package including a continuation of monthly legal briefing sessions with an external immigration lawyer,

alongside the introduction of free individual consultation meetings and interest-free loans of up to £5,000.

I believe that these measures, along with our new International Strategy set out by Hai-Sui Yu elsewhere in these pages, once again underline the value we place on the expertise, perspective and friendship of our international colleagues.

Finally, there have been many exciting events and developments at the University. Although all very different, they underline what we are ultimately here to do – important to remember in the face of external noise levels.

In April, we opened our £5m Brownlee Centre and cycling circuit, which will provide world class training facilities for staff, students, the public and elite athletes.

Among a host of new and diverse injections of research income have been a £4.5m EPSRC investment in a new Facility for Infrastructure Materials Durability; a share of £5m from Cancer Research UK to improve early cancer detection in GP surgeries; and a new research partnership with Merck, involving a £1m investment in working with our researchers to expand the use of liquid crystals in optical innovations.

And our Healthy Week last month saw strong staff participation in a wide range of activities, while we hosted a second, very successful Be Curious event, inviting our local community into the University to find out more about our research. I hope that this month's Staff Festival will be similarly well attended.

What all this activity demonstrates is that the University is, above all else, a community of colleagues, with not only a shared ambition to create knowledge and opportunity but a strong sense of collegiality, where we treat each other with respect and celebrate diversity.

If we stay true to those principles in the coming weeks and months, I am confident we can handle political and policy change, however complex and unpredictable it might be.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands

News

Coming soon: Leeds Doctoral College

The University is to launch a Doctoral College, providing overarching support and enhancement opportunities for all its postgraduate researchers.

The Doctoral College is due to open in September 2017 and will be led by Professor Claire Honess, Dean of Postgraduate Research (PGR) Studies.

Claire Honess says, "The creation of the Doctoral College will strengthen our ability to enhance the overall PGR experience, and help us to grow PGR numbers.

"It will also enable us clearly and consistently to coordinate and communicate the strong work being done to support the PGR experience by academic and support staff across the whole University.

"This is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference to our postgraduate researchers,

and will help us create the kind of vibrant PGR community that our Strategic Plan envisions in a truly meaningful way."

The Doctoral College's central office will be on Level 12 of the Marjorie and Arnold Ziff Building and information will also be made available online through a 'virtual, Doctoral College' on the new Portal.

More information about the launch of the Doctoral College and its activities will be available soon.

Meanwhile, you can read this article in full on For Staff at goo.gl/IPZ3YI

Subscribe to Wonkhe for daily HE news

The University has coordinated a yearly subscription to Wonkhe Higher Education updates, a daily email briefing service about UK HE, sent directly to your inbox before work every day. Staff are invited to subscribe for free.

The daily emails will help keep you up to date with external HE policy such as the Higher Education and Research Act and international topics. It also provides good links to external HE news and policy sources.

The bitesize summaries are suitable for a quick look first thing in the morning.

The subscription is open to all staff, but would be particularly suitable for those involved in planning and strategy on a local or institutional level, such as Pro-Deans, Heads of Schools, or Faculty Education Service Managers.

To sign up, please contact Alexandra Barraclough at a.barraclough@leeds.ac.uk, providing your full name, job title and email address.

The University also provides a daily media email briefing, with highlights of HE and University of Leeds coverage. To sign up please email pressoffice@leeds.ac.uk

Benchmarking our services

The established UniForum programme enters a new phase of benchmarking our professional services this summer. Planning is underway with the aim of allowing participants more flexibility in when they do their preparatory work.

The Strategy and Planning team are contacting relevant Heads of Professional Services and associated faculty and services colleagues about this at the moment.

Information will be kept up to date on For Staff for the 2017 exercise.

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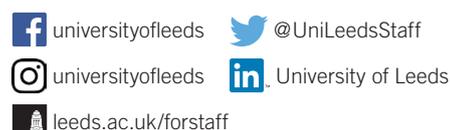
About the Reporter

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 Alistair and Jonny Brownlee at the launch of The Brownlee Centre and cycle circuit.

Stay up to date with University news and events:



Public engagement

Be Curious 2017

Over 1,000 visitors were welcomed to the University to have a hands-on experience of our research when the doors of Parkinson Court opened for Be Curious 2017 on 25 March.

Nearly 50 stalls, hosted by over 200 academic staff and researchers, gave visitors a taste of the diversity of world-class research that takes place at Leeds. Undergraduate students played host, directing the visitors to the five activity zones spread across Parkinson Court and the Michael Sadler Building. The event attracted many first-time visitors to the University and welcomed back others who had enjoyed the day last year.

A wide range of activities based around the theme of Leeds and Yorkshire showed people how Leeds' research influences many aspects of life in the region. From diabetes research to the future of the Yorkshire climate, electron microscopes and prisoners of war in Skipton, there was something to engage all ages and interests.

Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research & Innovation, visiting Be Curious for the first time, said, "This is a vehicle to show the people living in and around Leeds the marvellous and world-leading research that is

happening on their doorstep, and giving them pride in their local university."

"We have one highly inspired 13 year old" commented one family, reflecting the overwhelmingly positive visitor feedback. The Let's Go Viral! treasure hunt was popular with young children and the inflatable dome, showing a 3D film journey inside a virus, was a favourite with families. Lisa Roberts commented, "It was a joy to see our research across many disciplines come to life for everyone to enjoy and understand. I saw many children immersing themselves in the demonstrations, and if we sparked their imaginations then the event was successful."

Alexa Ruppertsberg, Head of Public Engagement with Research, said, "Now that public engagement and outreach are part of our new promotion criteria, taking part in activities like Be Curious becomes ever more valuable. We are hoping for some great, creative submissions in the autumn for Be Curious 2018."

Staff found the event worthwhile and enjoyable, with most looking forward to taking part again next year.

Volunteers promoting cancer research in the Health Zone said: *"We thoroughly enjoyed the day and were really busy all day, which made it effective for us to attend. We would definitely like to attend next year."*

Robyn Abbott from the Be a Data Detective stall said: *"I would definitely do it again. It's important to welcome people in and open our doors; it is inspiring for children to see what happens here."*



Be Curious staff and visitor feedback:

- 97%** of participating staff think Be Curious raises the profile of the University of Leeds.
- 85%** feel it was valuable for raising awareness of their research.
- 87%** think participating this year was a valuable experience.
- 82%** would definitely participate again.
- 97%** agree that the Public Engagement team organised the event well.
- 63%** feel that the University values its public engagement work.

A patchwork of feelings

Dr Anke Brüning-Richardson is asking people to make and send her a textile-based fabric square (20 cm x 20 cm) which depicts their feelings about brain tumours.

The pieces will then be made into a hanging quilt, which will be used for awareness-raising at public science fairs and in other public engagement work. But why a quilt?

Anke explains: "There is the link to the textile industry in Leeds. Also, making a bigger picture out of pieces is a bit like trying to understand the disease better. We still do not know very much about brain tumour biology, and I think this quilt symbolises this – by putting together the pieces, we get a better picture of how to tackle this disease."

The fabric can be knitted, stitched or glued but should be sturdy. Every fabric donor will receive an official thankyou letter with a photograph of the completed quilt.

When sending in your fabric square, please include your home address and make sure it reaches Anke by 1 October 2017. You can send it to: Dr Anke Brüning-Richardson,

Leeds Institute of Cancer and Pathology, Level 5, Wellcome Trust Brenner Building, Leeds University St James's Hospital Site, Leeds LS9 7TF, United Kingdom. Your fabric square cannot be returned to you.

Please email Anke if you have any questions or need further information at: bgyar@leeds.ac.uk

Dr Anke Brüning-Richardson is a senior research fellow and a member of the Leeds (UK) Institute of Cancer and Pathology group. She is involved in research on the development of novel drugs that stop brain tumour cells from spreading into healthy parts of the brain.



Research and innovation

LGBT-related research showcased at History Month event

This year's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History Month was marked by the LGBT Staff Network with an Academic Showcase event.

Four colleagues from the University who are undertaking LGBT-related research presented short talks on their work, with discussion and networking in-between.

The event gave a flavour of the wide variety of research at Leeds and the audience was equally diverse, made up of students and staff from a number of disciplines, plus some friends from Leeds Beckett. The speakers and their topics were:

Sally-Anne Beverley: Violence Against Bisexual Women: A Hidden Epidemic. Sally-Anne presented evidence showing that

bisexual women are disproportionately affected by domestic violence. She hopes to provide toolkits to providers of support services.

Kit Heyam: How did Edward II get his Reputation? Kit underlined the importance of considering differences between our contemporary terminology and definitions of identity and those from other eras.

Kuldip Bharj: Breaking the Silent Closet. Kuldip discussed experiences of pregnancy and childbirth, and how midwifery education and training could best support lesbian women.

Adriaan van Klinken: Same Love: A Kenyan Gay Music Video as an African Queer Imaginary. A video, which had been banned in Kenya, making a political claim for the recognition of same-sex love in Africa.

Our thanks to speakers and attendees for making the event such a success.

The LGBT Staff Network exists to ensure that the views and concerns of LGBT staff are represented and considered at an organisational level, and that their interests continue to form part of the University's wider equality and inclusion agenda. The network is open to anyone, whatever their gender or sexual identity. To find out more, visit Staff Networks in the Quick Links section of For Staff or email LGBT@leeds.ac.uk.

Read this article in full at goo.gl/BYj07d

Partnership aims for a new generation of optical instruments

A new partnership with leading science and technology company Merck aims to expand the use of liquid crystals in optical innovations.

The five-year collaboration will focus on the development of liquid crystals, commonly used in smartphones and TV screens, into non-display instruments such as switchable contact lenses and virtual reality glasses.

As a global market leader for liquid crystals, Merck sees great future potential for their use in optical applications. At Leeds we have the expertise and state-of-the-art facilities to conduct feasibility studies and develop prototypes of the devices. And we're building a reputation in particular for non-display applications.

This includes recent work in Physics and Astronomy which combines liquid crystals and graphene to create switchable contact lenses and liquid crystal elastomers for improved implants for the eye's intra-ocular lens.

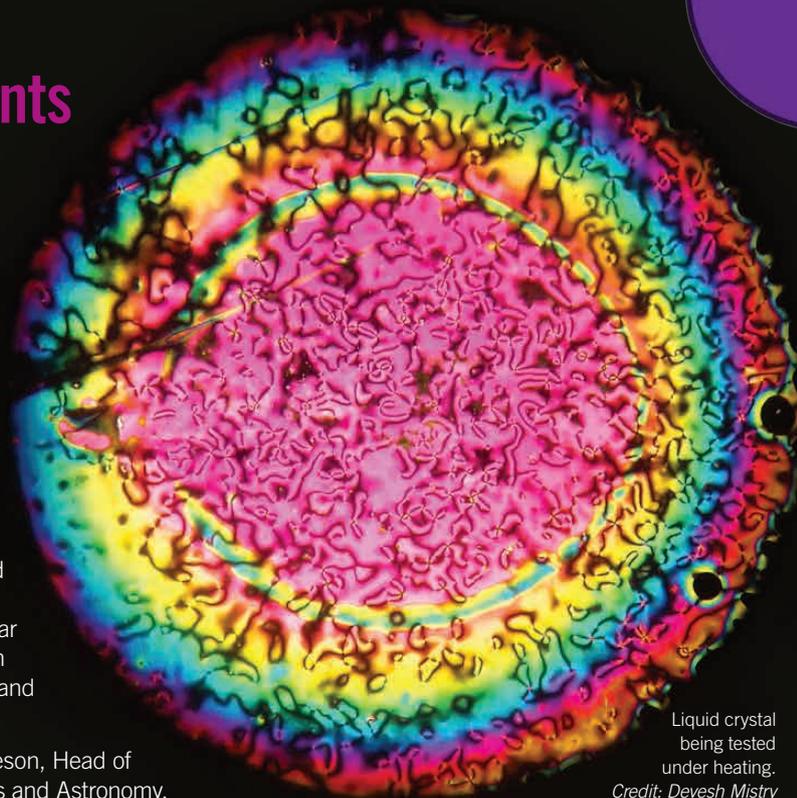
Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor, comments: "This exciting research collaboration reflects our determination to develop real-world solutions

from science and engineering research.

"Our academics have a growing reputation for inventing applications for liquid crystals way beyond the technology familiar to most of us through flat-screen monitors and televisions."

Professor Helen Gleeson, Head of the School of Physics and Astronomy, says: "The School is very excited about this partnership. Our ability to translate our fundamental research into world-leading applications and this important collaboration will uniquely place us to deliver completely new applications of liquid crystals."

Merck will invest £1m in its collaboration with the University. The partners would aim to apply jointly for patents for the developed applications.



Liquid crystal being tested under heating.
Credit: Devesh Mistry

Students

A week to Celebrate 2017

Last month, Leeds University Union held Celebrate 2017, a week that aimed to share and reward the very best achievements of Leeds staff and students over the past 12 months. A number of award ceremonies took place throughout the week, including the Partnership Awards, the Rileys, Sports Colours and the Leeds For Life Citizenship Awards.

The Partnership Awards celebrate the mutual expectations that members of the University have of each other.

Partnership Awards winners

Academic Rep of the Year (Student):

Nabeel Alhassan (Economics Division, Leeds University Business School)

Best Feedback (Staff): Dr Andrew Burnett (School of Chemistry)

Equality and Diversity Award (Student or Staff): Namrah Shahid (School of Chemistry)

Innovation (Student or Staff): Kirsten Huby (School of Healthcare)

Inspirational Teaching (Staff): Dr Nikolaos Nikitas (School of Civil Engineering)

Mentor (Student or Staff): Dr Jeremy Davies (School of English)

Personal Tutor (Staff): Dr Nicholas Jackson (Management and Human Resource Division, Leeds University Business School)

Positive Impact (Student or Staff): Farhat Yaqoob (International Student Office)

Postgraduate Teaching (PGR Student): Chiara Calastri (Institute for Transport Studies)

Supervisor (Staff): Professor Emeritus Clive Walker (School of Law)

Wellbeing Champion (Student or Staff): Sarah McCann (School of Chemistry)

The Partnership Award: School of Chemistry

The Leeds for Life Citizenship Awards celebrate the individuals who give their time to the community and also recognise the support and encouragement our students receive from voluntary and community organisations providing placements.

Leeds for Life Citizenship Awards winners

Outstanding Contribution: James Nicholson - Community First Responder Scheme

Project of the Year: Sarah Ward - Kickboxing into Schools

Community: Welfare Rights Project

Education: Faye Bayode - IntoUniversity (MA Childhood Studies)

Sport and Wellbeing: LUU Women's Hockey Club

Environment and Sustainability: Penny Klepuszewska - The Heritage of York Gate Garden

Leeds for Life Foundation: Jennifer Culshaw - Nightline exam support packs

More information about Celebrate Week and a list of all the prizewinners can be found at www.luu.org.uk/celebrate.

Minerva, Portal and VLE

Over the summer, the sites currently known as the Portal and VLE will merge to become 'Minerva, Portal and VLE'. Minerva will go live at the end of July, ahead of admissions for 2017/2018.

Stella Butler, University Librarian and business lead for the project, says, "The name Minerva was chosen because of its association with wisdom, which all of us in the University aspire

to! The new portal will provide students with convenient, 'one-stop' access to learning resources and other services."

Over the next few weeks, more detailed information will be shared with specific groups around the University who currently use or refer to the Portal, the VLE or both in their work. More information is available in the Portal Blog, which is being updated with frequently asked questions and answers. goo.gl/90ra6e

Scholarships are shaping the future for our students

Funded by donors to the University, scholarships are changing the future for students who have come from the most challenging backgrounds to study at Leeds.

As the Laidlaw Library neared completion in 2015, labourer Liam Knights carried doors, skirting boards and architrave into the building.

With few formal qualifications and periods of homelessness and prison behind him, he knew the future looked bleak. But seeing students both here and in his home town of Bradford inspired him to turn his life around: "They all looked happy and without a care in the world – and they were a similar age to me. I wondered what steps I could take to become one of them."

On his penultimate shift, Liam left a personal time capsule hidden inside the library: "I wrote a note to myself and secured it behind a panel in the lift shaft. I knew I'd only be able to get to it if I was back in the library – and I could only achieve that by becoming a student."

Two years on, Liam has fulfilled that ambition. After completing a foundation year, he's now nearing the end of his first-year degree studies in Criminology, supported by a scholarship.

Each year, hundreds of Leeds students from disadvantaged backgrounds are given this much-needed support, thanks to the generosity of alumni, staff and other donors. Over the coming weeks, a campaign run by the Alumni and Development team will focus on encouraging donors to support students enrolling in September.

These gifts do more than simply help pay the bills, as Liam explains: "It gives you such motivation to know that someone you've never met is helping you and believes in you. I've never really had that in my life."

To find out more, visit campaign.leeds.ac.uk



Liam Knights

People

Defining Leadership Excellence

Have you heard about our new Leadership Excellence Behaviours Framework? The Organisational Development and Professional Learning team has developed a framework consisting of nine behaviours which describe important aspects of how we can all work positively and successfully here at Leeds.



The behaviours that make up the framework were developed following consultation with a range of colleagues across our University through focus groups and interviews, and reflect the skills that participants described as being particularly important.

The Framework provides examples of ways that each of these behaviours can be demonstrated in terms of how you take responsibility for yourself, for leading and supporting others, and for leading across and beyond our University.

Ann Meredith, Director of Professional and Organisational Development, says, "The behaviours described in this Framework are relevant to everyone at our University. We have deliberately used the term, leadership, in the title as we can all demonstrate leadership, regardless of our job role or level. The behaviours that we each demonstrate on a daily basis create the working and learning environment that our colleagues, students and partners experience."

The new Leadership Excellence Behaviours Framework provides us with a shared vocabulary to describe and develop positive leadership behaviours across our University. It will become integrated in the ways that we recruit, develop and progress our people at Leeds. You may want to think about how you currently demonstrate these behaviours in preparation for your next Staff Review and Development discussion, for example, or when applying for a new role.

Sarah Gray, Leadership and Organisational Development Manager, says, "We are keen to work with colleagues across our University to discuss how the new Framework can be used to support you and your teams. If you would like to find out more about the behaviours or the work that we are doing, do not hesitate to get in touch through leadership@leeds.ac.uk"

The behaviours are:

Campus

Brownlee Centre launch

The Brownlee brothers take to the saddle to launch the University's new cycling and triathlon facility. This £5m sports facility launched on 28 April.

The Brownlee Centre – the name chosen in honour of Olympic heroes Alistair and Jonny – sits alongside a new one-mile (1.6km) cycle circuit at the University's Bodington Playing Fields in north Leeds.

The brothers officially launched the Centre and cycle circuit on Friday 28 April. The facilities are open to sports enthusiasts of all ages and abilities.

The circuit has a full programme of activities including Pay and Pedal, HSBC UK Breeze Rides for women and girls, and special training sessions for elite athletes, University and local clubs. Bikes for children and adults are available to hire, along with hand-cycles, trikes and tandems for use by riders with disabilities.

Partnership funding from British Cycling, British Triathlon and others is contributing £1m to the project, with the remaining funding provided by the University.

It will also be a new National Elite Training Centre for Triathlon, home to Leeds Triathlon Centre. As the UK's first purpose-built triathlon training base, it will combine a strength and conditioning training suite, physiotherapy, medical and other support services to provide world-class facilities to enhance triathlon training in the region.

On the day of the launch, Alistair said: "This day marks a great day for cycling in Yorkshire. The start of the Tour de Yorkshire builds on a fantastic legacy and, thanks to these new facilities, Leeds continues to be a real centre for excellence when it comes to cycling and triathlon."

Alistair studied sports science and physiology at Leeds and won gold in the triathlon competition at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

His brother Jonny, a Leeds history graduate who took silver in Rio added: "A big thanks to the University and all the supporters, because this Centre and circuit will inspire everyone, from beginners through to elite athletes."

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands said: "We are very proud of the Brownlee brothers' achievements and it's an honour to have these brand new facilities named after two of our most successful sporting alumni.

"The Brownlee Centre and the new cycle circuit offers students, staff and the wider cycling and triathlon community a truly inspiring, world-class training facility. It rightly puts the University of Leeds at the forefront of providing one of the best sport and physical activity environments in the UK. It also builds on the excellent cycling legacy provided by Welcome to Yorkshire's leadership in securing the Tour de France's Grand Depart in 2014."

The University has invested more than £25m in new sports facilities over the past 10 years and the latest improvements complement nearby Sports Park Weetwood, the University's flagship 100-acre facility used by students and members of the community for hockey, football, rugby, cricket, lacrosse, American football, and more.



How to use the Brownlee Centre

Pay and Pedal

Pay and Pedal sessions are open to all individuals who would like to come and have a go on the cycle circuit. There is no need to book – you can just turn up during the Pay and Pedal session times. These sessions are open to all abilities of cyclists who want to practise their cycling skills or just spend time on their bike in our safe cycling environment.

Bring your own bikes or hire one from the Centre.

Breeze Rides (women and girls)

Working with British Cycling, Breeze Rides are open to women and girls who want to ride for fun, get fit and improve their cycling skills. These sessions will be facilitated by a team of local Breeze Ride leaders who will answer questions, provide guidance and help you make the most of your time on the circuit.

Disability hub

The University is working in partnership with British Cycling to host a new disability hub for the region, which will provide dedicated para cycling coaching sessions for riders who want to keep fit, have fun and improve their performance. The sessions, led by British Cycling Go-Ride coaches and supported by local volunteers, help riders to achieve a variety of goals, whether this involves getting into a new sport, improving fitness and confidence on a bike, rehabilitation from injury or training for a competition.

As part of these sessions, participants will be able to access our fleet of adapted bikes, which include six tandems, three trikes and three hand-cycles.

Hiring the cycle circuit

The cycle circuit is open year-round for external group hire including cycling events, duathlons, running events, corporate team-building activities and private training sessions.

To view the price list and timetable for each session please visit www.leeds.ac.uk/cyclecircuit

Behind the scenes with BBC Breakfast

The launch of the Centre was made even more significant when BBC Breakfast decided they wanted to broadcast live from the facilities on the day.

The UK's favourite morning news programme was quick out of the blocks with a request to film from the new facilities on opening day.

Having seen our announcement about the Centre being named in honour of the Brownlees in February, BBC Breakfast's forward-planners identified an ideal opportunity for presenter and keen triathlete Louise Minchin to broadcast live from Leeds with the brothers.

As anyone who has ever had anything to do with TV production knows, even the shortest clip swallows a huge amount of time and planning. Coordinating in-demand elite athletes with a TV crew and a just-finished major construction project for a live outside broadcast to the nation was especially challenging.

Nevertheless, after countless calls and emails, a recce to provide test images and footage to the producer and 11th-hour teamwork with colleagues in Sport and Physical Activity to 'dress' the site for the cameras, the day dawned and Comms team members helped to open up for the BBC at 5am.

Even with all that preparation, challenges remained: a technical problem threatened the live element of the broadcast and one poorly Brownlee was bedbound. Above all, we had to battle hard to ensure the presenter remembered the all-important on-air mention of 'the University of Leeds'.

But with the kind of exposure the broadcast secured (it also led to a visit a couple of weeks later by Radio 4's flagship *Today* programme) and loads of interest from people eager to take to the track on two wheels, it was all worth it all.

Social media reaction

The launch of the Centre reached far and wide on social media, with some famous faces sharing the news.

Louise Minchin:

Good morning. Up early for a Friday to get a preview of the new Brownlee Triathlon Centre and speak to @AliBrownleetri #Triathlon.

Jonny Brownlee:

Very proud day today. The #BrownleeCentre is officially open. Elites and beginners training in the same facilities. Can't wait to use them!

The news was also well received amongst staff, students, alumni and members of the public. Comments included:

"Fantastic! Wish we had something like this when I was studying."

"Could treat ourselves after dissertation submission."

"Congrats, and even more proud to be a former Leeds student!"

"Fantastic!!! Congrats and best wishes on this great new challenge!"

The Bro

International

International Leeds: seizing the opportunity

“Welcoming international talents has been a Leeds tradition for over a hundred years. But we cannot afford to be complacent about our international standing. Our last international strategy was developed back in 2010, so it is very timely that we now have a fresh look at it, given the rapidly changing external environment in higher education both in the UK and internationally.

“Through consultation with the University community and external stakeholders in recent months, I’m pleased to report that we have developed the University’s new international strategy and associated high-level delivery plan: International Leeds.

“International Leeds articulates concisely what we need to achieve internationally, why we need to do so, how we should do it, and what KPIs we plan to use to monitor and measure success.

Put simply, our new International strategy has three high-level objectives:

- to achieve a sustainable student cohort mix by recruiting and supporting additional international students and staff to enhance the student experience and employability
- to enable world-changing research and innovation through effective international collaboration to maximise global impact
- to enhance our international profile and reputation through impactful engagement with a broad range of stakeholders.

Its overall aim is to help deliver the University’s 2015-2020 Strategic Plan by ensuring that we develop into a truly world-class university that is firmly ranked as a global top 100 university. Such high-profile global rankings tangibly affect how attractive we are to the best potential international students, staff and overseas partners.



Pro-Vice-Chancellor: International,
Professor Hai-Sui Yu

This goal is more valid than ever: in an increasingly globalised world, our future opportunities and success will increasingly depend on our international standing and global partnerships. As a result, our thinking right across the University needs to become even more internationally focused, so that it becomes as natural and embedded to us all as our high-quality approach to teaching and research.

To help us do this effectively, we have developed some high-level delivery plans focused on five priority areas, some of which are obviously more urgent than others:

- recruiting and supporting an international community of talented students and staff
- creating global opportunities to enrich the student experience and enhance employability
- increasing world-class, scholar-to-scholar research collaborations to produce highly cited research outputs
- fostering strategic global institutional and industry partnerships to secure global impact and international funding
- making the most of broader global engagement to generate international opportunities and raise global profile and reputation.

(For more detail about these priority areas, visit my Inside Track article on For Staff at goo.gl/BPPDPK.)

You may be thinking that we do a lot of this work already. And to an extent, in pockets, that’s true. As a University, however, many of our key competitors in the Russell Group are clearly doing more or better, collectively, than we are. This is particularly true in the key areas of international student and staff recruitment,

international research collaborations and co-authored publications, and global engagement and international profile.

Now it’s time for a step-change – we should seize the opportunity to be more ambitious and make international activity more the norm at Leeds.

To help us embed and implement these ambitious international plans across the University effectively, we are currently recruiting new roles of Pro-Dean: International in each faculty and I look forward to announcing those appointments over the summer.

In the meantime, please think about how you can play a part in contributing to International Leeds. We will continue to share more about the strategy, its delivery and impact over the coming months.”



Foreign students 1919-1920

There were just 14 international students in the 1919/1920 cohort from eight different countries. Nearly 100 years later, more than 8,000 international students from over 140 different countries choose to study with us at Leeds. So we have come a long way over the past century in terms of developing our international community, global reach and impact.

Immigration information sessions

If you missed the recent information sessions, you can now download the presentation slides on For Staff at goo.gl/bqQTRb

Check For Staff for details of upcoming immigration information sessions.

News

Sustainability news

The Sustainability team has been extremely busy recently, with the first Annual Sustainability Report published and the Living Lab programme launched.

The Annual Sustainability Report shows the progress Sustainability have made in working towards their vision of a sustainable University; one that has a positive impact on society. The report also highlights the areas where there is still work to do.

Some of the highlights include:

- 5,600 students completed sustainability modules
- students spent over a 100 hours working on sustainability initiatives
- £49.7m research income achieved across the sustainability research themes
- over 119,000 people benefited from our outreach programme
- we saved 7,141 tonnes of carbon
- 73% of staff travelled to work sustainably

Read the full report at sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/annual-progress.

If you would like a hard copy of the report please contact the Sustainability Service.

Sustainability has also launched The Living Lab programme, which aims to tackle global challenges at a local scale and research and test solutions which can be shared and replicated.

Living Lab, led by the Sustainability Service, opens up our University as a testbed for

creating new, sustainable processes and infrastructure by, for example:

- creating research-led campus design that addresses the challenges of climate change
- trialling sustainability initiatives with staff or students
- integrating biodiversity and wellbeing into our operation.

The Living Lab is about creating a space where research can be tried and tested, helping us as an organisation to think and operate differently. It is a fantastic opportunity to pilot or trial scalable research and innovation.

An ongoing programme fund will support a number of Living Lab projects each year, so applications will always be welcome. Further guidance is available on the Sustainability Service website.

The key to the Living Lab will be collaboration. For example, campus services using the

expertise of our researchers to resolve operational challenges; or students creating projects or dissertations that change the way we manage our campus.

If you've got any ideas or suggestions you can share them through Twitter or Facebook using the hashtag [#LivingLabUoL](https://twitter.com/LivingLabUoL), or contact Thom Cooper (30508) in the Sustainability Service. The top three ideas will receive a £20 Refresh card which can be used at all Great Food at Leeds cafés!

Lisa Roberts, Deputy-Vice-Chancellor for Research & Innovation says, "The Living Lab supports our existing research strengths and our commitment to interdisciplinary working at the University of Leeds. Collaboration across disciplines, and partnership with our Facilities colleagues, provides excellent opportunities for impactful research and real sustainable change across our campus and beyond."

"Sustainability plays a vital part in guiding my research on corporate governance and working as a Sustainability Architect within Commercial Services has allowed me to gain practical new skills on how to contribute to the wider University community."

Opemiposi Adegbulu, Sustainability Architect

IT Security – what you can do

You read or heard about the computer virus that affected the NHS and other large organisations recently. What can you do to keep safe from such attacks?

IT constantly works to keep the University network safe from such attacks: a security update applied earlier this year alongside other precautions put in place over the last few years protected our network from this particular virus. However, new malicious software attacks are being released all the time.

While the University does what it can to support staff, keeping you and the University safe from these attacks can never be something that is entirely done for you. There are things that you need to do to reduce the risks. For example:

- Make sure you have done the Information Security Essentials training course, which is mandatory for all staff.
- Encrypt information on laptops, which is also mandatory
- Keep up-to-date with the advice on the IT website
- Keep an eye on security updates on For Staff or by following [@ITServicesUoL](https://twitter.com/ITServicesUoL) on Twitter.

If you have any queries about information security, contact the IT Service Desk on (0113 34) 33333 or itservicedesk@leeds.ac.uk



In the news



Dr Eleanor Scott (LICAMM, Medicine and Health) featured in a BBC One documentary, *The Truth About Sleep*, looking at the **health impact of a lack of sleep** – particularly the increased risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Aidan Foster-Carter (ESSL) appeared on Sky News, Talksport and LBC News to talk about the **latest missile test by North Korea**, which seemed to intend to aggravate everyone.

Professor Alastair Hay (LICAMM, Medicine and Health) appeared on the *BBC Breakfast* sofa discussing his **assessment of the chemical attack in Syria**. He urged the UN to conduct detailed analysis on the ground to determine the makeup of the gas cloud, and who supplied the chemical materials. He was also interviewed on *BBC Newsnight* about the attack. He described the effects of nerve agents on the body – similar symptoms were experienced by people at the attack site.

Professor Andrew Hooper (Earth and Environment) explained on BBC One, BBC Radio 4 and *ABC News Australia* how he is using **satellites to provide an early warning system for volcanic eruptions across the entire world**, with all 1,500 volcanoes soon to be under his watch. The BBC crew accompanying him also discussed their experiences on the erupting Mount Etna.



Professor Pietro Valdastri (Electronic and Electrical Engineering) has invented a **pill-sized robot** which he hopes will be able to perform a gentler colonoscopy, thereby increasing rates of screening for cancer. This was featured in an article on *Vice*, and *New Atlas (Australia)*.

Dr Graham Hill (Law, ESSL) was interviewed on BBC Two's *Victoria Derbyshire* about the **investigation into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann**. Dr Hill has been an advisor to both the Portuguese police and British Home Office over the hunt for the missing child.

Caroline Campbell (Languages, AHC) was featured in an article in *The Telegraph* on **how to learn a language quickly**. She believes that the best way to speed up your language-learning experience is to incorporate educational opportunities into your everyday life.

Professor Jocelyn Evans (POLIS, ESSL) commented on *BBC Breakfast* on the **recent TV debate in the French presidential election**, noting its strikingly confrontational tone.



A previously unseen collection of over 100 images of Roundhay Park has been put together by a research team including Dr David Churchill (Law, ESSL), and was displayed at Roundhay Park Visitors' Centre from 29 April to 7 May. This was featured on *BBC News* and in the *Yorkshire Evening Post*.

Dr Kate Dossett (History, AHC) talked on BBC Radio 4 about the **life of Shirley Chisholm**, who was the first black candidate for a major party's nomination for President of the United States, and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.



Professor Derek Scott (Music, Arts) appeared on BBC Two's *Who Do You Think You Are*, helping actress **Sheridan Smith (above) learn more about her great-great-grandfather** who played the banjo in 1886.

The *Washington Post* featured research by Professor Douglas Parker (SEE) that shows how the **power and frequency of intense storms in West Africa** are linked to the increasingly hot conditions in the Sahara desert caused by global warming.

Professor Barbara Evans (Engineering) featured in the *Financial Times*, describing how **spreading the cost of human waste disposal in Bangladesh** could lead to improve treatment services and kick-start new business ventures in creating by-products

Researchers Dr Maria Beger and Dr Brigitte Sommer (Biology) were part of a 46-strong team investigating **global warming's effect on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia**. This appeared on *ITV News* and in the *Daily Mail*.



Honours

Dr Philip Murphy, Teaching Fellow of Quaternary Geology and Science Education, has been made a Fellow of the National Association for Environmental Education (NAEE). NAEE began its Fellows scheme in 2017 to recognise the significant contribution that individuals are making to environmental education through their work, and so that the Association can work closely with them to further support and encourage environmental education in the UK. He is one of the first cohort of four Fellows.

Helen Howard, Team Leader for Learning Services, has been awarded the Librarian's Information Literacy Annual Conference's top honour, the Information Literacy Award for 2017. This is a highly prestigious award, which recognises an outstanding UK-based practitioner or researcher in the field of information literacy. It reflects Helen's work in raising the profile of information literacy throughout the University and beyond. Helen is in exalted company – previous award winners include Dr Jane Secker of LSE and Andrew Walsh of Huddersfield.



Dr Priya Subramanian

Dr Priya Subramanian from the School of Mathematics, has been awarded a prestigious L'Oréal-UNESCO UK and Ireland Fellowship for Women in Science. Only five of these Fellowships were awarded this year to scientists selected from nearly 300 applicants. The Fellowships provide £15,000 of flexible financial support for outstanding female postdoctoral researchers to continue their work. Dr Subramanian's research focuses on mathematical recipes for never-repeating quasicrystals. Repeating patterns of tiles and crystals occur throughout the natural world, but never-repeating patterns are special because they possess order without repeatability. So-called quasicrystals containing such arrangements of atoms and molecules are thought to require less energy to assemble, and could offer advantages in manufacturing, insulation and photonic devices.

Professor John Young and **Drs Elizabeth Teale** and **Andrew Clegg** (Elderly Care and Rehabilitation Unit) were awarded the Royal College of Physicians' (RCP) Excellence in Patient Care Award. The award is for their development of the Electronic Frailty Index (eFI). The reach and impact of this project is illustrated by the fact that the research paper was the most downloaded and cited paper in the journal *Age and Ageing* in 2016. The RCP Excellence in Patient Care Awards aim to recognise, celebrate and promote the work that physicians do to improve patient-centred care through education, policy, clinical practice and research.



Professor Fiona Meldrum



Professor Dwayne Heard

Fiona Meldrum, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, and **Dwayne Heard**, Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry, have won prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry prizes. Professor Meldrum is the Royal Chemistry Interdisciplinary Prizewinner. The prize is awarded for work at the interface between chemistry and other disciplines. Professor Meldrum's research aims to develop new strategies for controlling crystallisation, which has widespread everyday applications.

Professor Heard is the Royal Society of Chemistry Environment Prizewinner. This is awarded for outstanding contributions to the chemical sciences in the area of environment, sustainability and energy. His research works to improve the accuracy of atmospheric models that guide legislative controls on emissions to combat global warming and deteriorating air quality.

Both prizewinners receive £5,000, a medal and a certificate.

In the news

Dr Graham Findlayson's (Psychology, Medicine & Health) research that suggests that **people who exercise regularly have fewer cravings to eat fatty food** was featured in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Sun*, the *Daily Mirror*, the *Times*, and *China Daily*. The research findings were presented at the European Congress on Obesity in Porto, Portugal.

Professor Susan Grant-Muller (Transport, Environment) was quoted in the *Guardian* on how **European cities can encourage behavioural change in methods of travel** in order to become more liveable.

Professor Luke Clements (Law, ESSL) has produced a report on the **Conservative proposals to shake up social care**, which argues that it would act as an incentive for older people to transfer their properties into their children's names or offshore. This was featured in *The Times*.

News

Making the connection

More than 60 colleagues took part in groundbreaking new training that will help them interact with people who have little or no clear speech and who may use other communication methods to get their messages across.

The training – the first of its type in the UK – was run by a team from the charity Communication Matters, which specialises in increasing awareness of AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) and encouraging better communications. The three-hour workshops included: what is communication; causes of communication difficulties; what makes good communication interactions; and resources to support communication in the workplace.

Staff attending were mainly those who have regular face-to-face contact with students, colleagues and visitors, and included people from Catering, Residential Services, and Conference and Events. Their feedback will help the Communication Matters team refine the workshop design so it can be offered to many more organisations.

Catherine Harris ran the workshops, with help from AAC users Nathan Popple, Sam Knapp and Helen Quiller. She said: “The

launch of a Communication Access UK symbol – a sign similar to that of those offering assistance for people with hearing or visual impairment – and the related training is at an exciting stage. It was great working with the University to trial the training programme. The staff were engaged in the workshops and the feedback was very encouraging.

“The involvement of AAC users as workshop presenters is central to this initiative, with the potential to provide future employment opportunities.”

Mike Leonard, Residences Property Manager, who organised the training, said: “Face-to-face communications are such an important part of what we do at the University, and we’re always looking at how we can improve. This training will really help colleagues communicate with AAC users, as well as people who have difficulty speaking or who may not be fluent in English.”

Top tips

- Don't be afraid to ask someone their preferred communication method.
- Be patient – wait until someone has finished; it can take a long time for someone using AAC to communicate in 'real time'.
- Try to establish how someone with a communication difficulty indicates 'yes' and 'no'.
- It's OK to ask someone to repeat themselves.

Climate Centre boosted by new professorial appointments

Three new high-level appointments are consolidating the University of Leeds' reputation for world-leading climate research.

The Priestley International Centre for Climate welcomes Dr Jason Lowe, Head of Climate Services at the Met Office Hadley Centre, as the first Priestley Chair. Dr Lowe, who is also

Deputy Director of the Hadley Centre, took up his professorial role on a part-time basis in March.

Jason Lowe will be joined in August by two full-time Priestley Chairs, Dr Lea Berrang Ford and Dr James D Ford, both of McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Lea Berrang Ford brings expertise in climate change and health, while James Ford specialises in

adaptation to climate change and its impact on vulnerable communities.

The three new professorial signings are the first dedicated senior academic leads to be recruited by the Centre, which marks its first birthday with an annual event and prize-giving on 15 June (see below).

Priestley Centre: annual prize-giving and new society

Supported by donations to the

FOOTSTEPS FUND

by alumni and friends of the University of Leeds

The Priestley International Centre for Climate will be marking its first birthday on 15 June with the launch of a new Priestley Society as well as the annual Piers Sellers prize-giving.

The event, which takes place from 3 to 5pm in the Maurice Keyworth lecture theatre, Leeds University Business School, is open to all staff and students interested in climate research.

The two Piers Sellers prizes – one for exceptional PhD research by a current University of Leeds student and the other for world-leading contribution to solution-focused climate research – are sponsored by donations to the Alumni Footsteps Fund.

Booking is essential: please visit goo.gl/A98qTZ

Piers Sellers, 1955-2016. The Leeds alumnus was a renowned climate scientist, astronaut and leader of NASA Goddard's Sciences and Exploration Directorate. He gave his name to the Priestley International Centre for Climate's prizes or exceptional climate research in 2016



Events

Staff Festival – 30 June 2017

This year's Staff Festival will take you all around the world as carnival comes to campus! Summer is nearly here and there's no better season for having fun in the sun.

This year's theme, World Carnivals, features an exciting programme of global foods, music, workshops, competitions and entertainment for all ages. All University staff, family and friends are invited to join us for an enjoyable afternoon and a tantalising taste of all the party atmosphere carnivals around the world have to offer.

The charity for this year's festival is Support after Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds.



What's on:

Food and drink: Fish and chips, Street food, Vegetarian and vegan street food, Hog roast, Mediterranean deli, Pancakes, Pretzels, Traditional pies, Real ale bar, Cocktail camper, Mocktails, Ice cream, Candy floss

Market stalls: Craft market, Farmers market, Tombola

Attractions: Games, Ferris wheel, Dodgems, Caricaturist, Inflatable limbo, High striker, Hook-a-duck, Coconut shy, Hoopla, Miniature steam train

Children's activities: Bouncy castle, Inflatable ball pit, Face painters, Balloon modellers, Craft activities

PLUS... Cake competition, Colouring competition (Monday–Thursday), Mask decorating competition (on the day), Beer tasting workshop

Live entertainment

- Pantasy Steel Pan Band
- Live Samba Band Parade
- DJ Lubi
- Tempo Feliz
- Jim and Marcus Latin Busking
- Staff Centre Choir

For more information, visit
staff-festival.leeds.ac.uk
 #StaffFest17



FAQs

Mark Devane, Director of Communications



Tell us about your background in Communications

I started life as a journalist before moving into Government communications, working in the Department of Health, the Department for Culture and Media and Sport and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I principally led on the press handling of some really high-profile subjects, including a review of the BBC's Charter, reform of drinking laws and the first ever Climate Change Act. Working with ministers on a daily basis was particularly fascinating and I got a pretty good insight into how the political machine works, which has served me well ever since. That also put me in good stead for my next job as Head of Communications for the BBC's governing body, in which I had to deal with a wide range of controversial issues, including the Jimmy Savile scandal and executive pay-offs, alongside advising a succession of BBC chairmen on political communications. It was a tough job, but also hugely rewarding.

What made you want to come to Leeds?

I have always tried to work for organisations that I think do important and worthwhile work, and that is certainly the case with the University. I also think that the higher education sector is currently facing some really interesting challenges, particularly in relation to the political context, and helping the University navigate through those really appealed to me. In addition, a number of friends were alumni and they said that the University was a great place to work and that Yorkshire was a great place to live. Putting all that together, it was a pretty easy choice to move from London, to be honest.

What is the biggest misunderstanding about Communications?

It is important to be realistic about the value that communications can add, which is a huge amount. However, the crucial thing is that the strategic objectives of an organisation should drive the communications, not the other way around. Throughout my career I have sometimes encountered the view that communications can fix problems late in the day, whereas in reality it is much more effective to set clear objectives from the start and then have early discussions about how communications can help deliver those objectives.

As Director of Communications, what is your aim for Communications at the University?

I think the University does lots of really good work that it communicates very effectively. The next challenge for us is how we corral all that discrete activity and use it to begin to tell a more consistent story about ourselves as an institution. That involves being clear about our priorities, who we need to communicate with to achieve our strategic objectives, and the best way of reaching them. I think we need a particular focus on boosting the good work we already do on international communications, where we have had some strong results lately, and upon which we can build.

What's your proudest moment at the University so far?

This was very much a team effort, so I don't take the credit for it, but I think the work we did around our University of the Year award was a really good example of an effective integrated campaign that took in media, internal and digital communications, alongside marketing. We got some particularly good social media engagement and I think we learned from the exercise. If we increasingly apply that kind of joined up approach to communications, I am confident we will reap the benefits.

What's your most frequently asked question?

By me: "What does this acronym mean?"
To me: "Can I have a press release about X?"

What do you like doing in your spare time?

I play in a world music/jazz band, which takes up most of the little spare time I have, given that I have a young family. I also enjoy cycling, but, living in Ilkley, I have to confess to being a little intimidated by the seriousness with which some of the local residents approach it.

What three items would you want with you on a desert island?

Assuming that my basic needs were catered for, it would have to be a guitar, my iPod (outdated technology I know, but they store a lot of music) and *Travels With My Aunt* by Graham Greene.



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