RISE
Research Innovation and Internationalisation News

February/March 2010

Salford’s Jazz Age
Exposing New Talent
Right to Buy – 30 Years on
Iconic City Awards
Humans, Robots
and the Future Workforce

PLUS: Migrants in Greater Manchester | Music Man | Viewed from a Distance | and much more ...
... to the first year anniversary edition of RISE!

RISE is the Research, Innovation and Internationalisation Newsletter from the office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) and the International Relations Office at the University of Salford. The aim of RISE is to let you know about our expertise in research, innovation and internationalisation and to reach out locally, nationally and internationally.

So again welcome to the latest issue. This is the fifth issue of RISE and the first year anniversary of publication. Over the past year we have covered many topics and research and innovation interests, highlighted our visits to international destinations and welcomed new friends and colleagues into our university. We have also said goodbye to some colleagues and most recently one of our special people, Professor Deborah Baker. Deborah sadly died in September of this year. She will be greatly missed by friends and colleagues in our workplace but her legacy of innovative teaching and research will live on in her work. You can read more about Deborah and her work in this issue.

We have lots to tell you about in our anniversary issue, including our new Energy Hub with the innovative Energy House, which is stimulating interest in both the academic and commercial world. We’ve prize winners colleagues into our university. We have also sadly said goodbye to some colleagues and most recently one of our special people, Professor Deborah Baker. Deborah sadly died in September of this year. She will be greatly missed by friends and colleagues in our workplace but her legacy of innovative teaching and research will live on in her work. You can read more about Deborah and her work in this issue.

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This issue also has a twist! As it was our anniversary issue, we asked a group of high school children at a local Salford School if they would like to produce a ‘junior’ issue of RISE and they did! They decided themselves on which topics they wanted to write about and chose their own title. The school’s newsletter gives the views of the younger generation on all sorts of issues and doesn’t hold back on any opinion! They have addressed similar articles to the main issue of RISE, such as politics, energy research, perceptions of Salford by other areas of the country, archaeology and disaster management, but all from a 14-15 year old viewpoint. It’s a stimulating read and offers wonderful insights into the thoughts and concerns of the younger generation and how the decisions we as adults make today will affect their future.

I am sure that you will enjoy this issue of RISE and its junior partner IPSO FACTO. Please feel free to follow up on research that is of interest to you, is applicable to your needs or can support your business, policy or processes in any way. The University of Salford’s door is always open to conversation, collaboration and new partnerships. All are welcome!

Professor Ghassan Aouad, Pro Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation)
The University of Salford is aiming to address one of the UK’s greatest current challenges, the looming energy crisis.

There is little doubt amongst experts that this energy crisis is happening: UK domestic heating, lighting, power and personal travel account for 44% of all CO2 emissions and between 1990 and 2005 emissions in the household sector rose by over 40%. Combine this with the threat of fuel poverty caused by the estimated trebling of fuel prices within the next five years and affecting more and more households, there is little doubt that the UK is facing a severe problem. The time to act is now. In both its Energy Review (2006) and the Energy White Paper (2007), the UK Government identified two major challenges for the UK, securing an energy supply for the future and reducing carbon emissions through reduced-carbon energy generation and energy saving.

The way to tackle this challenge head on is through research, innovation and collaboration. The academic research community has a major role to play in addressing these issues. Both the development and optimisation of the technologies needed to meet these challenges and in the training of the scientists, engineers and technicians of the future. Academia will also play a key role in the social and economic impact of this sector and informing policy. Building on our internationally recognised strengths in teaching, research, innovation and engagement the university’s interdisciplinary energy theme, along with its four sub themes of energy generation; energy conversion and demand reduction; socio-economic issues and aspects of a low-carbon lifestyle and resources, is planning to tackle this problem in a new and inventive way, by developing and building an Energy Hub. At its heart will be the development of a European first, the ‘Salford Energy House’. This facility will be opened in 2010 and will include social areas, meeting rooms, office and desk space, where interdisciplinary teams of academics, researchers, students, business and the community can interact and develop solutions to address the global energy crisis.

The Salford Energy House will be an old-build traditional pre-1919 Salford-style house that is to be constructed within a laboratory, where levels of heat, light, humidity and even wind can be independently controlled. This enables the development and testing of new low-carbon materials, technologies and products. Research has identified that the main focus on carbon reduction should be concentrated on the existing 21 million housing stock, which accounts for the majority of carbon emission from domestic and commercial properties. This facility will be unique in Europe (and possibly the world) and will serve to focus the excellent work around the university in the energy area. The house is to be constructed using traditional, reclaimed building materials and using traditional building methods, many of which have been lost or forgotten over time. This will be complimented by a range of existing facilities that the university has which include: UKAS Accredited Thermal Test laboratory (standards that can be tested include ISO 8302, BS EN 12667, BS EN 12664), which will allow organisations to test new thermal and insulation products for the building/housing market, including solid wall insulation products and wind tunnels, that can be used in the research of small and building mounted wind turbines, which will allow for the development of more efficient and cost effective systems, such as hydro baths, that can be used to simulate tidal and wave conditions for the research and development of small scale hydro systems, as well as, thermal imaging cameras, which are used to monitor ‘thermal leakage’ from buildings, so that better insulating products can be developed. Professor Steve Donnelly, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Environment said: “there is little doubt the world faces many challenges associated with an over-production of carbon dioxide. Salford’s Energy Hub will address some of these challenges and galvanise interdisciplinary working in teaching, research and engagement.”

The Academic community, government bodies, local businesses, stakeholders, policy makers and the City Council, who are focusing on improving energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions, are already showing high levels of interest in the Energy House. Geoff Archer, Operations Manager at Salford City Council commented; “the development of a low carbon economy remains a key priority for the city of Salford. We believe the expertise and resources being developed by the university through their emerging Energy Hub will be instrumental in supporting the council and the business community in the development of innovative solutions to overcome the challenges of creating a sustainable, low carbon economy for Salford.”

If you or your business would like to know more about the Energy Hub and Salford Energy House please contact Stephen Waterworth at: s.d.waterworth@salford.ac.uk
The ground-breaking project, the first and largest of its kind for jazz in Europe, has been funded as part of the humanities in the European Research Area’s (HERA) theme, ‘Cultural Dynamics: Inheritance and Identity’, a joint research programme funded by 13 national funding agencies to create collaborative, trans-national research opportunities that will derive new insights from humanities research in order to address major social, cultural, and political challenges facing Europe. Feedback from the HERA review panel was outstanding, with the project achieving a maximum score from the review process. Selected as one of 19 successful projects from 234 initial applications, Rhythm Changes will involve a team of 13 researchers working across 5 countries. As Project Leader, Tony will be working closely with colleagues from the Universities of Amsterdam, Birmingham City, Copenhagen, Graz, Lancaster and Stavanger, as well as Salford’s Professor George McKay from the school of Media, Music and Performance. The project also includes funds for a Salford-based post-doctoral position and two fully-funded PhD studentships, one in Salford and one in Amsterdam. Rhythm Changes is the most significant research grant ever awarded to a UK university for a jazz-related project and is the first trans-national programme for jazz studies ever funded at this level. The project will examine the inherited traditions and practices of European jazz cultures, developing new insights into cultural exchanges and dynamics between different countries, groups and related media.

Tony explained the rationale behind the project: “there has been a long and diverse history of jazz in Europe. Since the music’s inception, jazz has been at the centre of discourses about European identity, politics - including race, class and gender - and cultural value; indeed, the music continues to play a central role in European cultural life and the construction of traditions and myths. As a 20th and 21st century practice, jazz has integral links to technological change and media dissemination, creating complex and dynamic interactions between live and recorded performances, film, photography and new media.

Within this context, jazz is an ideal cultural form from which to explore a number of critical questions, from its shifting aesthetic status from popular to canonical ‘art’ music, to the hybridisation of musical style, to the creation of local ambiances and communities.”

If you would like to know more about this research project contact Tony at: t.whyton@salford.ac.uk

University of Salford reader in music Dr Tony Whyton has recently been awarded just under €1 million to lead a three-year, pan-European project entitled Rhythm Changes: Jazz Cultures and European Identities.
DC, founded in 2005, brings together the expertise of academics, researchers and practitioners from across the university, working in fields such as computer and video game design and research, digital animation, new media, virtual environments, mobile media, interactivity, and digital arts and cultures. Recent work, like virtual reality technology to be used in teaching, running a search engine marketing course for small businesses and contributing to a project to reduce energy loss from buildings across Europe, has firmly placed Salford University’s DC team on the national map.

The Higher Futures Report is a blueprint for how universities can remain world class, providing the nation with the high level skills needed to remain competitive, while continuing to attract the brightest students and researchers. In the report the Cluster is picked out as an example of a way in which universities are supplying the skills for developing sectors of the economy, which the Government would like to see extended across the whole sector. By combining these areas of work, it informs the university’s teaching and produces new research ideas and helps students become more employable in the media sector. It is also important for the university’s confirmed 103,000sq ft presence at the MediaCityUK development at Salford Quays from 2011. The new space, located alongside five major BBC departments, will combine outputs from across different parts of the university to develop ideas and graduates that can take the media industry forward. Cluster Director, Dr Gary Crawford, said: “It’s always pleasing when policy makers hear of our work and are prepared to commend it. In this case it’s even more gratifying as this report sets out the direction that the Government wants higher education to take in the future.”

If you would like to know more about the research work in the Digital Cluster contact: g.crawford@salford.ac.uk

University of Salford expertise has been highlighted recently in The Higher Futures report, launched by Lord Mandelson. The University of Salford’s Digital Cluster (DC) was picked out as a group leading the way in developing the skills needed by the UK economy.

The participants at the workshop were all members of three European networks funded to find the ideal hydrogen storage material: NESSHY (Novel Efficient Solid Storage for Hydrogen), NanoHy (Novel Nano-composites for Hydrogen Storage Applications) and FlyHy (Fluorine Substituted High Capacity Hydrides for Hydrogen Storage at low Working Temperatures).

The motivation behind this research is the global need to move away from an oil based economy towards a hydrogen based economy where transport needs are met by hydrogen powered fuel cell cars. A major technical barrier to this end is the ability to store enough hydrogen onboard a car to have a range comparable to current vehicles. The EU projects are trying to find a much lighter material with similar properties. Topics under discussion at the workshop included the use of nano-structuring and transition metal additives to tune material properties and complex hydrides (materials where hydrogen exists internally in the form of ammonia ions). The research at Salford is led by Keith, who is Scientific Director of the NESSHY project and Ian who leads the theory and modelling consortia involved in the project, the aim of this consortia is to design new materials in-silico.

If you would like to know more about this research contact Ian at: i.morrison@salford.ac.uk

Hydrogen Storage
Driving Towards the Future!

In January, Professor Keith Ross, Professor Ian Morrison, Dr Dan Bull, Dr Duncan Riley and Dr David Moser from the university, hosted discussions with some 60 physicists, chemists and materials scientists from all over Europe.

Solid state hydrogen storage has been possible for some years in some heavy and expensive metals. The EU projects are trying to find a much lighter material with similar properties. Topics under discussion at the workshop included the use of nano-structuring and transition metal additives to tune material properties and complex hydrides (materials where hydrogen exists internally in the form of ammonia ions). The research at Salford is led by Keith, who is Scientific Director of the NESSHY project and Ian who leads the theory and modelling consortia involved in the project, the aim of this consortia is to design new materials in-silico.

If you would like to know more about this research contact Ian at: i.morrison@salford.ac.uk
Medicines, Newts & Mountain Glaciers

... the natural world to health research

Where do you go if you need research expertise in: lakes, rivers and mountain glaciers; urban regeneration, transport policy, environmental impacts on health; biochemistry of anticancer drug development and improving your knowledge of how existing anti-cancer drugs work; parasites and diseases in humans, behaviour of animals such as elephants in the wild, or evolution of amphibians such as arrow frogs and newts? Well if you came to the University of Salford you’d knock at the door of the School of Environment & Life Sciences!

Environment & Life Sciences (ELS) is a busy school, a hive of activity with areas of research that reflect the diversity of the eclectic mix of subject areas represented in the School. Years of sustained activity have lead to research successes across the biological and biomedical sciences, the environmental sciences and social sciences with projects relating to a broad spectrum of scientific areas from vegetation biophysics, animal and zoo biology, lakes rivers and mountain glaciers, parasites, inflammation and infections, environmental modelling, housing, regeneration and transport. With more than 50 academic staff, with associated expert research teams, specialist laboratories and teaching facilities, and state of the art field and laboratory equipment its no wonder that in the 2008 RAE this school’s research was judged to be of international quality. Research in the school is focussed around four main areas these being: Biochemistry, Drug Design & Cancer Research; Parasitology and Diseases; Environmental Systems & Wildlife and Urban Change.

If you want to apply biophysics to biomedical problems then this is the school for you! Drug design, analysis and pharmacology in developing new anticancer drugs and improving knowledge of how existing anti-cancer drugs work is a big part of the research ongoing in the school. Cross discipline working is one of the secrets of ELS’ success.

By not fencing themselves off behind closed doors, the academics and researchers work across Research Centres, share knowledge and cut across disciplines to utilise the wealth of expertise and knowledge within the school to build, improve and strengthen their current knowledge and bring to fruition new ideas and concepts. This cross centre ethos may lead to someone researching into cancer and drug treatm ents working with a colleague in environm ental intervention research within the school, looking at links between cancer treatments and social determinants of health.

Where do the arrow frogs and newts come in? Well what we learn today about our world’s wildlife ecology, behaviour and evolution, how we measure our vegetation biophysics, lakes, rivers and mountain glaciers, will not only inform us of our past but help broaden our health and biophysics research to design and build a healthier better informed future.

If you would like to know more about the School of Environment & Life Sciences its work and widening participation programmes go to:
http://www.els.salford.ac.uk/

Or contact Professor Geoff Hide at: g.hide@salford.ac.uk or Professor David Collins at: d.n.collins@salford.ac.uk
Migrants in Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester has a history of work related migration and the numbers of migrants across the area has increased significantly over the last few years since the enlargement of the European Union. Such migration is an enormous opportunity for the area to be a place of wealth creation but it is also recognised that migration can pose challenges for local areas, placing pressures on local services. The purpose of the Forum is to promote cooperation between migrant communities and local agencies in order to address key issues such as exploitation in the workplace, lack of information and access to local services; and homelessness and destitution.

Over the past two years, Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHSU) has undertaken a number of studies for local authorities across England focusing on the needs and experiences of Central and Eastern European migrant workers. Lisa is currently leading a similar study in Salford and Bury for Salford City Council and Bury Metropolitan Borough Council. Lisa is now focusing on sharing the findings of the studies with the Forum in order to get a community-based view on some of the key issues emerging from the research and identify gaps where further work is needed.

Understanding Homelessness

Dr Philip Brown from the University’s Salford’s Housing and Urban Studies Unit (SHSU) is leading a major study into homelessness and multiple exclusion.

The research is part of a wider programme funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Communities and Local Government and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The study is concerned with trying to unpick some of the routes into homelessness and consequences of becoming homeless. Working with the University of Lincoln, and with partners within Stoke-on-Trent, the research team aim to interview around 100 people with differing experiences of homeless or multiple forms of exclusion.

The research team are multidisciplinary and they have come together in an attempt to look at these complex issues from fresh standpoints. Starting with the individual, the team are looking at particular events and experiences in people’s lives and how these have been attributed with meaning in relation to their experience, or not, of homelessness. Communication is crucial to engaging with people (including homeless people) and with this in mind the team have set up a blog in order to contact as wide an audience as possible around some of the difficult issues. Phil and the team are encouraging as many as people as possible to log into the blog and comment. As well as being a useful mechanism to communicate about these issues it is also hoped that this approach will also shed light on how socially excluded groups are, or are not, making use of web 2.0 technologies.

The research will conclude in 2011, at which point the team aims to have a set of case studies which, combined with the results of other projects, make a major difference in how government bodies and charities deal with homeless people.

You can access the blog at: http://homelessintostoke.wordpress.com/

If you want to know more about Phil’s research contact him at: p.brown@salford.ac.uk

Research, Impact and Public Engagement

The university sits within the heart of Salford and at the gateway to a large bustling, creative and innovative city. The university’s ethos is to create, through its research and teachings, beneficial impacts for its local community, the wider city-region and beyond. This type of ethos is now being echoed by government.

Universities and funding bodies are under concerted pressure from government to demonstrate that money spent on research generates tangible benefits. This is driving an impact agenda as evidenced by both the Research Excellence Framework (REF) and also the impact statements now required by research council when applying for funding. Impact doesn’t just equate to working with industry to exploit research for commercial gain. Impact, as interpreted by the research councils is much broader and also includes: ‘increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy’ and ‘enhancing quality of life, health and creative output’. While the major component of the REF is identifying excellent research through mechanisms such as citations, it’s also planned to measure benefits to the economy, society, public policy, culture and quality of life through case studies. Consequently, one way of generating or increasing impact from research is through public engagement.

So how might public engagement improve impact? The University of Salford specialises in applied work and consequently many research outputs are ultimately used or directly affect the public. Research council impact statements are meant to ‘explain who may benefit from the research, how they may benefit and what will be done to make sure they have the opportunity to benefit’.

Traditionally, public engagement was about disseminating the findings of research once the project was complete. While that is beneficial, nowadays this approach is not seen as sufficient. Best practice sees the communication between researchers and the public as two-way. And this engagement process should start early, while the research project is going on, so the public can help shape the work. This upstream engagement helps ensure that the final research outputs have a better chance of being taken up and used, and so it ultimately helps increase impact. This need for two-way engagement was born out of major science controversies such as MMR, nanotechnology and GM crops. There was a need to ensure that research isn’t undertaken which ultimately languishes unused because of public concerns. However, two-way engagement is also invaluable to less controversial topics. For instance, there are numerous examples of health care technologies being produced which fail to get taken up by users, often because the public haven’t been properly consulted about what they would find useful and practical. While the impact agenda is in one sense an unwanted burden, combining it with public engagement connects it to another important agenda in University funding. It also represents an opportunity for Salford University, if we can bring together and capitalise on our considerable expertise in research and engagement.

If you would like to know more about the University and public engagement contact: Pro Vice Chancellor Mr. Keith Barnes at: k.barnes@salford.ac.uk or Professor Trevor Cox at: t.cox@salford.ac.uk

A framework for city-regional infrastructural development

Over 50% of the world’s population now live in urban areas. The last decade has seen increasing recognition that the rapid development of global urbanism is reshaping the earth’s ecology.

Urban infrastructures act as huge and complex systems connecting cities with diverse food, water, waste, energy and mobility systems whose carbon emissions are contributing to climate change. The critical challenge for cities is how they can reshape infrastructures, buildings, resource use and behaviours to develop systemic urban responses to climate change and resource constraint. Questions of capacity, governance frameworks, knowledge and intelligence are central to such endeavours.

The Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF) has carried out an ESRC Business Placement with the global engineering firm, ARUP. Working closely with the Manchester Office, SURF and ARUP have developed a five-step framework for city-regional infrastructural development. Each step requires the input of intelligence, an assessment of its value and the production of clear ways forward in order that the different stakeholders remain coordinated through their inclusion in the process. The framework is designed for use by civic leaders, policy makers and the public and private sector organizations involved in the infrastructure space. The work builds on SURF’s ongoing research into the roles of cities and regions in developing sustainable and knowledge-based futures.

If you would like more information on SURF’s work, please visit our website: http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk or contact us at enquiries-surf@salford.ac.uk
The University of Salford in November each year produces exposures.

Exposures is a festival that seeks out new emerging talent, screening the best of the films produced each year by HE students from across the UK. The film festival is a great example of a successful and truly collaborative partnership which flourishes and benefits from the input of two institutions - Manchester’s Cornerhouse Arts Centre and the University of Salford - and the support of its patron, Paul Abbott.

Paul Abbott has contributed much to the festival, developing both its profile and vision, as has Johnny Clifford and Jan Bradley, who both work alongside Paul. Together with the co-directors (Beth Hewitt, Senior Lecturer in Media Practice, University of Salford and Isabelle Croissant, Deputy Engagement Director, Cornerhouse), they have produced interactive workshops, seminars and networking events.

The festival team work closely with postgraduate students from the MA in Documentary Production and MA in Fiction Film in the School of MMP at the University. The students work with the exposures team to co-ordinate and develop links and workshops. During the festival itself, students from both the University of Salford and Manchester Metropolitan University help run the events and screenings.

The festival is a combination of film screenings, interactive workshops and events, all led by invited industry professionals and aimed at new and emerging filmmakers. The vision for exposures is that it is the platform where industry professionals are able to discover emerging directors and producers, camera people and digital creators of the next generation. And if 2009’s festival can be the measure of success, then it definitely looks as though it is well on its way to achieving its ambition.

The juries for each of the categories are made up of industry practitioners and each film nominated for an award has been selected via rigorous criteria. Only the best of films get accepted and the high standards we set are deliberately so.

The 2009 Awards Evening was held at Urbis in November. Paul Abbott, patron of exposures and Martin Hall, Vice Chancellor of The University of Salford, introduced the evening, both emphasising the importance of exposures and its place in the film festival calendar. Martin Hall noted how he had always wanted to be involved in a film festival and that on his arrival he was excited to discover the university was already producing exposures Film Festival. The awards evening was an exhilarating night and the exposures team were delighted that such respected and admired industry practitioners were able to attend and also present the awards.

The festival has been supported for many years now by Corona and the exposures team very much values their input. Corona presented the Audience Award to Jennifer Fernley for her Documentary: Stuck on the Edge.

The ambition for exposures is that it continues to grow and develop year on year. Selecting the best films with the highest production values will enable exposures to become the place for industry professionals to seek out emerging new talent and this is our vision for the future of exposures: New Talent in Moving Image.

If you would like to know more about exposures contact Beth at: b.a.hewitt@salford.ac.uk

The film festival is great example of a successful and truly collaborative partnership.
The programme undertaken at Salford is enhanced by national and international guest speakers on a wide variety of topics, study trips to organisations such as Pilkington Glass and Jaguar Land Rover at Halewood, a programme of personal and career development sessions and an international study week in France.

Students of the 2008/9 cohort describe the course as intensive, absorbing and highly rewarding, transformational and “a life changing experience”.

During this inaugural year, students, faculty and employers will recognise that our accreditation is an assurance of quality and that we provide an exceptional programme of study through this innovative course design.

For more information on the MBA course contact: P.Sobreperez@salford.ac.uk

If you would like to know more about the AMBA go to: http://www.mbasworld.com/

The Feet Matter partnership with owners of the Scholl brand of foot health care products (SSL International Ltd) is an investment worth £1.8 million to the university over three years and the project is currently embedding the university expertise, facilities and reputation within the Scholl innovation team at Trafford Park. This is the largest ever investment in a university by a member of the foot health care industry. Work includes the evaluation of products already in development but also creation of new product ideas. This is followed by research to drive a science based product development process. Several Salford created innovations are already at prototype stage. Research is utilizing the extensive biomechanics and human performance facilities in the school, including state of the art motion capture, foot pressure measurements and ultrasound imaging technologies. Using these it is possible to quantify the effect of insole footwear and related products on foot and lower limb biomechanics.

Related education activities, led by Head of School Sue Braid, are ensuring that the knowledge base within the company keeps pace with the research driven product innovation activities. This is creating an integrated portfolio of work between the university and SSL staffs to ensure that the full range of company needs are met. The partnership celebrated its first anniversary in December 2009, enabling VC Martin Halls to meet with SSL Chief Executive, Gary Watts. The partnership is already having spin-offs for other areas of the university, including links to Art & Design. A key objective for the partnership is to maximise the points of interface between SSL and the university, so that the university is embedded in a range of company activities.

If you would like to know more about this research contact Chris at: c.j.nester@salford.ac.uk
Deborah was born in west London in 1949 and brought up in Southall. After a period working with young people in the care system, she studied in the then School of Social Sciences at Brunel University and subsequently qualified as a psychologist in 1973. Whilst bringing up her three children in West Wiltshire she completed her doctorate at the University of Bath in 1985. Typically innovative, the research for her doctorate, involving a large sample of women, drew directly upon her own experience and broke new ground in its analysis of the factors influencing identity formation in first time mothers.

Research contracts at the Department of Social Medicine at the University of Bath in 1988. Whilst at Bath, she contributed to the work of the Social Policy Group and published in collaboration with two of the leading authorities in health inequalities and health services research, Raymond Illsley and Rudolph Klein. From Professor Illsley she acquired an international perspective, a re-engagement with sociology, and a talent for working with large data sets. From Professor Klein she developed the facility to critically review the established narratives of professional elites. The radical legacy of her time spent in student politics articulated well with these collaborations. She brought an interest in dialectical analysis to bear on this work in an appreciation of the way in which policy and practice developments have the capacity to both mediate and impact upon structural inequalities and inefficiencies and improve peoples’ lives.

In memory of

DEBORAH

Professor Deborah Baker, who died aged 60 after a short illness, was a world renowned expert on inequalities in health. Working latterly, and until her death, as Professor of Public Health and Director of the Centre for Public Health Research at the University of Salford, she developed research networks that had both a national and international presence and which led to policy developments and interventions within both contexts. In her work with PCTs in Greater Manchester, she brought theoretical flair to the process of practice development and evaluation enabling such work to punch well above its weight in terms of its publication profile and its wider influence.

Deborah was greatly valued and will be very much missed.

Professor Baker is survived by her husband, Matthew, their three children, Zoe, Hannah and Jamie, and two grandchildren, Isabella and Daniel.

To Alan though the greatest surprise was that no-one had thought of it before. He said: “there are of course numerous space-themed pieces in the classical repertoire, Holst’s The Planets being the obvious example; composers have ‘used’ signals emerging from pulsars in electro-acoustic pieces; some composers have used mathematical modelling of physical processes, but no-one had thought of telling the real story of the universe as clearly as they could. I suspect this is because generally composers are usually more interested in the poetic connotations, say, of an asteroid’s name, than in the physical process by which it came to exist. They may feel uncomfortable with the prosaic language of science. I was lucky to have, as collaborator, my librettist Philip Goulding, whose tireless intellectual curiosity recognises no boundary between arts and sciences. My own astrophysicist father has given me a sense that the real story of astronomy is just as poetic and inspiring as any more ‘artistic’ understanding”. 

Alan took three different approaches in the music. The first was to translate observational data into music and include that as a ‘nugget’ of scientific account of the origin of the universe. Richard though was keen, as he was looking for a project which would work both as a professional performance and also involve as many sectors of the Salford community as possible. Before long, at a presto prestissimo pace, Jodrell Bank, six Salford schools, one FE College, Salford Choral Society and the BBC Singers were all involved!

For example, there’s a canon setting the periodic table, in which each element name is set to a number of notes which is the same as its atomic number (so hydrogen has only 1 note, helium has 2, lithium, 3 and so on). Simultaneously, the percussion, also in canon, shows the electron shell structure of each element (this shell structure concept is no longer used, but broadly speaking it’s still a helpful image for popular science communication). The cumulative nature of the multilayered canon is a great way of showing how heavier elements are formed from the nuclear fusion of lighter ones.

The third approach, Alan said, “was a film music type approach. The libretto is intensely dramatic: what happens when planets collide in a planetary nebula? How would a film composer write that? (and when was the last time a film composer had an orchestra of 100 and a choir of 120 to do it?). This was the most fun and most accessible approach! Telling the story through these means was a challenge – but it’s the greatest story there is. It needs the huge palate of the symphony orchestra and choir to do it justice, because in the orchestra is all the drama, scale and sheer physical effort that the story needs”.

If you would like to know more about Alan’s work and research contact him at: a.e.williams@salford.ac.uk

Music Man

Joe Duddell, University of Salford Reader in Music, has been busy in his dual roles as both composer and conductor forging links with leading culture industry bodies both nationally and internationally. In addition to commissions from the London Symphony Orchestra, Endymion Ensemble, Prestige and Cheltenham Festivals, Joe teamed up with Manchester’s Hallé Orchestra and the internationally acclaimed rock group Elbow for a unique collaboration during the 2009 Manchester International Festival. Hailed as one of the cultural highlights of the year by BBC’s The Culture Show, the two sell-out concerts at the Bridgewater Hall (and an outdoor relay in Castlefield) in July were universally praised and given 5-star reviews in the Guardian, Observer, Independent and NME newspapers. Joe was given a special commendation form the judges at the Best of Manchester Awards in Art, Music and Fashion for his work and was also invited to be a panel member at last year’s ‘In the City’ conference to talk about the project. Joe has gone on to collaborate with the BBC Philharmonic, Manchester band James, and Peter Hook (Joy Division and New Order) at the M.E.N. Arena for the Versus Cancer charity concert in December. The BBC Philharmonic also performed and recorded Joe’s percussion concerto Ruby in November for future broadcast.

Joe’s current research projects include a large-scale choral work and a video opera in conjunction with composer Craig Vear (currently a Graduate Teaching Assistant in Music at the University), concerned with issues surrounding climate change. They will be working with video artists, the British Arctic Survey, the BBC and schoolchildren from three different countries. They hope their work will be used as a catalyst for creative education projects in Salford and beyond, as well as forming part of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership funding bid. Joe recently gave a postgraduate lecture, which was open to the general public, on his collaborations with orchestras and the bands Elbow and James.

If you would like to know more about Joe’s research contact him at: j.duddell@salford.ac.uk

‘Theories and Methods: Literature, Science, And Medicine’

The University of Salford is leading an AHRC funded project in collaboration with the Universities of Keele, Leicester, Manchester, King’s College London, the London Consortium, the Science Museum, National Maritime Museum, Museum of Science and Industry, Royal College of Surgeons, Royal Institution of Great Britain, and the Wellcome Library.

The project and its programmes aim to teach doctoral students the theories and methods of researching the intersections of and relationships between literature, science and medicine. The programme recently held its first event in St Deiniol’s Library (which was Gladstone’s library) near Chester. The AHRC is fully funding twenty places for doctoral students. These were chosen after a national competition. The research interests of participating students, ranged from ‘the Poetics of Transplant’ to ‘Modernism, Medical Culture and Disability’, to ‘Industrial Illness in Cultural History’, to ‘Heart, Spirituality, and Crime in Late Nineteenth-Century Occult Fiction’ such diversity made the event exciting and challenging. Tutor participating in this first event were drawn from the Universities of Anglia Ruskin, Glamorgan, Keele, Kent, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, and Salford. The week at St Deiniol’s was packed with plenary lectures, workshops, student presentations, and other activities and ended with a visit to the Museum of Science and Industry and John Ryland’s Library in Manchester for some hands-on sessions involving scientific and medical manuscripts and objects. For those who would like to know more about this event and the subjects discussed there is a discussion group and social space available via the www.itscimed.org. These online resources will continue to grow and develop as the programme continues.

If you would like to know more about this event or the AHRC funded PhDs contact Professor Sharon Ruston at: s.ruston@salford.ac.uk
Here at the University of Salford, Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga and Dr Richard Haigh are taking their research work further and leading a new international journal with the aim of creating worldwide beneficial disaster management knowledge. Disaster management and the built environment is a very wide and complex field, and a useful step towards establishing an integrated theory of potential value in a disaster management context is to bring together fragments of research findings that exist. In facilitating this, Dilanthi and Richard, at the Centre for Disaster Resilience in the School of the Built Environment at Salford, have been successful in setting up an academic journal - the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment, which aims to be the leading journal that contributes to the body of knowledge on developing society’s disaster resilience through the built environment.

This new journal is published by the Emerald group of publishing, a leading UK publisher and is the only journal to promote research and scholarly activity that examines the role of building and construction to anticipate and respond to unexpected events that damage or destroy the built environment. It aims to develop the skills and knowledge of the built environment professionals and other professions working in disaster mitigation and reconstruction, so that they may strengthen their capacity in strategic and practical aspects of disaster preparedness, rehabilitation and reconstruction to mitigate the effects of disasters nationally and internationally.

The journal will contain a mix of academic papers, book reviews, case studies and field studies. It will promote the exchange of ideas between practitioners, policymakers and academics, and provides a unique forum for novel enquiries into the development and application of new and emerging practices as a source of innovation to challenge current thinking.

In research on disasters and in the actions taken when they occur, there is a tendency to focus on the safety of the people who might be, or are, affected. It is necessary to extend attention to ways and means of securing livelihoods and production. Moreover, it is important to remember that the post-disaster recovery programmes and actions are aimed at building communities, not just building the constructed items better. Thus, they need to be complete and involve the preservation of the society and the culture. Efforts should be made to document, validate, disseminate and promote best practices in disaster management and the built environment. Accordingly, the journal will take a theory development and reflection approach to its scholarship. It is hoped that the journal will, in the longer term, provide a basis for interdisciplinary collaboration. It encourages a level of interaction within the field that has previously been nonexistent. It is essential that research become involved in current international projects to work with other countries in promoting knowledge and sharing ideas. For example, the centre at Salford is currently involved in a project led by the Sri Lankan Chamber of Construction, Conflict Transformation through Livelihood Development Opportunities in the Construction Sector project, among which the planned activities is training of construction craftsmen as an initiative for conflict transformation through livelihood development. The centre is also a strategic partner collaborating closely with UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction) and will be collaborating on UNISDR’s Resilient Cities 2010 – 2011 initiative.

You can view the journal’s inaugural issue at: www.emeraldinsight.com/ijdrbe.htm

If you would like to know more about Dilanthi or Richard’s research or the work of the centre contact them at: r.d.g.amaratunga@salford.ac.uk or r.d.haigh@salford.ac.uk
Neutrons, Muons and ISIS!

ISIS may have been a goddess who was worshiped by the ancient Egyptians, but ISIS is also a world-leading centre for neutron research which enables scientists to study the properties of a wide range of materials from metals to polymers to biological systems and understand them on the atomic scale.

In addition to producing neutrons, ISIS is the world's most intense source of pulsed muons. The muon spectrometers are used by academic and industrial researchers from around the world to address problems in physics, chemistry, earth science, engineering, materials science and biology.

Sue worked at ISIS from 1993 to 1994 as a member of the team which upgraded the single muon instrument into a triple instrument facility, and was in charge of building the MuSR spectrometer, which was optimised for research into magnetism and superconductivity. Once the upgrade was completed she worked as an instrument scientist, collaborating and assisting researchers from all over the world on a range of projects as diverse as magnetic properties of spin glasses, characterisation of organic magnets, molecular dynamics and semiconductor physics. After leaving ISIS, Sue's research took her to St Andrews University, then Leeds University before moving to Salford in 2006. She still has strong links to the Muon Facility as a regular user, as Chair of the Science and Technology Facilities Council Facility Access Panel 6 (Muons), as the Chairman of the Muon Users’ group, and until recently, as Chair of the ISIS Users’ Group.

Sue's principal field of research is the application of neutron scattering, muon spin relaxation, and x-ray synchrotron techniques to studies of the magnetic and superconducting properties of alloys and compounds. She also uses similar research techniques to study materials of biological, engineering and archaeological importance. Currently, Sue has two PhD students studying at Salford working alongside her, Rob Moorhead, who is working on the development of novel processing routes of material with dental and medical applications and Lisa Simmons who is working on phase formation in metallic systems. Rob and Lisa carry out experiments at ISIS and also work at two similar facilities in France, the Instrut Laue Langevin and the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble.

If you, your business or your school would like to guide and support GMFRS users in designing and carrying out evaluations of their community safety projects”.

Norma recognised, at the outset, that a key challenge would be to build a toolkit that was sufficient to enable the potential users to feel comfortable using it and able to apply it when developing, managing and monitoring projects and initiatives. Heidi said: “early discussions identified that staff believed there were barriers and constraints to evaluation and they also felt to the usefulness of evaluation activities. They felt positive about monitoring and assessing initiatives, and thought evaluation to be a valuable activity as it helps to address issues related to the effectiveness of the project, management and importance of any activities, and highlight possible future changes to programme delivery”.

If you would like to know more about this article or you feel your business could benefit from student Placement contact c.t.procter@salford.ac.uk
Employer Engagement: Working in Partnership To Deliver Success

Over the last two years the University has undertaken a highly innovative piece of work aimed at transforming the way it works with businesses to provide demand led learning and business support solutions.

Salford’s unique approach has focused on the implementation and embedding of transformational change across its core business processes, systems and culture in order to fully integrate employer engagement throughout, its teaching, research and enterprise activities. Focusing on 5 main areas and associated activities, the project has been delivered by academic and support staff from across the institution with up to 50 staff working on the project at any one time. Critical to the success of the project has been the active role employers have played up to 50 staff working on the project at any one time. Critical to the success of the project has been the active role employers have played in informing and influencing the development of these key systems and processes. Working closely with a small number of employers on the delivery of pilot projects, the University has facilitated greater and more effective employer engagement across its teaching, research and enterprise activities.

Every space has its own unique soundscape, created by a combination of the overall design, the materials used in construction and the way that space is used by humans. Until very recently, few architects ever gave much thought to what affect that soundscape might have on the people inhabiting the space, be they office workers, school pupils, teachers or shoppers. This has resulted in railways stations where train announcements are unintelligible, restaurants where you have to shout to be heard and open-plan schools in which teaching is all but impossible. Recent research has shown that a poor aural experience can have a considerable negative effect on how we feel and behave even at a subconscious level. In his presentation Trevor told the audience how some spaces ‘speak’ and how our aural experiences can be transformed.

If you would like to know more about Trevor’s research contact him at t.cox@salford.ac.uk

Radical Thinking

The University of Salford’s Professor of Acoustic Engineering, Trevor Cox, was recently invited to present to the Institute of Sound and Communications Engineers (ISCE). Trevor’s presentation ‘Exploring the science of aural architecture – the relationship between sound, design and human experience’ was presented at the 2009 Warren-Barnett Memorial Lecture. The talk was based on research at Salford, as well as material from a BBC Radio 4 programme, Sound Architecture, which Trevor presented earlier this year.

Building design and city planning is dominated by the visual. But a new science has emerged which explores the relationship between design, acoustics and the human experience, called aural architecture.

These seminars, which are open to the general public, have been drawing upon the significance of Salford as a birthplace of the industrial working class and its tradition of radicalism and political struggle. The series has sought to address problems of social class and political order in this past semester, it featured lectures from João Ferro (University Institute for Research of Rio de Janeiro) and Immanuel Ness (Brooklyn College, City University of New York), as well as a workshop on the study of everyday life and the state. In his seminar, Professor Ferro examined the role that intellectuals and the media have played in the opposition to affirmative action policies in Brazil and India, noting the ways that self-interests often underpin the arguments of academics and other intellectuals. Professor Ness’ talk on the recent increase of factory occupations and sit down strikes were especially popular and attracted many local labour leaders. Of particular interest, was the analysis of the how the Vestax Factory Takeover has served as a model for subsequent strikes across the UK and North America. A workshop brought together researchers from across the UK, who have been pioneering critical research on how the existence and legitimacy of the state is created through everyday practices. The seminar series will continue for the foreseeable future and underscores the overlap and affinity between the history and interests of Salford with other working class communities around the world, as well the need for new ideas and critical reflection for coming to terms with our contemporary political and social antagonisms.

If you would like to know more about the series contact Peter at: p.bratis@salford.ac.uk

Salford University Professor Brian Maidment, Research Professor in the History of Print, was recently invited to give the keynote presentation ‘Punch and the English Comic Illustrated Periodical’ at a symposium held in Heidelberg.

While Punch and other British comic and satirical magazines have been extensively studied, little is known of their effect on journalism outside Western Europe and America. The aim of the symposium is to bring together experts on the history of nineteenth century journalism beyond Europe and America, and to consider the ways in which various cultures both drew on and developed Punch and other contemporary satirical magazines as a form of social and political commentary.

The conference papers will be published. Brian Maidment is an internationally known scholar of Victorian periodicals. He was an Associate Editor for the recently published Dictionary of Nineteenth Century Journalism, to which he contributed over a hundred entries, including that on Punch. He is a member of the Executive of the American-based Research Society for Victorian Periodicals and a member of the Editorial Board of the Victorian Periodicals Review. His recent work has largely been on early nineteenth century mass circulation comic visual culture, including periodicals.

For further information about Brian’s work contact him at: b.e.maidment@salford.ac.uk

East Meets West - Periodically

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For further information about Brian’s work contact him at: b.e.maidment@salford.ac.uk
Examples of some of the activities are:

Flash Bang: Chemistry Show - Delivered as part of the Schools Program, Dr Steve Rossington delivered 5 shows over 2 days to approximately 500 young people (12 to 13 yrs) from the Greater Manchester area. The Chemistry show explores solids, liquids and gases with some entertaining flashes and bangs along the way! This show was also delivered to approximately 120 members of the public at St Sebastian’s Community Centre.

Spectroscopes – You Can See more With Light – Dr Richard Pilkington delivered this event 5 times over the two days! to young people from the Greater Manchester area. The Spectroscope activity explores the light spectrum and the use of light as an analytical tool. The activity involves the young people constructing their own spectroscopes to take home.

Image to Sound – Charlie Mydlarz, a postgraduate student, along with colleagues, has developed a piece of software that converts images to sounds. This software was demonstrated to members of the public using the BBC Big Screen in Manchester city centre and an interactive whiteboard. Members of the public were invited to draw a picture on the screen which was then displayed on the big screen along with the associated sounds created by the software.

Telecoms Exhibition – Professor Nigel Linge displayed his extensive collection of historic telecoms devices and computers, at the Museum of Science and Industry, and along with colleagues was on hand to answer questions and chat. Over the weekend of the Festival this activity engaged with a staggering 3006 members of the public.

Hydrogen: Energy of the Future - To a small but thoroughly engaged audience at the Emmanuel Church in Salford, Dr Dan Bull discussed the current research into Hydrogen storage and the pros, cons and feasibility of a hydrogen based economy. The talk included demonstrations on hydrogen fuel cells and hydrogen fuelled remote controlled cars.

Science Trail - Members of the public were invited to visit the university and embark on a science trail around the Faculty, taking part in 6 activities throughout the day. The activities were: Complexity: the physics of feedback – Dr Graham McDonald, Acoustics Lab tour and Demonstrations – Dr Joc Hirst, Aeronautical Engineering Lab Tour and Demonstrations – Mike Penny, Creepy Crawlies – Jasmine Moss, Boris Molecular Drug Design – Dr Steve Rossington, Glacier Goo – developed by Ryan Wilson delivered by Helen Brown. This event was fully booked with 30 members of the public all family groups.

If you would like to know more about any of these activities or you would like them to happen in your school or community centre, contact Helen Brown at h.brown@salford.ac.uk

The University of Salford recently contributed 11 events to The Manchester Science Festival with the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Environment (SEE) contributing 10 activities over the 10 days. This was the university’s biggest contribution over the lifespan of the festival. Over the 10 days, with their 10 different activities, SEE engaged with 3931 members of the public ranging from aged 6 to 70+.
Global Construction Transformation

University of Salford Research Fellow Bob Owen of the Salford Centre for Research & Innovation in the Built and Human Environment is Coordinator of the CIB Priority Theme, Improving Construction and Use through Integrated Design and Delivery Solutions (IDDS). The CIB (International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction) has a world wide network of over 5000 experts from over 50 member organisations with a research, university, industry or government background, who collectively are active in all aspects of research and innovation for building and construction. At any one time there are just four crosscutting, multi-year priority themes.

A white paper was published in December by the CIB to drive forward the global priority research theme of Integrated Design and Delivery Solutions in the construction sector. Bob, along with Mark Palmer of NIST, USA, John Dickinson of NR, Canada, and Bob Tatum of Stanford University, USA have led the finalization of this White Paper. Contributions by Abdul Samad Kazi of VTT, Finland, Robert Amar of University of Auckland, New Zealand and Matthias Pins of Technical University of Delft, the Netherlands, have also significantly helped to shape the paper. A number of other international experts have also contributed to the work by submitting comments on earlier versions of the paper. The evolution towards holistic views of construction (and thus Design and Delivery) was considered vital in order to drive greater value delivery, and also minimise process, material and time waste.

During 2010 the Roadmap will be developed to drive the Theme forward, with inputs from the Coordinators of Working Commissions and Task Groups. Further workshops, conferences and publications will be prepared but the first event will be as part of the World Building Congress 2010 at Salford in May, where a high profile industrial panel will debate the way forward.

Right to Buy – 30 Years on

University of Salford Senior Lecturer, Anya Ahmed, was recently invited by the BBC, due to her expertise and research in social housing, to appear on the Politics Show to join the discussion on the 30th anniversary of the controversial Conservative Government policy, ‘Right to Buy’ (RTB).

Anya’s research areas are mainly in; housing need and access; under-researched communities and social housing; housing consumption in the UK and British home ownership in Spain. RTB was introduced by the 1980 Housing Act and allowed council tenants to buy their homes at significantly discounted rates. It also fitted with the privatisation ethos which characterised the decade. The programme discussed the success or otherwise of RTB and focused on the winners and losers through RTB and looked in detail at two case studies. Following RTB, one household had accrued substantial equity and was able to purchase a property in a desirable location, while another household was unable to repay the mortgage and their home was repossessed.

Although an individualist policy, the success - or otherwise - of RTB should not be judged on an individual basis. RTB has had serious consequences for the social rented sector, significantly depleting social housing stock and narrowing the socio-economic profile of its residents. This meant that in 2008 the waiting list for housing was 40% higher than it was in 2003 (National Housing Federation 2008) and it is estimated that there will be five million people on waiting lists for social housing by 2010 (Local Government Association 2009).

Further, there are currently 72,000 households living in temporary accommodation, so clearly there is a shortage of homes to rent. In Scotland RTB was recently abolished in order to provide affordable homes where necessary. With levels of mortgage repossession in 2009 estimated at 48,000 (Council of Mortgage Lenders 2009) due to the recession, the need for social rented housing has never been greater. Anya is shortly to be taking her research further to the next generation of home owners and visiting a local school to discuss these issues with local high school children as part of their Baccalaureate programme.

If you would like to know more about Anya’s research contact her at: a.ahmed@salford.ac.uk

Success – But can you help?

The Careers & Employability department at the university have successfully won funding from both the European Social Fund and HEFCE to develop and run a programme of training and work placements for unemployed and underemployed Salford graduates, called Graduate Gateway. Participants will have the opportunity to undertake five days of stretching and interactive training, which will potentially lead into a work placement relevant to their needs.

Do you know of any businesses that could offer placements or are you a business looking for an extra recruit? If you are an employer who has less than 50 employees the placement can be fully funded. Placements would be 13 weeks in duration, for 19 hours per week. If an employer requires more hours/weeks then this can be negotiated.

Placements will largely be with local small and medium-sized businesses, although participants can opt to volunteer with charitable organisations if they prefer. Careers and Employability are currently looking for employers who can offer placements. This scheme is running until June 2011. If you are an employer looking for an extra recruit, or if you know of an employer who would be interested in this scheme, do contact Careers & Employability at the university to discuss your options and see how your organisation can help your organisation.

Contact us at: futures@salford.ac.uk

Further information on the programme can be found at: http://www.careers.salford.ac.uk/employers/gg
Key features of both programmes are an insistence on inter-disciplinarity, pushing for that added value that comes from thinking outside of the conventional boundaries, and the opportunity that this seed funding will give to do the preliminary work for more substantial, externally funded, research.

These awards focus on our relationship as a university with the City of Salford, and the potential for productive partnerships that contribute to the social and economic development of our city region. The work carried out by the projects will also help us better understand how to measure the impact of research. This is important for us as a university that has its roots powering the industrial revolution, and for the upcoming Research Excellence Framework, with its welcome emphasis on measuring impact.

A committee comprising the Vice-Chancellor, senior University staff and an elected member of Salford City Council chose the five winning bids. Four of the winning entries will be funded by the University of Salford and one by Salford City Council. Amongst the successful bids was the ‘Hive in the Cliff’ proposal, at the heart of this programme is the revitalisation of an iconic building: St. John the Evangelist Church, Higher Broughton, which closed in 2007 and lies at the centre of the community.

The Hive in the Cliff will support the restoration of this vacant building and its redevelopment as a community centre for creativity, culture and the arts. In addition, this community centre will act as a partner site for the University and its surrounding community, interfacing formally and informally through educational activities, cultural exhibitions, and creative projects.

Another winning bid was the ‘Heritage Access for All: Ordsall Hall Pilot’ – this project will be funded by Salford City Council. The Ordsall Hall project is the first of three projected pilot studies designed to assess a raft of 3D visualisation approaches specifically designed to enhance public access and understanding of the Cultural Heritage Sector. Ordsall Hall, Salford, is a 14th to 19th Century timber and brick manorial complex that is also a Grade I Listed Building, and is one of the flagship Salford City heritage sites.

A joint project entitled ‘TOGETHER’ between the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Environment and the Salford Business School is also due to go ahead. This project will look at the energy consumption of consumers and households, and specifically the reduction of high carbon, and inefficient, energy use in the home, particularly within less affluent households in the city of Salford. It also aims to explore how the occupants of certain properties within Salford use energy how this relates to their health and lifestyle factors and how these findings can influence local and national policy and business initiatives.

A plan to tackle underage drinking in Salford entitled ‘Keep it in the Can’ was also awarded funding. It will look at the ways young people use the various spaces and places of Salford to create their own local geography. This work will identify where aspects of the urban design of the iconic City of Salford may be either supporting or discouraging public drinking cultures. The participation of young Salfordians as active researchers alongside academics is an integral part of this project.

The fifth project is for a ‘Salford Innovation and Creation Hub’. This proposal is to create an innovation hub and gallery, utilising disused retail space within the heart of Salford.

A reception for all the award winners will be hosted jointly by the University and City Council in March 2010.

If you would like to know more about the Iconic Projects contact Tom Murphy at: t.murphy@salford.ac.uk
Research & Graduate College Announces Successful Applicants to the Latest Round of the Research Bidding Support Fund

The Research & Graduate College is pleased to announce that a total of eleven projects were awarded funding in the latest round of the Research Bidding Support Fund (RB SF). These cover a diverse range of research topics, including older people’s access to healthcare, international relations and parasitic diseases.

This scheme has been established to support the preparation of large-scale bids for external research funding. The fund is designed to cover the direct costs associated with writing major bids, such as travel and conducting preparatory research trials. Individual applications are funded to a maximum of £3,000.

Over twenty applications were received in total and to ensure that emerging bids can be supported, further funds will be made available to Faculties to support the development of large scale research bids during early 2010. Please contact your Associate Dean (Research & Innovation) for further details.

Dr Cristina Archetti
ESPacH
International Relations in the Information Age: Media Impact on Foreign Diplomats: Decision-Making

Ricardo Codinphoto
SoBE
Improving older people’s accessibility to healthcare (temporary name).

Dr John Cowpe
CSG
Expansion of the University of Salford Laser Facility Incorporating an Inter-Disciplinary Research Network Hub.

Professor Philip Craig
ELS
Epidemiology of echinococcosis in Europe and China and risk of transmission in UK

Professor Mark Danzon
ELS
Tracking UK vegetation phenology using earth Observation

Professor Geoff Hidy
ELS
Investigation of the different abortion rates in different families of sheep in relation to infection by Toxoplasma gondii

Professor Christos
SBS
Institutional Incongruities and Immigrant Female Kalantaridis: Entrepreneurs: Adaptation, Resistance and Change

Dr Angela Lee
SoBE
3.4.12 BRifGIS international disaster reconstruction Network

Dr Mark Mitchell
N&M
Recovery from Day and Short Stay Surgery

Dr Janelle Yorke
N&M
Maintenance e-habilitation in COPD

EU’s Framework Programme 7
(Marie Curie research mobility sub-programme)

10th Feb 2010
12.00-2.00pm

Framework Programme 7 (FP7) is the main funding instrument of research on European level and provides grants to researchers in order to develop European collaborative research proposals. Framework Programme 7 runs from 2007-2013 with a total budget of over €50 billion. This session will introduce the Framework Programme and provide you with a detailed understanding of the Marie Curie sub-programme in particular, outline current Calls and opportunities, and briefly go through the application process.

Sharing Principles of Good Practice in User Involvement in Research Bids

18th Feb 2010
12-2pm

This workshop will begin by sharing principles of good practice for user involvement in research. Issues pertaining to incorporation of user involvement in research funding applications will be discussed. Participants will appraise outline designs of several studies to identify where improvements could be made to the user involvement elements and how they could be addressed. By the end of the workshop participants will be more confident about incorporating user involvement in their research bids and about where to go for help and advice.

Preparing for the Research Excellence Framework (REF)

2nd March 2010
11.00-1.00

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is the main mechanism devised by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to assess research quality and allocate funding. It replaces the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and will consist of a single unified framework across all subjects. It will make greater use of quantitative indicators than the RAE, while taking account of key differences between disciplines. This session will give an update of the University’s progress so far with preparations for REF. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss the issues raised by the new form of assessment and outline the next stages of our preparation.

European Funding Opportunities

12th May 2010
12.00-2.00pm

There are approximately 165 European funding programmes. Key programmes that support HE based activities include Framework Programme 7 for Research, the Lifelong Learning Programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme for teaching and enterprise projects. This session will give a general overview of these funds and many others that are accessible to the University. The session will introduce the idea of working across Europe on collaborative projects, how to develop European partnerships, how to work in different EU states and turning ideas for European collaboration into working partnerships and developing viable projects.

EU’s Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)

30th June 2010
12.00-2.00pm

The EU’s Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) provides grants to foster collaboration, co-operation and mobility between education and training systems within the European Community. The LLP runs from 2007-2013 with a total budget of almost €7 Billion. This session will explain the LLP and all of its opportunities for teaching and European collaboration and it will explain the application process and University support for academics wishing to undertake collaborative projects. The final part of the session will be practical and will focus on ideas or draft projects you wish to bring along to the session.

If you would like to reserve a place on one of the above sessions please e-mail: hr-helpenquiries@salford.ac.uk
Associate Heads Research

Under the University’s new structuring around Research Innovation and Internationalisation News we now have four new Associate Heads for Research Innovation, one for each school.

Below are a few notes from each of the Associate Heads describing in brief the research activity within their school along with their own research interests. In this issue and in the following Newsletters you will find larger articles on each school division, detailing their current research activities and future plans. If you feel, as you are reading, that there is an area of research that interests you or may benefit your business or community in any way, please do contact the relevant school, the University’s door is always open to conversation and collaboration.

Professor Geoff Hide – School of Environment and Life Sciences. Geoff is a Professor of Parasitology and Associate Head Research for the Biomedical Strand of Research. His research is focused on using DNA fingerprinting-like techniques for studying parasites and how they are transmitted. One of Geoff’s current studies is around sleeping sickness, an African disease that is fatal and has some 50 million people at risk throughout Africa. His studies have helped to understand what causes sleeping sickness and how it can be controlled. He also works on a parasite called Toxoplasma which causes miscarriages in humans and animals. His research has contributed to ways that the disease may be prevented in sheep and is currently involved in studies with humans. Contact Geoff at: g.hide@salford.ac.uk

Professor Paul Sermon – School of Art & Design. Paul has developed a series of celebrated interactive art installations that have received international acclaim. Through a sustained research funding income he has continued to produce, exhibit and discuss his work extensively at festivals and galleries around the world. The School of Art & Design’s divisional structure clusters programmes under subject disciplines that align research activity and expertise in each division, having a direct correlation to staff teaching and creative practice, whilst also reflecting students and resources equally across the school. The three new Research Centres strategically fit within the School Divisions, and these new Research Centres are: Creative Technology & Communications Research Centre (The Graphics & Media Division); Heritage & Design Innovation Research Centre (The Design & Culture Division) and Contemporary Fine Art & Critical Theory Research Centre (The Art & Theory Division). Contact Paul at: p.sermon@salford.ac.uk

Professor Janet Watson – School of Languages. Janet has trained in Arabic language and in linguistics. Janet graduated from the University of Exeter in 1984, and completed her PhD in the phonology and morphology of Yemeni Arabic dialects at SOAS in 1989. Since then she has lectured in Arabic in Edinburgh, Durham, Heidelberg and Salford. She was appointed to the Chair in Arabic Linguistics at Salford in 2005. Her research has focused on theoretical and descriptive approaches to modern Arabic dialects, particularly Yemeni dialects. Since 2004 she has been working on Mehri, one of six endangered Semitic languages spoken in southern Yemen and Oman. She is founding member of a research group involved with endangered Non-Semitic languages and has organised a number of workshops on Semitic morphology and syntax in Oslo and Salford. As AHR one of her intentions is to promote collaborative research and collaborative research training sessions at a cross-institutional level. Contact Janet at: j.c.e.watson@salford.ac.uk

Professor Chris Nester – School of Health, Sport & Rehabilitation Sciences. Chris qualified from the Salford School of Podiatry in 1995, completed his PhD in 1999 and was appointed as Professor of Clinical Biomechanics in 2008 aged 35. Chris has been involved in several major R&D projects related to footwear including several funded by the European Union. He is the lead investigator within the £1.8 Million “Feet Matter” partnership with SSL International, who own the Scholl brand of foot health care products and technologies. In 2007 he co-founded i-FAB – the International Foot and Ankle Biommechanics Community, which now have over 600 members worldwide. Chris is also Director of a University Spin Off company which is commercialising a new inside product from a prior KTP project (www.salforddifference.co.uk). Contact Chris at: c.j.nester@salford.ac.uk

Dr Nancy-Jane Lee – School of Nursing & Midwifery. Nancy-Jane was the first woman in the School of Nursing to be awarded a PhD in 2002, and her research interests relate to professional doctorates and post graduate issues. She was Programme Leader for one of the earliest professional doctorates in the University and has published what is believed to be the first reader specific to professional doctorate students. Nancy-Jane trained as a nurse at the Royal Preston Hospital in 1980, working in general surgery and burns and plastic surgery. Health and well being are central to the School of Nursing’s research activities which focus upon children and young people, for example the Action for Children UK Neglect Project. Supporting people with long term conditions and end of life issues are examples of how the School’s research and related teaching reflect the demographic and health needs of the population. Public engagement in the School has been recognised for its emphasis upon user involvement in research and teaching, while health technologies and evidence based practice explores the information and skills needs of nurses and other health care professionals. Contact Nancy at: n.j.lee@salford.ac.uk

Dr Mark James – Salford School of Law. Mark is a Reader in Law with a specialisation in sports law. He has published widely on the law relating to sporting injuries and the regulation of the sport and entertainment of events. He is the Director of the Salford Centre of Legal Research, whose members’ research interests include criminal law and justice and safety and environmental law, company and commercial law, medical law, international human rights, media, IP and internet law. Contact Mark at: m.d.james@salford.ac.uk

Dr Hugh McLaughlin – School of Social Work, Psychology and Public Health. The School contains the new Centre for Social Justice Research headed up by Dr Lindsay Dougill, with three research themes: social and health inequalities, community and professional engagement and social, psychological and public health interventions. Hugh is a registered social worker and his research includes work on involving service users as co-researchers, professional engagement and International New Deal Research leads. Dr McLaughlin is a qualitative researcher and has worked with clients on a number of projects with staff working in local authority children’s services. Recent work with Professor Steven Sharidow. Current joint research work with Bristol University and Kings College London, involves a European project looking at immigration, the Police and social work, evaluating a homeless charity’s values into-action, an evaluation and development of an integrated children’s services and a prison management project. Dr McLaughlin is also Chair of Trustee Board for Adoption a three nations adoption charity working with all aspects of the adoption triangle, a trustee and representing education for the National Children’s Bureau (NCB) and a member of the advisory group for RIN/DIVE at a National Institute of Health Research initiative to promote service user involvement in health, public health and social care research. Contact Hugh at: h.mclaughlin@salford.ac.uk

Professor Christos Kalantaridis – Salford Business School. Christos has research expertise in the areas of entrepreneurship and regional development, international entrepreneurship, and university involvement in city-regions and is responsible for the development of a broad range of activities spanning the breadth of Business Management Studies. Research in the Business School covers a number of disciplines including marketing, strategy, leadership and organisational behaviour, finance, operations management, entrepreneurship, information systems, and statistics. Innovation activities in the School invariably draw on research strengths and include: a significant number of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, European projects and Consultancy, Management Development Programmes both in-company and through open enrolment. Contact Christos at: c.kantaridis@salford.ac.uk

Professor Sunil Vadera – School of Computing, Science and Engineering – Informatics and Acoustic Strand. Sunil’s Research is focused on developing machine learning models for information validation that have been applied to Gas turbine plants in Mexico and cost-sensitive data mining methods that are being tested as part of a KTP for credit assessment of low income families and which aims to reduce social exclusion. Research in this strand is concentrated on four areas: Acoustics, Computer Networking and Telecommunications, Data Mining and Pattern Recognition, Virtual Environments and Future Media. In total, there are over 75 members and over 70 PhD students, providing a lively research community and environment. Contact Sunil at: S.vadera@salford.ac.uk

Professor David Collins – School of Environment & Life Sciences. David has maintained what is now the longest continuous series of measurements of Alpine glacier meltwater quality in existence, and generated of undergraduates and postgraduate students from the Universities of Manchester, Oxford and the University of Manchester. He was appointed to the Chair in Physical Geography in 1999. Salford have taken part in field-based projects at Findeln, Piz Belli and Gornergletscher near Zermatt in Switzerland. He is also modelling effects of climate change on meltwater discharge in the Himalayas, in collaboration with partners from the UK, India, Netherlands and Swiss institutions, with a view to estimating future water availability as warming causes glaciers to decline and changes monsoon precipitation patterns. As AH Mr David intends to promote an inclusive approach to research across the eclectic mix of subject areas represented in the two Research Centres he has set up to make up the environmental and urban strand of the School, and to cultivate the research atmosphere across the disciplines. Contact David at: d.n.collins@salford.ac.uk

Professor Howard David – School of Computing, Science & Engineering. David is a Professor of Biomedical Engineering and has been a key figure in the Centre for Health, Sport and Rehabilitation Sciences Research since its creation in 2000 (previously the Centre for Rehabilitation and Human Performance Research). His work is inter-disciplinary and he has had successful international research with Health Faculty colleagues. Since 2001 he has worked with: physical therapists, sports scientists, sports medicine, UK and Swiss military, with a focus on foot biomechanics, taking part in research experiments, teaching and consultations in the UK, Switzerland, and China. With Dr Laurence Kenney he leads the Centre’s work on the functional electrical stimulation (FES) of muscles for those with partial paralysis following neurological damage after, for example, a stroke. His research also includes work on prosthetics for upper and lower limb amputees, in close collaboration with Dr Martin Twiste and Dr Kenney. He also works closely with colleagues in the School of Computing, Science and Engineering in the area of biomedical research interests, notably Professor Tim Ritcehings and Dr Samia Nefli-Meziani. Contact David at: d.howard@salford.ac.uk

Professor Alison Adam – School of English, Sociology, Politics and Contemporary History. Alison is a Professor of Science, Technology and Society. She was a member of RA2008 subpanel UoA 37 (Library and Information Management) and is currently a PI on an EPSRC/ESRC collaborative project studying on-line privacy. ESPACH has the highest proportion of active researchers of any school within the university. Its new research centres are aligned with the school’s divisional structures: Research Centres include Centre for European Security: Centre for Democracy and Human Rights: Centre for English Literature and Language and Centre for Social Research. Contact Alison at: a.e.adam@salford.ac.uk

Professor Charles Egba – School of the Built Environment. The School’s research work into the built environment takes place in several research centres and collaborates with many companies and clients around the world to make very significant contributions to innovation and improvement in industry and the environment. Charles’ own research expertise lies around the areas of Knowledge Management and Intellectual Capital in Diverse Project Management Environments, Managing Innovations in Construction, Benchmarking and Key Performance Indicators, Project Management Processes, information technology and its impact on team-working, communication and productivity, Construction procurement practices (including partnering, Prime Contracting, PPP and PFI), Strategic Management in Construction, Skills, knowledge and Competencies for Construction Management and Education and Training for Improved Performance in Small, Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Construction. Contact Charles at: c.o.egba@salford.ac.uk

Professor Ben Light – School of Media, Music, Performance and Design. Ben is Professor of Digital Media, a member of the University’s Digital Cluster Executive and a member of the Communication, Cultural and Media Studies Research Centre. Ben’s research interests and expertise are around people and the use and convergence of digital media such as those that support sexual/romantic relationships – internet dating (specifically Gaydar), those that are being tested as part of a KTP for credit assessment of low income families and which aim to reduce social exclusion. Research in this strand is concentrated on four areas: Acoustics, Computer Networking and Telecommunications, Data Mining and Pattern Recognition, Virtual Environments and Future Media. In total, there are over 75 members and over 70 PhD students, providing a lively research community and environment. Contact Ben at: b.light@salford.ac.uk
RISE

Research Innovation and Internationalisation News

University of Salford Masters student Alex Fenton, along with colleagues and tutors is hoping to breathe life into a historic local building, in both the real and virtual world. The old Police station on the Crescent is located across from Maxwell building with one side adjoining Fire Station square.

The building was designed by Bolton based architects Bradshaw Gass and Hope in a Neo-Georgian style in 1957 to be in keeping with the other Georgian buildings in the area. When constructed, the building featured the most modern information room outside Scotland Yard. In the late 1950’s, the Cold War was in full effect, and the basement of the police station was constructed with a view to being used in the event of a war or civil disturbance. The basement also features an escape tunnel which exits on the Crescent.

The building was purchased from the Police by Salford City Council in 2005 as part of the plan to regenerate the area, but these plans are currently on hold. The Vice Chancellor Martin Halls, Paul Haywood and Jo Clemens of Art & Design recently formulated a plan to work with the local community to produce images of Salford to cover the boarded up windows. This would effectively breathe new life into the building in the short term and show Salford’s rich history. Paul Haywood commented: “Salford is undergoing massive upheaval in preparation for Media City UK and one of the risks of this rapid regeneration is the dislocation of a traditional community and a strong social network in an urban district where incidence of multiple deprivation is one of the highest in Britain. In this context, we rely on innovative and original uses of technology and social media to give momentum to projects and empower those engaged.”

Alex Fenton and Andrew North work for the University’s Enterprise support service in Faraday House next to the old police station building. Alex also works for University based web development company Eديرactive (www.edinteractive.co.uk) and studies a part time Masters in Creative Technology. Together they developed a plan to create a virtual version of this project. In 2009, Alex researched and created a before and after 3D model of the old police station as part of his Masters. Alex’s tutor Professor Paul Sermon had recently been awarded a grant from the VC’s iconic projects for Media City to purchase an island in the virtual world of Second Life known as “The Salford Metaverse”. Alex requested a development space to re-create the old police station as part of his Masters. With advice from land manager Joe Brindle, the installation was constructed and can now be visited by anyone in Second Life.

The virtual version of the old police station serves as a test bed for the real life project. Alex researched the history of Salford visiting the Working Class movement library and the Local history library. In addition, several local artists such as Andrew Brooks and Stephen Wright gave permission for their artwork to be used on this virtual building. These artworks, combined with other photographs such as contributions from local resident and University employee Marie Foley, provided an invaluable insight into Salford’s history.

In addition to the virtual installation, the project taps into social networking and web 2.0 technologies. Sites like YouTube, Flickr, Facebook, and Twitter combine together with a central website hub pulling the project together. These technologies weave together with the virtual space to form an engaging experience.

In early 2010, Albion High school in Salford will become involved with the project both in real life and the virtual Second Life version. Both sides of this project offer amazing potential for research, community engagement and creativity between local people, the University and local businesses. Paul Haywood commented “This tool will be a massive bonus, getting the collaboration with pupils at Albion kick started. It is immediate and fun as a working model and extremely impressive as a piece of artwork in its own right. Alex’s Second Life public art work offers a new way of working with communities.”

The Second Life installation of this project, a Facebook group and a project website is open to anyone that wishes to find out more about this project.

The current website address is: http://salford-in-pictures.edinteractive.co.uk

To find out more about this research contact Alex at: a.fenton@salford.ac.uk
Innovation and Diversity

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. There is no doubt that the Higher Education sector is entering choppy waters: the recent recession which has been one of the deepest for some time, the UK government’s recent announcement of cuts in block grants to universities and evidence of research council’s increasing focus of dwindling funds for postgraduate studentships on fewer institutions are indications of these choppy waters.

Challenges, however, also present opportunities. Innovative companies, such as Apple, take choppy conditions and turn them to their advantage. How? By innovating their way out of these choppy waters. During the dot com crash of 2000, when most IT companies cut back and shuffled their activities, including their R&D departments, Apple invested heavily in talent and innovation and emerged in 2001 with iTunes and the iPod, which revolutionised the way we enjoy and consume music. Likewise, during the current recession, Apple have decided to do the same: they have innovated their way out of the recession with another potential hit product – the iPad. Looking across the postgraduate community at Salford, I see many examples of innovative, original and exciting research projects being undertaken by a diverse range of students. Examples in this issue of RISE show that we have a great deal of creative research talent amongst our student body and we, as an institution, must innovate to allow these talents to blossom into successful researchers and research projects. To this end, we are looking to innovate our way to progress. Amongst a range of initiatives, we are developing practical working links with the Salford Information Observatory, an open source repository of local data from various public sector bodies; we are developing an AHRC bid for collaborative doctoral awards together with the Cornerhouse in Manchester; we have just put in a bid to the ESRC for a multi-disciplinary seminar series involving a mixture of face to face seminars and online social networking seminars for research students to engage with; and we are well advanced in developing the Virtual Doctoral school, which we hope will provide innovative complimentary means for the research student community to link with the university, their peers and their supervisors.

Student life and the Student Union are busy expanding their current postgraduate engagement strategies with activities aimed more specifically at research students and the recently announced Director of Graduate Studies Discretionary Fund is also there to help postgraduate research students disseminate their work and engage with their peers and wider community in original and innovative ways.

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Innovation, originality and rigour are the keys to quality research. The diverse pursuit of these qualities are the very qualities we are encouraging and supporting.

Professor Erik Knudsen
Director of Graduate Studies

The Directorate of Graduate Studies (DGS) was established to provide a champion for graduate studies across the University. The office, in Faraday House, looks after all aspects of central Postgraduate provision, including Postgraduate Skills Training, e-learning and careers, and has responsibility for quality assurance and enhancement of Postgraduate programmes, as well as representing the University externally, in particular on graduate organisations such as Vitae and the UK Council for Graduate Education (UKCGE).

Members of the Team

The current Director, Professor Erik Knudsen, took up the post in 2009. He is also a Professor of film practice in the school of Music, Media and Performance.

Email: e.knudsen@salford.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 295 7072

Linda Kelly is the Graduate Studies Office administrator, and responsible for running the office as the DGS PA, as well as organising the SPoRT programme.

Email: l.m.kelly@salford.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 295 3841

Cristina Costa is the Learning Technologies Development Officer, and looks after all e-learning resources on postgraduate research programmes.

Email: c.mendesdacosta@salford.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 295 6751

Fiona Christie is the Careers adviser with responsibility for postgraduate researchers, and is based in Careers within the Student Life division. Her PhD careers blog can be found here.

Email: f.christie@salford.ac.uk
tel: 0161 295 5668

Jaye McIsaac is the Educational Developer responsible for teaching and learning development for Graduate Teaching Assistants and other Postgraduate Teachers and is based within the Research and Graduate College.

Email: j.l.mcisaac@salford.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 295 3747

Dr Victoria Sheppard is the Research Skills Coordinator. She oversees the provision of skills training, the SPARC postgraduate conference and other events and resources to support postgraduate researchers.

Email: v.m.sheppard@salford.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 295 4452

The poster provided an account of an academic’s implementation and translation of personal development planning (PDP) and the student’s application.

Jennie and Elaine examined PDP and the outcome benefits in supporting the bridging of the distance between theory and practice. It was hoped that the PDP would balance the student’s level of writing skill with their clinical expertise and aid in translating it from practice to theory and back again. Upon completion, the students were asked for feedback on their assignment; the content of which was presented in the poster, by means of a professional Doctorate student’s encounter and reflection of the PDP.

Personal development planning fosters a self-reflexive process pertinent to management of learning and personal leadership skills. The process enhances the acquisition of knowledge and professional expertise to progress and sustain critical leadership in practice. Self-esteem and confidence sustained each other on this journey and proved to be a process of constant renewal and a ‘double-edge’ sword of self exploration, increased self-esteem facilitated increased confidence, allowing for further critical exploration and identification of future learning needs with the prospect of developing new skills and academic credibly. This reflective process initiated the critiquing of Jenni’s own personal position and professional role within a range of theoretical, leadership, managerial and social constructs and highlighted the necessary knowledge and understanding which necessitate conducting her own real world research.

If you would like to know more about Jenni’s research contact her at j.templeman@chester.ac.uk
University of Salford PhD Student, Ceyiz Makal Fairclough, based in Communication, Cultural and Media Studies research centre, is conducting practice based community research exploring, through visual means, the lives of people from Turkey who have come to live in the West of England; her PhD is entitled ‘Immigration and Cultural Identity in the UK: a visual story’.

Hailed as the foundation of the research is Ceyiz’s ability to express herself academically, theoretically and practically. She is known for her personal artistic style to achieve a much deeper engagement with the subject. Ceyiz states, ‘Conscious of the fact that she has selected a highly competetive subject in immigration, Ceyiz feels that it is crucial to understand the real motives behind what drives people to emigrate, particularly when the reality for them in their new countries is so challenging. Ceyiz will continue to spend time with migrants from Turkey who are based in the North West of England, to develop in an in-depth understanding of their condition. If you would like to know more about Ceyiz’s research contact her at: ceyizmakal@gmail.com

University of Salford long distance PhD Student Lok ka-leung (Lawrence) who is based in Hong Kong, is currently researching into Facilities Management (FM) and the investigation of outsourcing relationships with related facilities management resources, people planning, property and technology of facilities management.

Lawrence is undertaking this research whilst working as a professional building engineer and working as a term lector at the Department of Construction of Institute of Vocational Education, in Hong Kong. Lawrence is currently being supervised at Salford by PhD Supervisor, Professor Eddy Finch and Dr. Vian Ahmed and Dr. Chang Tat-Hung from the Hong Kong Polytechnics University. Lawrence’s research will look at the facilities management industry and its operations.

Nowadays, outsourcing is prevalent in various industries of the business world and the alignment of facilities is what are believed to be one of the successful business requirements. However, business success has generally been neglected in relating facilities management outsourcing performance to business needs of an enterprise, especially in the educational business sector. It is unquestionable that investigation of the outsourcing significance. However, rather than addressing the FM outsourcing relationships between clients, users and FM services providers, much effort has been concentrated on investigating the adoption of outsourcing or in-sourcing in the business firms, that tend to focus mainly on FM services. Lawrence’s study addresses effective linking of FM outsourcing relationship types to users’ satisfaction in the educational business sector. Lawrence feels that his research does not only have contribution to intellectual knowledge of facilities management, but it will also be beneficial to real life outsourcing scenarios in entrepreneurial environment, therefore giving value academically, theoretically and practically.

If you would like to know more about Lawrence’s research contact him at: K.L.Lok@pgs.salford.ac.uk

Postgraduate Research Conference in the Built Environment

The International post-graduate community of the built environment will be coming together to present and discuss their research as part of the CIB World Congress 2010 which will be held from May 10th - 13th 2010, at The Lowry, Salford Quays, UK.

A stream of activities dedicated for postgraduate researchers in the built and human environment will be held under the coordination of the CIB Task Group 53 on postgraduate research training in building and construction led by Professor Dilanthi Amarasinghe of the School of the Built Environment. In 2010, School of the Built Environment’s annual postgraduate research conference has been incorporated into the CIB World congress.

There will be a dedicated stream of developmental papers for Postgraduate researchers on the themes of World Congress 2010 including skills development. This is going to be the biggest ever gathering of postgraduate researchers in the built environment with over 350 abstracts already received. An existing stream of activities especially for postgraduate researchers being planned. Further information is available at www.cb210.org or allow the menu item "postgraduate research stream" for further details.

Further details can also be obtained from Professor Dilanthi Amarasinghe, CIB TG53 Coordinator at the School of the Built Environment at: d.a.amarasinghe@salford.ac.uk

Understanding Migration through the Pen and the Lens

Students Filming the Changes

In September 2010 the University of Salford will move some of its students and staff into the new MediaCityUK building, creating a new higher education campus that will be embedded in the community.

The University building is designed to accommodate around 7000 students and staff and is located next to the BBC buildings on the main waterfront. It is being seen as an extension of the University’s main campus, acting as a showcase for cutting-edge projects and exhibitions, and a hub for research and teaching activities. The Postgraduate Department in the School of Media, Music and Performance, were invited to work with MediaCityUK to produce five short films about the developments of the site, for the MediaCityUK website.

Collaborative ventures such as this are extremely important and valuable to the students as it allows them to work with media professionals outside of the University. A team of four students, Helen Trither (former Women’s Editor for the Manchester Evening News), Bethan Morgan, Brynja Dogg Froriksdottir and David Jacques are working with MediaCityUK to produce five short films about the developments of the site, for the MediaCityUK website.

The aim of the task is to encourage research students to engage in a wider community, both academic and lay, in their ongoing research and to do so in interesting and innovative ways. Objectives can be carried out in a variety of ways, including: engaging the internal community within the university; to make national and international conference presentations; to take forward an idea for community engagement or to engage with professional clients or partners and to work with and create partnerships with national and international bodies. There is no prescriptive understanding of what engagement is, it is up to the student to define this. The maximum award is £500. There is no deadline. Applications are considered on an ongoing basis.

This fund is there to add value to the new and exciting research emerging from the University, to encourage dissemination and engagement of post graduate research work that is currently being undertaken, beyond that of the normal research activity requirements.

Students Filming the Changes

If you would like to know more about these joint venture contact Beth at: b.trither@salford.ac.uk

Take it Further

The Director of Graduate Studies’ (DGS), Professor Erik Knudsen, offers a Discretionary Support Fund. The fund is available to any current University of Salford postgraduate research student in good standing with the university.

The DGS discretion ary support is designed to encourage research students to engage in exciting and innovative ways. Objectives can be carried out in a variety of ways, including: engaging the internal community within the university; to make national and international conference presentations; to take forward an idea for community engagement or to engage with professional clients or partners and to work with and create partnerships with national and international bodies. There is no prescriptive understanding of what engagement is, it is up to the student to define this. The maximum award is £500. There is no deadline. Applications are considered on an ongoing basis.

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If you would like to know more about the DGS Discretionary Support Fund please go to: http://www.pg.salford.ac.uk/page/DGS_support_fund

Viewed from a Distance

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If you would like to know more about Lawrence’s research contact him at: K.L.Lok@pgs.salford.ac.uk
Humans, Robots and the Future Workforce

MultiRoboethics is a modern concept invented in 2004, which deals with the ethics applied to robotics whose objective is to develop scientific/cultural/technical tools that can be shared by different social groups and beliefs. With the rapid advances in technology, the study of ethical issues, as well as the design and use of automatons (machines), is of universal concern. But rather than robots taking jobs Antonio’s research is showing that what has happened is a simple shift of functions; manual tasks were replaced by new methods that are now cheaper and more efficient. Humans rose in the hierarchy and achieved new control and managing positions that contributed for higher levels of production and better quality of life. Over the next 20 years we could expect an increase in the use of robotics and automation in society. This will represent a time of technological change (beyond the computer era), a time where the majority of the tasks are divided between humans and machines. Because robotics is such a multidisciplinary area the numbers of jobs that it can generate are countless: sectors like art and design, law, psychology, energy, health and social care, agriculture, security, electronics, mechanics and computer science constitute an infinite set of opportunities for the present and future generations.

If you would like to know more about Antonio’s research contact him at: a.m.c.espingardeiro@postgraduate.salford.ac.uk

Postgraduate research news
Reconnecting and Developing

Developing our Internationalisation Strategy: Professor Martin Hall’s visits to China, Malaysia, Brunei, Australia

Advancing internationalisation is a major objective of our strategy for future success. Internationalisation continues to be a key plank of our research identity. International students have long contributed to the quality of our teaching and learning, and make up 19% of our student numbers: contributing 34% of our student fee income. The Vice Chancellors visits had three objectives: To reinstate or inaugurate in-country alumni associations; to advance institution-to-institution partnerships and to develop informed policy positions that will define our niche in a highly competitive field.

The visit to China was planned to coincide with two other University of Salford delegations. The first, led by Professor John Wilson, Head of the Salford Business School, was part of the successful Prime Minister’s Initiative to establish relationships with universities in China. The second, led by Professor John Mundy, Head of the School of Music, Media and Performance, was to advance our decade-long partnership with the Beijing Film Academy and to build partnerships in the area of film and media with other universities in China. There were several important media opportunities that served to raise our profile in key student recruitment areas. These included interviews with the China International Education Information Network (CIEIN) for national television, newspaper interviews in Johor Malaysia, and television interviews with Radio Television Brunei. The visits focused on developing consortia and arrangements with key agencies and there were three such interactions in Beijing. The first of these was a conference of partner universities brought together under the aegis of the second Prime Minister’s Initiative (PMI2). Led by the Salford Business School, the PMI2 initiative brings together a group of eight universities led by Salford. The University of International Business and Economics, Beijing hosted the PMI2 workshop. Another workshop was hosted by Zhejiang University. This will lead to long-term, tangible partnership work in areas such as innovation and enterprise, which is one of our six Strategic Themes. Our second interaction was a meeting with the Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE). The CSCSE supports some 80,000 Chinese students each year and is the national agency for validating international qualifications. Professor Hall met with Gong Wan, Deputy Director General of the CSCSE, and some of his senior colleagues. Discussions included the development of student exchange programmes that would meet Chinese government policy of developing more in-country higher education provision, and English language issues. Thirdly, the University undertook a lead role in a British Council Dialogue - “The Role of Higher Education in Regional Economic Development”. Lead addresses were by Professor Hall and Zheng Xiaoji, Vice-President of Beijing University. This symposium was also attended by representatives of the National Centre for Education Development and Research (NCEDR), the Chinese Ministry of Education’s national research and policy group, as well as representatives from eleven universities in China.

During the University’s visits other engagements were undertaken by the team, these included visits and meetings with: President Shi Jianjun, University of International Business and Economics, Beijing; Secretary-General Gong Lihua China Guanghua Nurse Fund regarding post-graduate partnerships with Health and Social Care to assist with advanced nursing education and Tong Xin (a previous University of Salford graduate) now Project Officer in the Department of Health Policy and Legislation, Ministry of Health, regarding collaboration in developing a primary care directed national health policy for China; The Beijing Film Academy visited with colleagues from the School of Media, Music and Performance.

Whilst in Malaysia the Salford delegation met with Vice-Chancellor Gautham Jasmun. The University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, is Malaysia’s leading university, and is rising rapidly in international league tables. Several University of Salford graduates are in senior positions in UM, offering possibilities for future collaboration; Whilst in Brunei discussions were held with Dato Dr Hj Ismail Hj Duraman, Chairman of the Public Service Commission. Regarding recognized qualifications in Brunei.

In Sydney the opportunity was taken of launching the 2009 edition of the online, accredited, journal Gateways, which had been co-edited by Professor Hall with former colleagues from the University of Cape Town. The launch took the form of a symposium hosted by UT Sydney Deputy Vice-Chancellor Bill Purcell. The collection of papers can be found at http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/ojs/index.php/ijcre/view/82.

In Melbourne discussions turned to fashion! Previous discussions had been undertaken by Professor John Holland from Salford with Colin Fudge and David Campbell, Executive Director of Melbourne Knowledge Capital, a part-equivalent of Manchester Knowledge Capital and Laura Anderson, Chairman of the L’Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival, an international event held in Melbourne each March. These discussions centred around the idea that Salford and RMIT partner in presenting Salford University student work as live holograms in March 2011, and at the Melbourne Spring Fashion Show in October 2011.

If you would like to know more about the Vice Chancellors trip, or to access Michael Lurie’s report contact Wesley Hackett at: w.hackett@salford.ac.uk
Prime Minister’s Project

The University’s PMI2 project (Prime Minister’s Initiative for International Education) recently involved workshops in the Chinese cities of Beijing and Hangzhou.

The aims of PMI2 are to share knowledge in higher education between the UK and China and to promote establishment of UK–China collaborative partnerships in higher education focusing on employability, entrepreneurship and global citizenship. The workshops are an integral part of the University of Salford’s PMI2 project, funded and supported by the British Council, and constitute a key activity of the second year of the two-year project. Seven prestigious Chinese universities are involved: East China Normal University (ECNU); Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT); Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU); University of International Business and Economics (UIBE); Wuhan University (WHU); Zhejiang University (ZJU) and Zhengzhou University (ZZU).

The event in Beijing was co-hosted by the University and UIBE and was chaired by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Ghassan Akkad and hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Martin Hall and the President of UIBE Prof Jianjun Shi. It involved welcome speeches followed by formal signing of the Project Agreement by partners present in Hangzhou and then theme-based presentations were given.

In total, delegates from 19 organisations, including numerous universities, attended the events. The outcomes of the workshops will now be taken forward and an international conference will be hosted by the University of Salford in 2010, to which all Chinese and UK universities that are involved in PMI2 will be invited.

If you would like to know more about this research contact: s.l1@ salford.ac.uk, or visit www.pmi2partnership.salford.ac.uk

Meeting up Again

Reconnecting with our International Alumni

Paul Makinen, from the University’s International Relations team, recently attended an event at the FCO in London, where a major research report was launched, detailing the opportunities for the UK Higher Education sector to engage with Iraq, and outlining potential pathways and roadblocks to success. The report also made recommendations for UK policy makers and institutions as to how some of the opportunities could be realised.

The University recognises that our alumni are one of the most effective and valuable attributes we have. Because here at Salford we recognise the importance of maintaining and developing relationships with our alumni, the University has invested in the creation of an online area for alumni to receive news, social announcements and to interact with each other, this is called ‘The Salford Supporters Online’ (see link below).

To kick-start this reconnection, Professor Hall and his wife Professor Brenda Cooper recently hosted four alumni networking events as part of his inaugural visits. The networking events were held in Beijing and Shanghai in China, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei. Over 230 of our alumni attended these events. At each event, it was clear that those attending included highly influential people in local public and private sector organisations. Profiles varied by country – in Malaysia and Brunei, alumni had graduated from the early 1970s through to recent years. In China, our alumni are younger, and very clearly part of the new elite in Chinese business and government organisations. In Brunei, we were able to announce the launch of our new MSc in Islamic Banking and Finance, which spurred considerable enthusiasm.

During these events it was announced that the University was launching a Shanghai Alumni Association, a Beijing Alumni Association, a Malaysian Alumni Association and a Brunei Alumni Association. It is hoped that each association will promote networking; organise social events; keep alumni in touch with the University; provide a focus for University staff to meet alumni; support prospective and new students; aid University staff at recruitment fairs; assist alumni in career development and promote the reputation of the University locally.

Bruneian alumni Ann Lord said “… it was a most memorable event for all of us. Not just for the excellent food but for the fact that you and your team took the trouble to come here to up-date us on the exciting developments for the University. “Martin was pleased with the response at the events and said: “ these events have given us the foundations for alumni networks in four key countries. Our task now is to ensure that we have in-country leaders for these groups, regular events with visiting university people, and strong social networking support through the supporters web site”.

At present we have no effective alumni network in Australia, although it is probable that a reasonable number of Salford graduates live and work there. Alumni meetings in Sydney and Melbourne were held in order to establish a basis for building a future network in Australia.

To find out more about the international alumni visit the web site at: https://supporters.salford.ac.uk/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=194
Forthcoming Events

17th – 19th March, 2010 – Rethinking the Middle East. Professor Charles Tripp SOAS, Professor Erik Goldstein Boston University, Dr Muaffaq al-Rubaiie former Iraq National Security Adviser, Professor Eric Davis Rutgers University, Dr Reidar Visser Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Dr Lars Berger, Dr Christian Kaunert, Dr Gaynor Johnson, and Dr Sarah Leonard University of Salford. Venue - British Academy, London. For more information contact: I.berger@salford.ac.uk

25th March, 2010 - Cohesion counts Conference. Building and measuring community cohesion. York Consulting, Contour Housing Association, Professor Andy Steele University of Salford, Great Places, Oldham Housing Investment Partnership and Good relations Oldham, Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale. Venue – The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. For more information contact: P.brown@salford.ac.uk

30th March, 2010 - Multimedia Guides - Realising their potential. Professor Nigel Linge, University of Salford. Venue - The Old Fire Station, University of Salford. For more information contact: N.linge@salford.ac.uk

31st March, 2010 – Stepping up to the mark: Integrated working: working smarter, working better. Professor Rhiannon Billingley, Sheffield Hallam University, Sue Berndt, University of Huddersfield, Professor Mike Thomas, University of Chester. Venue - University of Chester. For more information contact: C.hynes@Salford.ac.uk

14th – 16th April, 2010 – Universities Nuclear Technology Forum. Venue - University of Salford Campus. For more information contact: D.k.ross@salford.ac.uk

15th & 16th April, 2010 – 1st Annual Conference of the International Functional Electrical Stimulation Society (UK and Ireland Chapter). Dr Shafeen Hamdy, University of Manchester, Margaret Parton, CEO, NHS Technology Adoption Centre. Venue - Innovation Forum, Salford University Business Park, Frederick Road, Salford. For more information contact: UKIFESS@salford.ac.uk

10th – 13th May, 2010 – CIB World Building Congress. Venue – Salford Quays, Salford, UK. For more information contact: Kaushal@cib2010.org

3rd - 4th June, 2010 - Sights & Sounds Interrogating the Music Documentary Conference. Venue - The Old Fire Station, University of Salford. For more information contact: D.sanjek@salford.ac.uk

1st – 3rd July, 2010 – Bigger than words, Wider than Pictures – Noise, Affect, Politics Conference. Venues - University of Salford (The Old Fire Station) and Islington Mill, Salford. For more information contact: D.sanjek@salford.ac.uk

6th – 7th July, 2010 – 2nd International Interprofessional Health and Social Care Conference, University of Salford in partnership with The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University. Venue - Geoffrey Manton Building, Manchester Metropolitan University. For more information contact: A.oxby@salford.ac.uk

Summer 2010 (final dates TBC) – Prime Ministers Initiative Project to host a large International Conference. Venue - China. For more information contact: X.li1@salford.ac.uk

23rd – 24th September, 2010 – HaWiC International Conference 2010, Better healthcare through better infrastructure. Venue - Edinburgh. For more information contact: P.allen@salford