

THE BOLT

News from the University of Bolton **Issue 17** Spring 2011

University
of Bolton



London Calling

Flying start for
designer Natalie

Elemental Energy

Scientists' green
power success

MediaCityUK

in Focus
Graduate in
the picture



WHAT'S NEW

Our students are the stars of this issue – building their careers, impressing employers... blowing up Coronation Street! Yes, that's right; Special Effects student Emma McGranaghan joined the pyrotechnics team at Granada to play her role in one of the biggest TV soap events in 50 years. Real employment experience as part of a degree course gives students a strong advantage in being ready to hit the ground running when it comes time to graduate. Emma was thrilled with her opportunity and you can read all about her brush with television history on page six.

For Multimedia Web Development graduate Kasoma Sianuwele, it was the opportunity to work with a company seeking the University's consultancy expertise that led to a job. Kasoma came up with a Facebook app solution to Totesport's business development plan. He is now employed by Totesport and working on that project as part of his new job.

Natalie Berry is a recent graduate busy working while making her career dream come true. Natalie's goal is to move to Cornwall and build her own business. Her first client indicates she's a design star – Harrods snapped up her designs while she was still a student. Textile Surface Design graduate Natalie was full of praise for the professional experience of her tutors, the facilities and the 'name not a number' culture of our University.

Textiles have played a major part in Bolton's history – not just at the University but for the town itself. In the 18th and 19th centuries Bolton was famous as a leading centre of textiles innovation and manufacturing. Today the University is a world-renowned centre for smart materials research innovation. Our scientists are developing materials at the cutting edge of technology. In this issue you can read about a new green energy source, a new material being developed at the University's Institute for Materials Research and Innovation (IMRI) that can harness three elements – wind, rain and sun – to create electricity.

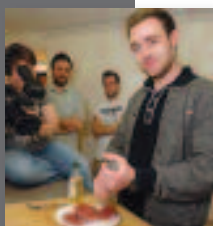
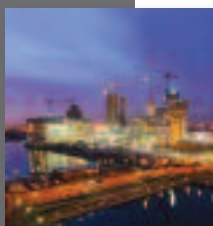
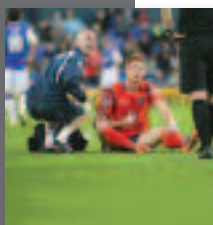
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British Embassy presentation for Greece PhD

The University of Bolton, in collaboration with New York College in Athens, recently hosted an event at the British Ambassador's Residence in Greece to mark the official launch of a PhD programme offered by the University of Bolton and administrated by New York College.

His Excellency, Dr David Landsman, the Ambassador, attended the event where he met representatives from the University of Bolton and New York College, including University of Bolton Vice Chancellor, Dr George Holmes (pictured below).

The event included a formal presentation of the academic collaboration. Dr Holmes and Director of Research at the University of Bolton, Professor Elias Siores, spoke on the key concepts of the PhD by Practice for Professionals and outlined Bolton's role in developing the programme. New York College's General Manager, Dr Dimitris Andreou, and Provost, Dr Tom Chiono, identified the advantages the PhD offered to Greek industry and professionals.

Their presentation audience included more than 200 industry, academia and government VIPs, among them managing directors, chief executives and ambassadors from other countries based in Athens and Medicos.

Pictured at the presentation is Dr Holmes at the lectern, addressing the embassy reception guests. Front row is Prof Siores, seated far right, with President of New York College, Mr Elias Foutsis, seated far left.



Applications for Bolton soar

The University is seeing soaring numbers of applications from students eager to start courses this September – nearly four times the national average.

Applications to join the University this September currently stand at 23 per cent higher than this time last year. UCAS says the UK average is six per cent.

Senior University managers credit the surge in numbers to two things: the rush to submit applications before the rise in tuition fees in 2012 and the University's own reported solid future.

Universities are facing cuts in central funding from Government, which currently partially pays student tuition costs. From 2012,

universities will be expected to make up the shortfall by charging undergraduates more. Fees will be £3,375 for students starting this year, but from next autumn universities will be able to charge up to £9,000 a year.

Government funding changes are putting some universities at long-term risk, according to the Universities College Union. Its recent report identified 49 of England's 130 higher education institutions as being at 'very high', 'high' or 'high medium' risk. The University of Bolton was classified as being at the same risk level as Bristol and Cambridge universities, at 'medium' risk.

The UCU report is Universities at Risk: the Impact of Cuts in Higher Education Spending on Local Economies. Published December 2010.

University welcomes HRH the Duke of Kent

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent saw the University's pioneering work in three key areas – research, teaching and innovation – during a recent visit.

In the Social Learning Zone, His Royal Highness met Automobile Engineering graduate Anthony Keating and his creation – one of the fastest land speed production cars ever built. Anthony, now studying for an MBA at the University, recently attempted a land-speed record at Pendine Sands in Carmarthenshire.

He next visited the University's world-leading research centre, the Institute for Materials Research and Innovation, where His Royal Highness was given a demonstration of a new generation of knife-proof clothing designed for the police, armed forces and security personnel, currently being developed by University of Bolton scientists with Derbyshire company, Future Textiles. He was also given a demonstration of auxetic materials, which expand when stretched, and was shown one of the latest IMRI research projects in progress, the development of photovoltaic cells, piezoelectrics and nanotechnology, which harvest power from the rain, wind and sun.

His Royal Highness then moved on to the University's Special Effects Backlot and Studio, to meet students on Special Effects courses, which are designed to meet the needs of the rapidly growing special effects industry. Students develop a wide range of special effects skills during their studies – from digital trickery to model making to make-up. Their talents are sought after; 50 per cent of the July 2010 special effects graduates are already working in the industry.

Said University of Bolton Vice Chancellor, Dr George Holmes: 'It is a pleasure for us to welcome His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent to the University and have the opportunity to showcase our strengths in world-leading research, industry-focused professional degrees courses and the innovative talents of our graduates.'

Before visiting the University, His Royal Highness toured the recently opened Bolton Sixth Form and Bolton College.

Pictured: HRH the Duke of Kent discovers the properties of auxetic materials with Professors Andy and Kim Alderson.

Pictured: Talking to Tony Keating about his supercar with University Vice Chancellor, Dr George Holmes.



Expert's sobering view on binge-drinking epidemic



The University held a special event on one of the most controversial and challenging topics for the UK in the 21st century: binge drinking.

One of the most senior experts and respected voices on the issue is Sir Ian Gilmore. A former leader of the Royal College of Physicians and regular adviser to the Department of Health on alcohol policies, he led a discussion on The Epidemic of Alcohol Abuse.

Sir Ian took a comprehensive look at the recent history of the country's alcohol consumption. He reviewed the trends in UK drinking from the early 1900s to our current drinking habits, and then compared them to those of Europe and the rest of the world.

He also looked at the way past governments had dealt with binge-drinking and how the incumbent coalition leadership proposed to solve the current crisis. Sir Ian thinks the coalition will use more local solutions rather than central regulation. He believes a reduction in the nation's drinking levels, to those of around the early 1990s, would be hugely beneficial. He said: 'Some reduction in the per

capital consumption down to levels of 20 years ago could make a real impact on the current health burden in the UK. This would be best achieved by targeting price, availability and marketing, through tougher regulation.'

He feels the main reasons behind changes in UK drinking habits are down to the lower pricing, wider availability and the sophisticated marketing of large alcohol companies. He feels it is imperative we combat these issues if we are ever to tackle the main problem of alcohol misuse and abuse. But while Sir Ian thinks there should be tighter regulation on the pricing and sale of alcohol, he does not believe there is one complete answer to solve the problem. He added: 'There is no such thing as a solution – alcohol will be with us as a society for the foreseeable future and will produce adverse health consequences, as it is a drug of potential addiction.'

Double success

The University's Visiting Professor of the Dramatic Arts, David Thacker, is celebrating two award wins.

The two recent honours recognise his talents as a mentor to new writing talent and the strength of his theatre's production of *The Hired Man*.

Professor Thacker, who is also Artistic Director at the Octagon Theatre Bolton, works closely with three University subject areas, bringing his expertise to students studying on the Media, Writing and Production programmes, the Creative Writing programmes and those studying for BAs in English or Film and Media Studies.

The annual Writers' Guild of Great Britain Awards selected Professor Thacker as one of two individuals from theatres in the North West to receive the prestigious Writers' Guild New Writing Encouragement Award, in recognition of their contribution towards encouraging fresh talent. The award was created to acknowledge individuals who have given a writer an

especially enriching experience in developing new writing for the theatre.

Professor Thacker was nominated by Aelish Michael, writer of *The Demolition Man*, the Octagon's forthcoming play about local legend Fred Dibnah. Aelish said: 'David has fantastic intuitive flair for knowing what works dramatically and has been invaluable through various drafts over the last few months. His faith in the project and in me has instilled me with greater confidence as a playwright, encouraging me to produce the best possible play that I can.'

The Octagon Theatre Bolton has also won an important national theatre award for its production of *The Hired Man*, which ran during June and July of last year. The Theatrical Management Association (TMA) Theatre Award was presented to the ensemble cast of *The Hired Man* in the category of 'Best Performance in a Musical'.

The award for the ensemble cast acknowledges all actors who appeared on stage during the production of *The Hired Man*, which included the ten-strong cast of the Octagon Company, supplemented by a community chorus of sixteen non-professional actors from



the local area, some of whom had never been on a stage before.

No stranger to such accolades, David Thacker has won Olivier Awards for Best Director and Best Revival (*Pericles* for the RSC), the London Fringe Award for Best Director (*Ghosts*) and Best Production (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*).

International award for PhD student

PhD student Mohammad Sanami has been awarded the prestigious international award, Auxetnet Young Researcher of the Year.

Mohammad is carrying out important research in the field of biomedical applications for auxetic materials at the University's Institute of Materials Research and Innovation (IMRI). Auxetic is the term given to material that expands, rather than contracts, when stretched. There are many practical applications but Mohammad and his fellow researchers are investigating the potential in biomedical science.

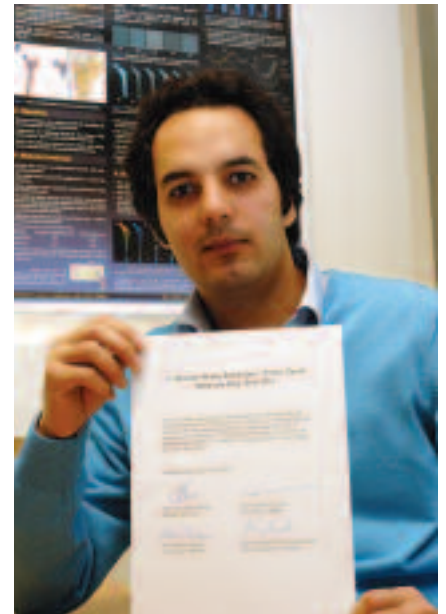
The University is a world leader in auxetic materials and associated research. Mohammad, originally from Iran, had only been at the institute for five months when he was awarded the prize. Professor Andrew Alderson, Deputy Director of the IMRI and expert on auxetics, said: 'The panel was very impressed with Mohammad's presentation. To be awarded this prize at

such an early stage in his research is excellent for him and his future study.'

Mohammad was given the award at the Third International Conference and Seventh International Workshop on Auxetics and Related Systems. The conference was held at the University of Malta. Speakers and delegates came from academic institutions across the UK, Malta, America, China, Germany, Japan and Poland.

To win, Mohammad had to present a summary of a section of his work through an oral presentation and poster. He was up against 15 other young scientists. His study is funded by a donation from the Marriot Trust of Bolton Le Moors Rotary Club.

In his conference presentation, Mohammad looked at the capabilities of auxetic materials in hip-stem replacements. Conventional methods for a Total Hip Replacement (THR) can lead to aseptic loosening if it fails. This



means the hip-joint no longer fits properly and can lead to stiffness and pain for the recipient. Mohammad's research found that hip-stems made of auxetic materials had better weight distribution and superior fixation. Simply put, it would mean less loosening thus less pain and stiffness for the patient.

Burning ambition sets Corrie aflame



University of Bolton Special Effects student, Emma McGranaghan, helped the nation's favourite soap celebrate its 50th birthday with a bang!

Coronation Street is the one of the world's longest running TV programmes and commemorated its half-century on the air with its most explosive storyline to date. Emma helped build the pyrotechnics for the climactic blast just before a Metrolink tram smashed into the county's best known street.

Emma is in her final year at the University and found the opportunity of working on Coronation Street through another work placement for her pyrotechnic module. She was helping at the Southport Air Show with specialist explosive engineers company, Event Horizons. Event Horizons have worked on a

host of top TV programmes and Hollywood blockbusters, like Batman: The Dark Knight.

They were also the brains behind the Street's big-bang, so when the opportunity arose to work on the project, Emma jumped at the chance. She said: 'The placement was amazing, I learned so much. It was very hands on and very demanding. I did all sorts, from the specialist stuff to basic heavy lifting, carrying big bags of skeet up and down ladders. It was a small team so it really was hard work but I learned a lot.'

She chose Bolton after meeting Special Effects (BDes) Programme Leader, Simon Wiggins, at an open day. Emma had originally thought about doing a design or animation course but was 'blown away' by what Simon showed her.

So, clear with what she wanted to do in her mind, Emma had a look at other special effects courses but opted to go with her original choice. She said: 'There are two areas of special effects. The physical side, this involves blowing things up, set building and designing landscapes. The other side is related to things like CGI and animation. I chose Bolton because it was the only course I found that taught you both aspects.'

Special Effects (BSc) Programme Leader, Damien Markey, has also praised Emma's attitude. He said: 'Enthusiastic and motivated students like Emma have shown they can be trusted to contribute to large-scale commercial projects. This work is another example of the opportunities presented to the students on the Special Effects degrees.'

For more information about SFX courses at Bolton, please visit their website at www.bolton.ac.uk/sfx

Bolton graduate bags top client

Woing your first customers is a challenge for any young designer, but Natalie Berry has gone straight to the top – to the world-famous department store Harrods!

Now University graduate, Natalie, has her designs showcased in the luxury goods specialist's London store – and all because Harrods saw her work when she was exhibiting as a student.

Spotting the talents of the 24-year-old Blackley woman at the New Designers Exhibition in London while she was a third year student, Harrods emailed Natalie saying they were interested in her work.

Natalie had created a collection of souvenir-inspired designs for the exhibition, printed on ceramics, as well as tea towels and postcards.

Said Natalie: 'Harrods is such an iconic store; it's an amazing shop window for my first business-related work.'

'I really could not ask for better. We worked up ideas from the second year into the third so we had a very strong vision of what our work for the exhibition would be. I was inspired by the architecture of London and was very interested in creating contemporary souvenir designs. Harrods asked me to include other London landmark buildings in my design, including their own store. The whole process took about eight months to complete.'

Natalie is now working to realise her career dream: starting her own business and basing herself in Cornwall. Currently working as a clothes shop supervisor, Natalie is saving to relocate and fund her business start-up.

'I am working on developing my designs and creating gifts for friends but my supervisor job is helping me save to fund my business plan,' said Natalie.

'With my work already on show in Harrods I have a fantastic shop window for my designs but my goal is to have my own shop. St Ives is where I want to be, ideally.'

Graduating with a 2:1 in Textile/Surface Design, Natalie says



her time at Bolton has been ideal for her. 'I started university in Liverpool but really didn't like it. The classes were huge and I had very little contact with my tutor. The whole experience got me down and I left.'

'I took a few months out and then applied to Bolton. Bolton was right for me. Classes were smaller, there was as much contact with tutors as you wanted and they had such great professional experience you knew you were learning with people who really knew the business. I was also lucky to have access to great facilities at Bolton.'

Natalie is still developing her trading name and is currently working on selling her creations through an online shopping site, but anyone interested in commissioning her in the meantime can email natalie.berry@btinternet.com

Project lands Kasoma job with Tote

Graduate Kasoma Sianuwele has secured a job with a leading bookmakers after impressing them with his unique concept for online gambling.

Kasoma was a Multimedia Web Development (MWD) degree student working on ideas for his final year assignment when Totesport approached the School of Business and Creative Technologies. Totesport wanted ideas to raise their online brand awareness within a younger demographic and attract more students to their website.

After discussions between Totesport staff

and University tutors, Kasoma was asked to work on the venture. He jumped at the chance and immediately began working with his lecturers and the Totesport team. With their input he had the idea for an app for the social networking site, Facebook. But the app wasn't for betting online using traditional methods. Its unique aspect was it introduced the concept of competition among friends and other users, rather than betting for financial gain.

The app allows users to bet against friends on the outcome of anything from football results to a boxing match. It was

purely for 'bragging rights' and no money changes hands between cash-strapped students. Totesport loved the idea and now Kasoma has been working on the app's development, full-time, since graduation, as a Graduate Web Developer Trainee at Tote's Wigan HQ.

Kasoma's time at the University was not always successful. He spent his first year on the 'wrong course' and asked the University could he change: 'The University really helped me and were very accommodating to my needs. When I began to have initial doubts about the course I had originally chosen my morale started to drop. However, they really helped me and walked me through the process.'

Smart material to harness energy from the elements

Imagine a world where all those gadgets that seem to constantly need recharging – from your mobile phone to your laptop to your MP3 – can just charge themselves.



Research scientists from the Institute for Materials Research and Innovation (IMRI) claim that world is very close and they are now working with a development company in China to bring their latest smart material invention to market.

With funding from the Knowledge Centre for Materials Chemistry (KCMC), the IMRI scientists have now created a unique product – a flexible piezoelectric fibre that can be woven to create natural energy-harnessing fabrics. Energy is created as the material is moved.

But now the researchers have added to it, patenting a method for creating a photovoltaic-piezoelectric fibre which would also harness the power of the sun, meaning the material could be a solar energy source as well.

Principal inventor of the hybrid fibre is Director of Research at the University, Professor Elias Soares. He said: 'There is nothing like our hybrid piezoelectric and photovoltaic fibre in the market at present. Scientists in America have created piezoelectric fibres with limited flexibility and consequently limited applications.

'Our hybrid photovoltaic-piezoelectric material has so much potential that it can be woven into everything, including laptop and mobile phone cases. In its casing the appliance could be charging, as it is handled or placed near sunlight. At home, a tree with needle like fibres, like a pine tree, could be converting sun, wind and rain into electrical energy which is stored ready for charging.

'The most immediate applications will be in the area of low-power microelectronic-driven devices like mobiles, laptops, MP3s, iPads – anything that requires re-chargeable batteries or small batteries to run.

'Obviously you wouldn't leave your laptop out in the wind

and the rain but movement created by being carried in its case or being placed near a window could be enough to generate the energy to recharge it.

'The next challenge will then be to improve on the power conversion through ongoing research and development so it can feed more power-hungry systems.'

The research team is set to start producing samples of the hybrid material using equipment bought through £1 million funding from KCMC.

The team will then begin thoroughly testing the material's effectiveness in gathering wind, rain and solar energy. They will



also carry out tests for its effectiveness in generating electricity from wave movement, under the ocean.

Said Professor Soares: 'Just as a jellyfish's tendrils move with the motion of waves, so could structures produced from this material, collecting energy from the sea. We're also looking at its potential in space as well.'

Research Fellow Dr Ravi Hadimani has been measuring how much electricity is generated by the hybrid material. Said Dr Hadimani: 'We have conducted a number of experiments, measuring lower-level electricity generated by hybrid photovoltaic and piezoelectric cells, but can bring in one watt of energy per 20cm x20cm square of the material. The advantage of a hybrid photovoltaic and piezoelectric cell is that it can generate energy when there is no sunlight on a rainy or windy day, by using wind and rain energy. When you consider a low-energy light bulb uses nine watts you can see that now, even in its early development stages, the material is producing credible power.

'We will be testing the photovoltaic-piezoelectric fibre as soon as we can. But in theory it should be at least as effective in gathering energy.'

The University of Bolton will be working with GK opto-electronics Co Ltd and Nanchang Hangkong University in China to further develop the energy-harnessing fibre over the next three years.

The photovoltaic-piezoelectric fibre research team are: Professor Elias Soares, Dr Tahir Shah, Dr Ravi Hadimani and PhD student Derman Vatansever.

GK opto-electronics Co Ltd is a light-energy technology company. Nanchang Hangkong University specialises in aviation and engineering research.

Australian Research Council grant for Bolton

The Bolton Automotive & Aerospace Research Group (BAARG) at the University of Bolton is celebrating after being granted funding for a joint research project that has the potential to save hundreds of crash victims' lives.

The ARC funding, worth AU\$510,000 which equates to about £350,000, is for research into Dynamic Rollover Occupant Protection (DROPP). The project will assess current vehicle roof designs and find out why, in some vehicles, they intrude into occupant safety space during a rollover collision. Once the results are in they then hope to develop countermeasures that will improve the chances of survival for those inside.

World-renowned authority in crashworthiness and Head of BAARG, Professor Clive Chirwa, said: 'Rollovers are a big problem in the USA and Australia. In the UK and many parts of Europe it isn't as prevalent; however it is still responsible for over 30 per cent of total vehicle crash fatalities. For this reason alone a solution must be found that will reduce the cost to society.'

The international partners in this project are the University of New South Wales and Manask University, both in Australia, and The George Washington University in the USA. There are also two companies involved, the Centre for Injury Research and the International Test System, both of the USA.

Each university will investigate aspects of the research, which is divided into three separate parts: Accidentology, Vehicle Roof Design and research into Occupant Protection. The University



of Bolton will be heavily involved in the last two areas.

Due to the possible impact of this research finding, in the USA the George Washington University has already been approached by the country's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). This interest by NHTSA will be discussed early next year in Washington DC by the University of Bolton, the University of New South Wales and the George Washington University, who are joint chairs of the Occupant Protection Committee and Rollover Crashworthiness Subcommittee at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) of USA.

For more information on the important research carried out by BAARG, please visit their website <http://www.bolton.ac.uk/bee/baarg/>

Making train travel safer for wheelchair users

PhD student Emmanuel Matsika is working to make train travel safer for people in wheelchairs.

Emmanuel has recently returned from The International I-Crash 2010 Conference in the USA, where he delivered a paper based on initial results from his groundbreaking research work.

He is investigating the potential injuries wheelchair users could suffer in a train crash. No research has been carried out in this area before and preliminary findings are already gaining interest from wheelchair manufacturers, passenger restraint manufacturers, regulatory bodies and operators such as the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTX).

At present, a wheelchair is not fixed to anything stable in a carriage, only using its brakes to stop it from rolling when the train is in motion. But, under heavy braking or collision, the wheelchair may

be a life-threatening risk to its occupant and other passengers. The force of a crash could send a wheelchair hurtling down a carriage, potentially colliding with other passengers. Emmanuel hopes to develop countermeasures that will help reduce the risk of injury.

To measure the impact forces likely in such collisions, Emmanuel has to conduct several crash tests so he can collect a comprehensive catalogue of data from different simulated crash scenarios.

The cost to use a commercial crash test facility would usually be around £3,000-£5,000 per test. The cost of building a typical hydraulic-driven crash test rig can be in the millions of pounds. So at a fraction of the price, Emmanuel, as part of his PhD requirement, designed his own unique sledge.

This rig, which is located in the

University's Bolton Automotive and Aerospace Research Group (BAARG) Laboratory, cost just £2,500 and has so far withstood several impact tests. The sledge, code-named BEDAS, can be adapted for use in similar investigations on mobility scooters. Emmanuel said: 'Once my research is completed, I will present my findings to various stakeholders from the industry. I hope the findings will go some way to improving wheelchair occupant and passenger safety on public transport.'

He has spent the past three years investigating and is almost set to complete his research. He added: 'The practical side of the crash-tests has been completed; now it is time to carry out computer simulations to be presented next year.' In the meantime, before his thesis submission, he aims to write two to three academic papers that will inform the crashworthiness research community of his research outcomes.

Knitted breasts used as teaching aids

You've heard of knitting tea-cosies, woolly jumpers and hats. Well, what about knitting breasts?

Staff and volunteers at the University have been busy with wool and needles creating the woollen body parts. They are being used as teaching aids for student health visitors who will, when qualified, be helping new mums learn how to breastfeed. Students are shown exactly where and how to attach a baby to the breast. They can then demonstrate this procedure correctly to new mothers.

Senior Lecturer in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing, Julianne Harlow, said: 'Correct attachment helps to ensure effective suckling and helps prevent problems. Without adequate support these difficulties sometimes lead to the discontinuation of breastfeeding, which is a shame as breastfeeding has many health benefits for both mums and babies.'

The project is part of the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative. It was set up in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to ensure a high standard of care for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and babies. Promoting breastfeeding in Bolton is particularly relevant as the Greater Manchester region has some of the most disadvantaged areas within the UK where the initiation of breastfeeding is 12 per cent lower than the national average. Just 17 per cent of all babies in the region are still being breastfed at six months, one of the lowest rates in the country.

The University of Bolton is heavily involved with the programme and is well on its way to securing UNICEF accreditation for its teaching. Stage one has already been



completed and the knitted breasts are being used to help student health visitors secure stage two. Representatives from the Baby Friendly Initiative will be assessing the students' skills in March 2011. If they complete the assessment successfully the programme at the University will be the first university in the country to gain accreditation in respect of health visitor training.

Fifteen people from around the University and community volunteers are involved in knitting the breasts. There are now about 30 breasts in a variety of sizes and colours. Shelly Ince, a Programme Administrator at the University, has knitted several. She said: 'At first I got involved because I could knit, I work in the same department; I enjoy it and will keep going.'

Knitted breasts will be required for each new group of student health visitors who start the programme every September, so it looks as if this will be an ongoing project.

Lowry premiere for lecturer's play

Senior Lecturer Justin MacGregor saw his play premiere on the prestigious stage of the Lowry Studio last autumn.

The Senior Lecturer in Digital Film Production and Writing based the play on the exploits of his own grandfather. Hector MacGregor was a notable actor and, just after the Second World War, co-starred with Marlene Dietrich in the Alfred Hitchcock directed film, Stage Fright. During the war Hector and his friend, Charles, performed shows for troops on the North African frontline and this is the main focal point of The Play That Killed Me. Justin wrote the play as part of his professional development at the University. He says the atmosphere at Bolton greatly aided him

in developing the play: 'It's the ideal place for me. It's just the right size, with excellent support from the staff and all my students. It has been a very liberating experience. The University has definitely had a part to play in this process, that's why I thank them in my programme notes.'

He feels the University's small class sizes benefit both him and his students: 'The class sizes allow for a greater communication between lecturer and student. That then enables the creative process to flow more freely and inspire my students. When I was at university we had classes of up to 150 and some lecture halls seating up to 1,000; it just wasn't possible to get anything done.'

Some of his students will help with the production by designing and producing a multimedia website for the play. The play also has the potential to go on tour across the country. A special

showcase is to be performed at the Lowry later this year. It will be held in front of about 40 national theatre representatives looking to see if the play is right for their theatres.

Justin is now working on a second play, *God Wept And The Devil Laughed*. This too has been snapped up by the Lowry Studio and is set to be shown in July.



Students to develop Facebook games for University

As higher education becomes a more competitive market, universities must adopt unique methods to reach their target audience.

The School of Business and Creative Technologies (BCT) is going to engage current students in an innovative social media marketing strategy for the University of Bolton.

BCT will be building on the recent success of the design and development of the commercial Facebook application, ToteQuid, developed in BCT as part of a final year research project for the company ToteSport. BCT will now engage further students in the development of two new Facebook applications, BandManager and StudentVille.

Social networking games (SNG) such as Mafia Wars and Farmville have become a digital gaming phenomenon. Today, the most popular SNG attract tens of millions of players each month, reaching a vast audience looking for an alternative to traditional video games.

StudentVille will be developed as an in-house active student development project, to play a role in the University's social media and digital marketing strategy.

The goal is to raise brand awareness of the University of Bolton with the 16 to 21-year-old demographic and beyond. As an interactive, strategy-focused game, StudentVille will give players the opportunity to experience life as a student, building a strong social network and with the goal to

eventually earn a virtual graduation certificate and gown.

Similarly, the interactive Facebook application BandManager will aim to promote the University's music and live event industries courses. In this game players will experience life as the manager of a band, organising tours, promoting new releases, managing the budget and dealing with the characters within the band. Bronze, gold and platinum discs will be awarded as the player progresses through the game.

As well as establishing a substantial presence for the University of Bolton via viral marketing, BandManager and StudentVille will also give current students the opportunity to work on a live project brief intended as a long-term commodity. Working closely with the marketing team at the University of Bolton and co-supervisors Rachel Mclean and Angela Tinwell, the first students to start the challenge are about to begin work. It is intended to get the applications to at least a prototype stage with the first students assigned to the project. Once launched, new students will be given tasks to further develop, improve and maintain the existing application. This project will engage students from IT and Computing, Multimedia and Web Development, Creative Technologies and Games Software Development courses in BCT.

Important research questions will be raised as part of this project, including the implications of branding and marketing via social networks, game play and design, usability issues and the psychological aspects of social media networks.



Malaysia MSc alumnus presents VC with book

Pictured is Nor Azmi Bin Ramli, presenting a copy of his book *Energy Efficiency, Management and Audit* to University Vice Chancellor, Dr George Holmes, at the University's Degree Congregation Ceremony for students studying with us in Kuala Lumpur.

Nor Azmi Bin Ramli graduated with an MSc in Supply Chain Management from our partnership programme with SCM Professional Centre in Malaysia in 2009.

He is Chief Procurement Officer with Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Malaysia's main energy provider, and says he has implemented some very successful change projects in TNB, using theory learnt on his MSc.

Too much, too young?

Exploring pressures on young elite rugby players to bulk up on muscle too fast and too early in their careers is the focus of a new research project.

Sports psychologist and Strength and Conditioning MSc Programme Leader, Paul Russell, is examining the relationship between perfectionism and muscle dysmorphia in the sport. Muscle dysmorphia, sometimes called reverse anorexia nervosa, is a disorder in which a person becomes obsessed with the idea that he or she is not muscular enough. Sufferers often believe they are skinny when they are actually above average musculature.

Paul believes the condition can be particularly damaging for young rugby players whose determination to make the first team can lead to taking extreme methods of gaining muscle as they try to 'make weight'.

He says the pressures on sportsmen and women can 'be enormous' and steroid abuse is well documented in other disciplines.

Said Paul: 'The majority of research looking at muscle dysmorphia has been conducted in America and has focused primarily on bodybuilders. I want to look at rugby, both league and union, and focus on the young players making the transition from academy rugby to the reserve and first team. These young players will be 17-19 and nowhere near fully grown or ready to deal with a 16-stone adult, first-team player.'

'But the pressures to get into the first team are huge and to

do that you have to make weight. Whether young players have the strength of character to resist quick, possibly illegal and potentially career-destroying shortcuts is questionable.

'Muscle dysmorphia has been demonstrated to leave individuals vulnerable to a range of psychological, biological and environmental risks, including depression, heart failure, renal failure and dehydration, the use of extreme dieting behaviours, exercise addiction and the use of anabolic steroids that have been associated with the premature death of several bodybuilders.

'Steroid use is well documented in other sports and they are remarkably easy to get hold of – the temptation is definitely there. My research aims to explore whether young players are at risk, psychologically, from muscle dysmorphia, and whether there is a link between muscle dysmorphia symptomatology and perfectionism.'

Paul's research project will run for three years as he contacts a number of professional rugby league and union clubs, aiming to assess over 200 young elite players during that time.

He has worked as a sports psychologist for more than 15 years, working with Premiership football and rugby clubs, and helping athletes to prepare mentally to compete. He has also worked with Commonwealth and Olympic athletes, including Great Britain boxing, Great Britain water polo, Great Britain Olympic wrestling. Most recently he helped the British hockey team prepare for the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Student's quest for sporting excellence

Callum Walsh, an MSc student in Strength and Conditioning, has recently returned from a prestigious three-month work placement at one of the sporting world's premier performance enhancement centres.

The IMG Performance Institute in Florida, USA, leads the way in sporting development and coaching. It is a purpose-built, 300-acre, world-renowned site and helped some of America's leading athletes become truly elite. Now back on this side of the Atlantic, Callum is throwing all his energy into setting up his own consultancy business, Performance Enhancement Projects (PEP).

The aim is to combine his new and unique knowledge with that gained through his MSc in Strength and Conditioning at University of Bolton. And Callum, who is currently working at Liverpool FC in the Academy, now has several Premiership clubs interested in his business and ideas.



Despite the daunting nature of working with some of America's best known sporting personalities and coaches, Callum was confident enough in his own abilities to succeed; something he puts down to the quality of the masters course at Bolton: 'When I first arrived, the sheer pressure and atmosphere of the place was

intimidating. But due to the sound theoretical knowledge I'd gained on my course I was able to apply myself very well and be confident in doing so.'

At IMG he worked with many world-class athletes from junior to professional level, across eight sports. He specialised in the areas of movement analysis and the speed of lateral and linear movement. For example, in America's National Football League (NFL) massive men sprint over short distances, changing direction very quickly. Callum wants to apply this same principle in the UK to continuous-based sports, like football and rugby, where players cover more distance, up to 10k in 90 minutes.

He said: 'I've seen 18-stone men change direction as quickly as Premiership footballers like Theo Wallcott and Aaron Lennon, and run as powerfully as Gareth Bale, a very daunting combination to play against. I want to apply that same logic here. Combine speed and power so a player can move effectively. Then he won't be seen as the "big man" cliché – powerful and clumsy – or the "wiry winger" – fast but weak.'



Ring of strength drives Shrewsbury's push for promotion

It is often said football and academia don't mix, but student Nathan Ring could be set to prove the naysayers wrong.

Shrewsbury Town Football Club is flying high in League Two, sitting just two points from the top of the table, as the *Bolt* went to press. The players and manager will take most of the plaudits. But, as always in football, there is a professional backroom team behind the scenes. As the club's physiotherapist, Nathan is a prominent member of that team and he has seen techniques learned at the University already pay dividends on the field.

Nathan has been at the club for three years and is currently in the second year of his masters degree in Strength and Conditioning. Despite having a raft of qualifications that would make the average academic blush – an undergraduate degree in physiotherapy and a masters in Sports and Exercise Medicine – he feels his time at Bolton has really helped him progress as a physio.

He said: 'It's an excellent course for a physiotherapist working in sport. Most physiotherapists think they are conditioning coaches as well, without the necessary training. However, at undergraduate level we never had this level of detailed knowledge and expertise taught to us, we just had a brief mention of general concepts and that was it.'

Nathan also says the course is tailor-made for him as he juggles his studies around his profession. He prefers contact time with tutors and other students so he can build lasting relationships as well as build his knowledge.

He said: 'I enjoy working with other people and making new connections within the sporting world. I also think I would have struggled with making time for studying at home; having a whole day at the University does help me get in any extra work or research required.'

It was always Nathan's ambition to work in football, but it didn't happen overnight. He has had to put plenty of hard work into turning his dream into a reality. As well as his academic achievements, he has worked as a fitness instructor and personal trainer. He then went on to work in the NHS, building up his experience before getting his chance with Shrewsbury Town. But even that came at a cost: 'I wasn't getting paid. I initially started on an expenses-only contract for three months, working full-time with the youth team.'

But his patience and dedication finally – and literally – paid off: 'I was made permanent after the three months and spent the rest of the season working with the youth team and reserve squads. After that, I was promoted to first team physiotherapist by the new manager and this is my third season.'

Bolton alumnus chronicles birth of MediaCityUK

The MediaCityUK development may be the biggest thing to happen to the North West for years. It is set to establish the region as a media production and broadcast powerhouse and bring thousands of industry-related jobs to the area. Now, as it hurtles towards its completion in late 2011, the sheer scale of it is beginning to take shape.





But one man has chronicled the massive project since its inception. IT Manager and former Bolton student, Mark Whitefield, has detailed the building of the project with literally thousands of photographs – at last count about 15,000. He has also set up an active and up-to-date group on the social network forum LinkedIn.

Mark lives in Bolton but has worked in the Salford Quays area, where MediaCityUK is being built, for 15 years. In that time he has seen it change radically, from a sparse, industrial space to bustling urban centre. Iconic landmarks, shopping centres and apartments have all sprung up around the Quay, but Mark feels their completion passed him by: 'The Lowry Outlet Mall, The Lowry Centre, The NV Flats and The Imperial War Museum North (IWMN) have all just appeared, it seems. Despite the time and effort taken to construct some of these iconic quays structures, I only noticed them once they were complete and I started to visit them. Time to put things right I thought...'

It is from that simple thought that the most comprehensive catalogue of MediaCityUK began. Despite the impressive and exhaustive nature of the project, it was never meant to be an official timeline: 'It was going to be an intimate, workman-level account of the build that might prove useful and fascinating some years after the development had been completed,' added Mark.

As well as simply taking pictures of the site, Mark has set up a discussion group and timeline. This means he also has developed an in-depth knowledge of the project and what it could mean for industry-related jobs and links to local businesses and education. 'I am aware of the University of Bolton's interests in this area and gaming initiatives, which also feature highly on the MediaCityUK portfolio of companies resident. As a former student of Bolton Institute, I would be the first to welcome MediaCityUK academic initiatives with Bolton media faculties.'

Mark collects most of his information and photographs during his lunch breaks while at work. In all, it has taken him approximately 260 man hours, over three-and-a-half years to collate and construct the timeline. It is a dedication that has not gone unnoticed. He has been especially invited on site many times, mentioned in the blog of BBC North on numerous occasions and had his work published in the Manchester Evening News.

And what does Mark think of his work? 'It's an electronic feat to parallel the actual MediaCityUK build itself,' he said.



Celebrating community achievers

The University of Bolton and Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC) recently came together to celebrate the success and academic achievements of youth workers and mentors.

At a ceremony held at the University, certificates were awarded for the completion of the Professional Development qualification in Youth and Community Work and in Mentoring Young People. The Youth and Community course, now in its fifth year, saw 14 students pass, with 19 completing the Mentoring course. The Mentoring course is new to the University but has been successfully delivered by BLGC for several years. This year sees the first collaboration between the University and BLGC.

The challenging course combined practical work experience on various youth and community work projects, and one-to-one mentoring of young people, with classroom-based study. It was taught outside usual academic hours so the students fitted the course around their everyday lives, including jobs and parenting.

Lindsey Spence from Hulme, Manchester, who passed the Professional Development qualification in Youth and Community Work, was thrilled with her award. She is in her first year of a Youth and Community Work degree

course at the University of Bolton. She said: 'I want to work with young offenders, I enjoyed and got so much from this course I've decided to go on to the degree and make a career for myself.'

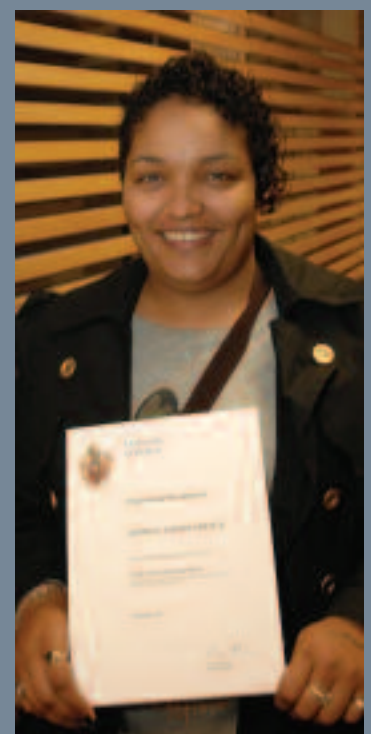
Health and Social Sciences' Dean of School, Margaret Boneham, handed out the honours and praised the work of the students. She said: 'You should all be extremely proud of your achievements. To combine study, practical work placements and your own voluntary work, then fit it all around normal day-to-day lives is outstanding.'

She went on to praise the course tutors and 'pioneers', Pat Woodward and Debra Caffery, saying without their dedication such courses and events could not go ahead.

Debra and Pat are both highly experienced in community work, holding a number of varied and senior positions in the field before coming to Bolton.

Course leader Debra has helped build anti-racism and community cohesion across the region and has worked with the Home Office. Pat has 20 years' experience and has worked with young offenders, job seekers and the disadvantaged.

Pat said: 'It has been a pleasure to teach you all, all my classes have had a great atmosphere. I know, for most of you, this may be the first experience of higher learning since school, so I hope you enjoyed it and I hope it opens doors for future endeavours.'



Farewell Peter Marsh



Walk into the University library today and you will see new signs telling you that you are in The Peter Marsh Library.

Such is the regard with which Professor Marsh is held, the University has named its library after its former Deputy Vice Chancellor, marking his retirement and honouring his contribution to the University's success.

That regard is reciprocated; Prof Marsh's enthusiasm for the University of Bolton and its achievements comes easily as he talks about his 20 years here. During that time he helped lead the then Bolton Institute's march towards attaining university title and played a key role in the institution's development, both in the UK and around the world. Prof Marsh has represented the University at degree congregation ceremonies as far away as Africa and Hong Kong. He also represented the University at the opening of its United Arab Emirates campus in 2008 and has been instrumental in building the University's brand overseas. Today, thousands of students from Greece to Malaysia, from China to Zambia, study for University of Bolton degree courses at partner institutions.

Prof Marsh said: 'It was a long process and there were stepping stones to cross.

'We had to show we were a sufficient size, had the student numbers and demonstrate the breadth of provision.

'University status was a big boost. It made it more attractive to students and led to growth in subject areas.

'We started with 7,000 students, now the University has 14,000.'

Of all his achievements at the University, Prof Marsh cites the success of health studies as a particular highlight for him.

Prof Marsh said: 'I am really proud of the growth of health studies, it is now a big subject in the university and the Bolton One, a multipurpose health, fitness and research facility, is being developed, which will be used by students and the public.

'There is a strong textiles department in the University, and Bolton was known for its textiles.

'But today the University's research is in smart materials, technologically advanced to achieve astonishing practical solutions, from medical care to green energy generation.'

As the University continues to grow in popularity with students, leading to increased competition for limited places, Prof Marsh insists its ethos will remain.

The University prides itself on ensuring part-time courses and distant learning options are available alongside full-time students, to ensure people, no matter what their age or background, are able to go into higher education.

Prof Marsh said: 'I am proud of the access agenda and having students who are the first generation in their family to go to university. I was a first-generation university student in my family and the university wants to give that opportunity to other people through flexible learning options.'



It is this drive to open up opportunities for learning to people who might not have otherwise been able to go into higher education, which has seen the university expand across the globe in Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Africa and Greece.

Prof Marsh said the University helped the minority Chinese people in Malaysia further their education, as there were few places for them in the country's universities.

'It is a similar agenda to the one the University has here, to educate students who may not have had a chance before,' he said.

In the light of the Government funding changes, Prof Marsh said the University is a good position.

'We are responsive to the needs of employers, and adapt to the trends and requirements of society.

'We don't sit in an ivory tower looking down,' he said.

Pictured: Prof Marsh (left) with his commemorative plaque in the University library and (above) with Students' Union President, Ashley Howell, celebrating the arrival of the University's Fairtrade status certificate.



Super-scale sculpture

A sculpture has been unveiled in Bolton's Queens Park on a scale never quite seen before. Some say the entire episode is even a bit fishy...

Fine Art degree student, Maggie Hargreaves, won the right to have her sculpture stand (or should we say swim) in the park through a competition involving the University and Bolton Council. The sculpture was a three-metre-long fish made out of metal and covered in wooden scales. It was recently unveiled to the town and was part of a community-wide arts project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Programme Leader for Fine Art at the University, Alan Buckingham, worked with Sue Rigby, Landscape Regeneration Manager for Bolton Council, to get this project off the ground. He said: 'The council wanted to use artists to help generate an interest to the park, and bring more visitors and users— especially families and young people.'

Maggie said: 'The University and Bolton Council came together. There were several entries and mine was chosen. The brief for the competition was all about community, so inclusion was a big part of my process.'

And that's why Maggie can't take all the credit for her piece. She had some help from children who attend local schools, in keeping with the community ethos of the project.

The children helped her decorate the fish's scales, which have a unique feature that will leave a lasting legacy: 'The scales are detachable. This means that children in the future can still get involved with the arts and decorate the sculpture how they want. Art should be about communities coming together and I hope my sculpture goes some way to helping that.'

Maggie is in the final year of her degree and wants to continue producing public art and get involved with projects at local schools. Her current vocation is a world away from her previous jobs. Maggie used to be a scientist and, after years of working as a biologist, traded her microscope for an easel. She found the University of Bolton helped her with the transition and is currently finishing the degree part-time. She said: 'I've always enjoyed art and used to take night classes and courses around work. Then I decided to go for it properly when my children reached secondary school. The course here accommodates me very well. I've enjoyed it.'

Engineers motor to great heights

Bolton's first-year mechanical engineers showed off their talents at the IMechE Challenge, held recently in Manchester.

This year the task was to build a pump that would fill a two-metre cylinder as fast as possible, using a six-volt motor.

Two Bolton teams faced tough opposition from ten student teams entered by Manchester, MMU, Lancaster, Salford and Liverpool John Moores universities.

The competition was closely fought; Bolton Team One won a heat and eventually finished a close second behind the Lancaster teams. Their efforts netted them a welcome £200 in prize money. And Bolton Team Two were very close behind Team One, again beating all the other Greater Manchester university teams.

Pictured are: Team One (left) students, from left: Panagiotis Fotopoulos, Zeeshan Muther and Robert Metcalfe; and Team Two: (right) Arseniy Belyi, Obert Mupambireyi, Nick Sturt, Imran Najak and Charlie Mills.



Design student awash with success

Graphic Design student, Rachel Benyon, impressed the head of a successful North West design agency after showing great initiative to capture a work placement.

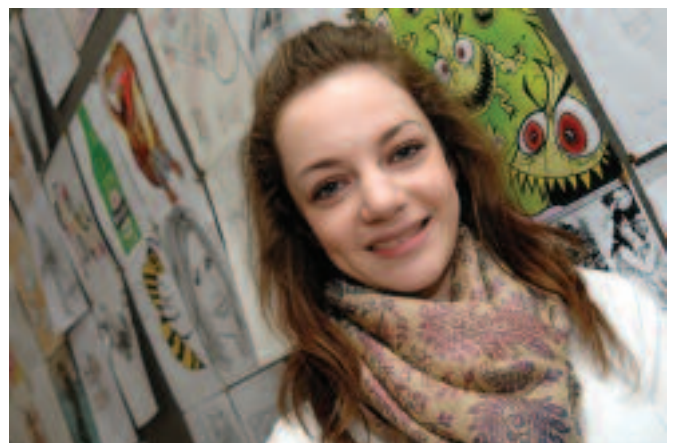
Andy Walmsley of Preston-based design workshop, Wash Design, was at the University giving a talk to students about the industry. After the discussion, proactive Rachel, then a second year student, wasted no time in approaching her tutor, John Washington, asking him to arrange a placement. So while other students were spending their summers working on their tans, Rachel was working full-time at Wash. She was there from June until term began for her third year in September.

Said her tutor, John: 'Students would not normally be looking for work placements until their third year. Rachel's a go-getter and I wanted her to have the opportunity. She clearly made a big impression.'

Rachel worked on many 'live briefs', meaning her contributions were used with real clients. Something, she feels, that has boosted her confidence in her own work and abilities. She said: 'It has definitely enhanced the way I work. It gave me more discipline and improved my speed.'

Speaking of her time at the University, the Bolton woman said she enjoys every minute. She added: 'I love it, I don't want to leave. The tutors, especially John, are fantastic. I'm a very proactive person and found the more I put in to the University the more I got out of it.'

And it was not just Rachel who gained from the placement; Andy Walmsley was full of praise for her and grateful for her contribution. He said: 'Rachel was a great contributor to our team; even though Rachel is still a student she could fit in to our small unit perfectly and be a real player. Her work was in vogue and she has a good eye to what is contemporary. Always a bonus in our game.'



Art life for fleamarket finds



Lecturer and contemporary artist David Gedhill teamed up with fellow artist Corrin Sworn to deliver an innovative art exhibition, simply titled **Two Person Show**.

The show took place at Manchester's Castlefield Gallery. Gedhill presented an intriguing series of paintings

he's called Doctor Munscheid. The pictures depict 'transcriptions of photographs' from a family photo-album. However, it's not the usual collection of family portraits; the album spans a nine-year period in 1950s East Germany and was found on a Frankfurt fleamarket.

According to the album's inscriptions, it was put together by a doctor Wilhelm Munscheid, from which the paintings get their name, for his daughter on her fifth wedding anniversary in 1957. Gedhill says he was drawn to the pictures because they provide a glimpse of ordinary people in a country that is coming to terms with its Nazi past, defeat in the Second World War and coming under repressive Communist rule.

Sworn's installation consisted of a series of projected slides she salvaged from a skip. The visual display was accompanied by a 'philosophical narration' by the artist herself.



IEC in triple research grant success

The University of Bolton's Institute for Cybernetics has won three EU-funded research and development projects, which together are worth €1 million.

These three prestigious projects will take three years to complete. One of these, Omelette, is the first research project IEC has won which is not directly related to educational technology.

The team will be working with European partners on all three, called Omelette, iTEC and TELmap.

Omelette will aim to enhance the integration of the web and telecommunications services. The delivery of web-based information services is already well established. However, the current trend is for information not to be provided just as webpages, but also as streams of data which can be combined and presented as a webpage or a small application designed by a third party. This approach

is known as "mashing-up" services. An example is the way that Google maps appear in many different webpages, in combination with various kinds of services and additional information. This trend is now converging with the telecommunications industry to provide new services which mash-up the web and services offered by telecoms providers. Omelette provides a platform which can be used to create and deliver these mash-ups on mobile platforms, like smart phones.

iTEC is also creating interactive services, in this case to support the adoption of innovative technologies and practices in large-scale pilot projects taking place in schools across the Continent. The project aims to support teachers in embracing classroom technologies and maximising the potential of e-Learning opportunities for children.

TELmap will aim to develop a roadmap for the future of e-Learning, enabling educationalists and funding

bodies to plan for the future, based on studies of emerging trends.

Staff from across IEC will be involved in the research and development of the three projects.

The projects build on the success of earlier work by IEC. TELmap develops some aspects of the Centre for Educational Technology and Interoperability Standards service in a wider European context, while Omelette and iTEC both build on the Wookie widget server, which was developed in the TENCompetence project IEC completed last year.

Wookie is a Java server application that allows users to upload and deploy widgets to applications. It has been accepted by the prestigious Apache Software Foundation. There, affiliated developers around the world are examining its potential, improving and extending it. Said IEC senior researcher, Scott Wilson: 'Undoubtedly it was Wookie that attracted our invitations to participate in Omelette and iTEC, which are a substantial funding win for IEC.'

Aiming higher

Seven looked-after young people have 'graduated' from the University as part of a groundbreaking project.

Working in collaboration with the University and Aimhigher, the Chances programme aims to make further education accessible to looked-after youths. A staggering 75 per cent leave school with no qualifications, with less than one in every 100 going on to university. The children involved in the project are aged between 15-17 and come from Bury, Rochdale and Wigan.

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Marsh, opened the ceremony by praising the young people and their achievements. He said: 'It's a great pleasure to be involved with such a project. It promotes participation and motivation and that is what the University of Bolton is all about. These young people have proved everyone can go as far as they want and achieve their full potential. All they need is for the barriers to be removed.'

In the first week of the programme, participants are encouraged to have a 'vision' for their future. Then, through confidence-building and teamwork exercises, they are given some of the tools needed to succeed in further education. One of the children who benefited said: 'Twelve weeks ago I



wouldn't have stood up in front of anyone, never mind strangers. Everyone I know has commented on how much my confidence has grown. This programme has given me a vision. I can do it and I will do it.'

At the start of the 12-week programme many of the young people shied away from speaking in front of their own peers and just a few adults. But at the graduation ceremony, in front of a lecture theatre full of adults and strangers, each participant stood up and gave a speech to the audience. Some went even further and staged performances, ranging from a dance

routine to a rendition of an Eminem rap.

Patsy Cowan is Chances' Programme Director. She said: 'This is just the start of the journey for this inspirational group of young people. We are proud of the progress they have made and the barriers they have overcome, and are looking forward to travelling further with them.'

Over 100 young people have taken part in the Chances Self-Development programme. The project started at the University of Bolton in 2008 and, what began in Bolton, is now being hosted by universities across Greater Manchester.

Congratulations Paul Hollins

Paul Hollins has taken over from Professor Oleg Liber as the Director of the University's renowned Institute for Educational Cybernetics. Professor Liber founded the Institute in 2007, to research and apply ideas from management cybernetics in the field of education. This incorporated the JISC Centre for Educational Technology & Interoperability Standards (JISC CETIS). Since then the Institute has gone from strength to strength and is an international centre of excellence in the field.

The team forms part of a large community of researchers, programmers and educationalists who work nationally and internationally on many projects and collaborations. Paul is responsible for the operational management of the JISC CETIS service (Centre for Technology and Interoperability Standards).

Paul joined the University in 2003, having previously been



Head of Business Development for a UK-based educational content publisher and worked in the digital games industry. As Deputy Director, and now Director, his primary area of research is focused on themes around the use of digital technologies and the application of learning technology standards in education.

Science festival creates big buzz

Children enjoyed getting to grips with smart materials and a taste of zoology as the University took part in the Manchester Science Festival.

Over the autumn half-term week, children and parents learned about everything from the development of smart materials at the University to the declining habitat of the honey bee. Dozens of children from under five to 16 took part and were suitably amazed by demonstrations of how seaweed may be the future of the simple plaster and by a vest that resists attack from a knife.

Professor Andrew Alderson, Deputy Director of the University's Institute of Materials Research and Innovation, (IMRI) was among those demonstrating. He said: 'Teaching children is a fundamental part of science, but it is also



something I immensely enjoy. Being part of the Manchester Science Festival gives me the chance to bring the subject I love to a new audience and what better audience than children.'

Parees Lakhmen, age five, who took part in the week's first Science Treasure Trail said: 'I thought it was brilliant. All the experiments were fun and I liked the stab vest part the best.'

For one event, Bolton Central Library was the centre of attention and the bee was under the microscope...literally. Senior Lecturer in Biology and Environmental Studies, Ann Kolodziejki, organised the event after discussions with her first-year undergraduate class on what they thought might be an interesting topic for young children. Children made bee collages, coloured in bee pictures and got a spectacular view of the insect through a microscope.

Will Shaw, age 11, who was at the event with his sister said: 'I never knew how many different types of bees there were. Or how important they are...I've definitely learned something today.'

Dr Gill Smart and Prof Kim Alderson serve on the Partner Group of the Manchester Science Festival and organised the University of Bolton contributions. This is the third year they have taken part in the Festival, but the first time that the University has been used as a venue. Gill said: 'It has been a great success with around 140 people attending the events over three days. The children all learned something new, but more importantly they enjoyed themselves. Here's hoping it can be even bigger and better next year.'

Primary schoolchildren get active at University

The University has opened its sporting doors to local primary schoolchildren who now use its sports centre.

St Peters and St Pauls RC Primary School is just across the road from the University. Due to its location, near a busy traffic junction, and its Victorian buildings, the school has limited space for PE lessons. So the school's PE Co-ordinator, Jenny Croach, approached the University to solve the problem.

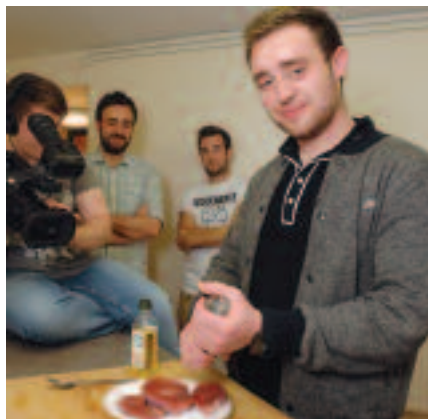
But this it is not a one-way relationship; it's a partnership. The coaching sessions are run by second year students on the Sports Development degree. They plan, develop and carry out all the activities as part of the Effective Coaching module of their course. Lecturer Mark Moran said: 'It's great for everyone, the children get to enjoy our facilities, do a range of activities and have fun. Our students get to hone their skills, get hands-on experience and work with probably their toughest critics. This can only improve their skills.'

The students agree that the valuable, first-hand experience is important but also simply enjoy the challenge of working with children. Andrew Thompson said: 'We used to coach and train each other but we became accustomed to working with our friends and got a little slack. With primary schoolchildren it's a different story. If they're bored they will tell you or just not do it. You really have got to put the work in.'

The University students themselves are also being monitored and assessed by their classmates. Each week one group will carry out the coaching session, while a second observes and offers constructive feedback. They then switch rolls the next week. Jason Mcline added: 'It's much better working with the children. You have to plan a lot more and modify your sessions as you go. You have to cater for all the children and each has a different ability level.'

The schoolchildren have been coming to the University for several weeks now and have enjoyed many different sports and activities, from football to mini-Olympics.





Studentcooking.TV has been putting the ingredients together to cook up something special with the University.

Working together, they have started to make videos filmed, produced and edited on the campus. Their first foray into culinary television is a video named How to Blag a Dinner Party. The short film goes through a step-by-step guide of how to rustle up some simple cuisine that would put to shame

Cooking up a storm...and learning

contestants on Come Dine With Me.

Those in front and behind the camera are all students at the University. Warren Bluck is in his final year of his Special Effects (SFX) degree and also a DJ. But what is a SFX DJ doing in front of camera as presenter and designated chef? He said: 'I like to present, I've done it on a couple of university projects and it's always been an experience for me. I really like it. It's something I'd like to pursue once I've finished here at Bolton...and I love food.'

The diversity of Warren's course and hobbies shows anyone can be involved in the project. Third-year Media Writing and Production (MWP) student, Jamie Coles was the man behind the camera. He wants to continue working in the industry when he leaves Bolton and thinks this kind of hands-on experience will be of great benefit. He said: 'I'm

definitely looking to work in the production side of the media when I leave. It's very competitive so the more experience I have like this, the better. You can do all the theory you want but actually doing the work is the only way you really learn.'

Studentcooking.TV is involved with several universities across the UK, but its relationship with Bolton is different. The partnership is more inclusive of the students, allowing them to film, edit and produce videos. Other videos in the pipeline will be made by Studentcooking.tv's own staff, but will still be filmed on the Bolton campus and, more importantly, have Bolton students as the cooks and presenters.

The students are getting hands-on, industry standard experience while Studentcooking.tv gets original content for its website.

Hands-on help for Heroes fundraisers

Sports Rehabilitation students have been using their skills to help fundraising footballers complete a weekend 24-hour five-a-side event.

Six students and two staff rolled up their sleeves to pummel and soothe the aching muscles of 13 players raising money for Help for Heroes at Bolton Arena.

Said Fin Geoghegan: 'Unfortunately at the last hour a number of players pulled out and they were left with 13 players.'

'As one of the players is the husband of a Sports Rehabilitation student they asked that we could bring a team down to help them keep playing for 24 hours.'

The players had been on pitch for 12 hours when the sports massage team arrived.

'The players were all a little dazed and fatigued and the sight of the students arriving down with portable couches was like a mirage in the desert. While a few of the students looked after the players with massages and stretches to keep them going, the others set up in the arena offering free sports massages to anyone who contributed to the fund.'

'Many visitors to the arena contributed towards the great cause and we managed to raise over £60.'

'The players raised over £3,000 and were delighted for both our physical and monetary contribution. They wrote to us afterwards saying they didn't know how they would have kept going if it hadn't been for the massages, the stretches and the encouragement provided by the Sports Rehabilitation students on the day.'



