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## LEEDS

Alumni  
magazine

Issue  
08

**20**  
*Social life*

Social thinker Zygmunt Bauman talks about Facebook, the Labour Party, persecution, and putting humanity at the heart of society

.....

**05**  
*Live Aid:  
25 years on*

Key players assess the event and its legacy

.....

**15**  
*Medical  
breakthrough*

How combining research and patient care works

.....

**28**  
*Myth busting*

Europe's longest corridor and other campus urban myths



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

FROM THE EDITOR

Earlier this year it was my privilege to attend Leeds alumni events in the US and Ghana. It was wonderful to talk to Leeds graduates both about their memories of Leeds and what they are up to now. Our first edition of *Leeds* magazine three and a half years ago went out to 120,000 alumni. We are now in contact with 155,000 people, so you are part of a growing community.

More and more alumni are connecting, either online through our networks, or face to face in the form of new groups and associations. If we can help you link up, please let us know.

We've included some information this issue to show you where alumni are based across the globe. Leeds graduates are continuing to make an impact on the world (from Live Aid to Biomedical Research), as well as on student life here on campus. You make us what we are.

Our alumni play an important role in the magazine too: many of the writers, illustrators and photographers in this issue are Leeds graduates, and the advice of our alumni in the publishing industry has helped us put together a top-class magazine. With that in mind we have redesigned *Leeds* to make it (we think) even better. I hope you enjoy our new look – tell us what you think!



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HAVE YOUR SAY

Tell us what you think and join the discussion: Join Leeds Alumni on Facebook and LinkedIn and follow @LeedsAlumni on Twitter



32 Sara Courtneidge



34 House of Lords event



15 Looking differently



05 Live Aid



24 Business partnership

CONTRIBUTING ALUMNI

Images

After working as a photographer in London for the Press Association for 10 years, **Johnny Green (International Studies, 1996)**, is now working on his own projects and sells his work as fine art, as well as accepting commissions as a freelancer. His work can be viewed at [www.johnnyinthechocafe.co.uk](http://www.johnnyinthechocafe.co.uk)

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Words

**Christopher Beanland (Politics 2001)** was Music Editor of *Leeds Student*. After graduating he worked at *Metro* – first as a journalist, then Arts Editor. Since turning freelance he's written for *The Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Daily Express*, *The Sun*, *City AM* and *London Lite*. He currently writes for the *Daily Mail*, *BBC Online*, and various music and travel magazines.

**Ruth Francis (English 2000)** is Head of Press at Nature Publishing Group (NPG) and leads a team who communicate new research published in *Nature* and other NPG journals to mainstream media around the world. Previously she has promoted the research done in the medical and health sciences schools at King's College London and worked in the press and PR teams at Cancer Research UK.

CONTENTS

REGULARS

**Leeds Alumni** 02  
Conservation, concerts and cuppa crime

**What's going on** 10  
What's happening in your department

**Profile** 14  
Henry Mee, artist

**The latest from Leeds** 22  
University news on and off the campus

**Giving to Leeds** 30  
Sports stars and cultural fellows

**Forthcoming events** 34  
What's on for Leeds alumni

**Vice-Chancellor's view** 36  
Charting a course in turbulent times

FEATURES

**Live Aid legacy** 05  
Assessing the event and the Ethiopian famine 25 years on

**Medical breakthrough** 15  
How combining research and patient care works

**Where in the world..?** 18  
Alumni facts and figures

**Social life** 20  
Zygmunt Bauman talks about putting humanity at the heart of society

**Strength in numbers** 24  
How Leeds alumni are getting stuck in

**Top ten** 28  
Campus urban myths – fact or fiction?

**At the top of her game** 32  
Sara Courtneidge on her work to understand the spread of cancer

**40th anniversary** 37  
The *Leeds Student* 1970 and now



**Cover image**  
Zygmunt Bauman, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Leeds, and one of the world's leading thinkers and writers on society. The Bauman Institute at Leeds was launched in September 2010 to take forward Professor Bauman's work and contribute to debates on society, politics and 21st century life.  
Photo: Simon and Simon

# RACING AGAINST TIME

Conservation project aims to save Botswana's free-ranging cheetah population

110 km/h

The fastest land mammal on earth with breathtaking acceleration



Cheetah Conservation Botswana, led by **Rebecca Klein (Zoology 1995)**, works to reverse the alarming fall in numbers of the fastest land mammal on the planet.

Botswana has one of the last free-ranging cheetah populations in the world, making it an essential stronghold for the future of the species. Unable

to compete with healthy populations of more powerful predators in reserves, Botswana's cheetahs are forced to live closer to villages where human/predator conflict jeopardises their survival.

When Rebecca discovered that Botswana's cheetahs needed more protection, she started to investigate ways for farmers and

cheetahs to co-exist. Through scientific research, outreach projects and education, the charity, of which Rebecca is managing director, works with rural communities to stop hunting and to create safe reserves for the cheetah to survive.

[www.cheetahbotswana.com](http://www.cheetahbotswana.com)



## PEAK PERFORMANCE

**Stephen Pyke (Ceramic Science & Engineering 1987)** battled through late season snow and an achilles tendon injury to complete the fastest continuous circuit of Scotland's highest peaks.

In just 39 days 9 hours, Stephen climbed all 283 of Scotland's 3,000-ft peaks, better known as the Munros, to slash over nine days off the previous record. The round of the Munros was completed entirely under his own steam – on foot, by bike and by paddling a kayak.

## FROM STUDENT SOCIETY TO ROYAL OPERA

As a student, she founded the University's Arts Faculty Society, now **Professor Margaret Maden (Geography 1961)** is a governor of the Royal Ballet School, as well as being on the Board of Trustees for the Royal Opera House. Her varied career in education included spells as a headteacher in Islington, Chief Education Officer for Warwickshire County Council and the Director of the Centre for Successful Schools at Keele University.

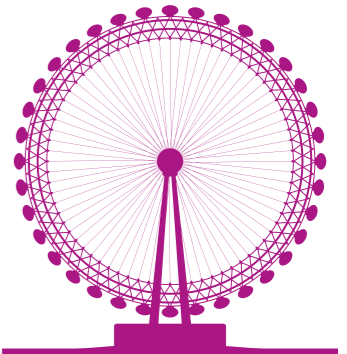
## ROY'S GREEN DAY

From the Tartan Bar to Wembley Stadium



By the time Green Day and Muse hit the boards for their recent UK concerts, **Roy Morley (Colour Chemistry 1985)** knew every detail of their staging. As their site production manager, he made sure the shows went smoothly, from transporting and building their stages to site infrastructure and licensing.

Roy, seen here in front of Green Day's stage in Wembley Stadium, once booked bands in the Riley Smith Hall and Tartan Bar. He now runs his own company, Site and Events Logistics, which has its genesis in Roy's student days. "I owe a lot to Leeds Uni. I wouldn't be here if I hadn't worked with the Events department."



## AN EYE ON 4D

The technology behind some of the most exciting and innovative motion simulators and virtual-reality attractions has been developed by SimEx-Iwerks, based in the US and Canada. The company, led by President and Chief Executive Officer **Michael Needham (Geography 1962)**, is behind impressive 3D and 4D attractions in more than 30 countries. Michael's company created the perfect prelude to a flight on the London Eye; a 4D experience with special physical effects. It also recently premiered "The Wizard of Oz 4D Experience" at Tussauds in New York. More than 25 million people a year enjoy his worldwide attractions.

## AFRICAN HONOUR

Writer, poet, playwright and Nobel prize winner **Wole Soyinka (English 1957, DLitt 1973)** has been awarded a prestigious Lifetime Africa Achievement Prize for African Cultural and Traditional Preservation. The prize recognises Wole's commitment to promoting the need for Africa's cultural and traditional heritage to be preserved.



## ALUMNI BOOKS

*You are Her*, the new collection of poetry, published by Arc, from **Linda France (English and History 1979)**, has been variously influenced by a horse-riding accident, Capability Brown and her mother's leek pudding.

*The Quiet Vale* by **Margaret Stead (PhD History 1997)** focuses on life as a child in rural Yorkshire during the Second World War. Part autobiography, part social history, *The Quiet Vale* is published by Austin & McCauley.

*Under the Apple Boughs* is the autobiography of a former University registrar, the late **Dr James (Jim) Walsh (English 1951, MA 1953)**, who first came to Leeds in the late 1940s. Published by Royd Press.

*Maths 1001: Absolutely Everything That Matters in Mathematics* by **Richard Elwes (PGCE 2009)** makes key concepts accessible to a broad readership. A visiting fellow at Leeds, Richard has written for *The Telegraph* and *New Scientist*.

## RECORD-BREAKING FOOTBALL

**Simon Lynes (Management and Psychology 2007)** organised a 57-hour long Guinness World record-breaking football match in honour of his friend and former Leeds student Jamie Burdett, who died of meningitis. The final score was Leeds Badgers 425, Warwickshire Wolves, 354.

## WORLD LEADER

**Emily Cummins (Business Management 2010)** has become the youngest person – and the only woman – to become an 'Oslo Business for Peace' Honouree. Emily's inventions, such as her sustainable refrigerator and multi-bucketed water carrier, also saw her named as one of the 2010 'Outstanding Young People of the World'.



Photo: Richard Hanson

## UNUSUAL SUSPECT

*Kettle crime at Charles Morris Hall*

**Trisch (Whiteley) Thornton (Medicine 1970)** has fond memories of a sociable life around staircase two in Charles Morris Hall, but she also remembers losing her deposit for bad behaviour.

Having not broken anything through her stay in 1965-66, Trisch blithely went to collect her refund, only to be told that she was being penalised for “excess use of the kettle.” Today she admits to socialising with her medic friends in the staircase two kitchen and, in those days, coffee was usually the tippie of

choice. “I don’t think that I was abnormally sociable though,” says Trisch.

In those days authority was not easily questioned. “I don’t think it entered my head to complain about it,” says Trisch. “In fact I was rather proud that I had been seen to have so many friends.”

A few years ago, Trisch, now married to Peter Thornton (Medicine 1970), got together with a few staircase two friends in Harrogate. But, she recalls, “We drank more wine than coffee on that occasion.”

## GOOD IN A CRISIS

While countries around the world face uncertain financial markets and disasters, both natural and man-made, expertise in crisis management is proving valuable. **Kim Yang Lim (Chinese with Linguistics & Phonetics 1977)** is owner and consultant director with Fulignati Asia, where she specialises in risk and business continuity management.

Having worked for 20 years in crisis management and communication with multinationals in the Middle East and Asia Pacific, Kim says: “The connection between my field of work and my studies at Leeds may not be obvious. But it was my fascination for the art and science of communication that took me to Leeds in the first place, and then into public relations and eventually to crisis management. Another passion that I have kept since my Leeds days is Leeds United. There are quite a few of us with United stickers on our cars in Singapore!”

## JAKARTA TRANSPORT

**Daryati Asrining Rini (MSc Transport Studies 1993)** has been using knowledge gained at Leeds since she became head of Transjakarta in 2008. The organisation runs rapid transit buses in Indonesia’s bustling capital city, Jakarta. Transjakarta transports around 275,000 passengers each day on 426 buses. Daryati oversees six bus operators and works closely with security and ticketing companies to keep the city moving.



## In brief

The new Head of External Relations at the National Landlords Association is **Simon Gordon (Political Studies 1977)**.

**Guy Parsons (History 1984)** has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Travelodge.

**Lucy (Hamilton-Turner) Kerr (MA Applied Translation Studies 2005)** has successfully completed the National Federation of Property Professionals Diploma in Residential Estate Agency, making her a qualified estate agent in the British Isles.

**Mick Yates (Mathematics & Philosophy 1972)** has been appointed as a visiting professor at Leeds University Business School.

**Zahida Manzoor CBE (HVCert 1983)** is the Legal Services Ombudsman for England and Wales.

Video direction by **Mark Olsen (MA Theatre Studies 1993)** was recognised with a 2010 Telly Award. Based in Los Angeles, Mark writes and directs short films, video and viral videos for corporate clients.

**Jonathan Hammond (Geography 2002)** became Scotland’s most successful athlete in Commonwealth Games history at this year’s competition in Delhi. Jonathan won two gold medals, silver and a bronze in four different shooting events.

**Simon Barret (Colour Chemistry 1994)** has won the UK Chilli Award for his chilli jam. Simon trades as the ‘Chilli Jam Man’, supplying to around 30 specialist retailers.

**Anna Jacobs (General Studies 1962)** has just published her fiftieth novel, *Farewell to Lancashire*. A resident of Australia since 1973, she is now the seventh most borrowed author of popular fiction from UK libraries.

ITV has recommissioned the DCI Banks TV series, based on the bestselling novels by **Peter Robinson (English 1974, Honorary DLitt 2009)** after its ratings success in the UK. Filming is due to begin in spring 2011.

Photo: Phil Dent



# THE DAY MUSIC CHANGED THE WORLD?

13 July 1985: Live Aid galvanises the developed world to respond to the Ethiopian famine. Twenty-five years later, Leeds alumni recall their involvement, in London and Ethiopia, and assess the legacy

WORDS: PHIL SUTCLIFFE

## THE CONCERT



On October 23, 1984, BBC TV News broadcast Michael Buerk's first report from the Korem refugee camp, Ethiopia, where tens of thousands of starving people gathered and a hundred died every day. Bob Geldof watched, decided the only thing he couldn't do was nothing and launched Band Aid.

Less famously, Pete Smith (Sociology 1974) watched the same bulletin: "Babies dying in front of the cameras... Everybody was too shocked to cry." It never crossed his mind that he was about to play a central role in the greatest global music show ever.

Post-Leeds, the former Ents Sec had worked successfully as a manager (The Kinks, The Chieftains) and tour manager so, in mid-March, 1985, it was no surprise when top promoter Harvey Goldsmith summoned him to a meeting. But the subject floored him: Live Aid.

Goldsmith needed an event co-ordinator, independently employed by the Band Aid charity (£250 a week, their only paid worker) to guard against vested interests – namely, the BBC which would broadcast the concert, and Band Aid board member Goldsmith who routinely promoted tours for many of the possible performers. Pete accepted and Goldsmith cordially told him "Don't bother me, get on with it!"

He got stuck into firming up the bill with a one-page, no-fee, no-nonsense contract. As bankable names like Sting, Dire Straits and Queen committed, widespread hesitancy was replaced by queues of suddenly altruistic managers asking Pete, "Why can't my artist play?" – followed by haggles aplenty about where in the line-up said star might appear.

Among several triumphs of hard-nosed diplomacy, Pete recalls leveraging Paul Weller out of a promised opening spot because Geldof insisted that Status Quo had to start with Rockin' All Over The World, and, on a US visit, persuading Madonna's

manager that 4pm (Philadelphia) was perfection globally because it gave her prime-time television in Europe and breakfast in Australasia.

Apart from management placation, Pete took care of logistics too. He organised the backstage catering, helicopters from Battersea to Wembley and back, buses for artist transport and to sleep the crew backstage and... a piano tuner. Everyone did it for expenses, but most chose not to send them in – and Bruce Springsteen covered the cost of leaving his stage up from the previous week.

As Pete proudly recollects, "We lived in a world of trust and professionalism."

But on 13 July, 1985, Andy Kershaw still felt like an amateur. Not long out of Leeds (Ents Sec and political studies non-graduate 1981,

of the event, Elvis Costello, hit the spot with *All You Need Is Love* and responded to Pete's apology – he'd been cut from "three songs with band" to "one song solo" – with an unassuming, "Pleased to do my bit".

Cock-up of the day? The awkward culture clash around Yusuf Islam, formerly Cat Stevens, says Pete. He turned up backstage for a solo spot which would have been his first public performance since 1978. Pete, who'd invited him, introduced him to Geldof and Goldsmith. Yusuf said he would sing an Islamic children's song. Fixed on the notion that the most popular songs would result in more donations from grateful viewers, Geldof said, no, he should do one of his hits. Although Pete argued that Yusuf's song would be different but appropriate, neither would compromise and Yusuf didn't play.

Wembley Stadium, 13 July: "not one artist was late or went missing" (Photo: Phil Dent)

# —THE PRESENTERS MADE IT UP AS WE WENT ALONG

DMus 2005) and a stint roadie-ing for Billy Bragg, he found himself addressing untold millions around the world because he'd recently joined the team of presenters on Whistle Test, who were given the Live Aid job.

From a sweltering Wembley Stadium commentary box, the presenters "made it up as we went along". Andy had no trouble with the Africa/politics interviews. What nearly undid him, not being a cinemagoer, was John Hurt. "Who is he?" he muttered to the director, who mouthed "Actor!" just as the distinguished thespian took his seat. Andy improvised, "Well, John, I wonder what the acting profession might be able to do for Ethiopia?"

Meanwhile, backstage, given that "not one artist was late or went missing", co-ordinator Pete largely enjoyed the day. His performer hero

Meanwhile, Live Aid day's most brilliant bit of coping, Pete later learned, came from helicopter pilot Jed Hughes and his late-afternoon passenger David Bowie. A Wembley cricket club had allowed their pitch to become a temporary helipad. However, they also had a wedding reception in the pavilion and the families were demanding that Hughes stop flying. He told Bowie who said, "Leave this to me", walked into the reception, hollered "Sorry to interrupt, but we just wanted to say we're sorry about the noise..." and had his photograph taken with the bride and groom. Problem solved!

Pete and Andy both took some satisfaction from their parts in raising £100 million which Band Aid then distributed as diligently as possible to feed people and contribute to easing impoverishment long-term.

Clockwise from top:

Mark Knopfler (English 1973, Honorary DMus 1985) of Dire Straits (Photo: Getty Images)

David Bowie, fresh from dropping in to a wedding reception to apologise for the noise (Photo: Phil Dent)

Elvis Costello: "pleased to do my bit" (Photo: Phil Dent)



But ABC didn't get it. Hence the absence of the Jacksons, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and others.

Twenty years later at Live 8, with the black Americans' battle won, Andy found himself embroiled because he highlighted the lack of African artists on the UK bill when the whole enterprise was aimed at raising Africa-consciousness immediately before the Gleneagles G8 conference of rich-world leaders. When some African bands were belatedly invited, he says, they featured at the "fringe" event at Cornwall's Eden Project, not in London or Edinburgh. At which he piled into the debate with a fiery editorial piece in *The Independent*, arguing that the crux of the issue wasn't skin colour but culture: "My point wasn't about black artists, it was about African artists."

But, naturally, bestriding the globe on the telly while trying to tackle geopolitical catastrophes with pop songs threw up conflicts.

Pete followed, though he had no responsibility for, the unfolding story of why so many major black artists didn't appear in Philadelphia. The nub of it, he says, was that ABC TV, which carried a two-hour highlights show on the Saturday night, wouldn't feature the black artists because their advertisers wanted Led Zeppelin, Dylan and such. "The black artists said they weren't coming unless their status was properly acknowledged on television," says Pete. "After Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, power and market share in the industry was changing hands."

Overall, while Pete accentuates the positive about the whole experience (on Live 8 he helped organise in Philadelphia), he adds: "Organising Live Aid, our morale held up because 'something was being done', but I didn't go with any cant that it was changing the world. I know ultimately governments create famines and governments have to solve them." 📌

To find more about Leeds' links to Live Aid visit [www.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.ac.uk)

## EXPERT VIEW SIMON WARNER, LECTURER ON POPULAR MUSIC STUDIES, REFLECTS ON THE LIVE AID CONCERT



"I watched it on TV. The stuff of dreams: an iconic stadium, 70,000 crowd, great artists, a quarter of the Earth tuning in – an audacious attempt to transform rock's popularity into a force for good and for change. In the end, the fantastic amount of money raised was still a drop in the ocean of Africa's hunger crisis. It drew the world's attention to the problem though, and I don't think politicians could have done that.

"Geldof was astonishing; a minor and fading figure, but through force of will and energy and determination a gobby Irishman with a fabulous turn of phrase created something magnificent, took on the world, and won. Pop had been a fly-by-night wild child. With Live Aid it became an adult, assuming social responsibility. Since then it's been used in countless ways to support people in terrible disasters.

"Live 8, in 2005, tried to capture the spirit of Live Aid, but indulgently and sentimentally, which made it feel second-rate. The issues were too complicated – economic, environmental – compared to the inspired appeal to feed the hungry. There was a sense that politicians were riding on a cultural event too.

"Live Aid was a force for good, certainly. A force for change, I'm not sure. But back in 1985 there was an immaculate trade-off for everyone who played – be altruistic saviours of Africa and sell truckloads of records!"

**IN ETHIOPIA**

**T**he journalist Paul Valley (English and Philosophy 1974) recalls “On July 13, 1985, I was at the Acropole Hotel, Khartoum. In the lounge, all the aid workers gathered round the telly watching Live Aid. I just felt scornful of bloody pop stars thinking they could solve Africa’s problems.”

But fate – and Bob Geldof – were waiting to change his view.

A junior reporter on *The Times*, dispatched to Ethiopia in January, 1985, he found he couldn’t stomach the standard press-pack approach: “Most reporters stayed at the Addis Ababa Hilton, flew out to a refugee camp for the day, and filed a famine report before sitting down to steak and a bottle of claret.”

Deciding to look beyond the clichés, he travelled overland with aid workers for a week at a time, building his knowledge of what caused the famine: drought itself, but also the Government’s oppressive regime, its wars with independence movements in Eritrea and Tigray, and the West’s rapacious attitude to trade with Africa.

But he recalls how, after a lot of interviews with impoverished and starving people, one experience opened his eyes: “This woman, Fatima Muhammed, who’d just told me the child she held in her arms was dying, started asking me questions: Did I have children? How were they? That brought it home: this was not A Victim Of The Famine, she was a real person with her own life and her own... etiquette.”

He’s not sure whether such insights affected his writing, though “perhaps some of that naiveté and directness did come through”. But when he got home, briefly, a few weeks later – thrown out by the Ethiopian Government – he was astounded to find that Geldof had read his reports and been so impressed that he asked him to come on a journey across Africa to determine how Live Aid’s money could best be spent.

So Paul observed Geldof’s encounters with presidents starstruck by his dishevelled prestige – plus the



Sir Peter Blake’s Live Aid programme cover, a partner to his artwork feature on cover of the Band Aid *Do They Know it’s Christmas?* Single. Rare prints of both, signed by Blake and Sir Bob Geldof, hang in the University’s Sir Peter Blake music art gallery.

# —LIVE AID RESHAPED THE HUMANITARIAN INDUSTRY WITH BETTER PURPOSE AND VISION

“£100 million in his back pocket”. Close up, he noted his companion’s trenchant “lack of deference”, especially back in Ethiopia. When immigration refused “enemy of the revolution” Paul entry, Geldof threatened to get straight back on the plane unless they let him in. Then, face-to-face with Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Derg military junta, Geldof called him “a bloodthirsty \*\*\*\*\*”.

A beautiful 25-year friendship between Paul and Geldof ensued. Once the Band Aid Trust had disbursed the bulk of the money, Geldof decided he had to earn a living again and Paul ghosted his autobiography, *Is That It?* “But Geldof carried on campaigning,” says Paul. “I was an intermittent consultant. In 2004 we went back to Ethiopia. It seemed as bad as ever. Geldof was shocked, so he rang Tony Blair about it and the result was the Commission for Africa (16 assorted politicians, plus Geldof, headed by Blair and Ethiopian PM Meles Zenawi).” With Geldof insisting their report

shouldn’t be written by an academic, Paul got the job (he’d long since moved from *The Times* to *The Independent*).

The main target for the report’s recommendations on debt cancellation, removing trade barriers to developing-world products, and increasing aid was the G8 conference of the world’s leading economies, set for July 6-8, 2005, at Gleneagles, Scotland. Geldof and U2’s Bono launched a deliberate Live Aid follow-up, Live 8 – concerts in each of the G8 countries plus South Africa.

Paul being not just an expert journalist but, by then, a leading light in development organisations such as Traidcraft, Geldof and Bono took him along as adviser while they lobbied George Bush, Jacques Chirac, Gerhard Schroeder, Tony Blair and others.

Opinions on the efficacy and outcomes of Band Aid/Live Aid/Live 8 still vary enormously. Introducing the Live Aid book in 1985, their progenitor and champion Geldof wrote: “If there is a meanness, an empty cynicism, a terrifying selfishness and greed in us, then that day,

watching that television, dancing in that crowd, playing on that stage, the obverse of our cruelty was made manifest... Remember on the day you die, there is someone alive in Africa cos one day you watched a pop concert.”

Conversely, Jane Plastow, now director of Leeds University Centre for African Studies, then a teacher in Addis Ababa, experienced Live Aid as an affront to Ethiopians’ culture and history: “Although they were grateful for the outpouring of support, there was great crassness from the West and



Top two images:

Air dropping food relief operation in the Wollo region of Ethiopia during the 1985 famine. (Photo: Claudio Viezzoli)

Bottom image:

Tented refugee camp, Ethiopia (Photo: Getty Images)



a distressing need for a feel-good factor among charity givers.”

Ethiopian Bekele Geleta (MA Transport Studies 1974, LLD 2010), now Geneva-based secretary-general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, has mixed feelings. Working for the Ethiopian Red Cross in 1985, he found the concert pained him: “I watched on TV. The audience’s emotion strengthened my belief in humanity. But, deep in me, I felt very bad about Ethiopians being pitied.”

Yet, in retrospect, he recognises substantial long-term benefit: “Live Aid contributed in influencing world public opinion to mobilise a big amount of money, to build global commitment never again to allow loss of human life of that magnitude due to the lack of basic necessities, and to reshape the humanitarian industry with better purpose, vision, discipline, systems, operational preparedness, accountability and transparency.”

For his part, Paul has constantly campaigned for “structural change to usher in a more just system”. But following yet another Ethiopian foray with Geldof in December, 2009, he argues that debt relief and aid have improved “2000 times” on 1985 levels and affirms: “Live Aid raised the consciousness of people in the UK about Africa – that was the main achievement, rather than the money.”

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## EXPERT VIEW LIONEL CLIFFE, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF POLITICS, REFLECTS ON FOOD INSECURITY IN ETHIOPIA

“Live Aid’s 25th anniversary brings back memories, not so much of the concert but of seeing events on the ground for myself,” says Dr Lionel Cliffe, then a senior lecturer at Leeds, now emeritus professor of politics. In 1986, he spent months in Eritrea, then part of Ethiopia and badly famine-affected. He was one of a Leeds University research team commissioned by aid agencies to assess continuing need, trying to clarify the tangled causes of the famine – drought or civil war? He feels Live Aid’s mass humanitarian emotions tended to oversimplify and ignore the political.

On this “quite adventurous trip”, they visited some of the 400 villages surveyed, driving at night over rough terrain to avoid Government spotter planes (bombers could follow). They witnessed the Eritrean and Tigrayan liberation fronts’ impressive relief organisations in the areas they had liberated, getting food through that had been delivered by Inter-Church Aid, Save The Children, Oxfam and Band Aid.

But small personal experiences sometimes overshadowed the systematic fact gathering, about losses of access to land and markets, of animals and livelihoods. For instance, while researching herders’ livestock depletion, they came to a village and the head man said he’d gladly talk, but first he must feed them. “They slaughtered a goat,” Lionel recalls. “The tradition of hospitality meant we ate one of their last animals.”

Today, he points out, even without a drought, 10 per cent of Ethiopia’s 85 million people need food relief. Figures released in October 2010 by the World Bank say 40 percent are under the poverty line. “The World Food Programme calls it ‘structural food insecurity’. This permanent impoverishment has never been adequately addressed. Even now, the Ethiopian Government is making over huge tracts of land to companies from the Middle East, India and China to produce bio-fuels; this might help the economy but won’t help the poor.”

# WHAT'S GOING ON

A selection of news from our University departments

## 860

860 different courses currently available for study at Leeds



### Biological Sciences

A £244,926 grant from the Alzheimer's Research Trust will help researchers investigate the relationship between two proteins – amyloid, which is a hallmark of Alzheimer's, and prion. Recent Alzheimer's research has shown that amyloid attaches to prion before it builds up in the brain, causing brain cells to die. Professors Nigel Hooper (Biochemistry 1984) and Chris Peers will seek to understand how this happens, and what role the prion protein plays in Alzheimer's disease. Professor Hooper said "our team has already been able to see an interaction between amyloid and prion, and we now want to monitor exactly what is happening and what the consequence of that interaction is."



### Business school

Traditionally-run companies are often more efficient if they operate more like workers' co-operatives, according to work led by Professor Virginie Pérotin. The team looked at a representative sample of 7,000 French companies, including 500 co-operatives, comparing size, productivity, investment and growth: "There's a widespread view that as co-operatives are managed by employees, they must be small, messy affairs that cannot compete with 'real' businesses," she said. Each assumption proved false – co-operatives were on average larger than their competitors; they invested at least as much; preserved jobs better during recession, and were at least as productive – often more so.



### Communications Studies

The Institute moved into Clothworkers Building North, a specially refurbished building at the heart of the campus. New facilities include a cinema, a new media lab and an industry-standard television studio. With cutting-edge teaching space, student breakout rooms and specialist facilities for media production, the new building marks an exciting new chapter for the Institute.



### Chemistry

A compound known as pyrophosphite may have helped kick-start life on earth, according to Dr Terry Kee and his team. His research addresses conflicting theories of how life emerged from inanimate matter billions of years ago. "It's a chicken and egg question," said Dr Kee. "Scientists disagree over what came first, replication, or metabolism. But there is a third part to the equation – energy." The research is the first to suggest that the energy storage properties of pyrophosphite may have been relevant in the key shift from basic chemistry to complex biology.



### Earth and Environment

Mineral dust being swept into the atmosphere by Saharan haboobs, dust devils and low-level jets of air is being studied by Dr Peter Knippertz in the hope of understanding its impact on the global environment. The £1 million study will address the lack of data from the harsh desert where measurements are difficult to make. "We don't know for sure how much of the dust within these

storms ends up in the atmosphere and how much returns to earth once the winds have died down," said Dr Knippertz. "This project will help us to answer this question and to produce a comprehensive representation of the global dust cycle with the view to developing more accurate models."



### Electronic and Electrical Engineering

A £5.9 million grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council will fund research into reducing the internet's carbon footprint. The work draws together Leeds research into optical networks, led by Professor Jaafar Elmigani, with Cambridge University's research into optimising Internet protocols and services.



### Fine Art

Professor David Jackson curated a major exhibition of the work of 19th Century Danish painter Christen Købke, which moved to the National Galleries of Scotland after a successful show at the National Gallery in London, where it was seen by 125,000 visitors. It comprised 48 works spanning a variety of genres including landscape, topography, portraiture and his depictions of national monuments.



### Institute of Engineering Thermofluids, Surfaces and Interfaces

A plasma vapour deposition system, unique to the UK, will be a key feature of new tribology research. The system forms part of a £2.6 million Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council project, with colleagues at Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam universities. Professor Anne Neville said the system had many research applications, including joint replacement technology and transport energy consumption.



### Institute of Integrative and Comparative Biology

The Institute has created the first robotic fish to be accepted by other fish as part of their shoal. A computer controlled replica stickleback, dubbed Robofish by its creators John Dyer, Dr Dean Waters and Natalie Holt, is shedding light on relationships between individuals and shoal dynamics as well as the behaviour of individual fish. Robofish was placed in a tank with either single fish or a group of ten, and then programmed to follow a set path at a slightly faster speed than normal fish. The aim was to see if it could tempt other fish to leave the tank's refuge area and convince its companions to make a 90 degree turn.



01 HRH The Princess Royal at the 5th International Carers' Convention in Leeds



02

02 Professor Jaafar Elmigani: reducing the internet's carbon footprint

03 Robofish: part of the shoal

04 A new study will examine the impact of Saharan mineral dust



03



04

## In the news

Our pick of recent media coverage across the world

### Scorpion helps heart bypass patients.

A toxin found in the venom of the Central American bark scorpion could hold the key to reducing heart bypass failures. *The Independent*, *Times of India*, *Daily Mail* and *My Fox* reported that the scorpion's toxin, margatoxin, is at least 100 times more potent at preventing neointimal hyperplasia – the most common cause of bypass graft failure – than any other known compound.

### Weight reduction surgery may hold key to diabetes.

*The Times of India* reported on work by Dr Abeezar Sarla of the Faculty of Medicine and Health, who showed how diabetics who underwent stomach reduction surgery to treat obesity have shown a reduction in blood sugar levels.

### New partners are emerging on the map of world trade.

Research into the UK's future export markets by Professor Peter Buckley of the Centre for International Business was reported in both the *Financial Times* and *Wall Street Journal*. It showed that in the years ahead British companies could find more export opportunities in countries such as Libya and India than in former favourites such as France and Germany.

### Study links excessive internet use to depression.

Work by Dr Catriona Morrison of the Institute of Psychological Sciences showed that people who spend a lot of time surfing the net are more likely to show signs of depression. Her findings were reported in the *New York Times* and also covered widely in the international and UK national media.

### One in four lap dancers has a degree.

*The Independent* newspaper was given exclusive access to the preliminary findings of research by Dr Teela Sanders of the School of Sociology and Social Policy into the working conditions and career choices of lap dancers. Subsequent news of Dr Sanders' investigation appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, *Guardian*, *Vancouver Sun*, *China Post* – and newspapers worldwide.



A new study of medieval manuscripts written in English challenges the view that English was driven underground after the Norman Conquest

**Institute for Medieval Studies**  
A new study of early medieval manuscripts written in the English language challenges a long-held view that English was driven underground after the Norman Conquest. The project, co-directed by Dr Mary Swan (Medieval Studies 1987), the Institute's Director of Studies, provides contextual information and a catalogue of all surviving books that contain text written in English. The study compiled hundreds of texts written in English between 1060 and 1220, including laws, sermons, saints' lives, land charters, medicinal recipes and prayers. Dr Swan said: "What we needed was a full research project to map all the examples in a way which would allow us to look at them together, and to see how they fit geographically and chronologically."

**Leeds Institute of Genetics, Health and Therapeutics**  
Dr Darren Greenwood of the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics was the expert adviser on statistical methods for a study suggesting that fat around the waist may increase bowel cancer risk, even in people who are only moderately overweight. This study, funded by the World Cancer Research Fund, was the first to identify that abdominal fat was particularly harmful for bowel cancer.

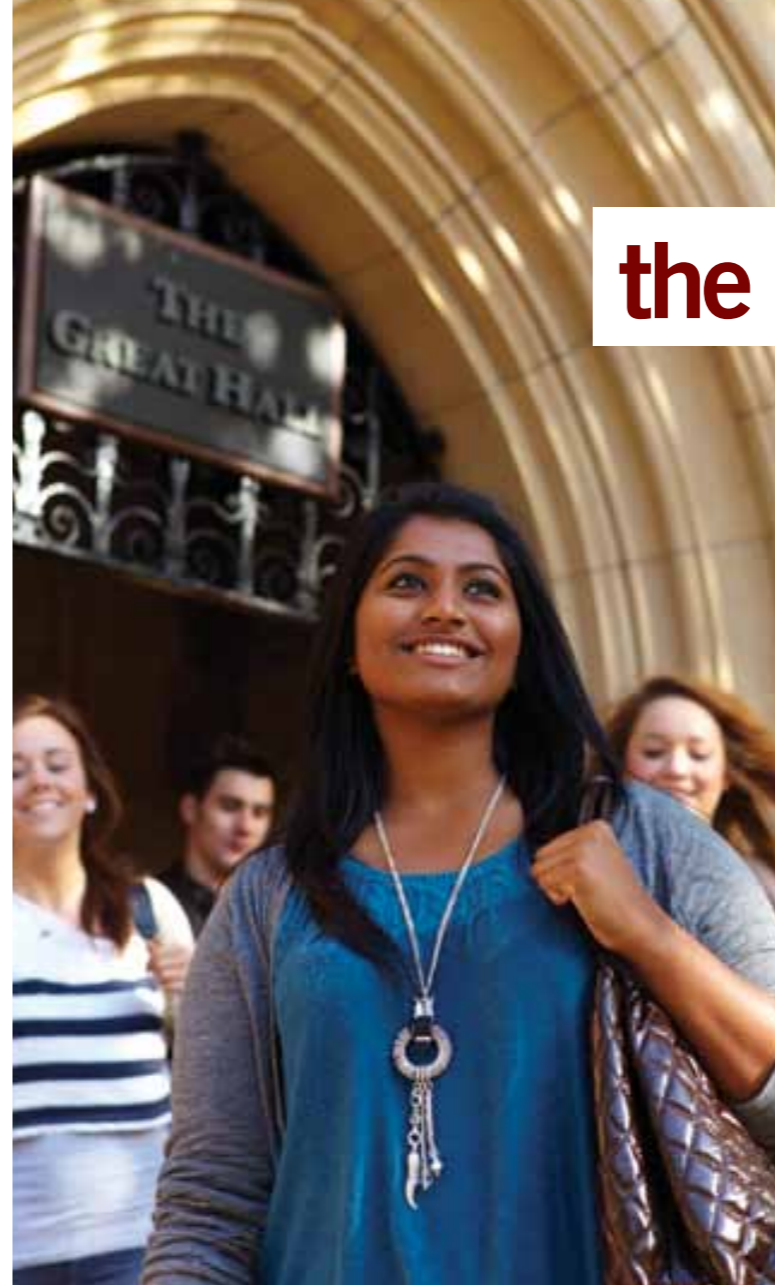
**Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine**  
Professor Tim Bishop will lead a new Cancer Research UK (CRUK) funded Centre based at the University. This new partnership between the University, Leeds Teaching Hospitals, the NHS Trust and CRUK will provide a framework to strengthen existing work in the genetic factors and changes that cause cancer. The new centre will concentrate on genetics and epigenetics, biomarkers and molecular pathology, targeted therapies and early in phase/prospective phase clinical trials.

**Mechanical Engineering**  
Robotic engineers are putting the finishing touches to a device that may reveal the hidden secrets of the 4,500-year-old Great Pyramid at Giza. Working alongside Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, Dr Robert Richardson (BEng Mechatronics 1997, PhD Mechanical Engineering 2001) and his colleagues are developing a robot to explore hidden passageways and drill through stone walls to allow tiny cameras through. They hope to shed light on shafts leading from the Queen's chamber, which point in unusual directions and until now have been obstructed by a series of doors.

**Process and Environmental Engineering**  
Leeds engineers have developed software that plans the safe decommissioning of nuclear power plants. The NuPlant package lets planners optimise the break-up and packaging of contaminated equipment whilst minimising workers' radiation exposure. The software is based on a general modelling tool that shows how oddly-shaped objects fit best together. It is also able to take into account the properties of the material that is being packed, for example, its level of radioactivity and how hard it will be to cut. NuPlant is based on research led by Professor Richard Williams and Dr Xiaodong Jia. It has been developed by the University's spin-out company Structure Vision Ltd.

**Sociology and Social Policy**  
Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal launched the fifth International Carers Conference, hosted by Carers UK in association with the University, at Leeds' Royal Armouries in July. The conference explored solutions for funding and managing care in the future for an increasing number of older and disabled relatives. Speakers included Professor Sue Yeandle of the Centre for International Research on Care, Labour and Equalities.

**Translation Studies**  
Dr Serge Sharoff is bringing translation resources up to date by producing term lists for rapidly developing areas, such as wind energy or mobile phones, from original texts in French, German, Spanish, Chinese and Russian. Such term banks can be used in computer software to translate speech or text, and in computer-assisted translation tools.



# Can you give the opportunity of a lifetime?

Many of you say your time at Leeds was something special. You talk about the impact Leeds had on your future. And you tell us it was the opportunity of a lifetime. We want the same for all our future students.

Legacy gifts both large and small provide vital financial support for your University – and may give a student the crucial assistance to get here in the first place. To find out more about legacy gifts to Leeds, and how you can give someone the opportunity of a lifetime, please complete and return the coupon below.



## Remembering Leeds Legacy support for your University

- I would like further information on leaving a gift to Leeds in my Will. Please contact me by phone/email/post (delete as appropriate).
- I have made a gift to Leeds in my Will, and would like to join the Brotherton Circle.

Anyone who pledges a legacy to the University of Leeds will be entitled to join the Brotherton Circle, our exclusive donor recognition society created to thank those who are supporting the University in this unique way. We will be in touch to confirm your membership.

[www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/legacies](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/legacies)

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Email: .....

Telephone: .....

Please return this form to:  
Legacies, Alumni and Development Team  
University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT  
Alternatively please contact us on **0113 343 9037**  
or [legacies@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:legacies@leeds.ac.uk)



# PROFILE: HENRY MEE

Profession: *Portrait painter*

Degree: *Fine Art 1979*



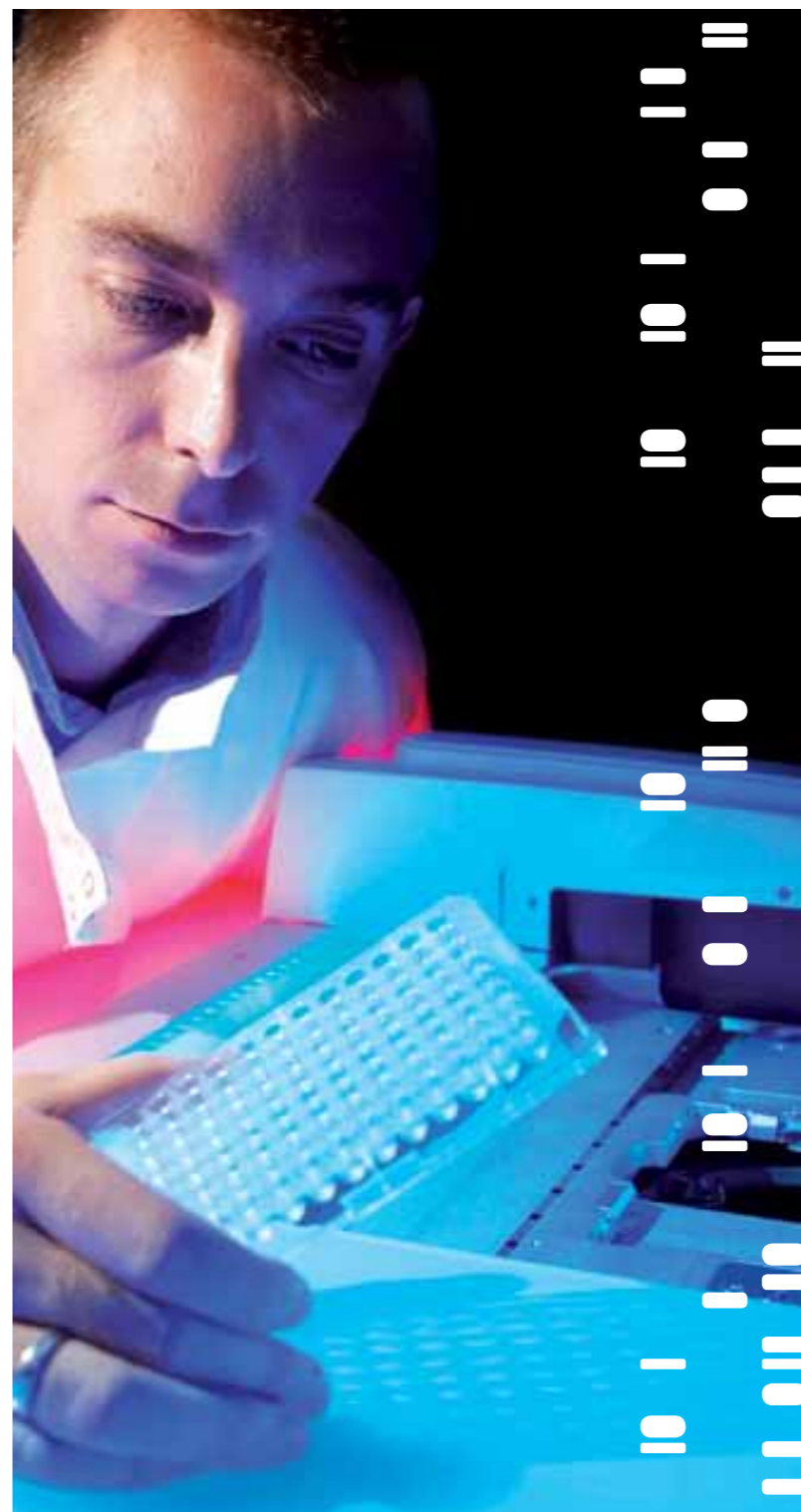
**SITTERS INCLUDE:**

The Queen, Prince Charles, Diana Princess of Wales; Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher, Alec Douglas Home and Harold Wilson; such cultural figures as the University's Chancellor Lord (Melvyn) Bragg; leading industrialists, billionaires and nobility.

Currently painting towards a major show of front bench political figures including the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Governor of the Bank of England.

*I had a fabulous time in the Fine Art Department which combined studio practice with academic rigour. The University was a wonderful place to grow up and make friends for life from across the spectrum of disciplines.*

Photo: Ben Mee



Darren Tomlinson, researcher at the Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine (Photo: Simon and Simon)

Our medical knowledge advances by the day. Across the world, in research institutes and hospitals, pharmaceutical firms and universities, scientists are testing new ideas and refining procedures to tackle the planet's most deadly diseases.

Even so, medical practice lags years behind medical research. Each research success adds to a sum of knowledge – and even when these combine to create a genuine breakthrough, it can be decades before this provides a new workable treatment.

Accelerating this process, speeding the best practice in medical research from the laboratory bench to the hospital bedside requires a different approach: What if you could bring academic research and clinical expertise together?

Working in priority areas of cardiovascular, cancer and musculoskeletal medicine the Biomedical and Health Research Centre (BHRC) has done just that, combining the expertise of the Leeds' science Faculties and the largest teaching hospital trust in Europe. At its heart is an understanding that turning research into therapies can only happen if scientists and clinicians of different disciplines are brought together to share their ideas.

Few institutions are better placed to make this happen. Research and medical practice sit side-by-side – Leeds General Infirmary next door to the main University campus, and Leeds' Institute of Molecular Medicine based on the St James's University Hospital site – providing a fertile breeding ground for ideas and collaboration. Already many of the University's leading medics deal with patients on a regular basis, combining scientific research with hands-on clinical practice.

## GETTING BETTER FASTER

TURNING MEDICAL RESEARCH INTO EFFECTIVE PATIENT TREATMENT TRADITIONALLY TOOK DECADES. A RADICAL NEW APPROACH COULD CHANGE ALL THIS. **SIMON JENKINS** VISITS LEEDS' PIONEERING BIOMEDICAL AND HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE



Photo: Simon and Simon

Amy Russell is Business Lead for the BHRC. “It’s changing the culture: if people have decided to undertake a programme of research, they need to have in their minds how this will impact on patients,” she says. “In the past, the patient benefit of scientific developments was often limited by insufficient input from clinicians. Some of what the researchers did answered important questions, but the questions that academics ask of each other are not always the same as those asked by clinicians.”

“It’s really not just about answering questions; it’s about following them through.”

Evidence is already emerging of how fruitful this approach can be: through the BHRC, a University biologist met chemists and clinicians to discuss her work on the mechanisms of blood clotting. This contact has spawned research into the development of a promising new anti-coagulant.

The whole approach is illustrated by the University’s Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, which has a phenomenal track record for translating its advances into new products for surgical use. Tens of thousands of people have received improved joint replacements based on Leeds research; four years of trials have seen replacement heart valves, pioneered at Leeds, give a fresh lease of life to critically-ill patients.

Key to the BHRC strategy has been the appointment of 15 charismatic, energised scientists, distinguished by their translational approach. These Senior Translational Research Fellows are jointly mentored by experienced

clinicians and academics and immersed in a culture of collaboration: a cadre of new talent charged with taking this work into the future, closing the gap between cutting-edge science and clinical practice. A “next generation” of professors, Amy says, “who have the ultimate impact of their work embedded into how they approach their research.”

Among them is Senior Translational Research Fellow Georgia Mavria (Biochemistry and Genetics 1991; PhD Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 1995) who works in the field of angiogenesis, the process by which new blood vessels are formed. Georgia’s research group is interested to find out how this process is regulated and how it contributes to the growth and spread of cancers.

“Our studies at Leeds are unique because they use models of new vessel generation to identify which of these molecules are important, how they operate and how they might be targeted for therapy,” she says.

“I think, looking ahead, we are going to see personalised cancer treatments tailored to the biology of individual patients and their cancer. Being able to obtain fast, accurate information on the signalling networks of cancerous and supporting cells and the precise genetics of cancers will be critical in developing these individual strategies.”

Another group at BHRC is using specialist technology with patients, to develop new treatments.

The bioscreening group is managed by Darren Tomlinson, a researcher at the Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine for the past seven years, and whose successes are currently being taken forward by drug companies. Turning findings into new treatments is what most excites him about his new role at the BHRC.

“The bioscreening group is all about finding something which could have an impact on patient care,” he says. “We’re using automated methods of identifying and understanding the function and interactions of molecules and proteins. In doing so, the technology can help researchers identify multiple processes in a disease pathway or

to spot biomarkers – the tell-tale signs of disease. That will help us to create rapid diagnostic tools and identify potential targets for new drug design.” Automating the process has enabled thousands of different reactions to be tested at any one time, what he calls a “high-throughput” approach to diagnostic and drug development.

“It’s a very exciting time for research in Leeds,” he explains. “The service we offer is providing fantastic opportunities for Leeds researchers. We are already working on projects aiming to understand and identify processes involved in cancer, arthritis, kidney disease, Parkinson’s disease and inherited forms of childhood blindness, to name just a few.”

These technologies don’t come cheap. “Because the techniques we’re using are so expensive and specialised their use is currently limited to a few select universities. By centralising the service at Leeds we are reducing the costs associated with each of these large-scale experiments, making the technology more accessible for scientists and clinicians and providing an interactive multidisciplinary screening service which is absolutely unique in the UK.”

**THE COST OF DEVELOPING NEW DRUGS IS INCREDIBLY HIGH. FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL NEW DRUG THERE ARE LOTS OF FAILURES AND IT’S THOSE FAILURES WHICH INCREASE THE PRICE OF DRUGS**

“The cost of developing new drugs is incredibly high. For every successful new drug there are lots of failures and it’s those failures which increase the price of drugs. There is also an increasing need for companion diagnostics for a personalised approach to medicine that allows doctors to check whether a drug will help an individual patient. The work that we are doing can hopefully reduce the number of drug failures, ultimately reducing the costs of developing therapies.”

Francesco del Galdo, undertaking research into scleroderma, which currently has no cure (Photo: Simon and Simon)



## A BLACK HOLE FOR CLINICAL TRIALS?

Eleven AM, Tuesday morning. Francesco Del Galdo has just finished a ward round at Chapel Allerton Hospital, where he has met some of his most severely affected patients. He has around 150 on his books – and they come to Leeds from across Yorkshire and Humberside.

Francesco came to Leeds by way of Naples, where he studied for his PhD, and Philadelphia, where he developed his research career alongside working as a consultant.

Being able to maintain these twin streams of his work was a major attraction of Leeds: “Being a physician, I want to do really patient-related work,” he says. There are very few other centres so completely committed to translational research.”

Francesco works in scleroderma – a serious connective tissue disorder which attacks the skin, heart, kidneys, lungs and intestines. While some may live with only minor symptoms for many years, in those with the most serious forms of the disease, the intense pressure it can exert on the heart and lungs invariably leads to death. Others have their daily lives severely restricted, and there is a risk of gangrene as blood supply is lost to the fingers and toes. There is no cure.

“There are a few therapeutic approaches which can ease the symptoms,” Francesco says. “But so far it has proved impossible to find a cure.” One of the key reasons is that it is impossible to know at the outset of clinical trials which patients were likely to develop the most serious forms of the disease. “You might get promising results, but you don’t know if these were patients who were

probably going to feel better anyway.”

It’s an issue which has massively hampered research: “Every new molecule with the potential to cure a condition needs a massive investment of years and money to turn results in the laboratory into a real therapy for patients. So before the drug companies invest these millions, they need to know if it will be effective.”

The lack of certainty around the prognosis for patients means scientists are unable to give drug companies convincing results: “It’s frustrating for researchers, doctors and for patients – but the lack of any predictors of severity makes scleroderma a black hole for clinical trials.”

To tackle this, Leeds is leading a partnership of institutions across seven European countries to identify those cells and proteins most closely associated with causing internal scarring – a hallmark of scleroderma. “This will allow us to assess the activity of the disease and predict its long-term severity, in the same way that, for example, a haemoglobin test will indicate a patient suffering from anaemia.”

A second strand to the work involves taking transcripts of hundreds of genes from large numbers of people and searching for genetic markers which show that a person is susceptible to scleroderma. Observing these people over long periods of time will reveal those genes, or more specifically the tiny molecules called microRNAs, that are implicated in causing the disease, as well as the reason why some patients are more seriously affected than others. Ultimately these malfunctioning genes will then become potential targets for treatment, a huge breakthrough in tackling such a debilitating condition.

# LEEDS ACROSS THE WORLD

Right across the world there are people who all have the Leeds experience in common. So what does our worldwide community look like? Here are some facts and figures

**120,000**

There are 120,000 alumni in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland



## 50 OUT OF 50

The North American Foundation for the University of Leeds is in touch with more than 3,000 alumni right across the US. That includes a Leeds graduate in every one of the 50 states.

## WORLDWIDE NETWORK

Leeds is a member of the Worldwide Universities Network alongside universities from Australia, China, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa and the US.

## ALUMNI GROUPS

- Leeds, UK
- London, UK
- Shanghai, China
- Beijing, China
- Hong Kong
- Accra, Ghana
- Toronto, Canada
- Singapore
- Taiwan

## THE ONE AND ONLY?

At the other end of the scale, these places have just one person flying the Leeds flag:

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Cape Verde       | Liberia              |
| Cuba             | Mauritania           |
| East Timor       | Moldova              |
| Falkland Islands | Netherlands Antilles |
| Faroe Islands    | Niger Republic       |
| Greenland        | Togo                 |
| Honduras         | Tonga                |
| Laos             | Turkmenistan         |

## NORTH VS SOUTH

In total we have 152,010 alumni living in the Northern Hemisphere compared to only 4,136 in the Southern Hemisphere



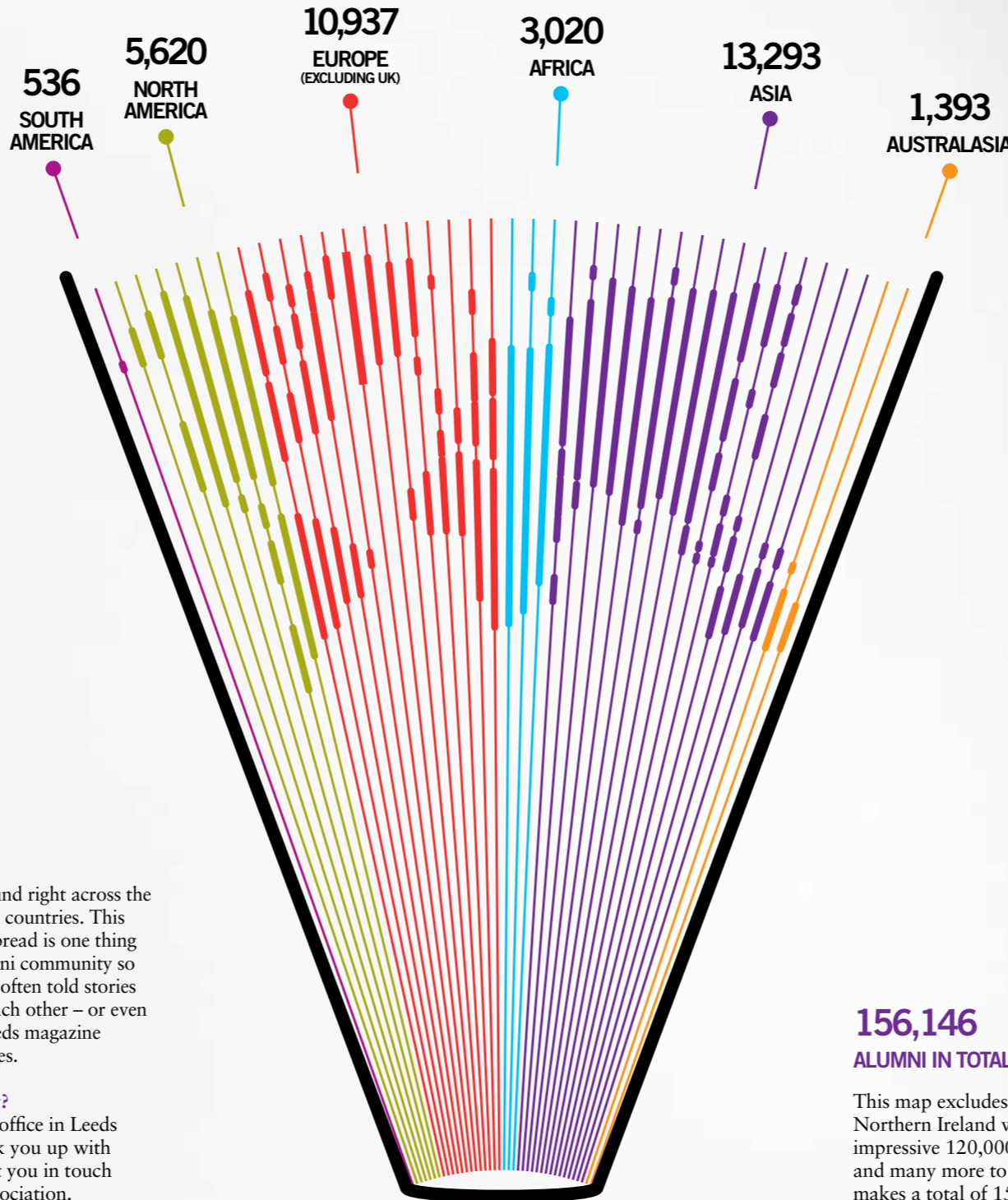
## CHINA

Outside the UK, our largest number of Leeds alumni can be found in China and Hong Kong – more than 4,000



## GREECE

On the European mainland, the country with the largest number of Leeds graduates is Greece: 1,660 at the last count



## Alumni facts

Leeds alumni are found right across the globe, in at least 168 countries. This huge international spread is one thing that makes our alumni community so special, and Leeds is often told stories of alumni meeting each other – or even finding a copy of Leeds magazine – in unexpected places.

### Fancy a get together?

Contact the alumni office in Leeds and we can help link you up with other alumni, or put you in touch with an existing Association.

## OLD VS NEW

LUOSA (Leeds University Old Students' Association), which has branches in Yorkshire and London, is the University's most longstanding group, nearly 100 years old. Our newest group, Leeds University Alumni Association Ghana was launched in July 2010

## DOWN UNDER

Leeds has one the largest Study Abroad programmes in the UK, with 400 students studying part of their degree at one of our partner institutions – Australia is one of the most popular destinations. More than 1,400 Leeds alumni are already living there too.



## WORLDWIDE OFFICES

Cities where there is a Leeds international office:

- Leeds, UK
- New Delhi, India
- Tokyo, Japan
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Lagos, Nigeria
- Shanghai, China



## VANUATU

Perhaps surprisingly, we have eight alumni on the island of Vanuatu in the South Pacific

## THE FAR FUTURE

Leeds scientists are leading a project plotting geological changes in the Great Rift Valley in Africa. A new ocean will form there within the next 10 million years.



## OMAN

More than 8000 teachers in Oman studied in the University's school of education

## THE SOUTH POLE

There may not be any Leeds alumni resident in Antarctica all year round, but a number have made scientific and exploratory visits there. Leeds Professor Jane Francis has also visited Antarctica 8 times researching fossil plants and ancient climates, and is a holder of the prestigious Polar Medal.



# BAUMAN

*Erudite, charming, prolific, Zygmunt Bauman is the modern world's leading social thinker. Randeep Ramesh visits him in Leeds*

Photos: Simon and Simon

Zygmunt Bauman has long been regarded as one of the world's most influential sociologists – an academic whose restlessly inquiring mind has produced dynamic, accessible arguments on everything from the Holocaust to Big Brother.

Despite retiring from Leeds in 1990, the 84-year-old remains astonishingly productive – delivering one book a year from his home in Weetwood. His latest, *44 Letters from the Liquid Modern World*, is a collection of pithy potshots on topics as varied as Twitter, swine flu and the cultural elite.

Delegates attending the opening of Leeds' Bauman Institute this autumn came to honour a sociologist and writer lauded as a social thinker everywhere – except in Britain. Perhaps because, unlike sociologist Tony Giddens who fronted New Labour's "third way", Bauman has been unwilling to provide politicians with grand theories explaining what they were doing and why.

That may change. New Labour leader Ed Miliband is almost Baumanesque in his analysis that by embracing the market, the party had lost its humanity. Bauman is encouraged: "Particularly promising for me is Ed's vision of community, his sensitivity to the underdog, his awareness that the quality of society and the cohesion of community need to be measured not by totals and averages, but by the well-being of the weakest," he says. "There is a chance that under his leadership, Labour will rediscover its own ground and recover its own feet."

Bauman and the Milibands have a shared history: Ed's father Ralph became a close friend when both spent time at the LSE in the 1950s. Both were left-wing sociologists of Polish-Jewish descent; both fled tyranny: Miliband escaping Belgium as Hitler's soldiers advanced in 1940; Bauman driven from Poland as the Communists undertook an anti-Semitic purge in 1968.

Both came to Leeds in the early 1970s and Bauman's home became a regular stop for the Miliband boys. Ed and David grew up watching the two towering academics discuss the future of the left. Bauman says both

brothers were "already partners for serious conversation, charming and exceptionally intelligent for their age."

Unlike many sociologists, Bauman's work is simultaneously accessible, intellectual and polemical. He has his finger on the pulse of modern consumer and celebrity culture: "You cannot make a revolution in 140 characters, so why is Twitter so revolutionary?" On Facebook, he asks: "Can you really have 500 friends who you know well?"

Underlying his theories is the idea that systems make individuals, not vice versa. Whether Communist or consumerist, states want to control their public and reproduce their elites. Rather than the secret policeman's boot, western society looks to scare and entice by manufacturing public panics and seducing people with shopping. Bauman's work focuses on this transition to a nation of consumers, unconsciously disciplined to work endlessly.

This transformation from the "ethics of work to the ethics of consumerism" vexes him. He warns that society has slid from "the ideals of a community of responsible citizens to those of an aggregate of satisfied, self-interested, consumers." Little wonder critics dismiss Bauman as gloomy.

But over tea and an endless supply of pastries, the white-haired Professor is charm personified – even at his most pessimistic. In his view an entire modern political vocabulary has emerged as a "smokescreen" for hidden intentions: "Social mobility is a lie because individuals are not in a position to select their position in society; fairness is a cover for an ugly spectre of 'no assistance unless inside a workhouse'."

What of The Big Society – David Cameron's suggestion that the British people could find resources of moral courage and enterprise to improve themselves, rather than rely on the state? A smile steals across his face. He says the electorate is being told to replace public services "without the resources", likening Britons to the Israelites asked to make bricks for the Pharaoh without straw.

His call for a "citizens' income", basically enough money to live a free life, was one of the few contrarian



Randeep Ramesh is social affairs editor of *The Guardian* newspaper. A longer version of the article can be found at [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

voices in the early welfare-to-work debates. Cash transfers to the poor would, wrote Bauman in 1999, remove the "awesome fly of insecurity from the sweet ointment of freedom". Such sentiments have propelled the living wage into the political mainstream.

Bauman has always been interested in politics. His first brush with authority came when he challenged the Polish communists in the 1950s over their ossifying bureaucracy and ruthless crushing of criticism. "My analysis was that the only wish of Communism was the need to stay in power."

His choice of reference points is sometimes unsettling. His key insight for his seminal work on the Holocaust came from Carl Schmitt, a theorist closely associated with Hitler. Bauman said today's talk of "social exclusion" is an extension of Schmitt's dictum that the most important act of government was to "identify an enemy."

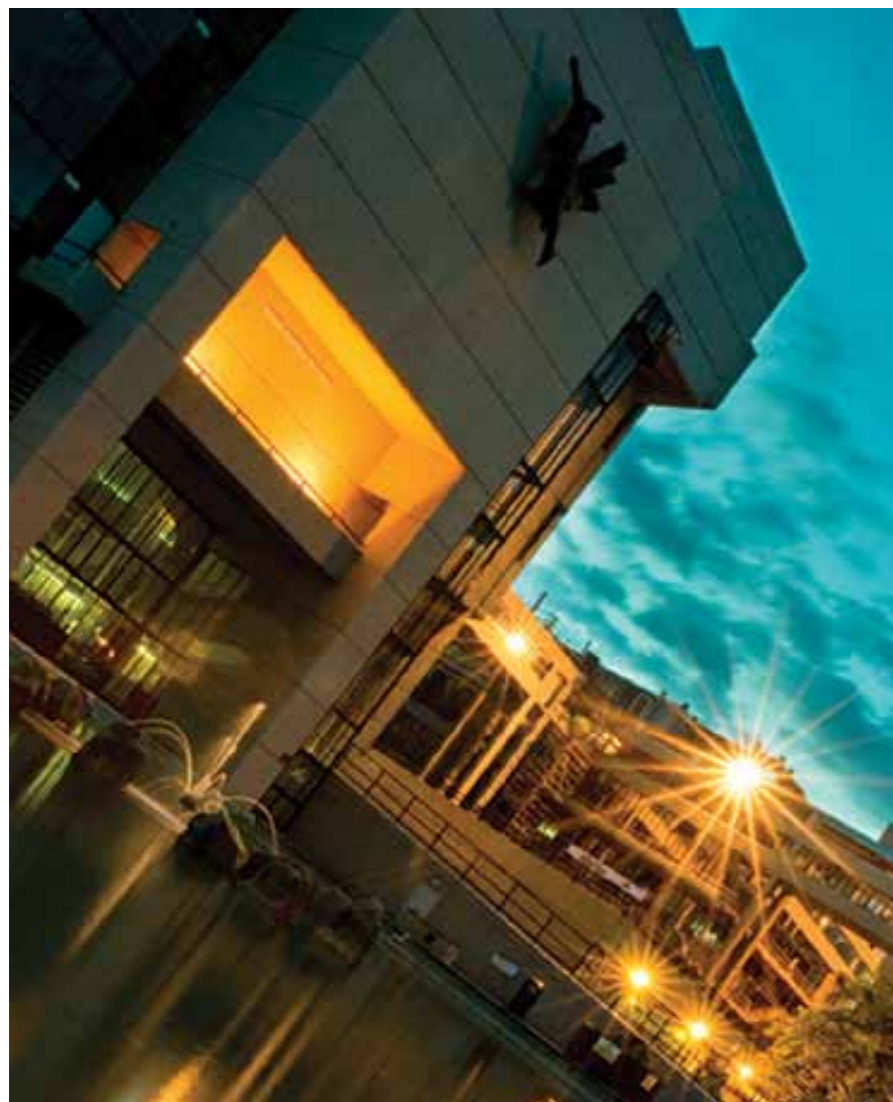
Understanding this led Bauman to argue that the murder of millions of Jews was the result not of the actions of a group of evil people, but of a modern bureaucracy where subservience was prized above all, where labyrinthine workings concealed the outcomes of peoples' actions and where a state imposed order by harnessing a fear of strangers and outsiders: "Once governments exclude people you can stop them being protected. Societies begin to manipulate fears about groups. When the welfare state is in crisis we must be concerned about such a feature of society."

Bauman is sanguine about his discipline's ability to find answers for such problems: "The task for sociology is to come to the help of the individual. We must be in service of freedom. It is something we have lost sight of." ●

The Bauman Institute at Leeds is dedicated to taking forward the work of Zygmunt Bauman, and to contributing to debates on society, politics and 21st century life. The Institute was launched with a major conference on "Rethinking Global Society" where speakers included architect Daniel Libeskind, writer and activist Neal Lawson – and Professor Bauman himself.

# ROGER STEVENS – NATIONAL TREASURE

'Brutalist' landmarks become listed buildings



Some of the University's best-known landmarks are now official national treasures, according to the Department for Culture Media and Sport. The Roger Stevens lecture block, the Edward Boyle Library and Henry Price Flats have all been recognised as Grade II listed buildings on the recommendation of English Heritage.

The buildings were designed by architects Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, fresh from building London's Barbican Centre, who combined the best in modern

architecture with new ideas in education. They studied the way that people used the existing campus and came up with a unique masterplan that included long corridors linked by bridges and a cross-campus floor numbering system to address the needs of a university built on a hill. The plan went on to have a huge influence on the design of other UK universities.

Robert Sladdin, former director of Estates, said: "In 1958, CPB were given the task of transforming the University

for the modern age, and their masterplan did not disappoint. Initially, the buildings were warmly greeted, but over time the 'brutalist' architecture began to divide opinion, and to an extent that ambivalence remains to this day."

English Heritage's Nick Bridgland said the Leeds plan was "the first attempt to create an integrated university campus of this kind and represents an internationally-significant milestone in 20th century architecture."

*Birthdays*  
Bodington Hall is 50  
and the Brotherton  
Library is 75 next year



## MARKING TIME

M&S archive building under way

Construction of the new Marks and Spencer archive building officially started this summer when M&S chairman Sir Stuart Rose and Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur buried a time capsule on the site on the Western Campus, near the Leeds University Business School. Items in the lead box included M&S sweets and underwear, while the University contributed photos of the campus and a pewter tankard.

Also at the ceremony was Josie Freear, who is being sponsored by M&S to undertake a PhD in the School of History on the social history of food. Josie will use the rich resources of the archive and the collection of cookery writings stored in the University's Special Collections. The new Michael Marks building, named after the man who founded the company at Kirkgate market in Leeds, will house the company's archive and University book storage.



The Roger Stevens Building, Edward Boyle Library and Henry Price Flats have all been recognised as Grade II listed buildings

## UNION GETS A NEW LOOK...

Students arriving for the start of the new term in September discovered a new-look interior to the Union building, which opened just in time for Freshers' Week. Gone is the old congested entrance area in favour of a wider, brighter space. Designed following consultation with students, the result is a more welcoming ground floor, with a more open layout, an improved helpdesk and better signposting of Union services.

The work has also created new spaces for meetings, rehearsals and performances throughout the day, doubling the area available for the Union's 302 societies and their 14,000 members.



Photo: Johnny Green

## ...AND AN OLD ONE

A new café adds a nostalgic twist to the Union and can be found hidden in the back corner of the building beside the bookshop, or, for those with longer memories, on the site of the old food shop.

'The Hidden Café' boasts a décor straight from the 1960s, but without ashtrays and a haze of smoke. It offers a classic afternoon tea with freshly baked scones and cakes.

The café's gallery wall showcases work by art students and will provide a place for them to curate their own exhibitions.



## GETTING GREENER

Fifty student volunteers shifted more than 20 tonnes of unwanted items when students left their accommodation in the summer. The Green Streets Initiative (featured in *Leeds* in 2009) collected unwanted items such as furniture, clothes and electrical equipment from more than 10,000 homes in Headingley and Hyde Park, and all of the University's student halls. Re-usable items were then passed on to local charities, hostels and shelters.

The University has been awarded a 'first class' rating in People and Planet's Green League, which assesses the environmental performance of all Britain's universities based on criteria including carbon emissions per head, waste recycling rates and efforts to engage students and staff in environmental activities.

## GLOBAL THINKING

Since its early years, the University has welcomed exchanges with universities around the world. The University's new internationalisation strategy is setting out ways to build upon future international relationships and develop deeper partnerships with other world-class institutions.

In July, a collaboration with Osaka University, one of the top ranked universities in Japan, marked a start to this new approach. After much groundwork, Leeds signed a memorandum of understanding with Osaka University. The collaboration will help lead to joint research between two of the world's foremost centres in dental research. "It will allow our combined resources to focus on global issues in the field," says Dr Margaret Kellett, Dean of Leeds Dental Institute.

It is hoped that a further agreement will shortly be agreed in the area of regenerative medicine.

## In brief

### Appointments

**Sheena Radford**, Professor of Structural Molecular Biology, has been made a fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. Professor Radford's work involves research into how faulty structures of proteins can have implications on health and disease.

**Anne Neville**, Professor of Engineering and Director of the School of Mechanical Engineering's Institute of Engineering Thermofluids, Surfaces and Interfaces, has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. Her work concerns what happens at surfaces and the interfaces between them. She has particular expertise in corrosion, tribology (or 'wear and tear') and fouling.

**Andrew Thompson**, Professor of Imperial and Global History and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, has been appointed as an independent academic member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

### An excellent example

In the midst of the Labour leadership campaign, David Miliband delivered a speech on education's role in creating a more equal society. He cited the University's Reach for Excellence scheme as an example of how students from disadvantaged backgrounds can be encouraged to aspire to higher education. The scheme, funded by the Lloyds TSB Foundation and the Sutton Trust, gives pupils a taste of university life and develops appropriate skills that will help them in higher education.

### Face the Futurity

The work of Leeds researchers is being brought to a huge new international audience, thanks to an exciting new online collaboration with prestigious American institutions including Yale, Stanford and Brown Universities. Futurity is a daily blog featuring cutting-edge medical, science and technology research presented for a general audience. [www.futurity.org](http://www.futurity.org)



# MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION

*There's a special group of people who are making the Leeds experience even better. Christopher Beanland asks some of his fellow alumni: why get involved?*

Photos: Johnny Green (right) and Mark Webster (below)

Not so long ago, your *alma mater* didn't matter at all once you hit your mid-20s. You moved on from university life into work and uni, it seemed, largely forgot you. There are some honourable exceptions to this and, of course, graduates have long revisited their youth through reunions. But mainly, university was somewhere you had been to, not something you were still involved in.

Today though, the university-alumni bond is crystallising into something much stronger. Alumni are involving themselves in life at the University of Leeds like never before. Neil Munro (Civil Engineering 1961) sums up the spirit at the heart of this: "Participation in university life has stimulated my thought processes again and taken me back to my formative years."

Look closely at the student experience in 2010 and you'll see Leeds graduates everywhere: alumni are preparing new overseas students for their upcoming scholastic adventure, giving graduates career advice, offering internships, and using their experience to advise the University on how to better engage Leeds alumni in areas such as international partnerships and graduate employability.

Leeds life doesn't end when you leave campus, certificate in hand. Leeds alumni continue to engage with university life on as small or large a scale as they wish: whether reading this magazine, knowing 150,000 other alumni are doing likewise,

## 5 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

### 01

#### INTERNSHIPS AND PLACEMENTS

Helping a current student or recent Leeds graduate get valuable experience can make a real difference to them when they start their career

posting updates online, or attending Leeds events as far afield as Tokyo and Accra and Sydney.

The Leeds Alumni Media Group evening held every November in London is a highlight for many hacks like me. It's a fantastic chance to find out what the University is up to, and to catch up with long-lost journalist friends from the days when we all spent our weekends toiling at *Leeds Student* and *LSR*. That experience proved absolutely crucial for my own journalism career, and it's always heartening to meet fizzing young graduates at the Media Group events who remind me so much of my embarrassingly enthusiastic younger self. I think many Leeds graduates have a slightly rebellious mindset too – we enjoy challenging the stuffy, Oxbridge old boys' network you still see in the higher echelons of the British media.

But some alumni go much, much further than me. People like Neil

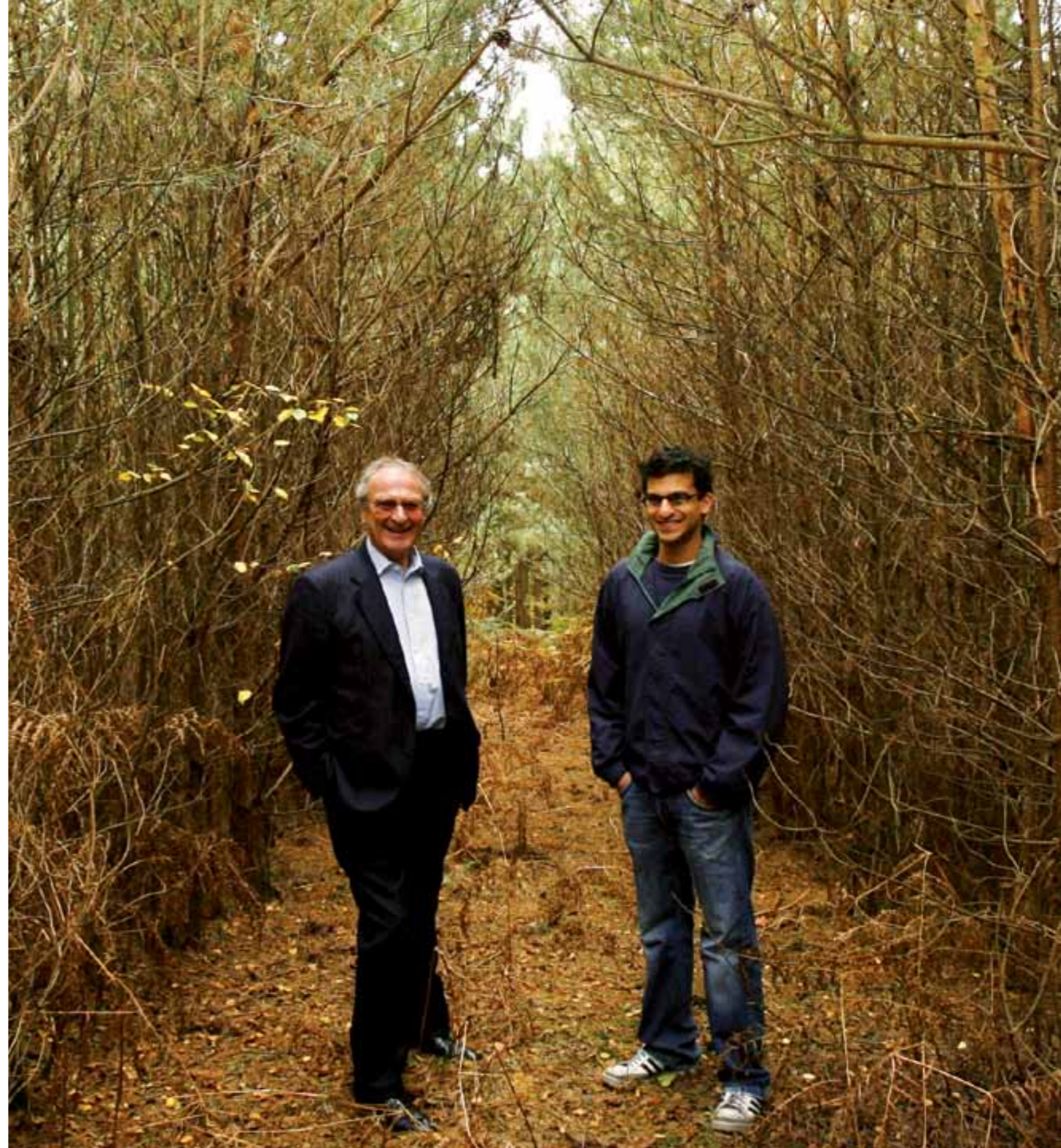
Munro, a chartered engineer who now runs his own company in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Neil has funded a scholarship which helps student entrepreneurs put their ideas into action, with finance, training and support. He explains: "The Undergraduate Enterprise Scholarship I help with provides selected undergraduates with finance and practical help in setting up their own business."

Neil's involvement has been much greater than getting the Scholarship started. His scholar, Pritesh Ladwa, is a History of Art student at Leeds. "My relationship with Neil is not just that of sponsor and beneficiary," explains Pritesh. "He's provided valuable knowledge and guidance. My business, The Forest Project, is a fully accredited carbon offset provider – no other company in the UK is doing what we do. This was only possible due to Neil's support."

#### HOW ALUMNI ARE SHAPING THE LEEDS EXPERIENCE

##### Zaheer Lakhani (Medicine 1975)

VC's Alumni Advisory Group member Zaheer is a consultant cardiologist based in Edmonton, Canada. He maintains connections with Uganda, where he grew up. "I can't emphasise enough the need to reconnect with alumni in the developing world, where opportunities that will benefit our current students are to be found."



##### Neil Munro (Civil Engineering 1961) and History of Art student, Pritesh Ladwa.

Neil has helped Pritesh put his carbon-offset initiative, The Forest Project, into action, by funding an Enterprise Scholarship and providing advice and guidance along the way. "The vast accumulated experience and expertise of alumni can and must be put to use to help the present generation of students achieve their full potential."

Alumni and students at the Shanghai event



Two of the most valuable things Leeds alumni can give are advice and time. Since 2008, a group of ten Leeds alumni has provided the University with advice on ways to engage alumni in the University experience, as well as providing a sounding board for current and future activity.

Mike Ratcliffe (Philosophy 1991), now director of academic and student affairs at Oxford Brookes University, is one the members of the Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Advisory Group (VCAAG), though his involvement at Leeds stretches further back. He says: "I went to a Convocation day. I was younger than anyone else there, but the Convocation people asked if I would join their committee. Convocation and the University were trying to think about how to engage with alumni, and for the next 15 years I was involved in that discussion, thinking through what the University could do for alumni, and alumni for Leeds. Now with the Advisory Group I'm seeing that put into action. I'm

proud of my University and proud to help."

Another member of the group is Seb Elsworth (History and Philosophy 2004). Seb's day job is cheerleading for charities as policy director of the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO). He says: "I support and advise the University on the non-profit sector where I work. I became involved following my two-year term on the executive in the student union where I saw how much difference the opportunities one has at Leeds can make to the future. But those opportunities don't have to stop when you graduate, and the team at Leeds does a great job of connecting alumni to ensure that the Leeds 'network' remains strong."

"I would encourage all alumni to get more involved," says Susan Nash (Politics and Parliamentary Studies 2007), a VCAAG member who's now vice-president of the National Union of Students (NUS). "Take a little time to see how you can stay connected

## 02

### GIVE YOUR ADVICE

The VC's Alumni Advisory Group is recruiting more members. The University's governing bodies, Council and Court, also have a number of places reserved for alumni

## 03

### TALK TO A STUDENT

Talk to current students about your career, at a talk or an event, or provide advice online from anywhere in the world

with your institution and its community, see if there's anything you can do to help the next generation make the transition from students to alumni." Susan explains the benefits of her role: "Being a member of the VCAAG is incredibly rewarding. Seeing how one idea or concept blossoms into a scheme or initiative provides immense satisfaction. We know that we are assisting in continually seeking to improve the connection between former students and their former place of study."

Professor Zaheer Lakhani (Medicine 1975) fled Idi Amin's maniacal purge of Asians from Uganda with his family in 1972. And, as a refugee, he was helped by Leeds University and the city's education authority. Now living in Edmonton, Canada, the consultant cardiologist tells me: "Getting involved by donating time and knowledge in the area of global health is one way of saying 'thank you' to an institution that gave me so much."

Unlike Zaheer, today's overseas students should hopefully have a less stressful journey to Leeds. One interesting scheme involves Leeds alumni based in Shanghai, who hold an informal event in the city for Chinese students about to leave for study at Leeds. Its main aim is to settle nerves. Nancy Woods, from the University's Language School, pulls the levers of the scheme. "The Shanghai scheme prepares students academically by showing them how to listen effectively to lectures, how to take good notes, how to participate in a seminar," she says. But the real clincher is that the scheme offers much more than just academic advice, it offers crucial pastoral care too: "It's such a good way to introduce students to life and culture in the UK,

particularly in Leeds," says Woods.

Jason (Jing) Luo (MSc Management 2003), one of the alumni involved in the event, sees it as a way of connecting with Leeds, through time and space: "It is always fantastic to get together with old friends and meet new alumni and students at the event," he says. "I feel very happy still to be in the Leeds family, and having been away from Leeds for a while, attending such an event reminded me of some great days at the University."

New York-based alum Amy Schnitzer (MSc International Marketing Management 2004) works in marketing for Estée Lauder cosmetics. She helps recent graduates in another way – as an online mentor within the Leeds Graduate Career Network. So why did she get involved? "I quickly learned the importance of building a network of people in the professional community. It serves as a source of guidance, inspiration and development. By participating in the Leeds' Graduate Career Network, I hope that I can help those graduating today. Career advice, brainstorming opportunities, internships – these are just a few of the ways that we can help graduates in the working world."

Like Amy, Keith Howard (Mining 1952, MSc 1953) is helping students develop skills to get ahead in the job market. Keith is owner of Emerald Group Publishing, one of a growing number of businesses offering internships to Leeds students. For the students, getting genuine work experience in such a competitive field means they have a head start in the job market – in fact, five of Emerald's eight interns so far have gone on to full-time roles at the company. So successful is the scheme that it was

## 04

### RECRUIT GRADUATES

You already know how good Leeds graduates are in the workplace. More and more alumni are talking to us about recruiting high-calibre employees from their University

highly commended at the National Council for Work Experience Awards last year. "The internships have allowed Emerald to build relationships with the University of Leeds which continue to develop," says Sarah Nalborczyk, Emerald's Learning and Development Manager. "We hope this will continue to build into a talent pool for future recruitment of graduate entry positions."

Not only does this myriad involvement help the next generation, it can also take us back to some of the happiest times of our lives, as Neil Munro – now in his 70s – points out: "I see all this as a way to repay the debt that I owe to the University for playing such a formative part in my life."

There are many other reasons for getting involved. For me, it's about being part of a network, socially and professionally. Amy Schnitzer passionately believes that "it is tremendously rewarding to know that you are helping someone." Neil Munro sees an imperative for this activity: "The vast accumulated experience and expertise of alumni can and must be put to use to help the present generation of students achieve their full potential and add to the prestige and achievements of Leeds University in the future," he says.

Whatever the reason for engaging yourself, as a graduate, in the life of the University, everybody benefits. Seb Elsworth sums it up: "The strongest asset we have is the network of other Leeds graduates." ●

## 05

### MAKE A GIFT

Support from nearly 5,000 alumni for scholarships, hardship funds, opportunities for skills development, and better facilities has already made the Leeds student experience even better. With your help it could get better still

## HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

### Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Advisory Group

The VC's Alumni Advisory Group is looking for additional members. Meeting twice a year, the group meets to review alumni relations activity, and identify opportunities for increased alumni engagement. It is a lively group that acts as a sounding board and generates ideas to develop our future activity.

This is an opportunity to use your skills and expertise to help make Leeds one of the world's best universities.

### Expressions of interest in membership are invited by 28 February 2011

Further information is available at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk) or from Phil Steel, Head of Alumni Relations EC Stoner Building University of Leeds LS2 9JT, UK Tel +44 (0)113 343 7520 Email [alumni@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@leeds.ac.uk)



**Susan Nash (Politics and Parliamentary Studies 2007)**

Susan spent a sabbatical year as Leeds University Union Education Officer and is now vice-president of the NUS. "I provide feedback on how we recent graduates want to keep in touch with the University and our fellow friends and colleagues. The role also allows me to suggest how alumni can assist the next generation of graduates and students."



**Mike Ratcliffe (Philosophy 1991)**

Mike's alumni engagement with Leeds developed at Convocation day, and continues through the VC's Alumni Advisory Group. "I heard a very distinguished American scholar say that by supporting your University, it gets even better – and that increases the value of the degrees alumni have."

To get more involved, visit [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk) or use the form that came with this magazine.

# STRANGER THAN FICTION

## TEN UNIVERSITY URBAN MYTHS



Do you know any other Leeds urban myths? Let us know at [alumni@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@leeds.ac.uk)



**IN THE 1980S THE UNIVERSITY CHOSE TO BUY A STATUE CALLED 'THE DREAMER' INSTEAD OF BUILDING A SWIMMING POOL**

Talk of building a swimming pool on campus almost began with the foundation of the University, and only ended with the opening of a 25-metre pool in May 2010. Almost 30 years before though, complaints emerged that, rather than funding a pool the University had chosen to purchase a work of art. This was untrue. The sculpture by former Professor of Fine Art, Quentin Bell, originally on display beside the Edward Boyle Library and now in the Baines Wing courtyard, was paid for by philanthropist Stanley Burton.

Popularity: 3  
Believability: 2  
Accuracy: 0



**BLOCK A OF THE HENRY PRICE FLATS WAS NEVER BUILT BECAUSE ITS FOUNDATIONS WOULD HAVE DISTURBED AN OLD PLAGUE PIT**

Pass the Henry Price buildings walking along Clarendon Road, and you will see a series of accommodation blocks that start at F but stop at B. The buildings may be next to a former graveyard – now St George's Field – but there was no plague pit: the graveyard was only created in 1833, before which time it was part of the grounds of Great Woodhouse Hall. Though A Block was on the original drawings, the University's estates department confirms that planning problems and cash shortages led to building work being curtailed in 1964.

Popularity: 2  
Believability: 4  
Accuracy: 0



**DAMIEN HIRST DEVELOPED HIS ARTISTIC INTEREST IN DEAD ANIMALS WHILE WORKING WITH CADAVERS AS A TECHNICIAN IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL**

The Whitbread prize-winning artist, who first caught the public's imagination (if not their appetite) with his animals suspended in formaldehyde, was influenced by the Leeds campus – and once said the medical school was his favourite piece of architecture. Though he practised drawing there while a student at Leeds College of Art and Design, there is no record of him ever having been employed at the University.

Popularity: 2  
Believability: 2  
Accuracy: 1



**THE LIBRARY STAFF'S OFFICIAL LUNCH HOUR USED TO LAST FOR 75 MINUTES SO THE HEAD LIBRARIAN COULD HAVE A THREE-COURSE MEAL**

Amazingly, this is entirely true. The privilege of a longer lunch was extended to all library staff after the appropriately-named BS Page (University Librarian, 1947-69) found that if one's lunch was restricted to 60 minutes, one had to rush one's pudding. The Brotherton Library is still going strong – 75 years old next year – but the extended lunch hour has long been consigned to history.

Popularity: 3  
Believability: 1  
Accuracy: 5



**THE EC STONER BUILDING WAS USED IN AN EPISODE OF SCI-FI TV SERIES BLAKE'S SEVEN**

The famous concrete landscape of Chancellor's Court and the 'corridors in the sky' of red route look perfectly made for a 1970s sci-fi set. Sadly – despite much internet chat perpetuating the untruth – it was never used, though the civil engineering department of Leeds Met (then Leeds Polytechnic) did make a fleeting appearance. Other variations on the myth included the Roger Stevens Building appearing in *A Clockwork Orange* (it didn't), and Chancellor's Court as the backdrop for an episode of *Doctor Who* (it wasn't).

Popularity: 4  
Believability: 4  
Accuracy: 0



**JRR TOLKIEN WROTE THE LORD OF THE RINGS WHILE AT LEEDS**

Tolkien taught English at Leeds from 1920 to 1925. It is said that he began work on his epic during this time, and the word 'Baggins' was certainly in use in Yorkshire, as food one would bring from home to enjoy for lunch. Tolkien originally wrote *The Hobbit* for his young children – and possibly some of this began during his stay in Leeds. But it wasn't published for another decade. Public acclaim led to the author, then an Oxford don, being persuaded to write its epic sequel, which was published some 30 years after he left Leeds.

Popularity: 3  
Believability: 3  
Accuracy: 1



**LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION'S OLD BAR HAS THE LONGEST BAR IN BRITAIN**

This oft-repeated claim is perhaps as old as the 71-year-old Old Bar itself. It is hard to imagine when this could ever have been true, though the myth is repeated widely across the internet. The bar measures an impressive 58ft (17.7 metres), equivalent to about 10 students laid end to end. However, since the arrival of the Square pub in Boar Lane (bar length: about 68ft), the Old Bar can no longer even claim to have the longest bar in Leeds.

Popularity: 3  
Believability: 2  
Accuracy: 1



**THE UNIVERSITY IS BUILT ON A GEOLOGICAL FAULT LINE**

That a university with a reputation for cutting-edge Earth Sciences research sits over a fault in the earth's crust is the basis for a perfect myth. It is also absolutely true. The location of the fault (which runs from the South to the North of campus and is also responsible for a natural spring under the EC Stoner Building) caused particular problems for the construction of the LC Miall Building (Biological Sciences) which was designed with a cellular basement structure to counter the possibility of subsidence, as it lies directly over the fault.

Popularity: 2  
Believability: 2  
Accuracy: 5



**RED ROUTE IS THE LONGEST CORRIDOR IN EUROPE**

The University's 'brutalist quarter' seems to be responsible for the generation of more urban myths than any other part of the Leeds campus. The idea that the level 10 corridor, linking the EC Stoner building to the Roger Stevens Building and Edward Boyle Library, was the longest corridor in Europe is one of Leeds' most enduring myths. At a fifth of a mile, red route is certainly long. Yet there is no real consensus over what is Europe's longest corridor, with Wales' Llandough hospital, Germany's Frankfurt airport, and Cambridge's Newham College also claiming this distinction. The idea that the 'kink' in the middle of red route was due to builders starting at two ends and failing to meet in the middle is also, sadly, untrue – it was in the design from the start.

Popularity: 5  
Believability: 4  
Accuracy: 2



**IT IS POSSIBLE TO CROSS THE ENTIRE CAMPUS USING UNDERGROUND TUNNELS**

At over 86 acres, the Leeds campus is the biggest in the UK and a network of tunnels does criss-cross between buildings. Over the years, a number of students have attempted to cross campus without getting wet in a wintry Yorkshire squall – but can you get across the whole of campus? Almost, but not quite. Estate Services confirms that, equipped with a hard hat and a radio it is possible to travel underground from the Houldsworth (Engineering) Building to the Baines Wing and Great Hall, then emerge briefly before continuing unseen from the Edward Boyle Library to the Worsley Medical Building.

Popularity: 2  
Believability: 3  
Accuracy: 4

**Illustration – Ben Steers**

Ben is an illustrator and designer working out of Bristol. The illustrations on this spread were produced specially for Leeds





# RAISING THEIR GAME

*Alumni funding catapults Leeds sport into the premier league*

Sports players and athletes have raised their game as a result of support from the Alumni Annual Fund. The result has been a boost in the performance of sports teams and a positive impact on health and wellbeing in the local Leeds community.

Each year, between five and eight students join our **Coaching Scholarships** scheme, which funds their development as sports coaches while building their leadership and communication skills. Charlotte Gaynor (Sports Science 2010) developed her coaching skills working with University athletes, Leeds City athletics club, and youngsters from an inner city primary school.

Stephanie Lett (English Literature and Theatre Studies 2010) worked with the women's tennis second team and after entering the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) championship, the team won promotion and

then the Northern Conference Cup. For good measure, Steph won the University tennis club championship in her final year.

As London 2012 grows ever closer, our **Olympic Scholars** are each working towards a place in the home squad. Matt Holland (Sport and Exercise Science 2010) and medical student Ed Scott are both hopeful of competing in the water polo. London 2012 may come too soon for another young medic, Mark O'Kane, but the long-distance race walker is one of GB's best young talents.

Dental student Rachel Haigh has targeted a place in the GB swimming team. Rachel, an England International, picked up two gold medals at the 2010 BUCS short-course championships – the first time in many years Leeds has even had a swimmer in the final.

The scholarships make a contribution to the training costs of these remarkable athletes

– in term time, Matt and Ed travelled three times a week to Manchester to train – and ease the pressures of following their sporting dreams while studying hard.

The scholarships also fund membership of the Edge, the University's state-of-the-art sports centre and swimming pool, and give the scholars access to sports massage and conditioning. The University has also embraced the initiative, working around training and competition schedules to allow scholars to sit exams away from campus and even abroad.

The **Gryphons Programme** is a key feature of the University's aspiration for a place among the sporting elite.

Members of 17 different sports groups now benefit from professional coaching, fitness, stamina and conditioning training – a strategy designed to put Leeds among the BUCS top ten.

**1,283**  
alumni gave a gift to Leeds for the first time last academic year



Just two years into the programme, it is already showing results: men's hockey finished in a highest-ever third place in the Universities competition and now compete in the second tier of the national league.

Their football counterparts won the BUCS Premier League title – a first – just a year after winning promotion, and striker Dave Syers (Classics 2010) is now making his mark in the Bradford City first team, having won a professional contract with the League Two side.



●● **Dave Syers (Classics 2010)**  
Having won a professional contract, David is now making his mark with the Bradford City first team



●● **Mark O'Kane (Medicine)**  
London 2012 may come too soon, but the long-distance race walker is one of GB's best young talents



## CHERYL FRANCES-HOAD

*For she's a jolly good Fellow*

Award-winning composer Cheryl Frances-Hoad has begun her two-year membership of the new Academy of Cultural Fellows at Leeds.

A generous donation from the Future Fund of Opera North will give Cheryl the time and freedom to develop as a composer – and create exciting new music – while collaborating with Opera North, working on community music and theatre projects, and teaching students.

Essex-born Cheryl began composing at the age of eight while studying cello and piano at the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin School. Since graduating from Cambridge she has won critical acclaim and a string of awards for her work which has been widely performed both in the UK and overseas.

The Academy of Cultural Fellows will nurture the talents of the brightest and best new writers, artists, actors, dancers and musicians and revives

the tradition of the Gregory Fellowships – featured in the last issue of *Leeds* – which were so influential in the University's cultural life in the post-war years. Up to four Fellows will be in post at any one time, and further funding from the Future Fund of Opera North has now been announced to enable the second appointment.

The Academy is led by Professor David Cooper (Music 1978), Dean of the Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communications, who was taught composition at Leeds by Peter-Paul Nash, the last Gregory Fellow in Music. "I know how inspiring this was for me, to be learning directly from this extremely talented and sophisticated young composer," he said. "Cheryl is a wonderful addition to the School of Music, and it is so exciting to imagine that she will similarly inspire the students of today."

Composer Cheryl, first Cultural Fellow at Leeds. The Academy revives the tradition of the Gregory Fellowships

## In brief

### Lecture series

A grant of \$4,000 from the North American Foundation for the University of Leeds (NAFUL) will fund a new series of Jordan Lectures in the Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine. This follows a donation to NAFUL by Professor V. Craig Jordan (Pharmacy and Pharmacology 1969, PhD 1973, DSc 1985, Honorary DMed 2001), Scientific Director and Vice-Chair of the Department of Oncology at Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University, Washington, DC. The Jordan Lecture series has seen leading medical academics from around the world deliver talks on cutting-edge research to audiences of staff and students at the Institute, based on the St James's University Hospital site in Leeds.

Through communications and events, NAFUL links 3,500 Leeds alumni in the US with their University. Its board of directors – all alumni – ensures that all donations received are used in the best interests of the University and its supporters in the United States.

### Help us win the Big Match

Since August 2008, a potential total of £2.75m in additional funding has been on offer to the University, via the Government's Matched Funding Scheme for Universities. Under the scheme, which ends in July 2011, every £3 donated is automatically worth £4 through match funding, and up to £5 if individual donors are UK taxpayers, thanks to Gift Aid.

The University of Leeds Big Match is our name for our efforts to raise an extra £1.5 million through the Alumni Annual Fund to contribute to this target. This will unlock £500,000 of the £2.75 million, with the remainder of the total being secured through significant gifts from individuals, trusts and foundations. So far, over £1 million donated to the Annual Fund through our Big Match appeal has helped us raise £1,300,000, including the Government match. We need to raise around £400,000 more by July to make the most of the matched funding opportunity, so every gift counts!

## BROTHERTON CIRCLE

*A legacy for Leeds*

An increasing number of people are choosing to remember Leeds in their Will – and a new group is recognising their far-sightedness and generosity.

The Brotherton Circle is named after one of Leeds' earliest and most significant legators, Lord Brotherton of Wakefield – whose lifetime gifts enabled the creation of our magnificent library, which celebrates its 75th anniversary next year.

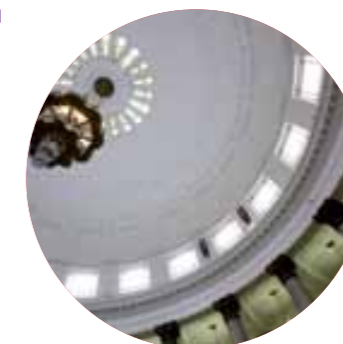
Lord Brotherton's legacy continues to fund purchases for the literary collections which were founded with the donation of his own library, which also came to Leeds on his death in 1930. When the new building opened in 1936, the presence of the Brotherton Collection transformed the Library's standing as a centre for research and learning.

Anyone who lets us know that they have included a legacy

to the University in their Will is entitled to membership of the Brotherton Circle. As well as receiving a lapel pin to recognise their commitment, members will be invited to attend special events and receive regular updates on University activities.

A new leather-bound book, *Remembering Leeds*, which details every legacy which has ever been received by the University, has been put on permanent display in a special glass case in Parkinson Court, close to the entrance to the Brotherton Library. Each gift, dating right back to the first recorded legacy gift to the University in 1878, can also be found online at: [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/legacies](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/legacies).

If you would like to talk to us about making a legacy gift to Leeds and about joining the Brotherton Circle, please call 0113 343 9037 or email [legacies@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:legacies@leeds.ac.uk).



The Brotherton Library, celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2011. Lord Brotherton was one of the University's first legators

# “I TRY TO WORK AS HARD AS I CAN”

Sara Courtneidge (Biochemistry 1975, Honorary DSc 2006) is leading work into understanding and tackling the spread of cancers. Ruth Francis talks to her about her work – and how she still wants to see more women in top science jobs.

Photo: Calvin S. Huffaker Jr



Things are better for younger women getting their first positions, “but getting into the top positions and being recognised for what they’ve done is still a difficult area,” says Dr Sara Courtneidge.

As Tumor Microenvironment program leader and professor at the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute in Southern California, Sara has made it to the top, and quietly continues to operate there with the respect of her peers. She admits it has sometimes been lonely in this male-dominated environment, but uses her recognition to remind others of the lack of equality, helping organise conferences to ensure a fair balance of speakers and making sure it’s noted if she’s the only female on any committee she is asked to sit on. “I try to work as hard as I can, almost behind the scenes. I don’t make a big fuss.”

Brought up in Sussex, Sara was only the second member of her family to go to university – the first, a cousin, was also female – and she went from Leeds to gain a PhD at the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) in London before continuing her post-doctoral work at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

She came back to London and the NIMR to run her own independent research group before heading to Heidelberg to work at the prestigious European Microbiology Laboratory (EMBL) in 1985, rising to the position of senior scientist.

“I made a bet when I first got there. I was, at the time, about the only female group leader at EMBL.” When she raised the issue of the lack of equality, a colleague accused her of prejudice. “He told me it was just a matter of time. He believed that if we waited ten years, half of the research group leaders would be women.” After recounting the story at a recent alumni meeting at EMBL a female colleague confirmed she was absolutely right to be sceptical about just waiting. “Studies have been done and it would take more than a century if we simply waited for equality,” Sara says. “We have to be proactive in terms of pushing these issues.”

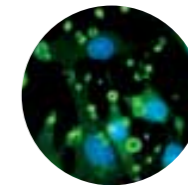
Although she admits to a lifelong fascination with science (“I wanted to be a scientist from the age of seven – I have no idea where that came from but I was captivated by how things work”) Sara did not intend to stay in academia after graduation. A teacher on her final year undergraduate research project, John Findlay, encouraged her – seeing something she couldn’t at the time.

She got to thank him in person in 2006 when awarded an honorary degree by the University of Leeds: “It was obviously a huge honour, a big thrill to be given an honorary degree, and I was even more thrilled that [John] is still there. I asked for him to come to the dinner, which he did, resplendent in his kilt, and it was absolutely fantastic that he came and I got a chance to talk to him.”

It is, she believes, the measure of a good academic environment, from her secondary education, through undergraduate and postgraduate work, that she followed this unplanned path.

Sara’s early work focused on understanding a process where some viruses can cause cancer thanks to genetic sequences they contain. Her PhD mentor at UCSF, J. Michael Bishop, shared the 1989 Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine for an advance made just before she joined his lab. Bishop and Harold Varmus, now head of the US National Cancer Institute, demonstrated that these viral sequences come from our own genome and they introduced the concept of cellular oncogenes, popularly known as ‘the enemy within’. Oncogenes cause cells to fail to respond to their ‘off’ switch; they keep replicating, causing cancer.

It was, she says, a glorious time to be doing this research but in 1994, after ten years at EMBL, where she made her bet, she left academia to move into biotechnology,



**Cancer cells:** the blue colour shows the nuclei and the green stains cell surface protrusions called invadopodia, which are associated with metastatic behaviour (the spread of cancer)

leaving a secure position to work as vice-president of research and then chief scientist at SUGEN, now part of Pfizer.

“I’m often told I’m crazy – that was one of the times.” There was method in her madness though; she wanted to begin to understand the so-called ‘valley of death’ between basic and applied research. Understanding how basic processes work can often start with using model systems far removed from therapeutics and treatments. Sara however had a desire to gain a more complete picture of the process, from first principles through to work that affects patients: to learn about and participate in drug discovery rather than being naïve about the process. At least 90% of work that goes into new treatments is not visible from the surface, and Sara wanted to see below the tip of the iceberg to get a wider understanding of the implications.

Back in academe, her research is on the spread of cancers, a process known as metastasis, and the mechanisms of this spread. She is truly working to bridge the gap between the basic research and therapies. Her laboratory looks for new targets for drugs by screening many cells (or genes in a cell), using Sanford-Burnham facilities that are also available to laboratories at institutions lacking the specialist equipment needed. The cancer therapeutic field is progressing; she cites recent research demonstrating how a protein called BRAF can be targeted in the treatment of melanoma, and how an early trial of a drug that inhibits BRAF has shown promise. The game is not over – people become resistant to the drug quickly – but it offers a rare hope for slowing the spread of a deadly skin cancer.

Her work brings world travel too. Sara bumps into her friends from many places and backgrounds and peers at meetings around the world, and over the summer a former colleague from Leeds gave a seminar at the Sanford-Burnham Institute. “The nice thing about having done science is that you make friends. It’s not the best-paid career but one of the most interesting ones.”

●●  
*It was obviously a huge honour, a big thrill to be given an honorary degree*  
●●

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

What's on for Leeds alumni over the next few months



Photo: Johnny Green

## ALUMNI RECEPTION HOUSE OF LORDS

Friday 13 May 2011  
7.15-9.00pm  
Hosted by the Chancellor, Lord Bragg of Wigton

The University's Chancellor Melvyn Bragg is hosting a special reception for Leeds alumni in the historic surroundings of the House of Lords. This will be an exclusive opportunity for alumni and guests to meet the Chancellor; the Vice-Chancellor; senior staff from the University and other Leeds alumni. Wine and canapés will be served in the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace, which overlooks the River Thames and offers stunning views of London. Guests can also enjoy a private guided tour of the Houses of Parliament prior to the reception. Booking is essential as places are strictly limited. Cost: £35 per person, plus additional £3.50 per person if you wish to take part in the optional tour of the Houses of Parliament. Booking and further details: [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/houseoflords](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/houseoflords)

### JANUARY

#### The Vice-Chancellor's Recital (Literary Inspiration II)

Friday 28 January 2011  
7.30pm Clothworkers' Centenary Concert Hall, University of Leeds  
Public event  
Join former poet laureate Sir Andrew Motion and pianist Ian Buckle for a celebration of the work of Yorkshire poet Philip Larkin. The programme includes readings by Sir Andrew of some of Larkin's best known work, interspersed with piano music by noted 20th century composers. Cost: £20 (£17 concessions) per person. Booking and further details: [www.leeds.ac.uk/music/concerts](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/music/concerts)



### MARCH

#### Professional networking event: Can we create a 'Big Society' in an age of austerity?

Monday 7 March 2011  
6.30-9.00pm  
See panel for details.

#### Professional networking event: The transition to Coalition Government – good for the UK?

Monday 28 March 2011  
6.30-9.00pm  
See panel for details.

### Virtually Real Exhibition

1 March – 21 May 2011  
Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, University of Leeds  
Public event

Contemporary artists explore the illusion of space, using different methodologies and media to confound or exemplify realism. Guest-curated by Another Product  
Cost: Free  
Further details: [www.leeds.ac.uk/gallery/exhibitions-future.htm](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/gallery/exhibitions-future.htm)



#### Alumni Breakfast Seminar Series: "Positive solutions"

Wednesday 23 March 2011  
8.15-10.00am  
Chartered Accountants' Hall, One Moorgate Place, London  
Alumni in business professions  
This popular seminar series features business school professors leading interactive seminars. In the first seminar of 2011, Professor John Hayes discusses how positive attitudes at work can help improve organisational performance. Breakfast and coffee provided. Cost: Free, but places are limited  
Booking and further details: Olivia Blythman (0113 343 1808) [alumni@lubs.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lubs.leeds.ac.uk)



### Olympic Lecture Series

January 2011 – March 2011  
(Exact dates TBC)  
University of Leeds  
Public event

Held on campus, this series of free public lectures features talks from alumni, academics, and prominent sporting figures. Lectures will focus on the role of the Olympics and will look forward to London 2012. Further details and updates will be available on the Olympic Programme website.  
Cost: Free  
Booking and further details: [www.olympics.leeds.ac.uk/](http://www.olympics.leeds.ac.uk/)

### APRIL

#### Leeds 2 London pub night

Thursday 14 April 2011  
6.30-8.30pm  
The Wall Bar, 45 Old Broad Street, London  
All alumni  
Our London pub nights are a great way to reconnect with old friends and meet lots of new ones. Relax, socialise and network with other Leeds graduates now living in London. Everyone who arrives before 7.30pm gets their first drink free.  
Cost: Free  
Booking and further details: [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/londonpubnight](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/londonpubnight)



### MAY

#### Annual Alumni Sports Day

Saturday 7 May 2011  
Weetwood Playing Fields, The Edge fitness centre, University of Leeds. All alumni  
Alumni will be taking on student teams in a host of sports including football, hockey, rugby and netball. With students having been the champions for the last two years, alumni will have to battle hard to reclaim the trophy. As always, the Bar will be open and there will be an all-day barbecue on the terrace.  
Cost: Free  
Booking and further details: [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/sportsday](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/sportsday)



#### Alumni VIP morning

Sunday 8 May 2011  
The Edge, University of Leeds  
Have a free swim or workout on us! For one day, alumni are invited to use the facilities at The Edge free of charge. Booking essential and numbers are limited.  
Booking and further details: [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/events](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/events)

#### Alumni House of Lords reception

Friday 13 May 2011  
7.15-9.00pm  
All Alumni  
The House of Lords, Westminster  
See panel for full details

#### Leeds University Old Students' Association Visit to the European Parliament, Strasbourg

Monday 9 – Friday 13 May 2011  
All Leeds alumni and their guests are welcome to join LUOSA's five day coach tour to Strasbourg. The trip includes a visit to the European Parliament, followed by dinner (sponsored by Yorkshire MEP Timothy Kirkhope) as well as visits to the Ypres cemeteries and the Menin Gate. 35 subsidised places available. Booking required by 20th December 2010. Cost: £225 per person for 5 days travel and 4 nights B&B in a twin room.  
Booking and further details: Carol Green ([mcgreen23@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mcgreen23@yahoo.co.uk)) Doreen Bayley (020 8360 7274), or Gillian Roche ([gmrchoe@btinternet.com](mailto:gmrchoe@btinternet.com))

#### Alumni Breakfast Seminar Series: "The ties that bind"

Thursday 19 May 2011  
8.15-10.00am  
Chartered Accountants Hall, One Moorgate Place, London  
Alumni in business professions  
Professor Matthew Robson explores how developing and maintaining relationships between firms can maximise business success. Breakfast and coffee provided.  
Cost: Free, but places are limited  
Booking and further details: Olivia Blythman (0113 343 1808) [alumni@lubs.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lubs.leeds.ac.uk)

#### Medicine class of 1971 reunion

Saturday 21 May 2011  
6.30pm onwards  
Oulton Hall, Rothwell, Leeds  
Medicine alumni from 1971 are invited to a reunion dinner at Oulton Hall. This forty year reunion is a great opportunity to meet up with old friends whilst enjoying good food and fine

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Leeds alumni attended an event last year

wine in a country house hotel with spectacular views.  
Cost: £100 per person (includes drinks, dinner and dancing)  
Booking and further details: Mike Ruscoe (01173179327 or 07507561886) [ruscoe\\_mike@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ruscoe_mike@yahoo.co.uk)

### JULY

#### Bodington Hall 50th anniversary celebration

Saturday 30 July 2011  
Bodington Hall, Weetwood  
All former Bodington Hall residents and guests  
We are marking Bodington Hall's 50th birthday, before its planned closure in 2012, with an event for all former Bodington residents. Celebrate the Hall's contribution to Leeds and its residents with a formal four-course dinner with wine, followed by live music and entertainment. Meet old friends and revisit some of your old haunts – we may even let you stay in your old room! And return to campus to try out the University's swimming pool and fitness centre.  
Cost: £65 for evening event, bed and breakfast, or £55 for just the evening event. Further details: [www.leeds.ac.uk/bodingtonhall](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/bodingtonhall) or contact Mrs Ann Keating on [a.m.keating@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.m.keating@leeds.ac.uk)



For a full list of all events, including class reunions and international events visit [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/events](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/events)

## PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING EVENTS

### Voluntary sector and social enterprise Can we create a 'Big Society' in an age of austerity?

Monday 7 March 2011  
6.30-9.00pm  
The Commonwealth Club, 25 Northumberland Avenue, London  
David Cameron has insisted that his 'Big Society' initiative will empower communities and encourage volunteerism. But what will it mean in practice, and can it work? Our alumni panel of experts including Seb Elsworth, Director of Strategy, ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations) and Rich Benton (Chairman of the Board of Trustees, UnLtd – Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs) will consider the opportunities and challenges, before networking over drinks and canapés.  
Cost: £10 per person  
Booking and further details: [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/pn/voluntarysector](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/pn/voluntarysector)

### Government and public affairs

#### The transition to Coalition Government – good for the UK?

Monday 28 March 2011  
6.30-9.00pm  
Church House Conference Centre, Dean's Yard, Westminster  
The General Election in May 2010 resulted in the first UK Coalition Government for over 60 years. Our expert alumni panel, including Chris Leslie (MP Labour, Nottingham East) and Dr Ruth Fox (Director, Parliament & Government Programme, Hansard Society) will share their experiences and perspective to lead further discussion from the floor. Networking over drinks and canapés will follow.  
Cost: £10 per person  
Booking and further details: [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/pn/politics](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/pn/politics)

# KEEPING OUR VISION

Professor Michael Arthur discusses the future of the University



Our vision of a place among the world's top 50 universities remains the key focus of our strategy. Yet when one league table shows us heading in the right direction, while another suggests we've slipped, there's a strong argument for using a broader methodology to assess our progress.

One such measure is research income. Last year saw one of our largest ever increases in new research grants, up 40 per cent to just over £150m<sup>1</sup>. That Leeds has the standing and credibility to attract these grants is a source of pride and optimism; that we have done it in the teeth of a global recession is nothing short of sensational.

University funding remains a critical issue. Proposals in the recent review of Higher Education led by Lord Browne, and draconian cuts of at least 40 per cent for higher education in the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review will have major implications for all universities.

Leeds is in a robust position, but there is no escaping the fact that a huge proportion of core funding will be cut – in short, the money we use to give present-day students the learning opportunities, vibrant campus and breadth of experience which you enjoyed in your own time at Leeds.

While it is clear fees must rise, we are pleased higher education will remain free at the point of entry, with no student paying fees upfront to attend university and we welcome the Government's commitment to a more progressive graduate contribution scheme.

Even so, seeing the depth of the funding cuts in black and white was a blow, albeit one for which we were braced. Last year we encouraged staff to identify savings and prepare us for a tougher economic climate. Their professionalism in making hard choices is paying off; we remain in control of our future – however challenging that will be.

The news that the science and research budget will be maintained in cash terms until 2015 is very

welcome. It gives research-intensive universities like ours reassurance about the Government's long-term commitment to innovation and research. I will continue to lobby hard both as Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Russell Group of Universities, to remind policymakers of the important contribution made by students, staff and universities across the land.

The eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano provided one of the more eye-catching arguments for this. Our National Centre for Atmospheric Science played a key role in tracking the ash cloud and keeping airspace closures to a minimum; our expertise on vulcanology, aviation safety – and Icelandic history and culture – each fed into national and international debates. When profits of £1.5bn and 10 million passenger journeys are at stake, the relevance of publicly-funded research is beyond question.

More and more Leeds graduates are helping current students think about skills development

Equally clear is our commitment to developing the campus into one which is genuinely world-class and where the learning opportunities are second to none.

After a summer re-fit, the Union building re-opened just in time for freshers' week. The area outside has now been pedestrianised, creating a bright square which is a busy focal point for the social life of the University. Spring saw the opening of our new Environment Building, while work nears completion on our new Law School. Storm Jameson Court<sup>2</sup> opened in September, and work continues on a new energy research institute and a purpose-built home for the Marks and Spencer Archive.<sup>3</sup>



The National Centre for Atmospheric Science, based in Leeds, played a key role in tracking the concentration of the ash cloud and keeping airspace closures to a minimum.

If you have not been to campus in a few years, you will find it a quite different place, though its key purpose as a powerhouse of research and an exciting place to learn remains.

I'm always grateful for the support our worldwide community of alumni gives to help us enhance the Leeds student experience. Since we launched the Alumni Annual Fund in 2005, our students have benefited from donations topping £1 million to fund scholarships, overseas study, volunteering programmes, and a range of other activities which have enriched their education.

Your financial support is just one aspect of a much bigger picture of alumni support. More and more Leeds graduates are helping current students think about their skills development for life after Leeds. At the same time alumni across the world play a major role in raising the profile of the University, developing new partnerships and helping us enhance existing relationships. You are an essential part of our ongoing activity, and we couldn't take the University forward without your involvement.

With your continued moral and practical support, we can face a future in an uncertain environment with the confidence of success.

<sup>1</sup> To put this in perspective; our biggest increase in new grants in recent times was nine per cent in 2006/7 – something which we celebrated as a great achievement. Last year the University secured over £19m in European Union research grants – more than double the previous year's figure – for a diverse range of collaborative projects from improving machine translation of minority languages to wear and tear on railway engines.

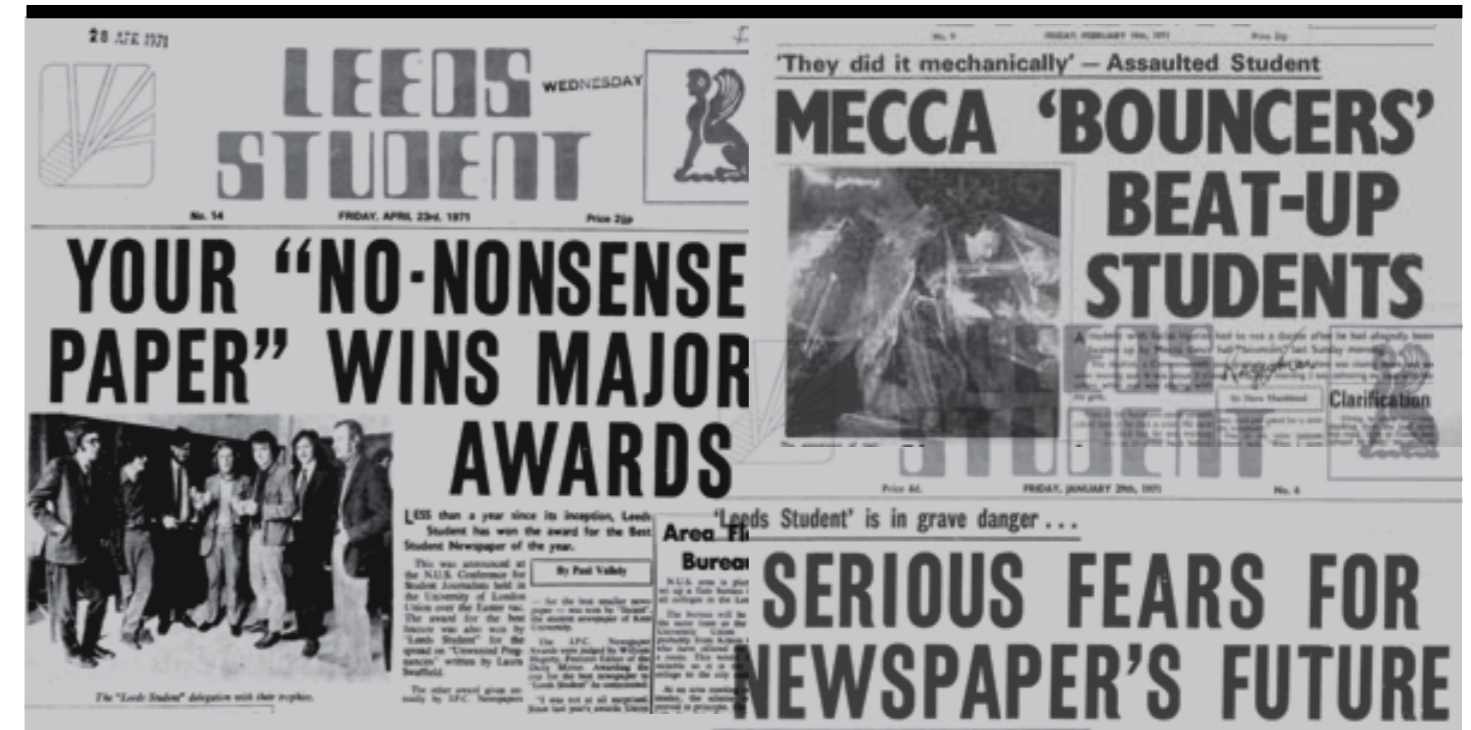
<sup>2</sup> The new 460-bed residence on the Charles Morris Hall site

<sup>3</sup> Marks and Spencer began life as a stall at Leeds' Kirkgate market, and now has a turnover of £8.4 billion. Its archive will move to Leeds permanently in 2011

# LIFE BEGINS AT FORTY

Leeds Student hits middle age with a bag of awards under its belt

Leeds Student won its 7th Newspaper of the Year award in 2009. lsr and ls.tv won top awards too



The award-winning newspaper is 40 years old this year and available to alumni for the first time

On Friday 20 November 1970, volunteers fanned out across the University precinct, touting a brand new newspaper. It would go on win countless prizes, spawn top journalists and over the next forty years associate two words with the experiences of alumni: *Leeds Student*.

With the editorship shared between the University and the Polytechnic, the first issue of *Leeds Student* announced its role to provide "a widely read and respected mouthpiece for the grievances and hopes of the students of the city of Leeds."

Respect could come no higher than top gongs regularly received at the national Student Media Awards. *Leeds Student* launched the careers of many national journalists, prompting former editor and current *Times* writer Damian Whitworth (History 1990) to once tell the alumni magazine, "*Leeds Student* alumni in the media are like rats in London; you're never more

than 20 yards away from one."

The paper's first editor, Richard Munro (French 1973), recalls a production process that bears little resemblance to today's digital world. "The thought of litho printing was a twinkle in the eye at the time," he says. Stories were written on typewriters to a strict word count and then taken, along with a mock-up of each page, to a 24-hour printing company in Hunslet. Richard would wait to proofread the result. Meanwhile, prints of photos were taken to the *Yorkshire Post* to be put onto printing blocks before going to the printer.

"Distributing the paper was complicated too," says Richard, thinking back to the days when students happily paid for *Leeds Student* at outlets in the Union and various sites around campus.

Current editor, Laura Mackenzie (Politics and Parliamentary Studies 2010), heads an editorial team of 45 with 300 student writers contributing electronic files to both the newspaper and the *Leeds Student* website. The



The Leeds Student in 2010

paper is laid out on 9 computers and transferred electronically to the *Yorkshire Post* printing presses, returning to campus for distribution to 32,000 students.

Work on the paper 40 years ago must have been very labour intensive, thinks Laura. "Without email and mobile phones, the main problem would be communication," she says, which would make most tasks more time consuming than they are now.

Not that they're twiddling their thumbs over at the *Student* these days. Online technology has brought more work to do, with articles and blogs needing writing and updates needing tweeting.

Like Richard before her, editor Laura has an eye on distribution. To mark its fortieth anniversary, *Leeds Student* is now available to alumni through a subscription scheme. To receive more details email editor@leedsstudent.org

# Here's one university deadline you can easily meet

Your Leeds deadlines are behind you now and you have a degree you can be proud of. But there's one more deadline we'd like to involve you in. One that can give a hugely talented student the chance of the education you once enjoyed.

Right now, if you help support the Leeds Big Match appeal, the Government will match every £3 you give with a further £1. With Gift Aid on top, your £3 becomes £5 – all at no extra cost to you.

But this window of opportunity will close in just a few months. Please give what you can now to help provide support for talented students – a gift that can change their lives.

**Send your gift using the Update Your Details form that came with this magazine, call +44 (0) 113 343 2499 or visit [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/donate](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/donate)**

**Thank you.**

The University of Leeds is an exempt charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993, ref. X6861

*If 20 alumni give  
£30 each that's one  
year's scholarship  
paid for!*

