



'Incredible honour'

Professor Dame Jane Francis – Director of the British Antarctic Survey – enjoyed a 'Perfect Day' as she was installed as the University's new Chancellor.

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On track

A Government announcement by the Transport Secretary will unlock the potential of the University's new Institute for High Speed Rail and System Integration.

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And the winner is...

Results are revealed in the Leeds International Piano Competition 2018 – one of the most coveted prizes in the musical world.

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Climate change

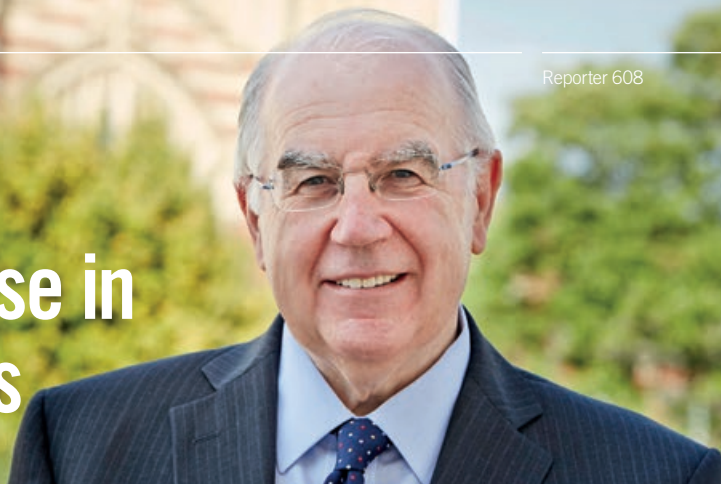
Major new studies from leading University academics are helping experts better understand the causes and impact of global warming.

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Leader column

Plotting a course in uncertain times



The dawn of a new academic year can give rise to mixed emotions. For some, there is a sense of exhilaration and renewal, for others a sense of frustration that overdue writing commitments are still work in progress and that August, once the Platonic ideal of summer, seems to get busier every year.

However, as we enjoy the international welcome and introduction weeks, and the start of the autumn semester, a natural balance – often simply expressed in the words “it’s great to have the students back on campus” – is somehow restored.

There are very few institutions in other parts of the economy where about one third of the population changes every 12 months, and this brings new energy, new ideas and new insights to the University community. It is my privilege to welcome new staff and many thousands of new students from across the UK and around the world to Leeds, a great University in a forward-looking, compassionate city. I hope you will all have a happy and fulfilling time here.

UK universities face many uncertainties at the moment, including the Government’s review of funding for post-18 education, unease about pensions, the implications of Brexit and the importance of international collaborations and global connections. Faced with this position, we have taken the view that we will be much more effective if we put most of our time and energy into the things we can control, whilst seeking to influence the wider policy and funding landscape at every opportunity.

Put simply, the University wishes to increase knowledge and opportunity by doing four things really well: providing outstanding education that will attract, excite and retain high quality students from diverse backgrounds; striving to be a world-leading research university by achieving significant increases in research quality, income and impact; promoting an integrated approach to innovation and enterprise; and increasing our international reach by boosting global education and research collaborations.

Recent results in each of our strategic priorities have underlined the benefits of this highly focused approach.

We have recruited almost 7,000 new UK undergraduate students, 47% with AAA or better at A-level. The University’s commitment to widening access and participation is also reinforced by the recruitment of more than 1,000 students joining us through our Access

to Leeds programme. EU student numbers are significantly ahead of plan and international undergraduate numbers have also grown, but are unlikely to meet our ambitious target. Preliminary signs are that international recruitment of postgraduate taught students is strong. In the latest National Student Survey, Leeds recorded an overall satisfaction level of 88% – one of the strongest results for a research intensive University and first equal in the Russell Group.

The University has also seen continued progress in research funding, with more than a thousand new awards in 2017-18 totalling £175 million – an increase of more than 20% during the past two years. The University’s success in the Global Challenges Research Fund and the Newton Fund – ranked third in the country by *Research Fortnight* – will change the lives and life chances of people in many of the poorest communities across the world. Meanwhile, the White Rose College of Arts and Humanities – a collaboration with York and Sheffield – has been awarded a £13 million grant to extend an already successful doctoral training centre, and there has been great activity in the summer to respond to an invitation from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council to submit a number of bids for major centres for doctoral training.

Nexus – the University’s centre for innovation – will open during this academic year under the direction of Martin Stow, who will ensure it quickly becomes a place where ideas, expertise and opportunity come together, creating new economic value and developing collaborative working between entrepreneurs, businesses and researchers. And major funding bids are being actively pursued with industrial partners in areas as diverse as digital pathology, specialist glass manufacturing, medtech, high speed rail and advanced textile science and digital technologies linked to the fashion industry.

Good strides are also being made in delivering our international strategy, with a continued focus on the recruitment of international students and staff, developing global research collaborations (for example, our work on environmental sciences with Shanghai Jiao Tong University) and stepping up targeted engagement with our worldwide alumni, global companies, NGOs and other partners. These are all important steps to support academic development as the UK prepares to exit the European Union.

The University has more limited influence in a number of policy areas that could have serious consequences for the direction and funding of universities.

These include:

- the review of post-18 funding, which will land with the Government in early 2019
- the Joint Expert Panel on pensions will report during September, leaving Universities UK, the University and College Union, their Joint Negotiating Committee, the USS Trustee and The Pensions Regulator to determine an agreed position
- Brexit discussions, which may or may not offer greater clarity towards the end of this year; and
- the Government’s post-Brexit immigration policy, which will draw on advice from the Migration Advisory Committee.

Amid the current political bickering, the tendency at the top is to focus on means not ends. The University prefers to be clear about the need for positive outcomes in each of these areas, which I define as:

- stability and sustainability of university funding and a fairer deal for students
- a pension scheme that is stable, sustainable, fair and valued by staff
- opportunities for staff and students to collaborate with European institutions on major research initiatives; mutual recognition of professional qualifications; guaranteed rights for EU nationals working or studying in UK universities and continued UK involvement in Erasmus+; and
- establishing the UK as the country of choice for talented students and staff from around the world and providing research funding to develop collaborative working beyond the EU.

The financial risks associated with each of these challenges are real and, if they remain unresolved, will have a significant effect on University funding. This would require incisive mitigating action.

2018-19 will be a year of uncertainty in higher education. However, the University is in a strong position to navigate a way through this, with committed staff and students, who are achieving great progress in education, research and innovation, and extending our international reach; and a strong balance sheet that provides a secure platform, enabling us to tackle external financial risks in a considered and timely manner. We will also work hard using every route possible to ensure positive outcomes to the major policy and funding risks facing the sector.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands

News

Transport Secretary's HS2 decision boosts new rail institute

A Government announcement has unlocked the potential of the University's new Institute for High Speed Rail and System Integration.

Its location alongside the £10m Institute combines the depot with the University's advanced testing facilities to create a "thriving hub" for future engineers.

The co-location, to the east of Leeds, ensures the region benefits from the predicted economic growth from the HS2.

The Institute brings to Leeds a 'whole system' approach to high speed rail planning, design, construction and manufacturing – the only one of its kind in the UK.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, says: "The location of the depot, combined with the new advanced testing facilities as part of the University's Institute, are a significant step forward for UK high speed rail capability.

"They position Leeds City Region as a global centre for high speed rail research and development, so we're working closely with HS2 to ensure our facilities align with its needs and those of industry, so all sides can deliver for the country."

Chris Grayling, Transport Secretary, said: "The depot will act as an economic catalyst, creating skilled jobs, boosting the local economy by unlocking regeneration opportunities and driving continued investment.

"This ensures Leeds will not only see immediate benefits when HS2 arrives but will see Yorkshire become a thriving hub for training the engineers that HS2 and future

major projects will need."

The rolling stock depot has a crucial role in enabling 24-hour maintenance of the brand new high speed trains, due to deliver faster journeys for passengers on the East Coast mainline.

It will create up to 125 skilled jobs, building on HS2's commitment to create more than 100,000 new jobs and 2,000 apprentices.



The depot will act as an economic catalyst, creating skilled jobs, boosting the local economy by unlocking regeneration opportunities and driving continued investment.

Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling

The Institute is also expected to attract significant inward investment and jobs to Leeds City Region, as well as training postgraduate engineers through new MSc courses and PhDs.

Creating opportunities for people to study alongside experts, the University has launched a new MSc course on Railway Engineering with Project Management, as well as new PhD opportunities to ensure a pipeline of skilled professionals for the industry.

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About the Reporter

The *Reporter* is the University's colleague magazine, 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 8562.

The front cover shows the University's new Chancellor, Professor Dame Jane Francis.

Stay up to date with University news and events:



News

Fun in the sun at the Staff Festival

This year's instalment of the hugely popular Staff Festival proved to be a record-breaking success.

Thousands of people flocked to the campus celebrations, enjoying an entertainment extravaganza staged on a beautiful summer's day.

With the theme 'A Festival of Making', the packed programme of events included workshops, refreshments, live music, games and competitions for all ages.

As a result, Pets As Therapy (PAT) – this year's chosen charity – benefitted to the tune of £2,888.26, a record sum collected on the day through donations and from the proceeds of the tombola stall.

Rachel Robinson, a member of the University's Engineering department and a PAT volunteer, said: "A big thank you not only for your votes to be the nominated Staff Festival charity 2018 but for the generous support.

"We would like to thank everyone who came to say hello to the PAT dogs – it was a very warm day but we loved meeting you all.

Remember the PAT dogs are here for you, so don't be shy in asking for a PAT session."

Feedback via the online Staff Festival survey also revealed the vast

majority of those attending the event thoroughly enjoyed the mix of activities.

Comments included:

"I really enjoyed the atmosphere, the variety of activities for adults and children, but mainly the opportunity to bond with colleagues in a work environment that was supportive of that opportunity."

"Great Festival – best one yet. Thank you to everyone involved in organising such a great afternoon."

"Many thanks for all the hard work you must have put in to make this event such a success."

"Really love the Festival. Thanks for putting it on for us."

LOGIK Centre Administrator and Staff Festival organising committee member, Jenna Hudson, said: "On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank everyone who attended A Festival of Making, which was a huge success.

"It was a pleasure, as always, to work on the Festival and we look forward to the 2019 event."

Committee members have already begun analysing suggestions made through the survey to try and improve next year's Festival.

Official photos from this year's event have now been uploaded on the Staff Festival website at www.staff-festival.leeds.ac.uk and are available to view via Flickr. Visit www.petsastherapy.org to book a PAT session.



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Great Festival – best one yet. Thank you to everyone involved in organising such a great afternoon.

Crowds enjoying the live entertainment at this year's Staff Festival



News

Developing the skills of radio astronomers in sub-Saharan Africa is one of the University's global funding research projects



53 ways the University is tackling global challenges

Leeds has been ranked in the top three UK universities for global funding success, according to new data from Research Fortnight.

Awards from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the Newton Fund show Leeds securing more than £36 million between 2014 and 2018.

The funding supports research to improve the quality of life for people in developing countries, through building communities, developing skills and tackling diseases.

With research strengths across a range of disciplines, Leeds is able to draw on novel combinations of expertise for the funding schemes, and joins the University of Oxford and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the top three.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation at Leeds, said: "Our researchers have spent many years building relationships with NGOs, governments and civil

organisations in countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and in sub-Saharan Africa.

"We have learnt what these countries need to do to thrive, and have harnessed our exceptional breadth and commitment to working across traditional boundaries, to support them with solutions to some of the greatest global challenges facing humankind today."

Awards from the GCRF and the Newton Fund include 53 different projects at Leeds, demonstrating the breadth of the University's research expertise.

Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: International, said: "Leeds is a truly global university, and we have been successful in collaborating with governments, organisations and research bodies in some of the most challenging parts of the world."

Leeds is one of the best universities in the UK for student satisfaction

The University is one of the top in the UK for student satisfaction and joint first in the Russell Group of elite universities.

Results from the National Student Survey 2018 also position Leeds as joint top for teaching in the Russell Group.

The independent annual survey is one of the key indicators of how students rate their time at university, and was completed by more than 320,000 final-year students in the UK in 2018.

The University scored 88% for overall satisfaction, compared to a national average of 83%.

Professor Tom Ward, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education, said: "Our NSS results are a testament to the hard work of our students and staff across the campus. My sincere thanks to them.

"The excellent teaching and student experience at Leeds is consistently recognised, through the NSS, the Teaching Excellence Framework and success in key rankings, including a top ten place in the Guardian University Guide this year and a top three in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey.

"At Leeds, we offer a research-based education that emphasises the development of independent, critical thinkers. We also recognise that we need to continue to match the expectations of a hugely diverse student population and community of learners, hence our ongoing investment in digital technology and cutting-edge facilities."

Detailed results are available on the Office for Students website at www.officeforstudents.org.uk

Making Leeds Medieval for 25 years

This year's International Medieval Congress (IMC) – the largest academic conference of its kind in Europe – celebrated its 25th year.

Welcoming a record-breaking 2,907 registered delegates, this year's IMC was the largest Congress to date and the biggest medieval studies conference in the world. With a theme of 'Memory', subjects covered ranged from archaeology, literature and medicine, to papers about TV series *Game of Thrones*.

The IMC saw a staggering 750 separate academic sessions comprising of 2,200 individual papers exploring all aspects of Medieval Studies. Where most paper proposals have historically focused on the European Middle Ages, this year boasted a dedicated 'Global Middle Ages' theme, reflecting the importance of links between medieval

civilisations across the world. And the inaugural New Voices lecture was another first, dedicated to showcasing new perspectives in Medieval Studies from early career researchers.

Displays and demonstrations of birds of prey, thrilling combat displays, medieval food, drink and crafts filled University Square. Huge smoke-breathing 'dragons' swooped and soared above the crowds.

IMC Director, Axel Müller, said: "When the IMC started, we wanted to make it truly international, and while we have achieved a great deal in the past 25 years, it is only the tip of the iceberg of how much more ground-breaking collaborative work is still to be done."



Smoke-breathing 'dragons' on campus

News



Eric Lu, winner of the Leeds International Piano Competition 2018, receiving his award.
Picture: Simon Wilkinson Photography

Leeds International Piano Competition winner revealed

Eric Lu, 20, from the US, has been awarded first place at the Leeds International Piano Competition 2018 – widely regarded as among the most coveted prizes in the musical world.

Globally-renowned pianist, educator and philanthropist Lang Lang presented the prizes following the last concerto final at Leeds Town Hall on Saturday 15 September, having himself received an honorary degree from the University as part of the evening's proceedings.

The event was a glittering finale to the triennial piano competition which – with the University as its principal partner – has seen every aspect of the instrument celebrated by a wider audience than ever before.

In addition to the £25,000 cash prize, Eric Lu receives a ground-breaking prize portfolio, designed with long-term career development in mind, including worldwide management with Askonas Holt, a CD contract with Warner Classics and performance and recording opportunities with BBC Radio 3. The prize also includes a host of performance engagements with high-profile promoters, including some of the world's premiere venues and orchestras.

Second place, £15,000 and the Yaltah Menuhin Award for the greatest collaborative chamber performance, was awarded to 28-year-old German pianist, Mari Häring.

Xinyuan Wang, 23, from China, was third and received £10,000, together with the Audience Award.

The Leeds' Co-Artistic Director, Paul Lewis, who also chaired the jury, said: "All the pianists have shown extraordinary talent, passion and

dedication throughout the competition, and it goes without saying that the standard of playing has been remarkable.

"Many of the world's greatest pianists have started at The Leeds, and I'm certain all the 2018 finalists have bright futures, and we look forward to supporting what we believe will be successful and fulfilling careers."

The next competition will take place in 2021.

Visit For Staff for the full story at www.leeds.ac.uk/LIPCwinner



All the pianists have shown extraordinary talent, passion and dedication.

The Leeds' Co-Artistic Director, Paul Lewis



Lang Lang receives his honorary degree from the University's Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands.
Picture: Simon Wilkinson Photography

Leeds shares massive R&D boost for UK's creative industries

A new multi-million pound research project to boost creative innovation in the textile and fashion industry is being spearheaded by the University.

The venture will explore and develop new digital technologies to help improve high-value, luxury design processes.

Aiming to transform the fashion industry's capacity, new digital technologies will be developed to increase productivity, shrink design process lead times, lower costs and, importantly, reduce waste.

Partners of the project include Yorkshire Textiles, the Royal College of Art, Burberry, Wools of New Zealand, Abraham Moon & Sons, The Textile Centre of Excellence, Camira and the British Fashion Council.

It will be led by Stephen Russell, Professor of Textile Materials and Technology in the University's School of Design.

He said: "The vision is to transform the UK industry's capacity for new product innovation, and to reduce lead times and waste. This will be done by through the convergence of new digital and textile technologies within the fashion design process.

"Collaborative research and development by creative companies across the supply chain is fundamental to ensuring future growth, and harnessing UK design and manufacturing assets is central to our strategy."

The multi-million pound investment was announced by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

New fashion design programmes will be created for undergraduate and postgraduate students and researchers at Leeds. Industrial apprenticeship programmes are also being developed to address a skills gap in the industry for designers who can combine their art, design, science and technology skills.

Research and innovation

University scientists ice coring at the George VI Ice Shelf in Antarctica.
© Ian Potten, British Antarctic Survey

Research leads to climate change warnings

Major new studies from University academics are helping experts better understand climate change factors.

Research from scientists – including Professor Andrew Shepherd, Professor Ian Brooks and Dr Sarah Chadburn at Leeds – has produced important findings about global warming.

Monitoring Antarctica from space has revealed how its ice is being lost to the oceans, providing crucial insight into the continent's response to a warming climate.

Scientists from Leeds, the University of California San Diego and University of Maryland reviewed decades of satellite measurements to reveal how and why Antarctica's glaciers, ice shelves and sea ice are changing.

Their report, published in *Nature's* special issue on Antarctica, explains how ice shelf thinning and collapse have triggered an increase in the continent's sea level contribution.

Lead author, Professor Andrew Shepherd, from the School of Earth and Environment (SEE) at Leeds, said: "Antarctica is way too big to survey from the ground, and we can only truly understand the trends in its ice cover by looking at the continent from space."

Ice losses from Antarctica have increased global sea levels by 7.6 mm since 1992, with two fifths of this rise (3 mm) coming in the past five years alone.

The research, led by Professor Shepherd and Dr Erik Ivins at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, was supported by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Findings published in *Nature* show that prior to 2012, Antarctica lost ice at a steady rate of 76 billion tonnes per year – a 0.2mm per year contribution to sea level rise. However, since then, there has been a sharp, threefold increase. Between 2012 and 2017, the continent lost 219 billion tonnes of ice per year – a 0.6mm per year sea level contribution.

Professor Shepherd said: "According to our analysis, there has been a steep increase in ice losses from Antarctica during the past decade, and the continent is causing sea levels to rise faster today than at any time in the past 25 years. This has to be a concern for the governments we trust to protect our coastal cities and communities."

On the opposite side of the planet, a ship carrying 600 international scientists – including researchers from Leeds – is studying the Arctic's climate system.

The vessel will be deliberately wedged into sea ice as it floats past the North Pole.

This year-long expedition aims to answer some of the biggest scientific questions about the Arctic, including investigating why the region is warming twice as fast as the global average.

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) has awarded grants worth £1.8 million to six research proposals, including one led by Professor Ian Brooks, from SEE, which will utilise a two-month berth on the German ship.

Further pioneering work on climate change is being led by Dr Sarah Chadburn.

Her studies show that to limit the rise in global temperature levels to a maximum of 1.5 °C, fossil fuel emissions should be cut by an additional 20 per cent above previous estimations, due to greenhouse gas emissions from wetlands and permafrost.

The research, published in *Nature Geoscience*, shows global rates of methane emissions from natural wetlands and the release of carbon from thawing permafrost increase as global temperatures rise. These emissions raise global temperatures further, resulting in even more greenhouse gas emissions.

Dr Chadburn, from SEE, said: "Our results reinforce the urgency in reducing fossil fuel burning."



This has to be a concern for the governments we trust to protect our coastal cities and communities.

Professor Andrew Shepherd

Virus could help treat advanced cancers

Early results from a small-scale clinical trial have revealed the potential of a virus to treat some advanced cancers.

The findings, presented by scientists from the University at the annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Oncology, revealed that the specifically-engineered virus was able to infiltrate tumour cells, begin to destroy them and also to boost the body's immune system.



In one case, the patient's tumour disappeared; in another, the tumour reduced in size.

The study looked at the effectiveness of the virus in treating eight patients with cancers that had spread: three were suffering from skin cancer or melanoma and five had bowel

cancer, which had spread to the liver.

Dr Adel Samson, from the Leeds Institute of Cancer and Pathology, who is one of the investigators, said: "These initial findings are very exciting. They show the virus was very effective in being able to switch on the body's immune system, allowing a patient's own defence systems to target the cancer.

"In addition, there was evidence that the virus itself was also destroying the tumour cells."

The virus, called Pexa-Vec, was derived from the Vaccinia family of viruses and modified to target cancer cells. It was given to patients intravenously. Its effectiveness is currently being tested in a larger clinical trial involving patients with liver cancer.

Sustainability

Annual Report highlights major progress

Dr Louise Ellis, Director of Sustainability Services at Leeds

Huge strides have been taken towards further embedding sustainability in schools, faculties and services at the University.

The University's Annual Sustainability Report highlights the many success stories achieved during the past 12 months, while a review of the first anniversary of the Leeds Living Lab project is equally glowing.

This year, Leeds has linked its approach and commitments to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating how we can all play our part in a global solution.

As a University, its core purpose is to increase knowledge and opportunity for the betterment of society. To do this, Leeds has made firm commitments to take its economic, social, environmental and cultural responsibilities seriously.

Dr Louise Ellis, Director of Sustainability Services at Leeds, said: "I believe completely in the need for a sustainable society. We're not there yet, and we all have a part to play."

The Living Lab brings together students,

academic and operational staff to research and test sustainable solutions, enhance the curriculum and solve real world challenges, using the University as both a testbed for innovation and a space for co-created research-led teaching.

In the past year, teams from across campus have developed nine interdisciplinary research projects and ten individual student studies and dissertations promoting sustainability at the University.

Projects have ranged from monitoring and mapping air quality across campus to trialling the mixed ability sports model through workshops and taster days for staff and students. It is hoped the outputs will drive sustainable improvements at the University and that these will be scalable to our communities, the city and beyond.

Thom Cooper, Sustainability Programme Officer, said: "The success of the Living

Lab has been down to the enthusiasm and collaboration of the many staff and students that have engaged with the programme so far."

Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands, said: "The University has once again proved its commitment to a sustainable future through a whole series of activities, innovations, research and policies.

"I am particularly proud of the fact that, through continuing to integrate sustainability into our curriculum, we are graduating students who are responsible global citizens. As a University, we have an important role to increase knowledge and opportunity for the benefit of society. Our graduates are testament to this; they understand global challenges and are eager to be part of the solutions."

See the For Staff website for case studies illustrating the sustainability progress made by the University in the past year: www.leeds.ac.uk/sustainabilityreport

Sustainability Awards 2018

Staff and students who have gone 'above and beyond' to champion sustainability were recognised during a special awards ceremony.

Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands, presented the Sustainability Awards 2018, highlighting his pride in efforts to embed this into University culture.

Winners were:

Embedding Sustainability through

Collaboration: Leeds Finance Summit and the MeetinLeeds Conference Team

Building Knowledge and Capacity:

Dr Catherine Scott, Faculty of Environment

Being a Positive Partner in Society:

Individual winner – Katy Gregg, Student Education Service; Group winner: Leeds University Union Conservation Volunteers

Making the Most of Resources:

Residential Services – Working with the British Heart Foundation

Sustainable Purchasing Award:

Chris Askew, PCB

Significant Contribution to Sustainability

Award: Kathryn Irish

Curricular and Research Innovation Award:

Holly Benfield.

After running for a fruitful eight years, the final 21 Green Impact Awards were presented, recognising staff and students who play an active role in making the workplace more sustainable.

Extra awards were presented to four teams for successfully piloting 'Blueprint', a new scheme to replace Green Impact, due to be officially launched in October 2018.

Full details of all the winners and nominees can be found at

www.leeds.ac.uk/sustainabilityawards

Green Gown Awards nominations revealed

The University is celebrating being nominated in no less than four categories at the prestigious UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards.

Representing more than one million students, 172,000 staff and a combined annual turnover of £15 billion, the Awards are leading the way with their commitment to the global sustainability agenda and proving the value universities and colleges bring to the economy and society.

Finalists emphasise an institution's role in enabling and empowering young people to tackle pressing global issues to ensure they have a better tomorrow.

To be held at York's historic National Railway Museum on 8 November, the Awards ceremony recognises sustainability best practice within the further and higher education sectors. The Awards provide the sector with benchmarks for excellence and are respected by Government, funding councils, senior management, academics and students.

Leeds is nominated in the Benefitting Society, Research With Impact, Tomorrow's Employees and Total Reporting categories.

Special souvenir supplement
Summer 2018

Perfect Day for new Chancellor



The University's new Chancellor, Professor Dame Jane Francis, addressing the audience during her installation ceremony

“As Chancellor, Jane Francis epitomises all that is good about Leeds.”

These were the inspiring words – among many glowing tributes – delivered by the University's Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands, during the official installation of Professor Dame Jane Francis DCMG as the seventh Chancellor at Leeds on 9 July.

Another glorious summer's day on campus greeted visitors and guests attending the ceremony, staged in the impressive surroundings of the Great Hall.

Hundreds were present to mark the

occasion, including an academic procession also featuring six honorary graduands, all pre-eminent in their respective fields and, as a group, reflecting the new Chancellor's professional interests.

Dame Jane is a prominent polar scientist, who worked at Leeds for two decades until 2013, when she was appointed Director of the British Antarctic Survey.

A packed programme of entertainment ranged from Puccini to Lou Reed's *Perfect Day*.

Sir Alan added: “At the dawn of two exhilarating weeks of degree ceremonies, it is my honour and a great personal privilege to introduce Jane Francis as the seventh Chancellor of the University.

“As Chancellor, Jane Francis epitomises all that is good about Leeds. As a leader and an advocate, she personifies our commitment to academic excellence and our values of integrity, inclusiveness, community and professionalism. She has said (and I quote) that ‘helping to inspire passion and achievement is what excites me in my work’... and we cannot ask for more than that.”

In reply, Dame Jane said: “I am truly honoured to take up this post. It's great to be formally associated with the University again because I had such a fantastic career here.

“I hope I can also inspire students to follow their dreams.”

“

I hope I can also inspire students to follow their dreams.

Professor Dame Jane Francis

Packed programme was ‘spectacular’

Inspiring music filled the Great Hall to herald the appointment of the University’s seventh Chancellor.

A packed programme spanned three centuries, ensuring the ceremony truly was a Perfect Day.

The University’s School of Music Saxophone Quartet played a selection of jazz standards for the audience, before an ensemble of students, staff and alumni performed *A Thousand Beautiful Things*, arranged by Dr Ian Sapiro, a lecturer in Music at Leeds. One of the new Chancellor’s chosen tracks when she appeared on BBC Radio Four’s *Desert Island Discs* last year, the Annie Lennox song served as a fitting introduction to proceedings.

The University’s recently-appointed Professor of Poetry, Simon Armitage, who read two of his works, said: “A ceremony such as this, which includes the installation of our new Chancellor,

should be a celebratory occasion. And for that reason, I went through my work to find positive and uplifting poems. It turns out I don’t have any!

“But what I do have is any number of poems about snow and ice, which I thought appropriate given today’s interest in all things cold and frozen.”

He was among a select group of people chosen to perform during the ceremony, which included Opera North stars.

Gordon D Shaw sang Kurt Weill’s *Lost in the Stars* (from *Lost in the Stars*) with great gusto, as well as Jerome Kern’s *Ol’ Man River* (from *Showboat*). And Cordelia Fish gave a resounding rendition of *Quando Men Vo*, from Puccini’s *La bohème*. She enlisted the unscripted support of Pro-Chancellor, David Gray, in the process, much to the amusement of all those gathered for the occasion!

Perfect Day (Lou Reed), arranged by Vicky Burrett, was performed by the Clothworkers Consort of Leeds, who also played Fauré’s *In*

Paradisum (from *Requiem Op. 48*) and *Prayer* (from *Diptyque*), composed by Associate Professor of Music at Leeds, Dr Michael Spencer. Vicky, the University’s Graduate School Manager in the Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law, is a former student of the School of Music.

The Vice-Chancellor said: “I rather like this music. I wonder if we might have it at every graduation ceremony!”

And Dame Jane added: “I’d just like to say thank you to these guys, who are all members of the University. That was absolutely spectacular.

“Lou Reed’s *Perfect Day* is a song most Antarctic people know about. There is a perfect day in Antarctica, when the air is still, with those glittering bits of snow, when the sun shines and it’s just the perfect description of tranquillity. Your rendering of it has been absolutely perfect, and I’ve been taken back to a certain time in a tent in Antarctica when we just celebrated a perfect day. So, thank you very much.”



The University’s School of Music Saxophone Quartet performing for guests



The Clothworkers Consort of Leeds with (in the foreground) the ensemble of students, staff and alumni

“

That was absolutely spectacular.

Chancellor, Professor Dame Jane Francis



Opera North’s Cordelia Fish enlists the support of Pro-Chancellor, David Gray



Gordon D Shaw singing *Ol’ Man River* from *Showboat*



The University’s Professor of Poetry, Simon Armitage, who read two of his works

Professor Dame Jane Francis receiving her honorary degree from Melvyn Bragg when he was Chancellor



Welcome back, Professor Dame Jane Francis



Dame Jane receiving the Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George

A prominent polar scientist, Professor Dame Jane Francis has conducted pioneering research – with numerous expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic – and has undertaken a wide range of international roles to promote the UK’s polar interests.

Appointed Dame Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George in the 2017 New Year Honours for her distinguished contributions to polar science and diplomacy, Jane is also a recipient of the Polar Medal – only the fourth woman ever to achieve this honour – which was presented for outstanding polar research.

Her principal research interests are palaeoclimatology and palaeobotany. Dame Jane specialises in the study of fossil plants, especially woods, and their use as tools for climate interpretation and information about past biodiversity. Her current work focuses on understanding past climate change during both greenhouse and icehouse periods, particularly in the polar regions – the areas on Earth most sensitive to climate change.

She has strong ties with the University, with a 22-year career at Leeds. She became Professor of Palaeoclimatology, Head of the School of Earth and Environment and, from 2008 to 2013, was Dean of the Faculty of Environment.

The University awarded Dame Jane an Honorary Doctorate of Science in 2014.

In her role as Chancellor, she will act as a figurehead and advocate for the University. Dame Jane will preside over degree ceremonies and confer degrees, chair meetings of the University Court and support profile-raising events.

Dame Jane succeeds Melvyn Bragg (Lord Bragg of Wigton), who stepped down in 2017 after 17 years in office.

Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands, said: “On behalf of the University, I would also like to express sincere thanks to Melvyn Bragg for the energy, commitment and intellectual curiosity that he has brought to the role of Chancellor; helping us to raise our profile and promote the interests and value of universities in public debate during a critical time for UK higher education.”

Melvyn Bragg added: “I’ve known and admired Jane for years and I am delighted by her appointment. I can’t think of a better choice. She is a top-class scientist; she has a real passion for the transformative power of universities; and she has empathy with students and staff alike. I’m sure Jane will make a great Chancellor.”



Dame Jane on an expedition in Antarctica



I can't think of a better choice.

Melvyn Bragg (Lord Bragg of Wigton)



Jane Rumble



Peter Gibbs



Kenton Cool



‘An incredible honour’

“I am absolutely delighted to be here today and in such esteemed company – it’s an incredible honour.”

Professor Alice Roberts eloquently summarised the immense pride she and her fellow honorary degree recipients felt to be a part of this special day, as she gave the vote of thanks.

The writer, TV presenter and Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham, added: “What a wonderful day; what a perfect day to be here graduating at the same time as Dame Jane Francis becomes the new Chancellor. She is going to be a wonderful Chancellor.”

Honorary degrees were also awarded to the following recipients during the Chancellor’s installation ceremony:

Kenton Cool, mountaineer and adventurer
Professor Mary Fowler, Master of Darwin College, Cambridge
Peter Gibbs, former BBC Weather forecaster
Professor Gabriele Hegerl, Professor of Climate System Science, University of Edinburgh; and
Jane Rumble, Head of Polar Regions Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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It has been so inspiring being with all these great people.

Jane Rumble



Professor Dame Jane Francis (front row, second from right) is pictured with honorary graduates; University Secretary, Roger Gair (back row, far left); Serene Esuruoso (back row, third from left), the Education Officer in the LRU Executive, who was the Mace Bearer on the day; Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands (back row, second from right); and Pro-Chancellor, David Gray (back row, far right).



Professor Mary Fowler



Professor Gabriele Hegerl



Professor Alice Roberts

Kenton Cool, who was among the students the new Chancellor taught when she first arrived at the University, said: "Today has been a journey of discovery coming back to Leeds, just re-living graduation again. It's been fantastic."

Peter Gibbs said: "It's a real honour to be given this honorary degree on the same day as Jane Francis is installed as Chancellor. Jane is someone I have great admiration for and a common connection with, in terms of the Antarctic – a place in the world that I absolutely love."

Professor Gabriele Hegerl said: "It has been a wonderful occasion and wonderful music."

Jane Rumble said: "Today has been an absolute honour and it has been so inspiring being with all these great people, particularly with such a polar focus."

A number of other distinguished individuals

were presented with honorary degrees during the University's graduation fortnight, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to their respective fields and to society.

They are:

Professor Wendy Burn, President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

David Olusoga, British-Nigerian historian, TV presenter and producer

Professor Dame Clare Marx, former President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and Associate Medical Director at Ipswich Hospital

Professor Iain Mattaj, Director General, European Molecular Biology Laboratory

Dame Anne Owers, Chair of the Independent Police Complaints Commission

Professor Lord Robert Mair, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers

Reverend Christopher Senyonjo, clergyman and campaigner for LGBT rights in Uganda; and

Professor Leslie Valiant, Professor of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, Harvard University.

Sir Alan Langlands, the University's Vice-Chancellor, said: "It is a privilege to acknowledge and honour such distinguished individuals, all of whom have contributed great knowledge, understanding and expertise in the service of society. We are proud to celebrate their achievements."

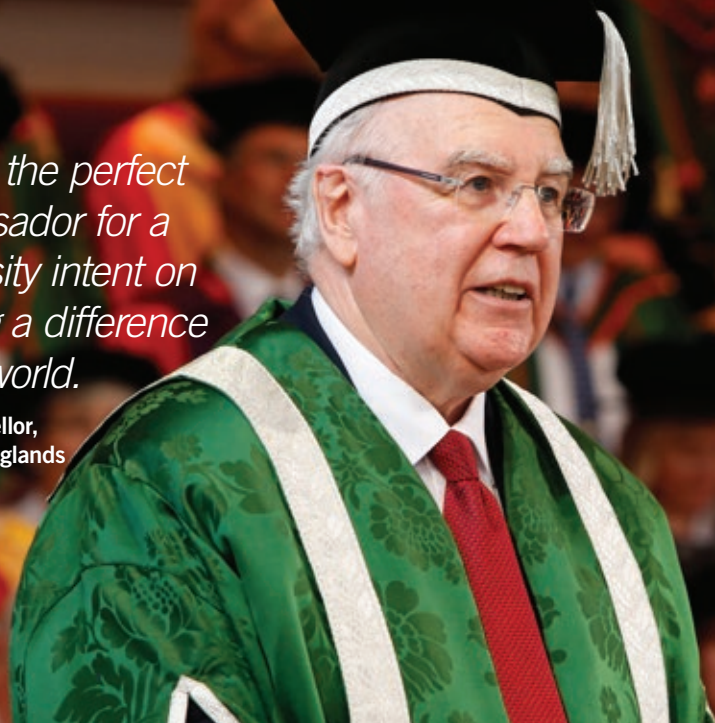
Dame Jane said: I'm really delighted we have some great people here, whom I really admire, as honorary graduates.

"It's absolutely fantastic these people are now associated with the University."

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Jane is the perfect ambassador for a University intent on making a difference in the world.

Vice-Chancellor,
Sir Alan Langlands



Distinguished scientist and inspirational leader

Vice-Chancellor
Sir Alan Langlands' speech

At the dawn of two exhilarating weeks of degree ceremonies, it is my honour and a great personal privilege to introduce Jane Francis as the new Chancellor of the University.

Jane is a distinguished scientist and an inspirational teacher. She has a long career in academia, which includes 22 years as a highly valued member of this University.

Since 2013, she has been the Director of the British Antarctic Survey. As the first woman to hold this post, she is making her own indelible mark on the proud history of British polar exploration and research. A history, which, by remarkable coincidence, tracks the early development of this University, almost to the day:

- Sir James Clark Ross located the North Magnetic Pole in 1831, just as the Leeds School of Medicine was being formed
- a Dundee-built whaling ship was taken into Royal Navy Service as HMS Discovery for the British Arctic Expedition to the North Pole in 1874, just as the Yorkshire College was taking root on this very spot; and
- the Royal Research Ship Discovery launched in 1901 – and designed specifically for scientific research – carried Captain (Robert Falcon) Scott and Ernest Shackleton on their first successful trip to the Antarctic, returning in 1904, just as the University of Leeds received its Royal Charter.

Also in 1904, the Polar Medal was inaugurated for members of Captain Scott's first expedition to Antarctica, and was then awarded to the crew of Shackleton's later expeditions, which returned in 1909 and 1917. Almost a hundred years later, in 2002, the Polar Medal was awarded by The Queen to Jane Francis for her outstanding contributions to British polar research.

Later, in 2014, Jane was awarded the prestigious Coke medal by the Geological Society of London for – and I quote – “playing a pivotal role in shaping and directing Earth science carried out in the polar regions” and also for “being an outstanding chair of the Operations Group of Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, the international forum of nations concerned with legal and operational issues in Antarctica”.

In the 2017 New Year Honours list, Jane was appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George – an order which recognises extraordinary service in foreign affairs – for her unflinching service to polar science and diplomacy. Of course, she holds many other national and international awards, including an honorary doctorate in science from the University, which, of course, is one of the most prestigious!

In her day job, Jane had overall responsibility for moving the vast Halley VI Research Station for 23 kilometres following the detection of a new and unpredictable ice crack on the Brunt Ice Shelf. And with typical generosity of spirit and gritty determination, she motivated, encouraged and praised the exceptional team of people who carried out this complex and hazardous project every inch of the way.

And, having convinced the Chancellor of the Exchequer to part with £200 million – he is now editing the evening news, which is actually the Evening Standard – she is awaiting delivery of the Royal Research Ship Sir David Attenborough – one of the most advanced polar research vessels in the world, with leading-edge technology to study the ocean, the sea floor and the atmosphere.

In one of Jane's most skilled acts of diplomacy, Boaty McBoatface has found its place as an Autosub confined to underwater duties.

Things have come a long way since Scott used the rudimentary scientific instruments that can still be seen in a tiny room buried deep in the wooden hull of the Royal Research Ship Discovery. And things have also come a long way at this University. This is now a community of more than 40,000 people committed to academic excellence, which we define through high quality education, a strong and dynamic research base, remarkable international reach, and a track record of economic, social, cultural and environmental development. We do this here in this great city of Leeds, but also around the world.

The University is part of a worldwide endeavour to tackle the challenges of global health; energy, food

and water security; climate and cities. And we're a University that knows the importance of culture and social justice in tackling the inequalities inherent in these challenges.

We are also one of the most technologically advanced universities in the UK, recently selected to play a central role in important national initiatives, including the Met Office Academic Partnership and the Turing, Royce and Rosalind Franklin Institutes.

Ladies and gentlemen, as Chancellor, Jane Francis epitomises all that is good about Leeds. As a leader and an advocate she personifies the University's commitment to academic excellence and our values of integrity, inclusiveness, community and professionalism. She has said (and I quote) that: “Helping to inspire passion and achievement is what excites me in my work.” Surely, we cannot ask for more than that?

For me, Jane will continue to be an inspiration to our students and staff, both as an academic with an exceptional track record in education and research, and as someone who has pushed the boundaries of human endeavour. Her concern for the beauty and fragility of Antarctica and her determination to address issues of global importance will capture the imagination and excite current and future generations of students. She is the perfect ambassador for a University intent on making a difference in the world.

Above all – given Jane's long and distinguished association with the University – her appointment sends out, I think, an unequivocal message of self-confidence in the University's inner strength and ability; and it reinforces the importance of knowledge, understanding, the astute use of objective evidence and humanity in tackling global challenges. She will also ensure that we continue to stretch the intellectual horizons of our students.

It therefore gives me great personal pleasure to welcome Professor Dame Jane Elizabeth Francis DCMG as the seventh Chancellor of the University of Leeds.

Inspiring students to follow their dreams

Chancellor Professor Dame Jane Francis' speech

I am truly honoured to take up this post. It's great to be formally associated with the University again because I had such a fantastic career here.

Being Chancellor is not something you put on your career plan, is it? I was really quite surprised and honoured when Alan rang me up and asked me to be Chancellor. Without a doubt it was a 'yes'. Who wouldn't like such a nice job as shaking hands with students on the happiest day of the year when they are just graduating? It's a fantastic thing.

I sat there for 22 years, watching happy students and proud parents come on the stage. I am very conscious of the seats behind me and I'm truly impressed that every seat is full. So, thank you everyone for turning up! You look truly splendid in your multi-coloured gowns.

It's also a really great honour to follow Melvyn Bragg, who was Chancellor before me.

It really was a great pleasure to be here as a member of staff. So many students have been through the University, just in the time I was a member of staff. And I meet Leeds graduates everywhere – on the Tube, in government, in businesses, overseas. They have taken all walks of life. Their education was superb and they really have gone on to do the most amazing things.

So, how can I support the University as Chancellor?

For the past five years, I have been Director of the British Antarctic Survey, which is a government research institution, so I have been working much closer to government than I would have done in a University. It's really quite a different life.

It's quite interesting for me to be able to see where the decisions are made that affect University and academic life and how they come up with some of the ideas. Some of it would probably surprise you, if you knew! So, I hope by having that kind of experience, I can bring something to Leeds in terms of helping understand how government is shaping its agendas, particularly now in this time of change when there's a new structure in academia and science in the UK, and we have to look for partners overseas and we

have to understand the different way funding is allocated.

I hope I can also inspire students to follow their dreams. It never occurred to me years and years ago that I would end up in Antarctica and the Arctic, but it's a pretty special life I've led, I think, going to the Polar Regions. They are truly inspiring places.

Over the years, when I've been doing my research in the Polar Regions, I've seen them change from what was a nice place to go – a nice adventure, interesting science that tells us something about Antarctica – to something that actually is becoming a real focus for how the Earth is going to respond to change in future.

The Polar Regions can take huge amounts of water in that ice, but they are changing. The Polar Regions are the place on Earth that change first when the climate changes – and they change fast. So, the research that's being done in Antarctica is something that is going to tell us how the whole world is going to be affected by climate change. What happens in the Polar Regions affects us here, even in Leeds – mostly through melting glaciers, sea level change, how the climate is being affected in Antarctica, how the oceans are changing. So, if I look a bit worried at times, it's because I know maybe what's coming.

But it is quite an inspirational place to work, and I hope I can pass on some of that inspiration to students. You just have to mention the word penguin

and it gets everyone engaged!

I am delighted to see so many of my friends here today – a lot of people in the audience who have been wise mentors, fantastic colleagues and really good friends. And some people in the audience who shared the most awful jokes with me (I'm talking about the Deans)! I really enjoyed working with them and we had a really special relationship. Thank you for all the support you have given me over the years.

I'm really delighted we have some really great people here, whom I admire greatly, as honorary graduates.

Kenton Cool, whom I taught as a Geology student, is now very famous for climbing Mount Everest and other high peaks many, many times. It's just fantastic to see how he has developed.

Jane Rumble is Head of the Polar Regions in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Jane and I met when we were sea-sick together on a Polar ship crossing the Drake Passage! Jane and I go through many adventures – everything from international politics about Antarctica and their sensitivities with certain countries to learning an awful lot about fishing in the Southern Ocean.

Professor Mary Fowler is an international geophysicist and Master of Darwin College in Cambridge, and I am really honoured to also be a Fellow of Darwin College.

Professor Alice Roberts and I are on committees together. She is such

an excellent scientist, but Alice can also communicate the science in fantastic ways.

Professor Gabriele Hegerl is one of the leading climate scientists of our time. It's a real honour to have her here in the audience.

Peter Gibbs started his career as a meteorologist in Antarctica in our Halley station – the one that's on an ice shelf that's now cracking. If you are going to study the weather, why not study it in one of the most extreme places on Earth?

It's absolutely fantastic these people are now associated with the University. I'd like to thank you all for coming today.

So, thank you again for this great honour to be your Chancellor. I am truly delighted to be part of the University again and I hope I can serve you all in the future and inspire your students.

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Thank you again for this great honour to be your Chancellor. I am truly delighted.

Professor Dame Jane Francis



Professor Dame Jane Francis is welcomed to her new post by Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands (left), watched by Pro-Chancellor, David Gray (right)

What a celebration

Pro-Chancellor David Gray's speech

Through the years, July as been a month for great beginnings. On this day in 1877, the first ever Wimbledon Championships began. In July 1885, Louis Pastor gave the first Rabies vaccination. July 1969 saw the first moonwalk, and July 1978 saw the birth of the first test tube baby. And Chancellor, your installation is a great beginning for the University.



You will be a great Chancellor and we are delighted by your appointment.

Pro-Chancellor, David Gray

What a celebration of this we have just seen, and on behalf of the Council, the University and everybody here, I would like to thank all those who have made this possible; our honorary graduates, who have added such lustre to this occasion and, of course, Professor Alice Roberts, who has just delivered such an uplifting, inspiring and enjoyable vote of thanks on their behalf.

Professor Simon Armitage with incredible reading of his own poetry, helping us to at least think of cooler climes.

The University Secretary [Roger Gair] and his team, and everyone else involved in the organisation of this celebratory event. I know, and have seen, how much energy and effort has been put in to this to such great effect. I also want to add my personal thanks to the University Secretary, who just before we started today whispered to me that with the weight of academic talent present, a double negative in my closing should be an absolute 'no no'!

It is great to see the University flourishing, in no small part down to the leadership of our Vice-Chancellor. We are extraordinarily fortunate to have an inspirational leader, whose qualities include humility, integrity and great wisdom and humanity, and without whom the University would not be in the incredibly strong and successful position it is today. And further strengthened by your appointment, Chancellor.

Nearly five years ago, in my first weeks as Pro-Chancellor, I had the opportunity of meeting you, Chancellor, perhaps with some trepidation as I was new and I was in awe of your achievements and standing in the academic community. However, I had no need to be nervous as what I found in your office was only

the slightest nod to these – with an ice pick and a few pieces of rock – and the person who emerged from behind the great pile of papers to greet me was obviously someone whose intellect and capability was more than matched by her humility and warmth.

What was also apparent was your undoubted passion for your subject, your students and your university. You will be a great Chancellor and we are delighted by your appointment.

What I have seen during my tenure is that this passion, Chancellor, is shared across the University. As E M Forster said: "One person with a passion is better than 40 people merely interested." And I have not come across anyone working here at Leeds, or involved with the University, who is merely interested.

The 9 July itself has seen some great events. The independence of Argentina, the Royal Assent for an independent Australia, the discovery of Element 102, the engagement of The Queen and Prince Philip, the cracking of the Enigma Code, the first successful open heart surgery without anaesthesia and, of course, now, the installation of our new Chancellor.

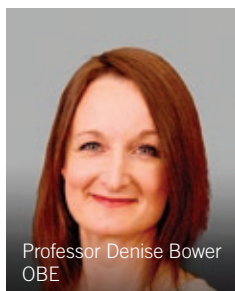


Watch the full recording of the Chancellor's installation at www.leeds.ac.uk/chancellorinstallationvideo

University Secretary, Roger Gair; Pro-Chancellor, David Gray; new Chancellor, Professor Dame Jane Francis; and Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands, sharing a joke ahead of the ceremony



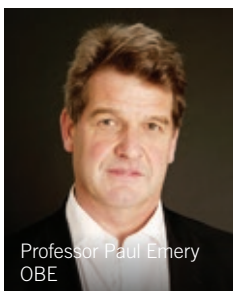
People



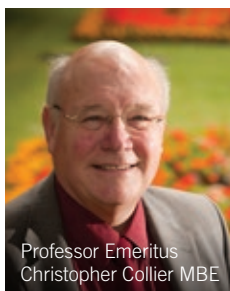
Professor Denise Bower
OBE



Professor Anne-Maree
Keenan OBE



Professor Paul Emery
OBE



Professor Emeritus
Christopher Collier MBE

Queen's Birthday Honours for leading academics

Four leading academics from the University celebrated being recognised in The Queen's Birthday Honours.

OBEs were awarded to Professor Denise Bower (School of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering), Professor Anne-Maree Keenan (School of Healthcare, Faculty of Medicine and Health) and Professor Paul Emery (Institute of Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Medicine).

And Professor Emeritus Christopher Collier (National Centre for Atmospheric Science) was awarded an MBE.

Professor Bower started at Leeds in October 2000 and was made Professor of Engineering Project Management in the School of Civil Engineering seven years later. She was Deputy Head of School from 2004 to 2007 and Director of Learning and Teaching from 2006 to 2011. She became part-time in 2014, when she took up the role of Executive Director of the Major Projects Association.

She has also acted as an advisor – working closely with Government – to some of the most complex infrastructure projects in the UK, including High Speed 2, Heathrow's expansion programme and the Parliamentary Estate refurbishment. She is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a Fellow of the Association for Project Management.

She said: "I am very proud to have been awarded an OBE. It's wonderful to be recognised in this way as it's a reflection not only of my achievements but also of the support I've had from my family and the great people I work with."

Anne-Maree Keenan is Professor of Applied Health Research at the University and Assistant Director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Leeds Biomedical Research Centre. Her research interests are osteoarthritis in the foot and lower limb.

She has been honoured for her services to podiatry. Professor Keenan is also involved in building research capacity among the allied health professions.

She said: "I am deeply honoured to be recognised for championing the role of podiatry and allied health professionals in research, both here in the UK and Australia, and am fortunate to work with so many committed, like-minded people. I am truly grateful."

Paul Emery is the Arthritis Research UK Professor of Rheumatology at Leeds. He is also Director of the NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre.

He trained as a doctor in Cambridge and London in the 1970s, and has been honoured with numerous awards for his research into arthritis and associated diseases. He was appointed to Chair in Leeds in 1994 and has since built the largest academic rheumatology unit here.

Professor Emery said: "This award recognises the hard work performed, in both Leeds and Europe, by a number of people in preventing the disability of arthritis."

Professor Emeritus Christopher Collier was awarded an MBE in recognition of his services to atmospheric science.

Professor Collier is a former head of Strategic Partnerships at the National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS), and was based at Leeds from 2009. He is still an Emeritus Professor at NCAS.

The focus of Professor Collier's work was to help scientists study weather and climate, improving lives through the use of NCAS research. In particular, he used weather radar to make measurements of rainfall and improve forecasting of heavy downpours and floods.

Professor Collier said: "I feel very honoured to have received the award. It has been very rewarding to have contributed to the work of NCAS."

MEETinLEEDS celebrates international accolade

The University's conference and event team – MEETinLEEDS – is celebrating winning a prestigious international accolade.

It was awarded Best Partnership or Collaboration at the Conference Awards in London. This was in recognition for its work alongside the charity Communication Matters, triumphing over tough international competition, such as the Global Summit in New Zealand.

Communication Matters is a UK-based charitable organisation, which works to promote the best possible services for people with complex communication needs.

Harriet Boatwright, Sales and Marketing Manager at MEETinLEEDS, said: "We are so delighted with this truly international win alongside Communication Matters.

"I am really proud of the whole team at the University for all they do alongside Communication Matters, to ensure we offer so much more than just the venue to an amazing organisation and the colleagues within it."

White Rose Libraries partnership wins national award

The THELMAs are the only national awards honouring the full range of professional services and administrative talent working in UK universities.

White Rose Libraries has been awarded the 2018 Outstanding Library Team accolade.

Working together, the libraries develop joint services and respond creatively to challenges for researchers and research collections.

Leeds Librarian, Stella Butler, says: "We are very proud to be a part of the collaboration and honoured to have been recognised in this way."

Students

Nurturing the next generation of skilled researchers

The Universities of Leeds, York and Sheffield have been awarded funding by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to support more than 250 PhD researchers.

The doctoral training programme will be provided by the White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities (WROCAH) – a collaboration between the three Yorkshire universities.

The award will support about 265 fully-funded PhD researchers in the arts and humanities over five years, with the first cohort starting in October 2019.

Funding will be supplemented by further investment from all three Russell Group universities.

PhD programmes offered by WROCAH will equip high-achieving individuals with the skills and experience to become leaders in their chosen fields. The researchers will work closely with leading external organisations from sectors including museums, galleries, archives and libraries, arts and heritage organisations, the creative industries, design, manufacturing and retail, publishing and performing arts, media, charities and the public sector.

Professor Frank Finlay, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Culture at Leeds, said: “This generous funding from the

AHRC is a great vote of confidence in WROCAH and the quality and range of research it is able to provide.

“The exceptionally talented postgraduate researchers we will be able to attract to all three universities will help shape our disciplines for the future.

“Our students will receive the best possible training and support, equipping them with the skills, experience, confidence and ambition to apply their innovative and exciting research in the wider world, generating socio-cultural, economic and other forms of public benefit.”



The exceptionally talented postgraduate researchers we will be able to attract to all three universities will help shape our disciplines for the future.

Professor Frank Finlay

Beaumont Award winners

Fourteen final-year students were rewarded for their projects inspired by the life and work of Michael Faraday, whose discoveries were crucial in the development of technology innovation.

Professor Adam Beaumont – Founder and CEO of telecommunications operator aql, a Visiting Professor in Cyber Security at the University and the sponsor of the awards – said: “These awards are given to those who have not only delivered an exemplary and impactful final year project, but who have articulated their passion for the change it could have on society. I’m looking for our future leaders and change-makers.”

Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands, said: “The Beaumont Awards reflect the University’s

commitment to research-led education and research-based learning.

“Adam Beaumont’s generosity, borne of his own experience, will inspire our students to reach for new heights of academic excellence.”

Winning students are: Michelle Akure (Engineering), Olivia Byrne (Environment), Alisha Flemming (Biological Sciences), Jack Helliwell (Medicine and Health), Alexandra Holmes (Biological Sciences), Linda Latuta (Environment), Katie McDonald-Meyer (Medicine and Health), Jessica Fletcher (Medicine and Health), Jaimin Patel (Medicine and Health), Joseph Parr (Maths and Physical Sciences), Rebecca Penhale-Jones (Engineering), Joshua Woodcock-Shaw (Medicine and Health), Georgia Zimmer (Arts Humanities and Cultures), Harrison Oates (Maths and Physical Sciences).

FUAM Graduate Art Prize 2018 finalists

Four Leeds graduates have been nominated for the Friends of University Art & Music (FUAM) Graduate Art Prize.

Now in its sixth year, the competition rewards the artistic excellence of students completing their studies in Art and Design and Fine Art at the University.

They were selected by an expert panel of judges comprising of Nigel Walsh (Contemporary Art Curator at Leeds Art Gallery), Amy Charlesworth (Lecturer in Art History at the Open University) and Luke Windsor (Deputy Dean of Arts, Humanities and Cultures at the University of Leeds).

The finalists are: Beth Windmill (BA Art and Design), Hannah Marsh (BA Fine Art), Katie Clark (BA Fine Art) and Tayisiya Shovgelia (BA Art and Design).

The judges will return in late September to select the overall winner. Prizes will be presented during an awards ceremony on 26 September 2018 staged by FUAM – a registered charity established in 1989 to promote and support art and music at the University.

The exhibition in the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery is open each week, from 1-5pm on Monday and between 10am and 5pm Tuesday to Saturday. It will run until 3 November 2018 and entry is free.

Minerva team honoured for community engagement

Learning Technologies at Leeds has fought off international competition to win a coveted Blackboard Catalyst Award.

The Library-based team won the Community Engagement accolade for its work developing Minerva, the University’s new combined virtual learning environment (VLE) and portal, launched in July 2017.

The Blackboard Catalyst Awards honours educators and administrators who are passionate about using technology in education and collaborating on best practice.

Paul Cave, an e-Learning Officer involved in the Minerva project, said: “This was a very innovative use of Blackboard to develop a portal and bring it together with the VLE to provide a single place for students to receive communications, undertake their studies and look for help and information.

“We’re one of only a handful of institutions to do something like this and the feedback we’ve had from our users has been overwhelmingly positive.”

Student Lifecycle Programme

Getting fit for a digital future: The Student Lifecycle Programme

Online for up to 10 hours a day and preferring digital communications above anything else, Generation Z is already driving cultural and technological shifts across the world.

These 'digital natives' are our current and future students, with the youngest still in primary school. So, how are we preparing to meet the changing needs of a generation of people who have had a smartphone since the age of seven and never known a world without the internet?

Introducing the Student Lifecycle Programme

The Student Lifecycle Programme (SLP) is a long-term transformation initiative to ensure our end-to-end student education processes, systems and ways of working – from prospect to graduation – are fit for purpose and deliver an outstanding experience, for both students and staff.

It's expected to last for at least five years, with the first step being to update the University's student records system, Banner, to the next version. The team will then be looking at processes across the board, working with colleagues throughout the University to find the best tools and processes to deliver a great student experience, meet all its data and regulatory requirements and focus on curriculum management.

Why does the University need to change?

Many of the University's systems are no longer fit for purpose and, in some cases, are at risk of failure. Leeds has hundreds of local systems that aren't supported by IT, multiple ways of doing the same thing across schools and faculties, plus an unknown number of processes and databases that aren't visible.

The University can't extract the right data to be compliant with new reporting regulations and staff are having to create time-consuming workarounds. Leeds is also anticipating changes to student numbers and cohort mix in the future, plus increasing demands from students to provide a more joined-up, intuitive service.

What changes can we expect?

The Student Lifecycle Programme is about transformational change – it is more than a systems upgrade.

The transformational approach centres on consistency to drive effectiveness, efficiency and, ultimately, a better student and colleague experience.

The SLP creates an opportunity to bring together all programme support, quality assurance and assessment 'transactional' administration into a unified back office service for the University. It also provides opportunity to focus more effort in Schools and Faculties on student needs and student-facing, School-specific support to make some processes less labour-intensive, such as programme support, assessment and so forth, and to invest more effort in student-facing support, for which there is an increasing need.

This is a change to how things are currently done and will inevitably take a number of years and a phased

approach, during which time colleagues will be fully involved in the changes.

With a continuing increase in both student numbers and the diversity of our intake, we know we need further investment to support student outcomes in the years ahead.

Will we be asking students what they want?

We already have feedback from existing surveys – both internal to the University and external – and think-tanks regarding Generation Z views.

We have conducted a few student focus groups so far and will continue with this low-key approach in order to capture views – e.g. at registration and module enrolment time. We do not want to be raising expectations with future applicants or students when the additional enhancements they might want are more than four years away from being delivered.

In terms of future system enhancements, we anticipate fuller engagement with applicants and students to understand their wants and needs.

So, what happens now?

It's early days for the team and the next few months will be spent managing the Banner project to completion, then mapping the structures, systems and processes that make up the end-to-end student journey.

Some University staff might already be engaging with the SLP team, but input from all areas will be required so the team can understand current processes and ways of working and find the best solutions with the help of the people who use them day in, day out, so make sure you get involved.

How you can help

During the coming months and years, the SLP team will need as much input as possible from University staff – the people who use its systems and processes every day – to understand what's working well and what's holding them back.

The SLP team is looking to build a network of 'champions' across the University, who will represent their peers' views and concerns to the team, working with them to ensure the right people are consulted and brought in to the project at the right time.

Email communications manager, Liz Wilmshurst, on l.wilmshurst@leeds.ac.uk to register your interest in working with the SLP, or to be added to the SLP mailing list.



In the news



Dr Karen Bacon (Geography – Environment) co-authored a study with ecologists from industry partner AECOM, which found **no evidence to suggest that Japanese knotweed causes significant structural damage**. The research received wide media coverage across BBC Radio 4, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail* and many more.

Professor Alastair Hay (LICAMM – Medicine and Health) wrote an article in BBC News explaining how the **'Novichok' nerve agent**, which had killed a woman and left a man in a critical condition, still posed a threat when police were trying to find the contaminated container and determine how the victims came into contact with the substance in Wiltshire. He was featured across other media, including BBC World News and BBC Radio 5 Live, as well as *The Independent*, *The New York Times* and *Metro*.

Professor Chris Gale (LICAMM – Medicine and Health) comments on a new study in *The Guardian*, which shows **a correlation between air pollution and changes in the structure of the heart seen in early stages of heart failure**. He references the importance of this study but emphasises the study's limitations.



Dr Fiona Gill (Earth and Environment) led research that **measured the nutritional value of herbivore dinosaurs' diet** by growing their food in atmospheric conditions similar to those found roughly 150 million years ago. This was featured in *The Guardian*, *Business Standard* and others.

Dr Nicola Buckland (Psychology – Medicine and Health) led research that found **bigger portions (rather than smaller) of 'lower energy-dense' foods, such as vegetables, lean meat and rice, made participants feel less hungry**, despite consuming fewer calories. The research featured in the *Daily Mirror* and *Yorkshire Evening Post*.

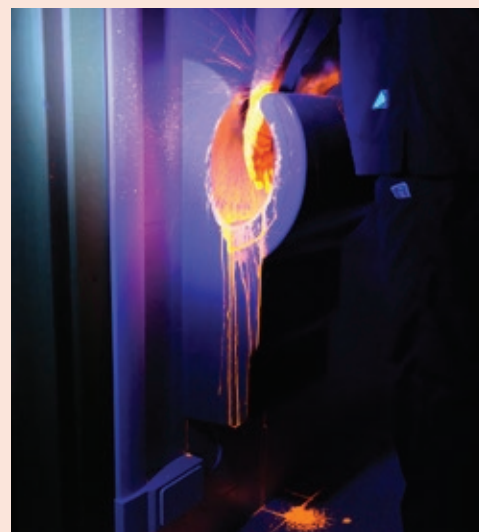
Dr Anna Hogg (Earth and Environment) commented in FOX News about **the dangers of an iceberg that broke from Antarctica's ice shelf, battering against Bawden** due to winds and ocean currents. She said that if it destabilised, it could potentially lead to the collapse of the rest of the shelf, which could have an impact on rising sea levels. Her comments also featured in *Science News*, *Daily Mail* and others.

Dr Des McLernon (Electronic and Electrical Engineering) appeared on BBC One Look North, **playing six of the public pianos in The Leeds Piano Trail** situated across the city, on the first day of the Leeds International Piano Competition.

Professor Rob Richardson (Mechanical Engineering) and Dr Bilal Kaddouh (Electronic and Electrical Engineering) appeared on ITV to talk about **the University's Self Repairing Cities research programme** and how the Faculty of Engineering is developing drones capable of 3D printing asphalt to fill cracks in road surfaces before they become potholes. The programme was also featured on BBC Radio 4.



Professor Chris Gale (LICAMM) was involved in research that revealed **excessive sleep should be considered a 'marker' of poor health**. Getting more than ten hours of sleep a night increased the chances of death from stroke by 56% and heart disease by 49%. The research has received wide press coverage, including in *The Independent*, *New York Post*, *Daily Mail* and *Metro*.



Professor Mark Wilcox (LIBACS – Medicine and Health) supervised an international study that reveals **jet-air hand dryers in hospital toilets spread more germs than disposable paper towels and should not be used**. The research received wide media coverage on BBC Radio 4 and in *The Times*, *Daily Mail*, *The Huffington Post* and more than 150 regional outlets.

Dr Heiko Wurdak (LICAP – Medicine and Health) has led research identifying an **experimental chemical that causes aggressive brain tumour cells to self-destruct** in laboratory tests. The study could be the first step in tackling cancers, such as glioblastoma, which led to Dame Tessa Jowell's death earlier this year. This was featured in *The Independent*, *Daily Mail*, *Yorkshire Post* and many more.

Professor Mark Mon-Williams (Psychology – Medicine and Health) supervised research that has identified **young children with better eye-to-hand co-ordination were more likely to perform better in primary school tests** for reading, writing and maths. The study featured on BBC One, as well as in *The Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *The Yorkshire Post* and many more.



Honours



Professor Peter Buckley OBE, Professor of International Business from Leeds University Business School, has been nominated for an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration by the Open University of Hong Kong. Professor Buckley said: "I am delighted and honoured to be nominated. This is a part of the world to which I have devoted a great deal of my research career and it remains of vital importance to global wellbeing. I shall relish being reacquainted with the vibrant atmosphere of Hong Kong."



Professor Catherine Noakes, Professor of Environmental Engineering for Buildings at Leeds, has been conferred as a Fellow of the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate, in recognition for her contributions to this field of research. Her research focuses on airborne transmission of infection in hospitals, ventilation design and modelling infection risk with different ventilation strategies. Professor Noakes said: "I am very pleased because this is a recognition by the indoor air community that my research, and that of my group, is significant and recognised internationally."

Lydia Bleasdale, from the School of Law, is named Law Teacher of the Year 2018. The prestigious award, sponsored by Oxford University Press (OUP), recognises the vital role teachers play in educating the next generation of lawyers, as well as rewarding outstanding achievement in teaching. Lydia said: "I am absolutely delighted to have won this award. Student education is taken incredibly seriously at the School of Law, and teaching excellence is really valued."



Dr Bernadette Moore, Associate Professor in the School of Food Science and Nutrition, has been awarded the prestigious Nutrition Society Silver Medal. The annual award was presented to Dr Moore for her research 'From Sugar to Liver Fat and Public Health: Systems Biology Driven Studies in Understanding Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease Pathogenesis'. Dr Moore said: "I am incredibly honoured to win this prestigious award from the Nutrition Society. It has been really lovely hearing congratulations and well wishes from past students and current and former colleagues and friends."



Dr Oliver Thurley, composer and Teaching Fellow in the School of Music, has been awarded the 2018 Kranichstein Music Prize, as part of the 2018 Darmstadt Summer Courses in Germany. The Prize awards laureates for a work/performance the jury judges to be outstanding in terms of quality and impact between two criteria – composition and interpretation. For many, this award marks an important milestone at the beginning of their musical career. Oliver said: "I am honoured and delighted to receive this prize."



Dr Harry Rossiter, from the School of Biomedical Sciences, has been awarded the Young Investigator of the Year award at the COPD 11 International Conference. This prestigious award recognises individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in the field of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Dr Rossiter said: "I am extremely humbled to receive this honor from such an inspirational group of scientists. Clinical research is not done by a single person; this award is for the team that contributed to all the work going on in our labs at LA BioMed at Harbor-UCA Medical Center."

Professor Stuart Egginton (School of Biomedical Sciences) has been awarded a Fellowship of The Physiological Society. The Professor of Exercise Science has demonstrated leadership and innovation in physiology teaching and education through his role in Sport and Exercise Sciences (SES), for which he is Research Theme Lead (and Programme Lead for both Sports Science in Relation to Medicine and MSc Sport and Exercise Medicine). Professor Egginton said: "To have one's standing in any field recognised by your peers is, of course, very pleasing."



Professor Terry Wilkins, Emeritus Professor of Nanomanufacturing Innovation, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Technology by London Metropolitan University. This was in recognition of the significant human benefits worldwide from the many innovations he and his various teams have achieved in medicine, nanotechnology and the environment. Professor Wilkins said: "Whilst I am very proud of the economic and business impact of all these innovations by my various teams and myself, I am more pleased about the positive human impact."



Dr Lorna Dougan, of the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology and School of Physics and Astronomy, has won the 2018 British Biophysical Society (BBS) Young Investigator Award. Dr Dougan was honoured for her research on the physics of living systems. Dr Dougan, an Associate Professor of Biological Physics, said: "I am honoured to receive this prize from the BBS, and grateful to have been nominated by Professor Sheena Radford and the Astbury Centre."

Public engagement

Brave New World

University researchers are invited to embrace a Brave New World by registering to take part in a hugely popular Public Engagement (PE) event.

Brave New World is the theme for Be Curious 2019. Taking place on 30 March, it once again seeks to engage the general public in the pioneering studies undertaken in Leeds.

With more than 40 family-friendly activities on offer, the 2018 instalment of the annual attraction demonstrated yet again why this has become a favourite way for many researchers to share a flavour of their work with the community, while others see it as the perfect opportunity to take their first steps in PE. Many of those who attend the event are children enjoying their first taste of university life.

And researchers can already sign up for next year's celebrations.

Dr Charlotte Haigh, Academic Lead for PE, said: "We encourage every research team to be involved in Be Curious.

"It's about designing an activity that captures the interest of the audience (predominantly families), and gets them thinking about your research work and inspiring them to be as passionate about your topic as you are.

"Be as creative as you like, think 'outside the box' and develop an activity that will leave the audience with a lasting and positive impression of your research and the University.

"We are always happy to discuss any ideas, no matter how different to what we've delivered in the past; remember, this year's theme is 'Brave New World'."

An information drop-in session is being staged in the Ziff Building's Café Maia from 1-2pm on 2 October.

Dr Haigh added: "Come along during these times to informally discuss your ideas with us."

Applications for Be Curious 2019 are open until 5pm on Monday 15 October. Email peteam@leeds.ac.uk for a form.

A young visitor fascinated by some of the research being showcased during a previous Be Curious event

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We encourage every research team to be involved in Be Curious.

Dr Charlotte Haigh, Academic Lead for PE

Opportunities for library talks

Leeds Central Library is seeking researchers to deliver talks on a broad spectrum of subject matters.

A series of similar events have been staged during the past two years by the library's Information and Research Department, bringing people together to discuss issues including the environment, law and criminal justice, politics, sociology and social policy.

Topics to date have included 'happiness', 'friendship and loneliness' and Artificial Intelligence.

With the programme now being scheduled up to March 2019, it offers plenty of public engagement opportunities at the venue for University researchers.

Inga Kobzeva, Information and Research Librarian at the library, said: "We are very interested in expanding our collaboration with academia and in a variety of research topics.

"I hope a range of colleagues may be interested in delivering talks at the library. We're looking forward for collaboration opportunities and will be delighted to work together."

Earlier this year, Dr Charlie Dannreuther, lecturer in European Political Economy in the School of Politics and International Studies, delivered a two-hour talk at the library about "What does it mean to be a citizen?"

He said: "The conversations covered an extraordinary range of topics, many drawing on personal experience to illustrate universal themes. It was a bit different, low cost, low risk and a lot of fun."

Contact Inga at Inga.Kobzeva@leeds.gov.uk if you are interested in delivering a talk at the library or email peteam@leeds.ac.uk for further information about Public Engagement opportunities and resources available through the University.

Enjoy a Late Night in Leeds

The University is hosting a series of events as part of the city's biggest annual multi-arts festival on 5 October.

Wander across campus and experience a range of performances and interactive hands-on activities as part of Light Night Leeds, all of which showcase some of the amazing work that takes place at the University. Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/lightnight for further information.

Events

M&S Company Archive

On Your Marks Networking Series – Smarter Working: Future Proofing Your Workforce

11am to 1.30pm on Thursday 25 October

Explore why the changing commercial and digital landscape means it's essential for businesses to develop an efficient, flexible and collaborative HR culture. Keynote speakers – M&S HR Director, David Guise, and Professor Mark Stuart, a Montague Burton Professor of Human Resources and Director of the Centre for Employment Relations, Innovation and Change at the University – lead proceedings.

Booking is essential at www.leeds.ac.uk/smarterworking

Keep Calm And Go To M&S. 1940s Day At The Archive!

11am to 3pm on Saturday 17 November

Look at M&S in the 1940s, from wartime utility fashion to how M&S employees rose to Home Front challenges. Includes Lindy Hop demonstrations and classes, short talks on M&S and its customers during the Second World War, a chance to view a special exhibition – Marking RAF100: M&S and the Royal Air Force in WWII – which commemorates 2018's centenary year for the RAF, plus free refreshments.

Free. No need to book – just drop in.

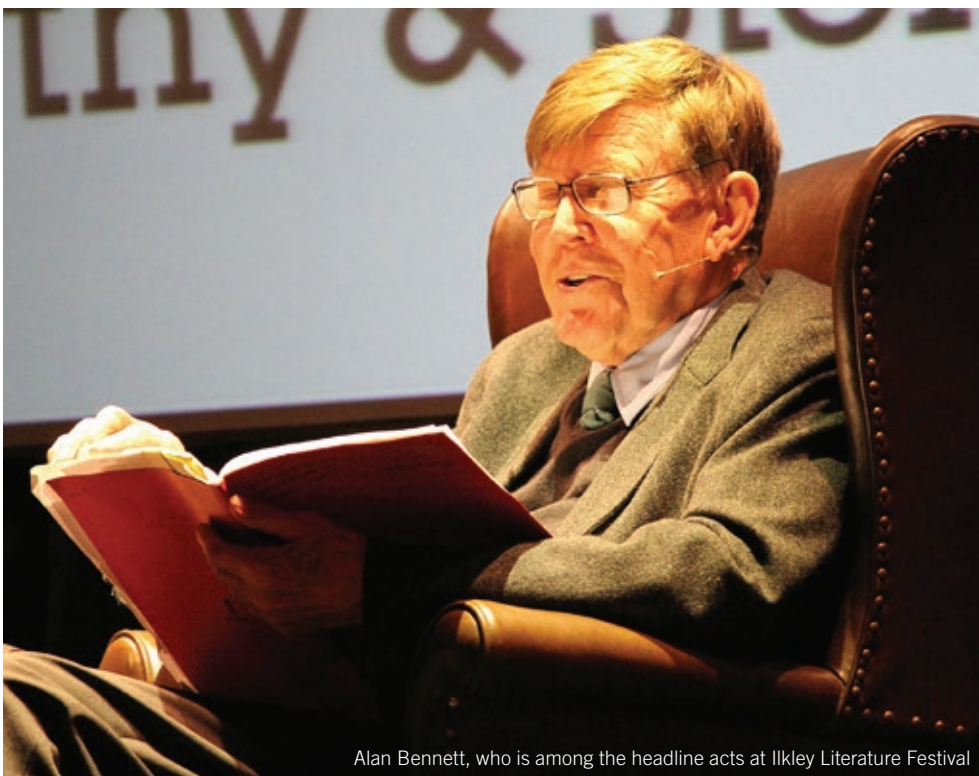
Lunchtime Talk – Tasty Technology: 70 Years Of Food Technology At M&S

12.30 to 1.30pm on Wednesday 21 November

It is 70 years since Nathan Goldenberg was appointed as Technical Executive and Chief Chemist at the M&S Food Department. Goldenberg's Food Technology team was responsible for improving quality control, hygiene and safety standards in a way that revolutionised the food industry at the time. And, as M&S is also celebrating 60 years since it first sold Christmas puddings, this is your chance to sample its latest range of puds and get into the festive spirit!

Booking is essential at marksintime.marksandspencer.com

Visit the same website for further information about upcoming events.



Alan Bennett, who is among the headline acts at Ilkley Literature Festival

Ilkley Literature Festival staff offer

University staff can now get 20% off tickets for many of the events at the North of England's longest-running literature festival.

Comprising of 240 events across 15 venues, it runs from 28 September to 14 October at various venues in and around the town.

Among the stellar line-up are cricket star Moeen Ali, Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, comedian and 'Strictly' star Susan Calman, bestselling novelist Kate Mosse, BAFTA-winning journalist Stuart Cosgrove and many more.

The University, as the event's Higher Education partner, is also well represented, featuring more staff from Leeds than ever before.

A number of academics will speak on two anniversaries – the bicentenary of Emily Brontë's birth and the bicentenary of Mary Shelley's gothic novel *Frankenstein*.

Dr David Higgins, from the School of English, will tackle the links between *Frankenstein* and climate change, while Professor Sally

Shuttleworth – now Professor of English Literature at the University of Oxford but formerly at the Universities of Leeds and Sheffield – will present an intriguing discussion around the *Wuthering Heights* author, which was also this year's Annual British Academy Lecture at Leeds, hosted by the Cultural Institute and Leeds Humanities Research Institute.

For those who prefer poetry to prose, there's world-renowned Yorkshire-based poet Simon Armitage, the University's Professor of Poetry. He will return to Ilkley to give an atmospheric candlelit reading of the newly-revised, illustrated edition of his acclaimed modern translation of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

See www.leeds.ac.uk/ILF for the full list of academics appearing at the festival and www.leeds.ac.uk/ILFstaffoffer to take advantage of the ticket discount (some restrictions apply).

Visit www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk for further information on all the events and to book tickets.

See opera's big hitters for less!

University staff can see three of opera's big hitters for a reduced price this autumn!

Puccini's legendary thriller *Tosca* (16 September to 13 October) and Lehár's extravagant comedy *The Merry Widow* (29 September to 12 October) open the season at Leeds Grand Theatre, whilst the Pulitzer prize-winning *Silent Night* runs from 30 November to 7 December at Leeds Town Hall.

Staff are eligible for discounts on selected performances of all three productions, through the DARE partnership with Opera North. Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/operanorthoffer for further information about how to book tickets.



FAQs

Lucy Omidiran, HR Officer (International)

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Originally from Leeds, I completed my undergraduate studies here, before qualifying as a solicitor in 1999. I spent the next eight years working for a firm of solicitors in the city, handling family law and emergency protection work.

I have just returned to Leeds after almost a decade working overseas in West Africa.

I was working as HR Manager for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria. IITA is a non-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty and natural resource degradation.

What made you want to move to West Africa?

My husband and I had a desire to do something different, and to give our children a broader view and understanding of the world than they would have if we remained in the UK.

We set out with the philosophy that if it works, great. If it doesn't and we come back in six months' time, at least we have tried. As it turned out, it was the best decision we could have made!

What did you enjoy most about life in West Africa?

There were so many things – the beautiful environment in which we lived, the freedom of movement and the safety my children enjoyed within the campus. The people I met and the friendships I formed with people of so many different nationalities. The warmth, cheerfulness and optimism of my Nigerian friends and colleagues, and I loved the work I was doing, which was very much mission driven.

I had the opportunity to travel widely within sub-Saharan Africa and appreciate the rich diversity of that huge part of the world. I now have a much greater appreciation of how fortunate I am, and I try not to take anything for granted in life.

So, why did you choose to return home?

After almost ten years working abroad, I returned to my hometown to bring my global perspective – together with my knowledge and experience

of working with expatriates – to the University in this new position.

Overseas working does not have to be a forever decision. Often, family circumstances will feature significantly and there are optimum times in life when it works better than at others.

What is your role at Leeds?

This is a newly created post. I am working as part of the HR Specialist Support team.

To shape the approach to international working and global mobility, I will be developing and implementing policies and processes associated with University staff working overseas, and for international staff coming to Leeds.

With the HR Specialist Support team, this will include the development and maintenance of a bank of country-specific guidance, and the development of HR processes to reflect the strategic importance of international activity.

Why is this so important to the University?

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor: International, Professor Hai-Sui Yu, says: "The key to making Leeds a successful international university has been to attract the brightest international students and staff to Leeds and support world-class research collaborations and build strategic partnerships with leading international institutions."

I look forward to the challenge of assisting in the achievement of the International Leeds strategy, and to position the University as a dynamic, agile and outward-looking institution, welcoming the best international staff and increasing global mobility.

So, what's the plan?

I will be working in three main priority areas:

1) There are already many highly-valued international staff at the University and, as part of the strategy, this number will increase.

The reception and welcome offered to international staff will be enhanced to ensure new staff receive enough information and support to enable them to settle quickly and comfortably into their new home and work.



The commitment of staff who come to join the University from overseas, often with young families, is inspiring and it is essential we are able to support them fully.

As part of this commitment, we are exploring a number of possibilities, taking feedback from international staff, who have recently made the move to Leeds, through focus groups. For example, we are considering the introduction of a 'buddy' scheme, where an existing member of staff would be a point of contact to provide guidance and advice to the incoming member of staff during the settling-in period.

The global reach of the University, in terms of attracting, developing and retaining international staff, will be broadened, and innovative methods of attracting global talent will be deployed.

2) The second area of focus for my work is to research and establish a framework for more structured overseas assignments. It is important to recognise that a move overseas, even for a relatively short period of time, is a significant undertaking.

3) International assignments have implications in terms of tax and social security (National Insurance in the UK), both for international staff coming to the University and for University staff considering assignments overseas. Alongside external advisors, Leeds is working to establish a bank of country-specific guidance relating to potential tax liabilities.

If you were to work abroad again, what would be your destination of choice?

Given that I have spent ten years in West Africa, my next destination would be the other side of the continent, probably Kenya. It is a beautiful and diverse country with so much to see, do and experience.

See For Staff for the full article at www.leeds.ac.uk/lucyomidiran