



Public engagement

Academic staff can now record their activities in the University's Symplectic system to keep details in one place.

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Construction approved

Leeds City Council has given the green light to our plans for the next major campus building project.

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Library reopens

Outgoing Chancellor Melvyn Bragg has officially re-launched the Edward Boyle Library following its refurbishment.

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Funding success to tackle global challenges

Two projects led by our academics to build resilience in African agriculture and improve weather forecasting techniques have received Global Challenges funding.

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Leader column

Life's contradictions



First and foremost I welcome all new students and staff to a great University which is committed to putting the interests of students front and centre, undertaking research of the very highest quality and making a difference to the world.

On my return from a short holiday in the second week of September, I was immediately struck by the buzz on campus as our new international students settle into life at Leeds. I also started on what will be a year long sequence of visits to every school and professional services group in the University, hearing at first hand about the work of the Digital Education Service - which has already reached 800,000 people around the world and the Centre for Decision Research which is applying the theories and findings of their work in areas as diverse as political science, finance, health, the environment, management and the law. The AGM of the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics which in less than three years has developed a grant portfolio of £45 million and the opening of the groundbreaking Centre for Excellence in Language Teaching were also great highlights on my first week back.

Following our success as University of the Year 2017, The Times and Sunday Times' Good University Guide has placed Leeds in the top 10 institutions in the UK in its overall rankings, our highest ever position in this table. Whilst the usual health warnings apply to league table methodologies, this progress, particularly when set alongside our strong NSS scores and TEF gold rating, confirms that there is clear and consistent external recognition of the excellent quality of the student education we offer and the all round experience we encourage. This is further reinforced by our impressive student recruitment figures for 2017/18 which include a record number of Access to Leeds students, triple A students, and students from the European Union.

At the end of the last academic year, we exceeded our target for new research awards by quite a margin and we are also off to a flying start with new awards for 2017/18. Two significant projects to build resilience in African businesses and communities, led by Professor Tim Benton and Professor Alan Blyth, have recently been awarded a total of nearly £16 million from the Global Challenges Research Fund. You can read more about both projects elsewhere in this edition, but they do show that with the right expertise and planning we can compete successfully for the biggest grant awards – a key priority for Leeds going forward.

There has also been further progress on our investments in infrastructure. Our £96m

integrated campus for engineering and physical sciences - with its focus on advanced functional materials - was given the green light by the Leeds City Council planners during August. This will enable us to combine interdisciplinary working with state-of-the-art facilities to develop research of real global impact and significance; and in turn provide support for existing students and staff, whilst attracting the very best researchers and students from around the world. The Nexus building is also making rapid progress and the redevelopment of the students' union is now complete.

As part of my holiday reading, I came across a fascinating little book about the geometry of the Florence Cathedral Dome by Roberto Corazzi, a Professor in the Department of Architecture at the University of Florence. The book is subtitled 'Originality, proportion and harmony' - traits which could be used to describe some of the upbeat examples set out above or even, in more certain times, the higher education sector as a whole.

Clearly this is not the case at present. On the contrary, this is a time of great political, policy and funding uncertainty, a time when the public and students and staff (present and future) have real concerns about the future of the student funding system, the USS pension scheme and senior staff pay. Overarching concerns about Brexit are also in our minds but, apart from warm words about collaboration on EU research and mixed messages about immigration policy, there is very little to add since I last wrote about this in the Spring. We will continue to update staff about Brexit via ForStaff.

The introduction of higher fees supported by student loans was controversial in the run up to the phased implementation of the new arrangements from 2012 and is now a hot topic again. Underlying this change was a process of substitution, with taxpayers reducing their commitment to higher education very substantially, and students and their families bearing a much higher proportion of the costs. There was some initial marginal gain for successful universities but this is now cancelled out by inflation, higher costs of provision and further cuts in public spending on higher education.

The present system is already complex and, in the absence of any firm commitment to reinstate the public funding that was removed from higher education, the danger is that adjusting it will make it even more complex and lead to unintended consequences. Like taxation - and who can forget Gordon Brown's 10p tax rate and his pensions raid; or George Osborne's disability cuts and his pasty tax - trying to tinker with a complex system

never works! The priority on funding should be to tackle the punitive interest rates on student loans and to reintroduce maintenance grants for those who will find it difficult to cope with living costs at university. The wider policy position can then be thrashed out in an objective way following the next election.

The valuation of the USS pension scheme is currently the subject of consultation. The University will submit its thoughts at the end of September to Universities UK, which will make a coordinated response on behalf of employers. What is clear is that we need a pension scheme that is attractive enough to recruit and retain excellent staff, whilst maintaining financial sustainability and a more stable position for the future. In my view, this must also be achieved by placing the principle of fairness between the generations at the heart of the new arrangements. At a time when those aged over 50 own about four-fifths of the country's wealth, the baby boomers cannot just pull up the drawbridge to the detriment of future generations.

On the vexed question of senior staff pay, I will continue to advocate restraint based on the principles of public service.

This is a pivotal moment in the life of the University and higher education more widely; a time when the opportunities for education and research are so great, and yet the political, policy and funding uncertainties which can influence both are so profound. It is one of life's contradictions that resilience and fragility are to be held in balance at one and the same time. Faced with this challenge, the University Council has agreed that we should continue with our policy of growth and investment but that we should do so with caution, and always be prepared to mitigate policy and financial risks should they arise. The long term academic and financial sustainability of the University remains fundamental to our future and we will keep students and staff fully informed of progress in the coming months as some of the current, external uncertainties are resolved.

2017/18 will be an interesting year and I hope one in which the University can build on its many successes. I therefore finish where I started by welcoming those of you who are new to the University and wishing you a happy, fulfilling and successful time here.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands

News

Nominations for Women of Achievement 2016-17

All colleagues are invited to submit their nominations for the University's Women of Achievement awards 2016-17.

Nominations are invited for current female staff and students across the University to be recognised for their outstanding achievements in research, student education or experience, scholarship or supporting technical and administrative activities over the last 18 months (since March 2016). These achievements might have been recognised by external prizes or other awards or by election to major internal or external roles. The panel will also consider cases of sustained contributions to the advancement of women in the University or the wider academic environment.

This is the fifth Women of Achievement awards, which will culminate in March 2018 with a special event to coincide with

International Women's Day. This will celebrate these inspirational role models and include an exhibition of photographic portraits of the women being recognised.

Please contact AthenaSwan@adm.leeds.ac.uk for a nomination form. Completed forms should be submitted by Friday 20 October 2017.

Please note: colleagues employed by external organisations (LUU, Bright Beginnings, Unipol, etc) and those who have been recognised as finalists in previous Women of Achievement awards are not eligible for nomination unless they have gone on to attain higher awards or achievements.

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Minerva – the new Portal and VLE

Over the summer, the Portal and VLE merged to become 'Minerva, the new Portal and VLE', ahead of admissions for 2017/18.

Minerva is built on the Blackboard platform, which means module and organisation areas remain as they were in the VLE but they will be accessed from a new front page. Staff do not need to make changes to these areas, other than the usual rolling over of modules for the new academic year.

However, any student-facing documentation referring to the 'Portal' or 'VLE' will need to be changed to refer to 'Minerva' instead, and instructions may need to be updated. More information and FAQs can be found on the Portal blog at goo.gl/NUfu2U

University of the Year 2017 logo amnesty

The University of the Year 2018 will be announced soon, so it's time to remove the 2017 logo from our emails and materials. Take a look at our checklist...

Please take a moment to check you've done the following:

- **Email signature:** Remove the logo from your Outlook signature. IT has email signature guidelines at goo.gl/8JDifG
- **Materials:** Check and update any printed or online materials that you're responsible for. See guidance at goo.gl/BD64gy

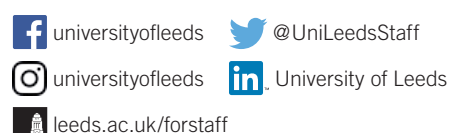
- **Logo amnesty:** If you spot the University of the Year logo being used after 23 September, please let us know! Email internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk and let us know where and when you have seen the logo in use.

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.

Stay up to date with University news and events:



Public engagement

Recording your public engagement activity

You can now record your public engagement (PE) activity – in the widest possible sense – under the professional activities tab in Symplectic.

Symplectic is already used for collecting records of publications, and adding this functionality allows you to record your PE activity on an ongoing basis.

The tab was developed in collaboration with colleagues from the Library, IT and the PE team, and was tested with academic colleagues before going live.

Why should I add these activities to the system?

PE activities are promotion relevant. The Symplectic system can act as your storage place for these activities.

Submitted activities, along with publications, automatically feed through to the REF-supporting system, IRIS, helping you to build REF case studies.

HESA's Business and Community Interactions survey requires universities to report their PE activities. Symplectic ensures that our figures are more reliable and reduces under-reporting. This process the University's new way of collecting data for part of the HESA-HE-BCI return.

If you have any questions, please email peteam@leeds.ac.uk or call 0113 34 31149.

For the latest news on PE, visit comms.leeds.ac.uk/public-engagement/latest-news

How do I add my PE activities?

To create a new PE activity record, simply:

- log in to Symplectic using your IT login at publications.leeds.ac.uk/login
- scroll down to 'Professional activities' and click on the +add button to select the 'Public Engagement Activity' field, which opens the form.

Activities can be public lecture, performance arts, exhibition, museum education, school outreach, workshop, festival/fair stall, social media/blog, community event, focus group, interest group or patient group. 'Other' covers events and activities for non-academic audiences. We have tried to capture as many different forms of public engagement as possible but do feel free to use 'Other' if your activity doesn't seem to fit those listed.

You can list people who were involved with the activity, including colleagues and people not from the University.

After you've filled in the few remaining fields, don't forget to press 'Save' and you are done!

Reaching your audience

An innovative new partnership with leading museums gives researchers a fantastic opportunity to engage with the museum-going public.

The University has teamed up with leading museums (see below), which attract a huge and diverse audience on a daily basis. If you

want to engage people with your research, this new partnership could give you access to that audience.

Three ways to make use of this opportunity:

1. Volunteer for an activity already prepared by the museum. This is a great way to get into public engagement, working with the museum's experts.
2. Develop a new activity linked to your research that complements something the museum is already doing.
3. Develop a new independent activity and run it at the museum.

Charlotte Haigh, Academic Lead for Public Engagement with Research, says: "Working

with museums can have real benefits for researchers. Museum staff are used to engaging the public with their work and collections every day, and they have developed a range of creative ways of doing it. They also have strong links with their community and know their audience, so they can help researchers identify and reach a particular demographic if they need to.

"We're thrilled to have entered into partnership with such outstanding museums, and I'm looking forward to helping Leeds researchers make the most of the opportunity it presents."

If you are interested in finding out more about working with our museum partners, see the full story on For Staff at goo.gl/KMGweC



Research and innovation

Funding success to tackle global challenges

Two University of Leeds projects aiming to build resilience in African businesses and communities have been awarded £16m from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). These awards position our academics as among the most successful in the UK at securing funding from GCRF's multi-research council fund.

The Global Challenges Research Fund is a £1.5bn government programme to support research that addresses critical problems in developing countries across the world.

Sustainable agricultural systems

An international team aims to support smallholding farmers in Africa to meet food security and economic development needs by creating evidence-based policy to develop sustainable and productive agricultural systems.

FACT FILE:

Improving farming resilience in Africa

- Project name: GCRF-AFRICAP - Agricultural and Food-system Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy
- Funding: £7,913,847 from GCRF cross-council RCUK-administered fund
- Principal investigator: Professor Tim Benton, Faculty of Biological Sciences
- Country focus: Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi and South Africa
- Primary collaborators: Met Office, Chatham House, University of Aberdeen, African Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

Improving forecasting techniques

Improving weather forecasting precision and creating more accurate longer-term forecasts could provide huge benefits to African businesses, small traders and society, strengthening their ability to respond to crises. Weather-sensitive sectors including aviation, solar and hydro-power and agriculture could all grow as a result of this four-year programme.

FACT FILE:

Improving weather forecasting in Africa

- Project name: GCRF African-SWIFT – African Science for Weather Information and Forecasting Techniques
- Funding: £7,814,568 from GCRF cross-council RCUK-administered fund
- Principal Investigator: Professor Alan Blyth, Faculty of Environment and National Council for Atmospheric Science. Lead scientist: Professor Doug Parker, the University's Met Office Professor of Meteorology
- Country focus: Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya
- Key collaborators: World Meteorological Organisation, Met Office, NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, University of Reading, African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development and the weather services of Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, ICPAC, and universities in Dakar, Kumasi, Akure and Nairobi and nine African universities and weather forecasting centres



Exceptional breadth of research

Sixteen other Leeds-led initiatives, worth £4.3m, have also received support from individual UK research councils through the GCRF programme, the highest number of any university.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, says: "Our exceptional breadth of research and commitment to quality has enabled Leeds to create a research environment few other universities can match.

"Our researchers work together in powerful and impactful teams, and we have impressed international policymakers with how we operate across traditional disciplinary boundaries to tackle the major issues humanity faces.

"Our ability to build effective international, interdisciplinary networks can make a real and telling difference in helping improve lives, and at Leeds we have committed to doing this in the short and long term.

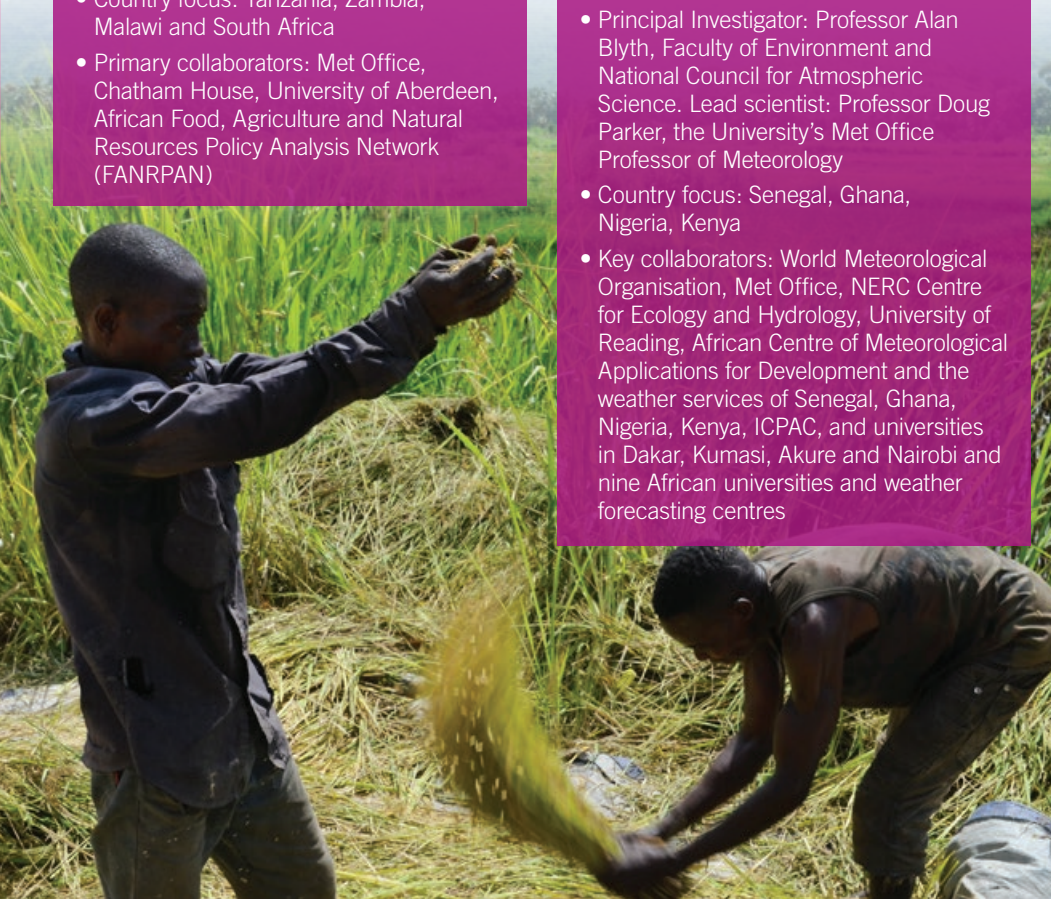
"We have committed to developing talented researchers and, over the past two years, have invested significantly in our 250 Great Minds programme to recruit the brightest early-career researchers and support them with skills development and mentorship.

"I am pleased to see that these new awards have brought together world-leading professors with these University Academic Fellows, which creates a highly sustainable environment for ongoing research success and development of future leaders."

"I'm also pleased to report that, overall, research awards are on track to grow significantly from last year; this reflects a tremendous effort from staff to secure this funding and is a further testament to the excellent research we do."

Building on this success, it is the University's intention to be ambitious about the size of awards we apply for in future. These new GCRF bids are great examples of the success that can be achieved through strong, well planned proposals.

Read more about our Research and Innovation Strategic Plan on For Staff at goo.gl/wRNE1T



Students

Gryphons Abroad help primary school children in South Africa

"Gryphons Abroad is without doubt one of the best things I've ever done – I just wish I could do it every year."

Amy Grabe, second-year philosophy student, who has blogged about her experience at goo.gl/JoZazw



In June, the Gryphons Abroad team travelled to South Africa to deliver a life-changing sport and education programme to over 120 primary school children alongside a local charity called the Bambisanani Partnership.

Organised by Sport and Physical Activity, the team consisted of three staff members – Andy Lockwood, Tom Exeter and Tilly Hall – along with nine university students from a variety of degree programmes and years of study, from first-year undergraduates to postgraduates.

Over two weeks, the programme delivered two projects which aimed to raise the aspirations and living standards of South African students. Cycle to Success involved teaching 22 primary school students to ride and maintain bikes to

help overcome what could sometimes be a two-hour commute each way to school. Inspire through Sport saw University students plan and deliver four days of sport, leadership and classroom sessions to over 100 children from four local primary schools to help them lead activities back in their own schools after the Leeds team left.

In the run-up to the 2017 trip, the team raised over £26,000 to support project costs through various fundraising activities, which enabled

them to donate 20 bikes and other equipment to the four primary schools, as well as clothing, books and funds for food to a local orphanage.

Staff and students received fantastic recognition for the Gryphons Abroad programme, which was shortlisted for a Great Volunteer award by the Yorkshire Universities Sports Awards. The project is now entering its third year and planning is under way to expand it further. Read the article in full at goo.gl/WviUVG



Leeds Sport

@Leeds_Sport

Teaching in the classroom & the great outdoors. The #gryphonsabroad Team working hard in #bikeweek



New York, New York

Fifteen undergraduate students went stateside to take part in seven days of workshops and events as part of the Leeds to New York Student Leadership Programme 2017.

The students worked alongside our alumni, academics and leadership development organisation, Common Purpose, in a week-long programme of intensive workshops and events designed to help them explore some of the challenges facing leaders in the business, community and cultural sectors of the city. They then compared these challenges to those found in Leeds.

The programme gave the students the opportunity to:

- work with senior business leaders and Leeds alumni

- develop their knowledge and understanding of some of the key issues faced by business leaders in Leeds and New York
- be supported by a Leeds Alumni Mentor in New York
- gain an understanding of how to lead and bring about change
- enhance their CVs by adding a valuable and unique international experience.

The Footsteps Fund funded the education programme, flights and accommodation.

Common Purpose is a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in cross-boundary leadership. Read more at commonpurpose.org. The students posted their progress on Twitter using the hashtag #LeedsToNewYork.

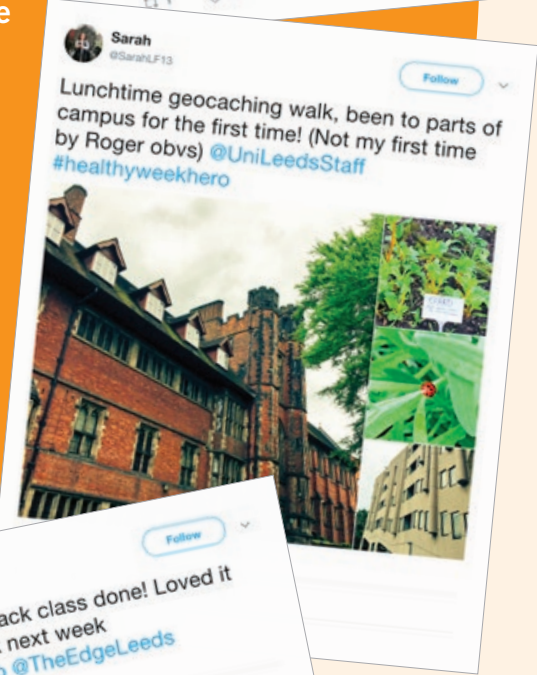
People

Healthy Week Heroes unite!

For this year's Healthy Week, staff were encouraged to become a 'Healthy Week Hero' to inspire friends and colleagues to eat well, get active and take a break.

From introducing conscious tweaks to your lunch choices to discovering hidden areas of campus and taking part in the mindfulness flash mob, we saw countless colleagues take the plunge and try something different. Creativity was also a prominent theme this year, as individuals and departments arranged their own innovative ways to create a positive change both physically and mentally.

We asked you to share your photos of activities that you had organised or participated in using #healthyweekhero and your posts showed up with a force! Hundreds of comments appeared on social media, with Twitter being the main platform for sharing your achievements and congratulating fellow colleagues on theirs, making pride and team spirit large contributors to this year's success.



Parkinson pride

To support Leeds Pride and LGBT 50, the University flew the rainbow flag on the Parkinson Building and lit up Laidlaw Library and the multi-storey car park from 4 to 7 September.

Being an active, positive part of the city and wider community is core to our University values and supporting Leeds Pride reflects this. As part of our wider aim to be a sustainable university, our social, environmental, cultural and economic responsibilities are a priority alongside our commitment to education and research excellence.

Equality and inclusion are a fundamental part of who we are as an organisation, and it is vital that our staff, students and local community feel comfortable and welcome as part of our commitment to the celebration of our diversity.

Carnival comes to campus



The theme of this year's staff festival, World Carnivals, featured an exciting programme of music, food and events in celebration of the University's cultural diversity. Colleagues, family and friends joined in the afternoon festivities, raising money for this year's charity, Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds.

Festival feedback:

- "It was a great way to bring colleagues together in a relaxed atmosphere. This gave everyone a special occasion to get to know each other better."*
- "The Ferris wheel and dodgems were excellent and my daughter loved them. The children's activities were great – the balloon lady and bouncy castle were good and the face painters were exceptional."*
- "Amazing! I love world music so really enjoyed everything, from the steel band, salsa, DJ Lubby to the Brazilian samba band."*



Dear All Leeds University Staff,

Thank you so much to all of you that took part in the various fundraising activities at the recent Leeds Staff Festival 2017. Your efforts raised an amazing £1,414.76 in aid of Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL).

We are a small charity and donations like this make a big impact – enabling us to continue providing our confidential helpline, counselling and advocacy services.

To show appreciation of all your hard work, we have given the university a certificate. We hope you are proud of your achievement- we certainly are! Show it off in one of your communal spaces and who knows, maybe your hard work will inspire others to consider fundraising in aid of SARSVL too.

Thank you again,
SARSVL

A copy of the certificate has been printed and is being displayed in the Staff Centre.

Campus

Transformed lecture theatres a success



It's official! There has been a significant improvement in user experience among our students following the innovative transformation of three lecture theatres last summer.

The £2.8m sector-leading redesign of Dental LT, Mechanical Engineering LT B and Roger Stevens LT 8 was completed last summer, allowing for a full year of teaching use this year. The work saw the lecture theatre spaces physically redeveloped to enable group discussion, alongside installed technology for group work, interaction, communication and recording.

Professor Neil Morris, Director of Digital Learning, comments: "Through the transformation of our spaces we have been able to establish the strong pedagogy that we were trying to achieve. The collaborative spaces, with innovative desk-based technology, enable students to work collaboratively through digital means and enrich their learning experience.

"This first year we have seen a number of staff undertake the type of teaching they've wanted to do for many years but haven't been able to because of the configuration of the space. From that comes the positive student satisfaction figures that we've seen from our survey."



The transformed lecture theatres seek to improve collaborative and technological experiences for staff and students

Students were surveyed before and after the transformation about:

- how satisfied they were with the lecture theatres
- how comfortable they found the writing surfaces
- how conducive the room was for group study
- how satisfied they were with AV and IT provision
- how well the lecture theatre lends itself to group work.

The fantastic results showed that our students love the facilities, with overwhelming satisfaction scores above 80% for each of these areas and comments such as "great for group work", "it is much better and comfier", and "we need more lecture theatres like this".

NEXUS taking shape

The construction of our new innovation centre, NEXUS, is running to schedule.

The foundations are now firmly in place and the lift shaft and stairwells are well under way. Over the coming months, staff and students will continue to see the building take shape. The exterior shell of the building will be completed in spring 2018, and occupancy of the building will start in autumn 2018.



Campus

Knights, scholars and a famous throne

This July, thousands of researchers and scholars from more than 50 countries attended the 24th International Medieval Congress (IMC), making it one of Europe's largest annual academic gatherings.

The main academic activity took place on campus alongside a series of public events designed to bring the Middle Ages to life. University Square played host to birds of prey, combat demonstrations, and medieval food, drink and crafts. Visitors were also able to meet some of the historical and archaeological societies working to preserve the history of Leeds and Yorkshire.

Also on campus was an eye-catching replica of the Iron Throne featured in the hit HBO television series, *Game of Thrones*. Fans could have their picture taken with the replica, which had been signed by cast members.

IMC Director Axel Müller says, "This year's theme of 'Otherness' clearly captured the imagination of researchers. Papers covered topics as diverse as monsters, outlaws and relations between different cultural and ethnic groups."



Engineering and Physical Sciences

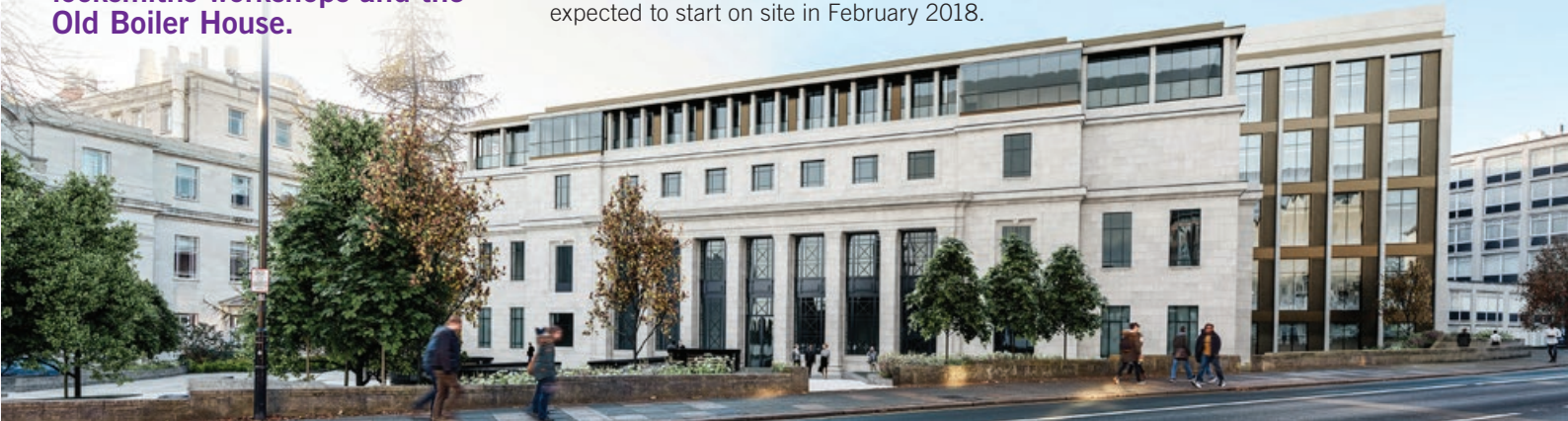
The construction site for the Engineering and Physical Sciences integrated campus is now firmly in place. Demolition work on the site is now complete and involved removing the Estates Building, plumbers and locksmiths workshops and the Old Boiler House.

Leeds City Council's plans panel discussed the building development on 31 August and voted to support the application, deferring the final decision to the council's chief planning officer for approval, subject to conditions.

The second stage of the tender process for the construction work runs from June to November. The successful contractor is expected to start on site in February 2018.

The £96m investment aims to provide an exceptional environment for students and support researchers from across engineering and physical sciences to work together to help solve fundamental problems and tackle key industry challenges.

Sign up for regular updates on the project at campusdevelopments.leeds.ac.uk/subscribe



News

Summer School growing in numbers and diversity

This year saw another summer of growth for Leeds International Summer School (LISS), with over 100 students participating in the four-week programme aimed at international and EU undergraduates.

LISS plays a key role in supporting the University's commitment to internationalisation, and through exchange relationships, allows more of our students to take up study abroad opportunities at our partner institutions.

The programme's diversity is one of its key successes; this year's students came from Australia, Canada, China, France, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Iraq, Japan, Nigeria, Korea, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand and the USA.

The expanded programme of 14 two-week modules included the addition of renewable energy systems: the big debate, creative writing: travel and journalism, and introduction to digital photography.

We are seeking to extend the range of modules available in 2018. Getting involved with LISS helps schools demonstrate commitment to the international strategy and strengthen partnerships and collaboration with universities around the world. LISS also gives staff the opportunity to adapt their scholarship and teaching to a diverse audience of students.

If you are interested in finding out more about delivering a module in 2018, please get in touch with Lisa Beare, LISS Manager, at summer@leeds.ac.uk.

Read more about LISS at leeds.ac.uk/summer

Nominations open: Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Health and Safety

Nominate your colleagues or students and they could win £250 in gift vouchers and be recognised for their excellence.

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Health and Safety 2017 will celebrate the exceptional inspiration, commitment and practice of staff and students towards health and safety at the University.

Nominations for this year's awards close on 17 October. For more information and nomination forms, see the Wellbeing, Safety and Health website at wsh.leeds.ac.uk/vcawards

Put your nominations in now for:

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety 2017

Chosen by the Vice-Chancellor as the most inspiring entry of 2017, the winner will receive £250 in gift vouchers.

Wellbeing Safety and Health Special Recognition awards

This award is selected on each application's own merits to recognise people who have provided inspiration, shown commitment to health and safety and/or 'gone the extra mile' for health and safety (ie done something above and beyond what would normally be expected of them in their role).

The University Wellbeing Achievement Award

Proposed by staff during Healthy Week, this award is for people who have made the greatest impact on wellbeing in their area.

Seven Pro-Deans for International have now been appointed

Announcing the appointments, Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Pro Vice-Chancellor: International, said: "I am looking forward to working with all the Pro-Deans, who will play a key role in the delivery and further development of our new international strategy.

"They will lead the way in working to achieve our ambitions to recruit and support high-quality international staff and students, to encourage world-class international research collaborations, and to further our international profile and reputation."

The new Pro-Deans for International are:

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures:

Professor Manuel Barcia Paz

Faculty of Business:

Professor Tyrone Pitsis

Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law:

Professor Norma Martin Clement

Faculty of Engineering:

Dr Raul Fuentes

Faculty of Environment:

Dr Bill Murphy

Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences:

Dr Rob Sturman

Faculty of Medicine and Health:

Professor Linda McGowan

The Faculty of Biological Sciences role is being recruited and that appointment will be announced in due course.

Read more about our International Leeds strategy and how we plan achieve it at goo.gl/WZsJKU

News

Sustainability Awards 2017

The annual Sustainability Awards held in June celebrated people whose work has contributed to creating positive change on campus and further afield.

Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands presented the awards, which was followed by a delicious, locally sourced vegetarian dinner.

The evening concluded with the Green Impact Awards, introduced by Director of Facilities, Dennis Hopper, and presented by Sustainability Intern, Becky Ewan. Thirty-six Green Impact Awards were presented this year.

The full details of all the winners and nominees can be found on the University of Leeds Sustainability website goo.gl/mcBTF1

THIS YEAR'S SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS WINNERS WERE:

Embedding Sustainability through Collaboration:

Recognising those who have shared skills, ideas or resources across campus to ensure that sustainable practice and values are embedded into University culture.

Staff winner:
Grounds and Gardens
Student winner:
George Middlemiss

Building Knowledge and Capacity:

Celebrating those who have helped to educate staff or students on sustainability, incorporated the concept of a 'living lab' and have shared expertise across campus or the local area.

For the student award in this category, submissions were accepted from undergraduates and postgraduates for innovative dissertations or research proposals that highlighted sustainability themes.

Staff winner: Priestley International Centre for Climate
Student winner: James Patrick Glover-Ochiltree

Making the Most of Resources:

Recognising individuals or groups who have implemented policies, ideas or encouraged behaviour changes to ensure efficient and effective resource management. Nominations could focus on reducing and reusing, sharing, travel, self-generated energy or performance targets.

Staff winner: Reuse at St Marks Residences
Student winner: Ravi Toor
Team winner: Olivia Miller and the Cleaning Services team

Being a Positive Partner in Society:

Recognising individuals or groups who have helped the University become a positive partner in the community through fundraising, volunteering, education or collaboration with local businesses.

Staff winner: Georgina Binnie for the Writing Back Project
Student winner: LUUMIC (Music Impact in the Community)

The Sustainable Purchasing Award:

Celebrating those who have encouraged best practice and innovation in University purchasing.

Winner: Chris Askew, PCB

Lifelong Learning Centre excels

Colleagues in the Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) have received an outstanding report in achieving Customer Service Excellence accreditation, the national standard for excellence in the public sector.

LLC is key in helping us to recruit students from diverse backgrounds, an important part of our strategic ambition.

An external Customer Service Excellence assessor tested the standard and timeliness of service, the clarity of information offered, and the professionalism and attitude of staff. They

also looked at the level of customer understanding shown by staff.

On all these fronts, LLC received high praise from the assessor, who described its staff as being "positive, focused, motivated, and extremely dedicated to providing a first-rate university experience for their students".

Sustainability in practice: new staff training module

A new training module is now available to all staff as part of the University's Sustainability Strategy.

The module explains why sustainability is important and gives examples of how we all play a part in ensuring that the University has a positive environmental, social and economic impact.

The online module is part of a wider training programme for staff that covers induction, procurement training, management essentials, and the environmental management system. A paper-based, workshop version is available for colleagues who don't have an IT login.

For more information contact sustainability@leeds.ac.uk or the training page of the Sustainability website.

In the news



Dr Victoria Cooper, Susan Broadbent and Axel Muller (all IMS, AHC) appeared on BBC Radio Leeds and Made in Leeds TV to talk about **the International Medieval Congress, which took over the University**, and the Iron Throne from the popular TV series *Game of Thrones*.

Professor James Walker (LIBACS, Medicine and Health) appeared on BBC One's *Look North* and BBC Radio 5 Live discussing the findings of a five-year investigation into the **genetic link between a baby's DNA and the risk its mother will develop pre-eclampsia**, a life-threatening condition that develops in some pregnancies.

Aidan Foster-Carter (ESSL) appeared on *Sky News* and BBC News Online to talk about **North Korea's treatment of US student Otto Warmbier**, who died after being held in North Korea for 15 months.

Professor Andrew Brown (LUBS) appeared on BBC One's *Sunday Politics*, *Yorkshire and Lincolnshire* to discuss the need for **the north of England to speak with one voice** in order to effectively put demands on the government.

An article by PhD student Diego A Quiñones (Physics and Astronomy, MAPS) explaining why **detecting gravitational waves has been one of the most important discoveries of the century** featured in *International Business Times*, *Yahoo News*, *Cosmos* and *The Conversation*.



Dr Adam Cathcart (History, AHC) appeared on the BBC One *Breakfast* sofa to discuss the **recent missile test by North Korea** conducted on American Independence Day. He also discussed the relationship China has with North Korea and his comments were featured on CNN News Online.

Professor Peter Stockley (Astbury Centre, FBS) was part of a team that **identified an 'assembly code' in the genetic makeup of hepatitis B**, the virus that is the major cause of liver cancer worldwide. The new breakthrough was covered by the *Daily Express*, *Science Daily*, *Yorkshire Post* and *Yorkshire Evening Post*.

The Perfect Pint project, in which a group of engineering Masters students designed a **robot that aims to pour a pint better than a person**, featured on BBC One's *Yorkshire's Breakfast*, *Look North* and BBC Radio Leeds. The project is supervised by Dr Andrew Jackson (Mechanical Engineering) and was also featured in articles by BBC News Online, *The Mirror* and the *Daily Mail*.



Research by Dr Marlou Hall (LICAMM, Medicine and Health) and colleagues has suggested that some **heart attack sufferers are being wrongly prescribed**. They found that beta blockers, which are often prescribed to people who have had heart attacks, may offer no survival benefit to patients who do not have heart failure. The research was covered by an array of media outlets including the *Guardian*, the *Huffington Post*, the *Independent*, the *Hindustan Times*, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Express*.



Professor Richard Blackburn (Design, AHC) appeared on BBC One's *News* to discuss research into waterproof jackets by PhD student Philippa Hill (Design, AHC). Findings indicate that the **production of waterproof clothing can have unexpected environmental costs**, and that some of the environmentally harmful fluorochemicals used in the manufacture of waterproof jackets might not be necessary. The research was also covered on BBC Radio 4 and BBC News Online.

Dr Alex Dunhill (Earth and Environment) wrote an article for *The Conversation* on the **Big Five mass extinction events** and the lessons they might hold for understanding our biosphere today. The article was subsequently featured across a wide range of media outlets including the *Huffington Post*, *IFLScience*, *International Business Times*, *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail*.

New research by Dr Evgenia Ilyinskaya and Dr Anja Schmidt (both Earth and Environment) found a previously undetected potential health risk from **the boomerang-like return of a volcanic plume**, in which fine particles that are damaging to human health return long after a volcanic eruption. The research was featured in the *Daily Mail*, *Nature World News*, the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service (RUV) and *Science Daily*.



Honours

Professor Sheena Radford, Professor of Biophysics and Director of the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology, has been announced as one of the Biophysical Society's 2018 Society Fellows. The award honours the Society's distinguished members who have demonstrated excellence in science, contributed to the expansion of the field of biophysics and supported the Biophysical Society. Professor Radford is celebrated for her leadership in protein biophysics, revealing fine details about protein folding and misfolding, both in vitro and in diseased states.



Professor Jane Nixon, Deputy Director of the Leeds Clinical Trials Research Unit, has been made an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her groundbreaking research into pressure sores. Professor Nixon has spent much of her career looking at ways of reducing the risk of patients developing bed sores. Patients with limited mobility who spend long periods sitting or lying in one position are at risk of getting pressure sores. As well as being painful, these can cause severe disability and, in extreme cases, be fatal.



Professor Peter Selby (Leeds Institute of Cancer and Pathology) has received a Beacon award for his outstanding contribution to healthcare at the Medilink Yorkshire & Humber Healthcare Business Awards. Professor Selby is the Clinical Director of the nationally funded Diagnostic Evidence Cooperative, which carries out research into new and better diagnostic tests and helps the NHS, patients and healthcare industry benefit from these. He has led world-class research in cancer for 25 years, has a number of significant awards and held high office in international healthcare research networks and bodies. Professor Selby has authored more than 500 publications and overseen £50m of cancer research funding.

Professor Terry Wilkins (School of Chemical and Mechanical Engineering) has been elected as a Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE). As a Professor of Manufacturing Innovation, the award recognises his influence on healthcare and advanced materials industries through his innovations of novel, game-changing technologies. Being a member of UK and EU policy committees, his experience has guided industrial research and innovation investment policy. As a result, Europe now outcompetes the USA in the large nanotechnology market and has created a worldwide nanosafety research community led by the UK.



Professor David Hesmondhalgh, Professor of Media, Music and Culture, has been made a Fellow of the International Communication Association (ICA). Fellow status is awarded based on "distinguished scholarly contributions to the broad field of communication" and "service to the International Communication Association and to other publics such as business, government, education". This award testifies to the breadth and depth of David Hesmondhalgh's work, which spans music, culture, economics, politics and the media industry, and to the impact he has had on the field of media and communications as a whole.

Professor Paul Kind (Leeds Institute of Health Sciences) has been awarded the 2017 Avedis Donabedian Outcomes Research Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). The award was established in honour of the late Avedis Donabedian MD, MPH to acknowledge individuals who have made a major contribution to the improvement of health outcomes. Professor Kind has been recognised for his outstanding lifelong achievement in health economics research.

Postgraduate researcher **Rebecca Macklin**, who is studying for a PhD in comparative literature at the University, has received an All Disciplines Fulbright Award to undertake research at Cornell University, USA. While at Cornell, Rebecca will research postcolonial and indigenous engagements with globalisation, with a specific focus on native American and South African fiction. The Fulbright is internationally renowned, providing the only bilateral, transatlantic scholarship programme in the world.



News

Edward Boyle Library reopened by Chancellor Melvyn Bragg

Following its impressive refurbishment, the Edward Boyle Library was officially reopened by the University's Chancellor Melvyn Bragg on 13 July.

Originally built in the 1970s in the Brutalist style, the Edward Boyle Library has since been recognised as Grade II listed. Following its extensive refurbishment, the Library now boasts over 2,000 study spaces, accessible student rooms, a café and wonderful views across campus.

Level 13 of the Library offers both individual and collaborative spaces in a postgraduate Research Hub, which is home to the Library's Research Support and Data Management

teams. The Library houses the main collections for science, engineering and social science.

The official reopening event was held during graduation fortnight and formed one of Lord Bragg's final formal engagements as Chancellor. He stepped down on 31 July after 17 years in the role.

The University's next Chancellor will be appointed by the Court on the recommendation of the Council, and will be announced in due course.

To book one of the Edward Boyle Library bookable spaces, visit library.leeds.ac.uk/room-booking



THEN AND NOW

Above: The Edward Boyle Library being built in 1970s

Below: The Edward Boyle Library now boasts over 2,000 study spaces, accessible student rooms, a café and wonderful views across campus



Leeds honours for high achievers

Addressing graduates during his last week of formal engagements as Chancellor, Lord Bragg proclaimed that this year's degree ceremonies had "been the loudest in 17 years"!

He also conferred honorary degrees upon several of this year's recipients, including Barry Cryer, Honorary Doctor of Letters (pictured with Lord Bragg).

Since 1904, Leeds has conferred honorary awards on a host of individuals from the worlds

of science, art, academia, industry, politics, medicine, entertainment and beyond.

You can watch the webcast ceremonies online at goo.gl/yhPiWi. Photographs and more information about this year's honorary degrees can be found online at goo.gl/ZrzjU5

This year's honorary graduates are:

- Founder of the Leeds Triathlon Centre, **Dr Malcolm Brown**, Honorary Doctor of Laws
- Professor of rehabilitation medicine, **Anne Chamberlain**, Honorary Doctor of Science
- Gold medal-winning paralympic rower, **Grace Clough**, Honorary Doctor of Laws
- Comedian, **Barry Cryer**, Honorary Doctor of Letters
- Gold medal-winning paralympic hand-cyclist, **Dr Karen Darke**, Honorary Doctor of Laws
- Conductor, **Richard Farnes**, Honorary Doctor of Music
- Alzheimer's disease researcher, **Professor John Hardy**, Honorary Doctor of Science
- Founder member of the Disability Rights Commission, **Colin Low (Baron Low of Dalston)**, Honorary Doctor of Laws
- Facebook Vice President for Europe, **Lady Nicola Mendelsohn**, Honorary Doctor of Laws
- Author, **Helen Rappaport**, Honorary Doctor of Letters
- Astronomer Royal, **Professor Martin Rees (Baron Rees of Ludlow)**, Honorary Doctor of Science
- Chief Race Engineer for the Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 team, **Dr Andrew Showlin**, Honorary Doctor of Science (Engineering)
- Chief Executive and President of the Institute of Cancer Research, **Professor Paul Workman**, Honorary Doctor of Science.



The Chancellor, with Barry Cryer, Honorary Doctor of Letters

Events

The Little Greats at Opera North Until Saturday 21 October at Leeds Grand Theatre

Short operas. Huge emotions. Explore this autumn's season of six mini-masterpieces, each packing the power of a complete opera into an approachable form. From the well known to rarely performed jewels of the genre: Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*, Janáček's *Fate (Osud)*, Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*, and Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*.

The operas will be presented in changing rotation, creating new and unusual pairings and allowing audiences to create their own path through the season.

Through our DARE partnership with Opera North, staff can get tickets at a fantastic discount. For details go to goo.gl/kwzfnM



Trouble in Tahiti



Performers at Light Night 2016

Leeds Night Light

6 October, 6pm-10pm

The University is hosting a series of events as part of the Leeds' biggest free annual multi-arts event.

Performances and discussions will be held on campus, as well as interactive hands-on activities, showcasing some of the amazing work that takes place at the University. More information about what will be on offer can be found on goo.gl/LBPD9V

Graduate Art Prize Show

Until 4 November

Now in its fifth year, the FUAM Graduate Art Prize rewards the artistic excellence of the top students completing studies in Design and Fine Art at the University.

A panel of three judges from the Yorkshire region have selected four finalists from degree shows which took place around campus in June. The finalists for 2017 are:

Zoe Carlon (Fine Art)

Olivia Loker (Fine Art)

Lucy Davidson (Fine Art and Design)

Miranda Jones (Fine Art and Design).

The official announcement of the winner of the FUAM Graduate Art Prize 2017 will be made on **27 September, 5:30-6:30pm**. Spaces are limited at the prize-giving.

For more information and to book a place, visit goo.gl/NHUCo6



Lucy Davidson, 'Tessellations', 2017, mixed media, © The Artist

Photographic Exhibition: Women of Mathematics – a Gallery of Portraits

Until 10 October, 9am-5pm in the Edward Boyle Library foyer

This free exhibition portraying 13 women mathematicians at work is intended to break down stereotypes about mathematics, encouraging people (whatever their gender) to believe in their capacities and express their potential.

The academics were photographed by Noel Tovia Matoff and interviewed by Sylvie Paycha and Sara Azzali. The exhibition is travelling around the world. For more information, visit goo.gl/tg4N2Y

Promoting your events

Do you want to promote a University-related event to colleagues, students or the general public? If your event is official and supported by the University, the Internal Communications team can help you to promote it. Submit your

event details by clicking the 'Submit your event' button on the For Staff homepage. A high-quality image, 800x 400px, will help make your listing more appealing.

FAQs

PC Rebecca Hurrell, Police Liaison Officer

Tell us a bit about your background.

I have been a police officer for over 14 years, working in east Leeds. I have mostly been a patrol officer going to 'blue light jobs' but I have also worked within the tutor unit (looking after new police officers), in the neighbourhood policing team in Wetherby and as a crime investigator.

What attracted you to this role of Police Liaison Officer at the University?

The University is equivalent to a small town and, as such, requires a policing presence, but it is also unique in that it is supplying the country with exceptional people who will one day be leaders in their fields. Providing those people with a safe and secure working environment is essential. I have worked with the general public for some time now and I feel I have the skill-set to help and support both students and staff alike.

Can you tell us a bit more about your role here at the University? What does being a Police Liaison Officer mean?

I am based on campus at the University's security office and I am here to help in any situation. Along with investigating crimes that happen on campus with the assistance of the security team, I can also give advice and support to staff and students and I am always happy to meet people to talk about any issue.

How will you help students and staff stay safe during their time at the University?

I will be giving induction talks on safety both on and off campus to the 'freshers' in September. I have a Twitter account that I use to pass out safety information to students and staff and I will be working closely with the Students Union throughout the year to ensure the message of safety isn't lost. If there are any specific concerns of high importance to staff or students, then I will work with the Communications team to ensure that everyone is aware.

What has been your proudest moment in your career?

That is a difficult question to answer. I have been involved in many incidents of which I am proud. I have attended murder scenes, fatal road traffic collisions and looked after the families affected. I am also a qualified sergeant. I think I get the most job satisfaction when advising officers who have less service on how best to look after someone or how to effectively investigate a crime.

What about your biggest challenge?

The move to the University has been my biggest challenge by far in my policing career. I have been used to going from job to job and arresting on a regular basis. Before arriving here, I had never been to a meeting, unless you count parish council crime figure summaries! I had never spoken to a large group of people and I had never received the amount of emails I now do on a daily basis! So far, the biggest challenge is trying to understand how the University operates. I've been used to a straightforward hierarchy, so I'm still getting used to the mix of schools, faculties and departments here.

Which safety tip would you say is the most important?

I think that the most important message to put across to everyone is to stay together on a night out. If someone needs to go home for any reason, make sure someone from your group goes with them. Equally, never leave someone out on their own - talk them into coming home with you. That friend can always buy the drinks for the next night out!

What's your most frequently asked question?

It's less of a question and more of a statement. When walking into pubs, there is always someone who says, "Ere love, he's here." They then point at their mate and laugh.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have a four-year-old son and a puppy, so I spend a lot of time out of the house, playing or



walking in the woods mostly. *Star Wars* is a firm favourite at the moment, and if I get time to myself, I tend to watch TV, with *Game of Thrones* near the top of my list.

Which three items would you want on a desert island?

1. iPod is first. I love all sorts of music, from rock and rap to cheesy eighties music, and I can often be found walking to and from the train station with my earphones in, smiling and trying not to subject everyone to my terrible singing voice.
2. A bikini! I'd probably treat it more like a holiday than a shipwreck – shame there would be no bar!
3. A penknife – useful in all sorts of situations! That would be after the holiday vibe had worn off!

How can we get in touch with you if we need you?

I can be contacted via email at r.hurrell@leeds.ac.uk or phone on 07590 359138 (8am-4pm Mon - Fri). My Twitter account is [@WYP_PCHurrell](https://twitter.com/WYP_PCHurrell)



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