



Get ready to Be Curious

All are invited to a new family-friendly event showcasing our exciting and innovative health and wellbeing research.

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Sleep Research @ Leeds

A new initiative is set to transform the way we think about sleep and how health services encourage healthy sleep.

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Winning team cut accidents in the lab

A team from the Faculty of Biological Sciences improved lab procedures and instructions to win the coveted Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety 2015.

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Leader column

Making the case for intelligent reform

We are already in the swing of 2016 – teaching has started, this year's first tranche of examinations is complete, Senate has met, and nominations for the student executive are open. Once again it will be a busy year. It could also see the beginning of significant changes for higher education in the UK.

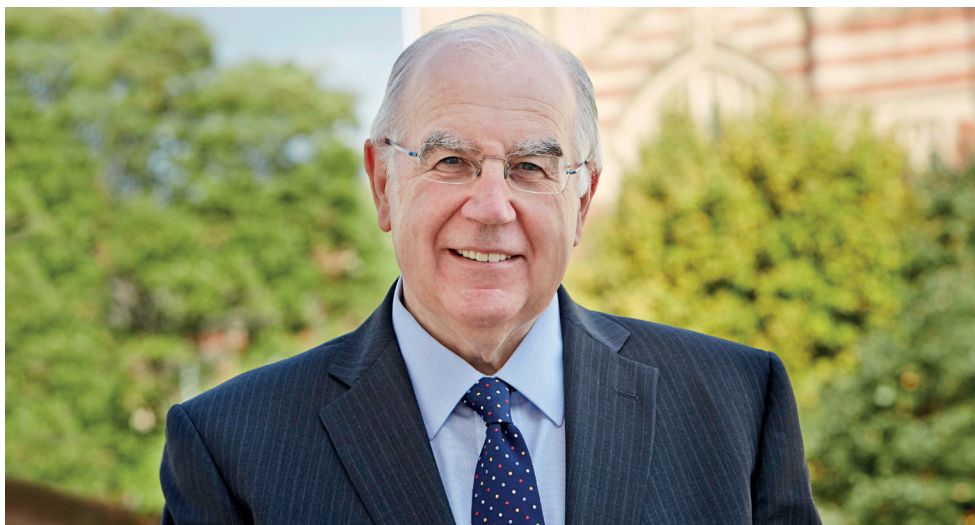
As outlined in my last column, we have been preparing – and have now submitted – our response to the Government Green Paper on higher education and you can read it on the For Staff website. We agreed with the broad sweep of the detailed responses made by the Russell Group and UUK and confined our response to key questions on the oversight of universities at national level, the Government's intention to open up the sector to new entrants, the teaching excellence framework, and the dual support system of research funding.

I have no doubt that the Government's proposals have been formulated with the best of intentions and we support the core aims of the Green Paper – to raise teaching standards, boost graduate employability, widen participation and encourage new high-quality entrants. However, we do have some key points of difference on how intelligent reform might be delivered.

The existing legislation has worked well for almost 25 years and has supported the development of world-leading higher education and research. The principles of university autonomy and academic freedom are key to this and must be maintained. The Green Paper proposes splitting the regulation, funding and oversight of teaching and research, potentially between several different bodies. We believe that this is fundamentally wrong as it would fragment and overcomplicate the engagement between Government and universities. It risks an unnecessary division between education and research and increased transaction costs.

The distinctiveness of a university education depends on the symbiotic relationship between teaching and research; research-led education enhances the student experience and prepares high quality graduates for employment. We recommend that any new national body should operate a 'whole system' approach to regulation, funding and oversight, enabling a coherent approach to improvement in undergraduate and postgraduate education, research and innovation.

The Green Paper also implies some relaxation of the requirements for new entrants to the sector. University Title is precious and valuable – the criteria and process for obtaining this need to be rigorous, focusing on key questions of academic



standards and quality; access and participation; transparency and provision of information for students and the wider public; the effective handling of student complaints and redress; and questions of financial sustainability and good governance.

We welcome the principles behind the introduction of a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). However, teaching excellence must incorporate and reflect diversity, be the sum of many factors and chime with the varying perceptions of students, institutions and employers. The TEF should be a mechanism for enhancing teaching excellence and building on the global reputation of UK universities. The suggested ranking system needs further development work, whilst the measurement of 'learning gain' is in its infancy and needs to develop further before it can be used reliably. The University supports a model of co-development where universities and policy makers can work together to develop and test new arrangements over time.

We do not support linking fees to the TEF. The idea that teaching excellence is driven by increasing income misjudges the importance of partnership working and trust between universities and their students – students have a right to high quality education in every institution trusted with University Title. Future fee levels and the overall balance of private and public investment in higher education is a matter of much wider societal interest.

Finally, quality-related research funding enables universities to maintain a dynamic and responsive research base. It provides much needed flexibility to invest in new areas of research, to encourage new partnerships and interdisciplinary working and to support a vibrant PhD and postdoctoral community and must be protected.

Back on campus, the quality of teaching at Leeds was showcased earlier this month at the fifth Student Education Conference (SEC)*. There are very few universities that could hold such a conference on this scale and no other that could mount such a rich and diverse programme. This year's theme of 'Evidencing Excellence' was timely, and the

idea of preceding the conference with a Digital Festival was inspired. Discussing and exploring ways in which to evidence excellence, whilst giving people the opportunity to discover more about technologies that can help do this, was a powerful combination. SEC also saw the launch of the Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence and Innovation. This is a tangible commitment to position Leeds as an international leader in the pedagogy and scholarship of research-led education and research based learning. I have high hopes for its development as a centre for the dissemination of innovative teaching practices.

Together with other colleagues, I was also delighted to attend Leeds University Union's (LUU) presentation on the considerable impact they have made over the past year, focusing on four key areas – empowering, enriching and inspiring students and driving LUU into the future. Executive officers Toke Dahler and Mels Owusu gave an overview of some of their major successes, such as the 90% of taught postgraduate students who feel positive about LUU, the 24,000 club and society memberships created during the year, and the 1,000 students who have gained employment or work experience through the union. Suffice to say that the event underlined the huge importance of LUU to the University and the overall student experience at Leeds.

Their achievements are tremendous, and reflect the engagement, enthusiasm and determination that are the defining characteristics of the Leeds student body. I know that the strength of The Partnership, in particular, is much admired – not just within the University but by our peers in other UK institutions – and I am very much looking forward to continuing our work together.

2016 holds the promise of being another good year for the University and I look forward to it with excitement and enthusiasm.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands

*See pages 8 and 9 for more details of the SEC and LITEI.

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New year, new gallery

Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery opens

The first day of February will see Leeds University Library open the doors of the new Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery to colleagues, students and the general public.

Located in the iconic Parkinson Building, the new gallery will enable visitors to see and explore books and manuscripts from our world-renowned Special Collections, including the first folio of William Shakespeare's plays (1623), Brontë family papers and illuminated medieval manuscripts.

Highlights from the University Library's five designated collections are at the centre of the new space. The permanent display continues with three themes: From hand to print, Understanding our world, and Imagination and creativity. Visitors will discover objects which tell a thousand tales, from the evolution of printing to the story of a First World War prison escape, and see manuscripts written by some of the world's most famous authors.

As well as displaying objects from Special Collections, the gallery will also stage special exhibitions. The first, *On conscientious grounds: objection and resistance in the First World War*, marks the centenary of the

introduction of conscription in Britain and explores what happened when able-bodied men refused to fight for their country. The exhibition features original letters, artwork, government documentation, diaries, postcards and personal items belonging to the men who asked to be excused from military service. This thought-provoking exhibition presents the various non-combatant wartime roles available to conscientious objectors. The display also highlights the public reaction to the men who refused to take part in war.

The Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery has been made possible by the financial support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the John Brotherton-Ratcliffe Trust.

Entry to the gallery is free, and it is open on Monday between 1-5pm and Tuesday to Saturday from 10am-5pm.

More information on events and exhibitions can be found at library.leeds.ac.uk/treasures

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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.

Previous copies of the *Reporter* can be found online at www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/reporter

Read online

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the magazine, please email the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk quoting your personnel number or, if you are external to the University, your name, postcode and work email address.

Keep in touch

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 contact us at the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk or 0113 343 6699.

Your comments are always welcome.

The front cover shows part of the team which won the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety.

News

Get ready to Be Curious

Exciting and innovative health and wellbeing research taking place across the University will be showcased to a public audience of all ages at the inaugural Be Curious festival on Saturday 19 March.

"This free event is the first of its kind to be held by the University and we are really keen for staff and their families and friends to come along and find out about some of the amazing things that are taking place here on campus," says Dr Charlotte Haigh, part of the Public Engagement team organising the festival.

Be Curious will centre around Parkinson Hall, which will be filled with stalls staffed by willing researchers keen to talk about their work with members of local and regional communities. Visitors will be able to try out hands-on activities, including investigating urban ecosystems, 3D facial scanning, joint replacements, and the effects of energy generation on the human body. A family room will demonstrate how an MRI scanner works, let children use a microscope to examine cells taken from their own cheeks, and stimulate ideas about how neighbourhoods could be redesigned around walking and cycling rather than motor vehicles. There will also be a children's language lab demonstrating language games and experiments, and an inflatable

planetarium featuring videos about our research.

Five specially created guided trails will leave the Parkinson Building every 30 minutes. These will look at:

Health and wellbeing through time: scientific and medical museum displays and tasting medieval recipes.

Virtual health and wellbeing: using robots in care homes, and how maths can help to understand the immune system.

Engineering in health and wellbeing: surgical technologies, use of robots in rehab, and a meeting with Frank, the cycling skeleton.

Mind, brains and bodies: interactive activities looking at how we work as humans, from our brains and teeth to the control of our bodies.

The senses in health and wellbeing: a smelly pop-up café identifying smells and what they bring to mind, and the effect music has on health and wellbeing.

Sessions aimed at an adult audience include a talk and interactive panel debate on health tourism and short lectures on topics such as 'The spine, doughnuts and back pain' and a sing-a-long version of 'Wonders of the wanderer – the vagus nerve in health'. A research slam will see postgraduate students share their research with an audience in just three minutes.

The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery will showcase art works and the Treasures of the Brotherton Collection will hold interactive sessions.

Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book – just come along and be immersed in the vast array of work that goes on at the University. To find out more visit www.stem.leeds.ac.uk/becurious

Celebrating 400 years of playwrighting genius

Both William Shakespeare and the great Ming Dynasty playwright Tang Xianzu died in 1616. Now, as part of a series of events organised by the University to mark these two events, its Staging China International Research Network is joining forces with colleagues at the Business Confucius Institute, stage@leeds and Beijing's University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) for a unique global collaboration to create a new stage production – *A Midsummer Night's DREAMING Under the Southern Bough*.

Students in Beijing and Yorkshire will rehearse on opposite sides of the globe, before coming together for back-to-back performances in Leeds, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and at several venues in China.

The collaboration is among many public talks, academic lectures, exhibitions and talks showcasing the Shakespeare expertise of Leeds academics in 2016, ranging from the Bard's influence on Africa and the Middle East to an exhibition at the University's new Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery from August.

More details will be given in the March issue of the *Reporter*.



© Malcolm Johnson

Members of Shanghai Theatre Academy held student workshops and performed adaptations of Shakespeare plays in the Great Hall in November, using traditional Chinese operatic and puppet styles



People

Winning team cut accidents in the lab

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Health and Safety 2015

Improved procedures and instruction have dramatically reduced the number of scalpel cuts to fingers and hands received by students during a two-day dissection training session in the Faculty of Biological Sciences.

Scalpel accidents decreased from as many as 16 to just two per session – results which so impressed Sir Alan Langlands that he awarded the training team the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health & Safety 2015. Presenting the award Sir Alan explained that he had himself suffered a scalpel injury whilst training at Glasgow University, and well understood the impact that the improvements had on the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. He praised the team for their observation and careful thought and the resulting change to processes which, in turn, produced such impressive results.

Once again the Awards themselves were a great success, attracting nearly 20 nominations from across the University. Speaking at the awards ceremony in University House, Sir Alan said: "These awards underline our commitment

to health, safety and wellbeing. We aim for excellence in education and research and achieve this through a flexible, responsible service that enables us to quickly adapt to new requirements."

Paul Veevers, Head of Health and Safety, took the opportunity to underline some of the successes achieved by health, safety and wellbeing during the last year. This included the ongoing rollout of the BS OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Management standard, introduction of a new health and safety policy, retaining the RoSPA Gold award for the fourth consecutive year, and extension of the eyecare provisions for staff.

Full details of the winners and nominees can be found at leeds.ac.uk/safety and more details will appear in future issues of the *Reporter*.



WINNERS

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety

Faculty of Biological Sciences:
Val Sergeant, Andrew West, Amy Taylor

Awards for Health and Safety

Library Manual Handling Risk Assessment Team:

Helen Firth-Royston, Frederick Dixon, Amy Jennings

Faculty of Biological Sciences: (as above)

Special Recognition Awards

Michael Obirigya:

Great Food at Leeds

Nick Creighton:

Health and Safety Officer – Unison

OHSAS 18001 Awards

The following departments achieved BS OHSAS 18001, showing that they are working at the internationally recognised high level of health and safety: IT, Residences, Faculty of Engineering, Commercial and campus support, and Health, safety and wellbeing.

Suggest a theme for Staff Festival 2016

This year's Staff Festival will take place on Friday 8 July and we're looking for a fun and engaging theme that will really help bring the event to life.

Previous themes have included Summer on Campus, Street Party, and Circus. This year's event will feature all the usual great activities including live music, competitions, food stalls and a market place, plus lots of other attractions to be announced nearer the time.

If you'd like to put forward a theme idea for the next Staff Festival, just email your idea to stafffestival@leeds.ac.uk or, if you want to use a hard copy, send or bring it to the Staff Centre Office. Submit your ideas by Friday 12 February. The top four suggestions will then be open to all staff to vote for their favourite.



The Circus themed Staff Festival in full swing

News in brief

Staff Assistance Fund

The Staff Assistance Fund is here to help staff experiencing short-term cash flow problems who do not have access to funds from other reputable sources. See the HR website for details hr.leeds.ac.uk/. The University is aware that there may be staff experiencing problems as the result of recent flooding, and would like to extend the offer of help from the Staff Assistance Fund to these staff.

Thank you!

A big thank you to all staff involved over the holiday period in keeping the University and its various activities running in the face of problems caused by flooding. There was a slight interruption to some IT services as a result of flooding in the city and staff responded in a professional and quick manner to resolve the incident.

Research and innovation

Tropical peatland research supports \$6m conservation investment

The first map of the vegetation types and carbon stocks of peatlands in the Peruvian Amazon has provided the science basis for a new \$6m conservation project in Peru.

An interdisciplinary research programme focused on the largely unexplored peatlands of Amazonia began in 2008 and is led by Dr Tim Baker (Geography), Dr Katy Roucoux and Dr Ian Lawson (both formerly Geography, and now at the University of St Andrews). The work links palaeoecology, ecology and remote sensing to understand how the carbon stores and biodiversity of the ecosystems vary over space and time.

Freddie Draper, winner of the 2015 Leeds Postgraduate of the Year competition, made a key contribution by mapping the distribution of the different vegetation types and their below-ground carbon stores.

“The map unlocked the potential of the carbon in these peatlands to justify investment in their conservation,” says Freddie. “The conservation project that our work has supported was the first initiative to be funded by the UN-backed



Members of the project fieldwork team with (fourth from left to third from right) Ruby Jurczyk (Geography undergrad; recipient of RGS fieldwork apprenticeship), Dr Euridice Honorio (Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana), Dr Ian Lawson (St Andrews), Dr Katy Roucoux (St Andrews), Dr Tim Jones (Lancaster), and Dr Tim Baker (Leeds) with collaborators, on the banks of the Amazon following fieldwork at the ombrotrophic peat bog at San Jorge, south of Iquitos, Peru

Green Climate Fund, a major international funding mechanism created to help developing countries reduce the effects of and adapt to climate change.”

The new conservation project will promote and develop sustainable ‘bio-businesses’ run by indigenous communities in the Pastaza and Morona rivers of the northern Peruvian Amazon. These businesses will be based on sustainable harvesting of forest products such as palm fruit, and increase the incomes of the communities and ensure that the extensive peatlands are not degraded. As a result, the large carbon stores in this ecosystem will remain in the ground as peat.

This impact the research has achieved is due to the close links between Leeds researchers and collaborators in Peru. “We work together on an equal footing with our Peruvian partners at the Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana (IIAP) in Iquitos,” says Dr Baker.

“These links have been essential to ensure that our findings reach a wide audience – far beyond what would be possible if we worked independently. For example, the results were presented to the Minister for the Environment in Peru and at meetings of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, such as at COP20 in Lima in 2014.

“The potential impact of the work is even greater. The location of this project is only on the fringes of mapped peat deposits and doesn’t include the areas with the highest carbon stocks. Our aim is to support the development of a comprehensive network of protected areas in this region.”

The project has also supported teaching in Geography, as well as research and impact activities. Four Leeds undergraduates have received scholarships from the Royal Geographic Society to participate in field campaigns, and they have used the data in final-year dissertations.



Research and innovation

Sleep Research @ Leeds

A new research initiative known as Sleep Research @ Leeds is set to transform the way we think about sleep and how health services treat sleep, and foster the development of electronics and textiles that can help to encourage a healthy sleep.

With over 50 academics and clinicians from seven different faculties and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT), we have considerable expertise and experience in researching sleep.

Established by Dr Graham Law (Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine), Sleep Research @ Leeds has set up a postgraduate researcher group and a technical support group. The group is also planning to hold a conference and interactive workshop with the aim of creating new, collaborative groups for sleep research.

Dr Graham Law says: "We want Leeds to be at the forefront of sleep research internationally. Sleep Research @ Leeds is an interdisciplinary research initiative bringing together many faculties and the Leeds Teaching Hospitals.

We're conducting research that will transform the way we think about sleep, the way health services treat sleep, and the electronics and textiles used in relation to sleep research. We have the Sound Asleep laboratory, which is designed to allow experiments to be conducted on sleep, health, psychology and wellbeing."

The laboratory, established by Dr Law and Dr Ted Killan (Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine), consists of a participant bedroom and an observation room. It provides facilities for simulating a range of auditory and lighting environments, a polysomnograph to measure brain activity while sleeping and full risk assessment for overnight sleep experiments.

"Sleep is as essential as the air you breathe, the water you drink and food you eat," says Dr



Dr Graham Law

Law. "We spend a third of our lives asleep and yet little is known about this time. There is now growing recognition of the importance of sleep to health and wellbeing."

See the In the news section to read about a recent study on sleep health carried out by Dr Anna Weighall (Psychology) and her team, Sleep Research @ Leeds group.

Students

Leeds University Union rated 'Excellent'

Leeds University Union is the first students' union in the UK to be awarded an 'Excellent' status by the National Union of Students (NUS) Quality Students' Unions accreditation.

Aidan Grills, Chief Executive of LUU, says: "The staff and volunteers at LUU are extremely ambitious, and I'm so happy that their energy, drive and commitment has been recognised in this way. To be the first SU awarded the excellent status is an endorsement of their hard work and the great student leadership which we have year after year at LUU."

The assessors remarked on the passion that students at Leeds felt for their university and LUU, noting how students felt 'their' union was at the heart of their experience as a student.

LUU's governance, relationships, partnerships, democracy and student services were a few of the key factors that ensured the charity stood out as 'Excellent'.

Recommend a student leader

Do you know a student you think would be suitable to stand for election to the LUU Executive this year? If so, you can now recommend candidates at www.luu.org.uk/leadluu/

The six Student Executive positions open for nomination are: Activities, Community, Education, Equality & Diversity, Union Affairs, and Welfare. The Editor of the *Gryphon* student newspaper will also be nominated.

Recommendations close on Friday 12 February. From Friday 4 March to Thursday 10 March, voting opens for students to decide who will lead Leeds University Union in 2016/17.

The results will be announced on Friday 11 March.

Students

DigiFest and the Student Education Conference

More than 350 University staff participated in workshops, seminars and exhibitions at this year's Student Education Conference (SEC). The 13th annual event dedicated to all aspects of student education was on the theme of 'Evidencing excellence'.

Immediately prior to the SEC, many colleagues attended the inaugural DigiFest – the bringing together of the two events demonstrated the importance of digital innovation in developing teaching excellence. DigiFest featured presentations on subjects ranging from the use of iPads to the role of student mentors in supporting online learning. A panel discussion about experiences of delivering a distance-learning course used Blackboard Collaborate – the new web-conferencing and interactive classroom tool – to connect with panel member Professor Helen O'Sullivan at the University of Liverpool. Following the discussion, colleagues were invited to attend an exhibition in Parkinson Court, featuring stands and technologies connected with both DigiFest and the SEC, and the formal launch of the Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence and Innovation (LITEI).

Opening the SEC, Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands said that the conditions for excellence were in place in Leeds: "First and foremost, we are giving equal weight to education and

research – others say it, we are well down the road to doing it!"

He went on to list five important conditions for success that already exist at Leeds: a clear goal, summed up in our mission; the alignment and coherence of policy; student engagement; a supportive organisational culture; and key people to lead change. He said: "All of this is a dynamic and ongoing process that will ensure an absolute focus on meeting the needs and aspirations of students – and you will know that we are now shaping up to take further steps – including substantive investment in digital learning – to increase academic quality and power."

The SEC keynote speaker was Mark Byford, alumnus and former Deputy Director General of the BBC. He reflected on the value of his own and his family's experience as students at Leeds and, using knowledge gathered during his time

"Nothing like the annual SEC as a reminder of what a fantastic institution @UniversityLeeds is!"

in senior leadership roles, highlighted the factors that support the development and evidencing of excellence.

Videos, including Sir Alan's opening remarks and Mark Byford's keynote, will shortly be available on the conference website goo.gl/IdPbK1 Parallel sessions and workshops were recorded and some will be made available on the Guest Lectures and Special Events channel of VideoLeeds at goo.gl/TrHfgy (viewable only by staff and students).

"The launch of the LITEI was a highlight of the conference this year and fitting for a conference focusing on evidencing excellence."

"The conference once again showed an excellent range of innovative developments and projects being delivered by dedicated staff from across student education."

World Unite Festival

The annual student-led World Unite Festival will return on Monday 8 February until Sunday 14 February with a range of events and activities celebrating the diversity of our campus here at Leeds. Run in partnership between Leeds University Union and the University, with support of the Footsteps Fund and the Mary Morris Fund,

the programme gives staff and students lots of opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities, including arts and craft workshops, language lessons, cultural performances, topical discussions, and much more. Visit www.luu.org.uk for updates and more information.

Students

A new era of teaching innovation and scholarship at Leeds

The new Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence and Innovation (LITEI), launched at the Student Education Conference, offers striking evidence of the University's powerful commitment to enhancing student education and teaching.



Dr Raphael Hallett, the new Director of LITEI, and Professor Vivien Jones

Following the DigiFest presentations and debates, Professor Vivien Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education, and Dr Raphael Hallett (History), newly appointed Director of LITEI, introduced the Institute and set out its plans and priorities.

First and foremost, the Institute will act as a hub for educational innovators across the University, gathering together our sector-leading National Teaching Fellows and the growing community of University Student Education Fellows, setting these in dialogue with a broader membership of staff committed to brilliant teaching, exciting curriculum design and sector-changing educational research.

Based in the heart of campus in our refurbished 18 Beech Grove Terrace, the Institute will develop a cutting-edge digital presence, designed to showcase internationally the educational projects and teaching ideas that emerge from and shape the Leeds Curriculum.

"Strategically, the timing is perfect," says Professor Jones. "We have established extremely strong foundations through years of careful curriculum design at Leeds. Now we must add pace to innovation and research and broadcast our ideas to the international HE sector and to an increasingly interested public audience.

"The crucial role of the Institute will be its capacity to give time, space and resources to educators who are willing to undertake challenging research, to design exciting programmes and take some risks," explains Dr Hallett. "Our main investment will be in a cohort of Research and Innovation Fellows, four seconded for 2016/17 and at least six recruited annually from 2017 onwards, with plans for visiting as well as internal fellowships. We are moving to a culture at Leeds where outstanding teaching and pedagogy will be fully recognised and rewarded, and LITEI is a major investment that will help us achieve that promise." The University has committed £3m to the Institute over its first four years.

LITEI launches at a vibrant time for teaching enhancement and scholarship across campus. Following the establishment of the award-winning Centre for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, led by Dr Sarah Underwood, and the recently inaugurated Centre for Research in Digital Learning, led by Professor Neil Morris in the School of Education, the

Institute aims to draw together many more local centres for teaching excellence. It also aims to raise the visibility and impact of the Leeds Enhancing Educational Practice (LEEP) community to new levels.

"The new Institute will act as a catalyst and showcase for innovation in these groups, while retaining a focus on building the University's overarching reputation for research-led teaching excellence," Dr Hallett explains. "Many innovators around campus are on the developmental cusp between brilliant subject-specific practice and broader pedagogic publication and prestige. LITEI will allow many of our best educators to bridge that gap and transmit our teaching excellence to the world."

Details of the first round of Research and Innovation Fellowships will be released by LITEI in February. Regular updates on its developing research themes, activities and impact will be provided through the Student Education Bulletin.



Partnership



Partnership Awards 2016

nominations now open

Nominations for this year's Partnership Awards are now open and all members of the University are invited to nominate exceptional students and colleagues.

Together, the University and Leeds University Union have lived by the terms outlined in The Partnership*. Now in its fourth year, the agreement sets out the mutual expectations that the partners have of each other.

The Partnership Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements, commitment and impact of students, staff and postgraduate researchers here at Leeds.

THE 11 CATEGORIES ARE:

Innovation Award (staff or student)	Mentor Award (staff or student)
Positive Impact Award (staff or student)	Inspirational Teaching Award (staff)
Best Feedback Award (staff)	Wellbeing Champion Award (staff or student)
Academic Rep of the Year (student)	Diversity and Outreach Award (staff or student)
Postgraduate Teaching Award (PGR student)	Personal Tutor Award (staff)
Supervisor Award (staff)	



Winner of the Partnership Award 2015, Professor Martin Levesley (Faculty of Engineering), receives his award from Freya Govus, LUU Welfare Officer

Last year the awards received a fantastic 1,193 nominations from across the University, and the hope is to top this in 2016. You can nominate online until 4pm on Thursday 25 February; the results will be announced at the awards ceremony on Monday 25 April.

For more information and to nominate, visit www.luu.org.uk/celebrate/partnership or contact academicsupport@luu.leeds.ac.uk

*View The Partnership at goo.gl/FJbrux

"Nominating someone for a Partnership Award is a great way to show appreciation to those people who go above and beyond to make your experience the best it can be." **Melissa Owusu**, LUU Education Officer

School of Law becomes founding partner in Chinese research centre

Leeds' School of Law has partnered with the East China University of Politics and Law to found a Joint Research Centre in Commercial Law.

This unique venture draws together the School's leading centre for research on commercial and corporate law and its Chinese equivalent, and builds on several years of collaboration between the two institutions. The launch in Shanghai

was attended by Leeds alumni, Chinese lawyers and commercial leaders, including the Vice-President of the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

The Centre will provide a platform for cooperation in commercial law studies between China and the UK. It aims to promote academic partnership through:

- Hosting annual joint academic conferences; the first will take place in Leeds in March, chaired by Lord Dyson, Master of the Rolls and Head of Civil Justice

- Exchange of visiting scholars
- Organisation of joint research programmes
- Joint applications for funding and grants from both China and the UK
- Joint publication and dissemination of research findings
- Engagement with practitioners and policy makers in China and the UK.

Agreement paves the way for more opportunities in Mexico

Leeds joined 11 other Russell Group universities to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with 12 leading Mexican universities.

The Memorandum establishes a Visiting Chair arrangement, which will enable senior colleagues from the participating universities to spend up to two weeks each year working together in the UK and Mexico. Plans to launch the first call for participants are in place, and the scheme is expected to run from 2016 to 2020.

The Memorandum was signed at Guadalajara's prestigious book fair, the Feria Internacional del Libro, in a ceremony attended by the countries' ambassadors and by Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, John Whittingdale. Leeds was represented by Professor Claire Honess, Dean of Postgraduate Research Studies.

Professor Honess says: "Leeds already has a number of Mexican students, including 21 postgraduate researchers, and Spanish,

Portuguese and Latin American Studies in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies supports a wide range of teaching and research interests in this area. This MoU promises to be a springboard for the development of closer long-term links between Leeds and Mexican institutions, particularly in key areas such as the interdisciplinary research themes of Water, Cities and Food. There is potential for exciting new opportunities for students, postgraduate researchers and staff at all levels."

Campus

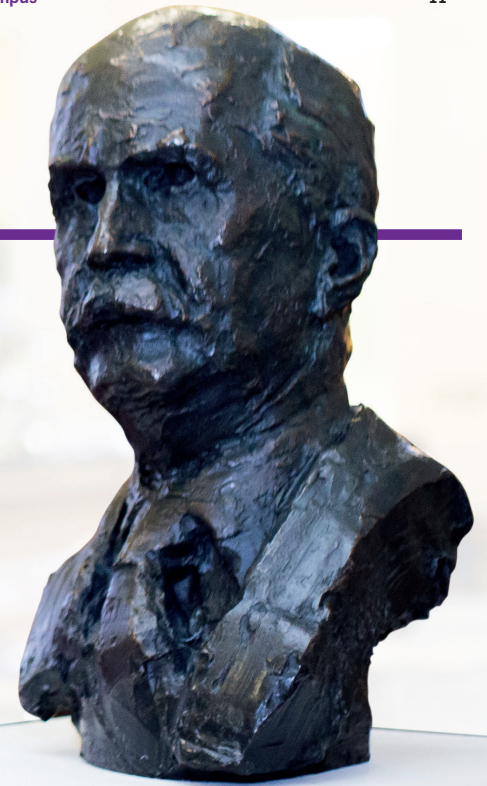
A new face in Parkinson Court

The new bust of Sir William Henry Bragg, Cavendish Chair of Physics at Leeds from 1909 to 1915, is now in place in Parkinson Court. It was unveiled by Professor Alan Watson, FRS Emeritus Professor in the Faculty of Maths and Physical Sciences, and Professor Sheena Radford FRS, Director of the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology.

Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor, says: "Looking back at the century since the 1915 Nobel Prize, it is hard to exaggerate the significance of the Braggs' contribution. At least 20 subsequent Nobel prizes in physics, chemistry and medicine, including Watson and Crick's momentous work on the structure of DNA, relied directly on X-ray diffraction.

"The Braggs' legacy is felt in all our lives. The medical ultrasound device that produces pictures of your baby, the fuel injectors in

cars, the sonar used in submarines, to take just a few examples, all rely on materials developed using X-ray crystallography. Our knowledge of biology, chemistry, medicine, materials science, electronic materials, pharmacology and many other areas would be immeasurably poorer without them."



Robert Hannford (b.1944)
Portrait Bust of Sir William Henry Bragg
2015
Bronze

IntoUniversity comes to campus

The Sustainability and Educational Engagement teams recently welcomed children and their families from the IntoUniversity organisation to campus.

IntoUniversity is an award-winning organisation that works with children from schools in disadvantaged areas to raise aspirations and encourage children to consider university education.

During their visit, the young students got to see several sustainability initiatives including the Sustainable Garden and smoothie-making using pedal power. The event was a great success and garnered much positive feedback, and plans are already in place for more events.

IntoUniversity students have since been invited to take part in a competition to design biodiversity flowerbeds for the University – the winning designs will then be planted around campus.

The University is one of IntoUniversity's key partners, offering financial support as well as providing opportunities for staff and students to get involved with the organisation. More information about IntoUniversity can be found at intouniversity.org/

Join the BIG Campus Bird Watch 2016

If you enjoy birdwatching, or would like to help inform the University's Biodiversity Action Plan, then join the sixth annual Big Campus Bird Watch on Friday 29 January.

The event coincides with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' Big Garden Birdwatch on 28 January. To help birdwatching novices complete the survey, the RSPB is leading two guided walks, leaving at 12pm and 1pm from the Sustainable Garden.

Places for the walks are limited so email the Sustainability team to register your interest at sustainability@leeds.ac.uk Visit goo.gl/GOqw2s on the day to complete your survey.



New biodiversity standard introduced

A new Biodiversity Standard has been launched with the main objective of ensuring the University follows its strategic ambition to 'become an exemplar of urban biodiversity'.

It takes into consideration the wider benefits of biodiversity such as staff wellbeing, and ensures that the University is using the latest innovations in sustainability, for example sustainable drainage. It also seeks to integrate learning and teaching opportunities and to enable the latest research and innovative thinking to influence biodiversity practice at Leeds.

Several studies have shown that people who work in green-space surroundings have greater wellbeing and are more willing to engage with their physical workplace. More information about the standard can be found at goo.gl/UWzAzE

In the news



Dr Simon Warner (Music) talked about the **legacy of David Bowie** on BBC Radio 5 live. Dr Warner was also interviewed on *Morning Report* on National Public Radio in the US and received extensive media coverage on BBC Radio Leeds, Sheffield, York, Coventry and Warwickshire, and Humberside, and on Radio Aire and other local commercial stations.

Professor Stephen Coleman (Media and Communications) featured on Sky News, BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, BBC Radio Scotland and BBC Radio Wales, talking about **the value of leaders debates on TV** in drawing in the less politically engaged and hard-to-reach general election audiences.

Dr Ian Rowe (LIBACS) featured on BBC One talking about the latest research from Nuffield Health, which revealed that **hospital visits for alcohol poisoning** have doubled in six years.

Dr Lisa Marshall (Food Chemistry) appeared on Channel 4's *Food Unwrapped* speaking about important **differences between very dark and milk chocolate**.

Research led by Dr Chris Gale (Medicine and Health) showing the variance in treatments given to **heart attack patients** featured in the *Guardian*, *Telegraph*, *Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Mirror* and *Express*.

Dr Victoria Honeyman's (POLIS) piece on **Britain's diminishing role as a world power**, originally published in *The Conversation*, has been reproduced by Australian think-tank, the *Australian Institute of International Affairs*.

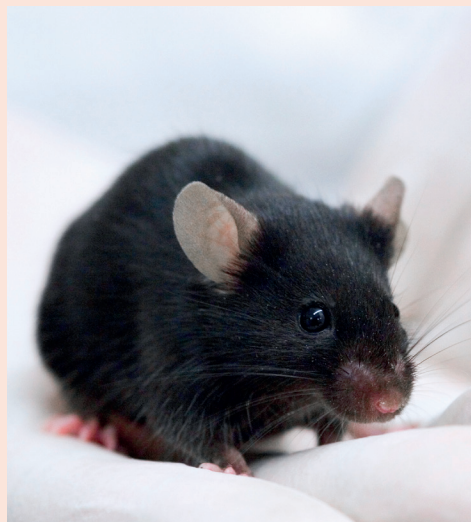
Dr Adam Cathcart (Chinese History) was quoted in the *Daily Mail* regarding the **'strategic stirring'** by the Chinese Communist Party after their trucks crossed the Chinese-North Korean border, signalling that trade between the two countries was continuing. This was shared widely online by the Associated Press.

Professor Piers Forster (Earth and Environment) was quoted saying our **warmer, wetter winters** are a predictable response to climate change in the *Telegraph*, the *Sun* and the *Daily Mail*. He was also quoted in the *Independent*, *Financial Times* and the *Times* supporting the climate deal which campaigners have criticised, calling it a 'Christmas miracle'.

Professor Li Ruru (Languages, Cultures and Societies) commented on the **Royal Shakespeare Company's plans** for its first major tour in China in the *Mail Online*.

Professor Timothy Benton (Biology) was quoted in the *Guardian* talking about the potential **usefulness of powdered food**, but also saying that it could not replace the social and enjoyment aspect of food.

A study by Dr Steve Clapcote (Pharmacology) on **'intelligent' mice** – which could shed light on age-related cognitive decline – was mentioned in an article in the *Independent*.



Research by Dr Anna Weighall (Psychology) explaining that getting a **work-life balance** challenges many people in Britain, and that the damage to sleep is a "real public health issue", was covered in the *Sun*, the *Daily Star* and the *Yorkshire Evening Post*. Further research by Dr Weighall suggesting that 25 per cent of people get less than five hours' sleep a night also featured in the *Daily Mail*. The research was funded by Silentnight.

Dr Iyiola Solanke (Law) was interviewed by Vanessa Feltz on BBC Radio London to discuss the 50th anniversary of the first anti-discrimination statute in Great Britain, **the Race Relations Act 1965**.

Professor Adam Balen (LIME) featured in the *Mirror*, helping shift the focus to the **underlying issues faced by women who use IVF**, rather than blaming IVF itself for a link to cancer.

Dr Jim McQuaid (Earth and Environment) was interviewed on Sky News and BBC *Look North* about the **post-Christmas flooding**.



Honours

Leeds alumnus and University Council member **Neil Clephan** and Honorary **Professor Stephen Smye** were awarded OBEs in the New Year's Honours.

Neil gained an MA in Physical Education from Leeds in 1985, and has been the Headteacher of Roundhay School in Leeds for over 18 years. He received his award for services to education.

Professor Smye is an Honorary Professor in the Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Molecular Medicine and a Director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network. His OBE was awarded for services to healthcare research.

Several Leeds alumni were awarded MBEs: sports presenter **Jacqui Oatley** (German 1996) was recognised for her work championing the role of women working in football; **Professor Kim Wolff** for her services to road safety, having invented the Drugwipe – a means for police to test motorists' saliva and skin for illegal drugs in their system; **Eddie Lynch** (Masters in Disability Studies) for his services to disabled people; and **Emma Woods** saved a 100-year-old Ryedale sawmill from closure and received her award for services to rural business and skills in North Yorkshire. **Barry Humphreys**, recently retired Chairman of the British Air Transport Association, received a CBE for his services to aviation and charity.



Jacqui Oatley

Dr Ted Killan (Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine) has been elected to sit as a Trustee on the Council of the British Society of Audiology (BSA). This senior role demonstrates the impact and reach of academic staff at Leeds in the BSA, and will see Dr Killan help the Society fulfil its strategic plan. Find out more at goo.gl/oKJ4bE

Dr Ute Bradter (Biology) won three prizes for her entries in this year's British Ecological Society photographic competition. The winning photos were all taken during a four-week holiday in Namibia. Dr Bradter says: "Ecological knowledge will help you find habitats and species, and anticipate behaviour. Light and composition are very important, as is persistence. Understanding your camera is also vital, as it allows you to control the elements of an image and show your view of the world."



A Great White Pelican – one of Dr Bradter's winning photographs

Dr Costas Velis (Civil Engineering) has received two prestigious awards as co-author of the paper 'Wasteaware' benchmark indicators for integrated sustainable waste management in cities'. He also recently won the Waste Management and Research Best Paper 2015.

Dr Alex McLean has been chosen as the Open Data Institute's Artist in Residence as part of the ODI Data as Culture art programme and Sound and Music's Embedded composer development programme.

During his nine months at ODI, Dr McLean will explore ways of working with open data that question the cultural implications, and will lead workshops and live coding events. Embedded is Sound and Music's bespoke professional development programme that gives composers the chance to work with a diverse range of organisations, providing hands-on experience as well as fostering long-term creative relationships.

Professor Mark Harris (Molecular and Cellular Biology) was a recipient of a Newton Advanced Fellowship announced by the Academy of Medical Sciences, the British Academy and the Royal Society.

The fellowships give established international researchers an opportunity to develop the strengths and capabilities of their research groups through training, collaboration and reciprocal visits with a UK partner. Professor Harris will work with Professor Ana Jardim, Federal University of Uberlândia – UFU, to evaluate synthetic flavonoid and alkaloid-like compounds as antiviral therapeutics.

Dr Iyiola Solanke (Law) gave a public lecture at the Houses of Parliament entitled 'From 1965-2065: the evolution of anti-racial discrimination law'.

Radio 4 has commissioned a second two-part series of the *Price of Happiness* from stand-up comedian, poet and current PhD student **Kate Fox**.

As regular Poet in Residence on *Saturday Live* from 2007-2014, Kate is familiar to Radio 4 listeners. In the first series, Kate looked at things she didn't want to have, including children and a big white wedding.

Kate says: "I've been able to think of lots more things I'm supposed to want but don't, since making the first two programmes. I look forward to going on about not wanting to be middle class, have sensible hair, toned abs, a nine to five job and a conservatory, among many other things. Though if someone's offering a conservatory, I might not say no!"

The first shows are available on iPlayer at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b060ltsx

Surya Subedi (Law) has been elected by the 5th Biennial Conference of the Asian Society of International Law in Bangkok as Chairman of the Board of Editors of the *Asian Journal of International Law*.

Professor Griselda Pollock (Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies) has been elected by the Class of Arts of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts as an international member as of 1 January 2016.



News

White Rose University Press launches

Three of the UK's leading research-intensive universities have joined forces to set up a new open access digital platform to publish scholarly articles across the academic disciplines.

Established by the universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York, the White Rose University Press (WRUP) has recently opened for submissions.

It will publish peer-reviewed academic papers, books, textbooks and conference literature from across the academic community, both in the UK and internationally, with online access to the published material free to all readers.

A partnership of the three Universities' libraries developed WRUP with three key objectives:

To support open access: With its free digital output, WRUP hopes to reach a global audience, some of whom may have faced challenges accessing academic materials without paying expensive subscriptions.

To ensure academic quality: WRUP's distinguished editorial board will oversee a rigorous process of peer review and quality control, ensuring that intellectual quality is paramount.

To create opportunities for publishing: As well as publishing traditional books and journals, WRUP intends to support scholars working in specialist areas, or publishing in non-traditional formats such as short-form monographs, data journals or interactive ebooks, which have been overlooked by commercial publishers.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands says:

"As the first jointly run university press in the UK, this will be a genuinely innovative free-access platform, showcasing the output of some of the world's most talented researchers to a global audience."

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, Professor Sir Keith Burnett, adds: "Making this resource available to academics and other partners in the UK and around the world will remove barriers to sharing knowledge and the work that can grow from this, which is good news for education and for wider society."

Professor Koen Lamberts, Vice-Chancellor of the University of York, says: "The White Rose University Press will be emblematic of our shared commitment to the unfettered exchange of ideas and knowledge. We believe it will provide a vibrant, compelling and intellectually robust new conduit for academic discourse."

White Rose University Press has partnered with established open access publisher Ubiquity Press to offer a fully fledged publishing service. This includes a comprehensive production

infrastructure providing copy editing, typesetting, design and layout, marketing, print-on-demand, and a suite of related services.

These are available through an intuitive, user-friendly platform, which helps readers to access and engage with the scholarship and authors and editors-in-chief to manage the submission, peer review, and production processes.

Find out more about WRUP at universitypress.whiterose.ac.uk/

If you would like to find out how to publish your book or journal, contact WRUP at goo.gl/reURW4



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info@biztechleeds.co.uk

Other

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

The PROMOTE study is investigating Methotrexate as an effective treatment for reducing pain in people with knee osteoarthritis compared to placebo. Recruiting participants at Chapel Allerton Hospital until Spring 2016.

Angela Nauth, PROMOTE Trial Recruitment Officer,
0113 392 4965
OAtrials@leeds.ac.uk

Holiday home to let

ISLAND HOUSE TO RENT

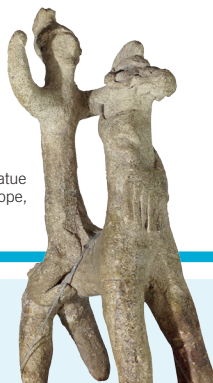
Beautiful house on Florida island minutes from the beach, sleeps 6 on Gulf coast.

Neil Howson, n.howson@leeds.ac.uk
www.gulfdream.me

Small ads can be submitted online at 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 4 March 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

Horse and rider statue from southern Europe, 6th century



The History and Philosophy of Science in 20 Objects

Starting January 2016 – a new series of monthly open lectures by members of the Leeds Centre for History and Philosophy of Science

What is the history and philosophy of science? What can it tell us about the way we see ourselves and the world around us? How can objects help us to understand what science is and has been in the past?

Each lecture will use objects from the University's scientific collections to consider ideas and practices in science, technology and medicine from the ancient world to the present day. The lectures assume no prior knowledge and information will also be available online, including podcasts and video recordings of each lecture.

Dr Mike Finn, Director of the Museum of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine,

says: "The history and philosophy of science – HPS – is a great subject but most folk at the University, never mind the world beyond, have never heard of it.

"We hope the lectures will engage with a wider audience about what HPS is and why it's so crucial today, and also provide an insight into the museum's collections and the fascinating history of the local area. We've chosen items that are helpful starting points for looking at different aspects of the history and philosophy of science. It's a reflection of our broad interests, and the breadth of the collections at Leeds, that topics range from printing to physics, anatomy to aesthetics, and plenty more in-between."



Improved magneto-electric machine for nervous diseases made in Sheffield, C1870

The 40-minute lectures will be monthly on Tuesday evenings. For more details about topics and venues, visit arts.leeds.ac.uk/museum-of-hstm/20objects/

Opera North – Cosi fan tutte Wednesday 3 February, 7-10pm Leeds Grand Theatre



Mozart's thought-provoking opera is guaranteed to intrigue people with its unsparing exploration of love, fidelity, deception, human motivation and the dangers of desire.

Visit the Opera North website at www.operanorth.co.uk/whats-on

Exploring and Enhancing the Student Experience

Thursday 4 February, 9:30am-4:30pm
St George's Centre, Great George Street, Leeds

This one-day event is aimed at practitioners, academics, researchers and policy-makers interested in understanding and improving how part-time and mature learners experience the journey through higher education.

See further details on the University event listing at goo.gl/nGu7tD

Sketch Club

Every Friday from 5 February, 12:30-3:30pm
The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery

Whether you can stay for 10 minutes or three hours, the free Gallery Sketch Club is open to everyone and all materials will be provided. Each week will have a different 'Friday focus' so you can enjoy looking at works you may never have noticed before. Use the time to hone sketching skills, chat with fellow art appreciators or simply indulge your creativity in a calm, inspiring atmosphere.

There's no need to book – just turn up and draw!

Lunchtime talks – Marks & Spencer Company Archive, Michael Marks Building

A series of lunchtime talks in association with Marks & Spencer Company Archive.

Understanding Utility Fashion Thursday 4 February, 12-1pm

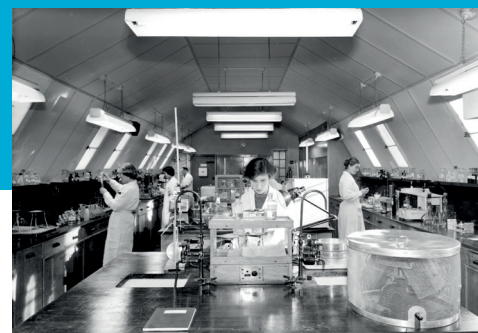
During World War Two, a whole new look was born with the creation of utility clothing. The archive's Utility collection is among the best in the country, so find out more about this hidden story and how the war changed fashion forever. More information is on the University events calendar at goo.gl/9N0B86

Women at Marks & Spencer Tuesday 8 March, 12:30-1:30pm

This talk explores the role of women within M&S, from market stall staff to leading figures. Hear about wartime challenges for female employees and M&S as a leading equal opportunities employer. Further details at goo.gl/mpYSnQ

The Innovation Story at Marks & Spencer Wednesday 16 March, 12:30-1:30pm

This talk will look into the science and innovation behind some of Marks & Spencer's bestselling products. Book a place at goo.gl/erCo2c



Details of more academic, cultural and social events on campus and in the city region can be found on the University events page at www.leeds.ac.uk/events/

People are Messy

Sunday 19 March, from 6:30pm – Clothworkers Concert Hall, School of Music

A special performance from the Theatre of Debate presents *People are Messy*, a play by award-winning playwright Judith Johnson. The performance will be followed by a facilitated, informed debate in which the actors return in character and answer questions from the audience. Electronic voting is used before the performance and throughout the debate.

The unique creative process used when developing a Theatre of Debate, production involves working with partners and an advisory group of scientists and experts to ensure accuracy. You will be able to book on the Be Curious website closer to the time.

FAQs

Malathi Vemula Analyst Developer, IT Development and Process



Tell us about your background and career.

I have a BSc Computer Science and a Masters in Maths. I'm keen to learn and I'm interested in logic, which is what attracted me to this profession. I undertook further training to move into customer relationship management (CRM) systems development, and have spent the last three years working with Microsoft Dynamics CRM in a variety of different industry sectors before coming to the University.

How do you find working at the University?

I saw this as a great opportunity and consider it a privilege to work for such a prestigious University. The University is forward-thinking and isn't afraid to tackle new challenges. I'm aware of the plans to expand and that's exactly what I'm looking for. It is important for me to work with smart, accomplished professionals because that will help me grow.

You're working on the new admissions process (the University's CRM). What does your role involve?

I am working as a developer on projects related to the CRM system. My role is to play an active part in the creation of high-quality software products to meet the University's needs, in accordance with defined standards, best practice and agreed deadlines. My role also involves working with my team on scoping work and refining processes to ensure the timely delivery of projects. As part of my role I am continually improving my skill set, too.

What do you most enjoy about your work?

I love my job; I enjoy working with Microsoft Dynamics CRM more than any other product. It's all about possibilities and flexibility, both of which are more easily attainable with CRM than other systems. CRM is in constant change, and it's very interesting to see the many different ways in which organisations use it.

I also enjoy the mix of technical and business tasks. My role requires the use of several of my strong points – time management, business process analysis and re-engineering, and communication. I also enjoy diversity in my job and CRM allows me to play several different roles and keep my work interesting. To see the organisation grow with the help of CRM is also very enjoyable.

What's happening with CRM in 2016?

A lot is happening this year! Significant work is underway to support the summer launch of the new admissions process for postgraduate taught (PGT) applicants, supported by CRM. We will also begin to use CRM to support how we manage incoming enquiries from potential applicants. An exciting development for late summer is the introduction of suite of marketing tools to improve our marketing and conversion support for PGT applicants.

You've got a reputation for being super-efficient! What are your top tips for people?

One can be good with a little effort, and really good with a little more effort.

But you can't be great – at anything – unless you put in an incredible amount of focused effort. Average success is often based on setting average goals. Aim for the ultimate. Decide where you want to end up. That is the goal. Achieving one huge goal just creates a launching pad for achieving another huge goal. Set clear goals, break them down into discrete steps, and review your progress.

Other skills include prioritising – focusing on urgent and important tasks rather than those that aren't important or don't move you towards your goals; organising your work schedule; list-making; persevering when things are not working out; and avoiding procrastination.

Remarkable success will not appear by winning just one race. Expect and plan to win a number of subsequent races!

Describe your ideal holiday.

Wherever I travel I like to be with my family. I enjoy spending time with family, friends and my children. I like locations with crystal-clear beaches, and Mauritius is my favourite destination.

What's your most frequently asked question?

Hey! How do you manage all the tasks with the family responsibilities?

What are your favourite books and music?

I like solving puzzles and particularly enjoy working on them with my son. It's good to exercise the brain and have some fun at the same time. I love to listen to pleasant music sung by Singer Sunitha, and Sonu Nigam albums.