



University of
Chester



Annual Review 2014

The Pursuit
of Excellence

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Factfile

Established: 1839. The University is one of the longest established English higher education institutions, predating all but Oxford, Cambridge, London and Durham.

Students: 18,800
(70% undergraduates, 30% postgraduates).

Staff: 1,328 (full-time equivalent).

Chancellor: His Grace the Duke of Westminster KG, CB, CVO, OBE, TD, CD, DL.

Honorary Graduates include: HRH The Prince of Wales; Dame Joan Bakewell CBE; The Most Reverend and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York; Terry Waite CBE; Sir Ian Botham OBE; Loyd Grossman OBE; Sir Andrew Motion; Ken Dodd OBE; Tim Firth; Sue Johnston OBE; Phil Redmond OBE; Willie Carson OBE; Matthew Kelly OBE; Estelle Morris, The Rt Hon Baroness Morris of Yardley; Ronald Pickup; The Earl of Derby; Sir Tony Robinson OBE; Neville Chamberlain CBE; Viscount Michael Ashbrook JP, DL; Professor Sir John Enderby CBE, FRS; Shirley Hughes OBE; Beth Tweddle OBE; Colin Parry OBE; The Rt Hon Frank Field MP; Martin Lewis; The Rt Hon Lord Baker of Dorking; David Pickering FCA, DL, FIOD; Professor Alan Emery FRSE; Gillian Burns MBE.

Vice-Chancellor: Canon Professor Tim Wheeler DL.

Campuses: Three in Chester, one in Warrington, one in Thornton, in addition to NHS sites on the Wirral and in Crewe and Macclesfield.

Partner organisation: University Centre Shrewsbury (with Shropshire Council).

Associate colleges: Isle of Man College; Reaseheath College; Warrington Collegiate; West Cheshire College.



Institutional Achievements

14

14 areas of the University's research activity feature world-leading research.
Research Excellence Framework 2014

Top

Subjects ranked top in the UK for overall satisfaction: Politics; Others in Social Studies (including International Development Studies); Mathematics and Statistics; and Law.
National Student Survey 2014



Graded 'Excellent' for commitment to staff wellbeing, earning a National Wellbeing Award from the Workplace Wellbeing Charter.

95.2%

95.2% of graduates are in work or further study. This makes the University of Chester best in the North West for graduate employment and the 19th English mainstream university.
Destination of Leavers from Higher Education, published 2014

29,551 hours

29,551 hours of voluntary work were contributed by students and staff to the community over the past year.

Gold

Gained Gold Investors in People Accreditation for excellent people management practice.

Top

Chester Students' Union top in the North West for student satisfaction and 7% above the national average.
National Student Survey 2014

88%

Overall student satisfaction rate: 88%
National Student Survey 2014

Gold

Awarded a Gold EcoCampus Award Certificate for sustainability and environmental management.



5-star world-class student support and careers advice.
EFQM Recognised for Excellence

9:1

A ratio of nine applications for every undergraduate place.

£298m

The University makes a substantial contribution of some £298m per annum to the region, according to an independent economic impact assessment report in 2012.

Forewords

Canon Professor T J Wheeler DL Vice-Chancellor and Principal

This Annual Review focuses on the pursuit of excellence as we celebrate the institution's distinguished 175-year history of providing higher education. The period between August 2013 and July 2014 saw substantial progress, with the establishment of the new Faculty of Science and Engineering at the Thornton Science Park, the completion of the North West Food (NoWFOOD) Research and Development Centre, the collaboration on the University Centre Shrewsbury and the welcoming of many eminent visitors, including the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, and Simon Weston OBE.

We continue to strive for excellence in all fields and nowhere is this more apparent than in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) of 2014 which clearly demonstrates the quality of the research generated from within the institution. The REF saw double the number of research submissions compared to the Research Assessment Exercise of 2008, a performance which was above the national average, and a significant increase in the average research rating, the research power rating and the research intensity rating. World-leading research featured in 14 of the research areas in this independent assessment and we look forward to building upon this impressive foundation as staff continue to excel in their areas of expertise.

Providing an enriching and distinctive student experience remains at the heart of the University's activities and we endeavour to give students the knowledge and skills to enable them to succeed in their chosen field after graduation. This is demonstrated by the fact that the 2014 Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey confirmed that Chester was the best performing university in the North West for employability, and the 19th nationally, with 95.2% of its graduates in work or further study. The 29,551 volunteering hours accrued by students and staff, together with the support of many community initiatives, illustrates how the aspiration to serve society remains firmly embedded in the University culture.

The following pages give an indication of the wealth of activities that have taken place across this 12-month period and it is entirely due to the dedicated staff, students and supporters from across the community that we can celebrate these achievements, especially in the midst of this landmark anniversary year.



The Rt Rev Dr Peter Forster Lord Bishop of Chester, Lord President of the University Council and Pro-Chancellor

Higher education, in common with the knowledge which informs and enriches it, is constantly evolving. The 2014 Annual Review presents an opportunity, both to reflect on significant successes in 2013–14 and also to acknowledge progress, with an air of thankfulness and anticipation.

While we respond to this shifting landscape and innovate within it, it is reassuring that for the students and staff at the University of Chester certain aspects remain constant and are some of the features which characterise its distinctiveness.

The Mission, Vision and Foundational Values have been refined to meet the needs of a dynamic institution, but the original ethos remains at the core of a wide range of activities, from teaching to ministry. The principle of educating people for ‘careers of service’ is still evident, for example, in the University’s employability statistics, while the importance of contributing to society for the benefit of others is exemplified in its impressive volunteering tradition and commitment to relevant research.

As we mark the University’s 175th anniversary year in 2014–15, it is therefore important to recognise that the exacting standards set in 1839 have been the foundation for the thriving community that we have today and will stand us in good stead as we enter the next chapter of the University of Chester’s existence.

Chester Students’ Union Sabbatical Team

As Chester Students’ Union (CSU) we had even more reason to celebrate in 2013–14 with the second successive title of top students’ union in the North West for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey. This demonstrates that all the hard work invested by the CSU in enhancing the student experience continues to pay dividends. Through our commitment to environmental issues we also achieved the Gold Green Impact award, and we are working continuously with the University and Green Chester to ensure we are doing everything we can for environmental issues.

To find out where students would like to see improvements and what could be done to enhance their overall student experience, a survey was created for CSU members. With all the data collected we have been proactive in our responses, including the extensive refurbishment to the Students’ Union Bar on the Parkgate Road Campus (CH1), introducing a deli counter to the shop to provide healthier options, and creating an accreditation scheme for all sports and societies to follow. This gives them more direction and support, while recognising the extra commitment to the sport or society made by certain individuals.

This year, CSU has expanded its student representation and enhancement, recruiting for the new role of Student Engagement Co-ordinator, and another part-time staff member for our all-encompassing Student Advice Centre. We have successfully recruited and trained more than 700 Student Academic Representatives (StARs), who are essential in ensuring that students lead the way in their learning at the University. Through the prominent role of a StAR, students have a direct input into their area of study, resulting in the improvement of their overall student

experience. We have also focused our representation into our forums, Students’ Union Council and the new engaging initiative ‘Sabbs on the Sofa’, which encourages students from all campuses and all departments to talk to the sabbatical officers about their issues and accomplishments. This in turn allows the sabbatical officers to inspire students to follow up changes they want to see in the Students’ Union and University. To ensure that we cover student representation to the best of our ability, we have a variety of forums set up for groups such as LGBT+ students, black and ethnic minorities, international students, those with visible and invisible disabilities, women, mature students, postgraduates and students at each campus and the satellite sites. A member of each forum is then elected on to our Students’ Union Council, as well as two sports representatives, two society representatives and a StAR from each faculty in the University.

Our sports and societies have continued to grow, and this year we held a successful two-day conference for all 110 sports and societies to train new and continuing committee members on union policies and procedures, health and safety, managing budgets, recruitment and retention and how to use social media positively. We now have more than 3,000 students participating in our extensive range of sports and societies across all campuses.

A strong emphasis was also placed on the message that students need to respect the local community and be considerate neighbours to local residents. It is our mission to enhance the student experience at the University and we are looking forward to what 2014–15 will bring during the celebrations of the institution’s 175th anniversary year.



Mission

Founded in Faith ↔ Creating Community ↔ Serving Society

The University, a Church of England institution founded in 1839, continues to be guided by Christian values and is justifiably proud of the open, inclusive and supportive environment that characterises the institution. The University welcomes students and staff of all faiths or none.

It seeks to provide all its students and staff with the education, skills, support and motivation to enable them to develop as confident world citizens and successfully to serve and improve the global communities within which they live and work.

This Mission, which has helped shape our development and diversification, continues to actively inform its future planning and enrichment as a University.

Vision

At the heart of the University's vision is an unwavering commitment to ensuring an outstanding student learning experience, developing the expertise of staff, providing teaching excellence, and actively growing research and scholarship.

Through these actions, the University hopes to make a positive impact on the lives of students, staff, and the communities that it serves, enabling the institution to make a significant and growing contribution to the region, nationally and internationally.

In valuing and celebrating its long history and traditions, the University is committed to engendering a sense of pride and shared ownership in all that it does. It is dynamic and enterprising in its approach to developing new opportunities.

Foundational Values

Mindful of the University's history and Christian foundation:

We recognise **the dignity and worth of every individual.**

Therefore we value every member of the University;
we endeavour to help each student and member of staff to discover
his or her gifts and talents and grow to full potential;
and we foster wellbeing for all.

We recognise **the vital role of education in the service of society.**

Therefore we encourage the acquisition of knowledge
and the development of skills;
and we acknowledge a responsibility to look for every opportunity to put that
knowledge and those skills to good use throughout the community.

We recognise **the inherent value of the pursuit of truth and freedom of enquiry.**

Therefore we find joy in discovery;
we take pleasure in invention;
we celebrate human creativity;
and we seek wisdom, embracing it wherever we find it
and strive to apply it to every aspect of life.

In humility, we aspire to honour these values and hold ourselves accountable to them.



University Sites

Parkgate Road Campus, Chester



Riverside Campus, Chester



Kingsway Buildings, Chester



Warrington Campus



Thornton Science Park



University Centre Shrewsbury



The Pursuit of Excellence





Research Excellence Framework

This Annual Review highlights the critical importance of excellent research to the University and the way in which this original work can make a real difference to society on an international scale.

December 18, 2014 was a date eagerly awaited across the University sector as the results were published from the Research Excellence Framework (REF, successor to the Research Assessment Exercise, RAE). University research from across the UK was assessed according to a common framework and rated for its national, international or world leading excellence. The purpose of the assessment is to benchmark UK standards against those across the world, and to enable universities to benchmark their own achievements against their peers. Of course, as is widely known, funding councils also use the 'scores' as a proxy for determining grant income, and newspapers and others construct league tables, to compare performances, but that has never been the true purpose of the exercise.

This Annual Review has the University's research as a major focus – reflecting the fact that the outcomes of this six-yearly assessment of the University's work were received shortly before publication and they are extremely positive:

- The University had 16 areas of research activity assessed (the so-called Units of Assessment or UOAs), all of which feature internationally excellent research.
- Fourteen areas of the University's research feature world leading research.
- The number of research areas assessed increased by 60% (from 10 to 16) since the previous assessment in 2008.

- The number of 'excellent researchers' submitted for assessment by the University increased by more than 100% since 2008.
- The University submitted a higher proportion of staff as 'excellent researchers' for assessment than the national average, and significantly increased the average research rating, the research power rating, and the research intensity rating. Of these, the research intensity measure is a particularly pleasing improvement as the University establishes itself with research as a core activity for staff in all subject areas.

The following pages describe in some detail the areas of assessment and the impact case studies communicate something of the way in which research has much greater resonance beyond the academic community. There are examples of international impact, as well as more local impact, impact on policy and society, and commercial and economic impacts too. The range of activities is hard to summarise here and the following case studies give much more detail.

The REF (and its predecessor, the RAE) are the widely publicised periodic assessments of the University's research, but the reality is that they are incomplete and imperfect measures of the current scope of research, and of what has been achieved within the University. Twenty-five years ago, when the University celebrated its 150th anniversary, research was not a major focus for the institution. Now, alongside teaching, it is the University's second *raison d'être*. The snapshot provided by the REF results does not begin to capture the personal excitement experienced by overseeing the growth in

this area of the University's work. Every year, the number of research grants and R&D contracts grows, the quality and extent of international activities and collaborative work develops, new staff are welcomed bringing extensive and excellent experience of research and all contribute to a vibrant research community. There are now nearly 500 doctoral students registered (up from about 100 six years ago), and each of those projects is making an original contribution to fundamental knowledge or professional practice, or both. So the picture for the University looking ahead to the next six years and the next REF milestone is very positive. Do read about the breadth of research taking place in the institution, and if you are interested in collaborating with, or interacting with this research community in any way, then do please contact the Research and Knowledge Transfer Office.

Professor Neville Ford
Senior Executive Dean
Research, Postgraduate and Knowledge Transfer



Professor Neville Ford.

Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience

UOA Co-ordinator:

Professor Ros Bramwell.

Who was involved:

Fifteen members of staff, including three Early Career Reserchers (ECRs), equating to 13.40 FTE from:

- Department of Psychology;
- Department of Biological Sciences;
- Research and Knowledge Transfer Office.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Health and behaviour;
- Risk and resilience;
- Cognition and emotion;
- Animal behaviour;
- Evolution of behaviour.

Case Studies

Dr Lynne Sneddon's research programme, informing global improvements on the welfare of fish, has provided convincing evidence that fish perceive pain and has been instrumental in directly informing changes to experimental protocols and influencing welfare guidelines.

Professor Mike Boulton's research into protecting school pupils from bullying and its harmful effects has contributed to a shift in general perception amongst government policy makers and experts; bullying is now recognised as a serious societal problem that demands attention, and schools must take active steps to combat it. This research has ensured that bullying continues to be taken seriously.



Dr Lynne Sneddon.

Future Plans

Staff will continue to develop the research profile of this unit as a priority, and believe that it is important to recognise that research makes a difference. Colleagues within this unit are looking to strengthen and grow their research groups, with an emphasis on research that has strong user engagement. The unit already has good links with user groups and stakeholder organisations (such as healthcare providers, charities, wildlife conservation organisations) and will continue to build on these and to develop new links. It is also looking to develop greater 'reach' through more strategic engagement and wider user dissemination, e.g. through the use of new social media. Staff will continue to be supported with time and funding for these activities.



Professor Mike Boulton.

Mathematical Sciences

UOA Co-ordinator:

Professor Neville Ford.

Who was involved:

Seven members of staff, including one ECR, equating to 6.75 FTE from:

- Department of Mathematics;
- Department of Chemical Engineering.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Modelling with, and analysis and simulation of, solutions to functional differential equations; in particular:
 - Stochastic problems with delays;
 - Differential equations of fractional order.

Case Studies

Professor Neville Ford has provided advice to the European Commission and the Research Executive Agency under the Seventh Framework People Programme, contributing both as an appointed expert and Vice-Chair in making funding decisions for Marie Curie Fellowships (one fellowship 2007–13) and Career Integration Grants (2012–13).

Marie Curie Individual Fellowships add to research excellence in both the public and private sectors in member states and associated countries, due to the sharing and application of new knowledge transferred and developed by highly qualified researchers embedded in the European research effort, while Career Integration Grants, which have a particular emphasis on countering the European brain drain, allow the transfer of knowledge that the researchers have already acquired as well as the development of lasting co-operation with the scientific and/or industrial environment of the country from which they have moved.

Research involving mathematical modelling has helped to unravel the complexities of key areas of biomedicine and advances in immunology, specifically within the areas of HIV-1 and cancer vaccines. The research has the ultimate aim of influencing decisions on practical aspects of medical therapies for patients suffering from (for example) HIV or cancer. The Leverhulme Trust invested in the Chester-based Applied Mathematics Research Group, funding the creation of a Leverhulme International Network, an initiative having the specific objective of establishing innovative research activity. The group was supported in its aims through the employment of Gennady Bocharov as a Leverhulme Visiting Professor. Currently based in Moscow, he was a member of the University's academic staff between 2002 and 2004 and his work at Chester has been supported by the Leverhulme Trust International Fellowship Award and a Santander Universities-funded International Research Excellence Award.

Future Plans

The Applied Mathematics Research Group plans to develop strong collaborations with engineering and technology researchers, and will provide research and development support to local and regional businesses through the Thornton Science Park, which is home to the Faculty of Science and Engineering.



Professor Neville Ford.



Professor Gennady Bocharov.

Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy

UOA Co-ordinators:

Professors Elizabeth Mason-Whitehead and Professor John Williams.

Who was involved:

Twenty-five members of staff, including three ECRs, equating to 23.0 FTE posts from:

- Faculty of Health and Social Care;
- Department of Social and Political Science;
- Department of Clinical Science and Nutrition;
- Department of Biological Sciences.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Women's health;
- Mental health and learning disability;
- Health education and practice development;
- Clinical science;
- Pedagogy.

Case Studies

Professor John Williams and colleagues predicted the potential for vitamin B12 in treatment of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. This finding has led to the production of two novel cobalamin compounds, now patented for use in the USA. They also identified a novel antioxidant activity of vitamin B12, leading to the production of the memory loss supplement Betrinac® in the UK and USA.

Professor John Buckley's research into the effective management of exertion intensity, symptoms and pain in the treatment of cardiovascular and neuromuscular diseases has resulted in the setting of national and international standards for safe and effective education, training and professional practice.

Professor Helen Cooper and colleagues' Adolescent Diabetes Needs Assessment Tool (ADNAT) research programme is the first intervention of its kind, filling a recognised gap in UK service provision, focusing on young people aged 12–18 years living with Type 1 diabetes (T1D). Following the Medical Research Council's framework for the design and evaluation of complex interventions, it includes a qualitative phenomenological PhD study of the experiences of adolescents with T1D and their families, and their diabetes healthcare team, alongside two systematic reviews. Evidence from the underpinning research programme, that has studied adolescent diabetes self-care and explored technological methods of learning, has guided the development, validation and clinical evaluation of ADNAT, which has now been included in the UK's 2013–18 National Paediatric Service Improvement Delivery Plan.



Professor John Williams.

Future Plans

Plans and strategies for future development within the unit include: continued development of a new generation of researchers engaged in vibrant and exciting research; continued development of infrastructure for research activity and postgraduate research supervision; continued development of research collaborations in the UK and abroad; maintaining a sustained and measurable impact on a variety of academic and clinical audiences, and the community.

Ongoing research projects within the unit include:

- Maternity Assist, an innovative midwifery-led digital information and communication system to enhance maternity care and promote health (Professor Mary Steen);
- Mind resilience building model evaluation (a collaboration with Leeds Metropolitan University);
- Nurse educators' perceptions and experiences of simulation technology as a tool to enhance pre-registration nurse education (Health Education and Practice Development Group);
- Developing a stigma measure for teenage abortion, and for children with cerebral palsy on the Wirral: assessing prevalence and services (Professor Elizabeth Mason-Whitehead);
- Targeting heat shock protein 27 in colorectal cancer. This work includes pre-clinical assessments of novel therapeutic products from Novartis, Syntapharma and Oncogenix (a collaboration with the University of Liverpool and the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust).



Professor Helen Cooper with Professor Mike Thomas.



Professor Elizabeth Mason-Whitehead.

Computer Science and Informatics

UOA Co-ordinator:

Professor Nick Avis.

Who was involved:

Four members of staff, including two ECRs, equating to 4.0 FTE from:

- Faculty of Science and Engineering;
- School of Computer Science and Mathematics.

Examples of research themes covered:

- User generated content;
- Optimisation.

Case Studies

The majority of staff members within the unit was recruited during 2013 and while their work has given members rise to impact that could form potential case studies, the underpinning research was conducted at other higher education institutions. The unit, therefore, did not submit impact case studies in this REF exercise. Nevertheless, the successful development of the Informatics Centre demonstrates the effectiveness both of the Centre itself in responding to external demands for services, and also of the University's approach to investing in new projects that have strong potential to achieve impact and in developing identifiable activities with a clear external focus on providing services to business.

Future Plans

The overarching aim of the unit over the next five years, led by Executive Dean of Science and Engineering, Professor Nick Avis, is to develop a research centre with critical mass, having at least two areas of research focus with recognised outputs of international excellence, and to build on the world-leading facilities at the Thornton Science Park to develop strong interactions with industrial and commercial users.



The Informatics Centre.

Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology: Geography and Development Studies

UOA Co-ordinators:

Professor Roy Alexander and Dr Martin Evans.

Who was involved:

Ten members of staff, including one ECR, equating to 9.60 FTE from:

- Department of Geography and Development Studies;
- Department of Biological Sciences;
- Department of Social Studies and Counselling;
- Learning and Teaching Institute.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Sustainability;
- Geoconservation;
- Hazard processes and management;
- Socio-economic aspects of international development.

Case Studies

Professor Roy Alexander's innovative research into climate change awareness and behaviour change has transformed the way the world looks at this issue, through enabling the Cheshire village of Ashton Hayes to reduce its domestic carbon footprint by 20% and become an established model for communities across the globe, thus influencing local and national government policy, and attracting official visits from the Secretary of State for Defra, the Rural Advocate and Business in the Community.

Dr Martin Evans's research concerns conflict and its aftermath in the Casamance region of southern Senegal – the scene of West Africa's longest-running insurgency. His work has influenced policy, humanitarian and development activity in the region and beyond, and has informed Western governments, international agencies and non-governmental organisations in their interventions to support peace building and 'post-conflict' reconstruction. In addition, he has provided expert testimony in relation to asylum claims made in Western countries by Casamançais fleeing persecution.

Future Plans

The future strategy of this unit is to build on the secure and expanding base offered by the three research groups within the unit (Environment Research Group, Pedagogic Research Group and Social Research Group) and to extend impact through further collaboration with stakeholders in relevant fields.



Dr Martin Evans.

Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology: Archaeology

UOA Co-ordinator:

Professor Howard Williams.

Who was involved:

Five members of staff, including three ECRs, equating to 4.20 FTE from:

- Department of History and Archaeology.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Paleoecology;
- Landscape archaeology;
- Mortuary archaeology;
- Archaeologies of memory.

Case Studies

Building on Dr Meggen Gondek's expertise in Pictish stone sculpture, the Rhynie Environs Archaeological Project (REAP) has transformed popular understandings of early medieval stone monuments in northern Britain by: creating a network of outreach activities engaging the public during successive seasons of archaeological fieldwork at a unique collection of fifth- to seventh-century early medieval inscribed stone monuments; communicating the finds and interpretations to both local people and a global audience through the media and creating the platform for new academic and popular understandings of the prehistoric and early historic landscape of Rhynie.

Professor Howard Williams's expertise in archaeologies of memory and mortuary archaeology has helped lead the archaeological fieldwork of Project Eliseg, which has transformed academic and popular understandings of a unique and striking ancient monument in Llangollen, Denbighshire, by: creating a network of strategically designed outreach activities engaging the public with archaeological fieldwork at early medieval stone monuments; disseminating the research to a range of audiences via traditional and new media; and instigating strategies for the heritage management and conservation of an internationally important heritage site.

Future Plans

The unit's research strategy includes: facilitating high quality and high-profile research outputs; the promotion of field-based research activity; support for impact activity integral to research activity; and commitment to research-led undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes. Archaeologists within the unit aim to achieve this by: maintaining clear successes in field-based archaeological investigation; producing a raft of high-quality research outputs; and further development of a postgraduate research community.



Project Eliseg.

Business and Management Studies

UOA Co-ordinators:

Professor Caroline Rowland and Professor Peter Stokes.

Who was involved:

Six members of staff, including one ECR, equating to 6.0 FTE from:

- University of Chester Business School.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Public affairs;
- Responsible and sustainable management;
- Performance;
- Work related studies;
- Management learning and leadership.

Case Studies

The development of strategic public affairs management and associated research on political risk and the regional economy at the University demonstrates both impact on business strategy at international levels, and influence on government policy. The research has informed both strategy and policy for business and government, resulting in the retention of a major international business in the North West.

Practitioner research into Work Based Learning (WBL) undertaken at Chester since 1993 has seen the University established as a national leader in this field of study and the impact has affected both the private and public sectors. During 2008–13 practitioner research at Chester has underpinned consultancy and developmental work. This has resulted in significant impact on workforce development, including transforming policy and efficiency within a large government department, an NHS hospital trust and with businesses in the private sector.



Work Related Studies.

Future Plans

The unit's research strategy focuses on three key areas:

- Growing research capability and capacity;
- Establishing research focus groups and centres;
- Engaging with business and academic communities to produce high quality research outputs.

The Chester Business School plans to develop centres in sustainable and responsible management within the next two years and a centre for the emergent Faculty domain of tourism, events, heritage and destination management.



Management Learning.

Social Work and Social Policy

UOA Co-ordinator:

Professor Elizabeth Harlow.

Who was involved:

Five members of staff, including one ECR, equating to 5.0 FTE from:

- Department of Social Work;
- Department of Social and Political Science.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Organisations, management and the provision of formal and informal care;
- Critical reflection upon knowledge, including its generation and contribution to the construction of professionalism, professional practice and the provision of services;
- Crime, justice and services of support.

Case Studies

Based on empirical and theoretical research, Professor Elizabeth Harlow's insights on the recent developments in social work organisation, policy and practice, management coaching, and professional supervision have been implemented by: organisational consultants; management coaches; social work practice supervisors; social work practitioners; social work practice educators; and social work students. These insights have enabled them to consider the underpinning theory and application of relational and reflective supervision as a means of achieving relational and reflective social work practice.



Safeguarding Conference.

Future Plans

The unit aims to build research locally and regionally by developing relationships with social work agencies; and multi-disciplinary connections with the fire service, the teaching profession, health professionals and the police service. The creation of a Professional Development and Research Partnership will consolidate the research theme concerning 'Organisations, management and the provision of formal and informal care'. The unit continues to forge national and international networks by means of conference organisation and participation and the publication of papers in international journals. In addition to writing research proposals, two empirical projects have commenced within the unit: an evaluative research project concerning the Post-placement Adoption Support Service (commissioned by the partnered adoption agencies Adoption Matters North West and Caritas Care); and an exploration of older people's loneliness and their use of IT as a remedy (University grant). An EU-funded project on public safety and the process of alerting populations to potential disasters is also due to commence imminently.



Department of Social Work.

Education

UOA Co-ordinators:

Professor Rob Hulme and Professor Dean Garratt.

Who was involved:

Five members of staff, including one ECR, equating to 5.0 FTE from:

- Faculty of Education and Children's Services.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Multidisciplinary perspectives on policy in education;
- International and global policy making;
- Social theory;
- Philosophy;
- Relationships between policy and professionalism in education;
- Sports coaching;
- Citizenship;
- Multi-professional working;
- Creativity, education and arts through practice;
- Contemporary approaches to pedagogy;
- Art, drama and organisational change;
- International perspectives through art and creativity in education.

Case Studies

The Policy into Practice for Multi-Professional Working research addresses the long-recognised need for the development of collaborative research to develop shared understandings across professional groupings in local authorities. It has had major impact on policy and decision making at strategic and operational levels on the development and management of inter-professional partnerships in local authorities and public service agencies in the North West of England. It has also enabled substantial financial savings by improving decision making through developing inter-professional management strategies, and led to the growth of an international network of scholars through a Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association and the development of two research scholarships in conjunction with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and two academy schools in Cheshire and Merseyside.

The focus on creativity in educational practices at Chester is through the Centre for Research into Education, Creativity and Arts through Practice (RECAP), directed by Professor Jeff Adams (since 2010) and Professor Allan Owens (since 1993). They have worked worldwide to bring creativity into educational and professional practices by developing innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Their research has brought about extensive international partnerships between higher education, arts and professional and business institutions and groups, which has informed policy development on creative education worldwide. Their contemporary creative pedagogies have impacted on teacher education and the professional development of teachers, arts groups, communities and businesses throughout this international community.

Future Plans

- To continue to focus on Creativity, Education and Arts through Practice, further extending and consolidating the international networks established through RECAP;
- To extend work on multi-professionalism in public service environments via a focus on professional partnerships between universities and schools, local authorities and public service networks;
- To develop the methodological base underpinning collaborative partnership work and research, utilising mixed methodologies and including randomised controlled trials;
- To develop links with arts-based organisations in the UK and internationally, e.g. Room 13, Manchester Camerata and the Tate;
- To extend existing trajectories with work on special needs and inclusion, and to develop the focus on early years;
- To build on international links in existing fields with long term collaborative partners in Palestine, Sweden, Finland, the United States, Korea, Canada and Spain.



Professor Allan Owens at a RECAP event.

Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism

UOA Co-ordinators:

Professor Ken Green and Dr Craig Twist.

Who was involved:

Fourteen members of staff, including five ECRs, equating to 12.40 FTE from:

- Department of Sport and Exercise Science;
- Department of Clinical Sciences and Nutrition.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Improving or optimising athletic or health-related performance;
- The movement, physiological and skill demands of rugby;
- The mechanisms of fatigue;
- Recovery after high intensity exercise;
- Sociology of PE and youth;
- Sociology of sport and leisure.

Case Studies

The main applied outcomes of the 'Managing fatigue and recovery in team sports' research have been: changes to training, competition and between-match practices in the Rugby Football League (RFL) and the England Handball Association; the development of appropriate monitoring strategies to manage player health, wellbeing and performance capability; and the development of player and coach education resources.

The main applied outcomes of the 'Assessment of game, training and playing demands in relation to preparation and performance in elite rugby (league and union)' research have been: the objective quantification of individual player demands during competitive match play to better understand the typical internal and external loads imposed on rugby players; identification of fatigue characteristics and pacing strategies of interchange and whole-game players to inform training practices and tactical strategies; the design of appropriate training practices to ensure players are conditioned to tolerate the most demanding passages of play during competitive matches; and, the development of match simulation protocols for the objective evaluation of player performance.

Future Plans

Future avenues of investigation will continue to maximise the potential for impact in previously identified areas of research interest. The Applied Sports Sciences Research Group incorporates integrated physiological, movement analysis and nutritional investigative approaches to understanding and/or optimising human exercise, health and/or athletic performance. This research will continue to be driven by applied practice providing practical solutions via individual or multidisciplinary scientific approaches. A key area for development will be the examination of the immediate and prolonged implications of match and training demands in rugby on players' health. Within the Sociology of Sport Research Group the focus will remain on the sporting and leisure careers of children (and their parents), youth and adults, as well as relationships between sport, health and drugs and processes of professionalisation, globalisation and sportisation.



Optimising sporting performance.

Area Studies

UOA Co-ordinator:

Professor Claire Griffiths.

Who was involved:

Nine members of staff, including five ECRs, equating to 8.20 FTE from:

- Department of Modern Languages;
- Department of Media.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Travelling stories of identity;
- Hispano-American identities and displacement;
- Visualising development in Francophone Africa;
- Transcultural influences in Cuban identity formation.

Case Studies

James Clifford Kent's photographic work on Havana, Cuba, is a visual record of how space and place are constructed and consumed in contemporary society. Through public exhibitions, his practice-led research project, *Memories of a Lost Shark: Framing Cultural Imaginaries of Havana, Cuba*, is engaging with new audiences in the UK and Cuba in an examination of the way we construct imaginaries of place, and how these might impact upon cultural life, education and public discourse. James's series of photographs of Havana combine his contemporary reworkings of historic and iconic Cuban imagery with annotations written by the renowned Cuban writer Edmundo Desnoes.

Visions of development and slavery in contemporary Francophone African Art impacts on public discourse, professional practice and cultural life. Through a series of public talks, collaborations with African artists and contributions to exhibitions of contemporary African art, Professor Claire Griffiths is raising public awareness and professional understanding of how contemporary development is being viewed in Africa. Analysing the work of creative artists from several countries in sub-Saharan Francophone Africa, the research has revealed that, far from presenting development as positive change, artists are depicting economic development in the region as a form of enslavement. For over a decade they have been creating a visual vocabulary of present-day 'development' using historic images of the Atlantic slave trade. In public events delivered in English, French and Spanish, supported by digital resources, the author is disseminating this view from the continent to a broader audience across the world.

Future Plans

- Reinforce public engagement as a platform for research outputs;
- Increase internal and external research revenue;
- Consolidate the research group as a centre of excellence in language-based Area Studies;
- Enable transdisciplinary research collaboration within and beyond the group;
- Continue mentoring and supporting early career researchers;
- Expand the research cluster across a global network of partner institutions in China (Shanghai Jiao Tong), Cuba (Havana) and Canada;
- Develop a thriving postgraduate community in the field of transcultural identity formation.



Area Studies researchers in the Department of Modern Languages.

English Language and Literature

UOA Co-ordinator:

Professor Deborah Wynne.

Who was involved:

Eleven members of staff, including four ECRs, equating to 11.0 FTE from:

- Department of English.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Literary and cultural heritages;
- Victorian textiles and texts;
- Flash fiction: the short-short story;
- The phonological awareness of deaf children.

Case Studies

Professor Derek Alsop's research into Handel's literary texts over 18 years has become increasingly influential in shaping the public understanding of Handel and his work. Rather than taking the musicologists' view of the operas and oratorios, he has developed an innovative analysis of Handel's texts and sources from a literary-critical perspective.

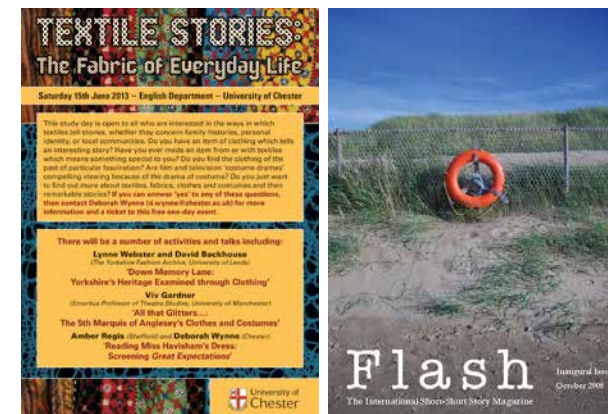
Professor Deborah Wynne's research into 19th-century literature's engagement with material culture is internationally recognised. Her latest work on textiles underpins the Textile Stories Project, a celebration of the rich heritages of fabric, fashion and costume, particularly in literary contexts.



Professor Emma Rees.

Future Plans

The unit plans to develop the Department of English's reputation for research excellence and innovation by supporting a range of projects. These include research into interdisciplinary approaches to literary texts, the practical applications of new research into the phonological awareness of children, and developing the public engagement potential of the Flash Fiction Project.



History

UOA Co-ordinators:

Dr Tim Grady and Dr Keith McLay.

Who was involved:

Six members of staff, including two ECRs, equating to 6.0 FTE from:

- Department of History and Archaeology.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Social history and material culture of Britain and the Low Countries during the early to late medieval period;
- Political and military history of Britain in the 17th and 18th centuries;
- History of modern Britain and Europe;
- Research on memory and legacies of war;
- History of minorities.

Case Studies

Professor Peter Gaunt's extensive research explores local and national histories of Oliver Cromwell, one of Britain's most important national figures. While Cromwell tends to be remembered in a national context, the English Civil War itself also had a dramatic effect on the people and landscapes of England and Wales as a whole. Communities were torn asunder, buildings destroyed and some 200,000 people lost their lives. But often little of this is known at a local level, so, through a range of activities, Peter has shared his findings with the most diverse of audiences, enabling people to rethink and reassess Cromwell and the Civil War's local impact in a new focused way.

Over the last decade, Dr Tim Grady has undertaken a large body of research on German Jews' experience and commemoration of the First World War. His talks, magazine articles, podcasts and consultancy work have raised awareness of the diverse range of voices involved in the First World War, highlighting the impact of other combatants, as well as the involvement of the Jewish community.



Dr Tim Grady.

Future Plans

The unit has two main research themes to be pursued in the immediate future: (i) the First World War, including its pre-history and legacies. With the war's centenary, there is considerable opportunity for the Department to use its research to connect with the public's interest in the war's history. Beyond this, however, the war also provides an obvious thematic focus as the history of warfare is already firmly embedded in much of the Department's research; (ii) the history of the urban environment, through a project entitled Chester and the Wider World. This is an area of research that links the work of the Department's medievalists, early modern and modern historians whose collective interest is in spatial aspects of cityscapes and the material environment of the city. In this respect, Chester as a city with one of England's most historic centres, offers a unique case study for this project.



Professor Peter Gaunt.

Theology and Religious Studies

UOA Co-ordinator:

Professor Elaine Graham.

Who was involved:

Fourteen members of staff, including four ECRs, equating to 11.10 FTE from:

- Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Biblical studies, Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity;
- Contextual, practical and public theologies;
- Religious studies, contemporary spiritualities, and religion and society;
- Systematic theology and theological ethics.

Case Studies

The Higher Power Project (HPP) maps the spiritual and transformational experiences in Twelve-Step Programmes (TSPs) overcoming addiction. As governmental emphasis shifts from 'harm reduction' towards 'recovery', HPP's findings offer policy makers, professionals and service-users a greater understanding of the 'spiritual dimension' of TSPs and Fellowships, thereby informing policy and influencing practice.

Dr Wayne Morris's research into the experiences of deaf Christians reveals the extent of their marginalisation within hearing culture, but also provides qualitative evidence of autonomous expressions of theological understanding expressed through the medium of sign language. This has informed the development of a programme in Theology for the Church of England, delivered in British Sign Language, which has enabled a number of deaf candidates to pursue accredited Christian ministry. The research has also contributed to raising awareness of the needs of people with disabilities within the churches, resulting in tangible changes in policy and provision.



Dr Wendy Dossett and Dr Wayne Morris.

Future Plans

- Foster staff research capacity and ambition (support for funding applications; maintaining a sabbatical leave rota; regular workshops with invited expert speakers; making use of Faculty networks);
- Continue to support early career researchers by targeting funding for new research projects and implementing departmental and Faculty mentoring schemes;
- Expand existing links between departmental research and public engagement activities by targeting resources towards 'pathways to impact' initiatives;
- Increase routes to postgraduate research, especially amongst its own graduate community and internationally;
- Work with researchers in the Faculty of Humanities to develop interdisciplinary research projects and joint bids for external funding (e.g. Leverhulme PhD studentships);
- Develop collaborative research opportunities with other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs);
- Strengthen links with Gladstone's Library in Hawarden, Flintshire, as a venue for departmental research events, as a resource for postgraduates and for collaborative research opportunities.

Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory

UOA Co-ordinator:

Professor Neil Grant.

Who was involved:

Five members of staff, including two ECRs, equating to 3.70 FTE from:

- Department of Art and Design.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Cultural memory;
- Augmented reality;
- Dialogues with materiality;
- Participatory practice.

Case Studies

Dr Simon Grennan's 'Memories Materialised' work involved innovation in the collection of cultural memory of a particular site and engaged with a non-academic audience to establish a more cohesive community. The innovation continued with the development of the virtual means of materialising these memories and the linking of memory with real and virtual space.

Dinu Li's 'Crescendo' work developed from his research project *The Mother of All Journeys*, published in 2007, about the memories of time and place from a particular individual's point of view and the implication this may have on personal and political contexts as well as the local and the global. In his case, the cultural memory aspect related to his relationship with China.



Future Plans

The unit plans to be a significant contributor to cultural economy development planning, in particular the concept of the 'Cultural Offer' as an attraction to inward investment. Dr Simon Grennan's participatory practice role will further enhance this relationship and he is currently working with Cheshire West and Chester Council on projects with this focus. Dr Cian Quayle's work with the Littoral Arts Trust will continue to develop public understanding of the Schwitters legacy in Cumbria and, in particular, the development of the site of Schwitters' Mertz Barn work in Elterwater. The opportunities afforded by augmented reality, as researched by Alan Summers and Michael Moore, and their application as non-destructive interventions in the context of heritage sites, links directly to Dr Grennan's participatory practice work. This is regarded as a very fruitful emerging research area that will be further supported through the development of an MA by research (MRes) strategy linked to a Cultural Innovation Lab located in the Department of Art and Design.

The continued research around contemporary attitudes to material and material manipulation, appropriation, virtual material, and digital craft, will explore collaboration with the Department of Computer Science and Faculty of Science and Engineering, and be shared with a wider public through the Access Resources in Art and Design scheme, ARIAD.

The arrival of Tom McGuirk to the department has brought established links to the Nordic Summer University initiative with Sweden and Denmark. This adds to Maggie Jackson's existing links to Norway and her work on Nordic light in painting.

Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts

UOA Co-ordinators:

Professor David Pattie and Professor Darren Sproston.

Who was involved:

Ten members of staff, including three ECRs, equating to 9.10 FTE from:

- Department of Performing Arts.

Examples of research themes covered:

- Ethnography and anthropology of vernacular performance practices;
- The Staging Beckett project;
- The production and reception of music;
- Performance pedagogy.

Case Studies

The unit has a strong dedication towards developing drama in education in various intercultural contexts. Members of staff are developing intercultural applications of the notions of 'dialogic performance' and 'process drama' in schools and communities in Romania, Palestine, Japan, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Teaching and learning in Romanian schools is being transformed by the idea that the arts can have a cultural impact on learning and that drama can enhance everyday performativity. Thousands of students have been involved in this research by Professor Peter Harrop and Jane Loudon, which has led to the foundation of the Educational Drama Association of Romania (EDAR), an independent, sustainable and locally governed organisation which works in Romanian schools to promote drama in education, both as an elective and extracurricular activity to develop critical thinking. Jane, with University drama students, is working towards establishing continuous relationships with schools and communities in Romania. In April 2014, Jane and James Layton took a group of drama students to Romania to work with schools.

Professor Allan Owens has worked worldwide to bring drama into the professions. He has developed an artistic form that has impacted in a wide range of contexts including the social sector, in education, health, and public service, and also in private business. The trajectory of his research and practice has been concerned with pioneering the use of pre-text based process drama as a form of artistic initiative beyond mainstream education.

Future Plans

- The creation of dedicated and distinct research networks within the Department of Performing Arts under the umbrella of the Faculty's Centre for Research in Arts and Media. It is envisaged that these networks will, over time, develop into a single centre on their own right;
- There is considerable scope within the Department of Performing Arts for the development of interdisciplinary research, both internally and externally. The department will aim to develop funding proposals to support and strengthen its interdisciplinary work.



Drama student production of *Elephant's Graveyard*.
© Adam Jacob Burgess.

The Student Experience



The University of You

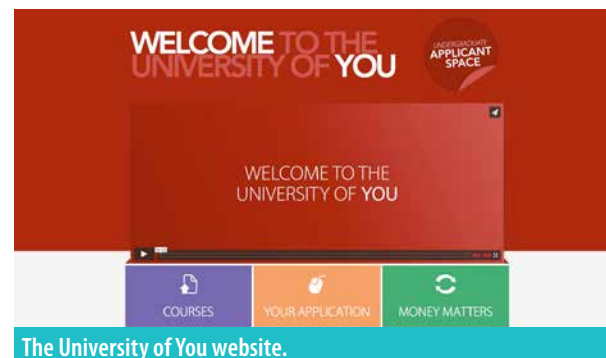
The relationship with prospective students is carefully developed over the whole recruitment and admissions process, so that students feel supported throughout and are able to tailor their student experience at the 'University of You' according to their own career aspirations and personal interests.

A marketing campaign, which harnesses and celebrates the 'Chester Difference', saw the Marketing, Recruitment and Admissions (MRA) Department receive recognition in a prestigious national award. From a record number of entries, the Marketing team achieved Highly Commended in the 'Best Student Recruitment Campaign' category for the institution's University of You 2014 Undergraduate Recruitment campaign at the Heist Education Marketing Awards, which reward excellent practice in higher education marketing.

Ric Bengree, Deputy Director of MRA, said of the accolade: "We feel that we have created a campaign that has done exactly what we set out to do – to differentiate the University of Chester offering through the creative use of multiple channels and to speak to our prospective students about the issues that are important to them, in ways that they can engage with and at the right time for them. It's the kind of success that the Heist Awards were created to recognise and we can think of no greater honour than achieving that recognition!"

The University of You campaign emphasises the excellence of the courses offered and that by supplementing this with options from a wide range of opportunities and extra-curricular activities, such as careers and employability, volunteering and Work Based Learning, graduates make themselves unique in a crowded graduate market place. The main features of the campaign are as follows:

- The 'Undergraduate Applicant Space' is a stand-alone website promoting the University of Chester as the University of You and it adapts to work seamlessly across all formats to ensure an excellent user experience. The content on the website is launched by a piece of video and is supported by a mixture of text, images, graphics and infographics to guide users to the next stage of engagement.
- The accompanying direct mail campaign focuses on the 'Welcome to the University of You' theme and segmentation ensures that course specific information is sent out in September to those interested in admission for the following year.
- A further portfolio of targeted leaflets is used to reach prospective applicants at a key time in their decision-making process, encouraging them to visit the campaign website.



- The digital marketing campaign continues to build engagement by driving traffic to the campaign website through social media and digital advertising. Again, this is carefully tailored to the interests of the users through profiling to ensure that only very relevant material with a specific objective reaches them.
- For example, there is a Facebook advertisement asking potential applicants to 'Start Your Chester Story' by visiting the campaign website which fits in with the simultaneous campaign to engage directly with applicants, students, staff and alumni and to boost 'user generated content' through the promotion of the hashtag #mychesterstory.
- The University of You campaign is constantly monitored and there is a panel of prospective students which helps with research to ensure that the activities are effective and meet the needs of the target audience.
- Attendance at Open Days and Applicant Days is the next major phase of engagement and the numbers of prospective students and their families attending these events continues to grow. They are opportunities to develop the relationship further with the University through the MRA team and specific subject departments. This continued contact helps to guide people through the admissions system and provide relevant information at each stage of the process.
- The whole University of You campaign ultimately encourages prospective students to feel part of the University community at an early stage and raises awareness of all the opportunities that are available for them to maximise their student experience.



The MRA team at the Heist Awards.



Twitter advertising.



Online advertising.



The University of You leaflets.

CASE STUDY

Chloe Griffin

Chloe Griffin enjoyed all aspects of university life, which has helped her to gain invaluable academic, social and volunteering experience for the future.

Chloe opted to study Events Management and Tourism after being impressed with the opportunities on offer: "I chose to come to Chester because it has brilliant modern facilities with devoted careers and volunteering departments; lecturers with real life experience; a friendly atmosphere around the University and city, and an excellent location with Manchester and Liverpool close by. Chester has an outstanding business school with lecturers that really understand how the real world works. The Events Management staff also have great contacts, with constant volunteering opportunities available to give students the best possible experience."

Chloe thrived on combining her studies with joining clubs and societies and volunteering. She spent a year as the President of the University's Events Society where she helped organise and run several charity and community events. She also volunteered at a number of charity

fundraisers and on a regular basis for Arthritis Research UK. She now plans to follow a career in destination management, where locations can benefit positively from tourism and events, or as an Events Manager.

She said: "I have really enjoyed having the opportunities that are given by the University – it has enabled me to gain the most possible from the experience. I have also had a brilliant time making the most of societies and the university lifestyle. Volunteering has helped me massively, giving me the skills and experience I need for my future career. It has also helped me to become a more well-rounded person, with a new outlook on work."

"I would definitely recommend Chester to anyone who is looking to develop their skills to the best of their ability and excel in their personal development. It is a great place to live and study."



Student Life

The University aims to provide a life-transforming experience for its students in a creative, caring and encouraging environment, and the following examples give an insight into some of the student activities and achievements in 2013–14.

Team Chester celebrated another impressive performance at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Gatorade Nationals, which saw nearly 6,000 student athletes from 130 universities competing in 11 different sports. Thomas Corlett won gold in the Men's Foil (Fencing), Elliot Dillon returned to defend his BUCS Heavyweight Boxing Champion title and was narrowly beaten, while Cheryl Wilson came eighth out of 128 in the 50m backstroke. Cheryl also competed in 12 university competitions last year, setting a BUCS swimming record in the Biathlon Championships.

Gordon Reay, Students' Sports Development and Coaching Manager at the University, said: "All of these students are exceptional athletes, who have dedicated their own time in the pursuit of excellence and

high performance in their sport. Their achievements resonate with the University's goal for students to aspire to fulfil their full potential and we are hugely proud of what they have achieved. Hopefully this will inspire other students."

Chester Business Master's student Liam Wolstenholme only began Powerlifting in 2012 and has now progressed to set a new British Powerlifting record. Liam broke the previous British record of 260kg, by lifting 262.5kg at the junior under-83kg British Deadlift Championships.

A range of personal bests was achieved by students who benefited from University sports scholarships. Lilly O'Driscoll was the top University tennis player through winning 90% of her games, reached

the final of the North of England tennis cup and ended up ranked 6th in Lancashire. Leah Evans was captain of the Cheerleading Society and led her team to two national titles, as well as reaching the National Championships in her home team. Niel Gillard was the Captain of the Basketball team which narrowly missed out on promotion to the top BUCS league, while Ivan Gorgiev travelled back to Bulgaria to compete in the National Swimming Championships and came 4th and 5th in two events. Leigh Jenkins and Amy Gittins used their support to compete in the PruHealth World Triathlon Grand Final in London, along with around 5,000 international athletes.

The Senior Men's Rowing team followed wins at Northwich, Trentham and Chester Regattas, by becoming the University's first men's squad to qualify for the prestigious Henley Regatta. They were among the six fastest qualifiers from 22 other international universities and progressed to compete at the event for the first time.



Thomas Corlett.



Triathletes Leigh Jenkins and Amy Gittins.



The Senior Men's Rowing team.



Between Lines featuring Demi, at Aspiration Live.

A campaign organised by disabled student representatives at Chester Students' Union raised awareness of people living with disabilities. Able-bodied and disabled students made pledges of support, wore purple and took part in wheelchair sports to help change opinion on disability. The week culminated with students competing in Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby, together with some Paralympian participants.

A live-music event organised by Commercial Music Production students took place at Warrington's Parr Hall. The Mayor of Warrington was among the guests at Aspiration Live which saw eight local acts perform and the launch of the students' fifth annual download release, 'Next To Me' which reached number 28 in the iTunes electronic music chart.

Law student, Sara-Jayne Dodge was selected by the Isle of Man branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to attend the CPA Headquarters Secretariat's Observance of Commonwealth Day. She shared in the annual Commonwealth Day celebrations in London, attended by Her Majesty The Queen, Commonwealth High Commissioners and around 1,000 young people.



David Rutherford with 'Change the World' Advertising students.

Students on the BA Advertising programme undertook a project entitled 'Change the World' on behalf of the Warrington Islamic Association (WIA) to enhance equality and diversity and raise awareness of the positive role of Muslims in the broader community. The students devised a cost-effective advertising campaign to highlight the many community initiatives carried out by the WIA and the project was supported by both the Board of Directors of the WIA and by Warrington Voluntary Action. Student Joshua Bundy said: "The project taught me that advertising and working for clients can be challenging. I also learnt that advertising can be used not only to sell brands but it can be used to make communities better and bring people together. It is not all about making a profit."

Warrington's community spirit was captured on camera as part of a photography exhibition at a local community centre. Cathy Lynn-Jones and Michelle Botham photographed activities at the Fairfield and Howley Community Project as part of their Photography degree and were so enthused that they produced an exhibition and fundraising event for the finale. Centre manager Ian Smith said he was "more than impressed" by the students' work: "They went beyond what was asked of them. They showed initiative and motivation."



Warrington residents at the student photographic exhibition.

The European Union Parliament in Brussels was the destination for a group of Law and Politics students for an international conference on labour and human rights. The visit was supported by Jacqueline Foster MEP and Dr Mark Bendall and students went to the Parliament and Commission where they met MEPs, lobbyists and academic experts at the conference and had a private meeting in the Commission press room with a spokesperson for a Deputy Commissioner for the EU Commission and a former speechwriter.

Journalism students also had the opportunity to visit Brussels to find out more about communications at the Council of the European Union and the European Commission. Their trip included meeting with press officers, speechwriters, MEPs Jacqueline Foster and Chris Davies, Reuters representatives and the former Prime Minister of Belgium. They also visited the TV studios, press and VIP areas and attended a press conference.

The University's Cat Radio Awards was attended by staff, students and industry guests to celebrate the student radio station at Warrington. The award for Best Entertainment went to Tom Gill and Harry Colley while Phoebe Bennett and James Booth won their respective gender categories, and Stewart Wallace scooped the award for Best Producer. Jordan Harrop

won best newcomer and Adam Marsden was the best interviewer. Awards were also won by the makers of programmes such *The Coffee House Sessions*, which form part of a national initiative backed by BBC Radio 1's Huw Stephens to feature new singer songwriters.

The Cat Radio's three nominations and a win at The Jerusalem Awards are the latest accolades for the Department of Media which includes being shortlisted in the Chart Show category of the Student Radio Awards 2014; Radio Production graduates Andy Downton and Michelle Ponting being nominated in the O2 Media Awards (in the Radio Journalist of the Year and Breakfast Presenter of the Year categories, respectively) and Radio Production alumnus Richard Maddock becoming Commissioning Editor at BBC Radio 5 Live. The Jerusalem Awards, which reward excellence in religious broadcasting, were held at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in London and *The Best Radio On Radio (The BROR)* triumphed in the Easter 2014 category. Fr Ian Delinger's popular show was produced by Radio Production students Sian Heron and Harry Colley.



Major incident training at Cheshire Constabulary.

Media students Rhys Bennett and Pip Biggs produced a video to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's Blackpool lifeboat station. Esther Lowe, Press Officer for RNLI Blackpool, said: "Rhys and Pip have far surpassed our hopes and expectations for the project. The outcome is a fantastic video, which sums up the spirit of our station in a few short minutes." She added: "The final product demonstrates a clear understanding of our institution's key messages. These messages are not easy to convey but they have succeeded brilliantly."

Damon Taylor has become the Department of Media's first Foundation Degree progression student from a partner college to achieve a first in a top-up award. Damon studied for a Foundation Degree in Commercial Music Technology at Mid Cheshire College and then progressed to the University to gain a BA in Commercial Music Production.

More than 150 people attended the North West Media Showcase opening night, including students and their families, lecturers and



Dr Matt Warnock with Dr Guilherme Vincens and Popular Music students.

industry guests. The show featured work from students in Advertising, Journalism, Film, Music, Photography, Radio and Television and included an awards ceremony to honour the contributions made to the Department by students from all levels and programmes.

An emergency situation was offered to Journalism students who were given the chance to experience what might happen when they took part in a mock exercise at Cheshire Constabulary headquarters in Winsford. The students helped to test the reactions of the authorities in the event of a major incident through questioning spokespeople from a number of agencies and taking part in press conferences.

Journalism students also had a chance to imagine a future in broadcasting when they toured the BBC's MediaCity complex at Salford Quays. The students had an opportunity to present the news from the *Breakfast* sofa, deliver a television weather forecast and visit the studio used by the *Mark Radcliffe and Stuart Maconie Show* on BBC Radio 6 Music.

The students from the University of Chester gave an outstanding performance and the audience was deeply impressed with the group's energy and musicality. They got along really well with the UFSJ students, who were really inspired by them.

Dr Guilherme Vincens, Professor of Music at the Federal University of São João Del Rei (UFSJ).

Five Popular Music Performance students accompanied Performing Arts Lecturer and guitarist Dr Matt Warnock when he was invited back to perform in Brazil. The students gave sell-out musical workshops and performances at music academies, concert halls and universities across the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais and the trip was supported by a Santander International Research Excellence grant. Dr Guilherme Vincens, Professor of Music at the Federal University of São João Del Rei (UFSJ) added: "The students from the University of Chester gave an outstanding performance and the audience was deeply impressed with the group's energy and musicality. They got along really well with the UFSJ students, who were really inspired by them."

A Ghanaian work-based learning student left his home country for the first time when he graduated with Distinction on the Work Based & Integrative Studies (WBIS) programme. Enoch Narteh-Kofi achieved an MSc in Finance and Accounting (WBIS), while living and working in Ghana. Enoch's achievement also earned him the Postgraduate Barclays Achievement Award for the outstanding WBIS student through his contribution to practice at work and personal and academic achievement. The Undergraduate Barclays Achievement Award went to Julie Westlake, a nurse from Wirral University Hospital Trust who completed a degree in Nursing Studies (WBIS).

Theology and Religious Studies students on the Religions in Contemporary India module travelled to Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram (DVK) in Bangalore, to participate in lectures and field visits to religious sites. They lived alongside the DVK students, who are training to be priests and nuns, which gave them a more enriching experience and gave them experience of the practical side of the theoretical knowledge gained through their studies.

Giving students a voice is the aim of the Student Academic Representatives or 'StARs', who attend Staff Student Liaison Meetings and promote student engagement. StARs from across the institution receive training from the Student Experience Office and there are now 684 StARs

representing 614 student groups across the University, who collectively amassed 1,306 volunteering hours through their participation.

Sharon Wimpenny and Julie Sheen, two pre-registration Mental Health Nursing students were supported by the Faculty of Health and Social Care in presenting at the Networking for Education in Healthcare conference as students and student quality ambassadors. The students stated that "the feedback we received following our presentation was fantastic: it was said that our passion for the role stood out, and that we were 'a credit to the project and the University'".

Midwifery student Azija (Izzy) Khanam won the Most Inspirational Student Nurse of the Year award, in the *Student Nursing Times Awards 2014*, for her role as a Student Quality Ambassador. The role involves championing good practice and encourages students to improve the quality of care within practice. Izzy is passionate about empowering women and their families during their maternity care experiences, and wants to encourage other students to develop and achieve high standards of care quality. She also established and facilitates the Cultural Diversity Club in the community, where she collaborates with a local high school to provide health and social education for ethnic minority girls who are pupils. The team consists of Izzy, teachers, local GPs and peer role models from the young women's cultural community, and the aim of the project is to increase the young women's confidence and help them to achieve their potential.

Julie Williams, a Health and Social Care (Assistant Practitioner) student on the foundation degree, presented a poster showcasing workforce transformation in dementia care at the Skill Mix Solutions in Dementia Care Conference in Leigh and this was chosen by delegates as the best. Olivia Gaye, a pre-registration Nursing student, secured funding and attended the International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare held in Paris. Student Midwife Nathalie Hendleman was presented with an outstanding achievement award by the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and another student midwife Amy



Izzy Khanam, student midwife.

Oppermann marked the International Day of the Midwife by organising complimentary access at The Mill Hotel & Health Club and Spa in Chester for local midwifery teams.

A group of trainee teachers designed interactive learning activities for a new recycling education facility in Winsford. The Recycle First Education Centre has been designed for visitors to see how Kier and Cheshire West and Chester Council are reducing waste in West Cheshire and students worked on ideas for interactive displays as part of their Global Dimensions specialism, which focuses on developing their skills and understandings about global issues and sustainability. Executive Member for Localities, Councillor Lynn Riley, said: "Thank you to the University of Chester students for contributing their ideas to the Centre – hopefully their interactive designs will ensure visitors can understand and learn in an imaginative and memorable way."

Nutrition and Dietetics student Emma Turner presented the results of her dissertation on the effect of beetroot supplementation on blood pressure and arterial stiffness entitled 'Carbohydrates in health: friends or foes?' at the Nutrition Society Conference in Glasgow.



Amy Oppermann with Gordon Vickers.

A production of *Elephant's Graveyard* by Level 6 Drama students played to a full house each night at the Forum Studio Theatre in Chester. The play by George Brant tells about the true life lynching of a circus elephant called Mary in 1916 Tennessee and proved to be a popular choice.

Master's student Anthony Cliffe, who studies Sustainability for Community and Business, was the first student from the University to discuss his research at the annual Posters in Parliament exhibition. This allowed specially selected undergraduates from 23 universities to unveil their research findings from a range of subject areas to their peers and MPs. Anthony's research, which was conducted in the final year of his undergraduate degree, explored residents' perceptions of aircraft noise at Liverpool John Lennon Airport and in the nearby residential areas.

It was a case of man versus machine when the Men's Rugby team went head to head with a Volkswagen Golf to mark the arrival of the World Rally Championship in Wales. The student squad leapt at a challenge laid down by German filmmakers Black Pearl Film and tried to beat the car to the touchline in a short promotional film which aired on the day that the international race swept through the Welsh countryside.



Student production of *Elephant's Graveyard*.
© Adam Jacob Burgess.

A final year Nutrition and Dietetics student was awarded a prize for her research into weight gain in first-year university students. Charlotte Cockman was one of only a handful of undergraduate students to present at the Nutrition Society's Annual Summer Conference and went on to win the event's poster prize which included publication in the Nutrition Society's conference proceedings.

A team of undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences worked on a Sky Sports research project, to give its viewers an insight into the surprisingly physically demanding world of competitive angling during the live broadcast of the Fish 'O' Mania contest. According to the physiological data collected, the heart rate demands on competitive anglers can reach similar values to those seen in Premier League footballers. Mick Brais, Producer at Sky Sports, said: "The team was brilliant and they provided some really good data to put on screen during our coverage, far exceeding our expectations."



Professor Peter Harrop with Warrington Campus Valedictory prizewinners.



Special Constable Jack Nelson.

A Special Constable, only four months into his Policing, Law and Investigation Foundation Degree, came across a three-car collision on a dual carriageway and his subsequent actions led to him winning the Cheshire Constabulary Special Constable of the Year award. Jack Nelson had secured and managed the scene, walked a wounded casualty to safety and recorded all the details of the drivers and witnesses when the North Wales Road Policing Unit officers arrived. They reported that as “the officer had effectively dealt with the incident there was nothing left for us to do but clean up the scene . . . we initially thought from his professional, more than competent behaviour, the way he acted and conducted himself, that he was a full-time Police Officer with a few years under his belt. To find out later that he was a Special Constable who had only been training in a classroom and was on his way to Nantwich Police Station to start his first ever shift, we were amazed. Jack is a credit to Cheshire Police’s training and himself; he is a very confident person. We both hope that he achieves his goal of becoming a Police Officer as he will be an asset to the Force.”



Chester Campus Valedictory prizewinners.

The annual Valedictory service and prize-giving saw students recognised for their outstanding accomplishments and the address was given by Chris Allen BEM, a member of University Council. Warrington prizewinners were: Naomi Campbell who received the Hilary Tucker Prize for the student who has made the greatest contribution to the Warrington Campus; Donna Sherratt received the JL Dobson Trophy, for her significant contribution to fellow students; The KM Herring Award for the Department of Media student who has made an Outstanding Contribution in the field of Visual Craft went to Thomas Cosgrove; Ryan Carse received the *Warrington Guardian* Award for his journalistic writing, having also won the Wilko Johnson prize for Music Journalism at the inaugural Louder than Words festival in Manchester; Nathan Jones won the University Prize for Critical Theory in Media; the University Prize for Audio in Media was awarded to Matthew Furness; and the new Borland prize for an outstanding Policing student was given to Amber-Louise Evans, who also featured in the BBC TV fly-on-the-wall programme *First Time on the Front Line*.

The Chester Campus Valedictory prizewinners included Benjamin Carr and Jason Parry who won the Ede and Ravenscroft Award for Excellence for running the ‘Good Grub Club’ which is a student-led project that works closely with Chester Aid to the Homeless (CATH); Matthew Fowle received the Kirsty Craig Associates Award for Enterprise, a University Outstanding Contribution to Community Award, the University Prize for Politics and the Chester Difference Excellence Award. Robert Gray won an Outstanding Contribution to Community Award, the History Prize and the Careers and Employability team’s Above and Beyond Award; Sian Williamson won the Louise Higgins Psychology Prize and the Outstanding Contribution to Community Award; Julie Sheen received both the Faculty of Health and Social Care Special Recognition Award and the University Award for Citizenship; Rhys Hughes won the University Prize for Natural Hazard Management and the J Andrew Wood Prize for Work Related Studies; while Chloe Griffin, Charlotte Owen, Emma King and Clare Nolan, were all awarded University Outstanding Contribution to Community Awards.

CASE STUDY

Dan Lee

University offers many opportunities, and Dan Lee takes away not only a first class honours degree, but also the wealth of experience gained by being a sabbatical officer for Chester Students' Union (CSU). Dan, from Rainham in Essex, chose to study at the University as the flexibility of its course combinations allowed him to study "the exact course that I wanted to do".

Dan studied Business Management and Events Management at the Warrington Campus, as during his time at school and college he'd played in a band and discovered that he enjoyed organising events and gigs. He said: "I wanted to study the theory as well as having more of an opportunity to have a 'hands on' approach to events – all the way from the concept to the execution. I also decided it would be wise to accompany that with Business Management to have more of an understanding about the finances and models behind it."

Dan was delighted to see his hard work pay off with the achievement a first class degree. He said: "I enjoyed my course and can't thank my lecturers and supervisors enough for supporting me through it and helping me achieve the classification I've always wanted. I really enjoyed the community of the Warrington Campus and the closeness of the students who study there; you only need to spend a few weeks there to understand and

appreciate what I mean by this. Warrington is a great location – not too far away from Manchester and Liverpool. As a huge rugby fan the fact that Warrington Wolves train and have a presence on campus and in the community was a big attraction."

Dan's love for the Campus led him to run successfully to be CSU's Vice-President for Warrington and the Satellite Sites for 2013–14. He said: "Being a sabbatical officer and representing the students was an amazing experience and I was very grateful for the opportunity. The variety of the job was very enjoyable and coming in to the office not knowing what the day was going to bring was always exciting and kept me on my toes! Working with a brilliant team in Chester and Warrington for the same cause of trying to heighten the student experience was also a huge highlight and we all strove hard to make improvements and to make the time spent at University as enjoyable as possible for our students."

"I loved witnessing our sports and societies come on in leaps and bounds over the year and seeing our best results in the BUCS leagues for at least 10 years. Working with the captains and chairs of the sports and societies was a real pleasure and I applaud them all for taking up a voluntary role and taking the time out to assist an extracurricular activity, as well as balancing this with their academic studies. The achievements of CSU over the year were incredible and it's amazing to think that it was all done within 12 months, I hope this has left solid foundations for the new sabbatical team to go on and keep making improvements for the students of the University. I can't stress enough

how influential CSU has been on my University time and the experiences, skills and friends I have gained through this."

Dan now plans to follow a career in the hospitality and tourism sector as he has a passion for travel. He added: "My time in the role of Vice-President has given me an abundance of transferable skills. Without a doubt, this University has been fantastic and I will always look upon this institution with fond memories. I would recommend it to anyone and if you are in doubt about what you want to do after college or sixth form give university a go. You will gain so much more than a degree."



Student Support

Award-winning and comprehensive Student Support and Guidance activities are available to students throughout their time at the institution, while the financial assistance offered through scholarships and grants can minimise the financial implications of entering higher education.

The University's approach to supporting students to realise their full potential starts before they apply and remains a priority throughout their involvement with the institution. The University has ensured that its strategy for 2015–16 is in line with the new National Strategy for Access and Student Success. This is achieved through extensive outreach work with schools and colleges, student retention and success initiatives, and activities to enhance students' progression into employment.

For 2015–16, the estimated average fee paid by students at the University after waivers will be £8,831. While tuition fees will be set at £9,000 for home and EU students studying full-time for first degrees (and £7,650 for foundation degrees), the estimated average cost per student studying at Chester after allowance for financial support will be £8,514, which through the Student Loans Company is only repaid at an affordable rate once a graduate earns a salary of £21,000 or more.

In keeping with the Mission and Foundational Values, which advocate extending opportunities for education to all, the institution provides an extensive range of targeted measures to help provide financial support for more than 40% of students, particularly those from less advantaged backgrounds.

The University is keen that tuition fees will not discourage students from entering higher education. The Office for Fair Access is an independent body, set up to promote widening participation in higher education for under-represented groups following the introduction of tuition fees, and

the University has been working with the organisation to find its most comprehensive support package for students for 2015–16. This will include the following measures for 2015–16:

- **Chester Bursary:** An award to the value of £2,000 in cash will be given to any new full-time undergraduate degree entrant paying a tuition fee of more than £6,000, who has a declared household residual income of £25,000 or less. This will comprise of a cash and 'in-kind' benefit totalling £1,000 in Year 1, with £500 in each of Years 2 and 3 of the programme.
- **Chester Link Bursary:** For those who have attended one of the University's targeted partner schools, academies or colleges, awards of £2,000 in part cash and 'in kind' benefits will be paid, with £1,000 in the first year of study and £500 in each of Years 2 and 3. Eligibility criteria: New full-time undergraduate degree entrants paying a tuition fee of more than £6,000, and who have a declared household residual income of between £25,000 and £42,600, will be eligible for consideration. This scheme is open to any student who completed their Level 3 studies at one of the targeted schools, academies or colleges up to two years prior to the start of their undergraduate programme (or completed Level 2 studies within the previous four years in the case of schools that do not offer Level 3 studies).
- **Chester Excellence Scholarships:** Students who attain grades of ABB (or equivalent) and have a household income of less than £42,600 will

be eligible for an Excellence Scholarship. (This would be in addition to a Chester Bursary or a Chester Link Bursary.) The total value of this Scholarship is £2,000, which will be given part as cash and part 'in kind', with £1,000 in the first year and £500 in each of Years 2 and 3. Only students paying a tuition fee of £9,000 will be eligible for this Scholarship and the University expects to spend approximately £500,000 on this bursary for students entering the University in 2015–16.

- **Care Leavers Bursary:** For new undergraduate students who are verified care leavers, this Bursary will be available on a first come, first served basis. The scheme will normally provide care leavers with £7,000 of benefits over the three years of their programme, with £2,000 cash and £1,000 fee waiver being given in Year 1 and £1,000 cash and £1,000 fee waiver being given in each of Years 2 and 3 of their programme. The benefits may be given part as cash and part 'in-kind'. The University expects to spend approximately £90,000 on this bursary scheme in 2015–16.
- There are also post-entry prizes and scholarships.



All first- and second-year full-time undergraduate students are entitled to a £50 credit for books, stationery, laptops, tablets, and other learning materials from the John Smith's campus bookshop or its website. This Aspire bursary scheme is run jointly between the University and John Smith's to improve access to learning tools and thus support students with their studies.

Through the generosity of the University of Chester Alumni Association, parents, governors and staff, the University provides three annual awards of £500. These University Foundation Awards for Excellence are intended to assist outstanding students of the University with study overseas, support for a higher degree or for sporting competition at international level. The Cestrian Award comprises an annual allocation of up to £1,000 available for students or staff requiring financial assistance for a specified activity, without which they would struggle to achieve their goal.

Santander Universities has increased support to the University as part of its commitment to 76 UK universities and more than 1,000 worldwide. This partnership with higher education institutions, which has seen donations of more than £1 billion since 1997, provides awards to outstanding students and voluntary projects, helps entrepreneurs and gives students the opportunity to travel abroad to continue their studies. Its global network helps students to access the support they need to become tomorrow's leaders and, as Chester is a participating university, its students can benefit from the range of funding options. For example in 2013–14, students and staff received seven Community Service



Awards, five Community Project Fund grants, 14 International Research Excellence Awards, two Ambassador Awards, four Awards for Excellence in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship and 18 SME (small and medium-sized enterprise) Internships.

In order to celebrate the engagement between the University and Santander Universities UK since 2009, a Scholars' Reception featured the experiences of some of the staff and students who have benefited from Santander awards, along with speeches by Santander Universities UK, and the Vice-Chancellor, Canon Professor Tim Wheeler.

The Department of Student Support and Guidance advises on the range of options to supplement students' income while studying at the University including: a selection of on-campus jobs (Unijob) or external

opportunities for part-time work; Access to Learning Funds; Childcare or Adult Dependant's Grants; Child Tax Credit; Parents' Learning Allowance; Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA); NHS Student Bursary Scheme; and bursaries from external sponsors or charitable trusts.

The University is acutely aware that individuals from different cultural and educational backgrounds have differing needs, so advice, support, counselling, and learning opportunities are available throughout each course. There is also the opportunity to study abroad for a semester, for a year, or for a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate degree, in order to experience higher education in another country. The University upholds the highest professional standards and is committed to meeting the needs of students and international partner organisations with sensitivity and care.



The Santander Scholars' Reception.

Over the past four years, in liaison with the Helen Kennedy Foundation, the University has offered support to one Article 26 student each year, through its 'Sanctuary Award', which provides a 100% tuition fee waiver and further assistance for people who have sought sanctuary in the UK, as part of a wider campaign to lessen the negative associations of being an asylum seeker. Taudzwa Gunde entered the first year in 2013 through the scheme and said: "My first year has been nothing short of awesome. Since arriving as an anxious and eager fresher I can wholeheartedly and honestly say this year has been one of the best years of my life. I found studying Sociology (the best subject ever!) to be an engaging, fun, challenging experience that has made me into an all-round better independent and critical thinker about the social

systems around us. The Sociology staff provided what I felt was a really great supportive learning environment, my Personal Academic Tutor and lecturers were both passionate and committed and therefore I always found it easy to approach them whenever I needed guidance and help. Outside the classroom, there is so much to do and I joined the Badminton Society, where I met a great bunch of people from all over the world. Playing the sport complemented my social life perfectly, with regular socials that fostered a great sense of community. I never thought that university would become a reality for me; I am forever grateful to Article 26 and the University's Department of Student Support and Guidance for providing me with an amazing opportunity in life. As a student representative of the Article 26 Organisation, I am

proud of being a student at Chester; now that I am here I cannot see myself anywhere else."

The recipient of a University of Chester Foundation Award for Excellence for 'Competition in Sport at an International Level' was David Johnston, a BSc (Hons) Nursing student who competes in Triathlon and Aquathlon for the Great Britain team. In 2013 he took bronze in the European Age Group Triathlon Championships, was fifth in the World Age Group Aquathlon Championships and ninth in the World Age Group Triathlon Championships. Following injury, he is now working towards the Ironman France Triathlon in 2015 and hopes to qualify for the World Ironman Triathlon Championships in Hawaii.



Taudzwa Gunde.



David Johnston.

CASE STUDY

Julie Sheen

The challenge of returning to study as a mature student has paid dividends for Julie Sheen, whose hard work and dedication has proved an inspiration to her peers at both the University and in her professional field.

Julie, from Chester, decided to go back to University to fulfil her life's dream of becoming a mental health nurse and succeeded with not only her qualifications but the award of two major national nursing accolades.

Julie always wanted to be a mental health nurse but was 'talked out of it' aged 17. She said: "The 'bug' never went away. Following life experiences I decided to do what I always wanted to do. I believe in recovery in mental health and the benefits of quality care. It was great to have the chance to meet new people – both similar ages to me and younger people. Going back to full-time education at my age was a challenge, but it surprised me just how much I enjoyed it."

Julie won the category of Care Maker of the Year in the Student *Nursing Times* Nurse awards after being nominated for her work as a care maker promoting the 6Cs of nursing, (care, compassion, competence, communication, courage and commitment); for her positive practice as a student nurse reflecting the 6Cs; and her work with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS

Foundation Trust to embed the 6Cs into policy and practice throughout the Trust.

She also won the Andrew Parker Student Nurse Award in the *Nursing Standard* Nurse Awards for the campaign. This award is for student nurses whose nursing practice, perceptions or interactions with patients have changed as a result of an incident or experience during training. After an experience on placement Julie worked in partnership with Senior Lecturer Lisa King and Chester Students' Union to develop a campaign to highlight mental health and wellbeing awareness around the University and encourage students to talk about any issues they may have and access services to help them. Julie captured the campaign in a short film which was seen by Joanne Bosanquet, Deputy Director of Nursing at Public Health England, who then encouraged her to enter for this for award.

Julie said: "Winning major awards was overwhelming at the time but I now feel proud to have achieved these and to have put nursing at Chester on the national radar." Julie

was also an NHS Northwest Student Quality Ambassador, which involved her highlighting and championing positive practice.

Julie feels that the University has given her a wealth of experiences she can take into her career as a mental health nurse. She said: "I now have broader experiences that have enriched my life and I understand the importance of education and evidence-based practice in nursing. I thought as a mature student I would feel lost and out of place. "The 'homely' feel of

Chester helped with this – I was embraced by Chester Students' Union as someone who had a lot to offer and hence achieved more as I had a holistic experience and meaningful support."

"I have started work in a mental health recovery service and I would eventually like to work with people to support their recovery in the community or work in public health to prevent mental wellbeing issues developing. I am hoping to return to Chester to undertake a Master's degree at some point."



Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy is a place where Friendships are formed and nurtured through Learning more about God, ourselves and others, where Worship, both individual and corporate, inspires participation in God's life and Mission.

Worship is welcoming and inclusive, with Holy Communion celebrated regularly at the Parkgate Road and Warrington Campuses, together with traditional and alternative services and those for significant occasions. For example, the Carol Service brought more than 400 students and staff together in the Cathedral, while the 2013 Act of Remembrance was filmed for the creator of the Peace Cross, around which the 11 November service takes place on the Parkgate Road Campus. The Cross was designed and created in the 1980s by the late Frederick Starkey, former lecturer, as part of a peace campaign during the Cold War.

The Rev Dr Stephen Heap preached at the Founders' Day and Staff Awards Ceremony before retirement from his role as National Higher Education



Founders' Day Service.

Adviser and reflected on education's vital role in preparing students to serve the good of society. This theme was echoed in Foundation Community Eucharists, particularly by Margaret Holland, Chaplain of Newman University, and the Rev Dr Lesley Cooke, Dean of Students.

On the Parkgate Road Campus, 'Chaplaincy House' has seen increased numbers of students and staff using its facilities with a real sense of community and a home-from-home experience for some students. The Quiet Rooms on the Parkgate Road, Warrington and Riverside Campuses are well used by people of all faiths and none, for prayer or quiet reflection, while at Warrington the Monday Prayers serve as a social and spiritual focus for students and staff. Chaplaincy promotes 'sanctuary' spaces on the campuses to encourage work-life balance with a particular focus on the redesigned Quiet Garden behind Chaplaincy House, which was officially opened with a garden party.

Fr Ian Delinger hosts the Warrington Chaplain's weekly radio show *The BROR (Best Radio on Radio)* on the University's radio station The Cat and he, along with his co-presenter Radio Production student Harry Colley, travelled to the Cardiff Centre for Chaplaincy Studies to present the show and a concurrent conference workshop 'The Chaplains' Radio Show as a Form of Public Theology'. This was a live broadcast and included interviews with staff and students on how the show is a form of public theology. This event was supported by five Radio Production students, as Stewart Wallace provided on-site technical support and another four were back in the Warrington studio. A shortened off-air version was

presented at the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion Triennial Conference in Seoul, South Korea. *The BROR* featured stories from more than 180 different people, including students, former students and staff members from across the University, all with the support of David Grimshaw, Programme Leader for Radio Production. *The BROR* was shortlisted for two Sainsbury's Trust Jerusalem Awards for the promotion of Christian Broadcasting and triumphed in the Easter 2014 category.

Chaplaincy hosted a number of Work Based Learning students working on specific projects. TV production students produced a new promotional video for Chaplaincy, others prepared videos on death, dying and bereavement in conjunction with Fr Ian Delinger and the Cheshire Living Well, Dying Well Partnership for use on its website, and a Music student wrote an original contemporary worship song for use in the University's Chapels.



Fr Ian Delinger.

Volunteering

The tradition of public service still lies at the heart of institution and this is illustrated by the fact that a highly impressive 29,551 hours of voluntary work was contributed by students and staff to the community in 2013–14.

The volunteering achievements of staff and students were celebrated at a Celebration Evening which promoted 'Volunteering for a Healthy Planet, Healthy Mind and Healthy Body'. The event was attended by visitors including the Sheriff of Chester, Angela Claydon, and Councillor for the Garden Quarter ward Bob Rudd, and volunteers were rewarded with certificates for the volunteering hours invested into community activities and charitable causes. The audience heard different perspectives

on volunteering from Robert Ratcliffe, who spoke on behalf of Beating Bowel Cancer, and student volunteer Micaela Sunico on her experiences with 'iRun4' and other causes. Becky Maitland-Titterton, Volunteer Co-ordinator at the University, said: "The Volunteer Celebration Evening is always our proudest moment in the academic calendar and this year was no exception. To coin Micaela's phrase, it really was driven home that 'volunteering is the gift that keeps on giving.'"



Volunteer Celebration Evening.

A genuine volleyball from the London 2012 Olympics was one of the prizes at a charity volleyball match organised by Tobias Kaerst. The friendly match saw the Chester Titans play the Manchester Marvels and the proceeds were split between helping Parkinson's UK, and Chester Sports Club, because Tobias's mother lived with the disease and he established Chester Sports Club to develop a partnership between minor sports teams in the University and the wider community.

A group of Events Management students was praised by the city's Lord Mayor for its role in some key community events. Cllr Jill Houlbrook, Lord Mayor of Chester and Chairman of Cheshire West and Chester Council,



Tobias Kaerst with the London 2012 volleyball.

presented a certificate to the student volunteers, to recognise and thank them for their contributions in delivering the Christmas Lights Switch On, amongst other events. In addition to volunteering their time in Chester, students also assisted in the delivery of the Frodsham Christmas Festival, working with Council staff and Love Frodsham.

Chester Students' Union organised student sports teams and societies to spend a day cleaning up the Garden Quarter and collecting unwanted furniture and household goods. The Bouverie pub provided food for the student volunteers and the event was supported by the Lord Mayor of Chester, Cllr Bob Rudd.



The Garden Quarter clean-up.



The Garden Quarter clean-up.

A total of £7,800 was raised by second-year Events Management students, who organised fundraising events on behalf of local and national charities as part of their studies. Working in small teams, the groups had no funding and all either broke even or made a profit for the chosen charities including Miles of Smiles, Sense, Live!, NSPCC and Macmillan Cancer Research. Francesca Bateman, who was part of the group Elite Events, which raised £756 for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd, said: "This was an amazing module to do. We all had to work hard as a team, overcome various business problems, encourage members of the public to enter the art competition, and deliver a first-class event. It was a really tough process, but also the most exciting thing I have done at University so far. I'd happily do it all over again!"

Hannah Cawley experienced nursing in a developing country on a placement in Tanzania arranged through 'Work the World'. Hannah spent time on a paediatric ward, neonatal unit and a labour ward in Dar es Salaam and in a small village hospital in the Masai community, which meant that she gained an insight into the difficulties that medical staff face on a daily basis.



Tim Brown and Cllr Jill Houlbrook, the Lord Mayor, with Events Management students.

It is fantastic to see so many of our students actively engaging in exciting event projects such as these, as they not only benefit the community, but also aid in developing the students' skills and knowledge.

Tim Brown, Senior Lecturer in Events Management.

Volunteering for the Country Holidays for Inner City Kids (CHICKS) charity has become a regular activity for student Alice Walker-Shakespeare. CHICKS is a national children's charity, which provides disadvantaged children in the UK with free, week-long respite breaks. Alice said of her experiences: "It's exhausting, exhilarating, demanding, amusing, amazing and brilliant fun. It gives you such a buzz and you come away with so many great memories."



Hannah Cawley.

The Warrington Wolves Charity Foundation was the beneficiary of the efforts of four staff from the Warrington Campus. Hayley Braddock, Simon White, Chris Johnson and Rob Herbert took part in 'Tough Mudder', the formidable obstacle course event, to support this charity that aims to build a stronger community through sport.



Alice Walker-Shakespeare.

Senior Careers Information Officer Nathalie Rees has been chosen as one of 26 Go the Distance Ambassadors for Cancer Research UK. Having battled with breast cancer herself, Nathalie has channelled her love for running to raise thousands of pounds for the charity by completing multiple marathons.

Student nurses and staff helped to raise more than £3,000 for the Jamie Devaney Fund by taking part in a sponsored abseil down the steeple of St Mary's Church in Halkyn. The fund, which is fundraising for a mental health unit at Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda, was set up in memory of the son of the Director of Nursing at Cheshire and Wirral Partnership, Avril Devaney.

Richard Mottershead, a mental health nurse and Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing, climbed Mount Triglav in Slovenia, the highest of the Julian Alps, to raise money for CHAPTER (Chester Area Project for Training, Employment, and Retraining), which provides a service for people with mental health problems, mostly of long duration and considerable severity.



Events Management student team 'Red Bird Events'.



Richard Mottershead.

As part of my role with the Faculty of Health and Social Care, I am a link tutor to a number of mental health hospitals and community teams and I have seen first hand the excellent work that CHAPTER does on a day-to-day basis.

Richard Mottershead.



Tough Mudder team.

Heather Ashcroft ran the London Marathon raising £3,236 for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. The Chester Half Marathon was the challenge for Professor Lynne Kennedy, who ran in memory of her brother and to support the Walton Centre; Nathalie Rees ran for Cancer Research UK; and Gemma Edwards for Macmillan Cancer Support. Gill Roberts completed the Nantwich Fun triathlon for the British Heart Foundation and Ronnie Olsen, the Edinburgh Marathon Festival 5K for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Roberta Micci completed the Three Peaks Challenge to raise more than £1,000 for the mental health charity, Mind, and Jacqui O'Hare completed the same feat for Marie Curie Cancer Care raising £200. Dr Basma Ellahi, Karen Roscoe, Pauline Alexander, Jo Lowndes and Irene Cooke, joined

the annual summer solstice ascent of Snowdon in aid of Diabetes UK and Jeremy Phillips completed a 152km bike ride across the Brecon Beacons for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The School Mentoring programme gives up to 70 students a year the chance to make a real difference to the lives of primary and secondary school pupils. The aim is to raise confidence and aspirations, improve academic performance and promote awareness of higher education opportunities. Mentors can work with some vulnerable young people and it can be emotionally challenging, but the rewards are huge as mentor Sophie McIlroy explained: "The experience provides people with a chance to learn new skills, whether they plan to go into teaching or not. I highly recommend it and it can be loads of fun!"



Snowdon walkers.



Nathalie Rees.



CASE STUDY

Micaela Flor Sunico

Micaela Flor Sunico travelled thousands of miles to study at the University and was able to make her mark on the community after finding her ideal course. The comprehensive content of the Master's of Science in Weight Management course was a deciding factor for Micaela in making the move from Saudi Arabia to Chester.

Micaela, a registered nurse, said: "I was looking for Obesity and Weight Management programmes all over the world and I felt that the modules in Chester's Master's course were the best for covering all the cornerstones of weight management."

While studying, Micaela completed the Chester Marathon and Half Marathon and the Hell Up North trail race in Delamere Forest, all as a volunteer runner for the non-profit organisation IR4 (I Run 4), a support group for children and adults with disabilities. Micaela was a student speaker during the University's Volunteer Celebration, gave her time to help at Knutsford Foodies, a pilot project with Cheshire East Council, and supports new international students as part of the University's Volunteer Welcome Service.

Micaela said that she couldn't have achieved all this without the extensive support networks at the University: "The lectures are fun, the modules are challenging, and our professors and tutors really make everything worthwhile. The support provided by the admin staff at Clinical

Sciences, the International Welfare Office, and Student Support and Guidance is incredible. The Chaplaincy and parish are so welcoming, the students so helpful and genuine, and being able to help new international students gives me a chance to give back to the student community. It's a wonderful experience."

Micaela added that her time in Chester has encouraged her to raise funds to volunteer in Gaza or the West Bank, before exploring job options in weight management in the UK or Middle East.

"I am hoping to volunteer as a medic with the Red Cross and Red Crescent, through the Palestinian Medical Relief Society or Medical Aid for Palestinians. Being in the company of other international students in Chester has taught me so much, including learning about the conflict in Gaza and Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, and with my background, experiences as a registered nurse and passion for volunteering, I feel I can contribute my skills as a healthcare professional in these areas."

Employability

University graduates have continued to succeed in the job market with the latest national figures showing more than 95% of graduates in employment or further study, higher than any other university in the region.

The Graduate Head Start programme, which has now supported nearly 700 graduates and more than 280 businesses, celebrated five years of operation, during which it has been chosen as a good practice case study by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) through its success in supporting disadvantaged students, as well as being nominated for a national Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services award for its employer engagement activities.

Geography and Natural Hazard Management Student, Sion Platts-Kilburn, was the latest in a succession of Chester students to be acknowledged by the National Association of Student Employability Services, winning in two categories for National Student Employee of the Year, following his involvement in the University's highly successful UniJob programme, which employs students across the

campuses. More than 80% of the University's temporary vacancies are now filled by UniJob students, giving students access to supported part-time work close to their studies, and departments access to committed and highly skilled students. Evaluations have identified that 100% of departments would employ a UniJob student again and 100% of participating students would recommend the service to a friend.

In 2013–14, the University piloted the Chester Difference Award, supported by TalkTalk Business, which allows students the opportunity to gain credit for participation in volunteering, mentoring, business start-ups, and many other career-enhancing opportunities offered at the University. This award will be available to all University of Chester students from 2015–16.

The Enhance Your Employability (EYE) team delivered a programme of more than 30 employability workshops, covering skills such as Networking, Project Management, and Business Communication, delivered by University and industry experts, and attended by more than 500 students.

The University's team of expert Career Consultants have delivered more than 4,000 tailored individual career consultations for students, in person or online, as well as nearly 500 hours of employability sessions via the academic curriculum and extra-curricular workshops. The team continues to collaborate with academic departments on bespoke employability fairs and networking events, and liaises with a network of Careers and Employability Link Tutors in each academic department. The Careers and Employability team has worked with more than 200 local, regional and national employers and this year advertised a record number of job vacancies on the online vacancy portal.

Careers and Employability and the Research and Knowledge Transfer Office have teamed up with Santander to offer 25 internships with small



Paul Gaunt, Director of Careers and Employability, with Ruby Wax and prizewinners. © Association of Graduate Recruiters.



Chester Difference Award winners.



Graduate Futures Team.

and medium-sized enterprises in the region, increasing to more than 40 internships expected to be available in 2014–15. More than 70% of graduates who undertook an internship in the first year have been offered continued employment with their placement organisation. Dr Chris Haslam, Pro-Vice Chancellor – Corporate Development and the Student Experience, said: “We’re delighted with this outstanding performance. It is a true reflection of the hard work and dedication put in by all students and staff at the University. It also demonstrates the importance of the initiatives that the Careers and Employability Department has developed to give our students opportunities to gain experience while studying and enhance their academic skills, and highlights the close links that have been developed with employers over many years.”



Michael Green.

As part of the work shadowing programme, students benefit from a series of ‘Meet the Professionals’ events, focusing on careers such as Human Resources, Finance, Publishing, Editing, Communications and Psychology. For example, students were able to learn from a panel of accountants from a range of different backgrounds for the Finance event and the Publishing, Editing and Communications session panel covered newspapers, digital journalism, PR and publishing. One student said: “It got me thinking of work experience that I will add to my qualifications.” Another commented: “I now know some of the routes I can take into a career in finance, and the pros and cons of them.” A student who attended the Publishing, Editing and Communications session described it as “very inspirational”, and said the event “gave



Sion Platts-Kilburn.

me a number of ideas of things to do”. Michael Green, Executive Editor of Trinity Mirror’s Cheshire Weeklies, who took part in the Publishing, Editing and Communications session, said: “Changes in media – and the employment and training opportunities those changes present – is a fascinating subject and I was impressed with the range of questions and level of interest shown in this area by a group of students who were following a wide range of courses.”

Sion Platts-Kilburn, a Geography student and member of the University’s UniJob Temp bank, won the Jobshop/Student Temp Award and Commercial Impact Award in the North West Student Employee of the Year (SEOTY) Awards run by the National Association of Student Employment Services and was runner-up in the same two categories of the national competition. Sion was nominated for his consistent professionalism and enthusiasm in a number of on-campus roles. History student Robert Gray also received a Highly Commended award in the regional Above and Beyond category.

Tom Haworth, a Business Management and Entrepreneurship student, was named Northwest Entrepreneurial Student of the Year at the Regional Finals of the Young Enterprise Start Up Competition.

Jobs through the UniJob scheme are not your average run-of-the-mill ‘student’ jobs – they hold genuine gravitas on your CV and for your future employment opportunities.

Sion Platts-Kilburn.

Tom impressed the judges with his entrepreneurial endeavour, determination, motivational and leadership skills and he clearly demonstrated these attributes through the success of his student company, winning great respect for his level of commitment and focused approach.

A £10,000 private investment in TJ Cosgrove's company Explosivo was the reward for succeeding in a Riverside Innovation Centre initiative. TJ, a Film Studies and Television Production student from the Warrington Campus, went through three rounds of pitching to a panel of experts and had to improvise with a video submission for the final stage as a result of injury. His ingenuity and impressive entry meant that he gained funding to purchase new equipment and develop his company. Having worked with clients such as NHS North West, Bank of America and Warrington Wolves, through the University's own production company The Hot Room, TJ set up Explosivo in 2013 and now produces original web content for sites such as YouTube, as well as corporate client work for businesses. TJ also featured in the 'Ask a Pro' section of national magazine *Digital Filmmaker Magazine*, in which he talked about his experiences, choice of equipment, thoughts on the industry and previous projects.

Fewer jobs, greater competition and greater expectations mean that it is essential that young people develop their commercial awareness, employability tools and entrepreneurial skills at an early stage.

Tim Scott, Partner at DWF LLP.

Lauren Southers was able to capitalise on her experience in Welocalize's Intern Program and secured a permanent job. She completed two 20-week placements at the company as part of her Business Master's degree and is now a full-time employee in the Global Marketing Department, helping to promote the way in which the company has improved the provision of market-ready, translated communications through advanced technology and customer collaboration.

Kerry Loughra completed a Unite with Business placement (funded through the European Regional Development Fund) with IEDS Ltd, a

specialist provider of explosive, narcotics and other specialist detection dogs. She was employed as an International Marketing Project Officer and was able to utilise the experience that she gained through her placement with a small to medium-sized business to help her gain full-time employment as a Marketing Assistant for the London Business School. Unite with Business provides graduates and undergraduates with paid opportunities to work in a business for 140 hours on a meaningful project relevant to their studies, skills, knowledge and experience, together with expertise on CV writing and a chance to demonstrate what they can do for prospective employers.



TJ Cosgrove.



Lauren Southers.



Mission Moscow students in Russia.



Mission Moscow students at the British Embassy.

The Faculty of Health and Social Care has continued to develop innovative placements for students, such as those with Forum Housing, which is a social enterprise working with homeless people in Wirral and Chester and offers work in areas such as homeless shelters and health clinics. Through the Practice Development Network, East Cheshire practice nurses now provide the opportunity for students to observe the interprofessional environment, while Clatterbridge Cancer Centre (CCC) has successfully implemented an inter-professional cancer journey pathway based in the Outpatients Department which has been successfully trialled with a pre-registration nursing student and will become a valuable part of the placement circuit.

The Informatics Centre provides students with experience on a wide range of computing projects for internal and external customers. For example, The Virtual Process Lab is an educational tool,

developed for the Faculty of Science and Engineering, that aims to encourage prospective students to study chemical engineering and to educate current students on the technical aspects of chemical processes. The project, which involves full-time practitioners, student software developers and industry experts, simulates various engineering environments as games and explains the formulae involved in each process. Similarly, Rapid News Communications Group approached the Informatics Centre to build an online store, dedicated to providing products and services related to sales training. Since its initial release, the store has been expanded to include the selling of e-Learning platforms and the integration of the UK Sales Skills Audit (USSA), the UK's leading body for sales assessment and skills benchmarking. It is the first time that the USSA has been directly integrated into a website and work is underway to develop a website dedicated to providing USSA services to large organisations and enterprises.

Eight students turned an initial investment of £10 into the funds needed to travel to Russia for the Global Entrepreneurship Congress. They spoke about their entrepreneurial journey at a fringe event and networked with delegates during the conference. They were the only British students amongst 7,000 international conference participants and the event was the culmination of months of planning and fundraising for the Mission Moscow initiative, which was supported throughout by the University's Riverside Innovation Centre. Mission Moscow was also shortlisted in the Higher Education Enterprise Champions category of the National Enterprise Educators Awards. Tom Haworth, a Business student, said: "It was a phenomenal opportunity to address an international audience, allowing both my company TechnoSpark and myself to gain connections, experiences and grasp the opportunities that the University and Chester Endeavour, a student society for those interested in business and entrepreneurship, can offer to all students."

CASE STUDY

Alex Cordery

Alex Cordery has been politically engaged from a young age and his time at the University has presented him with some incredible opportunities to pursue this interest both inside and outside the lecture theatre. In fact, it was the extracurricular prospects, alongside the sense of community, which drew the Geography and Politics graduate to the University.

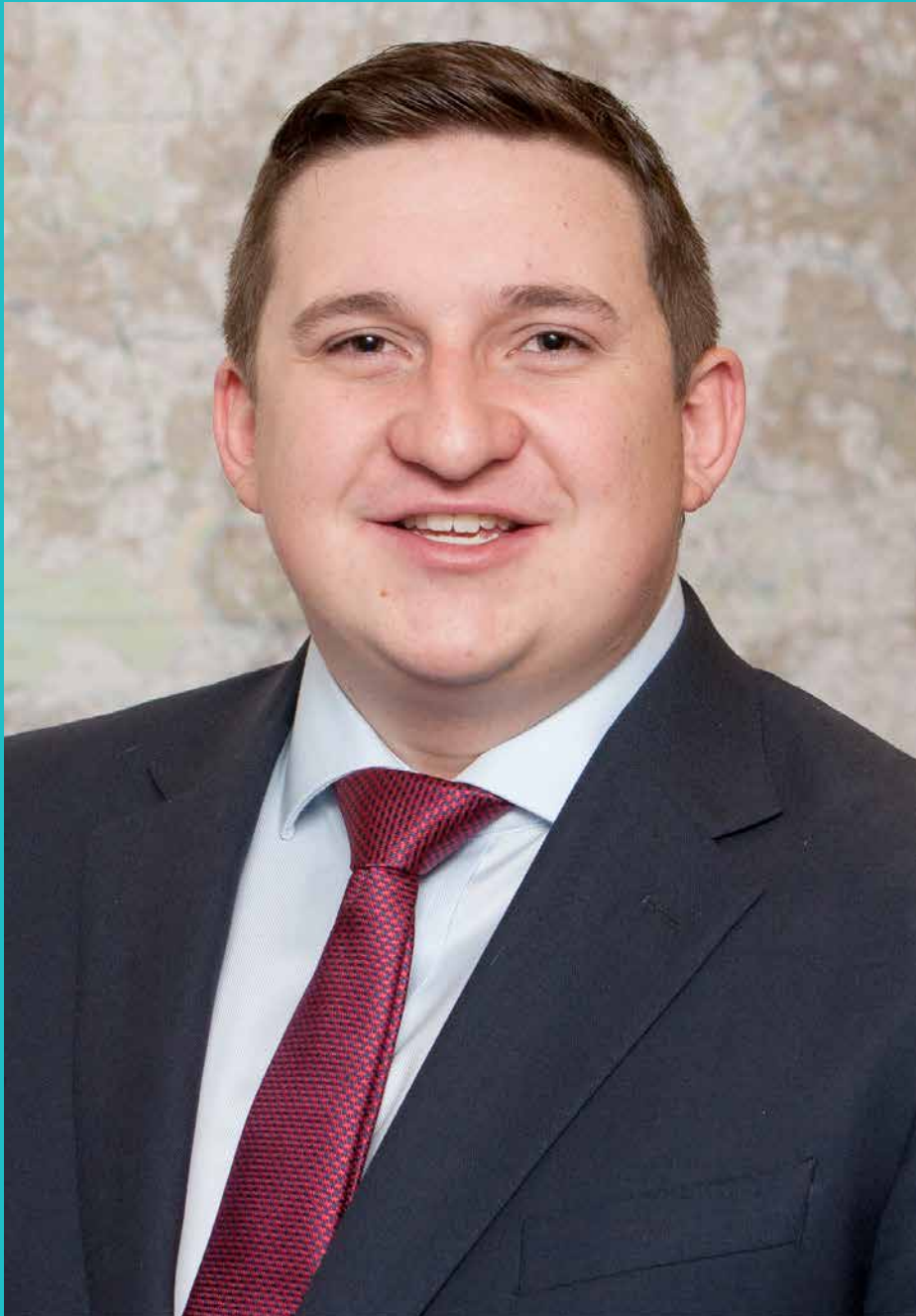
Alex said: "While visiting the University's Open Day, I experienced a welcoming and friendly community that the University had to offer. Not only did Chester offer fantastic academic facilities, it also boasted a wide range of extra-curricular activities. One of my favourite things about being a student at Chester was the sense that I was an individual and not just a number. The support from academic and welfare staff is excellent, the community feel in Chester is great, especially the sports clubs and societies at Chester Students' Union, all of which made my experience enjoyable."

During his time at the University, Alex had an unforgettable encounter, which saw him rubbing shoulders with one of the most powerful men in world politics. He said: "One of the most exciting experiences I had during my degree was working on Barack Obama's re-election campaign in 2012, supporting the events

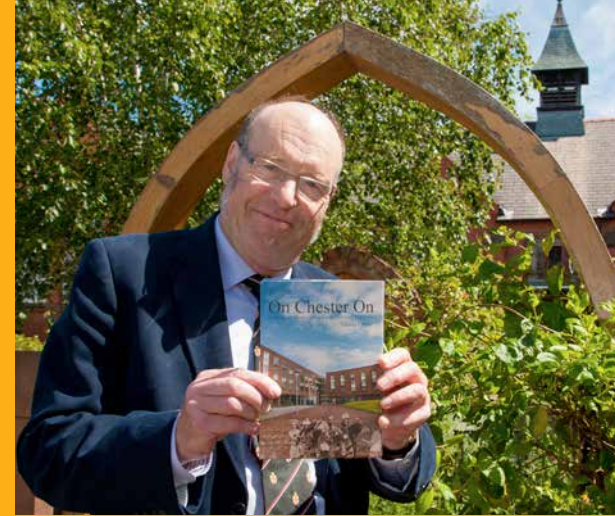
management team in Ohio when the President of the United States of America visited the state on the run-up to his second term in office."

Other achievements under his belt during his studies include co-founding the Chester Students' Union's Labour Society, chairing the Debating Society, and co-ordinating the Debating Society's hustings for the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner elections, which was covered by *BBC North West Tonight*. Now a volunteer assistant for Andy Burnham MP, Alex is pursuing a career in politics and credits his time at University as helping him on his way.

He said: "Studying at Chester has made me prepare for future life and employment. Without the University and the support and guidance whilst studying, I wouldn't have experienced these fantastic opportunities."



An Inspiring Culture



Staff

Staff members are of paramount importance in creating an enriching environment and the following achievements highlight their vital role both within and beyond the University.

Professor David Cracknell received an OBE in the 2014 New Year Honours List for his services to education as a teacher, Director of Education and Communities in Cheshire for 15 years and his current role in the Faculty of Education and Children's Services. His responsibilities include Children's Services Workforce Development, a University-wide change management project connected with the Government's 'Every Child Matters' agenda and he is Director of Teaching and Learning for the University of Chester Academies Trust.

The new Canon Theologian of Chester Cathedral is Professor Elaine Graham, Grosvenor Research Professor of Practical Theology, who will hold the



Professor David Cracknell OBE.

honorary position for an initial period of three years. Before her installation, Elaine said: "I am looking forward to taking up this new and exciting post and to working with the Cathedral community and the Diocese of Chester. This also represents another new opportunity for the University to participate in the life of the city of Chester."

Dr Paul Middleton, Senior Lecturer in New Testament and Early Christian History and an ordained Church of Scotland minister, was a commissioner at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He contributed to debates on Scottish Independence, Ministers in Civil Partnerships and assisted dying, while his speech on the Church and euthanasia featured in BBC Scotland's coverage.

A published article 'Addiction, spirituality and the twelve steps' by Wendy Dossett, Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies, was recognised as a "key research article" of major importance in the field of psychology



Professor Elaine Graham.

and psychiatry by Psychology Progress, an international association of academics and psychiatric practitioners.

A new Maternity Assist service has been set up at Liverpool Women's Hospital which has the backing of leading figures such as Luciana Berger MP. The Maternity Assist concept was created by Professor Mary Steen and Duncan Fisher OBE, Honorary Fellow, in response to the ever-increasing pressure on midwives in the National Health Service. This ground-breaking new service, implemented by Boxfusion Consulting, acts as a new channel of communication between midwives and the women they care for through digital, mobile and social touchpoints. Professor Steen was also shortlisted for the coveted *British Journal of Midwifery Practice* Awards and gained third prize in the Leadership in Midwifery category.

Dr June Keeling, Senior Lecturer in Community Health and Wellbeing has been made co-convenor of the Violence Against Women group of the British Sociological Association, a role she describes as raising the profile of the group through articles, collaborative working and contributions to the annual conference.

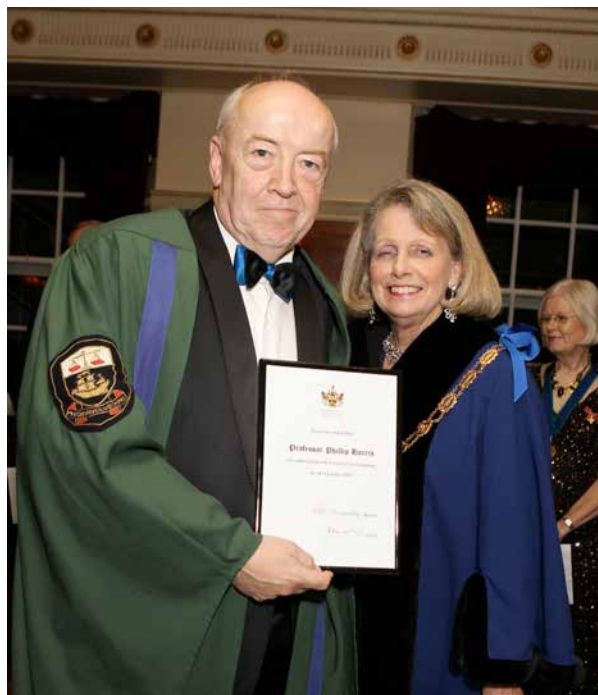
Hospital episode statistics were analysed to reveal a crisis in psychiatric beds in England. In the paper, 'Hospital admissions and community treatment of mental disorders in England from 1998 to 2012', published in *General Hospital Psychiatry*, Professor Ben Green, Professor of Postgraduate Medical Education and Psychiatry, and Dr Emily Griffiths found that mental health bed numbers fell 39% from 37,000 in 1998 to 22,300 in 2012. Professor Ben Green said: "Our findings suggest that there is a crisis in psychiatric beds in England that is squeezing out severely depressed patients. Evidence for where these patients are being treated is not clear."



Professor Peter Stokes.

The position of Vice-President for Business Relations at the EuroMed Academy of Business was given to the Deputy Dean of the University of Chester Business School, Professor Peter Stokes, and it is only the second time that this title has been awarded. As part of the EuroMed Research Business Institute, the Academy aims to contribute to, and share, the understanding of different global business environments and trends through the lens of European countries and regions via research, teaching and consulting.

Professor Phil Harris, Director of the Business Research Institute, was made a Liveryman by the Worshipful Company of Marketors, part of the City of London Roll of Livery Companies. It works closely with the Chartered Institute of Marketing and other marketing organisations and its inclusion



Professor Phil Harris with Sally Muggeridge.

amongst the Livery Companies is evidence of the important part that the profession plays in the City of London.

A journal article in *Management Decision* written by Connie Hancock, Programme Leader in Business, Strategy, Entrepreneurship and Finance, was selected as the publication's Highly Commended Paper of 2013. 'The relationship between employee propensity to innovate and their decisions to create a company' was described by the journal as one of the most impressive pieces of work in 2013.

Sarah Gwyther, Departmental Administrator in Marketing, Recruitment and Admissions, captured London life through a lens and was selected as the winner of the Cheshire Photographic and Arts Academy's Architecture



Sarah Gwyther and her London photo.

Photography Competition for her picture of St Paul's Cathedral. Another keen amateur photographer Dr Jem Warren, Project Support Officer in Directorate Services, put his work on display for the first time at the Sacred Spaces exhibition held in Chester Cathedral. His exhibition explored the world through photography and other media.

The Above and Beyond Awards celebrated staff who go beyond the call of duty for students at the University. Organised by Chester Students' Union, and supported by the University, the Awards recognise special employees and student representatives from across the University's 80 courses, support departments, academic faculties and five campuses, who go that extra mile to improve the lives of students. Some 670 nominations, recognising more than 320 members of staff, were

submitted by students. A student panel whittled these down to a shortlist of 37 and the winners were: Most Helpful Feedback: Dr Janine Carroll, Lecturer in Psychology; Most Inspiring Lecturer: David Grimshaw, Senior Lecturer in Media; Most Innovative Lecturer: Dr Neil Pickles, Lecturer in Biological Sciences; Most Outstanding Personal Academic Tutor/Professional Mentor: Paul Skillen, Programme Leader in Education Studies; Most Outstanding Academic Support Staff: Sue Jones, Pre-Registration Programme Support, Clatterbridge; Most Outstanding Postgraduate Supervisor: Dr Emma Rees, Senior Lecturer in English; Most Outstanding Student Support Staff: Becky Maitland-Titterton, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Student Support and Guidance; and Special Recognition, Eddie Green, Porters/Security, Warrington Campus. Awards were also made to Student Academic Representatives (StARs) as follows: StAR of the Year: Richard Brown, Student Academic Representative (Geography student); Most Inspirational StAR, Laura Stott (Psychology student); and Special Recognition, Julie Sheen (Mental Health Nursing student).

Dr Neil Pickles followed up his success in the CSU awards by being shortlisted for the 'Most Innovative Teacher of the Year' in the 2013



Savannah Miles with Dr Neil Pickles.

Times Higher Education Awards. This was due to his innovative use of new technologies, including mobile phone interaction during his Biology lectures which allows students to text questions and comments and submit votes to his presentation slides. He also uses Twitter to engage with current, former and future students and a variety of props to explain difficult concepts in his lectures. Neil, said of the ceremony: "This has been a great experience and I am really pleased that the developments we have been putting in place for our students have been recognised nationally."

The University scored 'Excellent' across the board for commitment to staff wellbeing in a national award. Frances Molloy, Chief Executive of Health@Work, visited the University to present the Wellbeing Award, which demonstrates the University's dedication to providing a positive working environment through the Workplace Wellbeing Charter. It is an opportunity for employers to demonstrate their commitment to the health and wellbeing of their workforce and there is strong evidence that having a healthy workforce can reduce sickness absence, lower staff turnover and create a supportive and productive environment in which employees can flourish.



The Workplace Wellbeing Charter.

The University of Chester has clearly been investing in the health and wellbeing of its staff for some time now, with clear goals and a robust approach. The fact that the organisation has achieved 'Excellence' in all of the eight standards that make up the Workplace Wellbeing Charter speaks volumes; other Higher Education institutions should take note.

Frances Molloy, Chief Executive, Health@Work.

Events promoted by The Health4Work initiative included: an Alcohol, Drugs and Sexual Health awareness day; 'tea and talk' as part of World Mental Health Day to support reducing the stigma associated with mental health issues; 'Yoga with Alice'; Drop in Health seminars; iVan, a mobile nurse led cancer service, Cheshire West and Cheshire's '5 Ways to Health & Wellbeing'; sun awareness; and a free 12-week weight loss programme run by the NHS in West Cheshire.

The University also gained Gold Investors in People Accreditation for good people management practice. This recognition demonstrates its commitment to growth and excellence through supporting, recognising and encouraging its staff.

An entry co-ordinated by Mandy Yilmaz from the Department of Psychology, was submitted for a Higher Education Academy competition for the Student and Staff Partnership Award 2014. The short video explored how the Department, the student psychology society (CUPS) and the Students' Union working together could benefit the student experience.

The Centre for Veteran Wellbeing focuses on scholarship, professional development, research and practical projects related to the wellbeing of armed forces veterans. One long-term project supports service leavers by providing an individual, tailored pathway, enabling them to find suitable employment, gain further educational qualifications and skills, or start their own businesses.

Western Australia was the destination for David Clough, Professor of Theological Ethics, to visit a mine site and learn first-hand about the impact of mining activity on local communities. He also visited Melbourne to meet with academics and campaigners and his visit was hosted by the MMG mining company as part of a church/industry engagement on the ethics of mining.

Collaborative research between Professor Rob Warner, Dean of Humanities, Dr Mathew Guest, Dr Kristin Aune and Dr Sonya Sharma surveyed 4,500 undergraduate students in their study entitled 'Christianity and the university experience: understanding student faith' and revealed that large numbers of Christian university students are affirming their faith in private, but not attending church.

As part of Chester's all-women choir 'A Handbag of Harmonies', Lisa Rogers, Career Consultant, Jan Shaylor, Senior University Teaching Fellow in the Faculty of Science and Engineering and Michelle Allen, Receptionist, competed in the Open Choir section of the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen. The group has performed at numerous venues across the UK and reached the final 15 out of nearly 1,000 entries on BBC's *Last Choir Standing*.

A project to encourage the incorporation of 'informal and non-formal learning' into Russian university curricula has gained funding through the



The Handbag of Harmonies Choir with Matt Baker.

European Union ERASMUS project. The Centre for Work Related Studies (CWRS) is working with universities in other EU countries to provide advice and training around the accreditation and recognition of prior learning. CWRS also received a research grant from Public Health England to evaluate the effectiveness of the Self Care at Work programme at Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Research published in *Nature Communications* by academics at the University, the University of Stirling and Georgia State University, revealed the most compelling evidence that primates modify their gestures, to ensure that they are understood. This suggests that the gestural communication skills of chimpanzees are more sophisticated than was previously thought. The project was supported by the Leakey Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, National Institutes of Health, the Economic and Social Research Council, the British Academy, the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland and the University of Stirling.

A landmark piece of research identified 10 critical gaps that exist in current breast cancer research. Dr Nick Hulbert-Williams, from the Department of Psychology, was part of a group of specialists who contributed to Breast



Primate research. © Carolyn Richardson, Georgia State University Language Research Center.

Cancer Campaign's *Gap Analysis 2013* which found shortfalls in the key areas of genetics, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and support and also sets out eight key ambitions for overcoming breast cancer by 2050. He is also collaborating on a research project, funded by the Teenage Cancer Trust, exploring how best to screen for distress and provide psychological care for teenagers and young adults with cancer.

The Centre for Psychological Therapies in Primary Care published the first comprehensive study of the Government's 'Any Qualified Provider' (AQP) policy, in which contracts are governed by payment by results. The Centre interviewed service providers and commissioners in the first group of areas implementing the AQP policy. The study found that the introduction of competition to the provision of psychological therapies has resulted in a funding system that encourages providers to reject some patients because they are not easy to treat, and puts pressure on therapists to claim patients are recovering to receive payment.

Psychological research revealed that experienced officers from Cheshire Constabulary are effectively trained to rapidly detect and respond to volatile situations in the blink of an eye. The study, led by Dr Libby Damjanovic

from the Department of Psychology, showed that experienced officers can home in on aggressive cues with split-second precision, and that this high level of performance can be maintained under a range of difficult viewing conditions. The project used a ground-breaking experiment developed with Dr Amy Pinkham to test experienced officers, trainees and a group without policing experience, to see how quickly they could detect the hostile intentions in a crowd of people.

Dr Karen M Corteen, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, has designed a diagrammatic model of external and internal influences on individuals' sexual desires, practices and identities called 'Understanding sexuality: a contextual model'. This is aimed at practitioners working with young people in the area of sexual health and sexual relationships, and is currently being used by the Head of Wellbeing at Brook Sexual Health Services.

Dr Alana M Vincent from the Department of Theology and Religious Studies received a Santander International Research Excellence Award for a project titled 'Displaying diversity: narrative strategies for communicating religious diversity in museum collections' in order to carry out fieldwork in Toledo and Cordoba.



Dr Barry Taylor in North Yorkshire.

An award from the Arts & Humanities Research Council Research Network was made to Dr Chris Baker from the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, with Professor Adam Dinham, for an bid entitled 'Re-imagining religion and belief for public policy and practice'. This involves mapping and strategically analysing UK and international perspectives and new research on the relationship between religion and belief, public sphere and public policy. The network of experts and new researchers will brief government, local authorities and the civil service at policy summits with a view to engaging in a more nuanced and informed policy approach to the role and contribution of religion and belief in public life. The conclusions will be shared with international audiences and form the basis for new international research projects.

In collaboration with the Centre for Effective Education at Queen's University, Belfast, the Faculty of Education and Children's Services was commissioned by Booktrust to undertake an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the Booktime programme. This book gifting intervention is aimed at children in reception classes, to inspire a love of books in children and their families. The project involved Faculty members including Professor Rob Hulme, Dr Frances Atherton and Emma Godding and the



Booktime programme.

North West study showed considerable support for Booktime from schools, parents and children.

Research Project of the Year at the national *Current Archaeology Awards* was the reward for Dr Barry Taylor from the Department of History and Archaeology after a public vote. The award was won for the study of Star Carr, one of Europe's most important Early Mesolithic sites. Dr Taylor has worked with Dr Chantal Conneller and Professor Nicky Milner, to piece together its use by hunter-gatherers at the end of the Ice Age in around 9000 BC and the result is a book, an exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum and an appearance on Channel 4's *Time Team*.

The remains of what could be a member of an early Pictish royal family have been discovered as part of an archaeological dig jointly led by Dr Meggen Gondek from the Department of History and Archaeology and Dr Gordon Noble. The remains were found in a carefully made sandstone grave, which suggests the person was of high status. The latest discovery, made during the Rhynie Environs Archaeological Project, is the first time remains of a body have been uncovered at the site and is one of the first finds of its kind in north-east Scotland.

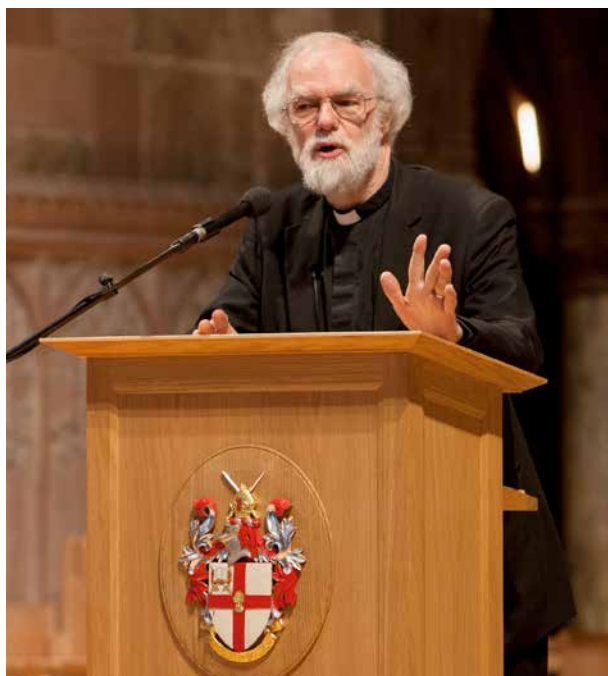
Research by Media Department lecturer Chris Hart has been cited as a source for the decision by Chancellor George Osborne to introduce an exemption to the tax on classic cars in his March 2014 budget. Head of Department, Dr Alec Charles, said: "This is great news. This really demonstrates the quality of Chris's work and shows how research in our field can have a direct impact on national political decisions."

Peter York, Food Innovation Support Co-ordinator and PhD researcher, was the subject of an article for the Irish edition of *The Sunday Times*. The article featured his research into the microclimate and invertebrate life found in the grikes (water-worn crevasses) on the limestone pavements of the Burren, a karst landscape in County Clare. He has also been investigating the features on limestone pavements in Yorkshire, Cumbria and the Burren, and was interviewed for television on this topic.

External Engagement

Staff members and students speak at many conferences and events at all levels which means that their expertise makes a real contribution to the global knowledge economy.

A packed Chester Cathedral heard the inaugural professorial lecture of former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, speaking about 'The Messiah and the novelist: approaches to Jesus in fiction'. The world-renowned scholar, who is Master of Magdalene College at Cambridge, is Gladstone Professor of Literature and Theology at the University.



Dr Rowan Williams.

Four other members of staff gave their inaugural lectures to public audiences at the University: 'A midwife's journey through uncharted terrain' was the subject for Professor Mary Steen from the Department of Midwifery and Reproductive Health; Professor Peter Stokes, Deputy Dean of the University of Chester Business School, spoke on sustainable and responsible organisational behaviour; Professor Dean Garratt from the Faculty of Education and Children's Services, considered methodological explorations in contemporary qualitative inquiry; and Professor Fabrizio M Ferrari, from the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, the devotional element in Indian folk medicine.



Professor Annette McIntosh-Scott and Professor Mary Steen.

Professor Howard Williams from the Department of History and Archaeology gave three Grosvenor Museum lectures on Viking tombs, rune-stones and death.

As part of the Essar Chester Literature Festival, Professor Peter Gaunt from the Department of History and Archaeology spoke on soldiers' experiences during the English Civil War and Dr Meggen Gondek, Reader, considered Pictish power and art at Rhynie in Aberdeenshire; Tim Daly, Deputy Head in the Department of Photography spoke about his photography books; Professor Derek Alsop from the Department



Professor Dean Garratt.

of English talked on music and poetry in the life and work of Ivor Gurney and Gerald Finzi; Dr Simon Grennan, Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Art and Design spoke on *'Dispossession'*, a graphic adaptation of Anthony Trollope, with Professor David Skilton; and Professor Deborah Wynne from the Department of English lectured on dressing and undressing in *Pride and Prejudice*.

A joint paper on the creation of interactive activity pods at a Recycling Education Centre was given by Tony Pickford, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education and Children's Services, and a Cheshire West and Chester colleague at the Supporting Employability, Society and the Environment: A Curriculum for Sustainability conference in London, and he also gave an invited presentation at the EU Study Tour Seminar in Liverpool.

The Head of Media, Dr Alec Charles, presented on contemporary utopias at the Post-Capitalist Futures conference at Chester and convened a panel on new media and political participation at the Political Studies Association in Manchester. Dr Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova, Lecturer in Journalism, delivered a talk spoke about newspapers' online readers' definitions of journalism at the European Communication Research and

Education Association in Greece. She spoke on newspaper online discussion boards at the Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association Conference in Bournemouth where Dr Simon Gwyn Roberts, Deputy Head of Department, also presented on the role of online journalism in the portrayal of minority groups in the former Soviet Union.

Dr Guy Hodgson, Senior Lecturer in Journalism, gave a paper on at newspapers, war and society at the Fifth Aberystwyth Media History Conference. At the International Conference on the Cultural Politics of Memory in Cardiff, Brian Machin, Senior Lecturer in TV Production and Media Studies, presented a paper on the Colney Hatch Lunatic Asylum, while Dr Mark Duffett, Senior Lecturer in Media and Cultural Studies, spoke about music, race and genre at a conference on studying music in Edinburgh, co-organised a conference on rock music in Montpellier, France, and presented on Dario Argento at the Italian Horror Cinema conference in Luton.

Dr Basma Ellahi, Reader in Nutrition and Health, presented on health and wellbeing in ethnic minority groups at the Second International Conference on Obesity and Weight Management in Las Vegas and

co-chaired two sessions. She participated as a panel member in a one-day seminar on food security, held jointly by the University and the World Development Forum, and chaired a CPD day for an Association for Nutrition regional network event, hosted by the University.

In the Department of Community Health and Wellbeing, Professor Helen Cooper presented the Adolescent Diabetes Needs Assessment Tool study to the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and gave a keynote lecture to the Yorkshire and Humberside Paediatric Diabetes Network in Leeds. Dr Debs Robertson, Senior Lecturer, presented at a non-medical prescribing conference in Birmingham on developing and maintaining competence in prescribing practice. Fiona Lee, Senior Lecturer, spoke at the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative North West Network conference on the incorporation of promotional interviewing and Dr Crispin Day's work with families into the Special Community Public Health Nursing course.

Dr Paul Kingston, Susan Benbow and Rumandeep Tiwana from the Centre for Ageing Studies presented at the annual conference of the Faculty of Old Age Psychiatry in York on managing life with late life acquired dual sensory impairment, research which was funded by the charity Sense.



Dr Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova.



Dr Simon Roberts.



Dr Basma Ellahi.



Professor Elizabeth Harlow.

Hazel Chapman, Senior Lecturer in Acute Adult and Child Care, supported by Sara Bell and Professor Andy Lovell, held a seminar intended for people with learning disabilities, carers, parents, partnership board representatives and health facilitators, to discuss their experiences of healthcare.

Professor of Social Work Elizabeth Harlow presented at a seminar at the Centre for Social Work in Nottingham on coaching supervision and the social work zeitgeist and facilitated and hosted a regional seminar on responding to religion and belief in social work.

The Head of Mental Health and Learning Disability, Naomi Sharples, presented a paper in Prague at the Inter-disciplinary.net Pluralism, Inclusion and Citizenship Conference on inclusive action and challenging the professional nursing paradigm. Professor Andy Lovell gave an invited keynote presentation at the 'Let the Healing Begin' forensic conference in Bergen Hau, Germany. Dr Jan Bailey, Researcher, spoke at an Economic and Social Research Seminar in Worcester on engaging black and minority groups in research on mid- and later-life issues and gave a presentation on participatory



Professor John Buckley.

action research with older people at the Keele University Qualitative Research Conference.

Professor John Buckley spoke at the Cardiac Rehabilitation Interest Group of Scotland Annual Conference in Edinburgh on considerations for rehabilitating the young cardiac patient, and at the Cardiac Risk in the Young – Sports Cardiology Annual International Conference in London on testing and interpreting cardio-pulmonary exercise tests for athletes and those with cardio-pulmonary disease. He also presented at, and chaired, several panels on cardiovascular rehabilitation at the World Congress of Cardiology in Melbourne.

The Head of Department of Clinical Sciences, Professor Lynne Kennedy, highlighted the plight of many families in the UK who cannot afford an adequate diet and spoke on behalf of Alcohol Concern in North Wales and at the Association for Nutrition North West meeting on the topic. She was invited by Public Health England to review the effectiveness of its physical activities projects and by Dr Frank Field MP, to contribute to an All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger and Food Poverty in Britain. She also presented on the role of diet and nutrition on



Professor Lynne Kennedy.

inequalities in health to Cheshire West and Chester Council's Executive Policy Commission on Health Inequalities.

Dr Karen M Corteen, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, spoke on commodification, deregulation and the harmful business of professional wrestling in the United States at the 2014 National Deviancy Conference at Teeside University.

The Psychosocial Oncology Research Group, including Dr Nick Hulbert-Williams, presented four papers at the British Psychological Society Division of Health Psychology Annual Conference, five at the International Psycho-Oncology Society and three at the British Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference, while Nick gave a research seminar at the University of St Andrew's Medical School, focusing on the unmet psychosocial supportive needs of young people with a parent with chronic illness.

Dr Clea Whelan, Lecturer in Psychology, presented her research on police officers' accuracy in detecting deception at the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland. Dr Jemma Tosh presented her research on online

representations of sexual violence at the Gender and Sexuality Research Group at Edge Hill University, delivered a seminar at the Gender, Sexuality and Critical Psychology Lab in Toronto and was also the British Psychological Society Representative for the NHS England Gender Identity Clinical Reference Group.

Professor Rob Warner, Executive Dean of Humanities, gave a talk to the Foundation Fellows of the University of Gloucestershire, the Cathedrals Group Vice-Chancellors and Chaplains at Church House and a conference in Canterbury on the findings from the research project 'Christianity and the university experience'. He also commenced membership of the Joint Advisory Committee of the Church Universities and Colleges to the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Teacher Development Agency.

Deputy Head of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Dr Hannah Bacon, gave a paper on sinful eating and whether it represents female domination or power at the Donner Symposium on Religion and Food in Turku, Finland. Dr Dawn Llewellyn, Senior Lecturer, was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion at the British Sociological Association's Sociology of Religion Study Group Annual Conference that examined the barriers to women's career progression in higher education. Dr Wayne Morris, Head of Department, was the keynote speaker at the Postliberalism, Individualism and Society Conference at the University of Manchester and considered complex models of society from disability perspectives. Dr Ben Fulford, Deputy Head of Department, led a session for the Liverpool Cathedral School of Theology's Doctrine for Beginners Course.

Professor Chris Baker, Director of the Centre for Faiths and Public Policy and Senior Lecturer in Public and Urban Theology, spoke on religious citizenship and progressive urban localism at the British Sociological Association's Sociology of Religion Study Group Annual Conference in Brighton, was on a panel exploring Religion in the Global City and

presented at a Faith in the Public Realm event in London that aimed to strengthen the religious literacy of civil servants from across the policy spectrum, alongside panellists including Baroness Warsi and Lord Singh of Wimbledon.

Dr Matthew A Collins, Senior Lecturer, gave a paper on diluvian discord in the eyes of Matthew Henry at the conference Matthew Henry: The Bible, Prayer and Piety; one on history and narrative in the Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Vienna and another on Judah, Ephraim, and Conceptual Identity in the Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls at the St Andrews Symposium for Biblical and Early Christian Studies. Dr Suzanne Owen, Senior

Lecturer, reflected on the demise of the Beothuk in Newfoundland at the Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions annual conference in Belfast. Dr Steve Knowles, Lecturer, was the invited plenary speaker on risk, rapture and gnostic non-knowing at the 2014 International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society in Costa Rica.

Senior Lecturer Dr Paul Middleton gave a paper at the Evil in Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity meeting in Twickenham on overcoming the Devil in the Acts of the Martyrs, and two papers at the International Society of Biblical Literature conference in Vienna on Social Identity in the Passion of Perpetua and martyr-saints in the Book of Revelation. He also gave a paper on Matthew Henry and the destruction



Department of Theology and Religious Studies staff.

of the Jerusalem Temple at the Matthew Henry Conference in Chester. Dr Robert Evans gave a paper on alternative traditions in biblical interpretation at the Bible, Critical Theory and Reception Seminar in Chester and led a day on biblical hermeneutics and curriculum design for ministerial training for the Diocese of Chester's Committee for Ministry Conference.

Professor Elaine Graham was invited to give a keynote lecture at the 2014 Triennial Conference of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion, Sungkonghoe University in Seoul, Korea, gave the 2014 Wickham Lecture at Manchester Cathedral, was one of the keynote lecturers at the Arts and Humanities Research Council

Research Network consultation, 'Philosophy and religious practices', gave a lecture at Boston University on public theology as Christian apologetics and chaired a special conference to mark the 50th anniversary of John A T Robinson's *Honest to God*.

Senior Lecturer Dr Wendy Dossett presented at the Project for Spirituality, Theology and Health Seminar in Durham on the negotiated language of 'higher power' in contemporary twelve-step programmes', one at the INFORM 25th anniversary conference on minority religions on secularisation and Alcoholics Anonymous and another on the Indic traditions in the West at the British and European Association for the Study of Religions Conference in Liverpool. With

Professor John Stoner she gave the Annual Lecture for the Living Room in Cardiff on contemporary twelve-step spirituality.

Professor Fabrizio M Ferrari gave a paper on the role of Śītalā-maṅgal-kābyas in the creation of the 'smallpox goddess' myth at the European Association for the Study of Religions Annual Conference, in Liverpool, chaired a session of the international conference Words and Bodies. The Body on Stage: Representations, Techniques, Symbols in Padua, Italy, and gave a lecture on Hindu myths of chaos, misfortune and disease at the India Art Circle in London. Dr Alana M Vincent, Lecturer, gave a paper on sacrifice, public theology, and the Great War at the Theologies and the Great War symposium in Winchester.



Professor Fabrizio M Ferrari.



Paul McKie.

Multiple papers were given by staff from the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the American Academy of Religion Conference in Baltimore including Dr Matthew A Collins, Dr Paul Middleton, Dr Dawn Llewellyn, Dr Stephen Knowles, Dr Suzanne Owen, Dr Alana M Vincent and Dr Hannah Bacon, while Dr David Clough's book *On Animals* was the topic for a panel discussion.

A 'Coaching Saturday' session on lateral thinking was held by Paul McKie, Senior Lecturer in Corporate Business, as part of a workshop series that was set up under the ERASMUS Scheme with partner German universities in Magdeburg, Braunschweig and Lörrach. The workshop involved some part-time students sponsored by leading pharmaceutical companies around Lörrach.

The winner of the Groam House Martyn Jope Award, Dr Adrián Maldonado, Lecturer in the Department of History and Archaeology, was invited to give the institution's annual academic lecture based on his winning article in *Medieval Archaeology*, exploring the burial archaeology among the Picts in North-Eastern Scotland in AD 400–900.

Publications

The variety of books written and edited by staff over the past year shows the excellent original research generated from within the University, while the University of Chester Press illustrates the institution's continuing investment in disseminating knowledge to a global audience.

In 2013–14 the University of Chester Press published the following titles: *On Chester On: A History of Chester College and the University of Chester* written by Emeritus Professor of Local History, Graeme J White to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the institution; *Backstage Economies: Labour and Masculinities in Contemporary European Dance* written by Dr Dunja Njaradi, Research Fellow in the Department of Performing Arts; and *Great Escapes: Poetry from the Cheshire Prize for Literature 2013* edited by Dr Emma L E Rees, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English.

Staff members in the Faculty of Humanities have published the following titles: Rob Warner, Executive Dean, co-edited *Christianity and the University Experience: Understanding Student Faith* by Mathew Guest with Kristin Aune and Sonya Sharma. Professor Fabrizio M Ferrari, Professor of Religious Studies and South Asian Religions, co-edited *Charming Beauties and Frightful Beasts: Non-Human Animals in South Asian Myth, Ritual and Folklore* with Thomas Dahnhardt; Dr Mohammad Seddon, Lecturer, wrote *The Last of the Lascars: Yemeni Muslims in Britain, 1836–2012*; David Shepherd, Senior Lecturer, wrote *The Bible on Silent Film: Spectacle, Story and Scripture in the Early Cinema*; Alana M Vincent, Lecturer, co-edited *Jewish Thought, Utopia and Revolution* with Elena Namli and Jayne Svenungsson; Professor Alan Wall from the Department of English wrote *Badmouth* and *Labyrinths & Clues: Essays by Allan Wall*; and Dr Barry Taylor, Lecturer in the Department of History and Archaeology, co-wrote *Star Carr: Life in Britain after the Ice Age* with Nicky Milner, Chantal Conneller and Tim Schadla-Hall.

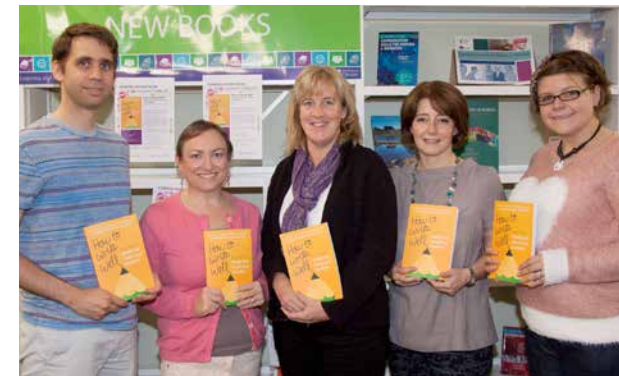
From the Faculty of Health and Social Care: the Executive Dean, Professor Annette McIntosh-Scott, the late Professor Tom Mason, Professor Elizabeth Mason-Whitehead and David Coyle edited *Key Concepts in Nursing and Healthcare Research*; Dr June Keeling, Senior Lecturer in Community Health and Wellbeing, Hazel Chapman, Senior Lecturer in Nursing, and Julie Williams, former Head of Pre-Registration Nursing, wrote *How to Write Well: A Guide for Health and Social Care Students*; and Professor Malcolm Carey, Head of Social Work, co-wrote *Practical Social Work Ethics: Complex Dilemmas Within Applied Social Care* with Lorraine Green.

In the Faculty of Arts and Media, Dr Alec Charles, Head of Media, edited *Interactivity 2: New Media, Politics and Society* and *The End of Journalism Version 2.0: Industry Technology and Politics*, while Mark Duffett, Senior Lecturer in Media, wrote *Understanding Fandom and Popular Music Fandom*.

From the University of Chester Business School, Dr Tony Wall, Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Work Related Studies, co-authored *Leadership Assessment for Talent Development* with John Knights and *Story Skills for Managers* with Lisa Rossetti. In the Faculty of Social Science, Dr Jemma Tosh from the Department of Psychology wrote *Perverse Psychology: The Pathologization of Sexual Violence and Transgenderism*. The Faculty of Education and Children's Services saw Dr Frances Atherton, Senior Lecturer co-authoring *Understanding Schemas and Young Children: From Birth to Three* with Professor Cathy Nutbrown, which was shortlisted in the Staff Resources category of the 2013 *Nursery World* Awards.



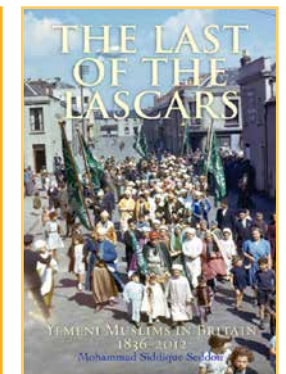
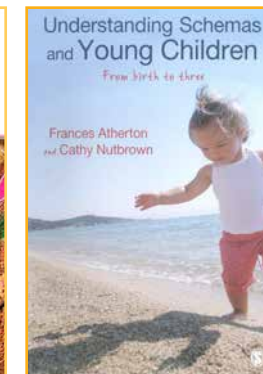
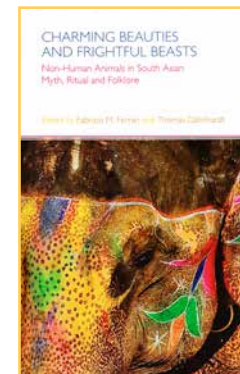
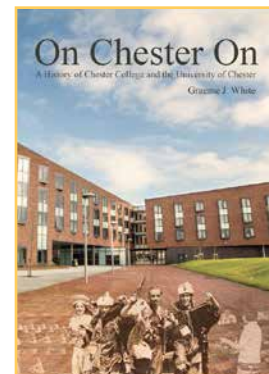
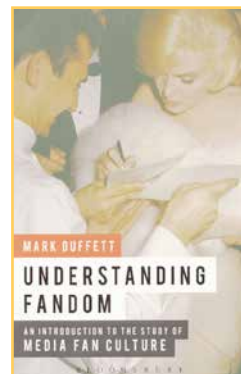
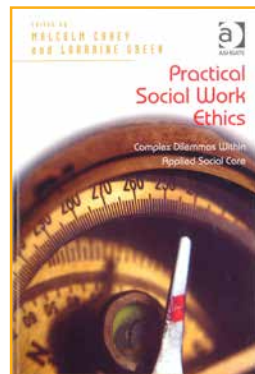
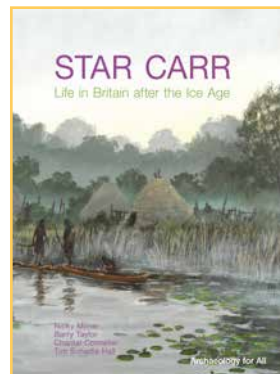
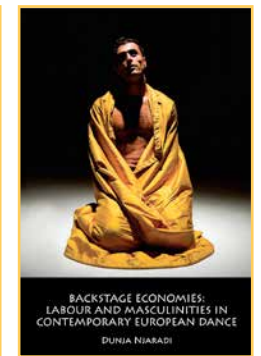
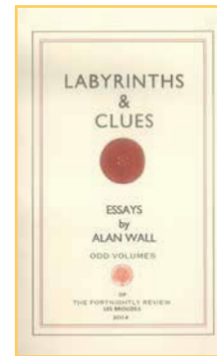
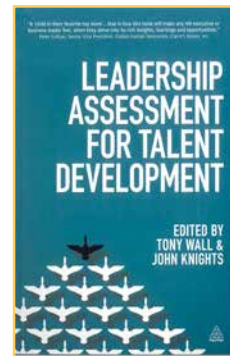
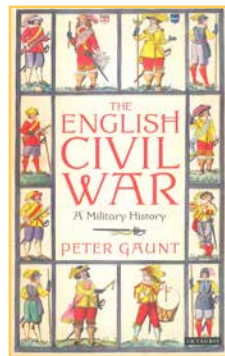
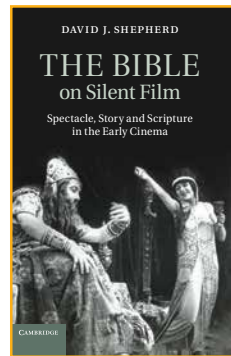
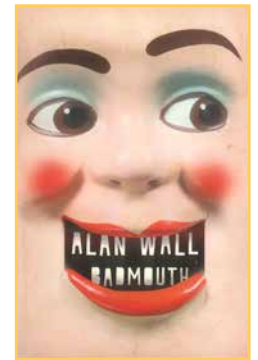
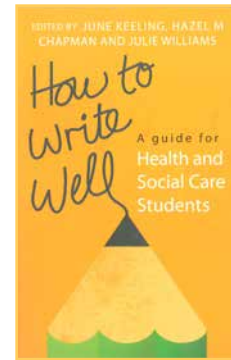
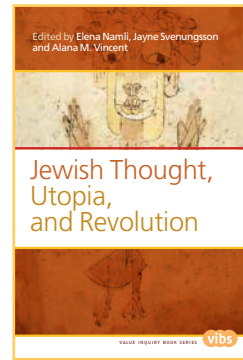
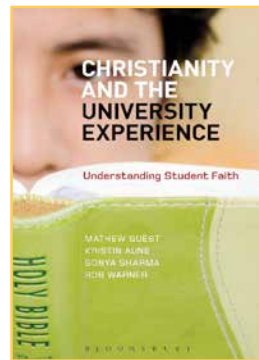
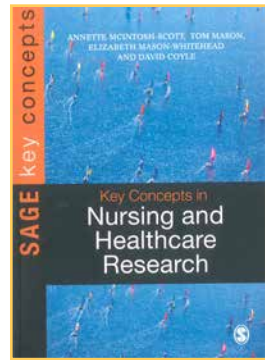
Professor Graeme White.



Authors of *How to Write Well*.



Dr Dunja Njaradi.



CASE STUDY

Rachel Elizabeth Swallow

Rachel Elizabeth Swallow “hasn’t looked back” after coming across a University leaflet tucked away in a drawer two years earlier. Rachel’s life changed when she found the flyer during a career break, and decided to study for a Master’s course in Chester.



Rachel said: “I took a short career break from a business management role to spend some time with my very young children – and to re-think my career. I had put a leaflet on the MA in Landscape, Heritage and Society away in a drawer a couple of years beforehand, having thought at that time that I would finally follow my heart and take up the course in my retirement. Instead, I took the leaflet out of the drawer, brought the course forward, completed it during my extended career break – and have not looked back.”

Rachel graduated in 2000 and was immediately taken on by the Department of History (subsequently History and Archaeology), initially as its first Staff Visiting Lecturer and, after about four years, on the then small but quickly growing team of Visiting Lecturers. Rachel is nearing the end of her PhD on ‘Memory and the Anglo-Norman Landscape of Cheshire: Castles of the Earldom of Chester and their Tenants in Medieval Cheshire, 1066–1237’ and so is now putting the county on the Anglo-Norman map.

Rachel’s article ‘Landscape of Power: Aldford Castle, Cheshire’, published in the journal *Cheshire History*, was runner up in

the Long Article category of the 2014 British Association for Local History Awards. Her work was described as ‘challenging current thinking’; ‘original and well-written’; ‘an exemplar for other scholars’ and ‘an esoteric, multi-disciplinary, outside-of-the-box approach, which was interesting to read’.

She credits the “unfailing support and expert knowledge from staff, past and present” as playing a pivotal role in her success. “I have learned, and continue to learn, a great deal from both colleagues and students, and I am proud to be part of a successful staff team. I am particularly proud to play a part in the students’ investments in their own futures,” she added.

After completing her PhD, Rachel is planning to continue her research through a post-doctoral position, with some teaching, in the North West region. She concluded: “I have only explored the tip of the multi-disciplinary research-related iceberg with my doctoral research, and the potential of extending this initial research would, I believe, indicate how important Cheshire really was in the national and international picture of the Anglo-Norman world”.

New Courses

The importance of developing innovative courses to meet the needs of students and employers is particularly evident in the establishment of the eighth faculty at the Thornton Science Park, which significantly expands the scope of the University's portfolio of programmes.



The new Faculty of Science and Engineering, based at the former Shell UK research and development site at Thornton near Ince, has been designed specifically to take forward the Government's stated aims of addressing national skills shortages in the science and technology markets. It appeals to anyone wishing to study engineering locally, with future employment or career development in the region's manufacturing industries in mind.

The curriculum includes theoretical teaching, combined with practical, hands-on experience. Eventually, this will include an entire suite of qualifications from HNC and HND through foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees to the highest levels of post-doctoral research. It is intended that students will also be recruited from partner businesses to pursue their career progression with continuing professional development. There is an emphasis on the application of new technologies and energy efficiency, to service the chemical manufacturing, energy, and materials science industries, and facilities will include bio-related laboratories, in short supply in the North West.

Faculty staff combine mainstream teaching with high level research for academic and commercial purposes. The campus builds on the University's existing strengths in, health and occupational health and safety, with curriculum development allied with the engineering, chemical and automotive industries. Responding to local industry needs, the Faculty can offer students relevant apprenticeships and work placements meaning that the professional and career-focused environment will equip them with the transferrable skills and experience to enable them to find jobs in specialisms of high demand.



Laboratory at Thornton Science Park.

New subjects offered at the Thornton Science Park include Chemical Engineering; Electronic and Electrical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Natural Sciences (Physical Sciences); Natural Sciences (Chemistry and Biotechnology); Computational Engineering and Science; Computer Networks; and Cyber Security.

The move of the Departments of Computer Science and Mathematics to the Thornton Science Park means that there is ample opportunity for collaboration and skills, such as computer modelling, have been embedded at each level of the engineering degree programmes. The engineering graduates can harness the power of computers to test and optimise their designs: whether they are optimising the shape of Formula 1 cars using CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) or 'rewiring' cells to produce anti-cancer drugs using mathematical optimisation. The relocation of the Informatics Centre to the new Faculty means that there is greater capacity for students to gain valuable experience on a wider range of internal and external projects.



The Sutton Library at Thornton.

The innovative new Master's course in Theology, Media and Communication is designed to help media professionals think and reflect theologically and ethically on the role of the media in a global society. Aspects of the programme explore the role of the media as a vehicle of 'religious literacy' within society and consider how this may be enhanced within churches and other faith-based organisations, together with the challenges and opportunities of new social media for religious belief, practice and affiliation. The course, which has been developed in close collaboration with faith-based media professionals, also draws on the international departmental expertise in research in the study of religion, media and culture.

The Faculty of Health and Social Care has developed the following new programmes in partnership with clinical colleagues: the Graduate/Postgraduate Certificate in Critical Care; a BSc in End of Life and Palliative Care and an MSc in Managing Palliative Care; an



Faculty of Health and Social Care Skills Lab.

MSc in Maternal and Women's Reproductive Health; a Doctorate in Public Health; and a Mental Health First Aid training course, developed for partners and businesses that want to train their staff in responding to people in mental health crisis.

In response to a changing agenda for special educational needs across the sector, the Faculty of Education and Children's Services has developed a new MA in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the Postgraduate Certificate for the National Special Educational Needs Co-ordination. This reflects a greater commitment and involvement with schools and colleges in the field of special educational needs.

Conferences

Conferences held at the University attract delegates from around the world and their interaction with staff and students significantly enhances the research culture of the University community.

The national Royal Archaeological Institute (RAI) conference was hosted by the Department of History and Archaeology and the RAI in Chester for the first time. The theme was the impact of Rome on the British countryside and featured a public lecture by Professor Nico Roymans from Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

The Chester Business School's Research Seminar Series provided the opportunity for staff, students and the public to engage in topical interests and share ideas and best practice. Internal and external speakers presented on their research or area of interest and it culminated in the Staff Annual Research Colloquium in which delegates are invited to share in research experiences on various areas of interest presented by keynote, internal and external speakers.



The Chester Business School Annual Research Colloquium.

The 2013 International Journal for Art and Design Education (IJADE) and National Society for Education in Art and Design Conference was entitled Art for Life: Race, Gender, Disability and Class – Critical Discourses Around Participation in Arts Education. Delegates from more than 16 countries participated in a challenging and provocative programme, which aimed to explore the ways in which current arts-based educational practices enable or disable, include or exclude.

The Centre for Psychological Therapies in Primary Care hosted a conference on Mental Health and Wellbeing – How Could We Do Better? It was an opportunity to assess the current state of mental health services and looked at national issues, including policy and politics and aspects of



Professor Nico Roymans.

practice education and research as they affect the local delivery of mental health and wellbeing. The speakers included the Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP and Dr Clare Gerada.

A global healthcare conference, Compassion and Caring in the Clinical Environment was hosted by the Faculty of Health and Social Care and the speakers included Salli Jeynes, Victoria King and Professor Rod Thomson. The conference explored how, amidst unprecedented global reform and increasing economic challenges, the healthcare workforce face constant pressures to continuously deliver an exceptional quality service and value for money.

The Food Matters Conference, hosted by the Department of Geography and Development Studies, aimed to raise awareness of the issues surrounding food security and sovereignty in the developing world. With a focus on the Enough Food for Everyone IF campaign, the conference



Andy Burnham MP at the Mental Health and Wellbeing conference.



Food and Nutrition Fair.

included two keynote speakers, workshops, discussions with non-governmental organisations and a live link with a small community in the Philippines, to enable delegates there to explore food security issues with the local mayor.

The breadth of the academic expertise on offer at the Warrington Campus was celebrated with Warrington's Works. The research festival included speakers from six faculties. The culmination was the screening of a DVD capturing the journey of Warrington Wolves from the Wilderspool Stadium to the Halliwell Jones Stadium. Department of Media staff and students worked on the documentary with the club, making Wire2Wolves a truly collaborative effort.

The Department of Social and Political Science's annual national conference was entitled Pornography in Contemporary Times and Spaces. The conferences are designed to facilitate students' research into a specific topic and/or area of study related to the Social Studies and Counselling programmes, and are supported by academic speakers and professionals from all over the country.

The Department of Clinical Sciences hosted the Association for Nutrition North West Continuing Professional Development event in Chester. The Department also hosted the annual Chester Food and Nutrition Fair, a

health promotion event run by third-year Human Nutrition and Dietetics students for their health promotion module. They offered healthy lifestyle advice, free food tasting, games and interactive activities, to help encourage people to think about ways they can lead a healthier life.

A five-day theological consultation explored the topic The Word and the World: Public Theology in an Age of Global Media. Organised by the Global Network for Public Theology and co-ordinated by Professor Elaine Graham, the event explored the future of public theology in an era of increasing global media dominance. Specialists in the fields of media, culture and religion debated alongside practitioners and faith leaders, responsible for cultivating public understanding of the nature of religious belief and practice in society.

Risk and Rapture: Apocalyptic Imagination in Late Modernity was hosted by the Centre for Faiths and Public Policy and the focus was on investigating and evaluating some of the variety of apocalyptic discourse that exists in contemporary popular western culture, along with critical theories of risk.

Matthew Henry: The Bible, Prayer, and Piety celebrated the tercentenary of the death of the Preacher and Bible Expositor, who ministered in Chester for 25 years. Jointly organised between the Department of Theology and Religious Studies and the University of Manchester, the conference attracted biblical scholars, theologians, and historians from the UK and beyond to explore Matthew Henry's life and work.

The Centre for Faiths and Public Policy hosted a conference: Missio Dei? Evangelicalism and the New Politics, which covered experimentation, energy and political engagement in the theology and practice of mission among evangelicals.

The annual Bible, Critical Theory and Reception Seminar was held in Chester for the first time and covered critical theory, cultural studies and reception history, including the use, influence and reception of biblical texts in all aspects of culture.



Professor Peter Harrop at Warrington's Works.



The Warrington Wolves Halliwell Jones Stadium.

Recovery from Addiction: Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice brought together policy makers, addictions researchers, recovery movement activists and mutual aid fellowship representatives to explore the challenges of addressing substance misuse issues in a rapidly changing environment. The conference considered how in the face of cuts to professional services, groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, taking a spiritual approach to address substance misuse issues, are now appearing on the radar of governmental policy makers because of their potential to make a significant contribution to the delivery of recovery-oriented systems of care.

The UK Simulation in Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Conference was run jointly with CAE Healthcare and was attended by nurses, midwives and allied health professionals from practice and academic settings. The theme was sharing care and compassion with simulation.

The Chester group of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) held its centenary event at the University, which included the official launch of the Human Resources and Organisational Development Research-in-Practice Group. This group has been specifically created to facilitate dialogue between the University's Department of Human Resource Management and



Lord Bradley of Whittington.

Payroll Services and Organisational Development academics and relevant professionals in the region.

The second Conference on Intellectual Disability and Criminal Justice was held at the Warrington Campus and discussed the experiences of people with intellectual disabilities, who have encountered the criminal justice system since the publication of the Bradley Report in 2009. The speakers included the author of the report the Rt Hon Lord Bradley of Whittington.

The Faculty of Education and Children's Services hosted the joint conference of the British Educational Research Association's Teacher Education and Development and Research Methodology in Education Special Interest Groups. Focusing on questions of methodology and research design in teacher education research, this included a range of activities and speakers and was followed this by the Faculty's own Postgraduate Research Conference, with contributions from members of staff and research students.

Dyslexia and its Impact for Children, Young People and Adults was the topic of an event hosted by the Faculty of Education and Children's Services. This session introduced dyslexia and considers what it is like for children, young people and adults to be dyslexic, as well as offering practical strategies.



Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development Conference.



Recovery from Addiction Conference.



The UK Simulation in Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Conference.

Visitors

The University community benefits considerably from the many opportunities to listen to, and interact with, distinguished guests from all over the world, who visit to share their knowledge and experiences.

The courageous war veteran, Former Royal Welsh Guard Simon Weston OBE opened the launch of the University's Diversity Festival 2014, which was themed 'Fighting for a cause'. Simon, who suffered severe burn injuries in

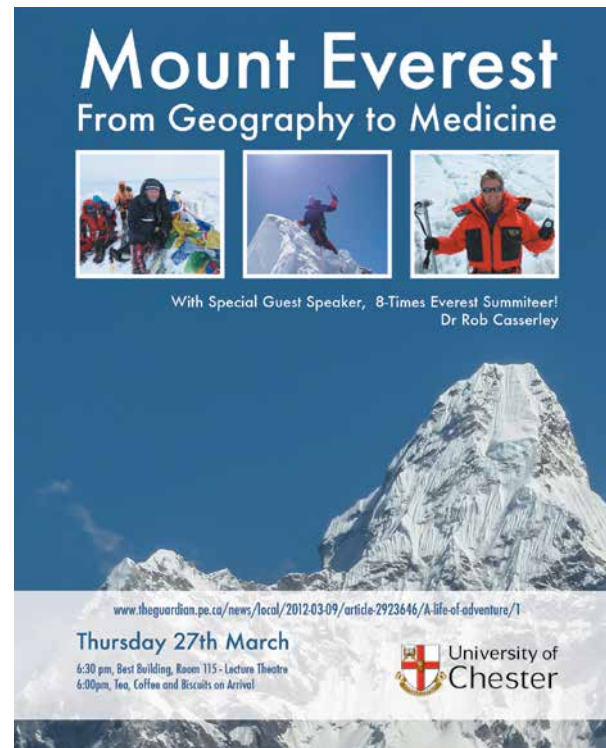
the Falklands War, talked about overcoming adversity and the importance of a positive mental attitude. Other speakers during the Festival included: Dame Jo Williams DBE; Deputy Chief Constable Helen King; Kelly Temple, NUS Women's Officer; and Amanda Alexander founder of Coaching Mums. The Festival also included the launch conference of the Forum for Research into Equality and Diversity and a Gender and Sexuality conference.

Dr Rob Casserley, eight-time Everest summiteer and mountain guide, was the special guest speaker at the research seminar 'Mount Everest – from

Geography to Medicine', organised by the Departments of Clinical Sciences and Nutrition and Geography and Development Studies. He spoke about the geographical, physiological, social, psychological and medical challenges of climbing Everest. Other contributors were Jonathan Walton, a Geospatial Engineer with the British Antarctic Survey, who spoke on 'Everest, the who and the how of its discovery as the top of the world', Dr Marie-Kristelle Ross, Consultant Cardiologist at Laval University and a mountaineering medic, on 'Altitude and its effects on the heart, lungs, and circulation' and Dr John Buckley, Reader, on 'Oxygen, and getting it to the bits that need it'.



Simon Weston OBE.



Mount Everest research seminar.



First World War nurse Sister Edith Appleton.

The Faculty of Health and Social Care Historical Society hosted a series of public talks including 'A social history of nurse training in New Zealand in the 1950s', given by Professor Linda Bryder from the University of Auckland; Professor Bob Holman, talked about the evacuation of children during the Second World War as part of the Social Work History Network meeting; and Dick and Sara Robinson spoke about the diaries of their relative Edith Appleton, who nursed close to the Western Front during the First World War.

The seminar series run by the Department of Social Work included Professor Mike Fisher from the Tilda Goldberg Centre, University of Bedfordshire, speaking at the Warrington Campus on 'What's wrong with evidence-based policy and practice?'

Guest speakers in the Department of Media included Professor Garry Whannel, an expert on contemporary media, talking on research into the representation of science and scientists in the media; record producer Russell Cottier told of his experience in the music industry and talked to students about their own work; Paul Rasmussen spoke about his experiences working on the BBC's flagship current affairs series *Panorama*; TV executives Mike Spence, Managing Director of Child's Eye



Russell Cottier in the Department of Media.

Media and Sarah Murch, Executive Producer on TV documentary series *Cutting Edge*, heard students pitching their documentary programme ideas and provided feedback; TV producer and director Ged Clarke talked to students about the making of his BBC film *Hidden Paintings*; the Scottish Football Association's Craig Jones gave a video journalism masterclass; former Political Editor of the *Liverpool Echo* Larry Neild spoke to Journalism students; and BAFTA-nominated composer Christopher Mann gave a lecture for Commercial Music Production students.

As part of the Inside the Creative Industries events, the following talked to Media students: CEO and Joint Creative Director of Nine Lives Media, Cat Lewis, and graduate Sunny Kang; professional photographers Tim Wallace and graduate Helen Hann shared their experience of the creative tensions between artistic and commercial concerns in professional photography; BBC Radio 5Live Commissioning Editor and graduate, Richard Maddock, spoke about the secrets of success in the radio industry; Bill Coles (formerly of *The Sun*) and David Maddock (sports reporter for the *Daily Mirror*) talked about the news industry; Danny Hevingham, a member of the music production and promotion duo H2, spoke about his career; Steve Oates, a director of Jukebox Events,



Karren Brady CBE at the RIC.

recounted his experiences from early tape-based production through to staging the Happy Mondays; advertising experts Tim Sharp, Creative Director at Uniform, graduate Ali Vermilio, now a junior creative at Uniform, and Brian Minards, former Vice-President of the Chartered Society of Designers and now a Professor in Advertising at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, revealed the inside story of the advertising and branding industries; and Colin Telford, a Media and Business graduate spoke about his successful career in digital marketing.

Members of the University's Riverside Innovation Centre (RIC) and an entrepreneurship student were able to quiz one of the country's leading businesswomen, Karren Brady CBE. By invitation of Stephen Mosley MP, Kirsty Badrock and Claire Blanchard from the RIC attended a business networking lunch with Karren, while Jack Miller, a Business Management and Entrepreneurship student, used the Question and Answer session to seek business advice.

The 2013 annual Haygarth Lecture was delivered by Ben Page, Chief Executive of Ipsos MORI, on the power of public opinion and data in influencing health behaviour change. The Haygarth lectures are a joint



Ben Page at the Haygarth Lecture.

collaboration between the University, the NHS in Cheshire and the Department of Public Health at Cheshire West and Chester Council, and attract large audiences from across the region.

The guest of honour for the High Sheriff's Cheshire Prize for Literature Awards was Roger McGough, one of Britain's best-loved poets. He read extracts from his poems and answered audience questions before presenting the prizes to the winners of the 2013 poetry competition. The winner was Philip Williams for 'The Elvis Shed' and Clive McWilliams and Tonia Bevins were joint runners-up for 'Western Isles' and 'The Geologist's iPad'. The High Sheriff's Cheshire Prize for Literature is one of the North West's leading writing competitions. Sponsored by MBNA and organised by the University, the competition is open to those living in Cheshire or who have other connections with the county.

Events held at the University as part of the Essar Chester Literature Festival included: David and Hilary Crystal speaking about their book *Wordsmiths and Warriors*, which explores the heritage of English; An audience with Patrick Barlow, allowed an insight into the varied career



Dr Lucy Aphramor.

of the actor and writer; Simon Singh, author and former BBC producer and documentary director on *The Simpsons* and their mathematical secrets; and an evening with John Simpson, the Chief Editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Speakers at the Department of Theology and Religious Studies (TRS) seminars included: Dr Chris Meredith, from the University of Winchester; Dr Shuruq Naguib, Lancaster University; Professor Hugh Pyper, University of Sheffield; Dr John Zavos, University of Manchester; Dr Mark Cartledge, University of Birmingham; Dr Sonya Sharma, Kingston University; and Professor Karen Kilby, Durham University. The Chester Theological Society seminars hosted by TRS have welcomed Professor David R Law, University of Manchester, Rev Professor Richard BurrIDGE, King's College London; and Professor Clyde Binfield, University of Sheffield.

The Department of Psychology hosted several external speakers as part of its research seminar series: Isabelle Blanchette of l'Université du Québec spoke on the effect of trauma on cognitive processes; Dr Sammyh Khan, Research Fellow at the University of Exeter



Roger McGough at the High Sheriff's Cheshire Prize for Literature.

Medical School, talked on social identification and wellbeing in mass gatherings; and Emeritus Professor Jean Kristeller from Indiana State University collaborated on new research projects through a Santander Visiting Scholar Grant, and gave a training event to local colleagues and then a public lecture on Mindful Eating.

Dr Lucy Aphramor was the speaker at the Department of Clinical Sciences and Nutrition Research Seminar, Tackling obesity: are we asking the right questions? Dr Aphramor pioneered the use of the innovative 'health at every size' approach in the NHS and is the only UK dietitian with publishing and teaching expertise in critical weight science.

A unique one-man Noh Theatre performance of *Hamlet* was given by Emeritus Professor Munakat Haida. This octogenarian Japanese performer worked with Bjork and visited Chester specifically to do this performance. Susan Melrose, Professor of Performance Arts at Middlesex University, also gave a lecture to Performing Arts students on expert-intuitive process and the logics of performance production.

Sustainability

A recent survey revealed that more than 80% of students believe that sustainable development should be actively promoted and incorporated into UK university life and that this belief increases during their studies. The Sustainability Unit is an integral part of this educational process, placing sustainability at the heart of decision-making and service delivery across the University and raising awareness of the need to minimise the impact of our activities on the environment in which we live, study and work.

In partnership with the DoNation, a website where people can pledge to reduce their carbon footprint, a DoChester league was established

to capture the actions across the University. Students raised awareness of sustainable lifestyles and increased the number of pledges on



Green Impact Award winners.

the DoChester league by holding events such as the Trashion Show, a screening of *Project Wild Thing* as part of the Sustainable Futures Geography module and the production of videos. All this activity led to pledges to save 12,041kg of CO₂ and resulted in a nomination as a finalist in the Student Engagement Award at the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges 2014 Green Gown Awards in Manchester. These awards honour the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by UK universities and colleges and demonstrate how collective actions can make a real difference.

The University has progressed from gaining a Bronze to a Gold EcoCampus Award Certificate within two years through this leading environmental management system and award scheme. It is designed for the UK further and higher education sectors and provides the tools and guidance to implement an Environmental Management System up to ISO 14001 standard. Matthew Fowle, a Politics and Law student, was instrumental in co-ordinating the submission and audits for all three awards and is now studying for a Master's degree at the University of Oxford, having contributed greatly to this significant achievement for the University.

The Chester Weir Hydroelectric case study was featured on the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)'s Revolving Green Fund website having been awarded £1m. This project acknowledges the historical significance of the strategically important part of the city, with a commitment to sustainability which should safeguard its future as an area of ecological and educational value. Once operational, the hydro power plant will make a considerable contribution towards meeting the energy needs of the University and the city in a renewable form. The potential return to a hydroelectric station on this sensitive



University eco takeaway boxes.

site, done sympathetically with all parties involved, will provide great benefits to the city – renewable power generation, an educational facility, a return to its historical use and, as a result, the potential for a visitor centre. The new hydro plant will protect the efficacy of the Environment Agency's salmon trapping and monitoring station which is critical to the design of the scheme. The hydroelectric scheme forms part of the University Sustainability Unit's energy and controls policy and energy strategy to meet HEFCE carbon reduction targets of 43% by 2020.

Two Events Management students, Alex Reed and Chloe Naylor, spent their five-week Work Based Learning placements understanding the practical reality of what it means to implement green projects at the University. Working with the Sustainability Unit they trained as Green Impact Auditors at an NUS-led training session, visited the University's staff Green Impact teams to audit their progress for their award submissions and organised the awards event. The students had to do a detailed assessment of the impacts of the event, through investigating the food and drink supply chains, transport emissions, resources and waste. They said "Our event did not create much waste because



Green Impact auditors with Alice Elliott.

Catering provided reusable plates and glasses and we ordered the right amount of food. It's definitely something we'll assess at future events and was a massive eye-opener for us to see what working in industry would be like when we leave University."

A new Green Chester website has been launched, where staff and students can access information about University policies and further information on topics such as sustainable travel and recycling, plus opportunities to get involved with behaviour change projects. The supporting social media pages encourage the University community to get involved in minimising the environmental impact of their activities, and creating positive social change. Hermione Taylor, founder of The DoNation, the social enterprise which aims to make sustainable living normal, said of the Green Chester activities: "We're really excited to be running Do Good for Uni at the University of Chester, students can and must play such an important role in building a more sustainable nation. The energy and passion for change seen through Green Chester is inspiring and refreshing. But it's important that this passion is converted into action on a personal level too – as change really does start at home."

I am very excited to be working with Cheshire West and Chester Council to bring this source of abundant renewable energy back to Chester. It is critical that we reduce our reliance on fossil fuels in order to mitigate against the kind of chaotic climatic conditions we have seen recently. The University is privileged and honoured to have the opportunity to deliver this great project, learn from the process and engage with staff, students and the wider community on this important topic.

*Head of Sustainability,
Alice Elliott.*



Partnership and Community



Outreach

The University has continued its commitment to widening participation for those groups which are under-represented in higher education. This is evidenced by its outreach work engaging with almost 12,000 students, extending from primary school pupils through to mature college students from across the region and beyond.

The Widening Participation Team enhances the relationships between the University and local schools and colleges through a range of targeted events. For example in 2013–14, more than 3,300 students and participants were hosted at 75 campus visits across the University's sites. Participants spanned from Years 5 and 6 primary school pupils to mature and access students and the visits gave students a tailored insight into University life. For primary level, this includes such issues as new surroundings, making new friends, and learning new subjects, and for secondary students the focus is often on their option choices and the similarities between the decisions made at 16 and those for higher education. The activities encourage students to make informed decisions about their future and gain familiarity with higher education. In addition,

a further 106 talks were given in schools and colleges, which were attended by more than 5,200 students.

Examples of the Team's outreach work with local primary school children are a series of transition workshops, aimed at encouraging the students to think about their future ambitions, their progression into secondary education and increasing awareness of the benefits that higher education can provide. Over 1,200 students visited the campuses through 15 events. These included interactive sessions delivered by the Pathways team, drama performances from the resident performance group Zengage, their own mini mock graduation ceremony and a practical 'Dream University' activity allowing the

school pupils to design their ideal university while identifying their future aspirations.

The majority of the work of the Schools and Colleges Liaison Service concentrates on Post-16 students and its 27 campus visits involved around 1,100 students. The visits are tailored to help in the decision-making process and give an insight into particular subject areas. A further 30 talks were delivered by the service in schools and colleges, amounting to a combined audience of more than 2,000 attendees. All these activities mean that impartial advice is given to sixth form and college students about selecting a particular institution or course. They learn about the application process, and gain a valuable insight into what the University can offer them, such as sample undergraduate lectures and other campus activities. The following examples show some of the general outreach activities hosted at the University.

The Faculty of Science and Engineering welcomed more than 300 local students and their teachers at a free Christmas lecture series: Fairy lights



Mock graduation.



Activities with school children.



International Women's Day STEM Conference.

and dirty snowballs – an introduction to Cosmic Chemistry. The talks were given by Steve Bennett from Starchaser, the UK's only company conducting research and development into spacecraft. Starchaser and the Faculty of Science and Engineering are currently developing a series of research projects for undergraduate Science and Engineering students that include a new rocket guidance system, an electromagnetic launch system and a new turbo-pump system to deliver propellants into the combustion chamber of a Starchaser rocket.

Sixteen AS theologians from Loreto College in Manchester visited the University, where they engaged in lectures and debates and had a guided tour of the campus with current students. The Study Day, organised by the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, delved deeper into topical issues covered on the AS course for local A level pupils. Dr Paul Middleton, Senior Lecturer, was an invited speaker at the Christian Controversies conference at Chester Cathedral for local A level students, while Dr Wendy Dossett worked with 11 local schools on their RE module.

More than 60 female students aged 9–12 years from local schools attended the International Women's Day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Conference. Presentations were given by Dr Lucy Rogers, young female Engineering graduates, Professor Nick Avis and Professor Steve Wilkinson from the University's Faculty of Science and Engineering. There was also a sensory food tasting session with Dr Cath Birch and Professor Graham Bonwick, to highlight the work of the NoWFOOD Centre.

The Faculty of Life Sciences and the Faculty of Science and Engineering jointly organised a Formula 1 Challenge Day through the Centre for Science Communication, in partnership with Lotus Racing F1 and Perkin Elmer. Around 70 local high school students aged 16–18 years participated in the activities and were joined by more than 100 University employees.



Activities with school children.

Educational Partnerships

Academic partnerships with other educational institutions and organisations are an integral part of extending the University's influence worldwide. As a result, the University works with 31 UK and 13 overseas partners to deliver lifelong learning opportunities for students and a sample of the initiatives is featured here.

We want wider areas to benefit from the opportunities that a university creates. This aspiration has underpinned the University's significant and growing contribution to the region and beyond. We are excited to be part of the development of a new institution in Shrewsbury which, while being differentiated nationally and internationally, will be founded upon exactly the same vision, principles and ethics that have seen the University of Chester go from strength to strength.

Professor Tim Wheeler, Vice-Chancellor.

The University is working with Shropshire Council to establish University Centre Shrewsbury after research showed strong demand and interest from the local business community, Shropshire sixth form students and others in taking the plans forward. The new University Centre aims to provide a distinctive offer for students, exploring non-traditional academic structures.

The curriculum has been developed with local businesses, and industry specialists are working alongside renowned academics to teach students. The courses and wider opportunities at University Centre Shrewsbury are designed to ensure that graduates excel in their chosen field and are fully equipped for the workplace, particularly with the entrepreneurial skills employers need. Courses and research activities cover four main areas: Bioscience, Health and the Environment; Sustainable Business and Community Development; Social and Public Sector Innovation; and Design, Heritage and the Built Environment. A small number of postgraduates began their studies at University Centre Shrewsbury in autumn 2014 and total



University Centre Shrewsbury.

student numbers are projected to grow steadily to about 2,500 over five to seven years. It is anticipated that a wide range of educational, social, cultural and economic benefits will be created, including up to around £60m each year for the local economy. University Centre Shrewsbury is being created with guidance from the University of Chester in its early days, and while links may be maintained in the long term, it will seek its own self-governing status and ultimately become an independent university. Keith Barrow, Leader of Shropshire Council, said: "Since my election as Leader of Shropshire Council, I've been convinced that a new university would be a brilliant achievement. We are delighted to be working with the University of Chester to make this a reality. In driving these plans forward with University of Chester colleagues, what's been obvious all along is our shared enthusiasm for the new institution and the benefits it will bring."



Rowley's House, University Centre Shrewsbury.

The Faculty of Health and Social Care has established new partnerships with the End of Life Partnership (formerly Cheshire Hospices) for the delivery of provision in Palliative Care, and with Southport College with the initial delivery of a Level 6 Top Up programme in Health and Social Care. Business and Management postgraduate courses have also been established with Global College Malta.

Approval was gained to deliver a range of honours degrees for Tameside College through the Centre for Work Related Studies. This partnership uses the Work Based Integrative Studies (WBIS) framework to offer a range of qualifications relating to Business Studies, Leadership and Management and an education pathway for current and past students of Tameside College. This initiative



University Centre Shrewsbury.

was established in response to the fact that some students who had expressed an interest in studying at a higher level were unable to because of issues such as finance, location and work opportunities. In order to meet this demand, the WBIS qualifications provide a highly attractive way in which academic and professional aspirations can be met, without students leaving the Tameside area for more traditional higher education delivery. Tracey Minogue, Curriculum Leader for Pre-University and HE Programmes at Tameside College, added: "Students who have attended the WBIS programme have expressed high levels of satisfaction and are finding that undertaking this type of study has had a positive impact on their personal development and career progression, with some already being promoted in their job roles."



Palliative Care.

Regional

The University plays a key strategic role in the region through its close relationships with organisations, businesses and community groups and this is illustrated by being shortlisted for the second year running for the 'Entrepreneurial University of the Year' at the *Times Higher Education* awards.

A new centre of excellence for food science and technology has been established at the University's Parkgate Road Campus for producers across the region. North West small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) food and drink producers now have the opportunity to engage with the team of professionals at the NoWFOOD Food Research and Development Centre which has been co-funded with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Maud Duthie, the Project Manager for NoWFOOD explains: "The food and drink sector is vital to economic growth across the region and we can help SMEs to take their product ideas or production techniques on to the next level. With the right expertise, food and drink manufacturers could find new markets, develop new product ideas and hopefully generate

employment opportunities within the sector." The facilities at the Centre include hands-on support from food development technicians, incubation units for micro and small businesses, a centre of excellence for food technology with a professional production kitchen, a sensory unit for consumer testing, and conference facilities, meeting rooms and hot desk space.

Thousands of infants will benefit from the new Northwest Human Milk Bank, which is based in the NoWFOOD Centre. Formed by the merging of Cheshire & North Wales Human Milk Bank (HMB) and Wirral HMB, the organisation collects breast milk from donor mothers for sick and premature babies. Northwest HMB is the only milk bank

in England or Wales with the specialised equipment to measure the macro-nutrient content of each bottle of milk, allowing precise levels of nutrition to be administered to patients. The service is a joint venture between the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and is overseen by a Countess of Chester consultant paediatrician.

A new centre to support economic growth and develop innovative products for North West businesses has been launched at the Thornton Science Park. The newly developed High Growth Centre is co-funded by the University and the ERDF, and offers SMEs and new start-up businesses valuable advice and support. Designed specifically for companies operating in the Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive, Engineering and Environmental sectors, the unique blend of industry, innovation and academia will deliver a much needed boost to the region. Companies will be able to access a wide range of specialist equipment and advice from the team of specialist advisers, with additional support



Northwest Human Milk Bank.



The High Growth Centre Team.



The Catalyst for Growth Programme launch.

from the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The High Growth Centre has been set up to encourage new business creation and help existing businesses to develop. It will facilitate the sharing of knowledge between business and the University and develop greater links with local, regional and international businesses.

As part of the Government's Regional Growth Fund, the University was awarded £8m for its Catalyst for Growth Programme, which aims to help eligible private sector companies in the chemical sector and related industries to expand their research, development and production operations through financial support. Led by the University in conjunction with C-Tech Innovation Ltd and The North West Universities European Unit Ltd, the scheme will operate across the five Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) of Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and the Liverpool City Region. The initiative is also linked to the development of Thornton Science Park. As a long-standing industrial

The Catalyst for Growth funding is an important milestone in developing Thornton Science Park as a centre of excellence in energy systems, where academics and industry can work together to address skills gaps and investigate novel solutions or process optimisation in the energy sector.

Professor Nick Avis, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

chemical research and development site, it offers significant facilities and resources to the chemical sector as well as collaborative opportunities for potential grant applicants. Both technical and specialist support will be on offer to develop ideas for grant applications which may include tapping into potential new customers and production lines, increasing capital investment in the industry, conducting more industrial research and development activity and increasing employment and turnover.

Through the Cheshire and Warrington LEP Growth Deal proposal, the University has secured almost £7m in direct funding to support the development of an energy demonstrator at Thornton Science Park. In addition to the Government funding, other partners and stakeholders have committed to investing a further £11m into this project. Drawing on the capital equipment, facilities and experience of Thornton Science Park and the academic expertise of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, the Thornton Energy Demonstrator will enable

energy companies to test at scale new power saving and distribution technologies, enabling the development of low cost, environmentally responsible sources of energy. It will also explore behavioural aspects of energy consumption over the next 30 years.

The North West & North Wales Urological Research Centre (NW2URC) was established by Mr Iqbal Shergill, Consultant Urological Surgeon from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board at the Wrexham Maelor Hospital and Dr Stephen Fôn Hughes, Senior Lecturer in Haematology and Blood Transfusion. The collaboration has provided the opportunity to develop, undertake and promote urological research in using blood tests to predict clinical outcome and post-operative complications. NW2URC has also established a further collaboration with Mr Manit Arya and his medical team at the Department of Urology at University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.



The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP with Professor Graham Smith, at the Thornton Science Park.



Professor Nick Avis, Adrian Lee, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP.

Primary school teaching students joined forces with Manchester Camerata to produce an imaginative new musical work exploring the legacy of the civil rights movement. Performed at Chester Cathedral, *I Have a Dream* looked at the American movement and its effect on Chester's sister city in Pennsylvania, where Dr Martin Luther King Jr attended seminary college. More than 100 young people from seven Cheshire West and Chester primary schools worked with student associate teachers and Camerata artists and musicians to create a new mini-opera. This performance was the latest event in the long-standing partnership between the University and Manchester Camerata, which was established to develop primary student teachers' skills in teaching music. Camerata's Head of Learning and Participation, Nick Ponsillo, said: "We're very proud to be working so closely with the University and Faculty of Education and Children's Services at the formative stage of student teachers' careers. Camerata firmly believes that creative learning through music across the curriculum should be at the very core of learning in school, and projects like this are a great way for students not only to see learning in action from the child's perspective, but also to take an active role in the learning experience."

Leading businesses from across Cheshire were honoured at the prestigious High Sheriff's Awards for Enterprise ceremony at Chester Town Hall and the audience included business leaders, sponsors, judges and finalists. The guest speaker was Tom Bloxham MBE, Chairman of Urban Splash Group Ltd, and the current High Sheriff of Cheshire Martin Beaumont introduced the Awards before the results were announced by Fran Hulbert, Chair of the Business Advisory Council for the University. First place went to Aspect Construction Contracts Ltd, from Sutton Weaver. Other category winners were: Overwater Marina Ltd, Audlem (Corporate Social Responsibility); Holmes Chapel-based tyresonthedrive.com (Mornflake Oats Award for Innovation); Delamere Dairy, and Hughes Safety Showers Ltd of Stockport (UKTI Award for Cheshire Business Exporter of the Year joint winners); Charles Hewitt of Rock Chemicals Ltd (Cheshire Business Leaders Award and Outstanding Cheshire and Warrington Business Leader); David Barlow, Barlows (UK) Ltd of Malpas (Cheshire Business Leaders Award, highly commended); Steve Westgarth of Footsqueek (Cheshire Business Leaders Award for the Outstanding Cheshire and Warrington Young Entrepreneur). Terry Hearfield, Financial Director of Aspect Construction, said: "We are thrilled to have received the Award for Enterprise on what was a fantastic and extremely well organised evening. It is truly inspiring to see such a

great number of successful organisations in Cheshire and also their strong association with the University of Chester, whose successful Business School impacts so positively upon the region and its businesses."

Some of Cheshire's most talented poets gathered to celebrate the publication of the 2013 Cheshire Prize for Literature competition's best entries. The selected poems, including those by the winners and runners up, have been published in *Great Escapes: Poems from the Cheshire Prize for Literature 2013* edited by the Chair of the competition's judging panel Dr Emma Rees, Senior Lecturer in English. Each poet was presented with a copy of the anthology by the High Sheriff of Cheshire, Susan Sellers, who thanked the University and MBNA for supporting the competition.

Student nurses and Senior Lecturer in Nursing, Chris Barker joined forces with the Rotary Club of Chester to run a free blood pressure awareness day in the city centre as part of the national campaign, 'Know Your Blood Pressure'. Blood pressure checks were offered as well as advice on blood pressure awareness, atrial fibrillation (irregular heart beat), how to spot the signs of a stroke using the FAST (Face, Arm and Speech, Time) test and guidance on how healthy eating, smoking and alcohol are linked to strokes.



High Sheriff's Awards for Enterprise.



High Sheriff's Cheshire Prize for Literature anthology launch.



Blood pressure testing.



Tai Chi demonstration.

Literature and the Drama of Costume, a newly formed reading group hosted by the Department of English, invited members of the public to informal discussions of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. These events celebrate well-known literary texts and their screen adaptations, highlighting how different costumes can convey different meanings.

Hundreds of people from all aspects of community life came together to mark the achievements of the University with an evening of hospitality and multicultural entertainment. The event, held at the University's Riverside Innovation Centre, was the idea of Abdun Noor, Chair of the Cheshire Asian and Minority Communities Council and Elizabeth Bott MBE, one of the organisation's founder members. Approximately 300 guests attended, including Cllr Mike Jones, Leader of the Council, Cllr Jill Houlbrook, Lord Mayor of Chester, and John Dwyer, Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner. After a series of speeches, the audience watched displays of Indian dance and song, Chinese, Spanish and Middle-Eastern dancing and Tai Chi. At the event, David Briggs OBE KStJ,



Display of Indian dance.

the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, said: "I am enormously proud to be an Honorary Graduate of the University of Chester and it would be difficult to underestimate the positive impact of this University locally, regionally, nationally and increasingly internationally."

Representatives from the University shared their expertise and knowledge at the International Festival for Business (IFB) 2014, together with students from the University's Events Management team. The IFB was the largest global concentration of business events during 2014 and was a key part of the Government's initiatives to rebalance the economy and contribute towards investment and export targets. The University also hosted an IFB breakfast briefing and networking event with the Mersey Dee Alliance, Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire East Council in May at the Thornton Science Park.

In response to the announcement of significant new government funding for English school sport in England, to improve the participation and skills of primary pupils in PE and school sport, the University has been working with Ashton on Mersey Teaching School to develop a new school-led



Russell Kirk with Cllr Jill Houlbrook, Lord Mayor of Chester.

teacher training programme to increase the quality and quantity of PE teachers in primary schools.

The Initial Teacher Training (ITE) team worked closely with a number of North West school alliances in the design and implementation of the School Direct programme. This aims for schools to recruit and educate candidates in the subject and age phases most in need of staff, and to choose how the ITE programme should be delivered in partnership with the University.

An exhibition of work by Chester-based artist Russell Kirk went on public display at the Kingsway Buildings. The exhibition, which was officially opened by the Mayor of Chester, Cllr Jill Houlbrook, and Chairman of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cllr Mike Jones, brought together aspects of Russell Kirk's private and public work and was shown in the Contemporary Art Space Chester (CASC). CASC presents the latest work from the University, as well as at least two major shows from invited artists, to promote contemporary art and inspire students and staff.

The Department of Art and Design, in conjunction with Blue Barn Arts, presented an art exhibition, 'Above and Below' at Yarrangall Green Farm, near Frodsham. Dr Jeremy Turner, Programme Leader of Fine Art, was the main curator of this show, which featured work from more than 20 artists, including staff and graduates and invited artists with a direct association with the Department.

The University's Warrington School of Management launched its new Ignite Business Club at the Warrington Campus, to provide expert support to local businesses through a range of services, including professional workshops and master classes. Attendees at the launch event heard the inspirational story of local entrepreneur, Adrian Lomas, Founder and Managing Director of the award-winning digital agency, Blueleaf, who set up his business from a spare room in his house and grew it into one of the most successful digital agencies in the UK, with a multi-million pound turnover. Another Ignite event was a professional workshop on generating sales through social media led by Warrington School of Management Digital Marketing expert, Tanya Hemphill.



Ignite Business Club event.

The Cheshire and Warrington School Sports Games was hosted by the University to boost participation in competitive sport for young people of all abilities and backgrounds. The Games positively impact on young people's school sport and PE experience and add significant value to the whole school agenda, also providing quality opportunities for future leaders, reporters, commentators, announcers, photographers, musicians and artists to showcase their talent and develop their skills in a live event environment.

As Rugby League World Cup 2013 excitement reached fever pitch, staff and students welcomed the (RLWC) Samoan team to train at the Warrington Campus. The University is a keen player in, and supporter of, Warrington's rugby life. The Samoan team used the world-class facilities developed between the University and Warrington Wolves, while students and staff also played a key role in developing the advertising campaign, which helped lead the town to the successful bid.

Students and staff at the Warrington Campus captured the town's match preparations on film in the DVD entitled *Warrington's World*

The Campus offered excellent facilities as part of a very strong Warrington bid. The consortium clearly laid out its vision and together with staging games in Warrington it was a very easy decision to locate a team base in the town.

Jon Dutton, RLWC Operations Director.

Cup which was premiered at the Pyramid Arts Centre in Warrington. The joint project was funded and researched with Culture Warrington and was initiated, filmed and edited by University staff and students at The Hot Room – the Media Department's production company. The film features cultural aspects of the town's preparations for the RLWC and its impact on Warrington, such as the rugby themed 'Primrose and Blue' dance performance, school children performing the 'Hakka' for the Samoan team and the 'Window on Warrington' production, which involved more than 500 performers from across the town on both international match days. Brendan O'Sullivan, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Media added: "This DVD is just one of the exciting projects being produced by the Hot Room – based within the Department of Media at the University. Much of the work it carries out is within the local community for charitable organisations and local businesses and it offers mutual benefits to our clients and our students. It enables students to work on professional projects in an environment which helps to develop their employability skills and portfolios."



The Samoan Rugby League team.



Partnership agreement with FERA.

Secondary school pupils can now access virtual lessons thanks to a new initiative designed in collaboration with the University. 'LearnerVerse' is a new website from local business Professional Universe, based at the Riverside Innovation Centre, which provides hundreds of lessons, assessments and resources to school students at many different levels. The website has been built by staff and undergraduate students at the Informatics Centre, an on-campus software development business which provides students with industry experience through the guidance of dedicated staff and academics. Abbie Malia, Education Manager of Professional Universe, said: "We decided to approach the Informatics Centre to create our website because it has a very good reputation locally. They are a great group of people who are innovative and were receptive to our ideas. We wanted to create something that could cater for the education and career aspirations of students, which was affordable and easy to use. The Informatics team certainly achieved that!"

A partnership between the University and the Food and Environment Agency (FERA) has been formalised by the signing of a Memorandum



Grosvenor House student accommodation.

of Understanding. The partnership will help to bring novel and emerging technologies to regional businesses from across the food supply chain and complements the University's development as a regional Centre of Excellence in Agri-Food Science and Technology. The University has also become the first higher education institution to link officially with the British Federation of Women Graduates, an organisation set up specifically to support women postgraduates across all areas of academic research.

The Thornton Science Park hosted a day of exciting science events for all the family as part of the new Amazed by Science Festival. This is a Cheshire-wide festival focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, in one of the most science rich areas of the UK.

A new Forest School established at the Warrington Campus was visited by primary school children to learn about nature and woodland through this innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning. The project is led by Deirdre Hewitt, Senior Lecturer



His Grace the Duke of Westminster opening Grosvenor House.

and PGCE Early Years Programme Leader, who has undertaken a Level 3 Forest School Practitioner Programme.

The Chester Studies of Addiction, Recovery and Spirituality Group ran a project designed to facilitate access for people seeking abstinence-based recovery through mutual aid groups such as Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous. Sixteen people in the Wrexham area with substance misuse problems were provided with workshops and support, as well as accompanied access to community-based group meetings. Training on the benefits of Mutual Aid Facilitation was also provided for 60 professionals working with people with substance misuse issues in Wrexham. The success of the project has led to requests to replicate similar projects elsewhere, and another 12-month project has started in Oswestry in partnership with Shropshire Council. These projects use the findings of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies' Higher Power Project which explores the diversity of the language of spirituality in twelve-step mutual aid groups and programmes.

The University's Chancellor the Duke of Westminster officially opened the £9.5m student accommodation block at the heart of the Parkgate Road Campus. His Grace the Duke of Westminster KG CB CVO OBE TD CD DL – after whom the purpose-built residential building is named – was joined by other distinguished guests, including the Rt Rev Dr Peter Forster, Lord Bishop of Chester, and Chester MP Stephen Mosley. Following a speech by the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tim Wheeler, the Duke unveiled a plaque to declare the building officially open. Guests were then taken on a tour of the impressive three-storey building, which was designed by Broadway Malyan and Turner Townsend, and built by construction firm Morgan Sindall.

The Research into Education, Creativity and Arts through Practice (RECAP) Centre has been working with the Frodsham Foundation on its consultation project about the future of the Goods Shed at Frodsham Station. RECAP is pioneering the use of research-based participatory Arts-Based Initiatives to bring local knowledge into practice in a brokerage process focusing on the future use of the deserted building. A team led by Professor Owens and Dr Anne Passila, Visiting Research Fellow from the Lahti School of Innovation at the University of Lappeenranta, Finland, will



The Roma Traveller Project.

work on a consultation process to deliver an 'evocative report' about the future of the premises.

As part of the Roma Traveller Project, a further DVD *Michael's Story* was launched to help raise awareness of issues surrounding Traveller culture with school children. The project is funded by Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Department for Communities and Local Government and has played a significant role in contributing to the development of educational policy and practice in the region. Professor Allan Owens, with Barbara Pickford, from the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service, runs the drama practice-based research project which raises awareness of Traveller lifestyle and allows for dialogue between pupils, teachers, governors, local councillors and the public. RECAP and CWaC disseminated information from the research at the National Association of Teachers of Travellers Conference 2014 in Birmingham.

A new Centre for Ageing Studies has been established within the Faculty of Health and Social Care, led by Professor Paul Kingston, in response to the opportunities and challenges of an ageing world. This was officially launched by Lord Edmiston of Lapworth and a keynote speech was delivered by John Keady, Professor of Mental Health Nursing from the University of Manchester. The Centre aims to promote innovation in health and social care services for older people, bringing together researchers, clinicians and other professionals from a variety of fields, to facilitate research and education.

An evaluation of a pilot initiative, the Post-Placement Adoption Support Service (PPASS), is being carried out by researchers on behalf of Adoption Matters and Caritas Care. The team is led by Elizabeth Harlow, Professor of Social Work, with colleagues from the Faculties of Health and Social Care and Education and Children's Services. The PPASS has arisen from the government's attempts to improve adoption services nationally and this research on the effectiveness of the service is funded by the Department for Education.

Professor Paul Kingston has also brought a research team to the University, alongside 10 honorary medical colleagues, and his work includes the assessment of the 'The rapid assessment interface and discharge (Raid) project' first piloted in 2009 in Birmingham City Hospital. The aim was to assess the impact of on-site psychiatric care in acute hospitals, after research suggested that more than a quarter of patients in general hospitals had a mental illness as well as their physical illness. The research found that Birmingham City Hospital, which has 600 beds, saved 43–64 beds per day by preventing readmissions, while a separate 2013 audit by the London School of Economics estimated that the project saved the Hospital £3.5m. The project proved so successful that all five acute hospitals in Birmingham and Solihull, and those in Telford and Shrewsbury, also introduced a Raid service. The approach has been defined as 'best practice' in the Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health's 2012 guidance on commissioning mental health services.



The launch of the Centre for Ageing Studies.

International

The University continues to enhance its global influence through the ongoing development of links with overseas higher education partners, welcoming 53% more overseas students into the University community, together with the involvement of staff and students in a variety of activities that promote greater understanding of diversity and interaction with other cultures.

The University was nominated by UK Trade and Investment for the North West England China Awards 2014. These are open to companies or organisations in the North West, which have made a significant contribution to developing business or collaborative links with mainland China, Hong Kong, and/or Taiwan. Some of these activities included the formalising of partnerships with Chongqing University of Education; Dalian Institute of Science and Technology; Honder College of Inner Mongolia Normal University; Jiaying Vocational Technical College;

Bazhong Vocational and Technical College; College of Continuing Education of Shanghai University; and Xiamen University of Technology.

The British Council for Business and Engineering has provided six scholarships for Indian students studying at the University, while the original two Commonwealth scholarship students from Ghana and Nigeria have now been joined by another three. The continuing participation in the Brazilian Government's Science Without Borders

Program has resulted in an increase in Brazilian undergraduate students receiving scholarships to study at the University.

Overseas recruitment trips were made to Turkey, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, China, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, India, Pakistan and Norway and these visits have been accompanied by a significant increase in the number of undergraduate and postgraduate student applications.

In order to make arrangements easier for international students, the University now works with nearly 100 recognised overseas education counsellors worldwide, who advise prospective students on UK higher education, assist with the admissions process and provide visa and immigration guidance. An application has been made to the US Department of Education to allow American students to receive federal funding under the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to study at the University. The University and the Bank of China have also established an arrangement whereby incoming Chinese students can set up a UK bank account prior to their arrival. This simplifies and speeds up the process, as typically international students must wait until enrolment and have an established UK residence before they can open an account.

Through the Work Based Learning Integrated Studies (WBIS) programme, Enoch Narteh-Kofi, who had never left his home country until graduation, was able to study completely at a distance to achieve an MSc in Finance and Accounting (WBIS), while living and working in Ghana. Enoch was the only international student in the cohort to gain a distinction in his studies, which earned him the 'Barclays Achievement Award' as an outstanding WBIS student.



Enoch Narteh-Kofi at his graduation.

An international partnership continues with Laksamana College in Brunei for delivery of Computing and Business and Management programmes and courses have also been franchised to KDU University College in Malaysia for September 2015 delivery. A delegation from the Saudi Arabia Cultural Bureau visited the Department of Clinical Sciences and Nutrition, to recognise the MSc in Cardiovascular Health and Rehabilitation programme. The Department of Psychology has embarked on a partnership arrangement with Raffles College, Singapore, which is delivering the Level 6 Psychology degree programme to its students, while programmes continue to be developed at Dimensions College in Singapore.



American students at Thanksgiving.

Developing links with American universities was the aim of Dr Chris Haslam, Pro-Vice Chancellor Corporate Development and the Student Experience, Alexis McLean, Dean of the International Office and Executive Director for Commercial Development and David Balsamo, Dean of Social Science. They met with staff at Mount Ida College, the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University and Antioch University to explore collaborations.

The University completed a significant new Partnership Agreement with the Mountbatten Institute. The Institute works globally with organisations to provide postgraduate education and training opportunities to recent graduates and young professionals, pairing year-long traineeships with evening and weekend classes, to create a unique learning experience for future leaders in international business practice. Initially, this Mountbatten provision with the University consists of an MA in Entrepreneurial Leadership in Global Business, delivered through the WBIS framework for students on high-level internships with London and New York corporate businesses.

International students teamed up with the University's Catering team to give fellow students a taste of Thanksgiving on campus. A group of American students helped Executive Chef Lisa Collis to devise a menu to mark this special holiday and Lisa could put her prior experience of working as a chef in New York to good use in preparing the celebratory dinner.

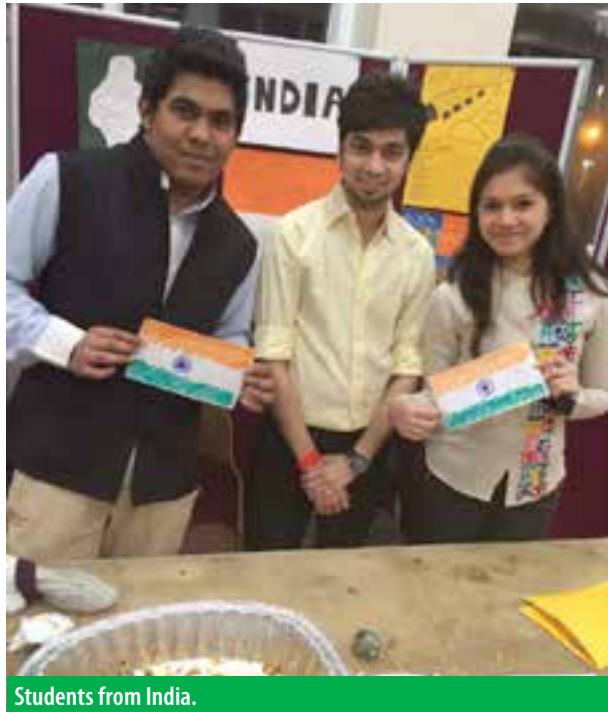
Vice-President for Campaigns and Activities, Savannah Miles, worked with the Chester Students' Union Events Society to bring a celebration of colour and culture to the Chester Campus to launch the Diversity Festival. Stalls representing many of the different nationalities at the University were hosted by student societies, and attendees had the opportunity to taste traditional foods, learn about different cultures, see national dress, listen to music and try traditional dance and games. Savannah said: "This was such a fantastic evening and certainly one of the highlights of my year. Its success was entirely due to the students,



Students from China.



Students from Brazil.



Students from India.

who put so much effort and pride into representing their nationalities, and it was the start of creating a space where home and international students can come together, promote and celebrate a global perspective and internationalisation.”

As part of the Faculty of Health and Social Care’s ongoing support for the Kisiizi Project in Uganda, the first sponsored Master’s degree in Education was achieved by Mary Mubeezi, the former Principal Tutor at Kisiizi Hospital and now Principal Nurse Tutor at Mayanja Memorial Medical Training Institute, Mbarara. Mary achieved her award through a mixture of open learning and studying within the Faculty and, through her membership of national nursing groups, is hoping to use her knowledge to raise the profile and standards of nurse education in Uganda.

Professor Ewan Wilkinson (Community Health and Wellbeing) visited Uganda and Ethiopia as part of his involvement with the charity Jamie’s Fund, which is working with mental health practitioners to improve facilities and education, as well as providing assistance and resources to

improve patient services. He visited a range of hospitals, universities and public health projects, to see the problems faced by clinicians in these developing countries.

Uganda was the destination for Matt Bowen, Faculty of Health and Social Care Co-ordinator, and Ann Bryan, Associate Dean, who visited Mbarara, Makerere and Uganda Christian Universities. This trip built links to develop a future Erasmus+ bid which was endorsed by the Ugandan Nursing Council. They also discussed future collaborative projects at Butabika School of Mental Health Nursing, Kampala, Kisiizi Hospital and Busoga University to discuss future collaborative projects.

Professor Vimal Sharma (Postgraduate Medical, Dental and Interprofessional Education) and Matt Bowen (Senior Lecturer, Mental Health and Learning Disability) delivered Global Mental Health Training to mental health professionals at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, and Vimal discussed further dissemination of the Global Mental Health Assessment tool with the Dean of the Medical School at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.



Jamie’s Fund project at Kisiizi Hospital, Uganda.



Mary Mubeezi with Ann Bryan.



Ugandan school children.

Working in collaboration with nine EU and 10 non-EU universities, Dr June Keeling, Postgraduate Tutor, and Matt Bowen were successful in securing a Medical University Alliance (MEDEA) Action 2-Erasmus Mundus Partnership bid of 3.2m Euros for administrative and academic staff in the field of health studies to take part in a one-month foreign university exchange, to develop co-operation, curricula, knowledge and research. Faculty of Health and Social Care administrators Steve Barlow and Gemma Denise and lecturers Pauline Alexander and Val Ebrahimi went on an Erasmus exchange visit to the University of Turku, Finland, while two lecturers from Tampere University visited the Faculty on a lecturer exchange.

Mary Steen (Professor, Midwifery and Reproductive Health) visited University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, where she gave a public lecture on 'Making normal birth a reality' to more than 1,000 people, and two guest lectures to obstetricians and nurse-midwives. Mary is now a visiting professor at Port Harcourt, where a professorial chair has been endowed in her name, and Adjunct Professor of Midwifery at the University of South Australia in Adelaide.

Dr Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova, Lecturer in Journalism, gave a guest lecture on children and the media at Lomonosov Moscow State University in

Russia and visited a number of Russian media organisations in Russia, as part of research funded by the International Research Excellence Awards through the Santander Universities agreement. A similar award supported Dr Simon Roberts's fieldwork for a research project examining the use of networked communication among the Welsh-speaking population of Patagonia in Argentina.

A series of events to celebrate Chinese New Year was organised by Dr Haili Ma, Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies in the Department of Modern Languages. These included a cooking competition and Chinese lantern making. Some of the events were held in collaboration with the Chinese Students and Scholars' Association.

As part of her Project Earth initiative, alumna Isabel Arbonés, with support from University staff, hosted a group of 23 Spanish children and their teachers, who participated in leisure, cultural and nature activities. The visit was the second in Isabel's innovative scheme, in which primary school-age children visit the UK to take part in activities to help develop mutual tolerance and appreciation for different cultures. The trip also involved local families, primarily parishioners

from St Columba's and St Werburgh's Churches in Chester, who looked after the children during their stay.

The Unit for Trans-Professionalism in the Public Services has gained funding of 4.5m Euros from the EU Framework 7 Project, to work with a range of public and private sector partners in Europe, including local authorities in Lisbon and Corsica. The Population Alerting: Linking Emergencies, Resistance and Training project seeks to build a database on how authorities co-ordinate responses across professions and public bodies when faced with crises.

A British Academy funded project is comparing the differing cultural values that underpin teacher education in the Middle East (Palestine) and England (Cheshire) through the exploration of the values, attitudes and perceptions of teacher educators and student teachers in relation to creative pedagogies. This involved Professor Jeff Adams, Emma Godding and Lynn Sampson visiting Bethlehem University and An Najjar University, while Dr Hala Ali Rashed and Duaa Quirie returned to Chester to conduct research, participated in a meeting of Research into Education, Creativity and Arts through Practice and hosted an event to raise awareness of the situation of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.



The Erasmus health studies exchange.



Dr Haili Ma, with students Léa Auffredou and Emma Wighton.



Spanish children celebrating their mini-graduation.

The Drama Connecting People project, funded by the EU Life Long Learning Programme, aims to connect adult educators, performing artists and the adults with whom they work, through intercultural participatory drama approaches. Experts, developing drama practitioners and newcomers working together will develop a strong network connecting five formal, non-formal and informal adult educational institutions from the UK, Germany, Finland and Estonia to promote wellbeing and social inclusion in Europe at the individual, community and societal levels.

A Swedish Youth Literature course was run in Chester for 30 students of Linköping University in Sweden. They spent one week at the University of Chester and a second week working in partner schools. A study enrichment week was held for postgraduates in Prague, who experienced working at Charles University and in schools in the downtown district.

With partners from Germany, Estonia and Finland, the Drama Connecting People project is exploring the use of drama to reconnect marginalised groups with society in European countries. Funded by a European Grundtvig grant this is a two-year project which features a conference in each partner country.



Professor Allan Owens in Finland.

The work of Dr Peter Cox, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, on cycling and sustainability studies, has been recognised by the award of an International Academic Fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust. This is allowing Peter to spend six months at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, a global leader in sustainability studies, working on 'Developing cross-disciplinary research into bicycling and the environment'. This fellowship follows guest lecturing at the University of Vienna supported by Erasmus funding, and addressing conferences in Salzburg, Munich and Tutzing. Further European collaboration took place through the visit of a Dutch scholar, Henk Lenting, who was conducting a comparative study on Dutch and English cycle commuting.

Professor Fabrizio M Ferrari, Professor of Religious Studies and South Asian Religions, travelled to the University of Padua in Italy through the Visiting Scientist scheme. He collaborated with the Department of Historical, Geographical and Antiquity Sciences on a research project on bodily dynamics and alternative ethics in animal ritual sacrifice.

Closer research links and a postgraduate exchange programme for Cardiovascular Health and Rehabilitation were forged with Wake Forest



Drama workshop in Finland.

University in North Carolina. Respective visits took place between Professor John Buckley in the Department of Clinical Sciences and Professor Peter Brubaker from Wake Forest. A pilot exchange took place for two US students, who were able to use the linked cardiac rehabilitation services.

Derek France, Professor of Pedagogy in Geographical Sciences, has been appointed as a William Evans Visiting Fellow at the University of Otago, New Zealand's oldest university. This fellowship will build upon a three-year national research project with the Higher Education Academy to enhance fieldwork learning and will enable Professor France to share his expertise in digital technology.



Professor Derek France in New Zealand.

CASE STUDY

Ise Brogeland

A dancer since the age of 15, there were not many opportunities in her native Norway for recent graduate Ise Brogeland to study Dance at a Higher Education level, and with close connections to England it was perhaps inevitable that she would choose to study a degree somewhere in the United Kingdom.

Although she had a wide choice when considering her study options, Ise was completely won over from the day she auditioned for a place on the Dance degree at the University's Kingsway Buildings, home to the Department of Performing Arts and the Faculty of Arts and Media. Ise, who hails from Moi, said: "It was definitely the atmosphere of the place and the lecturers that made me want to study here. The audition really did it for me; I had such a fun experience that day, the Department staff were amazing and I got the feeling that it was absolutely the right place for me."

During her three years of study, Ise took advantage of the many opportunities available to her and was able to use her spring term break to lengthen the duration of her Work Based Learning module and fulfil a two-and-half-month internship with the New York-based dance company, Body Collider Dance.

She said: "I was given so many opportunities to perform and share work and I received a

lot of support from the Department to apply to perform at different festivals, so I was able to share my own work during my whole time at University."

Having been awarded the University's Valedictory Prize for Dance, Ise went on to gain a First in her degree and has since embarked upon a Master of Arts degree at the University of Chichester. She has also joined Mapdance, Chichester's graduate dance company which tours nationally and internationally, after successfully applying for its Enterprise Scholarship.

She added: "The Department really helped me to develop as a performer. One of my favourite things about studying at Chester was that I was really given the space to develop, in my own time. I could be myself, but at the same time was encouraged to push my limits and achieve the goals I wanted. And of course, I've made friendships that will last forever."



Honorary Graduates

The impressive graduation ceremonies in Chester Cathedral are enhanced by honouring the contributions of prominent figures in local, national and international contexts who are welcomed into the University community.



The Rt Hon the Lord Baker of Dorking CH
Doctor of Letters

Kenneth Baker was a Conservative Member of Parliament from 1968 until 1997, before entering the House of Lords. His Cabinet posts included Environment Secretary, Education Secretary and Home Secretary. As Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker introduced his Great Education Reform Bill which revolutionised English education. Lord Baker is currently spearheading University Technical Colleges (UTCs) and is Chairman of the Baker-Dearing Educational Trust which coordinates information on UTCs. He is also Chairman of Edge, an educational charity, a Vice-Chairman of the Cartoon Museum and a Trustee of the Booker Prize Foundation. He has published several anthologies of poetry, his memoirs, and books on caricatures.



Canon Dr Christina Baxter CBE
Doctor of Theology

Dr Baxter studied at Durham University and went into teaching, becoming Head of Religious Education. She became only the second woman reader in the Lincoln diocese, completed her PhD at Durham University and became a lecturer at St John's College, Nottingham. She progressed to Dean and then Principal until her retirement in 2012. She has held more than 45 committee memberships at a senior level including: the Federation of European Evangelical Theologians; Standing Committee of the Church of England's General Synod; Joint Chairman of the Anglican Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue; Vice-Chairman, House of Laity of the General Synod; Chair, Church of England Committee for the Ecumenical Decade in Solidarity with Women; Archbishops' Council; Women Bishops Working Party; Bishops' Advisory Panel member and Vice President of the Bible Reading Fellowship Trustees.



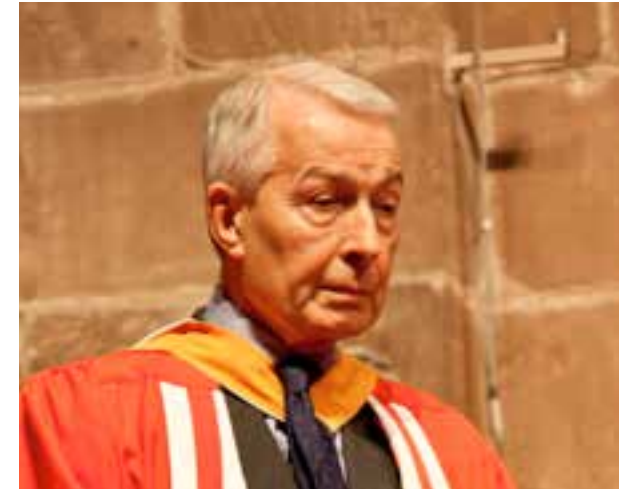
Gillian Burns MBE
Master of Science

Gill Burns trained as a PE and maths teacher at the University in the early 1980s and began playing rugby for Liverpool Polytechnic in 1987. In 1988 she became Captain and made her England debut against Sweden. She has received a world record of 73 England caps, five England Sevens caps, two Great Britain caps and two World XV caps and retired from the sport in 2002. Other rugby-related honours include being the first woman to referee at Twickenham; receiving *The Sunday Times* Sportswomen of the Year Team Award in 1994; winning the *Cosmopolitan* Achievement Award for Sporting Success in 1994; the Sports Writers Association Awards in 1994; and the Sports Personality of the Year Awards (BBC) in 1994. In 1995 she was invited to 10 Downing Street to celebrate the Government's plans for the future of sport and in 1997 to a reception at Buckingham Palace to celebrate Sport in the Life of the Nation. In 1999 Gill was the first woman player to be welcomed into the Rugby Hall of Fame. She was awarded the MBE in 2005 by the Queen for Services to Sport; became a Privileged Member of the RFU in 2012 and was voted Waterloo Rugby Club All-time Hero in 2012.



Avril Devaney
Master of Arts

Avril Devaney from Lancashire became a registered mental health nurse in 1983 and worked in a range of clinical settings prior to joining Cheshire and Wirral Partnership in 2001. She later became Director of Nursing, Therapies and Patient Partnership pursuing her interest in Nurse Leadership and Organisational Change, and is now the Vice-Chair of the National Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Nurse Directors Forum. Avril has received The Queen's Nursing Institute Award for Innovation, a special award to recognise exemplary nursing service and an NHS HERO Certificate. She has presented at major conferences and published in the field of community nursing and mental health. She leads the Trust's Challenging Stigma Campaign and the North West Mindful Employer Network and is Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's link with mental health services at Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda. Avril also founded the Jamie Devaney Memorial Fund in 2011 to support mental health services in Uganda and to create a lasting legacy for her late son.



The Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Doctor of Letters

In 1979 Frank Field was elected Member of Parliament for Birkenhead. Between 1980 and 1981 he served as Shadow Education and Social Security spokesman for Labour under the leadership of Michael Foot. He became Chairman of the Social Security Select Committee and continued in this role up to 1997, accepting the position of Minister for Welfare Reform in Tony Blair's first Cabinet. He then served on the Public Accounts Committee between 2002 and 2005 and led the campaign against the removal of the 10p rate of tax before the 2010 General Election. In recognition of his expertise in the fields of poverty and welfare, he was appointed Chair of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances in 2010. Frank serves as Co-Chair of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration and is a member of several All-Party Parliamentary Groups.



Carrie Ford
Master of Arts

Carrie Ford rode in her first point to point at 16 and had more than 80 winners, with 60 at point to point, 30 under National Hunt rules and some wins on the flat. Carrie retired from racing in 2004 to have her daughter Hannah, but came out of retirement to ride Forest Gunner in the Grand National. Carrie then retired to a full-time post as the Northern Region Education Officer for The British Horseracing Education & Standards Trust. Carrie is involved with the 'Racing to School' initiative which is a free educational programme for pupils and students of all ages. In addition, Carrie has helped to raise more than £100,000 for the Christie Charity through its charity balls.



Fran Hulbert
Doctor of Business Administration

Fran Hulbert is the former Director of Skills Policy at the Northwest Regional Development Agency (RDA). Having been the lead representative for England's nine RDAs for employment, skills and HE, she is experienced in creating links across several Government departments and Treasury on national policy issues in this area, working directly with ministers and the relevant national executive bodies. In her RDA Skills Policy role she was at the forefront of several major interventions such as the initial preparation and decision-making process for the potential move of the BBC to Salford. Fran's extensive career has included teaching lecturing, curriculum and professional development at a national level, senior management posts in further and higher education, quality assurance, change management, regional economic development and policy formulation.



The Rt Hon Lord Hunt of Wirral MBE
Doctor of Letters

Lord Hunt of Wirral is Chairman of the Financial Services Division of the international commercial law firm DAC Beachcroft LLP, having been a partner since 1969 and senior partner from 1995 to 2005, specialising in regulatory law. David led the legal teams on the report for the Law Society on the future regulation of solicitors and also the first independent review of the Financial Ombudsman Service. He is Non-Executive Chairman of McDonald's Education Company and Vice President of the Holocaust Educational Trust. He chairs the Press Complaints Commission, the Lending Standards Board and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. He has been in Parliament since 1976, having spent 21 years in the House of Commons as MP for Wirral and from 1983, for Wirral West. He was a minister in successive governments from 1979 to 1995, having served in both Margaret Thatcher's and John Major's Cabinets. He has been a member of the Privy Council since 1990.



Matthew Langridge Master of Science

Matthew Langridge was born in Crewe and grew up in Northwich. In 2001 he was the first ever junior British oarsman to win Gold in the single sculls event in the Junior World Rowing Championships. Later that year, he broke the British Indoor Rowing record for 2,000m in the J18 category. He won his first senior vest in 2003 and raced in the men's squad at the World Championships in Milan, where the crew qualified for the Athens Olympic Games. His medal tally includes Olympic Silver and Bronze; two World Championship Golds and a Bronze; seven World Cup Golds, two Silvers and a Bronze and a Junior World Championships Gold. Matthew is now based in Henley-on-Thames where he trains under the sponsorship of UK Sport.



Martin Lewis Doctor of Business Administration

Martin Lewis, Money Saving Expert, is an award-winning campaigning TV and radio presenter, newspaper columnist and best-selling author. He founded MoneySavingExpert.com in 2003. He has his own TV programme – *The Martin Lewis Money Show* and is resident expert on programmes such as *Daybreak*, *This Morning* and Radio 2's *Jeremy Vine*. Martin has worked on campaigns to reclaim bank charges, PPI and Council Tax and is currently campaigning for financial education in schools. He has been Consumer Journalist of the Year, Citizens Advice Consumer Champion, is a governor of the London School of Economics and founder and patron of the MSE Charity. When MSE joined the MoneySuperMarket group, Martin used some of the proceeds to set up a £10m charity fund and he primarily aims to focus on his passions for financial education, improving mental health and debt policy.



Professor Philip Love CBE, DL Doctor of Letters

Philip Love is a Scot who came to Liverpool in 1992 to take up the post of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, a position he held until he retired in 2002. He was on the Council of Universities UK between 1996 and 2002 and Chairman of the Universities and Colleges Employers Association between 1995 and 2002. He held various posts in Scotland, such as President of The Law Society of Scotland, Commissioner of the Scottish Law Commission, Vice-Principal of the University of Aberdeen and a practising solicitor and a member of The Society of Advocates in Aberdeen. Since 1992 he has been Chairman of The Mersey Partnership and Trustee of Liverpool Charitable and Voluntary Services, St George's Hall Trust, Trustee of Merseyside Police and High Sheriff's Charitable Trust, Liverpool Philharmonic Foundation and a Governor of Liverpool College. He has been a Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside since 1997 and was High Sheriff of the County in 2007–2008.



Louise Minchin
Doctor of Letters

Louise Minchin presents BBC One's *Breakfast*, is a guest presenter on BBC *Radio 5 Live* and a reporter on *The One Show*. Before joining *Breakfast* full time in 2012, Louise was one of the BBC News channel's main presenters and regularly presented the BBC's *One O'Clock News*. Away from news, Louise has presented five series of *Missing Live*, her own daytime series commended in Parliament for its work in reuniting families and five series of *Real Rescues*. She is an ambassador for the BBC's 'Share Take Care' campaign to improve internet safety and was one of 12 celebrities who took part in the BBC's *Around the World in 80 Days* for Children in Need. Other charities supported by Louise include the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Sense and AfriKids.



Colin Parry OBE, JP
Doctor of Letters

Colin Parry is well known for his work as Chairman of the charitable organisation which he founded, The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace. He is a tireless campaigner for peace and has become a prominent authority and speaker following the tragic events of the IRA Warrington bombing in which his son was killed. His efforts helped the progress of the peace process in Northern Ireland. Awards include OBE in 2004 and Rotary International's most prestigious award for 'World Understanding and Peace'. An inspired networker and communicator, Colin runs his own coaching and leadership development company. He has written widely on the subject of peace, having many first person pieces published in national and regional media, and he wrote the book *Tim: An Ordinary Boy*. Colin also hosted his own television series, *An Interview with Colin Parry* on Granada Television, in which he interviewed a wide variety of guests.



David Pickering FCA, DL, FIoD
Doctor of Business Administration

Born into a farming family near Chester, David Pickering qualified as a Chartered Accountant in Chester and is a Fellow of the Institute of Directors and Deputy Lieutenant of Cheshire. Until retirement, David was a Director of Meadow Foods Ltd, one of the UK's most successful independent dairy processing companies. His community positions include Trustee of Chester Zoo; Chair of Food Cheshire; and Sexton at Hope Church. He has been a Cheshire County Councillor, President of Chester Business Club; President of Chester City Club; President, City of Chester Conservative Association and Chair, Chester Cathedral Council. He recently retired as a Member of Council of the University after 15 years. Other achievements include running a marathon and cycling from Rome to Chester for local charities.



John Timpson CBE
Doctor of Business Administration

John Timpson was educated at Oundle and the University of Nottingham and now lives in Cheshire. After a six-month Graduate Training Scheme with C & J Clark at Street, he joined the family footwear business William Timpson Limited, becoming the Director responsible for buying in 1970. Following an acquisition by the UDS group in 1973 John Timpson progressed to become Managing Director of the original family business and grew it to be a family business with more than 800 branches nationwide with a turnover of £150m and profits of more than £10m. His community positions include Trustee at Uppingham School and until its merger with the NSPCC, ChildLine and chair of governors for numerous institutions. He has written two books, is a regular contributor to magazine and newspaper columns and is much in demand for speaking engagements. In 2004 he was awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for Services to the Retail Sector.



Beth Tweddle MBE
Doctor of Science

As Britain's greatest female gymnast, Beth's achievements include being an Olympic Bronze Medallist, a triple World Champion, a six-time European Champion, a Commonwealth Champion and seven-time consecutive National Champion. Since starting at the age of seven, Beth has helped to reinvent British gymnastics and her achievements place her in the 'greatest of all time' category within her sport. In 2007, she graduated from Liverpool John Moores University with a 2:1 in Sports Science and subsequently studied Physiotherapy at the University of Liverpool. Having now retired from competitive gymnastics she is a director and ambassador of Total Gymnastics, which was set up in conjunction with fellow Olympian, Steve Parry, to help develop the sport around the country.



Neil Young
Master of Arts

Neil Young was appointed Manager of Colwyn Bay Football Club in 2008 with Assistant Manager Gary Jones and in two seasons they had secured promotion to the Northern Premier League Premier Division. He left Colwyn Bay and became the first Manager of newly formed Chester FC which developed after the demise of Chester City. Following an appeal to reassign the Club to the higher level Northern Premier League Division One North, they immediately established themselves at the top of the division with a 12-point lead. Following a successful season in 2012/13, Neil was granted an 18-month sabbatical from Mersey Rail Electric allowing him to commit to football full time. The Club then went on to win 12 straight games, the league title, and broke several league records. Neil saw Chester win three championships 'on the bounce', six trophies and four promotions in five years and was Manager of the Year for Conference North Division for 2012/13.

Alumni

The skills and knowledge gained at the University inspire alumni to succeed in a diverse range of careers, whether establishing innovative new businesses or working for others.

A new user-friendly alumni website (www.chester.ac.uk/alumni) has been launched to allow former students to register to take full advantage of the many features which include photo galleries of graduation and campus pictures. There is a whole host of member benefits, together with the opportunity to download the latest copy of the alumni magazine, *The Cestrian*.

The Alumni and Development team welcomed alumni back to Chester for a drinks reception before the professorial inaugural lecture of Dr Rowan Williams in Chester Cathedral. Alumni and Development Manager, Fiona Roberts, said: "We are always delighted to meet with former students whenever we can, and it is wonderful to share their experiences of life at the University, as well as to update them with all the latest developments."



The Warrington students ladies' hockey team.

Alumni were able to compete against present students in two sports tournaments at the Warrington and Parkgate Road campuses. Almost 50 former students took part in the Warrington Old Boys and Girls sports event, competing in netball, basketball, football and hockey, where alumni teams won every match apart from basketball. At the Parkgate Road Campus, similar numbers competed with triumphs for the alumni ladies' basketball and netball teams, but the current students fought back to win football, men's basketball and hockey.

A couple who met at Chester College in the 1970s moved across the Atlantic to pursue a life of adventure in Canada. Dave Watt came to Chester College in 1974 to study PE and married fellow student Brenda in 1978. He taught in the UK before the family moved to Canada in 1982. Dave and Brenda worked at a residential centre for 'Emotionally



Rocky Mountain Adventure Medicine Inc.

Challenged Youth' before Dave jointly set up a travel company running adventure trips. He then trained as an Emergency Medical Technician and became a volunteer with the local ambulance service which led Dave and Brenda to start their own company 'Rocky Mountain Adventure Medicine Inc'.

The Cestrian Alumni Award helped a lecturer and two students to compete at international competitions in their respective sports. Senior Lecturer in Clinical Sciences and Nutrition Dr Ceri Nicholas, qualified for both the World Championships in Canada and the European Triathlon Championships in Austria, giving added dimension to her teaching and research as a sports physiologist/nutritionist. Mathematics students Jessica O'Neill and Dale King-Evans were also selected to be part of the Team GB squad to play Quidditch at the Global Games in Canada.

Achieving a degree in Events Management and receiving business support to develop her concierge and events company were the rewards



Recipients of *The Cestrian* Alumni Award.

for recent graduate Stacey Koks. Stacey's passion for events management began after prior hospitality work on Jamie Carragher's testimonial match and associated events which raised around £1.3m for charity. She fast-tracked her own business idea after attending Accelerate, a Venture 3 intensive programme event at the Riverside Innovation Centre, and her company Kohst Events Management now uses expert local knowledge to deliver bespoke events.

A collection of contemporary art created by alumni of the Department of Art and Design was showcased at the new Contemporary Art Space Chester gallery at the Kingsway Buildings. The showcase of new and original degree work from Fine Art graduates over the past decade included a strong mixture of sculptural, photographic and painted works incorporating various styles, techniques and media. The artists travelled from the UK and overseas to take part in this special occasion and talk to current students.

Just over 10 years after graduation, Business Information Systems alumnus, Oliver Yeates, was crowned the North West's Digital and Media Entrepreneur of the Year for 2013; the latest in an already long line of



Alumni art exhibition.

accolades. The entrepreneur was awarded the title after being nominated for the award by one of his employees at Clicky Media, a Digital Marketing Agency based in Chester which designs, builds and promotes websites and mobile applications.

Tom Pinfold, a 2012 MA Military History graduate, was the newest presenter on the six-part factual series for BBC Two, *Tudor Monastery Farm*. During the programme, Tom experienced what it was like to live as a tenant farmer in 1500, during the reign of the first Tudor king Henry VII, and was able to explore the farming methods which would have been typical to that period.

Haylo Theatre, a company formed by Drama and Theatre Studies graduates, Louise Evans and Hayley Riley, received an impressive endorsement from renowned playwright, John Godber, when he reviewed the alumnae's self-penned production, *Over The Garden Fence*. Mr Godber spent two days with the graduates giving them a writing master class and helping them finely tune their production before they headed back on the road with their tour of the play. Hayley, who graduated in 2012, said: "John gave us some great advice on writing and it's given us a real confidence boost, that someone of his calibre has



Oliver Yeates.

been so encouraging about what we're doing — it was such an amazing opportunity for us so early in our company's life."

Tom Whitley, Sam Cooper and Matt Smee met at the University in 2004. Today the trio run their own successful Cheshire-based sustainable business, growing natural food and working to educate children about the importance of real food. The company aims to implement positive change across food production, education and health in Cheshire by growing the highest quality produce in its commercial greenhouse and field, using low impact, organic techniques. The 'Veg Men' also work actively within educational settings, ensuring that children are equipped with a comprehensive understanding of food when they leave school.



Tom Pinfold in *Tudor Monastery Farm*.
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Senior Management

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Mr Richard Waddington • BA (Newcastle), MBA (Chester), ACMA

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Deputy President – Canon Jeff Turnbull

Secretary to the University Council – Mr Adrian Lee

Mrs Christine Allen BEM

Miss Katie Badman – Chester Students' Union (to 31-7-14)

Mr Francis Ball

The Rev Dr Lesley Cooke – Staff (to 10-09-13)

Mr Colin Daniels

His Honour Judge Elgan Edwards DL

Mr John Evans

Professor John Fisher

Ms Karen Fisher – Staff

Professor Neville Ford – Staff

Professor Michael Hoey (to 23-03-14)

Ms Jill Jones (to 11-10-13)

Dr Keith McLay – Staff

The Very Rev Professor Gordon McPhate

Mrs Cathy Maddaford

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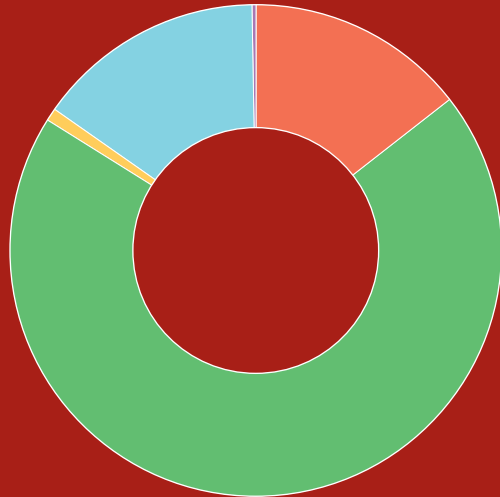
Ms Anna Sutton – Staff (from 11-09-13)

Mrs Sandra Verity

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Canon Professor Tim Wheeler DL, Vice-Chancellor

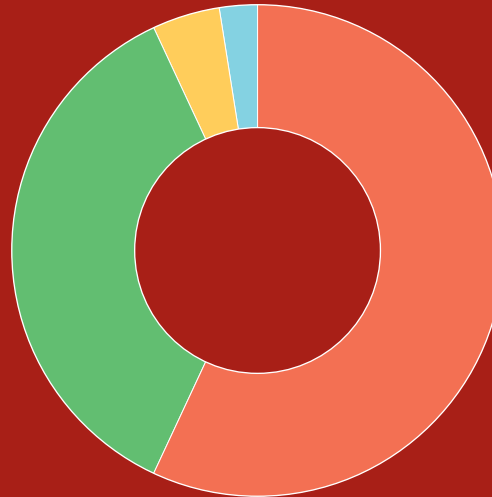
Financial Results 2013–14



Income 2013–14*

14.69%	Funding council grants	15,349,137
69.44%	Tuition fees and support grants	72,535,589
0.77%	Research grants	801,345
15%	Other operating income	15,662,745
0.1%	Interest receivable	115,547

Total income **104,464,363**



Expenditure 2013–14

57.15%	Staff costs	54,452,625
36%	Other operating expense	34,294,183
4.57%	Depreciation	4,355,739
2.28%	Interest payable	2,176,919

Total expenditure **95,279,466**

*For 12 months ending 31-07-14

Retained surplus on continuing operations for the year **9,184,897**

Credits

Editorial: Corporate Communications

Design: Graphics, Learning and Information Services

Photographs: Media Services, Learning and Information Services; University of Chester staff and students, unless otherwise stated.

Front cover photograph by Tom Robinson.

Aerial photograph of Parkgate Road Campus courtesy of Jefferson Air Photography.

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I had a fantastic time over my three years at Chester. Not just with the course I was studying, but all the extra-curricular activities that come with being at University. As the Chair of the Debating Society, I was involved in hosting many large events, including hustings which appeared on the BBC. I also had the incredible opportunity to volunteer on Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign in Ohio and was able to meet him and other notable icons, such as Jesse Jackson Jr. The course I was studying was very interesting and compelling and, although it was challenging at times, the staff were always there to



help. The community feel you experience when studying at the University of Chester makes it unique. It is a University where individuals count.

Alex Cordery, Politics and Geography graduate
Now assistant to the Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP



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