



Celebrating molecular science at Leeds

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A catalyst for social sciences

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Leader column

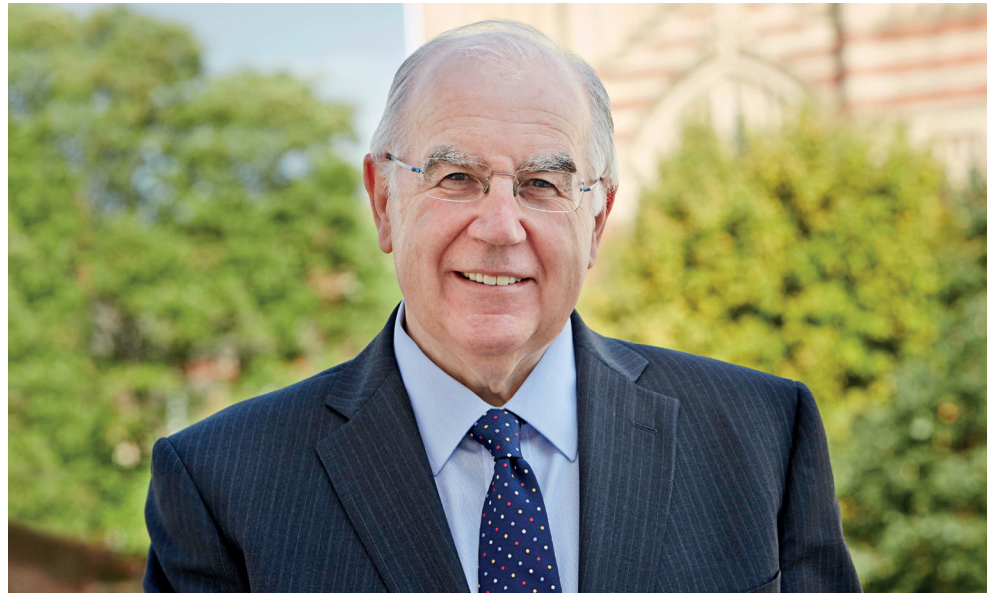
...a new year beckons

At the dawn of academic year 2015-16, we welcome our new undergraduate and postgraduate students and our new PhD students and academic fellows to the University – a community committed to providing outstanding education and a step change in the quality, volume and impact of our world leading research; one that takes its responsibility to support the economic, social and cultural development of the Leeds City Region seriously.

There have been many highlights over the summer and I was particularly pleased that the University has maintained its pattern of improvement in the National Student Survey which provides key benchmark indicators of student satisfaction. Within the Russell Group we have moved from joint 11th to joint third, with 90% of our students satisfied with the quality of their course. We are second only to Oxford with 92% satisfaction for 'teaching on my course' and joint second for 'assessment and feedback'. We are in the top five across the other 20 question categories in the survey, the only Russell Group University to achieve this level of consistency. Satisfaction with the library service (94%) and the Students' Union (92%) are also at a record high.

These are not flash in the pan results. They are the result of tremendous work by Viv Jones and her team in the Student Education Service and, of course, they reflect the absolute focus of every member of staff at the University on meeting the needs and aspirations of students, present and future. They also build on the foundations of the Leeds Curriculum and LeedsforLife which give students outstanding academic and co-curricular opportunities; the strength of our Partnership with the Students' Union and the wider student body; and our commitment to recruit and retain high quality students from diverse backgrounds, providing affordable access for all who can benefit – also a great success story over the summer. Further improvements to promote student employability and the development of the Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence and Innovation during 2015-16 will ensure that we continue to build on these successes.

The only major setback over the summer was the Government's decision to convert student support grants to loans, adding still further to the scale of the student loans required to support undergraduate education. Higher education benefits the economy, society and individual students. Student loans must not become the only release valve for dealing with short term government spending cuts and increasing costs in higher education. This does not make long term sense for the taxpayer, and switches far too much



of the cost burden to students. As the economy recovers and grows, there has to be a much fairer balance between public funding for higher education and the costs incurred by individual students.

The wider economic, social and cultural contributions of the University will be an important theme for academic year 2015-16. On 18 November, we will be holding an event on campus to show how the University plays a crucial role in modern life, with positive impacts not only in the Leeds City Region but right across the world. We will explain our direct and indirect economic contribution and showcase our ground-breaking work in a number of key areas – from health to energy, robotics to food, big data to culture, skills, employment and much more.

I also take great pride in the tradition of social responsibility in Leeds. To take the example of student volunteering, since 1998 some 4,800 students have supported 220 schools in the Leeds City Region. Every year, we have 3,000 active student volunteers who give time and skills to help more than 150 charities, and our students and student groups raise around £300,000 for local charities – contributions of which we can be justly proud.

This approach is drawn into sharp relief by the ongoing migrant crisis. I know that many of you have already responded to the international migrant crisis, however, a significant number of students and staff have asked me how the University might play a part. We have discussed the crisis with the City Council and have joined a city task force established to ensure a coordinated response to the crisis, and are working with the Students' Union to see how we can support their activities and develop joint volunteering initiatives.

We already have in place a fund to support students that have been affected by catastrophic events in their home countries. In addition, we are examining how we might provide a number of funded scholarships. I have no doubt that our thinking will be sharpened as the local and national picture becomes clearer. In the

meantime, we will keep staff up-to-date with developments through the For Staff website.

Finally, in a year when we intend to launch our new cultural institute, I want to reflect on the Leeds International Piano Competition (LIPC). For more than 50 years one woman, Dame Fanny Waterman as Chairman and Artistic Director of LIPC and as a teacher, has helped many thousands of young people fulfil their promise. She has guided the 'Leeds' to great things with integrity, passion, charisma and an unfailing capacity for hard work. She is a great friend and supporter of this University and will remain so long into the future.

The 18th competition held over the past 54 years energised the campus for almost three weeks. It culminated in a wonderful gala concert in the Great Hall, where the six finalists played to a full house and the competition winner Anna Tcybuleva captivated us all with her virtuosity, musicality, technical ability and sheer presence.

The 'Leeds' is arguably the finest piano competition in the world and the only one to have such close links with a major university. This is not only about sharing our resources and accommodation, although these things matter. The real point is that we share common strengths and values: a commitment to quality, high standards and professionalism; strong local roots and worldwide reach; and integrity – for LIPC, the judging system and for the University, the quality of our degrees. The preparation of bright and talented young people, regardless of their background, to advance their careers and make their way in a complex, highly competitive and often troubled global environment – one that is full of challenge but also full of promise – is a common objective. The world needs a new generation of artists, professionals, creative thinkers and problem solvers.

Alan Langlands

News

Unlocking the secrets of sporting success

Some of China's top young athletes, sports coaches, academics and professors attended a two-week conference at the University as part of a worldwide development programme organised by the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC).

Thirty delegates took part in a packed programme which included lectures from international coaches, expert academics and sports scientists from the University and Leeds Beckett University, as well as visits to world-class sports facilities in the UK. While in Leeds, the delegation stayed in Storm Jameson Court and enjoyed meals prepared by University chefs.

The visit came about as a result of the strong links formed by the University's Sport and Physical Activity (SPA) service with sporting organisations in China, which culminated in 2012 when the University successfully hosted the COC's official pre-London 2012 training camp. Over 300 athletes and officials attended

this event and were significantly impressed with their experience at Leeds, commending our sports facilities, accommodation and catering. As a result, a partnership has been forged between the University, the COC and Beijing Sports University.

SPA's Head of Sport Rob Wadsworth says: "To have such prestigious international guests is a fantastic endorsement of the expertise of our academics, the Facilities Directorate team and the University's facilities."

Mr Xia Lunhao, Vice-Director General of Sports Officials Training Centre of General Administration of Sport and Vice-President, Beijing Sports University, said: "I am very pleased to bring the 'China Top One Hundred Outstanding Young Sports Professionals and Technical Personnel Training Programme' to the University. After the success of the Chinese Olympic Committee's Pre Games Training Camp here in 2012. I am sure our delegation will gain a great deal from their time in this great city."



Mr Xia Lunhao, Head of delegation, with Jonny and Alistair Brownlee during their training at The Edge

Winners making an impact

The tremendous contribution that the University's academics and their research makes to society were celebrated with the announcement of the winners of the inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Impact Awards.

"The awards were a great success with submissions received from all nine faculties," says Research and Innovation Services' Dr Philip Waywell. "The entries demonstrated a broad range of cultural, economic and societal impacts resulting from University research, and beneficiaries included members of the public, industrialists, cultural institutions and policymakers from across the world."

Read about the winners overleaf.

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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:

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If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the magazine, please email 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 winners of the Vice-Chancellor's Impact Awards (l-r): Dr Clifford Stott (Law), Professor Alison Fell (Languages, Cultures and Societies), Professor Doug Parker (Earth and Environment) and Dr Simon Goodman (Biology).

News

Vice-Chancellor's Impact Awards – the winners

The winners were all commended for their sustained efforts in delivering high-impact research over a number of years, often with multiple beneficiaries.

Medicine and Biological Science category

Dr Simon Goodman – *Biosecurity and Sustainable Tourism in the Galapagos Islands*

The Galapagos Islands are of huge value to Ecuador's tourism income and priceless as a past and future area of scientific study. Research on the way that new diseases enter the Islands helped persuade the Ecuadorian

government to change laws protecting the Islands' biodiversity. For example, all direct international flights to the Islands are now banned, and any domestic aircraft flying there must first be treated with insecticide. These and other biosecurity improvements mean that the Islands are no longer on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger.



Engineering and Physical Sciences and Environmental Sciences category

Professor Doug Parker – *the Africa Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis*
Co-investigators – Dr Jim McQuaid and Professor Dwayne Heard

Part of one of the largest research programmes ever carried out in Africa, the project studies the impact of the West African monsoon on the African and global

environment. The work has greatly improved weather prediction and climate monitoring and modelling in West Africa. This has huge benefits for farmers, the transport industry and the general population.

The programme brought together African research institutions and developed new academic courses in meteorology and climate science, so future national and international climate action plans can be supported by scientific expertise.

Social Sciences category

Dr Clifford Stott – *Promoting Evidence-based Public Order and Public Safety Policing*

This research examines how conflict develops in crowds and how some forms of policing can escalate the disorder that they are meant to curb. His work has had a major influence on policing at public events and protests.

Public protest policing in the UK was reviewed after the death of Ian Tomlinson during the

G20 summit demonstrations in London in 2009. Several recommendations made as a result of this review were based on Dr Stott's findings, including that dialogue and negotiation should now be the primary tools used by police at crowd events. These reforms in policy and practice have been successful in maximising public safety and reducing the likelihood of disorder at public events, safeguarding human rights, and making policing operations cheaper.



Arts and Humanities category

Professor Alison Fell – *Legacies of War*
Co-investigators – Dr Claudia Sternberg, Dr Ingrid Sharp, Dr Jessica Meyer, Professor Graeme Goody and Professor Simon Ball

Legacies of War explores five aspects of the First World War: Yorkshire and the War; War and Medicine; Culture and the Arts; Resistance and War; and Science and Technology.

The project focuses on work with key partners, and the team has worked with over 40 community groups. Through public events, exhibitions and educational work,

the project has shaped the way Leeds and the region is marking the centenary of the war, and encouraged greater public use of archives, libraries and heritage sites.

The team collaborated with twin cities in France and Germany to produce online education materials that will be used by teachers in all three countries. Project members have had a wider influence on public understanding of the war by advising government and other bodies, including the BBC. A MOOC developed with the BBC is now signed up over 12,000 learners.



Research and innovation

Celebrating Molecular Science at Leeds

The Astbury Conversation 11-12 April 2016

A new two-day event celebrating and exploring the importance of structural molecular biology both within and outside the University is taking place on campus next spring. Called 'The Astbury Conversation', it encompasses activities for both public and academic audiences and will underline the expertise and excellence that exists within the University in this key scientific area.

"The University has a very long-standing reputation in structural molecular biology, which goes right back to William and Lawrence Bragg – famous for developing X-ray crystallography – and William Astbury, all three of whom made ground-breaking discoveries while working here at Leeds," says Professor Sheena Radford, Director of the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology. "Astbury actually coined the term 'molecular biology' as a way of describing his new approach to the study of living systems in molecular detail. We thought it was very appropriate to honour his contribution to the science, hence the title of our new, biennial event."

The highlight of the Astbury Conversation will be a free, public lecture by Professor Michael Levitt, awarded the 2013 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. "This is a great and rare opportunity for the public and colleagues from across the University and beyond to come and listen to a world-class academic, to find out why he got the Nobel Prize and why his

work is important to everyone – it should be inspirational," says Professor Radford.

Before and after the lecture, visitors will also be able to learn about and understand different aspects of molecular biology by browsing a range of stalls in Parkinson Court. They'll have the chance to network, chat to our academics about their research, watch demonstrations and performances, and take part in interactive sessions exploring the disciplines of chemistry, physics and biological sciences.

"Molecular biology is a vast area that spans from physics all the way to medicine and, because it has such a massive range of applications, it can spark an interest in people from many different disciplines," says Professor Radford. "This year, with Professor Levitt's lecture – *Birth and future of multiscale modelling of macromolecules* – the focus is on biophysics. In future, however, the Astbury Conversation could centre on how structural molecular biology is used in research areas such as engineering, agriculture or cancer,



Professor Sheena Radford

with discussions, lectures and displays around the specific theme."

A two-day research symposium on the theme of *'Understanding complex macromolecular systems from sparse data'* is being held prior to the public lecture. The symposium will bring researchers to Leeds with research interests in the topic of the Astbury Conversation with several prestigious international speakers also coming to present their most exciting research findings.

"The symposium will enable the very best researchers at all career stages to discuss recent innovations in the field of structural molecular biology," says Professor Radford. "As a part of the Astbury Conversation, the University is supporting the symposium, so attendance costs are very reasonable. Registration is now open, and I'd urge colleagues to sign up and to encourage others from their academic networks to attend what will be an exceptional mix of networking and superb science. There are also still opportunities for people to present their work and take part in the public event; they can register for the symposium and obtain a ticket for the Astbury Conversation Lecture by Professor Levitt at www.astburyconversation.leeds.ac.uk/"

Speaking about the inaugural event, Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands says: "I am delighted that Leeds is initiating and hosting an event of this calibre and scope. Structural molecular biology has long been a key area of academic excellence within the University, and this is an opportunity for us to celebrate and disseminate our expertise. It also builds on our important investment in NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) spectrometry and electron microscopy and is an important step in promoting the expansion of our world class research in this area. The initiative is an important step towards achieving our strategic objective of putting Leeds 'on the map' for this kind of globally important research expertise."



Dr Thomas Edwards (Deputy Director Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology) mounts a protein crystal on to the X-ray generator, an Astbury Centre facility housed within the Faculty of Biological Sciences

Research and innovation

EMPOWERing sustainable mobility

A new €4.89m international collaboration headed by the University's Institute for Transport Studies (ITS) is set to reduce our cities' reliance on conventionally fuelled vehicles.

The EMPOWER research project will create a set of new tools to influence the mobility choices and behaviour of drivers by using positive incentives delivered through smart technologies.

It will reduce the use of conventionally fuelled vehicles by shifting trips to more sustainable vehicle types, promoting sharing and self-organisation, and reducing demand overall through, for example, remote access to services.

Funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme, the three-year project will use individual mobility profiling in 11 'living labs' across Europe as part of an ambitious set of plans.



Consortium Leader Dr Susan Grant-Muller, together with Co-investigator Ms Frances Hodgson, both from ITS, leads the international collaboration of 12 universities, research institutes, city authorities and small-medium enterprises. She says: "The time is right to explore the full potential of pervasive smart technologies as part of a behavioural approach to transport demand management that focuses on carrots rather than sticks. We aim to demonstrate the energy and carbon savings that can be achieved by a large number of people making modest shifts in their transport choices."

At present, transport planners, policymakers and city authorities face a mass of evidence on which types of positive incentives (including

rewards, points and peer support) work well and how best to design incentive schemes. An important product of EMPOWER will be a toolkit to support positive policy interventions.

The toolkit will include:

- New mobility services to deliver positive incentive-based schemes
- New evidence on behavioural responses and impacts from positive incentives
- Improved business models for those engaging with incentive-based schemes
- Innovation in the evaluation of new mobility services.

Visit <http://goo.gl/Nr8bOp> for more information.

Meeting the challenges of big data

The University's new Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (LIDA) is set to help public and private sector organisations meet the challenges and opportunities of the big data revolution.

The Institute offers state-of-the-art facilities in data analytics and will partner with researchers and organisations to help them make the most of the rapidly growing fields of consumer and medical data analysis.

Professor Mark Birkin, Director of LIDA, says: "Using large and complex data sets presents huge challenges for organisations. They may be combining different data with their own sales data, analysing and integrating data from various sources, or simply thinking about diverse data sets that can be pulled together to reveal new insights.

"With all these challenges, there is a constant need for new techniques and tools, and to ensure organisations have the right data analytics capabilities. That's where LIDA comes in – we're a trusted partner that has developed world-class facilities under one roof, so we've

raised the bar in standards of secure data storage, access and analysis."

LIDA's facilities include:

- Research project resources – academics and research students are available for commissioned project work, independently or working alongside an organisation's existing teams
- Working space – enabling the big data community to come together in one place to work on projects or enhance data skills through collaboration and interaction
- Training – bespoke training and various data analytics programmes are available for academic and non-academic researchers, ranging from introductory courses for postgraduate students to advanced training for data scientists

- Data visualisation suite – to represent spatial and temporal patterns in large and complete datasets of a very high resolution

- Data services – providing dedicated support and guidance to researchers and data partners, with expertise in systems and database administration, data management and software engineering

- High performance computing (HPC) – access to leading-edge IT resources to undertake research for mutual benefit. The HPC facilities enable techniques such as computational simulation and modelling, and the storage and manipulation of large data sets to pursue research which otherwise could not be investigated.

LIDA is also home to two centres of research, the MRC Centre for Medical Bioinformatics and the ESRC Consumer Data Research Centre.

Research and innovation

A catalyst for social sciences

“A platform and catalyst that makes things happen; not always flag waving in the foreground, but always incredibly active behind the scenes,” is how Leeds Social Sciences Institute (LSSI) is described by its new Director, Professor Adam Crawford.

Professor Adam Crawford, Director of LSSI



Since it was established in 2004, LSSI has encouraged, supported and enabled cross-disciplinary research across the faculties of Arts, Education, Social Sciences and Law, Environment, Medicine and Health, and Performance, Visual Arts and Communications, and Leeds University Business School (LUBS). With the appointment of two Deputy Directors – Professor Paul Routledge, Professor in Social and Urban Change (Environment), and Professor Jenny Tomlinson, Professor of Gender and Employment Relations (LUBS) – the Institute is set to enter a new phase. The LSSI is also set to appoint a new Research and Innovation Development Manager to support large and cross-disciplinary external research grant capture in the social sciences. This post will complement the existing roles of LSSI Administrator (Sophia Kennedy) and Support Officer (Susan Darlington).

In collaboration with research leaders across the University, the LSSI team is advancing the implementation of the ambitious Social Sciences Research Strategy approved in 2014. The LSSI has been formally designated as a cross-university ‘platform’ that will play a key role in delivering research goals identified in the University’s strategic plan.

“We very much act as enablers, identifying strategic developments outside the University and supporting activities that respond to those,” says Professor Crawford, who is Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the School of Law. “Social scientists at Leeds are dispersed across six faculties to varying degrees, so we aim to reach individuals and groups of social science researchers and provide additional value through collaboration. LSSI acts as a

voice and organising point for the University’s social scientists, where they can explore and debate important national and global issues such as caring for aging populations, energy consumption, future cities, and big data.

“LSSI also has a very large part to play in making connections with colleagues from outside the social sciences, thereby ensuring for example that the social sciences are embedded in the University’s strategic research themes. We can strengthen large interdisciplinary research grant applications by facilitating input from different disciplines and ensuring they have a strong social sciences dimension.”

LSSI encompasses several other key activities, including co-ordinating the White Rose Social Sciences Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) in conjunction with the universities of Sheffield and York, which trains and develops the future generation of social scientists. The Institute also has a particular role in terms of external engagement with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and in 2015/16 is set to launch programme of activities and opportunities under its Impact Acceleration Account overseen by the ESRC. Beyond the University, the LSSI has strong links with the N8 Research Partnership and the White Rose Consortium.

“LSSI provides a central point from which the University can organise and relate to strategically important external stakeholder and funding bodies such as the ESRC,” continues Professor Crawford. “It enables us to identify and engage with external partners in the public, private and third sectors, such as local government, central government, the

care sector and the police, as well as exploring opportunities with international institutions.”

LSSI hosts regular workshops, lectures and conferences, enabling people from both inside and outside the University to debate key social science issues, exchange ideas, meet others with similar research interests, and identify opportunities for collaboration. A full programme of events – together with news and research case studies – can be found at www.lssi.leeds.ac.uk

Seven aims of LSSI

- Encouraging and enabling cross-disciplinary research within the University
- Improving the quality, and thus the success, of applications for large interdisciplinary grants
- Building and consolidating our relationship with the ESRC
- Building strategic relationships with important groups, such as the police, healthcare providers and local government
- Coordinating the White Rose Doctoral Training Centre (including the award of 70+ ESRC studentships each year)
- Identifying and capitalising on opportunities for international partnerships
- Fostering and hosting important social science debates

Opportunities for students

Unilever partnership goes from strength to strength

The University's partnership with Unilever continues to go from strength to strength, with nearly 60 students undertaking internships and placement years since the relationship was founded in 2009.

The Unilever site in Leeds is the biggest deodorant factory in Europe, and it's here that our students can undertake projects over a wide range of business areas, from finance to supply chain to engineering. Students undertake exciting real-life projects in a fast-paced manufacturing environment, allowing them to gain key employability skills such as communication, project management and commercial awareness.

Kirsten Wood, Unilever Finance Manager, says: "Employing these high-calibre students brings fresh new ideas to the business and allows us to initiate projects which might otherwise not have been possible. We feel the financial investment is outweighed by the contributions the interns make to the business in terms of improved process, efficiency gains and implementation of environmental initiatives. The success of the programme has meant that we have been able to offer increasing numbers of

exciting opportunities. Many of the interns have impressed so much that they continue to work with us during their final year."

Sarah Goldstone, Work Placement Project Officer at the University, says: "For our students, the experience of working with Unilever is both challenging and rewarding. The projects they work on allow them to apply their academic knowledge and consider their future career plans. In seeking to continually improve the programme, we are in discussion with Unilever to explore the potential to fast-track some students through to their national graduate recruitment scheme. We use this partnership as an example of best practice when working with other organisations keen to develop similar exclusive opportunities for our students."

For more information about how organisations can engage with our students and graduates, view the new Employer Engagement guide at <http://goo.gl/7Jj3M1>



Gaining experience at Unilever

"Although working in a laboratory within University allowed me to get to grips with the practical side of engineering, the experience you get from working in an industrial environment is really important. I have a much better idea of where I want to take my career."

William Fletcher, BEng Chemical Engineering

Bringing postgraduates together

Interconnections – a new project which aims to promote social and academic interaction for postgraduates in the Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communications (PVAC) – has proved so successful that it's set to continue this year.

A team from PVAC organised a variety of social, cultural and activities so students and academics could meet in a more relaxed setting, giving them the opportunity to socialise and collaborate. Such occasions proved very popular, with around 140 students attending 10 events.

Lenka Vrablikova, from the PVAC Interconnections team and a PhD student in the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies, says: "Projects like Interconnections are really important in university life, as there are not many activities or events organised specifically for postgraduates. Generally it is not easy for PG students, who may only be here in Leeds for one very intense and demanding year, to meet new people and take part in social activities, and it's even more challenging if you are not originally from the UK. The Interconnections team realised this and created lots of opportunities for PGs to meet other MA

and PhD students from the faculty elsewhere than in a seminar room."

Lenka hopes to see more projects like this implemented across the University and would like Interconnections to influence and encourage colleagues. She's happy to talk about her experiences setting up the project: email her at l.vrablikova@leeds.ac.uk

The Interconnections group is headed by Dr Luke Windsor, Faculty Pro-Dean for Student Education. Lenka and fellow postgraduate student Fan Wu (School of Performance and Cultural Industries) act as host coordinators and the team is busy planning to expand the project this year.

"We had a lot of fun – it was a nice break away from my studies, and I also learnt something new about British history and culture."



Lenka (r) and Fan are planning to expand this year's project

International and community

Showcasing public engagement projects

Just a year after launching the pilot Engagement Excellence Scheme (EES) in the Faculty of Medicine and Health, four Engagement Fellows presented posters showing the breadth and scope of their projects to a national gathering of Public Engagement Ambassadors.

- **Dr Matthew Allsop** outlined how he communicated about palliative care research during Dying Matters Week. He supported a 'Death Café' event at St Gemma's Hospice where people discussed death, and an accompanying Twitter campaign addressed taboos around palliative and end of life care. He also prepared a survey identifying unanswered questions about this type of care, which informed the website for the Academic Unit of Palliative Care and St Gemma's.
- **Dr Marie Parker's** project – Inspiring the next generation of scientists – saw her work with a local school, encouraging pupils to continue with their studies in higher education by bringing them into University labs for taster science sessions.

- **Dr Julia Csikar's** presentation examined 'Engaging homeless people in oral health research', and outlined the qualitative research she undertook with homeless people to understand the barriers they faced when trying to access care and look after their oral health.

- **Dr Daniel Skrzypiec** presented his work on measuring public engagement, which used a novel coded-token approach to capture the age, gender and understanding of visitors to a large public engagement event – the Engineering Experience, part of the Leeds Festival of Science.

During the meeting, organised by the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement, the University's Dr Alexa Ruppertsberg also gave an overview of the EES. She explained how it uses a co-production approach to foster developing

talent in public engagement, and embed it as an integral, valued part of research design and delivery. The scheme takes a personalised and focused approach to help researchers progress and deliver engagement and impact plans and activities.

The Fellows found the meeting a great opportunity to meet professionals and researchers with a passion for public engagement, and learn from their experiences of forming partnerships and driving public engagement in their own institutions.

To mark the completion of the ESS pilot, the Fellows will be presented with a certificate at the Pepnet meeting on 30 September. This meeting will also celebrate the University's signing of the Manifesto for Public Engagement and the launch of its Public Engagement team.



Engagement fellows Alexa, Daniel, Julia, Marie and Matthew

Be Curious! festival – a chance to explore health and wellbeing

The public are invited to explore and investigate the subject of health and wellbeing during the University's first **Be Curious!** festival on Saturday 19 March 2016.

The event will open campus to the public, inviting families and children to experience what's happening behind the University's doors. It's an opportunity for researchers to showcase their research by putting on activities that will involve and engage the public.

For researchers, activities at the festival could form part of their Pathways to Impact activities and give public engagement experience through working with members of the public and seeking their views, comments and questions. If you are not a researcher, it's a great opportunity to find out what's happening on campus.

"It is important that engagement during **Be Curious!** consists of a variety of hands-on, interactive, fun activities that will involve the whole family and ignites their curiosity," says the Public Engagement team's Marina Crowe. "Description and delivery of the events needs to be in layman's terms to excite and enthuse a general, non-academic audience."

Faculties and schools can provide 'taster' stands in Parkinson Court relating to the theme 'Health and Wellbeing'. From here, scheduled tours – guided by student ambassadors – will take people to visit faculties and schools so they can take part in further activities and events. These could include showcasing unique pieces of equipment or techniques used in research, short presentations, demonstrations or hands-on activities. Additional plans for the day include busking and campus art tours and it's hoped that 'fringe' events may also be held.

For advice on planning activities, please contact the Public Engagement team – Dr Charlotte Haigh, Dr Alexa Ruppertsberg and Marina Crowe – by emailing peteam@leeds.ac.uk

Professor David Hogg, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, will send further information and selection criteria to all faculties and schools, so let your Faculty Pro-Dean for Research/Head of School know if you'd like your work to be considered. Final decisions about activities to be showcased at **Be Curious!** will be made by Faculty Pro-Deans for Research or Head of School.



Valuing our people

Accomplishment + recognition

Some things are just meant to go together

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 2015 are your opportunity to recognise their achievements.

Supported by the trade unions, the awards aim to build staff and student engagement with our health and safety ethos and achievements. **Nominations are open from 24 September until 29 October** so you have just five weeks to ensure the accomplishments of a colleague, student or team are recognised in the 2015 Awards.

"We responded to feedback and reviewed the judging categories to help encourage and recognise a wider range of health and safety contributions from across all the University disciplines," explains Head of Health and Safety Service, Paul Veevers.

"Nominations this year will be grouped by either the services, Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) or Business, arts and social sciences (BASS) areas so each nomination can be judged against those who have 'gone the extra mile' for health and safety in a similar field. As in previous years we'll be welcoming nominations individuals or teams, and are still looking for unsung heroes, teams and individual drivers to celebrate great health and safety practice at the University between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015. The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety – personally selected by the Vice-Chancellor (VC) – will be chosen as the most inspiring

application from all entries."

To make a nomination read the information at www.leeds.ac.uk/safety before completing the relevant form. Send this, together with background information, to safety@leeds.ac.uk or in the internal mail to the VC's Awards for Health and Safety, Health and Safety Services, 5-9 Willow Terrace, before 29 October.

The Health and Safety Service is undergoing a refresh; a new 'You+Me' logo will be seen on the 2015 VC Awards literature and will be launched formally at the first University Safety Committee in October. Full details will be available in the coming months.

Winner of the 2014 VC's Award, Gemma Smales from The Edge



Wanted – female leaders in healthcare

There are still fewer women than men in senior healthcare and clinical academic positions, in Leeds and across the UK. To help tackle this, the Leeds Female Leaders Network aims to inspire women working in healthcare by building confidence, skills and contacts; it brings together like-minded people into a supportive network, linked with other regions and sectors.

This joint initiative between the University of Leeds and the Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust provides a twice-yearly event, networking opportunities across the Leeds Partnership, and a web presence which contains activity updates, resources and a secure area for discussion groups and information sharing.

Network member and Associate Professor in the Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Dr Ai Lyn Tan, says: "The Leeds Female Leaders Network provided me with great opportunities to meet

like-minded people outside my department who have the same drive, so we can share experiences and learn about leadership. It made me realise I'm not alone in my 'journey', and I get the benefit of being inspired by great leaders in the organised events."

The Network's first event of 2015/16 takes place on Wednesday 30 September. The theme is 'Innovative Leadership', and the CEO of Welcome to Yorkshire, Sir Gary Verity, will be the guest speaker. For details and to register to attend go to <http://goo.gl/hUvNYM>



Valuing our people

Recognising excellence – Women of Achievement nominations now open

Do you know of an outstanding colleague or student who could be one of this year's Women of Achievement?

You can nominate any current female student or member of staff for their achievements over the past 18 months (since March 2014). Achievements could be in:

- research
- student education or student experience
- scholarship
- technical or administrative support.

They might have led to external prizes or awards, or to a major role here or elsewhere. The judges will also consider sustained contributions to the advancement of women at Leeds or in the wider academic world.

We'll celebrate the award winners at an event on International Women's Day in March 2016 and we'll feature them on the For Staff website throughout the following year. Portraits of the winners will also form part of the

University's permanent Women of Achievement photographic exhibition.

Nominations should be submitted to AthenaSwan@adm.leeds.ac.uk by Friday 16 October.

Please note that staff employed by external organisations (eg, LUU, Bright Beginnings, Unipol) and staff who have already been recognised as finalists in previous Women of Achievement awards are not eligible for nomination.

Athena SWAN Bronze Award

Congratulations to the University's School of Psychology which has been awarded an Athena SWAN Bronze Award.



Three of this year's Women of Achievement: (from left) Dr Lorna Dougan, Professor Anna Lawson and Professor Lindsay Stringer

New cloud-based storage service for staff

All University staff now have access to a new service, OneDrive – University of Leeds, which gives you 1TB (terabyte) of cloud-based file storage. That's enough for around 300,000 images.

What are the benefits?

You can:

- store and access documents that you might be working on in different locations
- share and work on documents with colleagues
- create and edit documents using Office Online, without having Office on your computer
- cut down on the need to use USB memory sticks, which frequently break, get damaged or lost.

The new service is managed by the University and strongly recommended, so it is a supported alternative to non-approved services like Google Docs or Dropbox.

How do I use it?

You can access *OneDrive – University of Leeds* from any device (PC, Mac, laptop, tablet or phone) using a web browser, or by installing an app.

Go to <http://it.leeds.ac.uk/onedrive> to find out more.

What can I store on OneDrive – University of Leeds?

OneDrive is ideal for storing all your work data that you might need to access from more than one place or share with colleagues.

Where can I find out more?

The service is available to all staff and students, and you can find out more online at <http://it.leeds.ac.uk/onedrive>. You can contact the ITServiceDesk@leeds.ac.uk if you need help using the service. Make sure you read the Terms and Conditions before getting started.

Please note, OneDrive – University of Leeds is not the same as the OneDrive – personal, which is a consumer service provided by Microsoft to anyone with a Microsoft-hosted email account like hotmail.co.uk

In the news



The global significance of University of Leeds research was recognised with extensive national and international coverage of the development of a **non-invasive device that could end the finger pricking test for people with diabetes**. Professor Peter Grant (Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine) and Professor Gin Jose (School of Chemical and Process Engineering) were interviewed by a number of media outlets regarding the research including *BBC News Online*, *ITV News*, the *Times*, *Asianet TV*, BBC One's *Look North* and *Sky News*.

Research led jointly by Professor Tim Bishop (School of Medicine) and researchers at Newcastle University, which suggests that a regular dose of **aspirin can cut the risk of obesity-related cancers**, featured in the *Times*, *ITV News* and *Bangkok Post*.

Dr Jim McQuaid (School of Earth and Environment) has had a regular weekly segment on the *Paul Hudson Weather Show* on BBC Radio in which he has discussed the **atmospheric scientists** who have inspired him.

Dr Victoria Honeyman (School of Politics and International Studies) was interviewed on BBC Radio Leeds about the political battle for **Labour leadership**.

Dr Andrew Warnes (School of English), author of *Savage Barbecue: Race, Culture, and the Invention of America's First Food*, discussed the **origins of the barbecue** – and the undercurrents of racism in the cooking method's history – on Wisconsin Public Radio.

The *Hindustan Times* reported on Dr Jasjit Singh (Philosophy, Religion and the History of Science) article for The Conversation about **Sikh community kitchens** becoming the new food banks in the UK.

Emeritus Professor John Brindley (School of Mathematics) is quoted about his research suggesting that hydrogen peroxide may have provided **the 'spark' needed to kick start life on Earth** 3.7 billion years ago in the *Mail online*.

Maria Ayaz, Equality and Inclusion Manager (Human Resources), featured in *CIPD People Management* magazine, discussing **care responsibilities and the workplace**.

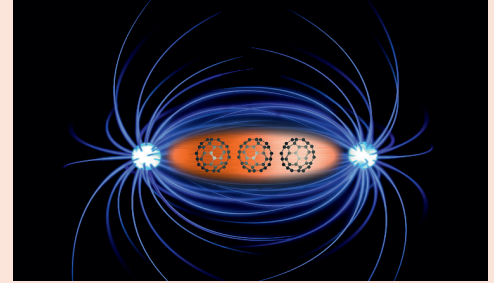
The *Washington Post* featured Dr Adam Cathcart (School of History) commenting on the proliferation of **statues in North Korea** connecting Kim Jong Un to his grandfather.

The *Los Angeles Times* featured Dr Stephen Wright (Energy Research Institute) commenting on the discovery of wreckage possibly connected to the disappearance of **Malaysia Airlines Flight 370**.

Professor Simon Kay (School of Medicine) was interviewed by *Sky News* at the Leeds General Infirmary about **hand transplants** in light of news from America where a child received a double hand transplant.

Professor Tim Benton (School of Biology) featured in the *Guardian* after conducting research that suggests climate change and a rising demand in food from rising populations could cause **global food shocks**.

The *Guardian* featured research from the University's EMBER project, revealing that **heather burning on moorland** has a significant negative impact on peat hydrology. Professor Joseph Holden (School of Geography) was interviewed by BBC One's *Look North* and BBC Radio Leeds.



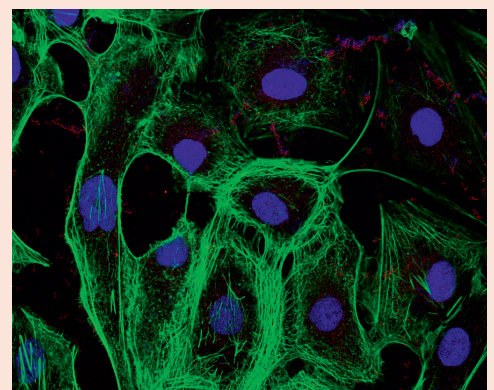
Dr Oscar Cespedes (School of Physics and Astronomy) featured in international science magazines *Welt der Physik* and *Cosmos* reporting on research led by the University that demonstrated how to **generate magnetism in metals that are not naturally magnetic**. The story was also popular on social media, thanks to an article on the popular website *IFL Science* that generated 43,500 "Facebook Likes".

An *ITV News* online article on remembering the prisoners of war who suffered building **the 'other' Death Railway** featured research by Leeds Humanities Research Institute Research Fellow Lizzie Oliver.

New Scientist reported on research involving Dr Mike Nix and Ben Whitaker (both School of Chemistry) on the development of a new projection device that allows the **beaming of moving images directly onto clouds**.

Dr Steve Clapcote (School of Biomedical Sciences) featured in the *Toronto Sun* on **research that created unusually brainy mice** by altering a single gene. As a result, the mice were also less likely to feel anxiety or recall fear.

Research led by Professor John Ladbury (School of Molecular and Cellular Biology) was featured in the *Times of India* on research which showed that **ovarian cancer** can be caused solely by protein imbalances within cells.



Our people/honours

School of Music researcher **Dr Alex McLean** was chosen by the British Science Association to give the inaugural Daphne Oram Award Lecture at this year's British Science Festival. The lecture is intended to present to a lay audience the most innovative research using digital technology that connects science and the arts. Alex, whose research interests include live coding and music improvisation, gave a lecture entitled 'Live coding: creating languages for making music', which explored how algorithms are changing the way we experience the world and the potential for new collaborative ways to make music.

The University has been shortlisted for one of the country's most valuable contemporary art awards. Working with artist Katrina Palmer and the Henry Moore Institute, the University's **Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery** is one of just four in the UK in the running for the Contemporary Art Society Annual Award 2015.

The award is given to a museum or public gallery so it can commission a major new artwork for its permanent collection from an artist not yet well represented in British museum collections.

The partnership hopes to devise a commission for Katrina focusing on the University's public art collection. Katrina makes sculptures using words and could devise an audio artwork, creating the University's first non-object campus work. The Henry Moore Institute, which is the curatorial partner for the University project, will host a major solo exhibition by Katrina from December.

The **MSc Accounting and Finance programme** at **Leeds University Business School** is the number one such programme in the world for the second consecutive year, according to the 2015 Financial Times Masters in Finance Pre-Experience rankings. The prestigious league table also recognises the Business School's commitment to employability and professional development. The School is placed fifth in the UK (20th globally) for 'careers', which measures the career status of our alumni three years after graduation according to seniority and company size. This position endorses the success of the programme in providing students with the qualification and skill set required to quickly climb the corporate ladder.

The University has been nominated for **two Green Gown Awards**. The first is in the Community Innovation category for the Becoming Positive Partners in Society campaign run by the Sustainability Service and Leeds University Union Partnership Initiative. The second is for Joining forces to Create Sustainable Futures project in the Learning and Skills category.

Both **Commercial and Campus Support Services** and **Residential Services** in the Facilities Directorate have again achieved Customer First Accreditation. Customer First is the national standard which assesses and recognises excellence in meeting customer expectations on a consistent and regular basis. The achievement of this award is a reflection of both services' determined efforts to deliver a first-class experience every time.

Professor Nicola Stonehouse from the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology and the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology.

Professor Stonehouse, whose special research interests are in the areas of viral replication and assembly, was chosen for the major contribution she has made to bioscience in the UK.



School of Earth and Environment Academic Research Fellow **Anja Schmidt** won the highly prestigious **George Walker Award** from the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior.

Mike Jestico (School of Psychology) got through to the final of the national Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition held at the Vitae Conference. Mike won first at the University's own 3MT at the 2014 Annual Postgraduate Research Conference; view it at <http://goo.gl/upqygm>

REMINDER – This year our PGR conference takes place on Tuesday 8 December. For more details, visit www.pgrconference.leeds.ac.uk



Dr Susan Hamer, Director of Nursing, Learning and Organisational Development for the NIHR Clinical Research Network, has been named as one of the UK's top 100 Clinical Leaders by the Health Service Journal (HSJ).

Dr Hamer is seen as hugely important in advancing clinical academic careers for nurses and allied health professionals. One of HSJ's judges highlighted: "The entire academic structure for non-medics is really her work. With new care models requiring new types of professionals, hers will be an important voice."

A large part of Dr Hamer's job is to work with colleagues to ensure that the clinical leadership culture is vibrant and integrated across the network.

Dr Hamer says: "I'm really delighted to be nominated and thrilled that the importance of clinical leadership for delivering high-quality research has been recognised. This is an exciting time to be a leader in a rapidly developing and innovative field of practice. The nurses and clinicians I work with constantly strive to be the best and deliver their best; the least I can do is to try to do the same."

News

Students attending this year's LISS enjoy a day out in Whitby

Summer School – raising our international profile

This summer, 73 undergraduate students from 14 countries attended Leeds International Summer School (LISS) and studied modules from a diverse range of subject areas including country houses, robotics, entrepreneurship and the industrial revolution.

The success of LISS continues to grow, with an increase in student numbers of almost 50% from 2014. This year LISS modules were delivered by eight schools within the University.

Study Abroad Manager Lisa Beare says: "For many schools, participation in LISS plays an important role in demonstrating their commitment to the internationalisation agenda. It gives staff the challenge of adapting their scholarship and teaching to a diverse, international audience of students. Schools can also use LISS to increase international awareness of their academic offering, particularly at postgraduate level.

"Most importantly, LISS is a lot of fun and our

team of enthusiastic module leaders enjoy delivering great teaching while making sure students have the best possible academic experience."

In addition to academic teaching, this year LISS offered students the opportunity to immerse themselves in both Yorkshire and British culture with field trips to York, Whitby, Saltaire, Bolton Abbey and London. A team of Leeds student assistants were on hand during the programme and organised evening and weekend social events so that LISS students made the most of their time being students in Leeds.

For members of staff who may be travelling overseas, there are great opportunities to talk about LISS to potential applicants. Please contact the LISS team at summer@leeds.ac.uk if you have forthcoming international trips and would like to talk to people about LISS, or wish to get involved in running or teaching on the programme. For more information visit www.leeds.ac.uk/summer.

Small ads

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Other

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Wednesday 21 October 11am-3pm, Parkinson Court – please encourage students to come and discover their study abroad options!

Megan Shelton 0113 343 7591, studyabroad@leeds.ac.uk



LeedsPride™
your city your pride

LGBT Staff Network attends Leeds Pride

Tens of thousands of people filled the city centre for Leeds Pride in August, and for the first time the University's LGBT Staff Network was amongst them. The event was well attended by staff, with their supportive banner receiving significant attention from the crowd.

Leeds Pride is an ever-growing march to celebrate and campaign for LGBT rights, and the 2015 parade marked nine years of celebrating the diversity and acceptance of the LGBT community.

John O'Dwyer, part of the Network, says: "The University has a continued commitment to equality and inclusion as our staff and students are made up of a range of people with diverse backgrounds and circumstances, and it was important for the LGBT Staff Network to participate in a local event celebrating that diversity. There is every intention to have a presence at Leeds Pride next year."

The LGBT Staff Network sets out to ensure that LGBT staff are represented and considered at an organisational level, and that their interests continue to form a part of the University's wider equality and diversity agenda. The group is a member of Campus North, an amalgamation of other LGBT staff groups across northern England higher education that meets regularly to discuss inclusion and equality issues. Together with the Equality Policy Unit (EPU), the LGBT Staff Network is involved in the submission to join the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, the leading UK diversity benchmark.

The LGBT Network meets throughout the year for a range of activities, and on the last Wednesday of every month holds a lunchtime drop-in at the EC Stoner Room 12.12, next to the Equality Policy Unit. Join the confidential mailing list at LGBT@leeds.ac.uk

The Network is on Facebook – <https://goo.gl/bBmkbX> – and the EPU webpage is <http://goo.gl/wchi7c>

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 Friday 23 October 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

Events

FESTIVAL OF FREEDOMS



MPs and the Race Relations Act,

Thursday 8 October, 6.30, LG.06, Liberty Building

Fifty years on from the introduction of the Race Relations Act, a panel of speakers from across the political spectrum will discuss its impact and their vision for the future. The event is presented in partnership with the Houses of Parliament, and is one of many events being organised to recognise 750 years since the De

Montfort parliament and 800 years since the sealing of Magna Carta, which paved the way for the emergence of the House of Commons and democracy as we know it.

This is a free event, followed by a public reception, and online registration is required in advance at <http://goo.gl/74BOA3>

On Liberty: In conversation with Shami Chakrabarti

Thursday 15 October, 5.30 in the Western Lecture Theatre

Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, will be joining the School of Law for a conversation about human rights in the 21st century.

This will be followed by a reception and book signing. It is a free event but online registration in advance is required at www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events



FUAM Graduate Art Prize

Until Saturday 3 October, Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery

Five students have been nominated for this year's Friends of University Art and Music (FUAM) Graduate Art Prize. Now in its third year, the prize rewards the artistic excellence of top students completing their studies in fine art and design.

The five finalists and their artworks are:

Sam Judd, *A Chair is a Difficult Thing*, wood and recycled chairs

Caroline Denby, *Neither Here, Nor There: Dave (front) and Sarah (back)*, mixed media installation

Ruff Child, *Coney Island Disco Palace*, mixed media installation

Jack Otway, *Irreversible*, acrylic on gesso panel

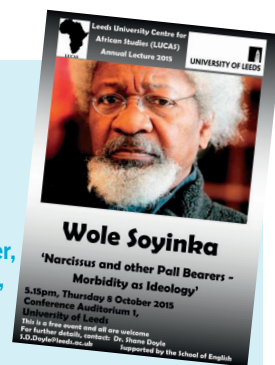
Sophie Hardy, *Hybrids*, digitally edited photographs on PVC

The judging panel, comprising Michelle Calvert (Alumni and Development), Justin Hammond (Curator, Catlin Art Prize) and Helen Pheby of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, found it a challenging yet rewarding experience.

The overall winner will be announced on 30 September and the artist of the year will receive £250. Each runner-up will receive £100. The exhibition is open Monday to Saturday, 10am – 5pm and runs until Saturday 3 October.

Wole Soyinka – 'Narcissus and other Pall Bearers: Morbidity as Ideology'

Thursday 8 October, 5.15pm – 6.45pm, Conference Auditorium 1



The Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Wole Soyinka gives the Leeds University Centre for African Studies (LUCAS) Annual Lecture 2015. The Nigerian playwright and poet graduated from this University with a degree in English in 1957 and was given an honorary degree in 1973.

He has produced over 15 plays, two novels, an autobiography of his childhood, a record of his prison experiences (when detained without trial in Nigeria), volumes of poetry, major critical essays and a host of other various works. He has established himself not only as one of the foremost writers of post-independence Africa, but also as one of the most creative and exciting playwrights in the English language.

This is a free lecture and all are welcome; more details are at <http://goo.gl/zWFalk>



Sam Judd, *A Chair is a Difficult Thing*, wood and recycled chairs

Professor Helen Gleeson Inaugural Lecture – 'Looking Through a Liquid Crystal Ball'

Wednesday 7 October, 5pm, Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre

We are all familiar with the concept of materials as solids, liquids or gases. Another state of matter, the liquid crystal phase, discovered well over 100 years ago, is responsible for revolutionising our lives in recent years. Liquid crystal devices (LCDs) have allowed the development of mobile technology and have fundamentally changed society. It's now hard to imagine life without LCDs.

Professor Gleeson (School of Physics and Astronomy) took on the Cavendish Chair in January 2015 and will be Head of School from 2016, the first woman in the School's history to hold both positions. In this talk she will describe some of the unique features of liquid crystals,

explaining how the combination of order, fluidity and functionality is used in technology and by nature. She will then try to look into the future, through a liquid crystal ball, and describe some of the new liquid crystal phases with nanostructures that offer completely new electro-optical phenomena. Professor Gleeson will also speculate on some of the emerging non-display applications of liquid crystals. She hopes to show that understanding the physics of liquid crystals is both intellectually stimulating and could offer new practical solutions for the future.

Book your place at www.physics.leeds.ac.uk/helengleeson



FAQs

Professor Francis O’Gorman, School of English



What did you do before you came to Leeds?

I taught at the University of Oxford and held a research fellowship at what’s now the University of Gloucestershire. I worked in a department there with Simon Dentith and Peter Widdowson – two wonderful, inspiring colleagues, now sadly both dead.

What’s your role at the University?

I’m a professor in the School of English. I was Director of the Leeds Humanities Research Institute between 2006 and 2007 and Head of the School of English between 2007 and 2011. I’m now a director of a major international digital editing project, among other things.

Your latest book *Worrying: A Literary and Cultural History* has been getting lots of attention; could you tell us about it?

It’s an attempt to write the ‘biography’ of what seems to me a modern western condition. I’ve been interested, among the things I do, in the history of feelings. I’m intrigued by how particular habits of mind are in part formed by circumstances rather than features of a universalised idea of ‘what men and women have always thought/felt’. My sense is that the modern experience of worrying – day-to-day ordinary fretfulness that would never interest a clinician but which occupies the minds of many people for significant portions of their waking lives – is really a distinctive product of the over-busy, over-scheduled, hyper-evaluated world that we’ve created for ourselves and often fail to resist. We’re the restless products of the restless environment that we’ve made. My book starts with, and then explores, that assumption.

Where inspired you to write the book?

That’s hard to answer. I’ve been trying for quite a few years to create a more authentic or at least persuasive voice for writing seriously but also wittily about the inner life, and what I’ve read and seen. The book is personal but also, I hope, more than personal. I’ve tried to talk



about a variety of cultural forms – especially paintings, sculpture, architecture, and Bach – as well as literary representations, and philosophical and theological ideas. John Carey kindly called my book ‘completely original’ in the *Sunday Times* and I suppose that partly indicates that the inspiration didn’t really come from any particular model. I’m often hoping to catch just the dimmest echo of WG Sebald... I haven’t done it yet.

How did you research the subject of worrying?

It’s a subject I’ve been inside for a long time...

What are you worrying about at the minute?

Worries strike me often enough as mobile as well as furtive. They change and they hide. I think worries are geological. They lurk in layers beneath the surface of ordinary life and it’s not always easy to say what exactly is the problem at any single moment. Right now, though, somewhere in my head I’m bothered about how my house and cats are after a week away from home (worries are often, it seems to me, about security); fretting about a new editorial role I’ve been offered and whether it would be wise to take it; and worrying whether the next review of *Worrying* will be a hatchet job...

What do you get up to in your spare time?

I take music seriously. I held the organ scholarship of my college at Oxford and I still try to play the organ every day. I write about music and I listen.

Do you have a special talent that not many people know about?

I don’t alas. But I like making everything I cook. I’m a vegetarian and I enjoy making my own bread, pasta, jam, hummus, pesto, falafel... if only I could perfect my own Chablis.

What’s your most frequently asked question?

Probably ‘Pinot Grigio or Sauvignon Blanc?’. If in the University I guess it’s ‘Have you completed X form?’

What is your favourite book, film and piece of music?

I used to say that my favourite book was Peter Levi’s aching autobiography *The Flutes of Autumn* but I re-read it eight months ago after a few years and found it precious and ornate. It was a strange disappointment. So let me say simply what are the best books I’ve read in the last six weeks: Matthew Beaumont’s *Nightwalking*, Helen Macdonald’s *H is for Hawk*, and Iain Sinclair’s *London Orbital*. Stunning, each. I don’t have a TV and haven’t been to the cinema since *March of the Penguins*, so don’t know one end of a film from another now. As for music, it’s very important to me. If I needed to choose just one piece, I’d say that I adored Murray Perahia’s reading of Bach’s *Goldberg Variations* for Sony, a recording that for me is an astonishing combination of emotional delicacy and technical control. It’s a sonic world where worrying, for once, doesn’t make much sense.



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