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## Leader column

# Positive steps

Once again, the University is buzzing with activity as we welcome new and returning students to campus after the summer break. Having said that, no-one could describe the University as being quiet over the recess this year – there has been little let-up in the pace and breadth of work undertaken by many colleagues.

From the excitement of degree ceremonies to hosting big conferences such as the prestigious Teach First Summer Institute and Universities UK, nearly every week has seen major events or activities taking place in and around the University. And of course, parts of campus have been completely transformed, with major building works completed or nearing completion, including the Social Sciences Building, Beech Grove Plaza, the Miall Building, and the temporary Meadow teaching rooms on the Western campus.

It has also been a highly productive summer for many other areas of the University; months of hard work and careful preparation paid off and our student recruitment for 2014 has been very successful. The processes of confirmation and clearing ran smoothly with excellent team work across the academic and professional services. As a result, our Home/EU undergraduate recruitment is slightly ahead of plan, and we have maintained the quality of our students and our commitments to fair access and widening participation. As well as a complement of 6,400 well-qualified undergraduates from across the UK and EU, we will be welcoming a further 650 from the wider international community.

International undergraduate recruitment is ahead of last year, although we may be just short of planned numbers as entry requirements increased in several key recruiting schools, resulting in fewer applicants achieving the required results. Numbers of postgraduate taught students look set to meet planned targets and there has been a resurgence of interest in postgraduate research (PGR) study at Leeds; applications, offers and acceptances all grew compared with the previous three academic years.

Confirming our place as a strong research university is a key aim, and we are taking positive steps and making significant investment to improve our position. The 110 Anniversary Research Scholarships boosted interest in PGR at Leeds from home and EU applicants. Overall, we received over 500 applications and made 110 offers to highly qualified applicants, the first step in building a stronger PhD community for the future.

This year's intake of undergraduates will be introduced to exciting curriculum enhancements, including broadening their intellectual horizons outside or within their subject area through the 10 Discovery Themes and associated discovery



modules, and having the opportunity to undertake a final year research project. Part of a four-year project, these changes broaden and strengthen our curriculum and give students research experience and skills that will prepare them for employment.

This ongoing commitment to continually improving our students' experience – reflected in this year's strong NSS results – bodes well for the future. The 78% response rate is testament to the excellent relationships that exist with our student body. I hope that our new students are just as keen to engage with us and help shape the University's future.

Recruitment to the new University Academic Fellowships starts in October and will see us appoint up to 250 new early career academics over the next three years. Successful candidates will have significant research experience, a commitment to high-quality student education, and a clear, compelling vision for their academic development. A five-year structured development programme will encourage progression to Associate Professor roles.

Several substantial research council awards will be announced in the Autumn and we have recently received confirmation that the Leeds-wide partnership of which we are part has secured £6m of Big Lottery funding to help to reduce isolation and loneliness for older people in Leeds. A team from Care-Connect – the innovation hub led by Dr Andrea Wigfield (School of Sociology and Social Policy) – will work with Leeds Older People's Forum, Leeds Council, voluntary organisations, business partners, academics and researchers to implement the Out of the Shadows: Time to Shine programme. Meanwhile, Dr Stephen Muir (School of Music) has been awarded £1.5m from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Performing the Jewish Archive will bring recently rediscovered musical, theatrical and literary works by Jewish artists back to the attention of scholars and the public, stimulating the creation of new works.

With our newly-refurbished Social Sciences Building now open, the announcement that we are to host a Q-Step Centre is particularly pleasing. The Centre aims to deliver a step-change in social science teaching to address

the shortage of quantitatively-skilled social scientists. Overall national funding of £19.5m for Q-Step comes from the Nuffield Foundation, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Higher Education Funding Council and we are pleased to be part of this network. We should also congratulate Professor Anne Kerr (School of Sociology and Social Policy), who has received a joint Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award in Society and Ethics.

Some significant appointments were made over the summer and I am delighted that Professor John Ladbury has been appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences. A highly-respected molecular biophysicist, he has joined us from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and will take up his responsibilities as Dean in December 2014. His powerful research record and proven capability in academic leadership, means that Professor Ladbury will have a key role in building the Faculty's excellence in research and education.

A new Head of the School of Chemical and Process Engineering – Professor Elaine Martin – will take up her post in the new year. A renowned industrial statistician and engineer, she is on the Research Excellence Framework panel for Chemical Engineering and is currently acting Head of the School of Chemical Engineering and Advanced Materials at Newcastle University.

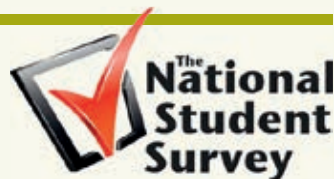
Also joining us is Professor Sven Schroeder, who has been appointed the Royal Academy of Engineering Bragg Centenary Professor of Engineering Applications of Synchrotron Science. Professor Schroeder will have a key role in driving engineering research at the Diamond Light Source – the UK's synchrotron facility – and in coordinating national and international research in the field.

It is always slightly dangerous to pick out individuals in this way and, at the dawn of a new academic year, I welcome all new students and staff to a great University and look forward with enthusiasm to 2014-15.

Alan Langlands

## News

# Upward trend continues in National Student Survey



**The University saw another encouraging uplift in performance in this year's National Student Survey (NSS), with 88% of our final-year students saying they are satisfied with the quality of their course at Leeds.**

The result puts us 2% above the sector average score of 86%. Our scores improved by 1% in all but one of the six question categories, and we maintained our score of 71% in the Assessment and Feedback category. Satisfaction with our students' union increased by 1% to give a score of 91%, well above the 68% average. We also improved our position within the 24 Russell Group and now rank joint 11th, up from 16th place last year.

With 78% of our eligible students completing the survey, we have one of the highest response rates in the sector, significantly higher than the national rate of 71%.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education Professor Vivien Jones says: "This is the fourth consecutive improvement that we've recorded in the NSS, and it's extremely encouraging that our students are benefitting from and recognising the positive changes we have made."

"Thanks to the hard work and commitment of colleagues, we have made improvements in all but one of the question categories and for the first time none of our schools falls below 80% for 'overall satisfaction', with the vast majority scoring over our expected minimum of 85%. It's a bit disappointing that we maintained rather than improved our score in Assessment and Feedback. We'll be working hard to address this area in particular during the coming academic year, and will be examining the results in detail – as an institution with individual schools and in partnership with our students – to ensure that we identify every area in need of further work so that we maintain our upward trend."

## Other news

QS World Rankings – the University retained our position in the top 100 of the world's universities, with an unchanged ranking of 97th place.

*Sunday Times University Guide* – up to 17th place (from 29th) and have improved on every one of the eight indicators. We were also runner-up in the UK University of the Year award.

## Gateway's garden and art

The newly opened Beech Grove Plaza provides staff, students and visitors with a bright, open 'gateway' on to campus.

As well as new seating and lighting, the plaza also incorporates planting to attract a more diverse range of wildlife. In line with the University 'Biodiversity Action Plan', this includes indigenous species such as small-leaved lime trees, a native 'green wall' and a variety of herbs and grasses to encourage pollinating insects and birds to the area.

Visitors will be struck by the monumental new sculpture in the Plaza. Called a 'Sign for Art (Stelae 2014)', it was designed by Yorkshire-born artist Keith Wilson. Immediately after leaving the Slade in the late 1980s, he worked for a year with deaf-blind adults as an

art instructor. Drawing two spaced fingertips in a wave motion across the forehead of a student, a tactile 'brainwave' sign announced the arrival of the artist, the subject of art, and the imminent activity of making art. Keith says: "The sign seemed to contain Art's three basic frames, but mainly because it seemed to directly communicate art's truest form. It seemed to be itself an artwork."

The sculpture will be officially unveiled on 3 October, revealing its construction to be of black polyurethane elastomer – giving a dramatic, rippled effect to its surface. Director of Tate Britain Penelope Curtis will perform the opening and give a joint talk with Keith.



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## About the Reporter

The *Reporter* is the University of Leeds' staff magazine, produced eight times a year. More than 7,600 copies are distributed to our staff and stakeholders. The *Reporter* is produced by the Communications team.

If you have an idea for a story, want to write a letter, comment on this edition or would like to voice your opinion about University matters, please get in touch:

Email: [the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk)

Tel: (0113) 343 6699

Web: [www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/reporter](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/reporter)

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the magazine, please email [internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk) quoting your staff number or, if you are external to the University, your name, postcode and preferred email address.

The front cover shows some colleagues who have been involved in creating the Sustainability Strategy (details on page 9).

## News

# Honorary degrees awarded

**A world-renowned actor, a pianist and a polar explorer were among this year's recipients of University of Leeds honorary degrees.**

Sir Patrick Stewart, Sir Andras Schiff and Professor Jane Francis were joined by Lord John Dyson, Master of the Rolls and Head of Civil Justice, and Professor Michael Arthur, Vice-Chancellor of the University from 2004-13 and now President and Provost of University College London.

Sir Patrick Stewart is best known for his portrayals of Captain Jean-Luc Picard in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and Professor Charles Xavier in the *X-Men* films, and for stage roles with the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has strong connections with the local area and is the Chancellor of the University of Huddersfield. He is a tireless campaigner for the charities Amnesty International, Refugee and Combat Stress. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters.

Sir Andras Schiff, regarded as one of the greatest piano players of our time, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Music by the University. Professor Jane Francis, until recently the Dean of the Faculty of Environment at the University, is now the Director of the British Antarctic Survey. Her recent research has focused on understanding climate change in the polar regions. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science.

Lord John Dyson and Professor Michael Arthur were both awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws.



Sir Patrick Stewart



Professor John Ladbury

Previously Director of the Center for Biomolecular Structure and Function at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Professor Ladbury arrived in Leeds in September and will take up his responsibilities as Dean in December.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands says: "We are delighted that Professor Ladbury has come to the University. He brings a powerful research record and a proven capability in academic leadership. This is an extremely important appointment for the University and Professor Ladbury will have a key role in building on our Faculty of Biological Sciences' excellence in research and education."

Professor Ladbury has spent the last six years as Professor of Cancer Research at the MD Anderson Cancer Center, focusing his research on the interface of molecular biology and medical science. Recent work has looked at how receptors in cells interact with signalling molecules and how these interactions

## News

# World-leading biophysicist to head Biological Sciences

**Highly respected molecular biophysicist Professor John Ladbury has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences.**

influence the development of cancer.

Professor Ladbury says: "I have always pushed the limits of my own research through collaboration with excellent scientists. The University already has a proud tradition of cutting-edge research at the boundaries of the biological sciences and there is huge potential and opportunity for developing creative collaborations within the University and with external partners such as the teaching hospitals and industry.

"Biological sciences are experiencing dramatic change with the availability of data and technology and there are exciting times ahead if we can collaborate effectively and creatively.

"The University recruits high-calibre students and I am strongly committed to achieving excellence in education informed by state-of-the-art research and to ensuring that Leeds students are equipped to take their place in the scientific community."

## Glass-making memories

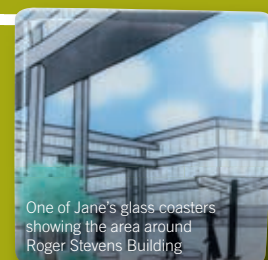
A University of Leeds staff member's glass art has proved a smash hit across campus. Jane O'Neill from the Staff and Department Development Unit has combined her skill for glass artistry with her love for the University, creating a collection of coasters and keyrings.

The collection features drawings of the Parkinson Building, the Business School and the Great Hall. The creations have been very popular with graduating students, and also colleagues, who have been sending the products as gifts to international contacts and alumni.

Jane has been working as a glass artist once a week for several years, alongside her 10 years' employment at the University. She chose to capture images of campus as she found the buildings striking and original: "I use this medium to represent my personal take on local landscapes and architecture. It was perhaps therefore inevitable that at some point these factors would come together."

The images are hand drawn, coloured in by a computer, then transferred to layered glass and fused together in a kiln at about 800 degrees centigrade.

Jane will shortly be leaving the University to pursue her passion for glass art; her work can be found at [www.abundantglass.co.uk](http://www.abundantglass.co.uk)



One of Jane's glass coasters showing the area around Roger Stevens Building

## News

# Wanted: health and safety heroes and heroines

Whether it's the colleague who regularly introduces simple but important changes to make the working environment safer, a manager who always demonstrates commitment to safety excellence, or the team that has planned and introduced a new process, the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Health and Safety 2014 are the opportunity to recognise their achievements.

Nominations are now open for this year's awards, which celebrate great health and safety practice at the University between 2 September 2013 and 1 September 2014.

Supported by the trade unions, the awards also aim to build staff and student engagement with our health and safety ethos and achievements.

"This year we're aiming to recognise a wider range of health and safety contributions from across the University," explains Paul Veevers. "We'd really like to see more nominations from colleagues in service areas and non-scientific or technical faculties. There are six categories of awards, so there is plenty of opportunity for colleagues to think about suitable nominees."

**The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety** – personally selected by the Vice-Chancellor, the winner will be a particularly inspiring example of a team or person who demonstrates health and safety.

**Beacon of Good Practice** – the winner must represent a beacon of universal good practice that is transferable across all areas of campus.

**Unsung Hero** – nominated by another person, the winner will conscientiously make a real contribution to health and safety, going beyond what is normally expected in their role to help make the University a safer and healthier place to work and study.

**Team who have worked together to make a Health and Safety change** – the winners will be a team – informal or formal – that works together to create a lasting impact on the way health and safety is carried out or promoted. Teams can self-nominate.

**Driving Health and Safety Change** – nominated by another person, the winner will inspire or lead others to create and/or drive health and safety change with clear impact. They will make a big difference to the way health and safety is carried out or promoted, with real results showing how things have improved.

**Supporting Health and Safety** – nominated by a senior manager, Health and Safety Manager, Fire Safety Manager or Radiation Protection Advisor. The winner will have a specific voluntary or official role supporting health and safety, and must fulfil their role exceptionally, have a clear impact on health and safety, and go beyond the call of duty.

It's easy to nominate a person or team; simply read the information at <http://goo.gl/zv9aWm> then complete the relevant form. Send this, together with any background information, to [safety@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:safety@leeds.ac.uk) or send it in the internal mail to: The VC's Awards for Health and Safety, Health and Safety Services, 5-9 Willow Terrace.

Nominations close on Tuesday 4 November at 5pm. The awards ceremony will be held in January 2015.

## Striking the right balance

**"Developing a positive approach for the University's health and safety activities that strikes the right balance between innovation and control" is the aim of Paul Veevers, our new Head of Health and Safety Services.**



Paul Veevers

Paul brings experience from working in a variety of sectors and complex multi-site environments and, as an alumnus, he is particularly delighted to be back on the University campus. "It's a fantastic environment and, with so many diverse activities, people and buildings, there are always fresh health and safety issues to consider," says Paul.

"It is pleasing to see that the understanding of health and safety issues is already high at the University, so one of my aims is to build more awareness of the way that risks – to health, to business continuity, to reputation – can impact on the University. At the same time, we can work to further reduce risks through design and planning for all our environments and activities, and will review the levels of controls for mitigating and managing risk to ensure that they're proportionate.

"To establish a culture that's built around accountability and trust, we'll also be developing the knowledge and skills of colleagues to help them make informed risk-based decisions and choices."

Paul is also keen to extend external recognition, such as OHSAS (Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Services) 18001, throughout the University. He says: "Health and safety is embedded in the University's culture, but there's always more we can do to maintain and promote an environment that is safe and secure for staff, students and visitors."

## Research and innovation

# Early career support pays off



Supporting researchers (l-r): Dr Odette Dewhurst, Dr Rachel Woolley and Annette Caplan

## Early career researchers at Leeds are achieving great success, with at least seven current academics receiving prestigious awards in the last three months.

Their achievements are particularly pleasing for the public funding team in the Research and Innovation Service, who have been working hard to provide fellowship applicants with support, advice and guidance to help improve their chances of a successful application.

“The public funding team has now been established for two years and in that time we have introduced changes to our fellowship support processes that are making our academics’ funding applications more robust and competitive,” says Dr Rachel Woolley, who supports grant bids in engineering and environmental, physical and social sciences.

“Applicants are selected through an internal review process; supported candidates are then assisted throughout the application process through a series of workshops, one-to-one sessions and internal peer review to ensure they have the highest possible chance of success.

“Additional support is provided to candidates, who are invited to discuss their application with the awarding body through the organisation of mock panel interviews. The questioning is quite rigorous and our candidates have said that this experience is very useful in helping them prepare for the real thing.”

The schemes currently supported include AHRC\* Leadership Fellows, EPSRC Fellowships, ESRC Future Research Leaders, Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowships and NERC Independent Research Fellowships. Over the next six months, the team will be introducing similar packages of support for applicants applying for MRC Career Development Awards and Wellcome Trust/Royal Society Henry Dale Fellowships.

\*AHRC – Arts and Humanities Research Council; EPSRC – Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council; ESRC – Economic and Social Research Council; NERC – Natural Environment Research Council; MRC – Medical Research Council.

## Congratulations to the following award winners:

### AXA Research Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship:

- Dr Matthew Pankhurst, Earth and Environment

### Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowships:

- Dr Jacob Blakesley (currently at University of Durham, will be holding fellowship in the School of Languages, Culture and Societies)
- Dr David Dawson, Civil Engineering
- Dr Lindsay Lee, Earth and Environment
- Dr Andy Nowaki (currently at University of Bristol, will be holding fellowship in the School of Earth and Environment)

- Dr Anna Tarrant (currently at Open University, will be holding the fellowship in School of Sociology and Social Policy)

### NERC Independent Research Fellowships:

- Dr Christopher Davies, Earth and Environment
- Dr Daniel Stone, Chemistry

### ESRC Future Leaders:

- Dr Andrea Hollomotz, Sociology and Social Policy
- Dr Nick Malleon, Geography

## Accelerating impact

**Three ‘sandpit’ events have been organised for University staff to help accelerate the impact of the University’s engineering and scientific research.**

Organised by the Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU) and the Research and Innovation Service (RIS), each sandpit focuses on a different topic and hopes to attract 25 colleagues from across all faculties. Each sandpit has £20,000 to allocate to projects that arise from the discussions.

“Sandpits are interactive events where participants are encouraged to think freely and creatively about a specific issue or problem,” explains SDDU’s Dr Ged Hall. “They are a great way of getting people to use different approaches and make connections that perhaps haven’t been made before.”

Funded from the University’s EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account, all the sandpits are two days long, with accommodation provided on the middle evening. Refreshments and meals are also included.

The three events feature:

### 13-14 November

Resilience and dynamic response (of systems, infrastructure, business, etc) to changing circumstances

### 1-2 December

Enhanced prediction and diagnosis in real time and at the point of care (in relation to biomarkers, imaging, modelling, etc in healthcare)

### 8-9 January 2015

Advanced Engineering Topic: advanced/functional materials (exact topic to be finalised)

Attendance at the sandpits is open to all researchers (research staff and academic staff) from the University. Visiting fellows may be allocated spaces if the events are under subscribed.

People who are interested can register at [www.survey.leeds.ac.uk/sandpитеoi](http://www.survey.leeds.ac.uk/sandpитеoi)

For more information visit <http://goo.gl/r6tbv3> or contact Dr Ged Hall at [G.Hall@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:G.Hall@adm.leeds.ac.uk) or (0113 34) 33357.

## Research and innovation

# Training to address critical challenges

Over 40 new PhD students will begin work on critical engineering and scientific challenges this term as they join one of four new Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs), which have been established with funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

The four CDTs – which will take around 200 students over the next five years – are **Bioenergy, Complex Particulate Products and Processes, Fluid Dynamics, and Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine.**

“It’s exciting to have these new CDTs on campus, as each of them will be considering the latest cutting-edge research,” explains Professor Peter Jimack, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. “The PhD students will be working with our academics and industry partners to address critical challenges in current research and recognised EPSRC priority areas.”

Particular research areas include investigating alternatives to fossil fuels, looking at complex formulated particulate products in healthcare, measuring and modelling fluid flows to innovate processes and products across a range of industries, and developing regenerative therapies and devices.



PhD students Holly Edwards (l) and Clare Linton talk to a group of students about forms of energy

In total, the centres at Leeds have secured over £14m in funding to train and develop early career researchers. Overall, there are 115 new centres across the UK, representing a £500m investment by EPSRC, with an additional £450m coming from industry.

“CDTs have already proved to be a great success and the model is popular with students, business and industry. These new centres will give the country the highly trained scientists and engineers it needs and they will be equipped with skills to move on in their careers,” says Dr Paul Golby, Chairman of EPSRC.

The University is presently ranked 12 out of 106 universities in terms of the number of current grants awarded by EPSRC.

Visit [www.engineering.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.engineering.leeds.ac.uk) or [www.imbe.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.imbe.leeds.ac.uk) for more information.



PhD students from the Doctoral Training Centre in Low Carbon Technologies on a field trip

## News in brief

### Programme ranked top in the world

International Business at Leeds University Business School (LUBS) is rated number one in the world in the *Financial Times* 2014 Masters in Management rankings (up from 4th place in 2013), whilst Organisational Behaviour is placed 6th globally and 3rd in the UK.

The results are based on recommendations from the MSc International Business alumni, and see us ranked 61st overall.

“We owe these fantastic results to our alumni and colleagues within the International Business (IB) division and members of other divisions, who have worked so hard for our students on the IB programme,” says Professor Peter Moizer, Dean of LUBS.

The MSc Accounting and Finance programme at LUBS was recently also ranked the number one such programme in the world, according to the *Financial Times* Masters in Finance Pre-experience rankings.

[www.ft.com/mastersinmanagement](http://www.ft.com/mastersinmanagement)

### School of Medicine – Institute name change

The Leeds Institute of Genetics, Health and Therapeutics (LIGHT) is now the Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine (LICAMM). The new name better embraces a substantial proportion of the work currently performed in the Institute. This change came into effect on 1 August.

### New University job site launched

A new online recruitment website has been launched, replacing the previous system. The site will be used to advertise job vacancies within the University, as well as enabling candidates to submit their applications.

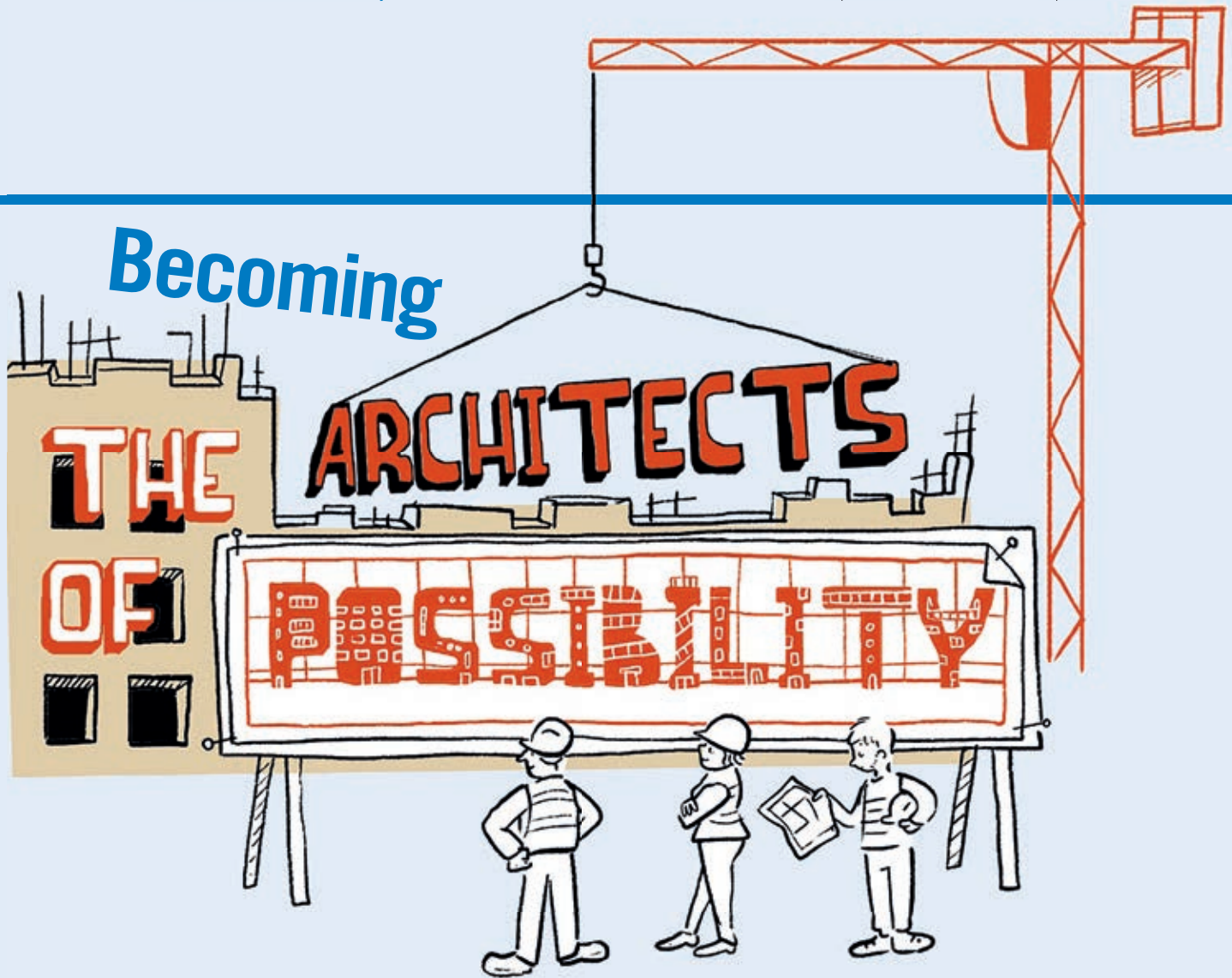
The new system will allow many of the traditional recruiting processes to be carried out online, streamlining the administration process for recruiters and providing an enhanced user experience for candidates.

The site also grants access to salary scales, staff benefits and bespoke job alerts.

The new website can be accessed at <http://goo.gl/j0TPOZ>

Any queries regarding the new careers site can be directed to [HR@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:HR@leeds.ac.uk)

If access to the old careers site is required, visit <http://goo.gl/06TR48>



# The University's Sustainability Strategy is launched

## SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS – VICE-CHANCELLOR'S FOREWORD

The University has a clear responsibility to have a positive impact on society, something we take very seriously. This means making our economic, social, environmental, and cultural responsibilities a priority alongside our commitment to education and research excellence.

Our aim is to become a University with a reputation for outstanding performance on sustainability; a University that challenges

the status quo and is renowned for its open, welcoming environment.

Our approach to sustainability is integrated with our approach to student education, research and innovation and highly professional support services.

This Strategy is not an end in itself; it is just the beginning of the next phase of promoting sustainability at the University. We will constantly challenge ourselves to be bold,

ambitious and action oriented. That's why we have set out a six-year Action Plan to support the future development of the University.

As Vice-Chancellor I will ensure that sustainability remains a central consideration in our decision-making as we strive to be the best we can be.

There are almost 40,000 people at the University and every one of us has a part to play in building a sustainable future.

## DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

We started developing this Sustainability Strategy by asking all our staff and students, 'What makes a sustainable university? What is it that makes us 'sustainable'? What can we do? What should we do? And, critically, why is it important to the University?'

The answer was that sustainability at the University isn't about half-promises; it's at the core of who we are and what we do. It shapes and drives everything that happens here – what

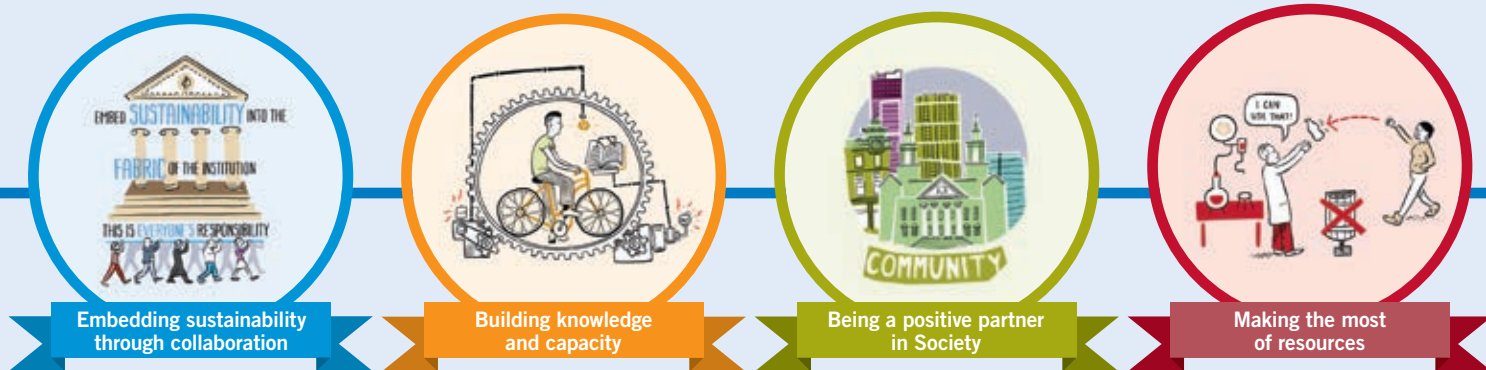
we teach, what we learn, what we buy, what we use, what we share, how we travel. It's about ambition and belief in ourselves. It's about working collaboratively within the University, with our partners, and with wider society.

There was a resounding belief that we should be bold and ambitious. During the engagement process you asked us to be bold, think differently and re-build the future – to become the 'Architects of Possibility.' This has formed

the fundamental thinking of the Strategy. This Strategy gives us a blueprint to follow as a collective, as individuals and as an institution.

This is a strategy of real action. Some of our commitments are well underway, others will require a University-wide change. But it's ambitious for a reason. We want to create new ideas, approaches and ways of working that benefit the world around us.





## HOW THE STRATEGY WORKS

The Sustainability Strategy has four overarching principles: Working collaboratively; Embedding sustainability; Sharing our skills, spaces, knowledge and values; and Challenging ourselves and others. Under these, the Strategy is structured around four themes:

- Embedding sustainability through collaboration
- Building knowledge and capacity
- Being a positive partner in Society; and
- Making the most of resources.

All these themes have a set of commitments and indicators to achieve and indicators to measure and illustrate our progress. To make these commitments a reality we have set ourselves a core six-year Action Plan, which accompanies the strategy. Again, this will be regularly reviewed to ensure it meets our aspirations and long-term vision. We will report

progress throughout the year and produce an externally available annual report and include a summary of progress in the University's Annual Report and Accounts. The annual report will be available for all our stakeholders and will form the basis of our accountability to University Council.

The full Strategy and Action Plan will be available at the end of September, followed closely by a fully revised Sustainability section of the website. There is significant work to do but immediate actions include the revision of the current Environment Coordinator Network, with Sustainability Architects being developed to reflect the broad nature of the Strategy and ambitious vision of the University, and a full review of Green Impact which will be ready for launch shortly.

It is vital that the integrated nature of the Strategy is reflected in our actions. This

includes supporting the integration of sustainability into our student education programmes through the discovery theme 'Creating Sustainable Futures' and within other programmes, and also supporting our research in this area, including our strategic research themes and Sector Hubs. One key way we are going to achieve this is through the development of the Leeds Living Lab concept, where we put into practice our excellent research and student education and use the University as a place to try out new ideas and technologies.

To get involved, find out more and tell us what you think about the new integrated Sustainability Strategy visit [www.leeds.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/sustainability). You can email [Sustainability@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:Sustainability@leeds.ac.uk) and follow us on twitter, too @UoL\_Sus



## Opportunities for students

# Lecture capture system goes live

The University's new lecture capture system – which has the capability to record lectures (and other events) – is now live in 250 teaching rooms across campus.

Use of recordings has been shown to have many benefits for student learning, including enabling students to check their understanding, revisit complex learning materials, and learn over time at their own pace.

Lecture capture is the first of four strands of the Digital Learning Programme, an ambitious programme at the University which will enable staff and students to capture audio and video recordings, and store, manage and publish content across multiple internal and public channels.

Professor Neil Morris, Director of Digital Learning, says: "We are sector leading in the

ambition of our digital strategy for student education. The lecture capture system is a significant step in developing teaching and learning here at Leeds. This is an easy to use and highly automated system, which provides an opportunity to create recordings to enhance learning by supplementing and supporting face to face contact time with our students."

The lecture capture project manager, John Lynch, says: "This has been a complex IT project involving teams across the University working together to achieve implementation."

Training on the lecture capture system is available for all staff through the Staff

Departmental and Development Unit – [www.sdduonline.leeds.ac.uk/changinglandscape/training-and-support/](http://www.sdduonline.leeds.ac.uk/changinglandscape/training-and-support/)

A poster – *10 things you need to know about lecture capture* – is available for download and a copy is included in this edition of the Reporter.

New and returning students are being encouraged to view a short, specially produced animation – <http://goo.gl/BNfDxU> – which explains the benefits of lecture capture. Further information and support for students is available at [Help@Leeds](mailto:Help@Leeds) and [Skills@Library](mailto:Skills@Library).



## Putting the flags out for our alumni

As graduations began in July – and thousands more graduates joined our worldwide community of alumni – a display of banners across campus celebrated the achievements of some of the University's most illustrious former students.

In Parkinson Court, the pedestrianised area outside the Great Hall, Leeds University Union and in faculties, the banners showed how Leeds alumni are making a world of difference, in their chosen field.

Sixteen alumni who graduated in a range of subjects featured in this campaign, and more faces will be included in a second series of banners to be installed in the autumn.

## Opportunities for students

# The Leeds Curriculum



**Students joining the University this year will be the first to feel the full benefit of the Leeds Curriculum, the latest enhancements to which are being launched this month.**

The Leeds Curriculum is defined by three key elements: Research-based Learning, culminating in a final-year project; Programme Threads – Employability, Global and Cultural Insight, Ethics and Responsibility; and Broadening, through the introduction of 10 interdisciplinary discovery themes.<sup>1</sup>

Professor Vivien Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education, comments: “I am delighted by the way in which the Leeds Curriculum has developed over the past few years, shaped by contributions from many colleagues and students across the University, as well as by employers and prospective students. The balance between research-based learning in chosen subjects and the wider perspectives offered by broadening is designed to give all our undergraduate students an outstanding education which prepares them to face the future with confidence and to make a difference as global citizens.”

At the heart of all the University’s degree programmes is the commitment that students should **learn through research**. Firstly, by learning from academics, many of whom are engaged at the cutting-edge of research; secondly, by developing the necessary skills and academic knowledge to engage in research themselves – skills which are valuable way beyond the academic context; and thirdly, by engaging in research first-hand in the form of a final-year project, supervised and supported by academics who are themselves experienced researchers.

**Programme threads**, running through every programme, will engage students with:

- Employability – raising awareness of key attributes and skills and how these can be developed to fulfil career ambitions, to make the transition from student to professional, and to become more employable
- Global and cultural insight – opportunities to engage with and value multiple perspectives, and to acknowledge and appreciate the implications of diversity
- Ethics and responsibility – engaging in ethical issues to develop an understanding of how to act responsibly and professionally and make informed decisions.

Students broaden their intellectual horizons outside or within their subject area through the 10 Discovery Themes and associated discovery modules (formerly electives) and can choose modules in a structured and coherent way, matching their interests and complementing their core programme.

Each theme has a number of sub-themes, and the newly launched Discovery Themes website (<http://leedsforlife.leeds.ac.uk/broadening>) will help students navigate through the 1,000+ discovery modules and create a shortlist of modules prior to online enrolment. Students can also get advice and guidance on module selection at the Discovery Themes Fair on 24 September in the Great Hall.

A celebratory reception marking the launch of Leeds Curriculum will take place at the Student Education Conference 2015 on 8 January in Parkinson Court.

<sup>1</sup> Creating Sustainable Futures; Enterprise and Innovation; Ethics, Religion and Law; Exploring the Sciences; Languages and Intercultural Understanding; Media, Culture and Creativity; Mind and Body; Personal and Professional Development; Power and Conflict; Technology and its Impacts

## Office 365 update

The project to move all staff and student email to the Exchange online service, part of the Microsoft Office 365 suite of services, is going well. The project team has been busy moving all students to the new Office 365 email service. All our new students already have an Office 365 email account and they can access a range of support materials on the IT website.

“We’ve had a lot of support from colleagues across the University, including the Student Education Service, the Portal team, Leeds University Union (LUU) and Comms, to make sure we’ve been communicating with students across a range of printed materials and social media,” says IT’s Craig Adams.

“As Fresher’s Week and the first week of teaching are extremely busy periods for staff across the University, we’ve decided to delay the start of the staff Office 365 upgrade pilot until the beginning of October.”

One of the benefits of Office 365 is that it gives everyone secure ‘anywhere’ access to email, calendar, contacts and tasks.

Bradley Escorcio, LUU’s Union Affairs Officer, says: “It’s encouraging to see the University progressing with the email upgrade project and prioritising improvements to the digital student experience. The Project Development Group has been a great way to embed student representation in the upgrade project while ensuring that student concerns are inputted at both an operational and strategic level.”



## Collaboration and Enterprise

# Enterprise at Leeds

## An introduction by Professor Nigel Lockett

**Enterprise at Leeds is an institution-wide strategy to make enterprise a distinctive feature of the University.**

As an institution, we have an increasingly embedded entrepreneurial culture and so have adopted an approach which pulls together strengths from across our wide-ranging enterprise activities. From student and graduate enterprise and staff skills development to the commercialisation of research and collaborations with businesses, we seek to set ourselves apart and to further enhance our international reputation as leaders in this field.

Our committed and dedicated community of staff, researchers, students, alumni and supportive entrepreneurs are critical to our success. Enterprise at Leeds brings together our knowledge and expertise in enterprise education, business support and delivering growth programmes to support student businesses, spin-out companies, developing strong collaborative partnerships to create economic and social impact.

Alumni and our wider business networks have been critical in supporting our endeavours and recently contributed over £0.75m to new and exciting enterprise initiatives. The InTechnology Enterprise Incubation Programme, now based in the Leeds Innovation Centre, will help increase our graduates' business success. Also, the new Year in Enterprise allows undergraduate students to spend a year developing their own business as part of any degree.

### Putting enterprise into practice

David McGorman (PhD Inductively Coupled Telemetry) studied for a PhD with University spin-out company Instrumentel Ltd, which provides precision electronics and telemetry for use in extreme environments. David recently completed the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses initiative, which supports business leaders in organisations with high-growth potential. He says: "The initiative was invaluable. Since completing it, I've become Chief Executive of Instrumentel and employed a further three members of staff." David's entrepreneurial journey to developing a successful international business has included support from our staff, University and business enterprise activities.

Sophie Tregellis (BA Philosophy) started Top Collar while studying at Leeds. The Spark team, based in the Careers Centre, supported her passion for producing and selling healthy dog biscuits. She won the Sir Peter Thompson Award last year and since graduation has developed her growing business further. She says: "I'm not sure that I would have got this far without advice and encouragement from Spark – they've given me a whole new career direction." Sophie has benefited from a wide range of student and graduate enterprise activities and she will be one of the first businesses to enter the new incubator and intends to expand her business nationally.



David McGorman



Sophie Tregellis

## 'Button Bash' game is fun for all

**Researchers at the University have created a new game designed to encourage disabled and non-disabled children to play together.**

Button Bash was a result of the University's 'Together Through Play' research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust. The idea was created by children; the University then refined the idea, before presenting it for the children to prototype.

Dr Angharad Beckett (School of Sociology and Social Policy), Dr Raymond Holt and PhD researcher Anne-Marie Moore (both from the

School of Mechanical Engineering's Institute of Design, Robotics and Optimisation) led the research.

Dr Holt says: "The children who played it really got engrossed with it, and it was good to see them working together to navigate the maze."

In Button Bash, players work together to guide 'Bashians' through the game, encouraging children to cooperate and collaborate. Accessibility switches are used to 'steer' the characters, so children with motor impairments can also get involved.



## International/Community Engagement

# Promoting China and Chinese

**Staff, students and members of the public can take part in a wide range of activities – cultural, academic and business-focused – organised by the Business Confucius Institute at the University of Leeds (BCIUL) during the coming year.**

Jointly established in 2012 by the University and the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) in Beijing, BCIUL has a particular focus on the support and expansion of Chinese language education and also aims to enhance mutual understanding between the UK and China.

“China’s economic and political influence is widely acknowledged throughout the world, yet the global understanding of what China represents is limited – a situation exacerbated by a lack of Chinese language ability outside China,” explains Professor Peter Buckley OBE, Professor of International Business at Leeds University Business School. “To address this, the Chinese Ministry of Education established the first non-profit Confucius Institute in 2004, and now some 440 exist worldwide.

“BCIUL is one of five business-focused Confucius Institutes in Europe promoting business relationships between the UK and China. Its objectives are addressed through partnerships such as those with the University’s East Asian Studies Department and the Centre for International Business at the University. Both organisations, with their parent faculties and the University as a whole, contribute to the growth and success of the Institute.”

People wishing to learn Mandarin can access a range of courses run by BCIUL or, for would-be Mandarin teachers, it offers internationally recognised qualifications. Cultural workshops are incorporated within language programmes to enhance appreciation of China’s rich cultural heritage, such as traditional Chinese dance lessons, Tai chi and dumpling-making.

The University of Leeds China Forum – a collaboration between East Asian Studies, BCIUL and the White Rose East Asia Centre – is where scholars exchange their ideas and latest research on China. Run and organised by PhD students, it’s open to anyone interested in China-focused topics.

BCIUL organises highly successful summer and winter camps in partnership with UIBE. The first, in Beijing in 2013, gave BCIUL language students the unique opportunity to experience China’s rich cultural heritage with trips to renowned historical sites such as the Great Wall. In February, students from UIBE visited the UK, where activities included meeting the Lord Mayor of Leeds. Involvement in student-run events includes BCIUL sponsorship of Leeds’ Got Talent arranged by the Hong Kong and British-born Chinese student societies to showcase the talents of the University’s Asian students.



Professor Peter Buckley and Liam Byrne MP

As a business-focused Confucius Institute, BCIUL provides activities to promote commercial opportunities for Chinese and British businesses. It arranges courses in Chinese culture and etiquette for businesses and has close connections with stakeholders such as UK Trade and Investment, and Leeds and Partners. At BCIUL’s informal business breakfasts, local businesses can discuss and assess commercial opportunities and challenges in China.

<http://lubswww.leeds.ac.uk/confucius/home/>

### Meet the authors

BCIUL’s Meet the Authors series, organised with Blackwell Bookstores, welcomes Jung Chang on 13 November. The internationally acclaimed author of *Wild Swans* will discuss her book *Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine who Launched Modern China*. Also in November, the series hosts author and expert on Chinese cinema, Chris Berry, who will attend BCIUL’s second birthday event at the Leeds International Film Festival.



Our students at the 2013 BCIUL Summer Camp in China

## Valuing our people

# Equality and Inclusion Framework... six months on



New members of the team: Zarina (I) and Sabiha

### The University's Equality and Inclusion Framework (EIF) was launched earlier this year - what's been happening since?

We've been busy promoting and raising awareness of the Framework across the University. Hopefully, all staff will have received a copy of the Equality and Inclusion Strategy, The Vision for Leeds, which summarises our priorities and objectives for the next five years. There have also been items in the staff newsletter and messages on plasma screens in schools.

We've recruited another Equality and Inclusion Manager, Sabiha Patel, to help implement the Framework and she's already making a huge contribution. Zarina Sutton, Athena SWAN Support Officer, also joined the team\*.

### Can you explain what Athena SWAN is?

Athena SWAN is a national scheme that encourages institutions to support the careers of academic women in science, engineering and technology faculties. The University retained an institutional-level Bronze award in 2012, and a number of schools and faculties hold individual awards to recognise local good practice. Our ambition is to receive a University Silver Award in 2015. It's one of a number of initiatives to gain external recognition of our work to promote equality and inclusion. Another example is our entry into the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index – a tool to evaluate initiatives to promote a better working environment for lesbian, gay and bisexual employees.

### Why wasn't Athena SWAN mentioned in the EIF as a way of promoting gender equality?

At the early stages of developing the Framework it was agreed that achieving the Athena SWAN award would be recognised as an output of

the Strategy. This is a good example of the University taking practical steps to promote gender equality, which supports the Strategy and receives external endorsement.

The Equality and Inclusion Framework and Strategy is a University-led initiative aimed at changing the culture and way in which we proactively promote and support equality. The Framework isn't just about achieving external charter status, it's also driving and achieving our own equality vision and mission.

### Is the Vice-Chancellor supportive of equality and inclusion?

Absolutely. We're really pleased that the Equality and Inclusion Framework is included in the University's Strategic Plan. This demonstrates our strong continual commitment to equality and inclusion. We're also delighted that the Vice-Chancellor will now chair the University's Equality and Inclusion Committee.

### What are you currently working on?

We're working closely with Faculties and Services to promote and implement the Framework, and we've developed a toolkit specifically to help implement equality and inclusion at a local level. We've also produced a number of briefings which support an inclusive University environment (available at [www.equality.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.equality.leeds.ac.uk)).

Work has started to progress the priorities and objectives of the Framework, for example, through the work of the HR Policy Review Group and the Progressing an Inclusive Taught Student Education Steering Group. We're also planning our calendar of events to raise awareness and celebrate campus diversity over the coming year.

\* Kay Messenger, Maria Pervais, Sabiha Patel and Ian Turnpenny

## Setting a Silver example

Speakers from Queen's University Belfast (QUB) visited Leeds earlier this year to give colleagues insights into how QUB had achieved the Athena SWAN\* Silver award.

QUB achieved Silver status in 2012, and the event encouraged our institution to achieve similar accreditation and enhance the roles of women in academia.

The talk was given by Professor Tom Millar (Dean of Science and Engineering Faculty) and Teresa McCormack (Professor of Cognitive Development/Acting Director of Queen's Gender Initiative). They outlined their strong management and mentoring scheme which involves over 180 women.

QUB's achievement comes from mandatory staff training, annual promotion seminars for women and workshops on how to increase the uptake of STEM subjects among girls in secondary schools. They also adopted the Queen's Gender Initiative, which provides a channel for women's views on policies and practices within academia.

The University's Athena SWAN team is hoping to use some of the ideas to inform the University's own forthcoming application for a Silver award.

\*Athena SWAN recognises the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).



Dr Jane Cahill (School of Healthcare), Professor Tom Millar, Dr Kelvin Tapley (School of Chemistry) and Teresa McCormack

## Valuing our people

# Team talk – European Team, Research and Innovation Service (RIS)

### What does your team do?

We cover the full life cycle of a European Union (EU) research project. We identify and disseminate opportunities, run information events and help with the submission process and writing proposals. Of course, you can't win projects without having support in place if they're funded, so our post-award team manages the financial requirements of live grants (in liaison with the Faculty Research and Innovation Offices) and liaises regularly with the European Commission throughout the grant to ensure reporting requirements are met. We also deliver training for faculty administrative staff who manage grants locally.

### Who's in the team?

Ben Williams heads up the team and oversees both pre- and post-award functions. Maggie Credland and two recent appointments, Sobia Aslam and Alan Kennedy, make up the pre-award section. Keri Dunning manages the post-award aspects and is assisted by Alex Braithwaite and another post that's under advertisement. There's a great range of experience within the team – we have people from other UK higher education institutions (HEIs), the financial sector as well as from project management in the public sector and EU research projects. One of our team was formerly at UKRO, the UK representative organisation based in Brussels. We're also well represented on various national and European Commission advisory boards, so we can input into UK HEI perspectives and experiences of UK funding.

### What's the latest news from the team?

Horizon 2020 (H2020) is the new EU research programme that started this year and is a secure source of funding until 2020. There are opportunities for collaborative projects and fellowships across all disciplines. With the addition of Sobia and Alan to the team, we can offer even more thorough support for proposals and we also have some financial support for people wanting to lead an EU H2020 bid. We'll soon be touring the faculties to introduce the new-look team and describe the opportunities available to Leeds academics.



Keeping a European focus (l-r): Alex Braithwaite, Keri Dunning, Alan Kennedy, Ben Williams, Sobia Aslam and Maggie Credland

### What gives the team the most satisfaction?

The obvious answer is getting projects funded (nearly 300 with a combined value of over €100m in the previous funding programme, FP7). It's also great to have support for our team and strategy from the top – from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation – Professor David Hogg – through the faculties and from the top of RIS. Applicants themselves are often very grateful for our support and offer to endorse us, which is fantastic and helps us to promote our services more widely across the University.

### What challenges do you face in 2014-15?

Horizon 2020 has a few changes from FP7, which itself still has many live projects – so helping people to familiarise themselves with two simultaneous sets of rules will be key. There are also recently-elected MEPs and there will be a new set of commissioners in the Commission, so there's a chance to develop new relationships and to push for improvements

in how EU research is administered. A primary aim in H2020 is to get Leeds to coordinate (ie, take on the lead role) large collaborative bids. Hopefully, by bringing people together, raising awareness of our support and using our 'seedcorn' money to help bring partners together, we can increase our visibility within the European research area.

### Tell us something surprising about your work.

Few people realise that the EU funds so much research – €80b until 2020! The UK traditionally gets more out than it puts in, a fact which is lost among stories of 'EU bureaucracy gone mad'. We're always amazed by the broad range of research funded across all nine faculties and also amused by some of the items that people have asked if it's permissible to claim. These have included nightclub tickets (which were a genuine part of a research project on social attitudes of clubbers), dry cleaning and someone's monthly Lidl shop (rejected before they could be claimed!).

## In the news



Dr Charlotte Evans (School of Food Science and Nutrition) spoke to BBC Radio 5 live about a new recommendation made by Public Health England that children should be given **smaller plates** for their food to help reduce obesity and diabetes.

A new study authored by Professor Ka-Kit Tung from the University of Washington and published in *Science* found that heat, stored deep in the Atlantic and Southern oceans could be contributing to a pause in **global warming**. The study also suggested that the pause would only last a decade, when warming would resume. Professor Piers Forster (School of Earth and Environment) commented on the new findings, saying: "Variability in the ocean will not affect long-term climate trends but may mean we have a period of accelerated warming to look forward to."

Researchers from the University of Illinois have developed a new material that changes colour to match its surroundings, based on the **camouflage techniques** of octopuses and cuttlefish. Professor Anne Neville (School of Mechanical Engineering) commented on the new research, which was reported by BBC News online.

A survey commissioned for Universities Week in June, an event held in conjunction with various bodies including Universities UK, Research Councils UK, HEFCE and the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement, asked the public what research they thought universities should be focusing on. *Times Higher Education* matched several responses to research projects from various universities, including the **eRAPID** system, a project led by Professor Galina Velikova (School of Medicine) at the University of Leeds. The system allows cancer patients to report symptoms and side effects of their treatment via the internet.

Researchers from Leeds University Business School and the University of St Andrews found that a **healthy glow** generated by consuming plenty of fruit and vegetables is perceived to be more attractive than a glow generated from sitting in the sun. The story was featured in *The Telegraph* online and the *Mail Online* and included comments from Dr Carmen Lefevre from the Centre for Decision Research in the Business School.

Professor Stephen Coleman (School of Media and Communication) was quoted in an article published by *The Herald* ahead of the first televised **Scottish Independence Referendum** debate between Alex Salmond and Alistair Darling.



Dr Henry Yeomans (School of Law) was interviewed on Channel 5's *5 News* where he spoke about recent recommendations put forward to improve awareness of the health risks of consuming **alcohol**.

An article written by Professor Tim Benton (School of Biology) was published by *The Telegraph* online in which he spoke about the impact the Ukraine crisis could have on the UK's **food security**.

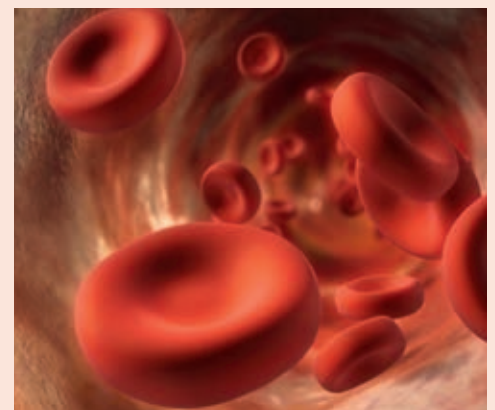
Professor Alison Fell (School of Languages, Cultures and Societies) was interviewed by David Olusoga on BBC Two documentary *The World's War: Forgotten Soldiers of Empire* about the view of **African soldiers** in France during the First World War.



A study from the Faculty of Biological Sciences discovered that **tickling the ear** by stimulating its nerve endings could have an impact on the health of a heart. The team, which included Professor Jim Deuchars and Dr Jenny Clancy, used a TENS machine (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) to send electrical pulses to the tragus. They found that the stimulation had an impact on the influence the nervous system had on the heart. The story received wide coverage, including in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Daily Mirror*, *The Times of India* and *The Huffington Post*. Dr Clancy was also interviewed about the new research on the BBC World Service, BBC Radio Leeds and BBC Radio Lancashire.

Chris Phillips (School of History) was interviewed by Michael Portillo for his BBC Two programme *Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo*. In the programme, Chris told Michael about **rail pioneer** Eric Geddes' role in transport during the First World War.

Researchers from the University, led by Professor David Beech (School of Medicine), discovered a gene called *piezo1* that plays a fundamental role in the construction of **blood vessel** networks. It is thought this discovery will help the treatment of heart disease and cancer in the future. The story was widely reported and featured in publications such as *The Times*, *The Scotsman*, *The Telegraph* online and *Metro*.





## Our people/honours

**Professor Martin C Levesley** (Faculty of Engineering) was recognised with the 2014 Excellence in Engineering Education Award by National Instruments at the 2014 Engineering Impact Awards hosted by National Instruments in Austin, Texas. Also honoured were **Dr David Keeling** and **PhD student Justin Gallagher**, whose entry won an award in the Machine Control Category – Controlling a Robotic Manipulator for Nuclear Decommissioning. The pair worked with Yorkshire-based company James Fisher Nuclear to develop a modular robotic arm for remote handling tasks in nuclear decommissioning applications.

This win builds on success of our undergraduates who reached the finals of the Student Design Competition in 2011, 2012 and 2013 and research students who won multiple awards in 2009 and 2012.

**Dr Richard Hayton** (School of Politics and International Studies) has been elected as a Trustee of the Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom, and will sit on the Executive Committee for a three-year term. The Association exists to develop and promote the study of politics. Founded in 1950, it is the leading professional association in its field in the UK, with an international membership including academics in political science and current affairs, theorists and practitioners, policymakers, researchers and students in higher education.

**Peter Buckley**, Professor of International Business (Leeds University Business School), has been appointed a Fellow of the British Academy. The prestigious award reflects outstanding research and work in the humanities and social sciences.

Professor Buckley is the Founding Director of the Centre of International Business at the University of Leeds (CIBUL) and Cheung Kong Scholar Chair Professor at the University of International Business and Economics, Beijing.

Professor Buckley says: "I'm delighted to have been elected a Fellow of the British Academy. It is an unusual honour for a management academic and I hope that it foreshadows greater recognition for researchers in the business and management areas."

**Residential Services** won the national NUS Green Impact Award 2013-14 in the Community Action category, in recognition of their volunteer work with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in the Leeds area.



Making an outstanding contribution to experimental physics (l-r): Professor Giles Davies and Professor Edmund Linfield

**Professor Giles Davies** and **Professor Edmund Linfield** (School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering) won the 2014 Faraday Medal for outstanding contributions to experimental physics.

The award recognises nearly two decades of work on terahertz science and technology, an exciting field that is opening up the uses of the far-infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum.

The citation announced by the Institute of Physics said: "Professor Davies' and Professor Linfield's contributions to the science and technology of this region of the spectrum over the last two decades are remarkable not only for their outstanding

and influential achievements, but also for the breadth of their activities, which have underpinned the spectacular growth of this field internationally."

Terahertz waves lie in the part of the electromagnetic spectrum between infrared and microwaves. They have a wide range of existing or potential uses including chemical analysis, security scanning, medical imaging, and telecommunications.

Professors Davies and Linfield arrived at Leeds from the University of Cambridge in 2002 and 2004 respectively, and have helped establish one of the world's leading centres of terahertz technology at Leeds.

The **University's St Marks Residences** has been named Best Student Housing by CUBO, the Colleges and Universities Business Officers association. The residences for postgraduate students opened last year, and the flats incorporate many features requested by students, such as larger than usual workspaces, en suite bathrooms, security measures, networked printers, leisure facilities, and accessibility.

**Matthew Pankhurst**, a Research Fellow in the School of Earth and Environment, has been awarded one of only five UK – and 30 world-wide – 2014 AXA Research Fellowships.

**Great Food at Leeds** won a Catey – one of the UK hospitality industry's most prestigious awards – in the category of Best Marketing Campaign, awarded for the rebranding of the delivered catering service to Deli (*very*).

**Professor Monty Duggal** (Leeds Dental Institute) recently completed his two years' presidency of the European Academy of Paediatric Dentistry (EAPD). "It was a great honour to lead the Academy" he says. "Under my presidency it has grown into an extremely well-respected organisation, whose guidelines and opinions matter in policymaking regarding care of children's oral health in Europe. I increased the international profile of the EAPD in non-European countries by hosting the first Hermes seminar, which was a huge success, aimed at developing young researchers and offering them mentorship from within the Academy. During my tenure we signed an agreement with publishers Springer to produce the official journal of the Academy *European Archives of Paediatric Dentistry*."



Professor Monty Duggal

## News

# Aurora sheds light on leadership skills

Four of the University's female academics have completed their participation in Aurora. Supported by the Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU), the women took part in a new Leadership Foundation for Higher Education leadership development programme for women up to senior lecturer level and professional services equivalent.

Aurora aims to enable a wider range of women in academic and professional roles to think of themselves as future leaders and develop some of the skills needed. The programme comprised workshops, action learning and self-directed study. Participants also benefited from a University mentor, and female 'role models' from different institutions attended each workshop, facilitating discussion and networking and sharing their career development stories.



Aurora participants with some of the role models and mentors and the University's SDDU Aurora 'champion' Penny Hatton: (back row l-r) Anna Madill (Psychology), Claire Honess (Languages, Cultures and Societies), Alison Sheldon, Sue Pavitt (Dentistry), Helen Finch, Cath Noakes (Civil Engineering); (front row l-r) Donna Lloyd, Penny Hatton and Laura Rhodes

Participants Helen Finch (Languages, Cultures and Societies), Donna Lloyd (Psychology), Laura Rhodes (Medicine) and Alison Sheldon (Sociology and Social Policy) said they felt privileged to have participated and had benefitted from it. The programme will run again in 2015 and it is hoped to send up to six participants.

"I had a really enjoyable and productive time and think that everyone can benefit from participation in such events."

**Role model Professor Christine Foyer** (School of Biology)

## Small ads

### Professional services

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Divorce, separation, children and financial disputes, pre-marital and cohabitation agreements. BLACKS SOLICITORS, CLARENDON ROAD. FREE INITIAL HALF-HOUR MEETING.

Contact Paul Lancaster 0113 207 0000  
plancaster@LawBlacks.com

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Emma Brooksbank 0113 243 2288  
immigration@henryhams.com

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### House for sale

#### FLAT FOR SALE £159,950

Spacious, elegant, sunny flat in Georgian house near University, Hanover Square, Leeds 3. Large living room with kitchen, dining and study/guest bed areas. House bathroom. Double bedroom with en-suite. Secure parking.

Hugo Radice 0196 965 0971, h.k.radice@leeds.ac.uk

#### EAST MORTON NEAR BINGLEY

Three-bed semi, energy-saving features, south-facing garden, lovely village, 25 mins rail commute £225,000 ono. v.kendon@leeds.ac.uk

#### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!

Nice one bedroom modern flat in Dewsbury for sale. Offers over £49,950 for quick sale. Potential rental income: £330-£360 a month. Near Dewsbury train station.

Ruth 0782 801 5896, sprlg@leeds.ac.uk

**NORTH LEEDS FLAT** for sale - very spacious one bedroom second floor flat, Ashleigh Road LS16. Ideal for professional person, one of three in a converted house in this quiet area. £117,500, no chain.

Sarah Rowell 0771 205 1002, sarah@srowell.co.uk

### House/flat/room to let

#### SPACIOUS FLAT TO RENT

Two-bed lovely, sunny flat, 5 minutes from University. Ideal location for PGR/PGT students/staff. £625 per month. Available September.

Naomi Tickhill 37913, n.r.tickhill@leeds.ac.uk

#### THIRD FLOOR FURNISHED FLAT

A large en-suite bedroom, shared sitting room and kitchen in a two-bedroom apartment, 5 mins walk to central train station, male only, £450 pm.

minmwa@leeds.ac.uk

#### LARGE ROOM AND ENSUITE

Sunny, spacious room, Leeds 16. Storage space, TV, wifi, separate shower and toilet, shared kitchen. £330 a month including bills. Weekdays only considered. Non smoker please. Asda nearby, frequent buses to town, possible car share.

Marah Gardner 0797 393 3510, m.gardner@leeds.ac.uk

#### DOUBLE ROOM SHARED HOUSE

£475pcm incl. all bills/council tax if working, less for students (negotiable). Share with 1 + dog. Suit staff/postgrad/student dog-lover (additional dogs considered). All amenities incl. WiFi, off-street parking. Burley Park area.

Owen Hodkinson, clodh@leeds.ac.uk

**2/3 BEDROOM HOUSE** to rent in the Brudenell area 10 mins walk from university. Front room, study (or third bedroom), kitchen, bathroom, cellar and front garden. £500 pcm plus bills.

Angel Smith 0755 417 6502, a.k.a.smith@leeds.ac.uk

### Holiday home to let

#### ANDALUCIAN HOME LET/SALE

Please see website. House available for long/short let OR SALE.

Jenny Hirst, hirstyjenny@yahoo.com  
http://andalucianvillage.webs.com/

#### HOLIDAY COTTAGE SLEEPS 5

Gorgeous, well-equipped, two-bedroom cottage on prestigious development 'The Bay'. Pool, beach, pub, tennis court, pet friendly.

www.bumblebeecottagefiley.com  
j.freeman@leeds.ac.uk

### Other

#### METABOLIC HEALTH RESEARCH STUDY

Volunteers needed for a four-week trial to investigate effects of consuming natural ingredients from egg yolk, oats and grape skin on metabolic health. £25 gift voucher on completion of study.

Samantha Sutulich 0113 343 0064, food27@leeds.ac.uk

Small ads can be submitted online at <http://smallads.leeds.ac.uk> The charge is £7 for 10 words or part thereof (University members) or £10 (general public). The deadline for the next issue is 15 October 2014 at 12 noon. Advertisers are independent of the University. The University makes no warranty or representation as to (a) the accuracy of ads or (b) the quality of goods or services advertised. To the full extent allowed by the law the University excludes all liability. Contact the Reporter on 0113 343 6699 or [the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk)

## Events



### Women in SET (WiSET) – dates for term 1

WiSET, the University's network for women in science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM), is building on its most successful year to date, with record attendance at monthly events. The network recently held its AGM and outlined plans for the academic year, including topics for the monthly First Wednesday Club.

The network provides a virtual presence via the Women in SET mailing list, its Twitter feed – @WiSET\_at\_UoL – and a physical presence with monthly meetings at lunchtime or in the early evening. WiSET aims to support the personal and professional development of women in STEM disciplines through discussions, role models, mentoring and advice to help professional development and advancement at all career stages. It also provides a voice to the University on policies and procedures that affect women's careers. Additionally, it supports the wider aims of the University's diversity aims, especially the Athena SWAN action plans being delivered at faculty and school level.

After five years being run as a voluntary network, supported by colleagues in the Staff and Departmental Development Unit and other STEM service areas, WiSET has secured funding from the University to help expand the network to women in all faculties and to offer more events, including a half-day conference in March 2015 to coincide with the University's Women of Achievement Awards and a full-day conference in March 2016.

Staff and students interested in joining the WiSET mailing list can contact Zarina Sutton at [Z.Sutton@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:Z.Sutton@leeds.ac.uk). To find out about events or supporting the Network, email Samantha Haynes at [s.e.haynes@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.haynes@leeds.ac.uk)

#### Diary dates

**Wednesday 1 October** – From One Step to Another: lunchtime session on promotion and progression

**Wednesday 5 November** – Mindfulness: lunchtime session on achieving balance in the midst of busy-ness

**Wednesday 3 December** – evening event 5-7pm with guest speakers, networking and seasonal refreshments (Centenary Gallery, Parkinson Building)

The First Wednesday Club meets monthly apart from August. It is for all women working in STEM disciplines and for postgraduate research students from five STEM faculties. Register to attend WiSET events at [www.sddu.leeds.ac.uk/](http://www.sddu.leeds.ac.uk/)



### Confucius Institute Chinese Festival – Saturday 27 September

#### University campus

'Embracing Chinese Culture in Yorkshire' is the theme of this festival, which celebrates the 10th anniversary of the founding of the first Confucius Institute. Come along to the free event to find out more about Chinese culture, and take part in or watch activities such as paper cutting, a tea ceremony, Chinese language classes and a calligraphy competition.



#### Light Night celebrates 10 years

The 10th Light Night Leeds takes place on Friday 3 October 2014 and this year it promises to be more spectacular than ever.

The annual multi-art form festival takes place at numerous indoor and outdoor venues across Leeds city centre, celebrating the diversity of art and creativity happening across the city.

Some 30 new artworks, including light projections and installations, sculpture, visual arts, music, theatre, dance and street entertainment, will be part of the evening. Members of the public will also have the opportunity to explore some of the city's buildings – such as the Town Hall – by night!

<http://lightnightleeds.co.uk>

#### Session submissions for Leeds Festival of Science 2015

Ideas for practical sessions can now be submitted for next year's Leeds Festival of Science.

The annual festival is entering its 10th year, and looking for demonstrations to engage school children. The festival runs alongside National Science and Engineering week, and is all about getting children through Key Stages 2-5 involved in science, maths, engineering, geology and environmental sciences.

Last year's festival featured sessions on the colours of food, women in science, and volcano making. Submitted sessions can offer almost everything and run from one hour to all day. The practicals can be held on campus or can be taken on the road to visit different schools from 13-27 March.

If you're interested in submitting a proposal, please email [stem@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:stem@leeds.ac.uk) to request a form. Deadline for session ideas is Tuesday 30 September.

#### Follow us on Twitter

There's a new staff Twitter feed – @UniLeedsStaff – which you can follow for updates about events, news and activities in and around campus that might be of interest to colleagues.

## FAQs

# Professor Lindsay Stringer Outgoing Director of the Sustainability Research Unit (SRI), School of Earth and Environment



### What did you do before joining the University?

I did a BSc in Physical Geography and then an MSc, both in Sheffield. My PhD was also in Sheffield in the geography department looking at how the United Nations (UN) Convention to Combat Desertification was being implemented in Swaziland. I worked at the University of Manchester as a research fellow at the Institute for Development Policy and Management. Then I came to Leeds in 2007.

### The Sustainability Research Institute (SRI) is now 10 years old. How will you celebrate the anniversary?

The main event is the SRI gala dinner. It involves SRI staff, PhD students, postdocs as well as external guests. We want to celebrate what we've achieved in the last 10 years, enhance our profile, both within and outside the University, and discuss potential opportunities for collaboration and research impact to take the Institute forward over the next 10 years. We are also planning an SRI alumni event for 2015 and running an anniversary seminar series with lots of exciting guest speakers.

### What are you most proud of?

Personally, receiving the Philip Leverhulme Prize for Geography last year.

My biggest achievement since being Director of SRI is the appointment of lots of really strong people. Since 2004, we've grown from being an institute with one research grant and one postdoc to what we are today! There are now approximately 30 staff, 20 postdocs and 40 PhD students. It's great to see our standing within the University grow, and our external profile and recognition in terms of our degree programmes. We've really built something good that other people recognise. In terms of our research, we are doing something different



from a lot of places – it's exciting to be at the forefront of academic, policy-relevant research.

### What's your favourite part of the job?

My favourite part of the job is my research. I am lucky that I get to work a lot with the UN and also with people living in remote villages in the developing world. I get to meet some really interesting characters and travel a lot.

### What kind of projects have you been involved in?

Working with the UN helps me to identify where the most urgent knowledge gaps are. That helps me to direct my research to be policy-relevant. I've been involved in projects looking at how people are adapting to climate change in Africa; how dryland communities deal with land degradation and what motivates them to use the land sustainably; and in research that looks at how local communities can be involved in helping policy become more relevant to their needs. I'd like to think I'm making a difference somehow. With my Leverhulme prize money, I've employed a postdoc who's going back to Swaziland to see what has happened there since my PhD.

### Where would you like to see SRI in 10 years?

I'd like to see SRI continue to be a nationally and internationally recognised research institute. It would be great to see our research grow, and see more happy students going through our programme, including PhD students. I think it's important that we retain our focus on research that can make a difference – research which has relevance to the real world. I'm handing over the directorship to James van Alstine and William Young, who are going to share the role between them. I'm sure they will do a fabulous job, building on the work that my predecessors and I have done.

### Do you have a special talent others might not know about?

I injured my arm as a child and now have a meteorological elbow which aches when it's going to rain!

### What's your most frequently asked question?

What is sustainability?