From Salford
The University of Salford Alumni Magazine

Issue 02
Autumn/Winter 2009

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Asda CEO
Back at Salford
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plus all the latest alumni news...
We know where you live...

You are part of the Salford Alumni Association for life. Your time at the University is an important part of your past but maintaining links with the institution could help you now and in the future.

From social networking and attending events, to career networking and continuing professional development, to simply talking with friends and colleagues about all the exciting developments at the University, you can choose to maintain your relationship with Salford however suits you best.

Even more good news is that soon you will be able to engage in all these activities via our new website, exclusively for Salford alumni, Salford Supporters Online. We’ll be in touch when we launch the website at the end of the year so in the meantime, please make sure you keep your address and email contact information up to date at www.salford.ac.uk/alumni/update

And for those of you who would like the opportunity to come back on campus, ‘Fond Memory Fridays’ are available almost every Friday throughout the year. Sit down for lunch and be taken on a walking tour of the campus – all free of charge.

We cater for all group sizes, so all you need to do is get your group together and pick the Friday that’s best for you. Don’t forget that we can help to put you back in touch with old class mates. To arrange your reunion or find old friends, email us at: alumni@salford.ac.uk

You can now keep up to date with all alumni news and events on Twitter. Follow us at www.twitter.com/SalfordAlumni
The University of Salford Alumni Magazine

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From Salford

Founder's Letter

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of your alumni magazine and learning even more about how your university is an institution to be proud of. As our alumni you are the University’s most valued ambassadors. You are part of the Salford community for life. So please remember to keep in touch, come back to campus as often as you can or look out for an event in a city near you. Your continued relationship with the University is very important to us – we wish you all the best for your continued success.

V. Hayhurst

Welcome Vice-Chancellor, From Salford

On 1 August 2009, the University welcomed into post your new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin Hall. A distinguished archaeologist, whose career has spanned decades of political and social transformation in South Africa, Professor Hall joins us from the University of Cape Town where he was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. From Salford caught up with him to get his thoughts on the past, present and the future of your University.

“Salford is a university with huge potential. It offers unique opportunities in Higher Education because of its focus on engagement with the community combined with excellence in teaching, research and scholarship.

“Salford is in a unique position to be able to significantly develop those areas. It can become a new sort of university with its late

Editor’s Letter

To those of you who graduated this July, congratulations and welcome, From Salford. And to the rest of you, welcome back!

It has been a very exciting year for the University since the last edition of From Salford. We've consolidated plans for the transformation of the campus and confirmed our presence at MediaCityUK; we've won awards for our teaching and research; and we've even found time to appoint a new Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor!

From Salford brings you all this news and more, as well as the usual alumni updates about people you may have known whilst you studied here or are still in touch with since you graduated.

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“From the state of public finances in the United Kingdom, reduction of government funding is inevitable. We will try and counterbalance that through a combination of improved efficiencies from alternative income. But, the most important thing is that we don’t cut off investment. I want to see the university shift towards an ever-increasing proportion of its expenditure directed towards teaching and learning. I think we’re achieving that.

“MediaCityUK is a major coup for us. To win the bid for Salford and for the Media City campus is critical and we should be very proud of the achievement of winning that. The trick now is to design it in such a way that it really realises that potential. I see it as a destination. It’s a place where our people from all four faculties can rub shoulders with media leaders.

“In terms of my background, archaeology is very good training for work in university administration because the art of archaeology is about digging a deep hole and then getting yourself out of it! Which just about summarises the challenges of any leadership position. I’m particularly interested in Salford as the heart of the industrial revolution and I’m fascinated by being here.”

“19th century tradition: that richness of the past and traditional excellence and the new developments such as MediaCityUK and key partnerships in health care management and science and technology are a chance for it to recreate its leading edge.

“The key strategic issue is how we focus on expertise, get intensely engaged locally, but at the same time gain the international recognition that our staff, students and alumni deserve. The main vision for the university is to really highlight the quality of what we do, and to improve that quality so it gets recognition internationally and locally.

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In the last edition of *From Salford*, we told you about initial plans for the multi-million pound investment programme for the University. We’re pleased to report that plans are still on track and gathering momentum as we strive to make your university one of the best in the UK – read on to find out how...

Budgets have been approved and include the following key areas of investment:

- **£5.3 million in 2009/10 for new jobs** – the recruitment in September of 55 academic posts, including several at professorial grade, to meet the increasing demand in student numbers and deliver our Media City initiative (read more about this on page 9). In addition, there will be a small increase in roles in Professional and Administrative Services.

- **£30 million of capital costs, together with an £8 million grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and a further £5.4 million of recurrent expenditure to cover the running costs of Media City**

- **£97 million of capital investment over the next three years – this is part of the overall Campus Masterplan (more detail below) and includes an arts, media and social sciences building on the Peel Park campus, a new community and university sports and leisure facility, new student accommodation, a significant investment in improving the IT infrastructure performance and resilience, and various refurbishment programmes.**

Professor Martin Hall, Vice-Chancellor, said: “This investment is excellent news for our students, our employees and for the regional economy. Our investment in academic posts alone is probably one of the most significant investments in people of any university at this present time.”

Despite a very difficult economic climate, the measures the University has taken over the last year have put it in a strong budgetary position. Competition in the higher education sector internationally has never been so challenging and with the current economic conditions it is set to get even tougher. However, thanks to the groundwork already done in the past 12 months, the University of Salford is ahead...
of the game and continues to prosper and develop in this extremely challenging environment.

And that’s not all – over the next ten years the University is planning to invest half a billion pounds improving the University’s estate to ensure that Salford and its people reap the benefits of a beautiful, prosperous and vibrant campus environment. Here is just a snapshot of the work that is involved in the University’s masterplan:

### A hidden gem

Steeped in history, famously painted by LS Lowry, and considered to be the world’s first ever public park, Peel Park has the potential to be brought back to life as one of the most vibrant and attractive inner-city havens in the UK. We think that such a picturesque, green space should be appreciated by as many people as possible. That’s why our vision is to construct new environmentally sustainable buildings that directly overlook and cascade down into the Park, encouraging a new level of interaction between the public and the University.

### 24 hour buzz

Our ambitions for a vibrant new university campus are for much more than a regular ‘nine to five’ working and learning environment. We’re so excited by the possibilities for extending the buzz on campus and enhancing the student experience, we plan to boost the population – creating a busy 24-hour student village that will benefit both the University and the local community. The knock-on effects will be hugely positive – improved safety, greater social interaction, and an economic boost. We realise the current student accommodation isn’t located to the best advantage of students and local residents. Our vision is to move out of Castle Irwell student village on Frederick Road – and in doing so help contribute to the regeneration of Salford for the benefit of local businesses and residents. Based on the existing Northern

Car Park – within easy access of a new Salford Crescent Station and proposed transport interchange – our modern, ensuite accommodation will provide all the facilities students could want for a comfortable, positive living experience at university. It’s also about enabling our students to live, sleep and breathe the university atmosphere. Based at the heart of the positive new campus environment, students will be in easy access of our proactive and responsive staff for study or emotional support. We’re committed to creating a sustainable environment in our student village in order to improve the local economic prosperity and skills.

### Sport for all

We want what the rest of Salford wants. Top quality sports facilities for the whole community to enjoy, a place that fosters healthy living, teamwork and active recreation. We also know that two heads are better than one. Working with the City and other significant partners, we are confident that, together, we can make this vision a reality. Our joint state-of-the-art sports facility will be a place for staff, students and the wider community to share. Where academic researchers and elite athletes will rub shoulders with local residents and workers. Working closely with the City, our vision is for the current David Lewis Playing Fields to be transformed into these new facilities, replacing and improving on our current sports provision at Castle Irwell. Outstanding facilities, varied activities and a welcoming environment will be the hallmarks of the new centre. With opportunities for student placements, employment possibilities for local people, and the promotion of health and wellbeing, the facilities will boost education, economic prosperity, community engagement and health.

Frank Benton, the University’s Executive Director of Estates, said: “Our vision for the campus and surrounding area is simple. We want to remove all barriers between the people of Salford and the University.

“We want to help transform the University campus and its surrounding area into a place which local people and the University can be truly proud.”

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### Your University

Don’t forget that our doors are always open to our alumni and if you live or are near the area, there are many ways that you can make use of our facilities.

The Arts Unit ([www.arts.salford.ac.uk](http://www.arts.salford.ac.uk)) delivers and promotes a wide range of arts events across various venues at the University, showcasing work by visiting professionals and University staff and students. With plays at the Robert Powell Theatre, art at the Chapman Gallery and live music at Peel Hall, there is something for everyone. If you prefer to stay in, you can watch Channel M, which features local interest shows, many of which are produced by Salford students. To catch up with what’s on at the University, go to [www.salford.ac.uk/events](http://www.salford.ac.uk/events).

With an alumni association membership card you are also welcome to use our library facilities, which include access to a wide range of books, journals and magazines, and areas to read and study – for free, for life! You also get reduced rate membership at the gym. If you do not have your alumni card contact us at alumni@salford.ac.uk and we’ll post yours to you.

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The University is doing all it can to invest in your campus and facilities as we strive to become one of the top universities in the UK. But you can help us to open the door for the future generation of raw young talent who are studying at a time of unprecedented economic change and when course fees are at their height.

By supporting the Salford Advantage Bursary fund you could make a real difference to bright students who ordinarily couldn’t have afforded to come here, providing them with the lifelong gift of education.

To help talented young students follow in your footsteps, make a donation online at [www.salford.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.salford.ac.uk/alumni) and click on ‘Support Salford’.

There’s never been a better time to give – until August 2012 all donations will be worth almost double to the University at no cost to you (read more about this on page 12).
News From Salford...

The last 12 months have seen Salford’s presence in the news reach new heights. Read on for just a few highlights that have caught the eye of the national and international press since our last edition of From Salford...

September 2008
Olympic hopefuls come to Salford
Two London 2012 medal hopefuls attended the University’s Human Performance Lab and underwent isokinetic muscle function testing to test muscle strength to kick-start their four-year training plan.

October 2008
Sir David Attenborough visits the University

The legendary broadcaster gave a lecture to students on the new MA Wildlife Documentary Production and other budding filmmakers and naturalists from our Schools of Environment & Life Sciences and Media, Music & Performance.

Salford Dean makes Powerlist 2008
Cynthia Pine, Dean of Health & Social Care, was personally congratulated by Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, as she joined personalities such as footballer Rio Ferdinand, Formula 1 driver Lewis Hamilton and author Zadie Smith, on the Powerlist 2008 – Britain’s 100 Most Influential Black People.

November 2008
Special award for Salford and Channel M partnership
The University’s year of three awards from the Royal Television Society was rounded off with a special award celebrating ten years of partnership and programme making with Channel M.

The Secret Millionaire returns to Salford
Chek Whyte, who appeared on Channel 4’s The Secret Millionaire in Salford in 2007, was the keynote speaker at the University of Salford’s North West Student Enterprise Conference.

December 2008
Salford helps to beat water speed record
Using the University’s wind tunnel facilities, a team of Salford academics helped the British Quicksilver team test the aerodynamics of their craft before they made their water speed attempt on Coniston Water in Cumbria.

Salford research to radically improve solar cells
A new technique which could substantially improve the efficiency, cost effectiveness and durability of thin film solar cell panels is being worked on by Salford scientists.

January 2009
Cezanne, Saatchi and... Salford make best exhibits of ’08
Two Salford students were named in Culture 24’s ‘Best Art Exhibitions of 2008’, alongside showings of such internationally famous artists as Paul Cezanne and Tracey Emin.

UK exclusive for 2009 Oscar nominated film at Salford event
A top European script-writer and a UK exclusive showing of a 2009 Oscar-nominated film was part of a showcase of the best work from Salford students.

February 2009
Whoopee cushion science in aid of Comic Relief
Trevor Cox, an acoustics professor, asked the public to rate the funniness of whoopee cushion sounds in order to advance human understanding of faux flatulence and raise money for Comic Relief.

Student cricketers learn from the pros
Salford students received exclusive hands-on coaching from the Lancashire County Cricket Club players to help celebrate the University’s 12-month sponsorship of the Indoor Cricket Centre at Old Trafford.

March 2009
Government-funded courses launched to help companies beat the recession
Salford Business School launched the Management and Leadership Toolkit – designed to help organisations ‘upskill’ their staff to ensure they are better prepared to ride out the economic downturn.

Salford beats Manchester in dramatic rugby encounter
The inaugural Royal Navy Two Cities RL Varsity Challenge was won by the University of Salford, 11-10.

April 2009
University graduates star in new blockbuster
Salford graduates Sir Ben Kingsley and Jim Sturgess took the leading roles in a new film, Fifty Dead Men Walking.

Sports stars launch £1.5m foot care partnership
Lancashire County Cricket Club top-order batsman, Mal Loye and Salford City Reds centre, Willie Talau helped launch a £1.5m partnership between the University and global foot company Scholl – a deal set to create world-class foot care solutions (read more about this on page 19).

May 2009
Salford’s role in improving world oral health
The University was commissioned by the FDI World Dental Federation and Unilever Oral Care to lead a major evaluation of their public-private partnership to improve oral health across 38 countries.

New research into the experience of Muslim ex-offenders
A new research project from Salford staff has been launched to look into the experiences of Muslim ex-offenders to see how much their faith impacts on their behaviour.

June 2009
£8m grant for University of Salford at MediaCityUK
The University received national endorsement of its plans for innovation in higher education with a grant of £8m for a major presence at MediaCityUK (read more about this on page 9).

MBE for Salford science pioneer
Salford lecturer, Dr Hafifa Takruri-Rizk, was made MBE for her work inspiring women and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) people to take careers in science, engineering and technology.

Salford lecturers orchestrate and conduct Elbow Hallé gig
Joe Duddel, Salford music lecturer, was the brainchild behind Bury band Elbow’s collaboration with Manchester’s Hallé orchestra – and he conducted the sell-out performance live at the Bridgewater Hall.

July 2009
Salford becomes Skillset Media Academy
The University was recognised as a Skillset Media Academy – one of only 19 higher education institutions in the UK to become a centre of excellence in television and interactive media (read more about this on page 9).

Lord Mandelson speaks at Salford-led sustainability conference
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Lord Peter Mandelson, joined business leaders at the major Smart City Futures conference exploring how policymakers can work with universities to build better, more sustainable cities (read more about this on page 16).

August 2009
Specialist Insole to help reduce risk of metatarsal injuries in footballers
As the new Premiership season kicked off, scientists at Europe’s largest School of Podiatry at the University developed an insole that may help prevent the metatarsal injuries that plague many footballers. The Foot Science Insole is already in use at several Premiership and Championship clubs and is the insole of choice for hundreds of podiatrists and physiotherapists across the UK and Europe.

For full details of these stories and more, go to www.salford.ac.uk/alumni and click on ‘news’.

From Salford | Autumn/Winter 2009
The Boat Club II
Written by David Henderson
(BSc Social Studies, 1973)

Returning to Salford for my second year in 1971, the first race of the academic year was the Head of the Float on the Birkenhead docks in December. For some reason, we always entered the clinker division, in a borrowed boat.

By the end of the afternoon, we were sitting at the top of the division. We’d beaten all but one of the restricted boats, and about half of the shells. They gave us a nice big pot for our efforts!

But what really mattered on the day, was the gap between us and one of the crews we didn’t actually beat. Despite the handicap of our boat, we came within four seconds of Manchester University Boat Club’s first eight. Up until then, there had been no grounds for rivalry between the two clubs: they would regularly win the equivalent of Senior 2 or better every year, while we struggled at Novice. Now, in one event, our first eight had won at least a moral victory over theirs. That result gave Roger Vaughan, the Agecroft captain, the idea of staging a Boat Race between the two Universities...

The first boat race attracted a blaze of publicity. A priceless moment: during a training outing on the Bridgewater, a breathless young lady caught up with us at our turning-point. “Are you Salford?” I’m from the BBC. We’re planning to get John Snagge to commentate on the race for the cameras”. In case you haven’t heard of him, he had just retired after half a century as the commentator for the Oxford/Cambridge Race.

On race day, 26th February, we boated in front of a rapidly-growing crowd. A big placard read “Salford rules the waves” (when we got back it said “Salford waives the rules”). TV cameras were much in evidence – they broadcast the whole race on Look North, including footage of a chemist analysing a water sample during the half-way break!

Now all we had to do was win...

The concluding chapter of The Boat Club continues in the next edition of From Salford.

Question Time:
Samantha Siddall

After six years of playing a central character, Mandy Maguire, on the popular screen-based drama, Shameless, Samantha Siddall (BA Performing Arts, 2003) tells From Salford all about her time at the University and her future plans for her career.

Who or what inspired you to apply for your degree at the University of Salford?

I knew I wanted to do a performing arts course and I was undecided as to whether to apply for a drama school or university. But I liked Salford immediately. There was no pretence about it and the main corridor as you walk into Adelphi campus reminded me of the film, Fame! The atmosphere was great.

What did you think of life at Salford?

I absolutely loved it. Initially, I stayed at home in the first year, but then I decided to move into the student halls in my second year and then the fun really started! I made some fantastic friends and really enjoyed the variety the course offered.

What are your fondest memories of your time here?

Tough question that one! I have so many great memories. If I had to pick, I’d say the final performances in the third year were a really exciting time. Everyone worked really hard to produce some fantastic, unforgettable work. Also, the people that I met here are my friends for life. You spend so much time working and living together so we all became very close.

When you finished your degree, how did you go about building your career?

I was part of the showcase that the University offered in my final year. The University booked out a space at The Royal Exchange theatre and I was taken on by a Manchester agent who came to see it. This was a big stepping stone for me. And I did all I could to make sure that I didn’t lose the skills I had learnt at Salford.

How did you get your role in Shameless?

A few weeks after leaving university, my agent put me up for the role of Mandy Maguire. Mandy was a guest artist for one episode – at the time I had no idea I would still be playing her six years on!

What did you learn as part of the cast?

Filming days can be very long and even longer for the crew so you really have to boost each other – hanging around in between takes can really zap your energy. Also, there are some incredibly talented actors on Shameless that have had fantastic careers and it was an honour to be working with them and learning from them too.

Who did you get on with best? Is there any showbiz gossip you can share?

Rebecca Atkinson (Karen Maguire) and I are very close. On my first day on set Rebecca took me under her wing, which I was so grateful for as I was really nervous! As for any showbiz gossip, hmm...if you want real gossip then ask the make-up artists – they get to hear everything!

What’s next for Samantha Siddall?

So many things, I hope. I’d love to do a period drama, something like ‘Larkrise to Candleford.’ I think Julia Sawalha is an incredible actress so it would be great to work with her. Also, I’d like some more stage experience. TV is great, but there’s nothing like the buzz of being on stage in front of a live audience.

How did the University prepare you for life and a career?

I really grew into myself at university. It’s such a big thing leaving home for the first time and Salford was a great place for me to grow up in. Learning about something that I was so passionate about felt like a real privilege.

What advice do you have for recent Salford graduates who are starting out in their career?

Be the best you can be.
It’s been an incredibly busy year for the Faculty of AMSS. Since last August we’ve: seen our alumni star in feature films; relocated design studios; devised courses for government departments; and won countless awards and accolades. Read on for just some of the highlights…

Art & Design

Last year, we were busy relocating our graphic design and visual arts programmes to the Allerton Studios providing much enhanced resources and teaching environment.

Our students and alumni have also been busy winning many awards in the past 12 months – just a few of these are mentioned below:

Adam Hayley (BA Visual Arts, 2008), won the Mooch artist of the year competition for his portrait work on male working class stereotypes. Adam’s work was selected by judges such as Wayne Hemingway, a household name due to the success of his Red or Dead clothing line, and Peter Saville, designer of record sleeves for Factory Records artists, most notably for Joy Division and New Order.

Graphic designers were given the opportunity to help STOP THE TRAFFIK and educate people about the horrors of human trafficking. STOP THE TRAFFIK is a global movement working to combat the fastest growing global crime, people trafficking. They have more than 1,000 member organisations in 50 countries and a grass roots following of ordinary activists around the world. Students were challenged to design a poster in order to raise awareness of human trafficking – the winner was 2nd year student Jason Mayo.

This year’s fashion show was sponsored by Harvey Nichols and other high profile companies indicating the growing national reputation of this highly successful programme. The winner of the Best Collection prize was Ryan Houlton (BA Fashion Design, 2009), who won an exclusive display of his work at Harvey Nichols, Manchester.

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English, Sociology, Politics & Contemporary History (ESPaCH)

ESPaCH had success with the recent RAE. 96% of ESPaCH staff returned four Units of Assessment, with World Class Research confirmed in all four returns:

1. Communication, Cultural and Media Studies
2. English Language and Literature
3. European Studies

We’ve had an excellent year for community and employer engagement activities, contributing to the world around us. Below are just a couple of examples:

The ‘Writing Lives’ project for which we received a Higher Education Funding Council (England) grant to run creative writing workshops in Broughton with a focus on community cohesion. Since the project concluded, the participants have continued to work with staff and have set up their own blog (broughtonwritinglives). Staff have presented research into the project at the Urbis in Manchester, and at Griffith University in Australia.

We have developed short courses for Greater Manchester Police and we have enhanced our reputation for our MA in Intelligence & Security Studies, with an online version entering into partnership with GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters) and Nato to deliver highest level postgraduate provision.

And at the start of the year, Dr Douglas Ford (a lecturer in Military History and member of European Studies Research Institute), was awarded the 2008 Rear Admiral Ernest M Eller Naval History Prize, by the US Naval Historical Centre and the US Naval Historical Foundation, for the best article in a professional journal. The article explains the features which led the US Navy to underestimate the capabilities of the Japanese navy during the interwar years, which prevented the US Navy from developing an effective method of combating the Imperial Japanese fleet.

Languages

The School of Languages hosted a workshop, jointly led by one of our alumni, as part of the publicly funded Routes into Languages National Network for Translation and part of our portfolio of continuing professional development activities. The event included an insight into the profession of freelance translators and focused on one particular area of translation: localisation. The workshop included a practical session where participants could try their hand with the example of the well-known social networking site: Facebook.

We were also involved in the Open School of Languages, a joint public-private project funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families which will provide a new online language-learning service aiming to support initiatives to secure a renaissance of language learning in secondary schools. The Open School will offer a range of highly imaginative pedagogic materials in different languages starting with French, German, Spanish and Mandarin at KS3, with content designed to engage learners, both independently and in the classroom.

Finally, the real-world relevance of our Languages curricula was underscored in December 2009 when a number of our postgraduate Chinese interpreting students were given an opportunity to provide interpreting for participants attending the Workshop on Employability and Entrepreneurship held at the University as part of the Prime Minister’s Initiative (PMI2) Project. The Workshop involved representatives from Salford as well as the East China Normal University, the Harbin Institute of Technology and also, via Skype no less, the Shanghai Jiaotong University!
MediaCityUK: from port to portal

Last year, we told you all about the ambassadorial presence the University will have at MediaCityUK in one of the most prominent buildings currently being built on the waterfront. Now, From Salford can bring you fresh updates about MediaCityUK and how the University is playing a pivotal part in its development.

A world class, multidisciplinary consortium of universities and business led by the University has won funding of £2.72m as the first step in a £40m planned programme to inject a powerful research and innovation ingredient into the MediaCityUK development at Salford Quays.

Funding from a combination of three government Research Councils, coordinated through their Digital Economy Programme, will support the Framework for Research and Innovation in MediaCityUK (FIRM). The core partners in FIRM are the BBC, the University of Cambridge, Goldsmiths University of London, Lancaster University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Northwest Vision and Media and the University of Salford.

MediaCityUK, the second largest construction project in the UK after the Olympics, will include around 2,500 BBC staff from the five BBC national departments moving from London, as well as the BBC’s Manchester-based operations. As MediaCityUK develops, projections have shown that it has the potential to employ around 15,000 people in a range of companies across the media, creative and digital sectors, making a £200m contribution to the regional economy.

The University of Salford’s Professor Peter Barrett is leading the FIRM project. He explained that: “Central to these developments is the creation of a strong open innovation ecosystem. This funding is the first step in a programme of activities that will complement the physical development of MediaCityUK with an enhanced intellectual infrastructure. I am delighted and excited that we have now passed go!”

FIRM is highly unusual in terms of its comprehensive, but open-ended, flexible approach. It will bring together strong technical and social perspectives around major sector challenges, whilst balancing long-term visioning with practical experimentation. This will involve creating a test bed for next generation ICT networks and stimulating joint activity with digital innovators. Outputs will include the creation of new business models for industry. Researchers working with FIRM will ‘model’ the world of tomorrow, using virtual reality to build alternative scenarios, whilst also building on cultural memories.

Given these links, it is not surprising that this has been an exceptionally successful year for many of our students. Once again, the School had a significant presence at the annual Royal Television Society awards, receiving a special award for recognition of long-standing achievements, beating competition from the BBC and Channel 4 in the North West Industry awards, and gaining a highly prestigious nomination to the National Royal Television Society Industry award ceremony in London. Our young student composers were given the chance to write and perform a fanfare for the Salford City Reds. Later, the Adelphi Brass Band played at a match broadcast live by Sky TV.

Our long-standing success in turning out talent in the Performing Arts continued with the success of graduate Jim Sturgess (BA Media & Performance, 1999), who starred in two feature films this year, one of them alongside Salford honorary graduate Sir Ben Kingsley.

At the community level, the Centre for Social Media goes from strength to strength, aided in part by the launch of the UK’s first-ever course in Social Media. In the recent RAE we consolidated our considerable reputation for research in Music, while the quality of our research in Media has made us the leading centre amongst all the North West universities.
A team of researchers from the top-rated, internationally-renowned Research Institute for the Built & Human Environment (read more about this on page 11) are working on a range of activities that will contribute to conflict mitigation and recovery in Sri Lanka.

These activities are planned in support of the European Commission, UK Department for International Development and the World Bank’s objective of supporting conflict affected communities in Sri Lanka, in particular helping Internally Displaced People (IDPs), returnees and host communities. Infrastructure in the North and East of Sri Lanka has suffered from damage and neglect during the war, and from an absence of new investment.

When massive development projects are launched there is a great demand for technically trained manpower. The University of Salford research team is promoting a community-based approach to acquiring construction skills, assisting the process of social reintegration while alleviating poverty.

The problems that the team have encountered in Sri Lanka are manifold, including:
- ineffective, inadequate and conflict insensitive community infrastructure development and reconstruction
- inadequate representation of vulnerable groups in the infrastructure development process (e.g., women, IDPs, ethnic minorities)
- lack of integration of gender considerations into conflict prevention
- need to empower women during post-conflict recovery and mainstreaming women into decision-making and vulnerability reduction
- need to promote ethnically sensitive reconstruction that encourages inter-ethnic coexistence within communities
- informal non-state actors with inadequate construction skills and knowledge to support and deliver infrastructure development and reconstruction
- inability of non-state actors to influence policies and plans that affect local infrastructure development and reconstruction
- inadequate capacity and understanding among state actors on community infrastructure development and reconstruction requirements and
- inadequate inter-community participation in infrastructure development and reconstruction activities.

Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga and Dr Richard Haigh, leaders of the University research team, recently launched and are the editors of The International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment (www.emeraldinsight.com/ijdrbe.htm), to capture and disseminate knowledge pertaining to the reconstruction of conflict affected communities.

This journal is the only one of its kind and aims to develop the skills and knowledge of the built environment professions in strategic and practical aspects of disaster (both natural and man-made, including conflicts) preparedness, rehabilitation and reconstruction to mitigate the effects of disasters nationally and internationally.

The journal provides a unique forum for novel enquiries into the development and application of new and emerging practices as a source of innovation to challenge current practices, promote the exchange of ideas between researchers, educators, practitioners and policy makers, and to influence disaster prevention, mitigation, response and reconstruction policies and practices.

In addition to these specific activities, the Salford team, which includes academic staff, researchers and PhD candidates, is engaged in a range of other disaster management related research initiatives with partners in Nepal, Bangladesh, Malaysia, New Zealand, Australia, Japan and the USA.

To find out more about this and other research related to the built and human environment, go to our website: www.buhu.salford.ac.uk
Building blocks for success

The School of the Built Environment (SoBE – formally the School of Construction & Property Management) has a proud history of top-rated research and producing graduates with the knowledge, understanding and skills to satisfy an increasingly demanding industry. And the past 12 months have been no exception...

The long-standing consortium-led bachelors degree in construction management was praised by David Lammy (Minister of State for Higher Education & Intellectual Property) who used it as an example of good practice when he addressed a major conference in London (Built Environment Skills Alliance conference).

The new postgraduate diploma and masters in construction management, the first students of which graduate this year, was developed in direct response to the needs of industry and won a prestigious Northwest Construction Award in recognition of its responsiveness to industry.

It was also a fantastic year on the research front. Continuing the success of the last 15 years, the School and the research institute for the Built and Human Environment (BuHu) topped the Research Power tables in the latest Research Assessment Exercise. With 75 members included in the assessment, by far the largest submission in the UK, we are firmly positioned to continue leading research and development internationally for years to come.

Salford Business School is now one of the largest schools of its kind in the UK, it is the result of a merger of the Schools of Accounting, Economics & Management Science; Management; Leisure, Hospitality & Food Management; and the Information Systems Institute in 2006. Read on to find out some of our key highlights from the past 12 months.

We created strategic partnerships to deliver cutting-edge postgraduate programmes with and for key clients, demonstrating our commitment to working with employers to provide customised education and training programmes. Two key partnerships are with Capita Symonds for their graduate training and Salford Primary Care Trust in assisting it to achieve its goal in relation to world class commissioning.

In November, we held our second Annual Salford Business School Lecture, presented by Brendan Barber, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress. Given the problems the economy is experiencing it was particularly appropriate to hear the views of such a key national figure on the challenges facing employers and employees and ways by which those challenges can be met.

Our academic staff contributed to a number of submissions in the Research Assessment Exercise – particularly our research in the areas of Business and Management Studies, Library and Information Management (in collaboration with the School of Computing, Science & Engineering) and Statistics and Operational Research demonstrated the current and emerging world class and international excellence of the School’s research.

And our alumni have been doing pretty well too. 27 year old Natalie Roche (BSc Business Studies, 2004) has the sole rights to distribute US fake tan product range Xen-Tan in the UK. Supplying to the House of Fraser, Fenwicks and hundreds of other retailers, her Altrincham-based company, Skin Solutions, is likely to turnover more than £1m this year.
STRATEGY, PEOPLE AND THE DAY-TO-DAY EXPERIENCE

Andy Bond (BSc Gas Engineering, 1987), Chief Executive of Asda was graduating for the second time this July as one of our highest-achieving honorary graduates. From Salford caught up with Andy to find out about his first experiences of being at Salford, how he built his career after leaving and how he has been successfully growing the business of one of the UK’s leading supermarket giants in a changeable economic climate.

“I did the Gas Engineering course at Salford, and it was a very important formative time of my life. I was sponsored by British Gas through that with every intention of pursuing a career in engineering. But that was the period of ’87 to the early ’90s, when engineering was in a massive decline in the UK. So whilst on one hand I found the sort of intellectual challenge of engineering really appealing, the career opportunities were very limited. After graduating I worked for an engineering company for a guy who was the managing director. He was a very good personal coach to me, and he encouraged me to go and do a full-time MBA at Cranfield. I took this as a chance to really change my career, and it was off the back of my MBA that I got into Asda. I’ve been at Asda 15 and a half years now, and worked my way up from what was genuinely quite a middle-management role all the way up to Chief Exec.

“The degree at Salford was fantastic and I’d never want to change what I did from a degree point of view, but I’d also never want to change the fact it was at Salford. And it’s not just about the University, it’s about the whole lifestyle there and I think it had the advantage of being much more integrated into the Greater Manchester community than a lot of campus-based universities are. So I judge the degree as great, but I actually feel the real importance of my degree was the fact that it was in Salford. I think it’s very important to choose the right degree and the right university, particularly as now such a high percentage of the young population do go to university – it’s certainly no longer a meal ticket [to a career] to have a degree.

“I think what the University of Salford offers is really a life experience. The quality of degree I got was good, but the real advantage for me was being in a community that developed me as a human being. And as I say, I feel very passionately about what I learnt about myself and about other people at Salford, and that’s what I remember more than anything.

“So it’s a proud moment to receive the honorary degree… it’s a great accolade, not only for myself and what I’ve achieved, but equally if not more importantly for what Asda’s done over the last few years, and the support [I’ve received] from my family.

Thank You...
Donations from alumni towards the University’s annual fund have continued to increase year on year and pledge rates have tripled in the past 12 months. Our telephone fundraising activity is on target to bank over £250,000 in the next two years.

Thank you to all of you who have contributed so far. Gifts to the University such as yours mean that we can continue building for the future and ensure that Salford students get the best education and opportunities possible.

Even better news is that the generosity of our alumni means that the University can also take advantage of a new government matched funding scheme. The scheme allows the University to claim 50p from the Government for every £1 donated at no extra cost to the donor or the University. This free money is added after we’ve claimed gift aid so until August 2012, all donations will be worth almost double!

Read more about the annual fund, its impact and its donors at www.salford.ac.uk/alumni and click on ‘Support Salford’.

“It’s very important that...the people who get the [honorary] degree are representative of the values and the achievements that the University wants to demonstrate. I’m hopefully a representation of the ability to succeed if you get a degree from Salford.

“I want to personally contribute to the success of the University...I’m very proud to now be a part of the Assembly which is a group of ‘outside’ people who will be advising the direction of the University...I’m passionate to get as involved as I can. From a business point of view, I’m very keen for people from Salford to write in and get involved in our graduate scheme.

And we are a good employer, using my own example: we grow people into senior managers of the future.

“As Chief Exec my kids often ask me what I do every day, and it seems my answer is that I’m in meetings all the time. But I try and balance three equal important things. First of all you’ve got to define the vision, where you’re going as a business – you might want to call that a strategy, a five-year plan – you know, where you’re going. The second thing is [that] you’ve got a responsibility to be the custodian of the people who work in the business, so I spend a lot of time on recruiting and developing significant people in the company. And the third thing is you’re obviously responsible for making sure what’s going on in the shops every day is what you want it to be. And so that sort of sense of ‘is every customer getting an experience to be proud of?’ is equally important. So I visit shops, read information, all that stuff that tells me what’s really going on, day-to-day. So strategy, people and the day-to-day experience that shoppers get are the three things that I do.

“Communication is [also] hugely important here. This is a company with 360 stores, 170,000 people, and everyone needs to understand where you’re going and their role in it. So communication is massively important. This is a business that wants to change very quickly, and you can only engage people by great communication, so it’s up there as one of the biggest priorities. The simple rule is, if you’ve got people engaged in your company, they’ll serve people well and be more productive, so it has a very hard commercial edge to it, employee engagement.

“And whilst trading through the economic downturn, I think [Asda] is extremely lucky that we’ve got a brand that’s been built over the years to be famous for low prices – so we’re doing very well and some of that’s luck, some of that’s judgement, but that’s what our brand’s all about. But we’ve had to respond, you know, people are wanting even lower prices and being more demanding of what they get for their money, so we’re just having to make our company more lean, taking any wastage out and investing even more in low prices.

“Any career has got obstacles along the way. I think what’s more important is how you address them...you’ve got to build a long-term plan for your career. Certainly it’s my experience that a lot of people approach an obstacle and then decide that they’re going to move to something else rather than work through it. One thing I have learnt over the years is a phrase: ‘It takes 20 years to be world-class at anything.’ You’ve got to be determined and dogmatic if you’re going to be successful.

“I think what really brought me to the fore was the fact that I learned, through being a good sportsman at secondary school, the value and benefit of discipline and the simple equation of: ‘you put in hard work and you’ll get results.’"
Dr Thurai Rahulan was appointed as the Chairman of the Regional Advisory Group by the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) for the second European Air and Space Conference to be held at Manchester Central from 26th to 29th October this year, involving the 500+ delegates from all over the world.

Since this year marks the centenary of the first flight demonstration by Mancunian, Alliott Verdon Roe, of a British designed and built aircraft, the Group is organising an additional event in the form of lectures and conducted tours to the public as a whole at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry.

We are also proud to announce that Senior Lecturer, Dr Haifa Takruki-Risk, was awarded the prestigious MBE for her services to women in science and engineering, including her work encouraging women in ethnic minorities to pursue their aspirations in these fields. Haifa organises events for women in Science and Engineering, which range from targeting younger ladies at school and college events, to women who are in international business and industry.

Our internationally recognised expert in acoustics, Professor Trevor Cox, appeared on a variety of popular day time TV shows, such as Richard and Judy, but he has been exceptionally busy working as a presenter on acoustic programmes for the BBC, capturing audiences of 60 million. Trevor’s continued national recognition highlights our world class acoustic, audio and video facilities for teaching and research which are also used as a commercial activity.

Our very own ‘Rocket Man’, Mr Steve Bennett, who lectures in Physics with Space Technology reached new heights. Those of you who live locally may have seen Steve on news such as Granada Reports last year as he was proud to unveil the UK's largest ever rocket, standing at an impressive 58ft high (featured in the news section of the last edition of From Salford).

Steve continued his success in this area and was awarded a significant grant to develop a unique eco-friendly rocket engine for eventual use as a safety system aboard commercial space rockets…which brings the exciting prospect of travelling to the moon one step closer!

The School of Computing, Science & Engineering is very proud of the achievements attained by our academic staff this year. Their contributions have not only aided student learning and alumni career prospects but they have also contributed towards the advancement of science in very exciting fields…

The School of Environment & Life Sciences has had another busy year pioneering life-saving research for humans and animals in the UK and overseas. And we’re doing our bit for the planet too…

Researchers from the Salford Housing and Urban Studies Unit were awarded funding from the Economic & Social Research Council, Local Government and Communities and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to examine youth homelessness in the North West over the next two years. We also started developing a new blended-learning MSc in Housing to offer greater study opportunities for those living at a distance from the University and for others in full-time employment in the housing sector.

Some of our MSc Environmental Protection students have been working with a local social enterprise, ‘Unlimited Potential’, to develop new environmental assessment procedures and other postgraduates studying environmental management have worked on environmentally sustainable methods of managing waste.

Andrew Clark, a lecturer in Environmental management, secured funding from the Low Emissions Strategy Development Programme to examine education and training needs of specialists working in air quality management and climate change mitigation. And Dr Philip James has been contributing to the shaping of new environment focussed interdisciplinary research to establish a national research programme that addresses issues such as the impact of climate change and population growth on the ability of ecosystems to sustain life on this planet.
Research may save lambs’ lives

Research on ovine parasite Toxoplasma gondii could have a significant economic impact on the sheep farming industry – potentially saving the lives of 5% of the UK lamb population.

Environment & Life Sciences postgraduate student Emma Morley has been working as part of a large research team, looking at the importance of transmission routes of T.gondii (the cause of the disease toxoplasmosis) within different mammalian groups.

“Toxoplasmosis is a threat to all warm-blooded animals and can be passed on through cat faeces,” she said. “If it’s acquired in pregnancy, it can result in foetal infection, birth defects or even spontaneous abortion. That’s why sheep farmers are advised not to keep cats and expectant mothers are warned about emptying cat litter trays.”

As well as being problematic for humans, toxoplasmosis is a particular threat to sheep. Emma, from Hartford, said: “Sheep are susceptible to the parasite, which can result in them losing a whole crop of lambs – but nobody has really studied it before.”

A scholarship from the Perry Foundation, which funds research benefiting the farming industry, allowed Emma to launch her own study.

Professor Geoff Hide, Director of the Biomedical Sciences Research Institute, said: “Emma’s research may have some significant impacts on sheep farming. Nearly 5% of lambs are lost to Toxoplasma in the UK so it’s of major economic importance as well as an important animal welfare issue.” He added that one of the key things Emma’s research has shown is that the advice currently given to farmers may be causing an increase in the level of the disease rather than controlling it.

Hydrogen expert shaken up by Quantum of Solace

In December 2009, a Salford professor accused the latest James Bond film of “irresponsible scaremongering” for its depiction of hydrogen in the climactic final scene – comparing it to the 1937 Hindenburg disaster.

Professor Keith Ross has criticised the scene – in which hydrogen is seen to explode dramatically – for portraying the fuel as dangerous when, in fact, it can be handled quite safely.

He blames the infamous fire of the German airship Hindenburg for the public and film-makers’ attitudes. While widely believed to be caused by hydrogen, the fire has, in fact, been attributed to the flammable exterior paintwork. He said: “I was perturbed to watch the James Bond film’s climax. It was unrealistic and may perpetuate the fear that hydrogen should be avoided.

“Although potentially explosive in a confined space, the fuel can be handled quite safely. If released into the open air, hydrogen would only burn with a blue flame – a fact obviously of no interest to a film-maker! Like the famous photographs of the Hindenburg disaster, the scene’s images could well stick in the public’s consciousness.”

Professor Ross is leading a major research project into the viability of hydrogen as an economical, low carbon fuel, and a more environmentally friendly alternative to petrol and diesel-based engines.

“The world needs a practical alternative to fossil fuels and I believe that hydrogen may be the way forward,” he said. “The public needs to be reassured about its safety and scaremongering in the media will only set us back.”
In this feature, Melissa recounts her input to the recent Smart City Futures Conference (see “Salford in the news” on page 6) and uses this to explore how the structure and focus of her University of Salford degree helped her to achieve career success. Melissa shares her views on what makes Salford special and talks about her passion to maintain her connection with the institution.

In his keynote speech during ‘The New Conversation’ – the third day of the Smart City Futures conference – Professor Takeda Shuzaburo of The Business-University Forum of Japan, spoke of the global paradigm shift in response to the environmental, political and economic meltdown.

While many universities give lectures to their students about global paradigm shifts, few would have the vision to collaborate with two of their neighbouring universities, in this case the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University, to host an international conference engaging policymakers, business and community to discuss such an issue. Even fewer universities would engage state-of-the-art technology to create a digitally cutting-edge conference that could not only be viewed online, but enabled remote audiences worldwide to participate in Q&A sessions with the conference speakers. However, at the University of Salford this forward-thinking progressive approach is the norm and has been for many years.

In 1993 I was studying an art and design foundation course. New media (now more commonly known as digital media, as it’s not so new anymore!) would clearly shape the future of business and industry. However, perusing through various university prospectuses, trying to decide which design degree course to apply for, new media was conspicuous by its absence.

University of Salford appeared on my radar when my foundation course tutor mentioned ‘there’s a new design degree that would be right up your street’. Indeed it was.

The University of Salford had consulted industry and its academic peers to construct a revolutionary new course. The course encouraged collaboration between the different design disciplines – bringing together undergraduates from fashion, graphics and spatial design to work on joint briefs, something unheard of on other undergraduate courses at the time. The course encouraged a global outlook and included a module on international markets and operations, whilst also encouraging its students to take overseas work placements. Additionally the course recognised the future role of new media and integrated it into the core.

During the years I studied my Bachelors degree at Salford there was a great energy around the University – the institution and its city were undoubtedly on the up. The attitude of the professors was that anything was possible; no dream was too visionary and no plan too ambitious. Despite the impressive heritage of the university and its region – the birthplace of The Industrial Revolution no less – what stood out was Salford’s focus on the future.

The success of University of Salford graduates is never coincidental. When giving our keynote presentations at The New Conversation during the Smart City Futures conference, both Professor Takeda and I spoke of the need to think ahead, not just by years, but decades.
This approach is instilled in all the University’s graduates, whatever discipline they take, be it Astrophysics or Product Design. The University doesn’t teach the skills of today, it teaches the skills of tomorrow.

The skills and the approach I was taught by the University have shaped my career. Today my work focuses on creating sustainable innovation strategists and launching national and international knowledge sharing and capacity building initiatives; including awards, digital media platforms, seminars, workshops and think tanks. Having sat on various executive boards during my late 20s, in 2004 I founded creative catalyst Sociétas, which comprises an award-winning innovation think tank, incubator and consultancy and brings world-class creative and intellectual talent to a wide range of sustainability projects in the design, visual arts and media industries. Sociétas works with pioneers in fields including biomimicry, industrial symbiosis, closed-loop systems, upcycling and other emerging sustainable technologies and design practices.

Having teamed up with environmental scientist and former Managing Director of the RSA’s CarbonLimited, Matt Prescott, to launch a new National sustainable design, architecture, engineering and urban planning awards and education platform, it was clear which UK university would make the most dynamic academic partner. The University of Salford boasts several excellent-rated research centres, including its Research Centre for the Built & Human Environment – the only built environment research institute to achieve a six-star rating status. The University’s sustainability research and development credentials are second to none. Since the earliest days of ‘new’ media, the University has remained at the cutting-edge of its development and with the opening of its campus at Media City will boast, not only some of the very best university facilities in the UK, but some of the very best in the world.

However, the University of Salford is about so much more than equipping its graduates to pioneer in industry and help shape the nation and indeed the world’s future. Walking through its doors for the first time back in 1993, I was beginning the start of a life-long journey with the University. Where it will end who knows, but one thing I’m quite certain of is the journey will continue to be one of the most exciting of my life.

Melissa Sterry Ba (Hons), MCIPR, MCIM, FRSA
Founder & CEO of Sociétas, Sustainable Innovation Agency & Think Tank
www.societas.ltd.uk

Meet your New Chancellor

Irene Zubaida Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org.uk) – the world’s most distinguished human rights organisation, has been appointed as the University of Salford’s Chancellor.

She is the first woman, the first Asian and the first Muslim to lead Amnesty International, and took up her appointment eight years ago – in the organisation’s 40th anniversary year – at a time when it began a process of change and renewal to address the complex nature of contemporary human rights violations.

On accepting her new office, Irene Khan said: “I am delighted to be joining the University of Salford as their Chancellor and working closely with their new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin Hall, particularly given his commitment to human rights and diversity and his experience of political change and transformation during his time in South Africa.”

Irene studied law at the University of Manchester and at Harvard Law School, specialising in public international law and human rights. She has received a number of academic awards, notably a Ford Foundation Fellowship and the Sydney Peace Prize in 2005. Prior to joining Amnesty International, Irene worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for 21 years in various refugee operations and at Headquarters.
Health and Social Care at the heart of a vibrant community

It’s been another good year for staff and students at the Faculty of Health & Social Care. We’ve been forging new community partnerships, making a contribution on the international stage and developing our facilities as well as bringing together great new postgraduate programmes that will help health practitioners and social care professionals make a big difference to Salford and the surrounding boroughs.

Engaging at all levels

Our aim throughout the year has been to build on our previous successes, develop our relations with the wider community and provide the best in education and research. These are just a few of the ways the Faculty’s staff and students have been engaging with the outside world...

This April, Tom Fawcett was appointed as lead Sports Psychologist with Bowls England for the next two years. He will be assisting in preparation and tournament support for the senior squad up until the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Nursing student Lesley Taylor had a life changing experience on her five week international placement to Malawi. Her exploits were published in The Answer and detailed her experience at a neonatal unit helping to implement Kangaroo Mother Care.

Hugh McLaughlin was part of a panel discussing the findings of the Guardian’s Social Lives survey with social workers, government agencies and charitable bodies representing the North of England. Hugh discussed improvements which could be made to help newly-qualified social workers succeed.

Lecturer Barbara Hastings-Asatourian is running a series of sexual health seminars for young people across China and will be launching a Chinese language website where they can access much-needed information about contraception and safe sex.

Professor Deborah Baker and Dr Adam Garrow have also been working with Manchester Primary Care Trust (PCT) to monitor inequalities in health and access to health care for the ethnically diverse population of Manchester.
The future is bright

Car giants Hyundai have supplied the Faculty with an i800 8-Seater and i30 Wagon to help our partnerships with Salford City Reds and Lancashire County Cricket Club. Partnership manager, Chris Bamber, will use it in his community work, reaching out to local schools to provide healthy lifestyle courses and rugby coaching.

Sale Sharks, a leading Premiership Rugby Union Team, was a new sports partner from August 2009 complimenting our North West cricket and rugby league relationships at the highest levels.

Executive Dean Professor Cynthia Pine and researcher Dr Lindsey Dugdill will be helping to assess the Live, Laugh, Learn program run by the World Dental Federation and Unlever Oral Care which is now working with 42 National Dental Associations in 38 countries. This will involve visiting Kenya, Poland, Indonesia, Nigeria and the Philippines to determine whether the programme is achieving its aims; which range from providing care for abandoned children in Nairobi, to training teachers and nurses to deliver hand and mouth hygiene programmes in schools in Jakarta. Professor Cynthia Pine said: “In many developing countries there is very limited access to dental care and simple problems can become life-threatening infections. Prevention is critical and establishing a hygiene routine that includes twice-daily tooth brushing can make a major difference...”

This year we launched a £1.5 million partnership known as ‘Feet Matters’ between SSL International PLC (owners of Scholl Footwear) and the School of Health Care Professions. The partnership will aim to stimulate knowledge investment, research and innovation and new product development that will have a potentially global impact on foot care as Scholl expands into India, China and Russia. Professor Chris Nester from the Centre for Rehabilitation and Human Performance Research has been instrumental in growing this relationship. Following a donation by SSL, the School will be able to send a team to work with specialists at Sri Ramachandra Clinic in Chennai, India to improve foot health care assessment and treatment.

In the community we have been leading the way and in the summer became a member of the Salford Information Observatory. The latter is a collaborative effort between Salford City Council and a number of statutory bodies including the Fire Service, Greater Manchester Police, the Probation Service and the NHS PCTs. It acts as a repository for data, information and knowledge. Potentially, this represents a very valuable resource for the Faculty and the wider University in terms of readily accessible local data on crime, health and wellbeing as well as safeguarding the vulnerable in Salford.

An exciting range of new Masters level courses also starts this September including Leadership and Management in Health Care, Advancing Physiotherapy, Applied Psychology, Comparative Safeguarding, and Ageing, Health and Wellbeing.

We’ve attracted some of the best expertise in the North West for our courses too. Our Public Health Masters is delivered by a number of internationally renowned professors with interests as varied as inequalities and preventative medicine, lifestyle and health and parasitology. The MSc in Orthopaedic Management gives students access to local high level consultants while our two new Masters in Strength and Conditioning and Sports Injury Rehabilitation have input from top sports science professionals from across the UK.

Research for the community

Our internationally renowned Centre for Health, Sport and Rehabilitation Sciences Research, offers a wide portfolio of research programmes including clinical biomechanics of human movement, clinical neurological rehabilitation research, diagnostic imaging and physical activity, exercise and health.

There is already a thriving research community within our Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Research with their work organised around the themes of child and family health, supporting people with long term conditions, end of life issues and education for practice and health care.

Our research has been reorganised to reflect the Faculty vision of providing cutting edge research that informs practice and develops our education provision, making a difference to the Salford community and the wider world.

The new Centre for Social Justice Research has fairness and equity in society at its heart, exploring the key areas of social and health inequalities, community and professional engagement and social, psychological and public health interventions.
International Links

Last year we wrote to all of you who are currently living outside the UK to let you know that the University was going through a time of great change and that we were looking at new ways to connect with our overseas alumni.

To take this promise forward, the University is developing a new internationalisation strategy with which we hope many of you will want to become involved. As part of this work our new Vice-Chancellor (see page 3) will be visiting countries to:

• celebrate all that you have achieved since you graduated
• explain, in person, about the exciting new era for Salford that lies ahead
• listen to your views on our future plans
• talk about how you can get involved.

Building on the successes of the Hong Kong alumni event held last November, the Vice-Chancellor will initially be visiting cities where most of our overseas alumni currently live. There will be an evening alumni event in each city as follows:

Beijing, China – Tuesday 27 October 2009
Shanghai, China – Wednesday 28 October 2009
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Friday 30 October 2009
Brunei Darussalam – Sunday 1 November 2009

All University of Salford alumni living in or near these cities are welcome to attend these free events. For more information about the events and to register your place, go to: www.salford.ac.uk/alumni/international.

Next year, the events could be in a city near you! We would like to take this opportunity to give our thanks to the Hong Kong alumni association, led by Louisa Ng, who made the Hong Kong event such a success. Thank you for all your hard work.

Towards the end of the year, the University will be launching a new interactive website for Salford alumni (see inside front cover). Here we will keep all of our overseas alumni informed about how we are taking forward our internationalisation strategy and how you can help your university. We will be in touch with you about this, so please remember to keep your contact details up-to-date at www.salford.ac.uk/alumni/update.

Marriages


Other Salford alumni who attended the wedding are: Steven Roberts (BSc Business Information Technology, 2002) and Daniel Pitcher.

Births

Doug (BSc Physics with Space Technology, 2003) and Helen Short (Physics with Medical Physics, 2003) became the proud parents of Ryan Joseph Short on 13th June 2009.

Imtiaz Ali (MBA, 2002), who is currently working with Polymer Solutions based in UAE as a country manager, became the proud father of, Shahwar Khan on 7 September 2008. He is pictured here with his wife and baby son.

On August 8 2009, Louise Banahene (BA English & Cultural Studies, 1997) and Matthew Smith (BSc Electroacoustics, 1995) welcomed their second child, Jacob Smith, into the world.

Events from a Different Angle

The Point at Lancashire County Cricket Club is an exciting new development, suitable for all types of conferences or events.

Contact the Events Team
0161 282 4020 | www.thepointatlccc.co.uk
OBITUARIES

The University extends its sincere condolences to the friends and families of those listed below for whom we have received notification of death.

Robert Simon Cooper (BSc Electronics and Electrical Engineering, 1990) died aged 40 after a long illness. Rob studied on the above sandwich course and attained a First Class Degree with Honours.

Rob was a very bubbly character and lived life to the full. He had a great sense of occasion and an infectious personality. He was well-liked and got on with a wide selection of people. In fact that was one of his great qualities; he befriended lots of different people and was not prejudiced to anyone.

His career started at Brush Transformers Ltd, who sponsored him through university. He moved on to East Midlands Electricity Board where, through several takeovers, he carved out a successful career with Eon.

Rob was married to Rachel and leaves behind two daughters, Grace and Olivia. He will be greatly missed.

Elizabeth Gannon (nee McCann, BSc Biochemistry, 1980) died aged 49 in March 2007. After graduating she went on to work in the laboratories of various hospitals in North Wales and Altrincham.

Elizabeth married John Gannon in 1986 before emigrating to Perth, Western Australia where she worked for the Water Authority. Following the birth of Thomas in 1991 and William two years later, Elizabeth stayed at home to look after the two boys.

Elizabeth was very proud of her time at Salford and kept in touch with several friends throughout her life – most notably Bernadette McQuade.

In 2000 Elizabeth was diagnosed with breast Cancer – a disease she fought bravely until her death on March 16 2007.

Elizabeth was fun loving with a lovely smile and a wonderful sense of humour. She proved this by her undaunting love and loyal support for her local team – Port Vale! Elizabeth was a much loved wife, mum, daughter, sister and aunty. She is sadly missed.


Following a first degree at Cambridge, he had been recruited by the famous scientist C P Snow to join the elite group of scientists developing Britain’s radar defences. He was sent on a tiny boat to a remote island in the Indian Ocean. Under the most difficult conditions (the island had already been bombed by the Japanese) he was to develop transmitter programmes to bring our Vulcan bombers safely home over those vast distances. The scientific papers from that period are lodged with the Imperial War Museum.

Born in Todmorden, he was committed to promoting science and technology and was a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

A keen mountaineer and fell walker, he introduced many young people to the great outdoors as well as walking the Pennine Way and climbing in the Pyrenees, Alps and other major ranges. His integrity, courage, humanity and sense of humour endeared him to all.

He is survived by his wife Betty with whom he had recently celebrated the 70th anniversary of their first meeting.

Mrs N Stott, December; Mrs YC Russel, January; Mr A Dyson, March; Mrs E Preston, April; Mr S Bell, June.

STAFF OBITUARIES

Emeritus Professor Harry Sutcliffe died on 12 August after a brief illness.

Harry was a much-loved Professor of Electrical Engineering at Salford, together with his wife offering friendship and support especially to students from overseas. He had a particular affinity with the Far East, where he was stationed during the war.

Mrs N Stott, December; Mrs YC Russel, January; Mr A Dyson, March; Mrs E Preston, April; Mr S Bell, June.
Where are they now?

Here are updates highlighting the achievements over the past 12 months of some of our alumni. Don’t forget to let us know what you’re doing now by filling in our update form: www.salford.ac.uk/alumni/share and asking us to mention it in From Salford.

Judith Kelly (MSc in Advanced Mammographic Practice) was appointed as the first female consultant radiographer in the North West, working at the Countess of Chester Hospital. After graduating and working in Australia as a barman and chef, Steve Lowy (BA Hospitality and Tourism, 2003) spent 18 months running a London hostel, before launching the first UMI Hotel in Notting Hill in May 2007. Passionate about providing young people with opportunities, Steve offers paid internships to hospitality students, stocking the hotel with enthusiastic staff from around the globe and working with hotel schools in Holland, America and the UK. Although UMI Hotels are aimed at the budget market, Steve believes this doesn’t have to mean poor quality, offering guests a high standard of service. UMI Hotels are now also situated in Brighton and are looking at expanding either in the UK or abroad.

Just 10 years after graduating with a 1st class honours, Dr Helen Williamson (BSc Biological and Biochemical Sciences, 1990) landed the prestigious role of Scientific Support Manager at Cambridgeshire Constabulary. As Scientific Support Manager, Helen is in charge of the CSI, fingerprint and photographic teams and investigated one of the most publicised murder cases in the last ten years – the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, otherwise known as the Soham murders. Towards the end of completing her study at Salford, Dr Williamson also worked at the Sanger Institute, now called the Genome Campus, to work on the hugely significant Human Genome Project.

Professor Alfonso John Forte, an ex-Professor in the School of Leisure, Hospitality & Food Management, was presented with his OBE by the Queen at Buckingham Palace, for his services to the food industry.

Mark Whitty (BSc Economics, 1986) was appointed Vice President, Sales and Marketing, for Europe, Middle East and Africa for Seagate. Based in Marlow, England, he will oversee all sales and marketing activities in the region. Mark joined Seagate in 2007 and most recently held the position of executive director, FSU, Middle East & Africa Sales and EMEA Marketing with the company.

Imran Aslam (BSc Business & Finance, 2004) scooped a role in a movie – in his first audition! Imran will play a university student in a new “British Bollywood” romantic comedy called My Big Fat Love Story. It will be directed by Zafar Iqbal and in selected cinemas worldwide by November.

Philomena Murnaghan (BA Modern Languages, 1974) was appointed Irish Ambassador in Argentina and also covers Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay, after working as a diplomat for the Irish Government.

Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad (SPNB) announced the appointment of Kamarul Rashdan Salleh (Construction and Property Management, 2005) as its new managing director. With a wealth of experience in the construction industry, Kamarul Rashdan has been at the forefront in advising, developing and managing both capital and life-cycle project investments particularly in the UK and Malaysia. These include leading a number of public and private sector consortia on PFI (Private Finance Initiative) projects. Previously, Kamarul Rashdan was an honorary visiting professor of Construction Economics and Facilities Management at the School of Built Environment where he obtained his doctorate.

Jason Lawrence (BA Product Design and Development, 1997) became Jamaica’s number one pool player. Jason, known as Lone Wolf on the pool circuit, has made the Cotton Tree in Prince Street, Bolton his new practice base. He worked as a design and technology teacher in Manchester until he quit to become a full-time professional pool player in 2008. As part of an agreement, Jason will now teach youngsters from the Embrace youth project how to play.

John Barton (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1973) became director of Renew (formerly Renew Tees Valley) that has spearheaded green schemes across the North East. This appointment comes after John helped French energy efficiency outfit Elyo increase its turnover from £2.5m to £45m in four years and heading a team to buy BP’s energy reduction operations.

Juicy Media delivers bespoke web development and open-source business applications via the web. Founded in 1999 by Ian Strachan (BSc Computer Science, 2003) and Peter Davies (Computer Science & Information Systems, 2003), Juicy Media became a Limited Company in 2005 and recently won the Innovation Award at this years BIBA Be Inspired Business Awards. Close to 900 applicants were in line for awards with 75 finalists in 14 categories – Juicy Media won their category with an unanimous decision.

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Get together
From Salford

Lots of you have been meeting up with old class mates over the past twelve months. Check out what’s on offer with our Fond Memory Friday package (see inside front cover) and remember to let us know if you are meeting with other Salford alumni. We can help you get in touch with lost friends and organise reunions on campus, just email us at alumni@salford.ac.uk.

On Friday 1 September, Keith and Bridget Morris, John and Barbara Story and Christopher Thomas (all from BSc Social Studies, 1971) had their reunion.

On Sunday 5 October, a reunion group organised by Darren Sapey (BSc Chemistry and Biochemistry, 1986) visited the University for a campus tour to round off their reunion weekend. They are pictured outside the art gallery from left to right: Jane Willock (BSc Chemistry, 1981); Darren Sapey (who also brought his wife Elizabeth and son Oliver); David Willock (BSc Applied Physics and Electronics, 1987); Ashok Chakravarty (BSc Chemistry and Biochemistry, 1987); Adrian Tuner (BEng Civil Engineering, 1990); Christabel Muir (BA Modern Languages, 1989); David Collins (BSc Applied Physics and Electronics, 1987); and Roger Harrington-Smith (BSc Applied Physics and Electronics, 1987).

A group of alumni who all graduated in 2002 toured the campus as part of their reunion weekend on Saturday 11 October: Stuart Clash (BSc Business Studies with Marketing Management); Laurie Davidson (BA Modern Languages); Laura Hield (BSc Modern Languages and Marketing); Helen Hollebon (BSc European Business Studies); Ruth Sacket (BSc Business Studies with Marketing Management); and Philip Smith (BSc Business Studies with Marketing Management).

A campus tour was again the start of a reunion group on Saturday 6 June for the following alumni who studied Modern Languages (apart from Alistair who studied Biochemical Sciences): Alistair and Priscilla Cameron (1967 and 1969 respectively); Rhona Hunt (1969); Rosemary Rainals (1969); Maurice Ralphs (1970); Neil Watson (1969); and Ronald Williams (1970).

And on Saturday 1 August we welcomed seven alumni, along with partners, back on to the campus to see how the place has changed: Timothy Bird (BSc Physics, 1985); Jeremy Button (BSc Physics, 1985); Kevin and Gaynor Dockerill (BSc Science with joint honours, 1985 and Mathematics, 1986 respectively); Andrew Gaunt (BSc Quantity Surveying, 1985); Kay Huggins (BA Modern Languages, 1987); and Angela Wahl (BA Modern Languages, 1987).

We’ve even had visits from alumni who now live overseas: Stuart Dobson (BSc Chemistry, 1959) travelled all the way from Australia; Linda Ye (MSc Purchasing and Logistics, 2005) came over from Canada; and Jake Wing (BSc Economics, 1982) visited from Malaysia.

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Now that you’ve read From Salford, how about testing how much you’ve picked up in our quick quiz?

Please email your answers to alumni@salford.ac.uk typing ‘QUIZ’ in the subject heading, to be in with a chance of winning £150 of Amazon vouchers – the perfect prize just before the festive season!

All submissions must be in before Friday 30 October 2009. The winner must have answered all questions correctly and will be selected at random. Their name, along with the answers, will be displayed on our alumni website www.salford.ac.uk/alumni throughout November.

1. The University’s new Chancellor, Irene Khan, is the Secretary General of which organisation?
2. Salford is widely credited with having the world’s first public park – what is its name?
3. The film Fifty Dead Men Walking stars which two Salford graduates?
4. How much money is the annual fund on target to raise in the next two years?
5. Which government minister spoke at a Salford-led conference in July 2009?
6. Salford graduate and Asda Chief Executive Andy Bond received an honorary degree from Salford in July 2009. What did he originally study at Salford?
7. Professor Martin Hall, the University’s new Vice-Chancellor, has joined Salford from which university?
8. How much was the government grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for Salford’s development at MediaCityUK?
9. How long is a University of Salford Alumni Association Membership Card valid for?
10. What is the new Salford alumni website launched at the end of the year called?
“I can’t do a cat yet. The only way I can do a cat is by doing a very bad dog and then in a way decapitating it and it becomes a cat”

- LS Lowry, Class of 1925

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To see what offers you could be taking advantage of, go to: www.salford.ac.uk/alumni/benefits