The sound of Accredited Quality Research

University of Salford
working with German FBI

Resilient Homes - Who’s Responsible?

New Cancer Drug

Overseas Visit for Vice Chancellor

PLUS: It’s a Scream! | Research Bidding Support Fund | The Ethics of Robotics | and much more ...
... to the fourth edition of RISE, the Research Innovation and Internationalisation News letter from the office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) and the Office of International Relations at the University of Salford. RISE has been designed to showcase our expertise in research, innovation and internationalisation and to reach out locally, nationally and internationally.

Over the last three months Professor Martin Hall, our new Vice-Chancellor, has settled into his role with vigour and aplomb. Through the VC Roadshow events he has been listening to University staff at all levels, working with them to identify areas where our institution can improve and ways that they can take their knowledge and expertise out into businesses, schools, healthcare providers, other educational institutions and the wider community.

Martin has also launched new schemes to support the development of Early Career Researchers and projects that relate to our presence in MediaCityUK. Details of these can be found on page 24.

To keep abreast of the Vice-Chancellor’s news and views, please take a look at his weekly blog that is updated every Monday. It can be viewed at http://www.corporate.salford.ac.uk/leadership-management/martin-hall/blog/.

One of the highlights of October was Martin’s official inauguration as Vice-Chancellor and the installation of Dr Irene Zubaida Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, as the University’s new Chancellor. Irene is respected worldwide for her achievements in the field of human rights. She will be a great ambassador for the University and we are proud and honoured to have her working with us.

In this issue we are also pleased to introduce our new Director of Postgraduate Studies, Professor Erik Knudsen, who outlines his plans for his term of office with regard to postgraduate research students.

There have been several important events recently in the University’s research calendar, including the Research and Innovation Showcase held in September. This event highlighted the six cross-cutting University themes that are being developed in tandem with the new Research and Innovation strategy. The six themes are: Built Environment; Energy; Health and Wellbeing; Human Rights, Crime and Security; Innovation and Enterprise; and Media. An article about the event is included on page 22 and you can view the presentations online to see if there is an area of research that you or your organisation would like to be involved in.

A wide range of research projects are highlighted in this issue, including Mathias Fuchs’s European project with universities in Spain, Germany and Austria and Dr Sarah Tyson’s work with colleagues in the North West to develop a motorised frame to expedite the rehabilitation of patients who are regaining the ability to walk.

This issue also celebrates the success of Julie Wray and her colleagues from the Faculty of Health & Social Care, who have won an award from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Maternity (APPGM) for their postnatal study ‘The Hospital to Home’, and Dr Cristina Archetti, who has won the prestigious Denis McQuail Best Article of the Year Award for Advancing Communication Theory for her paper ‘News Coverage of 9/11 and the Demise of the Media Flows, Globalization and Localization Hypotheses Studies’. Dr Christian Kaunert was also recently interviewed by the BBC for his expertise on counter-terrorism and human rights with regard to control orders.

The University prides itself on the support it offers the local community and businesses, especially in these straightened economic times. This issue demonstrates the practical support we can offer to help solve real world problems. For example, The Centre for Construction and Innovation are working with colleagues across the North West to offer local small and medium-sized enterprises advice on issues surrounding low-carbon construction via a government body called Business Link.

This issue also covers the achievements of young entrepreneurs and describes how a group of enterprising youngsters working with the University are creating a ‘PeaceWear’ clothing range.

Finally, we are delighted to announce the establishment of a new Centre in Archeology that aims to delve into the region’s past. The Centre is keen for North West communities and groups to become involved so if you have a desire to dig deeper please contact them and see what you can do!

The University of Salford’s door is always open to conversation, collaboration and new partnerships. All are welcome!
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The sound of Accredited Quality Research
Funders of research are increasingly beginning to insist that researchers work to a specific and auditable quality system, a task which, in terms of the time investment required, may seem colossal. However with the University’s state-of-the-art Acoustics Laboratories already running successful quality systems, our very own quality guru could offer a fast track to quality assurance in research.

We all want to have confidence in the goods and services that we buy, whether as consumers in the high street, as a business or as an organisation. But how can our customers, either commercial companies or bodies awarding research contracts, be sure of high standards in the university sector? This is particularly pertinent at the moment, with Research funders such as DEFRA beginning to insist that research organisations operate their projects to a documented quality system, and enforcing this contractual obligation with an accreditation audit by bodies such as UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service).

For staff with no experience in formal ‘Quality Management’, the task may seem immense, particularly in terms of the time investment required.

On the positive side, it provides an opportunity for research groups to not only improve their performance, but also to attain status and credibility in an ever more demanding marketplace. The University of Salford is one of the first universities in the country to tackle this issue, with a current DEFRA project, on the human response to vibration in residential environments, about to be audited under a quality system created according to the Joint Code of Practice for Research (JCPR).

University Project Manager for the DEFRA project, David Waddington, said: “We were already operating in line with the University’s quality systems and procedures.

The requirements of the JCPR differ mainly in formatting and presentation – but reformulating our quality procedures to address the JCPR was a fulltime job. We are primarily paid to do the research so it made sense to bring in some expertise when we realised we needed to meet the auditors from UKAS.”

David contacted the Acoustic Test and Calibration Laboratories at the University, who have operated a successful UKAS accredited (to BS 17025) laboratory for many years. The laboratory is subject to stringent annual assessment audits, and it seemed an opportune moment for enterprise to feed-back in to our research culture, with some industry standard expertise in the form of the Acoustic Laboratory’s quality guru, Claire Lomax.

Claire says: “I was first introduced to quality systems when we established the calibration arm of the laboratories back in 2003. At that time, the Acoustic Test Laboratory had been operating a UKAS accredited system for many years, and we wanted to obtain the same status for the calibration side of the operation. We now have a fully operational BS 17025 quality system that has been accredited by UKAS for the last 5 years.”

To date both Acoustic Test and Calibration Laboratories operate under the new BS 17025 system, which is similar to ISO 9000 but arguably more stringent. Many customers and funders now insist on UKAS accreditation, and the development of the quality system has served the Laboratory well. The unit now works with local authorities, construction companies, acoustic consultancies and manufacturers and has an annual turnover approaching a quarter of a million pounds.

Claire says, “The success of the collaboration with the DEFRA vibration project made us realise we have something to offer. I am sure that other research units will be experiencing pressure to develop their own quality systems, and this really is very transferable knowledge. It makes little sense to be spending hours developing discrete systems, when the basis of our system could offer some fast, proven solutions – and save masses of paperwork.”

If you would like to know more about the work of the Acoustic Test and Calibration Laboratories contact Claire at: c.lomax1@salford.ac.uk
Spasticus Autisticus – Music in Normal Land

Professor George McKay, Director of the Communication, Cultural and Media Studies Research Centre, has recently been awarded a £37,000 Research Leave Grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for his project entitled ‘Spasticus: Popular Music and Disability’.

The project’s title comes from the Ian Dury single ‘Spasticus Autisticus’, which was released in 1981 to mark the UN International Year of Disabled Persons. (Dury himself was a polio survivor and a visibly disabled performer). George aims to produce a book-length study from the research. Speaking about Dury’s song George said: “‘Spasticus Autisticus’ remains debatably the highest profile and most controversially direct intervention from a major pop artist to disability culture. Yet, as disability cultural studies have taught us more generally, the moment we begin to look for disability in popular music, we find it everywhere; in critical theoretical terms, pop is a profoundly dismodern cultural formation and practice”. As a visiting fellow at the University of Sydney in 2008, and as editor of a special edition of the Cambridge University Press Journal Popular Music on disability and pop in 2009, one path of George’s research led him to a remarkable cultural cluster of polio survivors, covering pop and jazz. These included the likes of: Connie Boswell; Horace Parlan; Doc Pomus; Judy Collins; Charlie Haden; David Sanborn; Ian Drury; Steve Harley; Neil Young; Joni Mitchell and Israel Vibration. This esteemed group’s disabilities can be partly explained by the concurrence of late polio epidemics within the childhood years of an early pop and rock generation, but George’s research is examining ways in which these artists would find, in the youthquake’s new sonicities and performative practices, musical and lyrical opportunities to make sense of their own disabled bodies. With the AHRC’s support, the plan is for George’s groundbreaking monograph to be available in 2011, to coincide with the 30th anniversary of Ian Dury’s single.

If you would like to know more about George’s research contact him at: g.a.mckay@salford.ac.uk

University Engaging with Businesses

In response to the Government’s challenge for Universities to increase the level and impact of their engagement with businesses, the University of Salford has developed a Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) system to support this key area of work.

As a single system for: the storage and sharing of business and organisation contacts; the ability to identify opportunities and track progress on activities with partners and collaborators; a tool to support and strengthen the University’s strategic approach to research, innovation and enterprise and improve the customer experience – the development of a University-wide CRM system is proving instrumental in supporting the University’s partnership with the business community.

Led by key academics and support staff from across the institution, the phased roll out of CRM at Salford has gained national recognition, with HEFCE commending the University on its innovative approach and deployment and £50,000 secured from JISC to support its further development. With work continuing at pace, the team is now exploring the potential of the CRM to support research colleagues across the institution. There has been significant interest from Research Centres and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research & Innovation, Ghassan Aouad, is encouraging colleagues to put their ideas forward. By sharing more information across the University from existing and potential business customers, CRM will enable staff to identify collaborative research opportunities and support the University’s aspirations for the Research Excellence Framework.

For further information about CRM and its potential to support your business engagement activities, please contact Sandra Macpherson (CRM Development Manager) at: S.E.MacPherson@salford.ac.uk
A Salford University academic, Dr Maria Burke from the Business School, was one of eight invited plenary speakers at a recent conference held at Northeastern University Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The conference was entitled “International Conference on Knowledge, Culture and Change in Organizations”. The plenary sessions were undertaken by some of the world’s leading thinkers and innovators in the field, with numerous parallel presentations by researchers and practitioners. The primary interest of the conference was knowledge-based social and economic change.

Driven by globalization and advances in information and communications technologies, this change has been characterised in terms of emerging information/knowledge societies and a global knowledge-based economy. Maria’s paper considered the position of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with regard to models of Knowledge Sharing. In addition she looked at scenarios of three possible futures and how SMEs could benefit from increased use of knowledge management.

If you would like to know more about Maria’s work contact her at: m.e.burke@salford.ac.uk

Explaining and Understanding Europe

The European Studies Research Institute (ESRI) has recently been awarded prestigious funding. The European Union Simulation Project has received funding from the European Commission (€ 21,000) for the time period of 2009 to 2012.

The main aim of this project is to bring the study and research of the European Union closer to students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Popular discourse in Britain often depicts the European Union (EU) as an ‘undemocratic and bureaucratic monster’ imposing its will upon the unwilling and ‘sovereignty-less’ member states. Consequently, students are often thought to be ideologically opposed to, or, at the very minimum not interested in, studying and researching the EU. The Jean Monnet project ‘EU Simulation’ aims to change this perception.

The project aims to strengthen interest in the EU through the problem-based learning (PBL) approach, aiming to generate students who are independent, enterprising problem-solvers, through the provision of real-life problems. A final ‘summit’ setting the scenario will be concluded at a negotiating session modeled upon a European Council summit, this will be attended by EU practitioners, from the European Communities delegation to the UK, as well as the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, alongside other researchers. Project leader, Dr Christian Kaunert, has established various contacts in Brussels and London through his involvement in the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES).

This experience of bringing together students, researchers and practitioners, will considerably enhance the understanding and the enthusiasm of students, who would not normally come into contact with the EU. In addition, the Council summit will be enhanced with the organisation of three international research conferences in 2010, 2011, and 2012 bringing research closer to students who will gain ownership of their learning process.

If you would like to know more about this project contact Dr Christian Kaunert at: c.kaunert@salford.ac.uk

Social and Economic Change

Research Innovation and Internationalisation News
‘Walking better than bombing’ In modern Hybrid Conflicts

The head of the Army, Chief of the General Staff, General Sir David Richards recently visited the University to give the third annual Chiefs of Staff Lectures organised by the University of Salford’s Centre for International Security & War Studies. The lecture followed similar presentations given by the First Sea Lord and the Chief of the Air Staff.

Sir David, who was appointed to his current position at the end of August, has commanded on active service in Sierra Leone and Afghanistan. He used the opportunity of speaking before a University audience to set down, in a highly stimulating presentation, his thoughts on the future of war. Sir David argued that modern information technology has altered the ways in which future wars will be fought.

These will tend to be hybrid conflicts, ‘wars amongst the people’ where the main aim was to obtain popular support for one’s objectives. In such conflicts, walking was better than bombing, and if equipment was too important to be used then it was of little use. He argued that the current era was similar in the extent of change to that in which the tank displaced the horse. The information age had democratised human action. The battlefield was the people. The keys in such conflicts were intelligent targeting, support for governance, information operations and building up an indigenous security infra-structure. The General’s on-the-record remarks were followed by a vigorous off-the-record discussion in which he interacted with an audience made up of University staff and students, other defence academics and analysts, the OTC, URNU and University Air Squadron and locally based Army officers. General Richards then met the audience informally at a wine reception before returning to London.

If you would like to know more about the Salford Centre for International Security & War Studies contact Eric Grove at: e.grove@salford.ac.uk

Digging Deep into the community’s past

The University has established a new Research Centre for Applied Archaeology to investigate archaeological sites, historic buildings and industrial heritage across the north west, and give local communities the opportunity to take part in actual excavations.

The new Centre will be based at the University’s CUBE building on Portland Street, Manchester, and already has a series of projects to work on. These include excavations at the 12th century Buckton Castle in Stalybridge, Tameside, a national series of training days on industrial buildings run with the Council for British Archaeology and the Association for Industrial Archaeology, and a book on industrial Glasgow show-casing the archaeology of the M74.

Excavations like the one at Buckton will provide the chance for members of the public to be trained in archaeological techniques and learn more about the history of their community. As well as projects involving the community, an important part of the new Centre’s work will include carrying out analysis and recording of sites which may be affected by redevelopment work. Head of Archaeology, Dr Mike Nevell, said: “We’re going to be working on a huge range of time periods - from the Mesolithic to the relatively modern. Obviously, being located in Greater Manchester, a lot of our work will focus on the region’s world-class industrial archaeology, but the region has a rich history stretching back to the earliest human habitation of Britain which we want to bring to as wide an audience as possible”.

If you would like to know more about Mike’s work at the Centre or if your local community group or school want to become involved in digging up the region’s past, contact Mike or Brian Grimsditch, the Community Archaeologist at: m.d.nevell@salford.ac.uk or b.grimsditch@salford.ac.uk
New Ambassador at Salford Business School

Professor Simon Burtonshaw-Gunn, one of the University’s Business School Visiting Professors, has been appointed as one of the first goodwill Ambassadors for the UK’s Chartered Management Institute (CMI).

Simon is a practicing management consultant who is a Fellow of four professional bodies including both the CMI and its sister organisation The Institute of Business Consulting. The Institution has made 40 appointments to this newly created role to support its mission of promoting the profession of management and leadership and the credibility of belonging to a professional body. Simon says that having been involved in Board level university management this new role as Ambassador for CMI compliments his interest in working with the educational sector in order to prepare the next generation of managers and business leaders. Simon is an active participant at the Business School, previously in the School of the Built Environment, who enjoys being able to share his practical knowledge and experiences with both undergraduate and post-graduate students alike. Not content with his full-time consultancy work, his role at the University and mentoring post-graduate students; Simon has also written a number of management text books – two of which have been published this year and two more due in January.

If you would like to know more about Simon’s work contact him at: simon.burtonshaw-gunn@risktec.co.uk

Academic Wins Communication Prize

University of Salford Academic, Dr Cristina Archetti, has won the Denis McQuail Best Article of the Year Award for Advancing Communication Theory for her paper ‘News Coverage of 9/11 and the Demise of the Media Flows, Globalization and Localization Hypotheses.’

The award, named after one of the most famous scholars in the field of communications, comes with an invitation to deliver a lecture at the Amsterdam School of Communications Research (ASCoR) this November and the title of ASCoR McQuail Fellow of 2009-10. Cristina’s winning article is based on a multidisciplinary study of news and journalism in the US, Italy, France, and Pakistan. Using the case study of 9/11 she challenged the validity of mainstream theories in the field of communications. By comparing coverage across media outlets in the different countries she demonstrated, for example, that there is little evidence of “globalisation”: despite the development of transnational communications, news is not becoming more homogeneous on a worldwide scale. This research contributes to the better understanding of the nature of news in the 21st century, as well as the role of the media in society. The results of this study are to be published in her book ‘Explaining News: National Politics and Journalistic Cultures in Global Context’, next year.

If you would like to know more about Cristina’s research contact her at: c.archetti@salford.ac.uk

Disaster Management Protocol Tool

Andrew Fleming, researcher in disaster management and reconstruction processes at the University, has recently been working with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) President’s Commission for Major Disaster Management to identify ways in which built environment professionals may help to alleviate the suffering of those affected by future major disasters.

The work builds on the internationally recognised Generic Design and Construction Process Protocol (Kagioglou et al, 1998) and explores ways to bridge the ‘gap’ in reconstruction of the built environment following a major disaster. The purpose of the protocol is: To provide a common approach, standard documents, definitions and terminology for undertaking construction programmes, to be shared by all the parties and organisations involved; Designed to be “generic” so a wide range of potential users are able to continuously refine and develop the protocol to suit their own needs; Be a customisable process management tool providing maps of activities to improve construction coordination. The protocol is a tool intended to structure time and process activities into a single framework, which can be viewed at a number of levels, starting at the top and allowing users to ‘drill down’ for more detail. Andrew has plans to further test and verify the protocol addressing the definition of the activity zones appropriate for the different types of stakeholders, particularly focusing on those involved with the formulation, design and implementation of physical planning and reconstruction activities.

If you would like further information on this research contact Andrew at: a.j.fleming@salford.ac.uk
Paul Hayward, Associate Head Enterprise, School of Art and Design at the University and Sam Ingleson Knowledge Transfer Fellowship Project Manager, are currently involved in an arts and enterprise based research project that proposes the transfer of a framework and methodology of artistic and creative social intervention that empowers and supports engagement with communities of young people affected by change in their local environment.

Initial project activity will link researchers with schools, colleges, University graduates and a local charity CARISMA to create a street fashion range that address attitudes to gun crime. The PeaceWear clothing range will incorporate smelted down gun metal within its garments to reinforce the ‘save a life not take a life’ message.

A Community Interest Company will be formed to promote and sell the range, of garments and accessories with money raised used to fund further arts related projects in the community.

This method of creative community engagement through the arts seeks to release the potential for collective enterprise with young people enabling ownership and shared responsibility for community initiatives and fostering fresh creativity and a diversity of approach in the exploration of social, physical and racial issues arising from economic disadvantage. The knowledge transfer process is targeting skills in terms of multi-agency project working, creative research methods, action learning and empowerment and applied social arts practices.

If you are interested in learning more about this research project please contact Sam at: s.j.ingleson@salford.ac.uk
A Rehabilitative Step Forward

A Salford University research team have recently received over £300,000 from the National Institute for Health Research to help develop a motorised frame which allows people affected by stroke and other illnesses to learn to walk again. The team from the School of Health, Sport & Rehabilitation Sciences will work with partners, Medilink NW, PDS Engineering and Butters Innovation, to develop the frame which will support the legs of people who can’t take their own weight so that they can practice stepping and walking much earlier in their rehabilitation. Currently, this procedure is performed by up to three physiotherapists supporting the patient.

Dr Sarah Tyson, who is leading the project at Salford, said: “The Government is keen for more technology to be introduced into the NHS as part of its modernisation programme; this frame is an obvious way to save time and manpower and to improve the experience for patients. We’re working closely with patients and the NHS to develop the device which we hope will be adopted by hospitals. This frame has the possibility of making a real difference to a lot of people who are regaining the ability to walk, and will save time and money for the Health Service”. The original frame was developed in a prototype form by a Lancashire man whose relative had suffered a stroke. Salford University was selected for its international expertise in rehabilitation sciences with experts in orthotics, and physiotherapy. The development phase will last around two years, following which the frame will be evaluated by the NHS.

If you would like to know more about Sarah’s work contact her at: s.tyson@salford.ac.uk

The University – Businesses – The Community – Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs)

The University is committed to spreading knowledge and expertise throughout the local and business communities. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are a key vehicle for this, and have been well received by firms across the region. Salford Business School has recently put three of these KTPs into action. Read on to find out more.

Dr Marie Griffiths and Dr Maria Kutar have successfully bid to CILASS for £4,000 to initiate IBL (Inquiry Based Learning) related activity in their teaching. The project ‘IBL Informed Teaching: taking Salford students out of the classroom and onto the streets, into libraries and onto the Net’ will develop digital literacy, problem solving and critical thinking amongst BIS Level 2 students in Business School. They recently presented their preliminary findings at the Education in a Changing Environment (ECE) conference hosted here at the University in September.

An £118,000 KTP between Beta Group and University of Salford academics has been approved. This new partnership will focus on the identification, mapping and re-engineering of back office management and field engineering management processes facilitated by the appropriate technologies. Academics and researchers from Salford Business School, Dr Marie Griffiths, Dr Aleksej Heinze and Dr John Davies, will be collaborating on this project with members of Beta Group. Finally, Pressurelink Contracting Limited (PCL), a company that has already benefited from a previous successful KTP with colleagues from the Salford Business School, has been successful again in a grant application, working with Dr Marie Griffiths, Dr Aleksej Heinze and Dr John Davies. This new KTP project (another £118,000) aims to establish an e-business communication strategy to support business and operational processes; providing PCL with accurate and accessible information to enable operational and strategic decisions.

If you would like to know more about KTPs and how it can help your business contact Janet Topping, KTP Manager at: j.topping@salford.ac.uk
From Port to Portal

The sight of a new city rising rapidly out of the ground at Salford Quays is little short of awe inspiring. MediaCityUK is a construction project on a colossal scale.

During the Industrial Revolution, the Quays were at the centre of the commercial world, providing port services to Manchester. Now they are poised to go centre-stage once again. Through MediaCityUK, the port will become a portal, state-of-the-art connectivity linking Salford – and the University – to the world. It will be a destination, a global digital hub, a gateway for organisations using digital technology in the region, and throughout the North.

Five national BBC departments will be based in Salford from 2011. This month the developer, Peel, will hand over the first of three buildings to the Corporation. The University of Salford will have 103,000 square feet of space adjacent to one of the BBC blocks. It will take delivery in less than 18 months time and then, like the BBC, press ahead with fitting out the building itself – everything from carpets to specialist equipment. The University facility in MediaCityUK then opens for business in September 2011. The University will bring something very special to MediaCityUK: engagement with industry, productive partnerships, new ways of delivering teaching and research, talented people from all schools and faculties engaged in inter-disciplinary projects. MediaCityUK is about the use and application of digital media, and digital media is used throughout the institution.

The MediaCityUK venture will contribute significantly to the process of transformational change to which the University is committed and which has received material support from HEFCE and the Research Councils. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity with enormous potential for the business of learning and for regional prosperity, an opportunity to create new affiliations and pathways to an exciting and creative future.

Linguistics and Meaning

Professor Diane Blakemore, Head of Linguistics at the University, recently gave an invited keynote speech at the Procedural meaning Problems & Perspectives, International Conference, Madrid in October this year. This request to keynote is in recognition of Diane’s research in the field of linguistics at the semantics-pragmatics interface. Her research has largely been concerned with aspects of meaning which are resistant to analysis in terms of truth conditions – for example, discourse markers (so, after all, moreover). This work has been carried out within the framework of Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson’s relevance theory (Sperber & Wilson 1986).

Working with Deirdre Wilson at University College London, Diane provided a relevance theoretic re-assessment of the standard speech theoretic analysis of discourse markers (Blakemore 1987). This led to a new approach to linguistic semantics based on the distinction between conceptual and procedural encoding (Blakemore 2002). This has not only been applied to the synchronic analysis of discourse markers in a wide range of languages, but also to the way in which the meanings of discourse markers have evolved over time from conceptual adverbial meanings. It has also been generalized to account for a range of other linguistic phenomena, e.g. pronouns, aspect, mood, expresses, evidentials and prosody. The conference in Madrid was intended to be a meeting point for those working on procedural meaning from different points of view and to identify new challenges that will determine the directions for research in the next few years.

If you would like to know more about Diane’s work contact her at: d.blakemore@salford.ac.uk To find out more about the conference go to: www.uned.es/proceduralmeaning/index.htm
Historical Hosts

This September the University of Salford acted as host, over two days, to the annual British International History Group conference, the foremost professional body for international historians with members based not only in the UK, but in North America, Europe and in the Far East.

The conference, at which more than sixty papers were delivered, was opened by the University’s Vice-Chancellor. The first keynote address was given by Professor John Keiger, Research Institute Director of the University’s European Studies Research Institute, who gave a lecture on France’s readiness for war in 1914. The conference dinner was held at the Imperial War Museum North, which acted as the venue for a second keynote address on the significance of the 1907 Anglo-Russian Entente delivered by Professor Keith Neilson of the Royal Military College, Canada. Earlier, delegates had participated in a plenary discussion marking the seventieth anniversary of the Nazi-Soviet Pact that was led by Professor Evan Mawdsley of the University of Glasgow and Dr Alasdair Kocho-Williams of the University of the West of England. The conference convenor, Dr Gaynor Johnson from the School of ESPaCH, is a member of the executive committee of the British International History Group.

If you would like further information on the conference contact Gaynor at g.johnson@salford.ac.uk

For more information on the British International History Group visit their site at: http://wwwbihg.ac.uk

Active Intermediaries for Effective Knowledge Exchange

The Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF) has recently drawn upon extensive research and consultancy at city, regional, national and international levels, to highlight how the missing middle of knowledge exchange can be addressed through the development of what they have termed ‘active intermediaries’.

Cities and regions must develop the capacity for knowledge exchange, not transfer, if they are to succeed in a global knowledge economy. Key to effective knowledge exchange is an understanding and recognition of different cultures of knowledge enquiry and reception. Knowledge must be produced and communicated, rather than simply transferred. It must then be actively received, understood, interpreted and acted upon. Often, the ‘what’ and ‘how’ of knowledge becomes separated and a ‘missing middle’ exists between the expectations of universities and their capacities to deliver. Active intermediaries seek to have a transformative effect on knowledge, providing intelligence in context, rather than organisations. SURF have produced a pamphlet entitled ‘Active Intermediaries for Effective Knowledge Exchange: Populating the ‘Missing Middle’, to explore these issues in greater detail. This pamphlet is the first in a series that SURF are producing for policy makers, business leaders, practitioners and academics around knowledge, innovation, cities and climate change over the next year. The pamphlets will draw on a range of areas and have been produced to demonstrate SURF’s continued commitment to knowledge exchange and mark their 10th Anniversary in 2010.

If you would like to be added to the dissemination list - for this pamphlet and/or future pamphlets within this series contact Dr Vicky Simpson at: v.simpson@salford.ac.uk.

For more information about SURF go to: www.surf.salford.ac.uk.
By 2016 all new homes will produce zero net emissions but as over 80% of the existing buildings will still be here in 2050, attention to the old rather than the new will be essential. But this raises a difficult problem for policy-makers. As most buildings are in private ownership - how do you motivate people to address the effects of dangerous climate change and take action? University of Salford’s Professor Erik Bichard is currently working on a new project to try and address this question.

Erik and his team are working with householders as part of the broader national ‘Resilient Homes Initiative’ promoted and funded by the Environment Agency. The research focuses on testing attitudes of householders and consumers in taking action to carry out physical changes to housing including protection against an increased risk of flooding and decreasing energy consumption.

The project asks whether there is a gap between understanding the implications of climate change and the ability to take action; how to engage householders, and whether reward-based incentives can be used as a means to accelerate sustainable behaviour within a community. The first phase of the project, (January – June 2009) has carried out attitudinal surveys with people living in flood risk areas in England and Wales and a case study area of Salford in Greater Manchester.

The survey results confirmed that two out of three householders would take action against climate change in exchange for rewards. The report made several recommendations such as; grants for flood protection for the low paid, extended eligibility for energy saving grants, Floodline Warnings Direct applied to all flood risk areas, more efforts to promote action rather than concentrating solely on raising awareness, and the introduction of reward pilot programmes that will offer fruit and vegetables, public transport gardening services etc. in exchange for action. This project brings together the University, the Environment Agency and Salford City Council working together to encourage householders to invest into adaptation and mitigation measures.

If you would like to know more about this research project contact Erik at: e.bichard@salford.ac.uk

The effects of climate change may be closer to home than we think. The Government tells us that 27% of greenhouse gas emissions come from housing, and one in 6 homes are in flood risk zones.
Had I The Heavens’ Embroidered Cloths ...

From Jane Taylor’s nursery rhyme ‘Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star’ (written in 1806) to Edgar Allan Poe’s poem, ‘Evening Star’, from William Blake’s prose satire, ‘Island in the Moon’ to Robert Browning’s lyric poem, ‘My Star’, writers and poets have continuously attempted to portray their visualisations of the night sky in words.

In October of this year, at the Salford Museum and Art Gallery, University of Salford colleagues from English Literature and Creative Writing, as part of this year’s Manchester Science Festival, held a class teaching 9-12 year olds the different ways that people have imagined the night sky over the past few centuries. Professor Sharon Ruston, Dr Gill James, and Carson Bergstrom, all members of the Centre for Literary Studies’ ‘Literature, Culture and Science’ research cluster, asked pupils to consider how artists, poets and other writers visualised and described the stars and planets before images from telescopes were easily available.

Instruments such as the Orrery which sits in the reception of the museum and an early nineteenth-century celestial globe held in the museum’s stores were compared to a modern microscope donated for the day by the University of Salford’s chemistry department. Pupils were then asked to consider how ways of imagining and describing what cannot be seen by the naked eye has changed, and then finally, the pupils themselves were asked to do the same, by painting a picture in words of the stars and planets.

If you would like to know more about this event contact Sharon at: s.ruston@Salford.ac.uk

Low Carbon Construction Advice For Smes

University of Salford has led a consortium and secured a three-year £6m grant to help construction firms develop environmentally friendly building methods.

The University’s Centre for Construction Innovation is involved in a partnership with Central Lancashire University, Liverpool University, Urban Vision and the Building Research Establishment. Each partner contributed £1.5m to the project with the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) matching a further £1.5m, alongside a £3m grant from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The investment will be used to offer small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in the North West access to advice on issues surrounding low-carbon construction. A government body called Business Link will act as the first port of call and will direct business to relevant members of the consortium for specialist advice.

The members hope that their expertise will reduce the carbon footprint of the built environment, which they claim is responsible for 45 per cent of UK carbon emissions. Vice Chancellor at Salford University Professor Martin Hall said: ‘These grants will help small businesses beat the recession, as well as provide longer-term benefits to the industry. There is a real need for this type of initiative at the moment, but it will form part of a longer-term strategy that will enable companies to succeed not just this year, but well into the future.’ Martin added: ‘Often companies can’t afford to invest in high-quality advice that will see them through the years to come, because the industry is so competitive that they can only concentrate on the short term. This project means they can take advantage of university-level knowledge that they would otherwise have had to spend a lot of money on. It will allow them to keep an eye on the future, even though times are hard’.

If you would like to know more about this research or how to access it as an SME contact: a.m.thomas@salford.ac.uk

Research Study Wins Award!

University of Salford Lecturer Julie Wray and Debra Bick, Professor of Evidence Based Midwifery and editor of the International Journal of Midwifery, have won an award from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Maternity (APPGM) for their ‘Hospital to Home Postnatal Study’.

The study, funded by the Burdett Trust for Nursing, has helped improve aspects of postnatal care for local women and ends in November. The team plan to further disseminate their work via publications and conference presentations. Maria Eagle MP, from the Ministry of Justice and Government Equalities Office, presented the awards at the Terrace Pavilion, Houses of Parliament. The reception was attended by 150 politicians, leading health professionals and user representatives from the maternity services across England.

If you would like to know more about this research study contact Julie at: j.wray@salford.ac.uk
Editorship of European Research Journal comes to Salford

Dr Christian Kaunert and Dr. Sarah Leonard of the European Studies Research Institute (ESRI) have been appointed Joint Editors of the Journal of Contemporary European Research (JCER) for a period of three years with effect from September 2009.

The JCER is a multi-disciplinary academic journal in the field of European Studies published by the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES) in conjunction with the UACES Student Forum. Since its establishment in 2005, it has provided a forum for the publication of original research and insightful debates on various aspects of European Studies from multiple disciplinary perspectives. UACES advertised the editorship of the journal in early 2009, and eight universities applied for the editorship in a very competitive process, in which three universities were shortlisted. In the end, Christian and Sarah were awarded the editorship after interview. In addition to developing the JCER into one of the leading publications in the field, Sarah and Christian will use their network of contacts to continue to raise the profile of the journal across Europe and amongst policy-makers.

For information on JCER go to: http://www.jcer.net/ ojs/index.php/jcer/index.

Man and Machine Interfacing

University researcher Mathias Fuchs has recently had success in gaining a large grant from the European Lifelong Learning Programme, to enable the University to develop a European Masters Programme in Ludic Interfaces with Valencia University in Spain, Linz University in Austria and Potsdam University in Germany.

All three European partners have strong connections to their own national media cities. The Wii console has made a gaming audience aware of a shift of interest from content to interface, but long before this artists and innovative scientists explored new forms of man–machine, machine–machine, and machine–woman interface configurations. These interfaces are conceptually based on playfulness as the main design objective and are known as ‘Ludic Interfaces’ to distinguish them from technically engineered interfaces like the keyboard or the mouse. Ludic interfaces take the best from computer games, artistic experiment, interactive media, media conversion, social networks and modding cultures to offer tools which are adaptive to cultural change, sensitive to gender-related, age-related and ethnic specificities. These tools offer an ease of use and playfulness to cope with a rapidly changing society. Gigantic joysticks or feedback devices for football games are only two examples of what we would call ludic interfaces (see images). Ludic interfaces will play a key role in providing innovative solutions and Salford, with its partner universities, are already taking a cutting-edge position in the development of these future solutions.

If you would like to know more about Mathias work contact him at: m.fuchs@salford.ac.uk

The Higher the Pocket Money the Higher the Risk

Professor David Forrest along with Dr. Ian McHale and Dr. Jonathan Parke from the University’s Centre for the Study of Gambling, have produced the questionnaire, design and statistical analysis for the recent 2009 British Survey of Child Gambling published by the National Lottery Commission in July.

Conducted every two years by Ipsos MORI, the Survey questioned 9000 children aged 12 to 15 on their gambling habits and other ‘vices’. Nearly 30% of them had gambled in the previous week (slot machines were especially popular), a significantly lower compared with the 2007 Survey. About 10% of child gamblers showed symptoms of problem gambling. The statistical model designed by David and the team, aimed to predict an individual child’s risk of gambling and (if he or she did gamble) of being a problem gambler. The model, presented by David to a round-table of stakeholders, can be used to identify groups of children, and schools, where resources earmarked for gambling education could be spent most effectively. Amongst new findings, the Salford team identified that a child without siblings at home is at particular risk while youngsters from the Asian community, though much less likely to gamble than their white peers, have a far higher chance of running into problems if they do. Similarly, more deprived schools contain fewer gamblers than those with more affluent pupils- but children attending such schools are more likely to be problem gamblers if they gamble at all. David and his team are now working on a broader model to account for early adolescents’ choices on drinking, smoking and drugs, as well as gambling. An early finding is that one risk factor common to all these behaviours is a high level of pocket money.

If you would like to know more about his research contact David at: d.k.forrest@salford.ac.uk
University Expert
Interviewed by the BBC

Dr. Christian Kaunert, expert on counter-terrorism and human rights, was recently interviewed by the BBC about the UK government’s use of control orders, following the release, by Home Secretary Alan Johnson, of a terror suspect who had been under a control order for three years.

Counter-terrorism issues have become very controversial in both public and scholarly debates since the terrorist attacks on 11th September 2001. The ensuing ‘War on Terror’ and its impact on international security have raised many political, legal and human rights questions. Currently Ministers can place terrorism suspects under close supervision that some say falls little short of house arrest. According to the latest figures, there are 14 control orders in force and eight of them affect British citizens. The man recently released, who had dual Libyan and British nationality, was one of three terror suspects who won a landmark Law Lords ruling in July 2009 that their control orders were illegal because they had not been given sufficient details of the case against them.

Christian has researched extensively various questions of counter-terrorism and human rights in Europe and Britain. His research has also covered the role of European Institutions in counter-terrorism. The author of several articles on European counter-terrorism, and wider homeland security matters. His monograph ‘European Internal Security: towards supranational governance’ is forthcoming with Manchester University Press. He recently co-organised an international conference on ‘European Security, Terrorism and Intelligence: Past and Present’, gathering more than sixty speakers and participants from Britain, mainland Europe and the United States. Along with Dr. Sarah Leonard Christian has also developed a new MA programme at the University in Terrorism and Security.

If you would like to know more about Christian’s research contact him at: c.kaunert@salford.ac.uk

New Cancer Drug

University of Salford Scientists have designed and synthesised a new drug which has helped to discover a way of allowing healthy cells to take charge of cancerous cells and stop them developing into tumours, in what could provide a new approach to treating early-stage cancers.

Researchers at the University, along with colleagues from the University of Manchester, found that a special type of the chemicals known as ‘kinase inhibitors’ opened up communication channels on the surface of cells that enabled healthy cells to “talk” to the cancer cells.

The research, which was part-funded by Salford’s own cancer charity, KidsCan, began after PhD student Tim Kemp submitted 70 new compounds to his supervisor, Dr John Hadfield. John, from the School of Environment & Life Sciences, said: “One of Tim’s compounds turned out to be especially interesting. We linked up with Dr Ian Hampson’s team at the University of Manchester who were able to develop it to the current stage”. The research team found that when they added the chemicals to a mixture of healthy and cancerous cells in a flask, the diseased cells stopped multiplying and began acting like normal cells again. Further testing showed that the chemicals helped the cancer cells form connections with surrounding healthy cells which allowed these normal cells to take charge of the mechanism by which cancer cells divide and grow out of control.

The next stage of the team’s research will be to find out exactly how the chemicals are able to increase the number of connections between cancer and normal cells. Once this is known, it should be possible to produce a drug based on these chemicals that could hopefully be used in humans.

To find out more about this research contact John at: j.a.hadfield@salford.ac.uk
Two University of Salford academics, Andrew Wootton and Melissa Marselle at the Design Against Crime Solution Centre, have joined forces with Manchester Arndale, Prudential 4 Youth and the charity Catch22 to launch a community programme with four groups of young people from Manchester and East Salford aged 12-18. The project will encourage the young people to come up with their own design ideas to help tackle crime and anti-social behaviour issues in their local community.

In September at the University of Salford School of Art & Design, groups of young people from Albion High School in Salford, Salford Youth Forum, North Manchester Youth Inclusion Project and Cheetwood Youth Contact Team came together to identify the crime and safety issues affecting their communities and to develop design solutions that could help to fix them. These groups will be working with the support of police mentors towards a showcase evening in November this year.

There the groups will present their design ideas to combat crime and anti-social behaviour in areas that they have chosen, to a panel of judges. Andrew said: “It’s important for young people to have a voice in their community. Too often they may be seen at the source of problems, but we hope the Youth Action Challenge will demonstrate the value of young people’s creativity and insight in developing solutions”.

This initiative has come out of research undertaken by the Design Against Crime Solution Centre at the University of Salford. The City Centre Crime project investigated the relationship between the design and use of Manchester’s city centre environment and crime, in order to develop design interventions to reduce crime. Working alongside Manchester’s Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, twenty design interventions to prevent crime in Manchester city centre were developed.

The project is funded by Manchester Arndale, RSA and University of Salford School of Arts & Design. This is the final project of a 16-year partnership between PRUPIM, Prudential and Catch22 aiming to engage young people to tackle crime and community safety issues through active citizenship. Norman Lloyd, Catch22 National Programme Manager for Prudential 4 Youth says: “This is a fantastic opportunity for young people in Manchester and Salford which will help to change the often negative perceptions that appear in the press. Prudential 4 Youth projects have demonstrated that, given opportunities of this kind, young people bring imagination and innovation to tackling difficult community issues”.

If you would like to know more about this research and other projects in the Design Against Crime Solution Centre contact either Andrew Wootton at: a.wootton@salford.ac.uk or Melissa Marselle at: m.marselle@salford.ac.uk
University of Salford working with German FBI

Germany’s Lower Saxony Federal Bureau of Investigation (Landeskriminalamt Niedersachsen) recently launched an EU-funded project with the University of Salford - designing safer urban living in Europe

The German state of Lower Saxony held a high-profile launch event (September this year) for a new European project, Planning Urban Security (PLuS). This three-year research project is led by Lower Saxony FBI, and funded by the state of Lower Saxony and the European Commission “Prevention of and Fight Against Crime 2008” programme. Lower Saxony FBI is collaborating with partners experienced in crime prevention from the University of Salford, Danube-University (Austria) and Viovodeship Police (Poland), to investigate:

> How can urban residential development and management strategies reduce crime and increase feelings of security?
> How can police engage with those responsible for development and management in European cities to provide support and advice?

Speakers at the launch included Bernd Strauch, Mayor of Hanover; Uwe Lührig, Ministry of the Interior; Ulrike Fritsche, Ministry of Social Affairs; Uwe Binias, Chief of the Hanover Police Department; and Uwe Kolmey, Director of Lower Saxony FBI. Mr. Kolmey stressed the importance of working in partnership across Europe to provide security for urban residential populations: “Public safety is an issue of great significance to EU citizens. Urban design, planning and management all have important roles to play in reducing crime and increasing feelings of security”.

The presentation by Dr Caroline Davey, Andrew Wootton and Melissa Marselle from Salford’s Design Against Crime Solution Centre, highlighted their experience in this area, and a commitment to a ‘human-centred’ approach that fosters innovation. Dirk Behrmann, PLuS Project Director and Anke Schröder, Project Manager, stressed that the project will provide practical outputs for implementation by urban development and management professionals.

If you would like to know more about Andrew’s research on this project contact him at: a.b.wootton@virgin.net. If you would like to know more about the PLuS project visit the site at: www.plus-eu.com.

Trial Manchester City Centre Village Area to be Pedestrianised

The Design Against Crime Solution Centre at the University of Salford is changing the face of The Village area of Manchester’s city centre. In October, as part of the pilot scheme, the entirety of the Village was fully pedestrianised on Friday and Saturday nights between the hours of 8pm to 4am.

This four-week pilot scheme is a direct result of a research project conducted by Andrew Wootton and Melissa Marselle at the University’s Design Against Crime Solution Centre. The City Centre Crime project investigated the relationship between the design of Manchester’s city centre environment, its use and crime. From this, twenty design interventions were developed to address various problems of crime and antisocial behaviour identified in the city centre area.

This pedestrianisation of the Village is the first of the design interventions arising from the City Centre Crime project to be implemented. The Solution Centre found that a high number of violent altercations and pick pocketing opportunities in the Village could be understood by the use and design of the environment.

If you would like to know more about this research contact Andrew Wootton or Melissa Marselle at: a.wootton@salford.ac.uk or m.marselle@salford.ac.uk
Listen! to Soundscape Design

University of Salford researcher Dr Bill Davies’, who leads the Positive Soundscape Project in the Acoustics Research Centre recently hosted a Symposium on Applied Soundscapes.

The symposium was held to mark the end of the three-year study that aimed to broaden the current paradigm of noise control toward an understanding of how positive sounds can be characterised and designed into the everyday environment. The project was a unique research effort which involved integrating perspectives from acoustic engineering, social science and sound art to produce a holistic account of sound perception in the environment.

The symposium was a broad celebration of what’s been achieved by three Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funded initiatives that came out of a sand pit workshop three years ago. These initiatives were the Noise Futures network, Positive Soundscapes and ISRIE (Instrument for Soundscape Recognition, Identification and Evaluation). During the day the audience of practitioners, planners, consultants and policy makers, as well as researchers, listened to thirteen invited presentations.

A discussion panel of senior practitioners and academics were invited to comment on the presentations and draw out themes at the end of the day. The day was a resounding success and it is intended that the best presentations from the symposium will be converted into journal papers for inclusion in a special issue of Applied Acoustics. The guest editors of this special issue are Dr Mags Adams, Dr Dave Chesmore and Dr Bill Davies. Presentations and supporting material from the symposium are available on the Positive Soundscapes website.

If you would like more information about his project contact Bill at: w.davies@salford.ac.uk or the project coordinator Joanne Leach at: joanne@joanneleach.co.uk

To visit the project website go to: http://www.positivesoundscapes.org

Welcome! Bienvenue! Willkommen! Bienvenido!

The University of Salford along with some of the leading names in education and language teaching including CILT and Cambridge University Language Centre, are to be involved in a project commissioned by The Department for Children, Schools and Families to develop the Open School for Languages (OSfL), a new online language learning service, which aims to support initiatives to secure a renaissance of languages in secondary schools.

This £6 million investment, development of which is to be led by Lightbox Education a division of RM, is a direct response to the Dearing Review, which recommended a package of measures to ensure a more relevant and motivating experience in language learning and expanding training opportunities for secondary teachers. OSfL aims to help more children discover the relevance and value of languages by switching them on to language learning and providing them with opportunities to improve their language skills. The service will help teachers to engage young people with languages, raising their competence, increasing their participation and supporting the wider languages agenda.

The Open School will be developed during 2009 and launched in early 2010, offering a highly imaginative range of materials in different languages, with content designed to engage learners, both independently and in the classroom. The first materials to be launched will be for French, German, Spanish and Mandarin at Key Stage 3 with more materials to be added during 2010 and 2011. The service will also support new developments in the secondary languages curriculum. University of Salford’s School of Languages’ contribution is to provide Quality Assurance of all the language learning materials and also to author the learning to learn materials.

If you would like to know more about this project contact Janet Lloyd or Sue Bromby at: s.bromby@salford.ac.uk or j.c.lloyd@salford.ac.uk

Islamic Foundation Grant

Dr. Muzammil Quraishi, University of Salford Senior Lecturer in Criminology, has been awarded a grant from the Islamic Foundation UK to explore the experiences of Muslim ex-offenders in the North West.

This is a pilot project which was prompted by Muzammil’s previous research on Muslim prisoners who constitute approximately 11 per cent of the Prison population in England and Wales. Very little is known about how Muslim ex-offenders are treated by their friends, families, employers or voluntary organisations helping them to settle in addition to formal agencies such as the probation service. This study investigates whether Muslim ex-offenders experience incidents of discrimination or obstacles when they are released from prison or a young offender’s institution.

More specifically the project evaluates the qualitative experiences of Muslim ex-offenders to ascertain the extent to which their faith impacts on their offending or rehabilitation as part of the life course. It evaluates the influence and impact of support groups upon the lives of Muslim offenders, including charities, mosques and community organisations and in turn identifying gaps in provision. Since much public and government attention has been raised about issues of radicalisation amongst Muslim prisoners, this study also sets out to evaluate perceptions of radicalisation and extremism amongst Muslim ex-offenders.

If you would like to know more about Muzammil’s work contact him at: m.quraishi@salford.ac.uk

that was led by Professor Evan Mawdsley of the University of Glasgow and Dr Alasdair Kocho-Williams of the University of the West of England. The conference convenor, Dr Gaynor Johnson from the School of ESPaCH, is a member of the executive committee of the British International History Group.

If you would like further information on the conference contact Gaynor at g.johnson@salford.ac.uk

For more information on the British International History Group visit their site at: http://www.bihg.ac.uk
The Management of Academic Workloads: Improving Practice in the Sector

Professor Peter Barrett and Dr Lucinda Barrett have recently launched the above report summing up the learning so far from their HEFCE funded project entitled 'Management of Academic Workloads: Creating a Community of Good Practice (MAW)'.

This project involves an action research network of eleven university partners, looking at complex areas such as how equity can be achieved across the academic workplace, taking into account all the different work types and the effect that these approaches can have on opportunities for staff.

The launch event, which was held in London on 17 September 2009, proved to be very popular and bookings had to be stopped after 100 participants registered in only a week (with a reserve list of over sixty!).

Over sixty six institutions were represented at the event. The delegates enjoyed an opening presentation from the Vice Chancellor of Brunel University, followed by an overview of the report by Peter and Lucinda and then presentations of a wide variety of perspectives from representatives from: the University of Greenwich, University and College Union, University of Salford, UCEA, Equality Challenge Unit, Sheffield Hallam University, Edinburgh Napier University and the Health and Safety Executive. The report and presentations are available at www.research.salford.ac.uk/maw

The MAW network will continue for at least another two years to support the progress of the existing partners (plus a few new ones) and to disseminate their learning to the sector.

If you would like to know more about this research project contact Lucinda Barrett at: l.c.barrett@salford.ac.uk

It’s a Scream!

Professor Trevor Cox, a world-leading acoustics expert from the University, and his team of scientists who are keen to popularise science, have recently been searching for the world’s scariest scream as part of the Manchester Science Festival.

Sound researchers at Salford University want to know why some yells, whelps and howls are more terrifying than others. The team asked the public to listen to a catalogue of cries and select the one they find most unsettling. Trevor, who has previously researched why people find whoopee cushions funny, will post his collection of hair-raising shrieks on a website. He said: “Listening to the screams we have harvested, I find some much more horrible than the others! I’m interested to see if other people agree, and to explore other issues such as, are screaming men scarier than women. The science behind this research is that we have attempted to see how people respond to sound. What makes a scream nasty is if you really believe the person is genuinely upset. The pitch of the sound can also have an effect, if people are upset they will expel the air out of their lungs very quickly and this tends to produce a higher pitched sound.” One of the sample screams was recorded by up-and-coming Manchester band Kid British at the University’s multi-million pound recording studio.

If you want to know more about this research contact Trevor at: t.j.cox@salford.ac.uk
The Pro Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation, Professor Ghassan Aouad, recently hosted a Research and Innovation Showcase Day in the Lady Hale Lecture Theatre at the University, attended by more than 200 staff.

A welcome was given by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Martin, Hall and also a presentation from Mr Philip Ternouth, External Consultant, on the future of research and innovation in a wider national, international and global context. There then followed presentations from the ‘champions’ of the six new interdisciplinary cutting themes, developed in line with the new research strategy for the University.

These themes are:-
> Energy, presented by Professor Steve Donnelly and Professor Keith Ross
> Media, presented by Mr John Holland and Professor George McKay
> Health & Well Being, presented by Professor Cynthia Pine and Professor Tony Warne
> Built Environment, presented by Professor Mustafa Alshawi & Professor Mike Kagioglou
> Innovation & Enterprise, presented by Professor Khairy Kobbacy and Professor Christos Kalantandis
> Human Rights, Crime & Security, presented by Professor Brian Longhurst & Professor Chris Birkbeck

A lively and interactive day was had by all who attended, finishing the afternoon with a positive attitude towards this new cross-faculty research structure and towards the challenge of moving interdisciplinary research forward.

All these presentations are available to view at: http://www.rgc.salford.ac.uk/page/themes_documents

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**Interactive Help to Site Gypsy & Traveller Pitches**

The University’s Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) and Virtual Environments Technology Solutions (VETS) have worked together to develop a tool using games engine technology which can assist local authorities in consultations with traveller and settled communities over proposed gypsy and traveller site locations.

The Housing Act 2004 states that local authorities are required to assess their gypsy and traveller provision, so utilising this tool, in conjunction with experts based within the University, allows councils to carry out this requirement more efficiently and with greater involvement of potential residents. Gypsies and travellers are shown the proposed selection of sites and asked for thoughts, opinions and preferences, and a site is then chosen by the council. The University will then work with the travellers to model the specific site in context of the surrounding area, populating it in 3D with appropriate access routes, amenities and living space, which potential residents are able to manipulate and comment on.

Dr Phil Brown, an expert in gypsy and traveller accommodation provision at the University, and his team have conducted over a third of the need assessments in England. Phil said: “Using this method allows the local authority and Gypsies and Travellers to have an input into the process. Put simply, if the authority provides a site that Gypsies and Travellers aren’t happy with, they won’t use it and will go somewhere else - wasting money and continuing the cycle of accommodation need”. VETS Commercial Manager, Paul Welshman explained: “Many local councils haven’t expanded on provision since the sixties. Now they are required to do so by the Housing Act, this use of technology is one of the best ways of addressing these needs. Architectural drawings or even artists’ impressions aren’t the best way for these communities to visualise where they’re going to live. Having something they can see in 3D and manipulate is a lot easier and ensures that all parties have a final site they’re happy with”.

If you would like to know more about this research contact Phil Brown at: p.brown@salford.ac.uk
Spreading the Research Around

What’s the point of creating knowledge if you don’t share it? Academics publish research in professional journals and papers are given at conferences, but where does the wider local community benefit from this real world research and massive level of expertise?

The University of Salford is addressing this problem through its University of Salford Institutional Repository (USIR) Project. The USIR project led by Julie Berry, Associate Director (Library and Learning Services) and her team at the University, is the University’s institutional repository and online database, showcasing research that is carried out by researchers at the University of Salford. USIR is an open access repository and all material is freely available on the Internet, it can be read, downloaded and copied for non-commercial private study or research purposes.

Our University’s research is real world, its applicable to those people in our local, national and international community, it therefore makes sense to enable those around us, and globally via this electronic doorway known as the web, to access a rich vein of research information.

Via USIR access to free research information is available to all, from a Manager of a local Hospital Trust planning good levels of acute care (Evaluation of the organization and delivery of patient-centred acute nursing care) to a construction company needing help or advice on guidelines for tendering for a large bid (Critical success factors for e-tendering implementation in construction collaborative environments: people and process issues). It’s all there at the click of a button via the web.

To encourage research dissemination further the University held, for its staff, a USIR presentation and discussion day in September, with over a hundred attendees (a further repeat session to be held in December). The Vice Chancellor Professor Martin Hall, a keen advocate of USIR, gave the opening speech, presentations were given by Dr. Alma Swan, Director, Key Perspectives Limited, on the benefits of Open Access Repository and Julie Berry, Associate Director (Library and Learning Services) gave a talk from the background to the future of USIR. In October the University of Salford became the 100th university in the world to issue an Open Access Mandate.

The presentations and a video of Martin’s keynote speech killing off Mickey Mouse: Open Knowledge, Open Innovation’ can be viewed at: [http://www.rgc.salford.ac.uk/open_access](http://www.rgc.salford.ac.uk/open_access)

Alma’s presentation at the event in September ‘What a repository can do for you - and for your university’ can be found at [http://usir.salford.ac.uk/2343/](http://usir.salford.ac.uk/2343/)

Education in a Changing Environment

Chris Procter, a Senior Lecturer in Salford Business School, recently co-chaired the fifth Education in a Changing Environment (ECE) conference with Debra Leighton from the School of Art and Design.

This was one of the most significant conferences hosted at the University in 2009 with over 50 papers, workshops and keynote speeches. Two important keynotes were given on the first day by Professor Sue Clegg, from Leeds Metropolitan University and the new Vice-Chancellor to Salford Professor Martin Hall. Martin’s keynote made a wide-ranging and entertaining presentation focussing on the role of higher education in making knowledge openly available.

Sue spoke of the ‘importance of theoretically informed critical appraisal of our practice’. Professor Murray Saunders from the University of Lancaster followed on day two with an enlightening presentation about the change processes within institutions and more widely within higher education.

Chris said: “The event was a great success with inspiring presentations and other memorable highlights including live jazz in the Art Gallery, demonstrations of Metiman and colleagues singing opera after the conference dinner. We would like to thank all those who took part, and helped organise, support and cater for the event which was such a success in bringing colleagues together to discuss the implications of change”.

To find out more about this conference contact Chris at: c.t.procter@salford.ac.uk

To view a video of Martin Hall’s keynote go to: www.ece.salford.ac.uk
Research Bidding Support Fund

The Research & Graduate College has announced details of a new round of the Research Bidding Support Fund (RBSF). 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 will be funded to a maximum of £3,000.

The RBSF is targeted at researchers who have demonstrated, through their bidding and research activity over the last five years, the potential to submit successful bids of significant scope and scale. It is anticipated that successful applicants will contribute strongly to REF and, where applicable, to the development of the research aspect of the University’s strategic themes. This is the fourth round of a scheme that has now been accessed by a wide range of researchers – and which has translated into a host of successful bids. One notable example is Dr Andy Moorhouse, who was recently awarded a grant of £255,000 by the EPSRC for a project that will look into ways of measuring and predicting structure-borne sound. One application of this research relates to roof-mounted wind turbines, where sound can be transmitted through the building structure and cause annoyance to occupants below. The RBSF allowed a postgraduate student to undertake preliminary tests that were instrumental in persuading the Research Council of the significance of the project. Andy said: “The fund was helpful both in financial terms and also in focussing our energies on making a high-quality proposal to this specific funding call”. The EPSRC award has also brought about knock-on successes for Andy, who has subsequently been awarded a grant of £138,000 by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to investigate noise and vibration from building-mounted wind turbines. Andy said: “The fact that we already had an EPSRC funded project in a very closely related area, thanks to the RBSF, was an important factor in our successful DEFRA bid”.

To download an application form, please visit http://www.rgc.salford.ac.uk/internal_funding.

The deadline for applications is Friday 20 November 2009.

Vice-Chancellor’s New Research Support Schemes: Award Winners Announced

Projects that address a range of issues, from local regeneration to the needs of developing businesses in Nigeria, have been supported by new research initiatives launched by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin Hall. The new schemes represent an investment of over £140K in key areas of research and innovation activity. The first of these initiatives, The Vice-Chancellor’s Early Career Research Fellowship, has been established to support early career researchers of outstanding promise.

Each Fellow receives a bursary of £2,000 and support from an academic mentor and a dedicated early career network. In his recent blog about these Fellowships, the Vice-Chancellor said, “this is the first cohort of twenty gifted people whose research ideas are ready to take off. We plan to make twenty new awards each year into the future, steadily building our capacity to strengthen and improve our contribution to new knowledge”.

The second initiative, The Vice-Chancellor’s Iconic Projects for MediaCityUK Scheme, provides seed funding for projects that will act as beacons for the University’s research in digital and creative technologies and also for projects that tackle the wider social issues relating to MediaCityUK. The six successful projects each received £10,000 and will draw together researchers from across the Faculties. Further details of the MediaCity awards and presentations that summarise the scope and objectives of the six projects are available on the Research & Graduate College website link below.

In addition, the VC has recently announced details of the Iconic City of Salford Awards Scheme – an initiative that will enable colleagues to engage in interdisciplinary knowledge transfer activities that support the city of Salford and the local community. The Vice-Chancellor said, “The Iconic City of Salford Awards follow on from our successful Iconic Projects for MediaCityUK programme, which attracted a stunning field of innovative research proposals. Key features of both programmes are an insistence on inter-disciplinarity, pushing for that added value that comes from thinking outside of conventional boundaries, and the opportunity that this seed funding will give to do the preliminary work for more substantial, externally funded, research”.

To view the Vice Chancellors blog go to: http://www.corporate.salford.ac.uk/leadership-management/martin-hall/blog/

To view the MediaCity projects awards go to: http://www.rgc.salford.ac.uk/page/iconic_mediaicity

For further information on any of these projects contact Dr. Matt Boswell at: m.boswell@salford.ac.uk
## The Vice-Chancellor’s Early Career Research Fellowship

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## The Vice-Chancellor’s Iconic Projects for MediaCityUK

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<td>Professor Yiu Wai Lam, Dr Ian Drumm, Dr Philip James, Professor David Roberts, Dr John Garrard, Professor Steve Curwell</td>
<td>Interactive Media Lab (iMediaLab) for Heritage and Regeneration</td>
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<td>Professor Paul Sermon, Professor David Roberts, Lee Griffiths, Dr Mathias Fuchs, Charlotte Gould, Ben Shirley, Angela Hook, Denise Rennie, Professor Nigel Linge, Helen Keegan, Dr Song Wu</td>
<td>Salford University Metaverse Campus at MediaCityUK</td>
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New Appointments

Professor Mustafa Alshawi has been appointed as the Associate Dean for Research and Innovation (ADRI) for the Faculty of Business, Law & the Built Environment (BLBE). In the RAE 2008, the Faculty’s returns to the Architecture & the Built Environment and the Library and Information Management units of assessment were ranked first and second respectively, for research power. Mustafa has the critical role of not only maintaining the world class research in the Faculty but also to address the challenges which are facing research in the next 5 years, nationally and internationally. Throughout his time in the Faculty, Mustafa has been Associate Head of School (Enterprise) from 1998 – 2001, Director of Research Centre (IT in Construction) from 2003 – 2006 and Director of Research Institute from 2006 to present day.

Mustafa is also the Editor in Chief of a premier international journal ‘Construction Innovation: Information, Process, Management’, published by Emerald. His research work centres mainly around areas of: Integrating IT and business Strategies; Measuring IS/IT Capability of Organisations; Business Process Management; E-commerce; Integrating Design and Construction; Process Management and Modelling and Business Process Re-engineering.

Mustafa will work with the Dean and Faculty Executive to implement the Faculty and University’s vision and strategy and to position Salford in the identified markets. As the new ADRI, Mustafa is committed to providing leadership to the research community within the Faculty in order for it to become more innovative in its products and services and to become the ‘preferred choice’ for education and research in Business, Law & the Built Environment. m.a.alshawi@salford.ac.uk

Professor Gareth Palmer has been appointed Chair of Media in the School of Media, Music & Performance. Gareth joined Salford in 1990 and has played a leading role in developing media courses in the School. Last year he was instrumental in writing the new MA in Social Media. Gareth has been involved in research that looks at the relationship between surveillance and reality television. In this capacity he sat on the board of surveillanceandsociety.org for five years. His publications include ‘Discipline and Liberty’ for Manchester University Press in 2003 and ‘Exposing Lifestyle Television’ for Ashgate in 2008.

As Associate Head of School for MMP Gareth has been involved in a number of successful bids, most notably an ESF grant which resulted in ‘If Your Face Don’t Fit’ – a detailed survey of BME attitudes to the media as an employer. Future plans involve making a film with the people of Salford entitled ‘New Mornings Old Streets’ and developing new democratising technologies. g.palmer@salford.ac.uk

Professor Mike Rogan has been appointed Chair in Biology in the School of Environment & Life Sciences (ELS) where previously he was Reader in Parasitology. Mike came to Salford in 1992 after two post-doctoral positions at the University of Nottingham and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, where he began his research links on cestode (tapeworm) parasites with Professor Phil Craig, also in ELS. Mike now has a high profile in the international world of cestode biology and in the arena of parasite biology in general. He is part of an international network involved in collaborative research, with his own research falling within three themes: the interaction of the human immune system and the development and survival of tapeworm parasites; the possible positive effects of parasitic infection on irritable bowel disorders; and the ecology of wildlife parasites. He has collaborations with the University of Manchester and Hope Hospital and also with scientists in Kenya, China, Japan and Australia.

Mike has published extensively in high impact, peer reviewed international journals and made numerous presentations at international conferences and national meetings of learned societies. He is currently director of the Centre for Parasitology and Disease Research. He has also made a major contribution to teaching and learning in ELS. He was Associate Head of School (Teaching) from 2002-2007 and had a major role in three successive QAA audits in 1998, 2003 and 2008. He is also an external examiner for undergraduate programmes in biology at the Universities of Aberystwyth and Lancaster. m.t.rogan@salford.ac.uk

Run Don’t Walk!
Is a railing at the side of a door, a railing or a piece of exercise equipment? Do you walk, run or skip along the city’s streets? Are you spontaneous or restrained when walking through our cities? How do we see our cities?

Showcasing yet another cutting edge project CUBE (Centre for the Urban Built Environment) a University of Salford partner, is currently hosting an exhibition which showcases ‘alternative’ ways the city can be used as a gymnasium. Five International artists will explore this theme in a both playful and formative ways.

The artists are: Lottie Child - inviting collaboration with her research Lottie is interested in how we negotiate the urban landscape, what’s instinctive and where and why do we refrain from spontaneous urban interventions; Peter Liversidge approaches everyday objects with a sideways glance and explores the bounds of our imagination; In Invisible City: Liverpool Top 9 Tsui Kuang-Yu examines many vaguely defined and strangely designed spaces and facilities from the old urban planning that often becomes neglected in newly renovated cities; Neville Gabie exhibits a series of photographs including newly commissioned works from his Playing Away UK series.

The images act as an objective study of the cultural landscapes with a common obsession, football. David Valentine – David is a film maker experimenting with new technologies, his film ‘The Duellists’ is created via CCTV network of 160 cameras from the Manchester Arndale Shopping Centre.

If you would like to know more about this research contact Kit Turner the Exhibitions Co-ordinator at: kit.turner@cube.org.uk
Commercial Technology Transfer

“Encouraging Innovation, Exploiting Opportunity”

With a vision to become renowned for excellence in the exploitation of research and innovation, the Commercial & Technology Transfer Team, based in Faraday House, provide a portfolio of services both internally to staff and students, and externally with the business community.

Success pays dividends for innovative spin-out

University of Salford spin-out company, the Protocol Lab Ltd, have reported a significant increase in profits resulting in the company’s first ever dividend. The success of the company is testimony to the University’s research and enterprise community collaborating to support technology transfer from academia into the market place. Professor Ghassan Aouad, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation and TPL board director, comments: “This is an excellent example of how research can be commercialised for the benefit of industry and the community”.

The Protocol Lab’s involvement with the Salford Centre for Research & Innovation within the School of the Built Environment is fundamental to its core technology and business development, using processes and innovations developed during their 5-star research as the basis for developing business solutions to satisfy real-world needs.

Evolving from a research project in 2002, the Protocol Lab provides ‘process refinement’ services by combining consultancy with IT systems development in banking, nuclear and health care sectors. They offer improved operational models for a variety of commercial purposes and are helping Sellafield Ltd (formerly British Nuclear Group) to develop a Site Asset Management Database (SAMdb) to improve the management of their facilities. “The SAMdb performs an important role in helping to address Stakeholder requirements such as nuclear site licence, statutory, legal contract obligations and their expectations with regard to the management of ageing plant, understanding of equipment performance and condition and identification of associated gaps and shortfalls, and the drive for improved asset performance and efficiency savings.” said Site Asset Care Manager Colin Thorn.

The Protocol Lab’s association with the University reinforces its research credibility and advantageously positions it to be approached by companies such as Sellafield Ltd. Director Dr Song Wu says, “We are an asset sought after for the value of the real-world solutions we can provide – it is very satisfying to be able to reward our stakeholders and also to finance our ongoing development work”.

For further information about The Protocol Lab please contact Dr Song Wu on 0161 295 6279 or by email to s.wu@salford.ac.uk.

The Commercial and Tech Transfer team are launching a series of short presentations across the Campus to explain the support they can offer to academics and researchers.

The series is designed to highlight the benefits of academic enterprise to projects beyond simple remuneration. The creation of industrial consortiums around projects can help with collaborative research bids as well as with the delivery of projects themselves. Practical services provided by C&TT will be highlighted through the presentation of case studies.

The first event held in the ThinkLab on October 1st provided a valuable opportunity for research-active academics to network about future projects as well as enjoy a free lunch.

For more information about upcoming events, contact: j.coakley@salford.ac.uk
Bronwyn Platten, 2nd year PhD student based in the Health and Care Infrastructure Research and Innovation Centre at the University recently presented a poster about her research at Liverpool John Moores University, to a conference entitled ‘Eating Disorders: Getting to the heart of the experience’. Bronwyn’s poster, titled Mouths and Meaning, was voted the most popular by delegates who included service users, carers, researchers and clinicians and was awarded a monetary prize.

Mouths and Meaning is an arts in healthcare project focusing on exploring and representing experiences of embodiment for people with an eating disorder/obesity. Probably one of the most difficult human experiences to convey is that of embodiment – how our bodies incorporate and communicate all the aspects of our daily lives - of being in the world. Artistic practices provide techniques and creative ways to convey internalised, unspoken or taken for granted experiences and a number of contemporary artists investigate sensed and embodied experience in their artworks and installations. Bronwyn hopes to employ the unique skills she has gained as a professional artist and as a community arts worker to develop Mouths and Meaning as a mixed media, multi-sensory and collaborative community arts project.
Current understanding of eating disorders focuses primarily upon the visual perception of a socially desired body shape or image rather than also including how the body is experienced and communicated. By utilising other senses – hearing, touch, smell and taste as well as vision Bronwyn hopes to create a deeper understanding of the factors impacting on eating disorders and obesity. The creative processes of Mouths and Meaning will be introduced to potential participants via a series of workshops that will explore skills in drawing, sculpture and creative writing as well as creative thinking. Those interested in collaborating further on the project, will work with Bronwyn to create artworks that could range from edible interactive sculptures to film and sound installations. It is hoped that the artworks produced by all those involved in Mouths and Meaning will be exhibited in healthcare settings as well as in venues in the community.

Bronwyn’s further development of her work on Mouths and Meaning grew out of an awareness of the growing interest in and use of the arts in healthcare settings and communities to improve wellbeing and social engagement. Employed as an artist in residence in a Stroke Rehabilitation Centre, Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen, Bronwyn witnessed first hand how transformative the experience of participating in arts activities in a hospital could be. She has since worked as curator for Grampian Hospitals Art Trust and most recently as a Project Manager for Lime, Central Manchester NHS Trust. Inclusion of the arts in healthcare settings can humanize the often alienating environment of a hospital for patients, staff and visitors alike but more profoundly the arts can provide a unique voice for people experiencing the challenges of an illness or condition. Bronwyn’s research is informed by her own mixed media art practice that explores embodied experience and identity as well as her own personal experience of eating disorders. She is interested to discover whether similar creative processes could also be of value to others.

Bronwyn has already established links with Sue Gallagher and Eejay Whitehead, Health Improvement Managers, as part of the Health Improvement Team, Salford Primary Care Trust and plans to begin creative workshops with the Salford community in early 2010.

If you are interested in being involved in Mouths and Meaning or would like more information on Bronwyn’s research and art practice contact her at: b.m.platten@pgr.salford.ac.uk
The University of Salford finds itself at a very opportune juncture: a new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin Hall, re-emphasising the University’s commitment to innovative and open engagement with knowledge; a relatively new Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Research & Innovation, Professor Ghassan Aouad, overseeing the restructuring of the University’s research and innovation strategy with a view to ensuring that Salford moves forward as a research-led university; the University’s commitment to fully engaging with the significant development of Media City in Salford Quays; and the substantial investments being made in buildings, facilities and infrastructure. These are all major developments which have the potential to significantly enhance the experience for the postgraduate research student here at Salford.

It is therefore an exciting time for me to take on a new role as Director of Graduate Studies. I aim to build on the important contribution my predecessor, Professor Jocelyn Evans, made to the Research & Graduate College and I hope to further his good work. I see my role, and that of the Graduate Studies team, as helping to create and encourage a conducive environment and context for postgraduate research students to creatively engage with their research. The greatest asset of a university is its people: academics, support staff and students all coming together to explore knowledge. Innovative outcomes and successful completion of degrees come as a consequence of the passion research students, supported and inspired by their supervisors, bring to their pursuit and exchange of knowledge and our job is to contribute to providing the best possible context for this to happen across the university. To help deliver all of these services, we have a small dedicated team: Linda Kelly is the Graduate Studies Administrator; Dr Victoria Sheppard is our Research Training Support Officer; Cristina Costa, our Learning Technologies Developer; Jaye McIsaac, our GTA Coordinator and Educational Trainer; and Fiona Christie is our Careers Advisor.

Finally, I would like to emphasise the fact that a vibrant and active postgraduate student community makes a considerable contribution to teaching and research in any top university, holistically benefitting not only the institution the postgraduate student belongs to, but to the wider community and workforce of the future. I know that my own PhD students keep me on my toes and their presence ensures that my own research is constantly challenged, enhanced and refreshed. Research should, first and foremost, be fun.

Professor Erik Knudsen  
Director of Graduate Studies
The Ethics of Robotics

Antonio Espingardeiro who recently achieved an MSc (Distinction) in Robotics and Automation is taking his research further by undertaking a PhD that will research issues such as the ethics associated for health care robots and management policies for implementing these devices into future societies. Antonio said “The robotics dream has always been characterised with the possibility of having machines executing tasks for humans.

At the moment millions of robots are producing cars, planes, trains and the majority of household applications that we use in our days. One of the most successful operations with robots is the search and rescue of humans where swarms of mobile robots can detect survivors in the middle of the wreckage. Other applications deal with social care, for example Japanese scientists have invented robots that can detect survivors in the wreckage and alert hospitals or relatives if something goes wrong. Guided robots controlled by human operators also have a broad field of applications ranging from space and oceans exploration, unmanned aircraft applications, commissioning of radioactive plants and dangerous environments to the medical sector for performing telesurgeries on human patients.

Currently robots are crossing the boundaries of industrial environments into household applications. The social integration of these machines represents a big challenge not only with technical constraints but also with many ethical dilemmas surrounding the area. The challenge of robotics isn’t to create something very complex, but to develop things in a way that they are acceptable to the public”.

If you would like to know more about Antonio’s work contact him at: a.m.c.espingardeiro1@pgr.salford.ac.uk

How Does it Work For You?

Work load balancing, and work versus study balancing, is a big issue and a high hurdle to overcome in these busy times across all institutions nowadays not just for staff but for students as well. Indeed, elsewhere in this issue we have an article about the Management of Academic Workload Project (MAW) led by Professor Peter Barrett, addressing the problem of academic staff and their workloads.

So if you are a busy lecturer and researcher and you’re doing a PhD what’s the balancing act like for you? We asked Julie Wray, Senior Lecturer and Researcher in the School of Nursing & Midwifery, how she saw her PhD experience. She told us: “As a staff post-graduate student I have found it personally very challenging to study, in particular to form good habits of ‘giving myself permission to study’. Too often I have found myself prioritising work over studying and have tended to place everything else above my own studies – the absolute opposite of what I advise students!

I am a determined person generally (an attribute needed to do a PhD!) so began to see how I could overcome the issues of time to study and space to do it in! Internally the School of Nursing here at the University were very supportive, but I felt I needed time away from work to really concentrate on writing up my PhD research, so I started to explore external opportunities to support my studies. In 2006 I responded to a call from Iolanthe a small Charity who funds the writing up phase of doctorate studies. My application received excellent feedback but on this occasion I was only a runner-up. Not to be deterred I applied again in 2008 this time I was successful and was awarded the 2008 Iolanthe Research Midwife Fellowship.

“Incredibly, 2008 happened to be the 25th Anniversary of the Charity, and I was invited to attend the House of Lords to celebrate the anniversary and to be presented with the award by Baroness Cumberlege. For me this success has been the icing on the cake! Not only to be honoured personally with the award and to profile the University and School of Nursing & Midwifery but moreover the local women who kindly participated in my study. I collected data locally in Salford and Trafford from 20 women about their experiences of their recovery after birth. I was invited by the General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives to present a paper entitled ‘Post-natal care culture and women’s experiences of birth recovery’ at their International conference. It’s been a challenging time juggling working life and studying for the PhD but one that has brought tremendous satisfaction and a sense of achievement”.

If you would like to know more about Julie’s research contact her at: j.wray@salford.ac.uk
The Research Institute for the Built and Human Environment (BuHu) has in the period October 2008 – September 2009 had one of its best years ever with a total of 91 PhD applications received. BuHu offers a comprehensive range of research programmes which give researchers worldwide, the opportunity to realise their ambition to achieve higher qualifications via research. At the forefront of built environment research, BuHu is also recognised for its friendly and professional atmosphere where researchers enjoy an annual training programme to nourish and enrich their research experience.

The majority of these applications are full time study with the remaining breaking down into Professorial Doctorates, Internet-Based, split-site and published by works, the larger percentages of applications received are focused on the Management and Environmental themes. The international research, relationships and expertise achieved by Professors and Researchers alike within BuHu’s Research, is clearly evidenced when you notice that the geographic origins of the applications received spreads across 24 nations! With candidates arriving from close to home in the UK to countries such as Nigeria, China, Libya, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Ethiopia, Ghana, Korea, Namibia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, and Turkey. These post-graduate students will be supervised by high calibre research active professionals.

If you would like to know more about becoming a post-graduate student in BuHu contact Dr Vian Ahmed at: v.ahmed@salford.ac.uk
A First at Salford

Earlier this year, for the first time, the European Studies Research Institute hosted the University Association for the Contemporary European Studies (UACES) Student Forum Annual Conference - an excellent platform for young researchers to present their findings in the area of European Studies.

The Conference was attended by participants from various European countries and many British universities. UACES is the largest academic organization of its kind in Europe. The UACES Student Forum is the postgraduate ‘branch’ of the organization and last year Kamil Zwolski, a Salford PhD student, was elected the Chair of the Student Forum.

Keynote addresses were given by Professor Paul Heywood from the University of Nottingham and Dr Christian Kaunert from the University of Salford. The conference was opened by Professor John Keiger, Director of the European Studies Research Institute and was closed by Dr Sarah Leonard from the University of Salford. Several students presented their findings for the first time, there were lots of interesting discussions and some panels presented a really broad spectrum of perspectives on a given issue, for example, in the panel on the History of European Integration, a paper was given on political integration, along with a paper about the role of religion and one investigating the role of cinema.

The conference attracted a large number of sponsors, such as: Manchester Jean Monet Centre of Excellence, Europa Institute of the University of Edinburgh, Manchester University Press and El Sharp Magazine.

If you would like to know more about the conference contact Kamil Zwolski at: k.m.zwolski@pgr.salford.ac.uk

CIB Student Chapter

The University of Salford CIB Student Chapter is an organised group of students in the School of the Built Environment (SoBE) aiming to enhance their skills towards international collaboration, information exchange related to research and innovation in building and construction. The students work via the CIB’s network of internationally renowned experts, commissions, events and available stock of information.

In order to further develop the quality of postgraduate research, contribute fully to the vision and objectives of the School and to bond student-staff relationships, a myriad of activities are planned with Academic Advisor, Dr Vian Ahmed. A blend of technical and social events are planned for 2009-2010, which includes PhD interactive sessions, research over coffee, welcome events, cultural visits, international food bazaar, sporting activities and many more. Activities are planned by students, for students; and we welcome all postgraduate students to participate in our activities.

If you would like to know more about the CIB Postgraduate Student Chapter at Salford please go to: http://www.buhu.salford.ac.uk/buhu_cib/studentchapter/

Teenagers and Science

An AHRC Funded Collaborative PhD Project is now underway directed by Professor Pat Sterry from the School of Art and Design, and in conjunction with Techniquest Science Discovery Centre, Cardiff.

The project, ‘An Examination of the Status and Impact of Science Outreach Programmes for 14-18 year old Visitors and an Evaluation of their Effect on Learning’, examines the attitudes of teenage visitors to Science Centres, and to specific outreach programmes and assesses how such informal activity affect and/or influence learning. Techniquest Science Discovery Centre, like other Science Centres and Museums, is a unique provider of accessible science that is open to all, yet teenagers are infrequent visitors to Science Centres and there is currently little research to understand why this might be the case. This is an area group that has traditionally been seen as hard to reach. This research project will discover teenage attitudes, assumptions and knowledge, and evaluate learning that takes place during a visit. Project researcher, Natasha Simons, is a former Salford Masters student and graduated with a distinction in Heritage Studies. Dr Sue Cavell, Head of Research and Evaluation at Techniquest is co-supervisor with Pat.

For more information on this project contact Pat at: p.sterry@Salford.ac.uk
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<td>Janelle</td>
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The key objective of the event was for colleagues across the University to engage in discussions with the Indian delegates to explore potential areas for collaboration. In addition to this, the mission provided the University with a great opportunity to raise its institutional profile in India, complementing our ongoing recruitment agenda. Michael Lurie, Associate Head of International Relations, directed the event on behalf of the University.

The event itself was held in the cutting edge environment of ThinkLab – a venue that showcases Salford’s commitment to multi-disciplinary thinking and new ways of working through collaboration and innovation.

The Indian mission was made up of representatives from Higher Education institutions from across the sub-continent:

> **Dr Bhaskar Patel**, Principal KIT College, Nagpur
> **Dr Rahul Singh**, Head of International Affairs, Birla Institute of Management Technology, Noida
> **Ms Heena Gorsia**, General Secretary, Bhawanipur Gujarati Education Society, Kolkata
> **Prof Puspalata Pattojoshi**, Head International Programmes, C V Raman College of Engineering, Orissa
> **Dr N.T Rao**, Director International Relations, VIT University, Vellore

During the visit, members of the mission were given presentations by colleagues from Salford Business School; Computing, Science & Engineering; School of the Built Environment; and Art & Design.

The University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin Hall, warmly welcomed the visitors in a specially prepared video message and stated: “We believe that we have a lot to offer in terms of a partnership with India and with Indian Higher Education institutions and we’re already proud to host a significant number of students form the sub-continent who contribute enormously to life here in the University”.

After the formal sessions in the afternoon, the participants convened for a dinner attended by Professor Ghassan Aoudad, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation. The ThinkLab sessions generated very useful discussions around areas of possible mutual interest, and the outcomes for future collaboration look very positive. In addition to this the mission has not only raised the profile of the University in an important priority market, but has strengthened our relationship with the British Council.

If you would like to know more about this event contact Michael Lurie at: m.lurie@salford.ac.uk

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**Inward Mission: Possible Salford Hosts Indian Academic Inward Mission**

After a successful bid to be included in a prestigious inward mission facilitated by the British Council, the University of Salford hosted a group of Indian academics in September.

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The UK has a long history of engaging with higher education in Iraq, and since the end of the last conflict in 2003, has worked hard to help Iraq overcome its struggles and facilitate its ambitions to regain the status that once saw Iraqi institutions as among the most respected in the Middle East.

The report identified a number of opportunities in Iraq for UK HE in three areas:

> Collaboration, capacity-building and consulting
> Joint research opportunities
> Student recruitment

This puts the University at joint 7th place of in the UK.

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<th>Institution</th>
<th>Total 2005/06</th>
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Source: HESA Student Record
© British Council
The report confirmed that the main opportunities for the University in Iraq at the present lie in field of student recruitment. As one of the leading recruiters of Iraqi students in the UK, the University should be extremely well placed to take advantage of this increased provision for Iraqi students to come to the UK to study. To maximise this advantage the University made a successful application to join the British Universities in Iraq Consortium.

It is expected that membership will give the University a platform for better engagement with Iraqi HE, not only gaining better access to students going overseas to study but also enabling the University to identify possible areas for research collaboration, and partnership work in academic enterprise and other areas. Additionally membership will also give opportunities for collaborative work in partnership with other BUIC members, and give the University a more powerful lobbying voice. The International Relations team has also appointed an agent to represent the University in Iraq. Based in Erbil, Global Vision for UK Education will enable the University to begin to engage directly with Iraqi students’ in-country without the need for recruitment missions and country visits by University staff. However, being based in the northern Kurdistan area of Iraq, regarded by the FCO as being markedly safer than other parts of Iraq, it is feasible that visits by academic staff could take place in the future.

International Relations will continue to develop the relationship with Global Vision to ensure that the University maintains close relationships with students and sponsor agencies.

If you would like more information on this story please contact Paul M akinen at: p.makinen@salford.ac.uk

Overseas Visit for Vice Chancellor

Professor Martin Hall used his first overseas visit as Vice-Chancellor to help The University reconnect with its international alumni and to develop global partnerships.

In October, Professor Hall attended a series of inaugural Alumni Events across China, Malaysia and Brunei, as well as participating in meetings and events with key partners and influencers in each country. Professor Hall was accompanied by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Ghassan Aouad, the Head of Alumni Relations, and members of the International Relations team.

A full report on the visit and preliminary outcomes will feature in the next issue of RISE.

If you would like more information on any of the articles in the international section please either contact named people at the end of each article or use the contact details opposite:

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e-mail: p.gerrard@salford.ac.uk

Michael Lurie – Associate Head (Partnerships)
International Relations
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Course Enquiries Service (International/non-EU)
University of Salford
Tel: +44(0)61 295 4545
e-mail: international-enquiries@salford.ac.uk

www.salford.ac.uk/international/index.php
Forthcoming Events

3rd November, 2009 – Dr. Matthew Fuller, Goldsmiths University, Michel Bauwens, Dhurakij Pundit University – Media Ecologies & Post-Industrial Production Conference, Innovation Forum, Salford University Business Park, Frederick Road, Salford.

For more information contact: p.moore@salford.ac.uk


For more information contact: hamimah689@salam.uitm.edu.my


For more information contact: adelphiri-amss@salford.ac.uk

11th November, 2009 – Professor Mike Kelly, Director Centre for Public Health Excellence National Institute for Health & clinical Excellence, London ‘Evidence Based Public Health’.

For more information contact: s.a.woods@salford.ac.uk

18th November, 2009 – Dr. Sunil Manghani, York St. John University – Re-Scaling Images of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, Communication, Cultural & Media Studies Centre Screens and Mediations Seminar Series 2009, Room AH012 Adelphi House, University of Salford.

For more information contact: adelphiri-amss@salford.ac.uk

18th November 2009 - Professor Alberto Vannucci, University of Pisa, Corruption, and anti-corruption measures in Italy, Room 106 Crescent House, University of Salford.

For more information contact: j.l.newell@salford.ac.uk

19th November, 2009 – Dr. Alan Williams, University of Salford - Music and Astronomy: Blunt Instruments, Popular Music Research Centre Autumn Seminar Series 2009-10, Room AH215, Adelphi House, University of Salford.

For more information contact: adelphiri-amss@salford.ac.uk

25th November 2009 - Dr Elizabeth Vallence, Standards Committee, The MP’s expenses row: The Standards Committee’s response, Rayleigh Room, Faraday House, University of Salford.

For more information contact: adelphiri-amss@salford.ac.uk


For more information contact: adelphiri-amss@salford.ac.uk


For more information contact: enquiries-law@salford.ac.uk

4th December, 2009 – Peter Kitson, University of Dundee, and Grevel Lindop, author of ‘Thomas de Quincey, Manchester and Medicine, 1785-1959’. A one day conference, University of Salford, sponsored by BARS, (British Association for Romantic Studies).

For more information contact: s.ruston@salford.ac.uk

4th – 5th December, 2009 – Professor Ian Christie, Birkbeck, University of London, Dr. Peter Hames, Staffordshire University, Dr. Iwona Kurz, Warsaw University, Professor Mirosław Przyliapiak, Pomeranian Academy in Slupsk – Polish Cinema In An International Context Conference, Cornerhouse, Manchester.

For more information contact: m.n.goddard@salford.ac.uk or ehmazierska@uclan.ac.uk

9th December 2009 - Dr Sarah Birch, University of Essex, On either side of a moat? Elite and mass attitudes to right and wrong, Room 106, Crescent House, University of Salford.

For more information contact: j.l.newell@salford.ac.uk

10th December, 2009 - Graham Stringer MP, House of Commons, The MP’s expenses row: An insider’s view, Council Chamber, The Old Fire Station, University of Salford.

For more information contact: j.l.newell@salford.ac.uk

17th December, 2009 – Dr. Mark Duffet, University of Chester - Bodies of Controversy, Popular Music Research Centre Autumn Seminar Series 2009-10, Room AH215, Adelphi House, University of Salford.

For more information contact: adelphiri-amss@salford.ac.uk

29th January 2010 - The Story of Things: reading narrative in the visual, one day conference.

For more information contact: j.carson@salford.ac.uk

15th & 16th April, 2009 – Dr. Shaheen Hamdy, University of Manchester, Margaret Parton, CEO, NHS Technology Adoption Centre – 1st Annual Conference of the International Functional Electrical Stimulation Society (UK and Ireland Chapter), Innovation Forum, Salford University Business Park, Frederick Road, Salford.

For more information contact: UKIFESS@salford.ac.uk
RESEARCH AND GRADUATE COLLEGE

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