Seamus Heaney headlines York Festival of Ideas

YORK’S NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR
BE PART OF OUR ALUMNI CAMPAIGN
MOUNTAIN RESCUE WITH A DIFFERENCE
Welcome to the Summer issue of the University Magazine.

This is the last time I will write this welcome, as I am stepping down from my position as Vice-Chancellor of the University of York at the end of September. It has been a great pleasure and a great privilege for me to lead the University during a period of very substantial growth. I will be leaving with considerable regrets, but with considerable pride in our achievements.

It is our 50th Anniversary this year, and we are taking every opportunity to celebrate our achievements - with staff, students, friends, partners and alumni, in York, throughout the UK and across the world. We are using our 50th anniversary to showcase our outstanding research and teaching, and how they make major contributions to solving critical national and global problems. We are doing this in seminars, workshops, symposia, lectures, meetings and conferences in all the major cities of the world.

In 50 years, the University of York has become an internationally recognised, world-leading research and teaching institution, with more than 3,000 staff and 16,000 students from over 130 countries. In the last ten years alone we have doubled the size of our campus, doubled our student numbers and trebled our income. We have invested almost £0.75 billion, divided roughly equally between the original Heslington West campus and its extension at Heslington East, creating new departments and enabling smaller departments to grow to a sustainable size, constructing over 60 major new buildings and recruiting over 200 new professors.

We have been recognised by rafts of awards and accolades, including two University of the Year Awards, five Queen’s Anniversary Prizes, consistently triumphing at the Times Higher Education Awards, and more Athena Swan Awards than any other university. Our academic excellence led to our recent invitation to join the Russell Group. And for the second year running, we have been ranked top young university in the UK, seventh in the world, and the only British university in the top ten.

The University of York is a family, based on key principles of freedom, equality and respect for the individual, and a fierce belief in the importance of knowledge, education and understanding. We believe that these principles help individuals to enrich their lives, and help societies to live harmoniously together. We want anyone who can benefit from a York education to be able to do so, irrespective of their background. The spirit of our founding principles runs deeply throughout our family, in all our students, staff and alumni.

We have a total of approaching 100,000 alumni. Each year we graduate over 4,000 students, who leave to build their own lives and careers, and do great things in all parts of society across the world – a tremendous force for good.

I am proud to have been part of this great University for the last 11 years. I look forward to coming back to York in future years, to see our next phase of development and to see the next period of great achievements and successes.

Have a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible before I leave, especially at our 50th Anniversary garden party on 17 July. And, finally, thank you all for your kindness, help, support and friendship during my time as Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Brian Cantor CBE
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Stateside showcase for York research

Celebrating success in Beijing
Celebrating the achievements of our Chinese graduates

Nearly 400 undergraduate and postgraduate students attended ceremonies in Beijing, China on 23 March led by Chancellor Greg Dyke and Chair of the University Council, Chris O’Donnell.

Chinese disability rights campaigner Zhang Haidi - hailed in 2009 as China’s most influential woman - received an honorary degree at the event. A native of J’nan in Shandong Province, Zhang Haidi became disabled after contracting polio at the age of five. She was educated at home, and taught herself several languages, including English, Japanese and German. Now a well-known writer and translator she is also an advocate for the rights of disabled people.

Fellow countryman, the leading molecular biologist Professor Shi Yigong, who is Dean of Life Sciences and Medicine at Tsinghua University in Beijing, was also awarded an honorary degree.

Honorary Degrees for July 2013

Leading figures from the world of science, education, philosophy, commerce and the media receive Honorary Doctorates from the University at the July graduation ceremonies.

Tim Bevan, CBE, co-founder and co-Chairman of Working Title Films, the productions of which have altogether won six Oscars and 26 BAFTA awards and grossed $4.5 billion worldwide; Professor Martha Nussbaum, one of the most prominent and well-regarded philosophers of our time; Thomas Swan, OBE, chairman of a leading fine chemicals manufacturer; Caroline Thomson, a York alumna and former Chief Operating Officer at the BBC, now chair of Digital UK and director of English National Ballet; Emerita Professor Felicity Riddy, FRSE, who was Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University from 2002 to 2007 and played a major role in the development stages of the Heslington East expansion; Professor Marie-Claude Gaudel, whose creation of a new area of research – the testing of software based on formal specifications – has been widely celebrated; Professor Sir Peter Hirsch, FRS, a prominent materials scientist responsible for pioneering developments in the field of transmission electron microscopy; Sir Stuart Rose, who was educated at Bootham School in York and began his career as a management trainee at Marks and Spencer. During his 40-year career he has held chief executive roles at some of the most successful UK high street businesses; and Dr Sebastian Payne, a renowned zooarchaeologist who was Chief Scientist at English Heritage until 2012 and is now on the advisory board of the Department of Archaeology at York.
The University Council has appointed Professor Koen Lamberts, a cognitive psychologist and currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of Warwick University, as York’s new Vice-Chancellor.

“Koen Lamberts is a talented leader with a strong commitment to excellence in learning, research and knowledge transfer. I have no doubt that he will be an outstanding Vice-Chancellor of the University of York,” said Chair of Council, Sir Chris O’Donnell.

Professor Lamberts joined Warwick from the University of Birmingham in 1998 and was appointed Head of its Department of Psychology in 2000, serving until 2008. He became Chair of the Faculty of Science in 2007 and was appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research a year later. He has several years’ experience serving on both the Council and Senate of Warwick and was instrumental in the establishment of Warwick’s Global Research Priorities Programme to promote emerging strategic research areas with a focus on multi and inter-disciplinary research.

Professor Lamberts, who starts work at York on 1 January 2014, has won prizes for his own research from the Experimental Psychology Society and the British Psychological Society.

Born in Hasselt, Belgium, Professor Lamberts is married with two teenage children, and a keen cyclist. He will succeed Professor Brian Cantor, who is stepping down after 11 years at York to take up the role of Vice-Chancellor at the University of Bradford in October this year.

York success in world rankings

The University of York is the only UK University to rank in the top ten in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) world rankings of universities less than 50 years old.

“In our 50th anniversary year, this is a wonderful reflection of the University’s world-wide impact. Our success stems from the tremendous hard work, dedication and ability of all our staff and students over many years,” said York Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Cantor.

Eight nations are represented in the top ten of THE 100 under 50 rankings for 2013, with York rising one place to seventh, reaffirming its international reputation for excellence in research, teaching, knowledge transfer and global outlook.

“The rankings highlight some exceptional achievements from fast-developing and exceptionally well-funded institutions in East Asia, notably in South Korea and Singapore. So for York to have held on to a prestigious top ten position in the world, against such competition, and to remain number one in the UK, is a great achievement,” said Editor of the Times Higher Education Rankings, Phil Baty.

Visit: www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2013/one-hundred-under-fifty
Major achievements are being celebrated by the Department of Theatre, Film and Television for two alumni who are now among the UK’s leading young playwrights.

Simon Stephens’ adaptation of Mark Haddon’s best-selling thriller, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, won the 2013 Olivier Awards Mastercard Best New Play as well as several awards for its actors and production team. Also nominated for the Olivier was *Constellations* by Nick Payne which last year won the Evening Standard award.

Nick Payne has carved out a successful theatre career with his award-winning plays being performed in both London and New York since graduating with a degree in English/Writing and Performance in 2006.

Both Nick and Simon are closely associated with the Department. In February, Nick led a master class earlier this year using sequences from *Constellations*.

Professor Mike Cordner, Ken Dixon Professor of Drama in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television, said: “Nick graduated just seven years ago and he returns to us garlanded with awards. The speed with which he has achieved this degree of success and recognition is remarkable and richly merited.”

### PhD students put their knowledge into practice

Three Biology PhD students have been part of a new internship scheme piloted by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

Currently only 14 per cent of PhD students pursue academic careers. The Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS) scheme aims to give students non-academic work experience opportunities.

Sam Bullers selected an internship in Laboratory Medicine at York Teaching Hospital. “I wanted to expand upon the skills I learnt during my PhD, experience working in a hospital environment and understand the different kinds of analysis performed on patient samples,” he said.

“Ward rounds on the Intensive Care Unit and High Dependency Unit highlighted the direct impact of the work performed in the laboratory, something that is sometimes lost in academic laboratories.”

Two other students, Tom Brabbs and Sarah Keenan, took up internships at the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera).

Lorna Warnock, Industry Liaison Officer in the Department of Biology, said, “As well as enabling students to take greater responsibility for their career choices and employment, this initiative will strengthen the links between universities and host organisations to spark potential collaborations.”

### Politics and the polls

Ben Page, Chief Executive of Ipsos MORI, the leading market research company, gave the School of Social and Political Sciences (SPS) annual lecture on 15 May.

In his talk entitled ‘Politics is personal’, Page discussed the public’s increasing mistrust of politicians, the media and pollsters and argued that the biggest challenge facing politicians today was the misrepresentation of social data by the media, often resulting in inappropriate political policies.

A frequent writer and speaker on leadership and performance management, Page has directed hundreds of surveys examining service delivery, customer care and communications.

“The lecture gives a platform to some of the UK’s most prominent public figures to share their views on important issues affecting contemporary society,” Director of SPS, Brian Loader, said. “We invite non-academic figures who our SPS students can aspire to emulate.”
IN PICTURES

Life and work at York

Clockwise from top

The effect of different wavelengths of light on chloroplasts
Plant cells communicate information about the time of day to their chloroplasts according to new research involving Biology students Sarah Wetherill, Eleanor Walton and Kelly Atkins:
http://bit.ly/2XbV9m

The ecological effects of intensive fishing over time
Research led by Leigh Howarth (Environment) has shown that fisheries’ increasing reliance on a handful of highly valuable shellfish is extremely risky:
http://bit.ly/12GWA6f

Russell Group scheme gives talented teenagers a taste of university life
The University welcomed 45 top-performing teenagers from secondary schools across the country to its first Dux Awards Scheme event:

York student reaches new heights at Virgin Galactic HQ
Management student Charlie Simpson-Daniel was invited to meet Sir Richard Branson at an event for the next generation of entrepreneurs:

Incipient Jōmon pot from Niigata Prefecture, Japan
Ice Age hunter-gatherers’ taste for fish has been revealed by a study led by Dr Oliver Craig (Archaeology) which analysed food residues in pottery up to 15,000 years old:

One of York Minster’s new stone grotesques
Dr Kate Giles (Archaeology) is working with stonemasons at York Minster in a major restoration project on the building’s east front where ornate carvings and stone figures have been worn smooth by weather and pollution:
http://bit.ly/19XGKbr
**york concerts**

Jacqui Dankworth and her trio get the 2013/2014 concert season off to a swinging start on 9 October. Daughter of Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth (recipients of honorary doctorates from the University), Jacqui’s career embraces acting, jazz and classical music. The Autumn Term also sees the return of six-piece folk and brass ensemble Brass Monkey (20 November), led by Yorkshire folk musician Martin Carthy. On the classical front, pianist Danny Driver (16 October) plays a strong programme of music by Rameau, Debussy and Beethoven. Chamber music later in the season includes concerts by the Endymion Ensemble (29 January) playing horn trios by Brahms and Ligeti, the Goldfield Ensemble (24 February) with an all-English programme of music by Finzi, Bridge and Elgar, and Quatuor Diotima (12 February).

We welcome two leading vocal ensembles before the end of the year: The Clerks (30 October) perform Tales from Babel as part of a Wellcome Trust-funded project and I Fagiolini (23 November) features music by the colourful composer Gesualdo as part of an international weekend conference marking the composer’s 400th anniversary.

As always, the University’s own choirs and orchestras feature strongly in the concert season. The University Choir is joined by Northern Sinfonia in Messiah (27 November) and by the University Symphony Orchestra for Elgar’s Dream of Gerontius in York Minster (18 June). For its autumn concert, the University Symphony Orchestra includes music by Barber and Rachmaninov (30 November). Concerts by the Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Jazz Orchestra and other groups continue to showcase the musical talents of students from across the University.

Full details of the new season will be available from early September in the brochure and online.

*Box Office 01904 322439*  
*boxoffice@york.ac.uk*  
*www.yorkconcerts.co.uk*

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**50th Anniversary publications**

Founders’ Day on 10 May saw the launch of Reflections, the official 50th Anniversary publication which looks back at the last 50 years of the University’s history and the challenges facing it in the years to come. Generously illustrated, Reflections charts the University’s landmark events and achievements from its pioneering start to its position in the first rank of the world’s most prestigious universities. Woven into the narrative are personal reflections by Oliver James, son of the first Vice-Chancellor Eric James, former Vice-Chancellors Professor Bernard Saul and Sir Ron Cooke, and former student and Students’ Union President Phil Harris.

Limited copies of both publications can be ordered through the Communications Office.  
*Email alice.jenkins@york.ac.uk*

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**Sizzling welcome for Chinese chefs**

The University’s first chef exchange programme saw five chefs from partner Universities Nanjing and Zhejiang visit York in May.

This was a return visit after the one made in 2011, when York Executive Head Chef Andrew Wood and his deputy Ian Dickson travelled to China to learn some authentic cooking techniques. Commercial Services Deputy Director Phil Kember arranged for the Nanjing and Zhejiang chefs to come and see what the University chefs had learnt from their experiences in China. One significant addition to campus catering has been the introduction of the ‘Hot Wok’ bar in the Roger Kirk Centre. Their week long programme saw specially arranged trips to some of York’s most well known eateries including Bettys Tea Rooms for a traditional afternoon tea.
BBC’s Question Time comes to York

Education Secretary Michael Gove joined the Shadow Attorney General Emily Thornberry and the Leader of the Green Party Natalie Bennett at the University of York to participate in Question Time, the BBC’s topical debate show hosted by David Dimbleby.

Mark Littlewood, the Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs, and author Anthony Horowitz – an alumnus of York – were also invited to speak on the panel.

Topics – which included the national curriculum, press regulation and the budget – were enthusiastically argued on all sides. Broadcast from the Ron Cooke Hub, the programme gave country-wide exposure to the University and its ongoing £750m expansion. The Hub has become the University’s main centre for business and external engagement, and is the flagship building of this expansion.

A number of students from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television secured work experience placements with the Question Time production team to help with the filming, which took place in the main atrium of the Ron Cooke Hub.

The project is an international collaboration involving Dr Elizabeth Hughes (Mental Health and Addictions Research Group, University of York), Dr Oliver Johnson (King’s College London), Professor David Morris (University of Central Lancashire), Dr Carmen Valle (University of Makeni, Sierra Leone) and Dr Lynette Joubert (University of Melbourne, Australia).

Taking on Sierra Leone’s mental health challenges

The mental health problems of people in Sierra Leone, and the possibility of developing social interventions that can enhance individuals’ well-being, will be the subjects of a new study led by the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at York.

A civil war lasting more than a decade ended in 2002, leaving Sierra Leone’s communities severely damaged and almost bereft of health and social care workers. It is a country in which an estimated 13 per cent of the adult population suffers from a mental disorder, and people with mental health problems are stigmatized and vulnerable.

“With only one trained psychiatrist and a population over four million in Sierra Leone, the lack of mental health training and supervision, weak national advocacy, policy and regulation are all barriers to addressing mental health needs,” said Dr Martin Webber, an Anniversary Reader in Social Work, who applied for the funding alongside research fellow Meredith Newlin, who will visit the country over the summer to begin the research.

“Our project will explore the feasibility of co-producing new culturally appropriate mental health training in social interventions which meets local need,” he continued.

The research team will work closely with practitioners in Sierra Leone to ensure that inappropriate Western approaches are not forced onto the low-income country.

The research project, which was funded after a successful bid to the University’s Centre for Chronic Diseases and Disorders (C2D2), will be one of the first studies conducted in the newly established Centre for Mental Health Social Research, set up by Dr Webber earlier this year.

An estimated 13% of the population of Sierra Leone suffers from mental health issues.
Online gaming to change society

The potential for digital games to be harnessed to help push forward scientific and social studies will be explored in a new £1.2m research project led by York academics.

“Every action in an online game, from an in-game purchase to a simple button push, generates a piece of network data,” principal investigator Professor Peter Cowling, from the Department of Computer Science, said.

“This is a truly immense source of information about player behaviours and preferences. We will develop new algorithms to ‘mine’ that data to better understand game players as an avenue for making better games, societal impact and scientific research,” he added.

Professor Cowling is joined in the project, called the New economic models and opportunities for digital games (Nemog) initiative, by Dr Daniel Kudenko, also from the Department of Computer science, and Dr Ignazio Cabras from the management school. They will be helped by Professor Feng Li from Cass Business school and Professor Kiran fernandes from Durham University Business school.

The Nemog project, funded by the engineering and Physical sciences research Council, also aims to filter the influence of the digital games industry into the science, education and healthcare sectors in the UK; it is hoped that the ingenuity and innovation of games manufacturers will spark ideas for exploring new business models, analysing value chains and harnessing the power of ‘big data’.

Three postdoctoral researchers will also be appointed to interact with a variety of digital games manufacturers, as well as members of their target audience – potential users of these games.

“It is an ambitious programme, but the potential benefits if we are even partially successful could have a huge impact on children, science and wider society, as well as the digital economy,” Professor Nicola Spence, who chairs the NEMOG Advisory Board, said.

A new BSc in Interactive Media has been launched by the University’s Department of Theatre, Film and Television for autumn 2014. The degree combines theory and practice, bringing together technical, creative and socio-cultural perspectives on new media systems, interactive technologies and digital culture.

Stateside spotlight on York’s arts and humanities

Archaeologist Dr Kate Giles and stained glass specialist Sarah Brown gave a joint lecture at Christie’s in New York focusing on their work on the Great East Window of York Minster – the largest medieval stained glass window in the world.

The event was hosted jointly by the University, the Chamberlain of York Minster, Dr Richard Shephard, and Mr Hank Slack. They were part of a team of leading York scholars, led by Chancellor Greg Dyke, on a trip to the US in April to showcase University’s research strengths in the arts and humanities.

As York Minster Archaeology Fellow, Dr Giles is part of the ten-year programme to enhance understanding and conserve York Minster’s spectacular stone facade including the analysis of its weathering, historic mortars and coatings.

Sarah Brown, an internationally-leading conservator of stained glass, is course director of the University of York’s MA in Stained Glass Conservation and Heritage Management, which attracts students from all over the world. She combines this role in the Department of History of Art with her responsibilities as Director of the York Glaziers Trust.

Fellow York scholars – historian Professor Mark Ormrod and English scholar Professor Helen Fulton gave a joint lecture at both Columbia and NYU questioning cultural stereotypes about the British Isles in the later Middle Ages. They showed that far from being isolated from continental Europe, the British Isles were in constant interaction with other peoples, events and trends in Europe and beyond.

And in Washington DC, Jim Walvin, Emeritus Professor in the Department of History, led a discussion titled ‘Looking at Slavery: Tarantino, Spielberg and the historians’.

“At York we are reframing understandings of historical, artistic and philosophical figures and concepts, redefining major artistic and intellectual movements and helping to shape the future of our disciplines,” said Professor Ormrod, who is also the University’s Academic Co-ordinator for Arts and the Humanities.

“But we are also committed to taking the best of our research to communities beyond the academic environment in ambitious and productive ways”
Dr Hall, a lecturer in Contemporary and Global Literature in the Department of English and Related Literature, was one of ten winners chosen from a group of 60 finalists following a six-month selection process. She will receive top-level mentoring and advice on how to develop research ideas into viable programme propositions, as well as the chance to shadow presenters and producers.

As part of the award, she recently wrote and presented a feature on Radio 3’s arts and ideas programme Night Waves on the cultural legacy of the London 2012 Paralympics.

“I’m interested in how the notion of the superhuman fits with contemporary understandings of disability.”

“I based the feature on the Channel 4 Meet the Superhumans film used as part of the marketing campaign for the 2012 London Paralympic games,” said Dr Hall. “The film depicted male and female disabled athletes as combative, Herculean figures and it provoked strong reactions around the world. I’m interested in how the notion of the superhuman fits with contemporary understandings of disability and what the cultural legacy of these images might be.”

Dr Hall is planning a talk at Radio 3’s annual Free Thinking Festival of Ideas at the Sage, Gateshead later this year on the subject of autobiographical memory and contemporary fiction. The award also offers the opportunity to develop ideas for television, including working with BBC Television Arts to make short taster films to be shown on www.bbc.co.uk/arts.

“It’s a great opportunity to learn how to communicate academic research to a wide audience,” she said. “I’m looking forward to working with the producers and journalists to think more about how to bring ideas to life for a broadcast audience.”

As well as cultural representations of disability, Dr Hall’s research interests include literature and the body, autobiographical fiction, memory and medical humanities. She is a member of the University’s interdisciplinary Chronic Disorders of Consciousness Group.

“The University of York Magazine
UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS
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Free thinking – the big ideas for the future

York English scholar Dr Alice Hall will be sharing her research with BBC radio and TV audiences over the next year as one of the New Generation Thinkers for 2013 appointed by the BBC and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

Dr Hall completed her undergraduate and doctoral studies at the University of Cambridge and has taught at Paris-Diderot University and the Sorbonne Nouvelle. She completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Centre for Advanced Studies at the University of Nottingham before coming to York.

The author of Disability and Modern Fiction: Faulkner, Morrison, Coetzee and the Nobel Prize for Literature she is currently working on a co-authored book entitled Literature and Disability for Routledge’s Contemporary Critical Thought series.

Matthew Dodd, Head of Speech Programming for BBC Radio 3 said New Generation Thinkers aims to encourage academics to think about the public dissemination of their work at the very start of their careers and make broadcasting integral to what they do: “This year’s applicants showed a sharp sophistication about how their research might make strong programmes – and a real willingness to reach beyond academia into the lives of our audience and to find new formats to do that.”
Helping young people take their place in society

Schools should do more to help young people engage with their local communities, says a major new study carried out by York’s Department of Education in partnership with the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER).

It also suggests that while schools are ‘hugely active’ in promoting citizenship education and community cohesion, a greater sense of community could be created in schools themselves.

The project, supported by a grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, included a national survey of school coordinators and leaders, and focus groups of young people in eight schools across the UK.

Drawing on the results of the study, the Creating Citizenship Communities report – written by Professor Ian Davies, Dr Gillian Hampden Thompson, Dr Vanita Sundaram, and Dr Maria Tsouroufli with Jennifer Jeffes and Pippa Lord of NFER – recommends that the status of citizenship education and community should be raised in schools.

Baroness Estelle Morris, who chaired the launch of the Creating Citizenship Communities report at Westminster, said: “We all want and expect young people to grow into confident adult citizens, understanding and contributing to the communities of which they are members. Schools have an important role in helping them to achieve this yet too often it is a neglected area of the curriculum. The findings of this research should both help to raise the profile of this important area and contribute to improving practice.”

Conservation in Croatia

The Dalmatian coast, an area of huge cultural significance, is still recovering from the intense conflict which tore it apart in the 1990s. The group of students and alumni had numerous opportunities to explore the complex issues arising from the need to rebuild the once flourishing tourist industry.

“We looked at questions like how to achieve social housing in high rental tourism areas and solve property disputes that can leave a 14th-century Venetian palace mouldering,” said Director of the Conservation studies programme Gill Chitty.

“In Dubrovnik, we were surprised that there was so little evidence of the wartime bombardment,” she said. “The immediate imperative seems to have been to reconstruct houses swiftly and to repair public spaces and monuments as unobtrusively as possible. ‘The least war, the better life’ was a phrase that resonated from the local guide.”

This year’s tour was led by Goran Nikšić, a postgraduate from York’s programme in 1992, and an expert in Croatian heritage conservation.

“The Conservation Studies programme has been running for 40 years and in that time it has built up a formidable body of practitioners who are now in some of the most influential roles in heritage conservation all over the world,” said Gill.

Tresham’s triangular trouble

An intriguing link between an antique song about the last words of a condemned Catholic priest and an eccentric three-sided Elizabethan building was discovered by a York student and became the focus of an episode of BBC One’s Countryfile.

Emilie Murphy, a PhD student in the Department of History, appeared on the programme to discuss her research into the Rushton Triangular Lodge – a distinctive Elizabethan building – and the four-part song connected to it.

Les Canards Chantants, a chamber ensemble comprising four York students from the Department of Music, also appeared on the programme, performing – inside the Lodge – the piece of music that Emilie had discovered. Emilie, who is in her final year of doctoral study, had found a link between the music and the Tresham family, who owned the Lodge.

Sir Thomas Tresham, an eccentric politician in Queen Elizabeth’s court, was put in prison for refusing to attend Church of England services. During this time, he designed the triangle-shaped building that was a focus of the Countryfile episode.

The triangle symbolised the Holy Trinity, but it also linked to the practise of Catholicism – an illicit and politically dangerous activity at the time. Emilie demonstrates in her research that numerical symbolism in the newly discovered song reinforces Tresham’s Catholic ties, which plagued him until his death.

Download a copy of the report at www.york.ac.uk/research/cresj/citizen-communities
Our alumni campaign – be part of it!

Director of Development Mary Haworth talks about the University’s drive to encourage more alumni to get involved and keep in touch beyond the 50th Anniversary celebrations and explains how departments can benefit.

The Be Part of It campaign, launched by the Development and Alumni Office (DARO), aims to reach out to more of the 90,000 students who have graduated from the University over the last five decades.

This year alone around 4,000 alumni have given their time and valuable professional expertise to help students and staff, or attended York networking events. Around 8,000 former students are connected through Yorkspace, a dedicated alumni portal on the University of York website. But DARO think there’s potential to further strengthen contact between the campus and University’s expanding global community.

“The University already has a very active alumni community with an impressive reach stretching from York to Moscow and San Francisco. It’s a vibrant, enthusiastic group including many who are prominent in business, arts and scientific organisations. They do so much to help students and staff in many different ways, but we know there’s potential for more people to get involved,” says Mary Haworth.

“There are clear benefits for both sides. A supportive network of professional and regional associations around the world offers valuable networking and professional development opportunities for alumni. And our students have a great deal to gain from mentoring and work experience opportunities offered by alumni who regularly give generously of their time and expertise.

“It’s a win win situation – and it’s not all about giving money. Mentoring skills and business expertise can be equally valuable, especially for students in today’s highly competitive jobs market,” says Mary.

“We’d like departments to work with us to make sure we reach as many former students as possible, particularly during our 50th year. It could be something as simple as helping us find contact details for ‘lost’ alumni or letting us know about events involving former students,” she added.

DARO can also help departments with: staff planning overseas visits including opportunities to host receptions for alumni; any planned contact with alumni for careers events, guest speakers or mentoring opportunities; and updates to alumni contact details.

Another important element of the campaign is to increase the pool of alumni willing to contribute to University and departmental marketing campaigns.

Mary explained: “Quotations from alumni can really help to bring our marketing materials to life by giving a personal first-hand perspective on what it’s like to study a particular subject. Improved contacts with alumni would mean we have a wider selection of people to draw from.”

The Department of Biology is just one of a range of departments already working with DARO to recruit alumni for careers events and to advise students. They have also signed up alumni to host student placements, an increasing requirement for the Department’s undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

York’s alumni are generous givers with levels of donations growing by more than the national average. The Giving to York scheme encourages graduates, as well as companies and charitable trusts to support University projects, students and research.

“Sometimes it’s just not possible for alumni to give their time to the University but for those who still want to support our students there are many opportunities to do this through donations,” says Mary.

“Find out more at www.yorkspace.net or www.york.ac.uk/staff/external-relations/alumnirelations

“Our alumni do so much to help but we know there’s potential for more people to get involved”
A safe haven

NATURE RESERVES OFFER A ‘WELCOME MAT’ FOR BIRD SPECIES NEW TO THE UK

As well as being the location of a nuclear power station, Dungeness is home to a rich and diverse wildlife. Located on the tip of the Romney marsh peninsular in Kent, the National Nature Reserve has one of the largest shingle landscapes in the world. The reserve is a haven for breeding and wintering water birds, and an important stopover for migrants. It is also home to many unusual plants and invertebrates.
The vital role played by protected wildlife areas is illustrated in a study by researchers in the Department of Biology together with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Spoonbills are of European conservation concern and a very rare breeding bird in the UK. Most birds migrate south in the winter, but numerous individuals remain and winter in Western Europe.
The work has shown that bird species which have colonised the UK in recent decades breed initially almost exclusively in nature reserves and other areas specially protected for wildlife.

Published online in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, the study shows that of the 20 wetland bird species that bred for the first time in the UK since 1960, 18 bred first in these protected areas. These provided a crucial haven as the population established and grew, and in time the birds spread into other locations as they expanded their ranges across the country.

"Nature reserves provide ecological welcome mats for new arrivals," said first author of the study, Jonathan Hiley, a PhD student in the Department of Biology. For some sun-loving southern species, such as Little Egrets and Cetti’s Warblers, these arrivals appear to be as a result of a changing climate. For others, such as Common Cranes, they are a response to other factors, such as recovery from historical loss of habitat or persecution.

The mainstay of traditional conservation has been to establish protected areas to provide refuges against the loss of habitats and other threats in the surrounding countryside. Ironically, this study comes at a time when the value of protected areas is being questioned in some quarters because climate change and other factors cause animals to move away from their traditional haunts and into new regions.

However, species which are shifting their ranges also need high quality places to move into. For birds, at least, it appears that the current network of protected areas in the UK is providing such places.

"This gives some cause for optimism in the midst of concern that climate change and other factors will imperil many species," said co-author Professor Chris Thomas.

"Protected areas are helping to give birds and other species a fighting chance of moving into new regions where they can breed successfully."

Dr Richard Bradbury of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) commented that many species have only been able to colonise or re-colonise the UK as a result of the ‘tremendous recent effort’ by conservationists to recreate and manage large wetland areas. "This action has been absolutely vital in creating starter homes that enable these species to settle and flourish," he said.

But he cautioned that while it is good news that the hard work of conservationists is benefitting these new arrivals, we must not forget that the changes in our climate which brought many of them may prove catastrophic for wildlife in the long term if it continues unabated.

Above: PhD student Jonathan Hiley was first author of the study
Below left: The Little Egret first bred in the UK in 1996
Below: The Mediterranean Gull was a rare sight in the UK until the 1950s
Gribble could hold the key to cheap sustainable biofuels

NEW RESEARCH BRINGS US A STEP CLOSER IN THE QUEST TO TURN WASTE WOOD INTO LIQUID FUEL
Three years ago Professor Simon McQueen-Mason and Professor Neil Bruce in the Centre for Novel Agricultural Products (CNAP) identified that gribble, the tiny wood-boring marine isopods which historically attacked the timber hulls of seafarers’ ships, could help provide the means to produce cheap and sustainable biofuels.

Burning fossil fuels adds to the ever-increasing levels of greenhouse gases such as CO₂. The quest for sustainable biofuels is an important one because biofuels can lower CO₂ emissions by ‘fixing’ CO₂ from the atmosphere during plant growth.

Current biofuel technologies use food materials such as starch and sugars as their starting point but there is not enough food in the world for them to be a sustainable replacement for fossil fuels. Biofuels can also be made by fermenting non-food woody biomass, such as wood and straw, but it is an expensive process to break down the polysaccharides (sugar polymers) that make up the bulk of these materials into simple sugars for biofuel production.

To find more effective ways of converting wood to liquid fuel, the researchers looked at organisms that have evolved to live on a diet of woody matter, as these could provide a starting point for developing industrial enzymes to do the same. They found that gribble, voracious consumers of wood, have all the enzymes needed for its digestion.

Their 2010 study identified that one of the most abundant enzymes in the gribble’s digestive tract was a cellulose-degrading enzyme never before seen in animals.

Working with scientists from the University of Portsmouth and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in the USA, they have now used advanced biochemical analysis and X-ray imaging techniques, to determine how this enzyme works.

“Enzymes are proteins that serve as catalysts, in this case one that degrades cellulose,” said Professor McQueen-Mason.

“Their function is determined by their three-dimensional shape and by studying the structure of the enzyme we have found a number of unusual features that could be of benefit to the biofuels industry.”

The researchers found that the gribble enzyme has important structural differences from those found in other organisms such as wood-degrading fungi. It has an extremely acidic surface which makes the enzyme very robust and resistant to aggressive chemical environments with the ability to survive in conditions seven times saltier than sea water.

“This is the first functionally-characterised animal enzyme of this type and provides us with a previously undiscovered picture of how they work,” Professor McQueen-Mason explained.

The ultimate aim is to reproduce the effect of this enzyme on an industrial scale. Rather than trying to get the cellulase from gribble, the team has transferred the genetic blueprint of this enzyme to an industrial microbe that can produce it in large quantities, in the same way that enzymes for biological washing detergents are made. By doing this they hope to cut the costs of turning woody materials into biofuels.

The work is part of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council Sustainable Bioenergy Centre (BBSRC), a £24m investment that brings together six world-class research programmes to develop the UK’s bioenergy research capacity.

www.futurity.org/top-stories/ask-gribbles-how-to-turn-wood-into-liquid-fuel

“This is an exciting step in realising the potential of these important enzymes. If we can harness them effectively, waste materials could be used to make sustainable fuels. It’s a double bonus; avoiding competition with land for food production as well as utilising unused materials from timber and agricultural industries.”

Douglas Kell
Chief Executive of BBSRC
Copper-bottomed hulls

Since ancient times, seafarers have protected their ships from corrosion by gribble (left) and shipworm using lead, pitch and other methods. In the 18th century the Royal Navy pioneered the use of copper sheathing, the origin of the term copper-bottomed. It took 13 tons of copper to sheath HMS Victory, pictured below at the Battle of Trafalgar. It was used to protect all 300 ships in the British fleet, resulting in a huge boost to the copper industry.
At the top

The Langtang Gompa was founded by the Tibetan lama Mingur Dorje, a highly respected Gelung-pa master. The monastery overlooks Langtang Lirung mountain which was seen as a local god in pre-Buddhist Tamang.

Cracks are appearing on the structure inside the building.

The Langtang Gompa was founded by the Tibetan lama Mingur Dorje, a highly respected Gelung-pa master. The monastery overlooks Langtang Lirung mountain which was seen as a local god in pre-Buddhist Tamang.

Cracks are appearing on the structure inside the building.
of the world

YORK ARCHAEOLOGY ACADEMIC LAUNCHES A MOUNTAIN RESCUE WITH A DIFFERENCE

The Nepalese Himalayas north of Kathmandu provide a mountain landscape of exceptional beauty, where trekkers can experience rugged snow-capped peaks, pristine mountain streams and lush wild flower meadows.

It is also the centre of the rich Tibetan Buddhist culture with monasteries dating back hundreds of years. But in recent decades, lack of investment has caused many of them to fall into disrepair, placing their religious treasures at risk.

When Dr Hayley Saul, of the Department of Archaeology, heard about the plight of the Buddhist monastery in the Langtang Valley through the Community Action Nepal charity, she decided to act. Already in the Himalayas on an archaeology field trip with other University colleagues, she visited the Langtang Gompa (monastery) and discovered the charity had not exaggerated.
IN MEMORIAM...

Richard Barrie Dobson

Born in County Durham and educated at Barnard Castle School and Oxford University, Barrie Dobson lectured at St Andrews for six years before moving to the new University of York in 1964. At York he played a crucial part in developing medieval history and in 1968 with Elisabeth Salter and Derek Pearsall helped found the pioneering interdisciplinary Centre for Medieval Studies.

Promoted to Professor in 1977, he became Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 1984, and in 1988, when he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy, he was about to take up the headship of the Department of History when he was offered the Chair of medieval History at the University of Cambridge. On his return to York in 1999 after retiring from Cambridge, the University appointed him an Honorary Professor.

Though he published widely on such topics as the Peasants’ Revolt of 1381, the rhymes of Robin Hood and medieval urban decline, his primary interest lay in religious history. He wrote studies of Durham Priory, Selby Abbey, York Minster and Canterbury Cathedral, while his account of the Jews of medieval York led to an invitation to serve as the president of the Jewish Historical Society of England in 1990.

The most generous of scholars, when he retired he received not one festschrift but three. Barrie died on Good Friday 2013. At his funeral on 16 April his family and friends filled the St Saviourgate chapel to overflowing, to celebrate a life which had meant so much to so many.

Professor Claire Cross

The building had a dangerous lean and bowed from the midline of the wall. Moreover, compression from the roof was forcing the precious Thanka murals away from the walls. The monastery’s 300 Tibetan manuscripts were also under threat.

Dr Saul has now set up a project with the Shree Samling Monastery Restoration Group (SSMRG) aimed at restoring Langtang Gompa. The project has the support of CAN and the Himalayan Exploration and Archaeological Research Team (HEART), which Dr Saul leads.

A team of local artisans is also involved and the 600 inhabitants of the Langtang Valley will help to source materials such as a rare white clay that can only be found in a single mountain location at an altitude of 5,000 metres.

Local master architect and wood-carving specialist Dawa Sonam will record the structure stone by stone and ensure that traditional techniques are used to restore the roof timbers.

“An additional important contribution to the community is the training and employment it will bring for 18 to 25 year olds who currently have to go as far as Kathmandu to find work,” says Dr Saul.

Despite having so little, local people have raised around a third of the cost of repairs. Such is their desperation to save their monastery, those without anything to give financially are contributing to the reconstruction by offering to carry stones and wood from the nearby forests and mountains.

“The value of these treasures is incalculable to the history of the region and the tradition of Buddhism, but more importantly, to the everyday lives of the people of Langtang,” says Dr Saul.

In total, £36,000 is needed to repair the monastery. Donations can be made at: www.justgiving.com/HEART-LangtangGompa or by texting GOMP 99, with a donation amount, to 70070.

Dr Hayley Saul is leading the fund-raising campaign

Inside the monastery Thanka murals date back to the original construction
Dr Adrian Leftwich

The death of Adrian Leftwich on 2 April 2013 came as an enormous shock to everyone who knew him. Although he was 73 he looked 50 and had the fitness of a sporting 30-year old – he put us all to shame – so it was devastating when Adrian was diagnosed with lung cancer in autumn 2012.

Adrian’s experiences as a young student activist in apartheid South Africa profoundly shaped the rest of his life. In 1962 he was recruited as a member of the African Resistance Movement, a small group of liberal activists committed to destroying infrastructure rather than people. In 1964 Adrian was arrested by the security police. He rapidly gave the names of his friends and fellow activists, and later testified against them in court in exchange for his own freedom.

The story is told powerfully and eloquently in Adrian’s moving confessional 2002 Granta essay, ‘I Gave the Names’, which makes no attempt to duck his responsibility for these events. That the process of writing about this period took some 15 years is indicative of the attempt to duck his responsibility for these events. That the process of writing about this period took so many years is indicative of the process of writing about this period took many years is indicative of the process of writing about this period took many years.

In the last decade of his career Adrian was excited by the University’s work on the Primacy of Politics in Development (2000). Thousands of students will have been introduced to the study of politics by his edited book, States of Development: On the Primacy of Politics in Development (2000).

As a scholar, Adrian made original contributions both to the way we think about politics generally, and specifically to our understanding of the politics of development, notably in his landmark States of Development: On the Primacy of Politics in Development (2000).

In the last decade of his career Adrian was excited by the opportunity to advance in practice his academic ideas. After co-directing the DFID-funded research consortium on ‘Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth’, in 2010 he became Research Director of the AusAID-funded Developmental Leadership Programme. By commissioning many important research projects, Adrian was able to challenge and influence international aid orthodoxy.

Adrian was an incredibly warm and generous friend. I’ll always treasure the memory of countless evenings, sitting in his kitchen as the pasta sauce burbled on the stove, glass of red wine in hand, discussing the problems of the world. He is greatly missed.

Dr Hazel Wilkinson

Dr Hazel Wilkinson, a former lay member of the University Council, died on 4 March 2013 after a battle against cancer.

After her schooling at Oxford High School for Girls, Hazel studied medicine at St Mary’s Hospital London and qualified MBBS (1966), MRCPath (1977) and FRCPath (1987). In 1978 she was appointed as Consultant Chemical Pathologist at York Hospital. She became Director of Laboratory Medicine in York and sat on the Curriculum Committee of the new Hull York Medical School (HYMS) during its key early set-up stage. She was also President of York Medical Society and for 12 years an assessor for the Clinical Pathology Accreditation Scheme, inspecting laboratories and quality control schemes in the UK and Europe.

Following her retirement from the NHS, Hazel was appointed to the University’s governing body in 2003, where her medical expertise was highly appreciated during the early years of the establishment of HYMS, at the time one of the most significant new developments in the history of the University of York.

In addition to membership of the University Council and acting as its appointed representative on the Board of HYMS, Hazel was always willing to contribute to other aspects of the governance of the University, becoming a member of a wide range of Council sub-committees as well as the Ethics Committee in the Department of Biology. Her under-stated good sense and questioning interventions contributed greatly to their effectiveness as well informed decision-making bodies.

Married to David, also a doctor, Hazel enjoyed life in rural North Yorkshire and had a wide range of interests in her retirement, including tennis, horse-racing, Open University study and gardening.

Dr Philip Evans

Although John Parker retired from the Department of History at the University a long while ago it is good to remember his unusual and impressive contribution and valued personal qualities. With a background in Cyprus and the eastern Mediterranean, studies of Byzantine and Russian history and experience teaching in the Sudan, he brought a cosmopolitan and cross-cultural richness to the Department. He used many languages with confidence, and talked and taught enthusiastically on topics ranging from classical culture, and the Byzantine Empress Anna Comnena, to 20th-century British foreign policy by way of 19th-century Russia and Egypt. John and I planned and taught a course together on ‘Britain in Asia’, and he brought erudition and humour, as well as intellectual generosity, to our shared task.

What he really enjoyed, and shone at, was sharing ideas, passing on his huge range of knowledge, and offering new experiences. Students who went to his house were as likely to find themselves listening to classical music, looking at cartoons from Soviet satirical magazine Krokodil to the impeccably liberal conservative John subcribed), or arguing about a novel, as they were to discuss anything academic. Colleagues would be offered the chance to taste John’s superb cooking, and the mouth-watering Levantine stuffed vine leaves which he made and brought to departmental parties were legendary. John has left a legacy and a model of learning and commitment for us to appreciate today, and the memory of a clever, kind, stimulating human being.

Dr Joanna de Groot
Vice-Chancellor Awards for 2013

The Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Achievement celebrate the hard work and determination of individuals or teams across the University.

Awards are divided into four categories, each of which reflects a key area of the University: Excellence, sustainability, internationalisation and inclusivity. Gold and silver awards are decided by a panel comprising members of the University’s senior management group, led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Cantor.

The Chinese Scholars and Students Association received a gold award in the internationalisation category for their staging of the Chinese New Year Gala. Gold awards for inclusivity were given to Tim Cornell (DARO); Kate Stephenson (GSA); Dr Claire Westall, of the Chinese New Year gala. Gold awards for excellence were made to Elizabeth Heaps (Estates); Andy Durrant and Operations Maintenance Managers (Estates); Dr Thilo Winzer, Professor Ian Graham and the CNAP PoppY Research Project Team (Biog); Professor Ian Fairlamb, Jenny Hudson, Tony Wilkinson and the Department of Chemistry Research Support Office (Chemistry); Dr Karen Gibson, Dave Coulthard, Richard Armitage, Neil Johnson and Bob Hide (York Plasma Institute); Estates, Commercial Services and Jon Greenwood from York Sport Village; the Google Apps Implementation Team (Information Directorate); Phil Kember (Hospitality); Dr Sarah Mitchell, Naomi Richards, Alice McLuckie and Sue Abson (External Relations); Carole Mate and the Service Team (Commercial Services); and the Library Loans Review Team (Information Directorate).

The Vice-Chancellor’s Teaching Awards, which reward sustained excellence, creative teaching and work done above and beyond the standard remit, were also awarded, to: Dr Amber Carpenter (Psychology); Professor David Howard (Electronics); Dr Meesha Warming (Psychology); Dr Mike Thom (biology); Dr James Moir (biology); Professor Peter Larumque (Philosophy); Dr Steve Ashby (Archeology); Dr Malin Holst (Archeology); Dr Martin Cockett (Chemistry); Elaine Tham (Psychology); Cecilia Lowe, Janet Barton, David Clarke, Ant Edwards, Adrian Lee, Chris Mellor, Madeleine Morgan, Tamlyn Ryan and Alice Wakely (Learning Enhancement Team); Dr Louise Jones (biology); Emily Hellewell (Archeology); Professor Mike Bentley (physics); Mathew Gilbert (Electronics); and Daniel Howdon (Economics and Related Studies).

AT THE CHALK FACE

Archaeology
Professor Julian Richards visited Beijing and Xi’an as the guest of the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology and the Romisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Mainz and presented ‘Digital preservation in archaeology – the work of the ADS’ at a ‘Sustainable documentation in archaeology – technological perspectives in excavation and processing’ conference.

Biology
Dr Gavin Thomas received a grant from the Technology Strategy Board to work with Green Biologics Limited to use synthetic biology methods to engineer bacteria to be better hosts for production of second generation biofuels using plant biomass.

Dr Sean Sweeney spoke on ‘Using Drosophila to study pain’ at the University of York, Leeds and Manchester Universities and the British Antarctic Survey, led by Dr James Lee, took part in an Arctic ship cruise and simultaneous aircraft flights near Svalbard and along the ice edge of Greenland as part of Aerosol-Cloud Coupling and Climate Interactions in the Arctic (ACCAIA).

At the Bruker Poster Competition, PhD students Katrina Bakker, Stephen Bromfield, James Firrth and Daniel Raines each won £400. Planet Earth Online reported on research co-written by Dr Mustafa Ozel, Dr Jacqui Hamilton and Professor Ally Lewis showing that chargrilling meat over badly prepared coal may contaminate it with dangerous levels of cancer-causing chemicals.

Dr Duncan Macquarrie’s article on ‘Alkali silicates and structured mesoporous silicas from biomass power station wastes: the emergence of bio-MCMs’ will be featured in the RSC Publishing Pack and the RSC’s Chemistry World.

About My Planet and RSC’s Chemistry World reported on a British Science Festival presentation by Professor James Clark showing...
Computer Science

PhD Student A Imran Nordin presented a Works-In-Progress poster on ‘Attention, time perception and immersion in games’ at the human-computer interaction conference, CHI 2013, at the Palais de Congrès de Paris. The research was carried out with undergraduates Jaron Ali, Aishat Animashuan, Josh Asch and Josh Adams. Dr Leandro Soares Indrusiak was hosted by Professors Eduardo de la Torre and Teresa Riesgo and gave a postgraduate course on ‘Multiprocessors and models of computation’ at Universidad Politecnica de Madrid.

MEng student Nathan Lasser has won a Samsung Galaxy Tab and a visit to IBM’s Software Development lab in Hursley through the IBM Mainframe Challenge.

Economics and Related Studies

The Press reported on the screening at City Screen of Dylan Mohan Gray’s documentary Fire in the Blood which was followed by a discussion with a panel including Professor Karl Claxton and Paul Revill (Centre for Health Economics).

BBC News reported on the future of the British army and included viewpoints from Professor Keith Hartley.

Dr Yuan Ju was awarded a Special Project Grant (£5,000) by the Royal Economic Society (RES) for a York summer school on Game Theory.

Dr Andy Pickering presented ‘Voting and the macroeconomy: separating trend from cycle’ at the Department of Economics, George Mason University and ‘The labour share and the size of government’ at the Public Choice conference, New Orleans.

Professor Wickens presented ‘Is the UK Triple-A? at the Konstanz Seminar on Monetary Economics, Konstanz, Germany and the European Monetary Forum conference, Glasgow University. He also presented ‘How the fiscal stance affects EU credit ratings’ at the Bank of Greece conference on the crises in the Euro-area, Athens, spoke to the Government Economic Service on ‘Financial frictions in DSGE macroeconomic models’ at H M Treasury and gave a lecture to PhD students on ‘Financial frictions in macroeconomics’ at the Royal Economic Society’s Easter school. Professor Wickens and Professor David Howell also provided on-air analysis on the budget for BBC Radio York.

Professor Gulcin Ozkam presented ‘Austerity versus stimulus: the redistributive impact of fiscal policy in a DSGE framework’ and Professor Peter Smith presented ‘Carry, momentum and trend following returns in the foreign exchange market’ at the European Monetary Forum conference, Glasgow University.

Dr Paul Schweizer presented ‘Labeling contests with endogenous precision’ at the conference on ‘Tournaments, contests and relative performance evaluation’, Fresno, California and, with Beatrice Roussillon, presented a seminar on ‘Efficient emissions reduction’ at CESifo, University of Munich.

Dr Stephanie van Hinke Kesseler Schilder spoke on ‘Income shocks and dietary composition’ at ‘The determinants of dietary choice: approaches from different disciplines’ conference at University of Edinburgh’s School of Economics, and presented ‘Alcohol exposure in utero and child academic attainment’ at the RES conference in London.

The White Rose Social Science Doctoral Training Centre (WRDTC) economics conference was held in the Ron Cooke Hub.

The Guardian included comments from Dr Emma Tominey in an article on the fall in undergraduate drop-out rates. Dr Tominey also spoke on ‘Maternity leave and the responsiveness of female labour supply to household shocks’ at the University of Sheffield.

Ricky Kanabar’s research on ‘Unretirement in England: an empirical approach’, was an RES feature article and reported on by the Telegraph, The Independent and The Economist.

Dr Yuan Ju gave the T S Kim Memorial Seminar at the Department of Economics, Seoul National University in Korea.

Professor Karen Mumford chaired and presented in the Special Session ‘State of play: women in economics’ at the Royal Economic Society conference. She also presented a self-help pack on the application of Athena Swan at a Conference of Heads of University Departments of Economics (CHUDe) meeting.

Dr Judith Spicksley presented ‘The decline of slavery for debt in western Europe in the medieval period’, at ‘Serfdom and Slavery in the European Economy in the 11th-18th Centuries’ at the Istituto F Datini XLV Settimana di Studi, Prato, Italy.

Dr Giacomo De Luca presented ‘Civil war and political participation: evidence from Uganda’ at the Centre for the Study of African Economies conference, Oxford and ‘Resource windfalls and regime stability’ as part of the Economic Seminar Series, Universidad del Rosario, Colombia.

Professor Luigi Siciliani, Professor Hugh Gravelle (Centre for Health Economics) and Rita Santos (Centre for Health Economics) presented ‘Does a hospital’s quality depend on the quality of other hospitals? A spatial econometrics approach’ as part of Bocconi University’s research seminar series.

Professor Luigi Siciliani presented the OECD book Waiting time policies in the health sector. What works? at the Norwegian Health Economics Conference (Helseøkonominfokansen), Solstrand.

Dr Laura Coronato presented ‘Unspanned macroeconomic factors in the yield curve’ at the High Dimensional Time Series in Macroeconomics and Finance workshop, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna.

James Lomas has been awarded a one-year Royal Economic Society Junior Fellowship.
STAFF NEWS

Professor Jonathan Wainwright (Music) was awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians for “the important work that [he] has done in the field of Church Music over many years”.

Professor Ian Davies (Education) has been appointed Honorary Professor at the Hong Kong Institute of Education until February 2015.

Christopher Watson, Andrew Gallimore and Adam Formby have taken up year-long internships in the Centre for Chronic Diseases and Disorders. In this ‘discipline-hopping’ scheme, the three new Centre members will work across departments, including Biology, Computer Science and Sociology.

Dr Latifa Debbi (Mathematics) has joined Professor Zdzisław Brzeziński as a two-year postdoctoral research assistant, funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

Education

Dr Daniela Trenkic, organised a ‘Second language research: current trends’ seminar, co-hosted by the Centre for Language Learning Research and the European Second Language Associations (EUROSLA), which included a presentation from Professor Leah Roberts. Dr Nattama Pongpairoj won an award from the National Research Council of Thailand for her dissertation completed at the University of York. Her supervisor Dr Daniela Trenkic received a commemorative plaque for her support.

‘Discourse processing’ by Professor Leah Roberts has been published in The Routledge encyclopedia of second language acquisition and her co-authored article ‘Processing VP-ellipsis and VP-anaphora with structurally parallel and nonparallel antecedents: an eye-tracking study’ was published in Language and Cognitive Processes.

Professor Ian Davies recently completed a consultancy advising within Kazakhstan about international standards in teacher education. An article by Gillian Hampden-Thompson on ‘Family poverty, family structure, and children’s educational achievement’ was published in Social Science Research and ‘Single-mother families, maternal employment and children’s literacy achievement: a study of 10 countries’ was published in Education and Society.

Transition to higher degrees across the UK: an analysis of national, institutional and individual differences. Final Report to Higher Education Academy written by Dr Hampden-Thompson and Dr Paul Wakeling was published, and cited in a number of national press articles.

Dr Paul Wakeling spoke on ‘Factors affecting transition to postgraduate study in Wales’ at ‘The postgraduate student experience’ Higher Education Academy event at the University of Wales and attended a HEFCE seminar of taught postgraduate provision with the Minister for Universities and Science. He spoke on ‘Education and social mobility: ladder of opportunity or merry-go-round’ at York College and co-presented ‘Access to doctoral study and institutional stratification in higher education’ at the British Sociological Association conference. Dr Wakeling spoke on ‘Social mobility in and beyond higher education’ at the Higher Education Academy conference ‘What can higher education contribute to improving social mobility across the UK?’, Manchester.

NOW or NOT NOW: coordinating restarts in the pursuit of learnables in music masterclasses’ by Dr Beatrice Szczepk Reed, Dr Darren Reed and Liz Haddon (Music) was published in Research on Language and Social Interaction.

Dr Beatrice Szczepk Reed gave an invited plenary at a meeting on Interaction Research, at the Institute for the German Language, Mannheim, Germany.

‘Instruments for research into second languages’, co-written by Dr Emma Marsden, was published in TIRF Today: International Research Foundation for English Language Education.

Professor Rob Klassen presented ‘The self-efficacy of adolescents with LD: evidence of calibration problems’ at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

‘Frequency and efficacy of talk-related tasks in primary science’ co-authored by Martin Braund was published in Research in Science Education.

Dr Sarah Olive’s pieces on All’s Well That Ends Well, Measure for Measure, The Merry Wives of Windsor and The Winter’s Tale which were published in Year of Shakespeare: Reliving the World Shakespeare Festival. She presented ‘Shakespeare under the Coalition: the end of Shakespeare for all?’ at the ‘We need to talk about teaching’ conference, King’s College London, and ‘Giving quotation thematic bite’ at the Quoting Shakespeare seminar at the Shakespeare Association of America congress, Toronto. Dr Olive represented the British Shakespeare Association at the Council of College and University English AGM at St Anne’s College, Oxford and has joined the steering group of the British Conference of Undergraduate Research.

Dr Florentina Taylor’s paper on ‘Listening to Romanian teenagers: lessons in motivation and ELT methodology’ was published in International perspectives on motivation: Language learning and professional challenges.

Dr Victoria Elliot co-authored the Research evidence relating to proposals for reform of the GCSE’ DUCEA Report, which has been published online.

Dr Ian Abrahams co-authored ‘Teaching and learning in the chemistry laboratory’ which was published in Chemistry Education – A studybook: a practical guide and textbook for teachers, teacher trainees and student teachers. He also co-presented ‘Let’s get Cinderella to the ball – building confidence in primary science teachers’ with Louise Stubberfield (Wellcome Trust) and Pam Hanley (JIE) at the JIE Conference.


Professor Leah Roberts spoke on ‘First language influences the real-time processing of tense/aspect in the second language’, at Second language acquisition: current trends, at the Basque Centre for Brain, Language and Cognition, San Sebastian. She also presented ‘Individual differences in L2 processing’ at Radboud University, Nijmegen.

Dr Emma Marsden spoke on IRIS at the Language World conference for the Association of Language Learning in Nottingham, a Newcastle Postgraduate Linguistics conference at the University of Newcastle and an International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language conference, Research SIG in Liverpool.

Dr Kathryn Ashby, Dr Claudine Bowyer-Cran, Professor Rob Klassen, and Dr Poppy Nash presented papers at a ‘Psychological research that transforms education practice’ symposium at a British Psychological Society meeting in Harrogate.

PhD students Tracy Durksen and Virginia Tze from the University of Alberta and Sundus Yerdelen, from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey were hosted by the Psychology in Education Research Centre and worked with Professor Rob Klassen on a project involving

Rugby drive wins award

The University has been awarded for its ‘special contribution to student rugby’ by the Rugby Football Union, in recognition of a recent drive to make rugby more accessible for students.

An RFU spokesperson cited the establishment of eight intramural rugby teams at York as one reason for the award. A touch rugby programme comprising weekly sessions and competitions each term was also commended.

A Referee and Coach Bursary programme has recently been set up within the University to support women’s teams and college-sport programmes, which also aims to boost volunteer coaching work within the community.

This follows the promotion of the University of York’s Men’s Rugby First team from the Northern 1A league, after coming top of the table this season.
gaze-tracking in classrooms.

Dr Irena Kuzborska presented ‘Is qualitative research as scientific as quantitative research? Towards changing low opinion of a qualitative study’ at the Whose justice? Global Perspectives in Dialogue Conference, LCC International University, Lithuania.

Dr Benedetta Bassetti spoke on ‘Grammatical gender and thought in bilinguals’ at the Department of Psychology, University of Alberta, Canada.

Dr Martin Braund and Professor Judith Bennett led a seminar on ‘Teaching approach and success in A-level Biology’ at the Nuffield Foundation, London.

Dr Claudine Bowyer-Crane spoke on ‘Intervention at the foundation of reading comprehension’ at the School of Education, University of Leeds.


**Effective Education, Institute for**

The IEE conference featured presentations from Baroness Estelle Morris, Ofsted, the Wellcome Trust and SSAT and was attended by teachers, policy makers and others involved in education.

Professor Frank Hardman and Dr David Connolly (PRDU) attended UNICEF’s Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy Programme seminar on evidence building, in New York and will provide support to the programme’s management team in developing a global monitoring and evaluation framework, and in the commissioning of research studies.

Dr Peter Rudd, Professor Frank Hardman, Professor Bette Chambers, Louise Elliot and Kate Thorley have been commissioned to carry out the national evaluation of the Realising Opportunities (RO) Programme.

Dr Tracey Bywater has an article on a ‘small platform trial of the Incredible Years (IY) parent programme delivered to foster carers in three local authorities in Wales’ published in Adoption & Fostering and ‘Schedule of Growing Skills II: Pilot study of an alternative scoring method’ published in Psychology. Dr Bywater also led a Welsh Government-funded evaluation methods workshop which preceded Bangor University’s Centre for Evidence Based Early Intervention conference.

Dr Mary Sheard’s co-authored paper ‘Social-emotional learning championing freedom, education and development: a vehicle for at-risk students to succeed’ was published in the *Cypriot Journal of Educational Sciences*.

Dr Louise Tracey spoke on the IEE’s involvement in the ‘Born in Bradford’ study at a regional interest group meeting of the National Association for Language Development in the Curriculum.

Dr Pam Hanley chaired a session on the interface between research and development, CPD and assessment at the Biology Education Research Group meeting.

Dr Peter Rudd presented on the advantages and pitfalls of using RCTs in education at an Evaluation Society event held on campus.

**Electronics**

Professor David Howard spoke to the Cathedral Organists’ Association on ‘Physiology of the human singing voice’ in Exeter Cathedral and was asked to give a similar presentation for the Royal School of Church Music’s ‘Music for Life’ scheme.

Professor Jon Timmis was involved in the Royal Society Frontiers of Science programme in Russia, as part of his Royal Society Fellowship, where he co-led the Information Technology session ‘Long term autonomous systems: from individuals to swarms’.

Dr Dave Chesmore was invited to become a National Officer of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers and a Member of Council.

Dr Martin Trefzer has been appointed Senior Member of the IEEE and presented on using reconfiguration to overcome random variability in nano-scale CMOS at the UK Design Forum (www.panda.ac.uk for further information).

**English and Related Literature**

Professor Derek Attridge spoke on Samuel Beckett, and Professor John Bowen and PhD student Richard Turney gave lectures on John Berger at the University of Gdansk-organised ‘Between’ conference in Sopot, Poland.

Dr Erica Sheen presented ‘Let every eye negotiate for itself and trust no agent: Shakespearean theatre and the law of agency’ at the ‘Bonds, lies and circumstances: discourses of truth-telling in the Renaissance’ conference, University of St Andrews.

**Health Economics, Centre for**

Anne Mason presented ‘Is higher primary care quality associated with lower hospital admissions for people with severe mental illness?’ at the Primary Care Mental Health Conference, University of Manchester.

Professor Tony Culyer chaired a Global Fund for Health joint meeting at the Rockefeller Foundation and NICE meeting in London. He also took part in a panel discussion on his book *The Humble Economist* at a Swedish Health Economists’ Association conference and gave a speech honouring NICE Chair Professor Sir Mike Rawlins at a retirement celebration at the Royal College of Physicians.

Professor Andrea Manca spoke at the MRC Population Cohort Strategy workshop exploring scientific and translational opportunities for UK population cohorts, and participated in an MRC panel assessing a UK-wide consortium grant on stratified medicine in Type 2 diabetes.

Professor Mike Drummond, Professor Andrea Manca and Dr Cynthia Iglesias taught the World Bank-funded ‘Introduction to economic evaluation’ course at the Ministry of Health, Croatia.

Dr Rowena Jacobs spoke to the North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust on ‘The impact of crisis resolution and home treatment teams on psychiatric admission rates in England’. She presented ‘Is higher primary care quality associated with lower hospital admissions for people with serious mental illness?’ and was an invited discussant on a session on depression at ‘Costs and assessment in psychiatry’ workshop, Venice. She also spoke on ‘Payment by Results for further information).

**Computer Science power games in competition**

Students collaborated to design computer games set in nuclear power stations for a Department of Computer Science competition. The year-long tasks were carried out in honour of Matthew Stein, a student from the Department who passed away in his second year of study.

Games had one- and two-player modes. In one example, the first player was a nuclear plant operator and the second was trying to sabotage the plant. The games were designed by teams of students, who were pitted against each other in a test of their software engineering skills and entrepreneurial flair.

The teams presented their games to a panel consisting of module leaders, Head of Department Professor Jim Woodcock and Professor Richard Wilson, Matthew Stein’s supervisor. Students were also quizzed by the panel about why a company should invest in their game.

Team Lamprey came first in the competition, winning the Matthew Stein award – a certificate and £500 to share.

**Fifty years of fitness**

University staff are getting to their feet and dusting off the cobwebs for a 16-week fitness initiative, called Fit@50, running from May to September.

Staff from areas across campus have signed up to be part of the scheme, in which teams of seven compete to be the most active.

Each of the 175 participants is wearing a sophisticated movement sensor that records their day-to-day activities, from walking and running to swimming and cycling.

The more active a team is, the more rewards they will earn, including personalised motivational videos and the opportunity to progress along a virtual journey of the world.

Fit@50, set up to run alongside the University’s 50th anniversary, is a joint initiative from the University’s HR department and Global Corporate Challenge®, who have provided the movement sensors.

The scheme is part of a global movement organised by GCC, in which 260,000 people from 110 countries are taking part.
Romantic writing under the spotlight

New light will be shed on Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s theological and philosophical prose work after a postgraduate student in the Department of English received the York Georgian Society’s Patrick Nuttgens Award, which will allow him closer scrutiny of the Romantic-era poet’s original manuscripts.

Second-year PhD student Dillon Struwig’s research interests are on space, time, and the infinite in Coleridge’s prose work. Very little of this prose work was published, so scholars have to rely on the poet’s notebook scribblings to get a full understanding of his philosophy. The award will give Dillon the means to examine these materials, many of which are held in the British Library.

The award, given annually to a PhD student researching the Georgian period, was set up in honour of Professor Patrick Nuttgens, founding director of the University’s Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies and former president of the York Georgian Society.

York@50 legacy for local community

The York@50 Big Bike Ride on 2 June raised a total of £3,000 towards refurbishing the Scout Association’s Snowball Plantation at Stockton on the Forest. Project Snowball is a joint initiative by students, staff and alumni to mark the 50th anniversary of the University of York and leave a lasting legacy for the benefit of young people in the local community.

Big Bike Ride organiser, Susie Fothergill, said, “There was so much enthusiasm and energy amongst the participants, and this, combined with the amount raised and the unexpectedly nice weather, created a brilliant atmosphere and extremely successful event. We hope to build upon this year’s cycle and turn it into an annual fundraising event.”

For more information about the project visit www.yorkspace.net/cycle

(PbR) for mental health services’ at the Andrew Sims Centre, Leeds.

Dr Richard Cookson spoke on ‘Reducing financial risk’ at a WHO working group meeting on fairness on the path to universal coverage at the Harvard Centre for Population and Development, Boston. He spoke on ‘Using administrative data in Health Economics – an illustrative study of hospital competition and inequality’ at the Public Economics UK Conference.

Professor Mike Drummond was a task force member for the Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS) Statement at an ISPOR meeting, New Orleans, which was published in a number of journals including the British Medical Journal and the Journal of Medical Economics.

Health Sciences


Professor Tim Doran attended the Policy Innovation Research Unit/London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine – Summit on Pay for Performance, London and the European Association for Quality in Family Practice conference.

Dr Antonina Mikocka-Walus attended the European Crohn’s and Colitis Organisation congress, Vienna, Austria.

Charlie Lloyd presented at the CLAHRC Scientific Advisory Group conference. He also participated in a NICE ‘Guidance on needle and syringe exchange for young people’ workshop and chaired ‘Cannabis Matters?’ at the University of Leeds. He spoke at a ‘Drug consumption rooms’ workshop in Brighton and was interviewed on ‘Drug recovery wings evaluation’ for Minster FM and BBC Radio York.

Dr Helen Lewis presented a poster on ‘Health practitioners’ views of primary care mental health provision’ at the Primary Care Mental Health Conference and co-authored poster presentations on ‘The CASPER Plus trial’, ‘The CASPER Plus nested qualitative research study’ and ‘Diagnostic accuracy of Whooley Depression Tool in older adults based in primary care in the UK’ for the Primary Care Mental Health Conference, Manchester.

Kate Bosanquet won the outstanding academic poster award for the Whooley diagnostic accuracy paper at Primary Care Mental Health Conference.

Dr Liz Hughes presented at a UK Motivational Interviewing Network event in Newcastle, discussed the evaluation of the implementation of the Schizophrenia Commission report at Rethink (mental health charity), and participated in a CPD/HYMS Motivational interviewing workshop for primary care. She was also awarded a grant to convene a Clinical Research Group (CRG) as part of the Mental Health Research Network to identify key research priorities for sexual health and mental health and develop proposals for funding through the National Institute for Health Research. The group will involve Professor Simon Gilbody and Dr Shehzad Ali (MHARG), Dr Fabiola Martin (Biology) and a range of external collaborators.

Dr Shehzad Ali attended an NIHR HSR&D meeting in Southampton.

Professor Simon Gilbody attended the NIHR Leadership Programme combination action learning workshops in Ashridge and the MHRN MRG meeting on ‘IAPT methodology: psychometrics, economics and biostatistics’, York.

Professor Hilary Graham spoke on ‘Public health in an uncertain future’ as part of the Institute of Health and Wellbeing Maurice Bloch lecture series at the University of Glasgow, and gave a public lecture on ‘Public health: time for social renewal?’ at Newcastle University.

Dr Maria Berghs attended the Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Annual Review Day and submitted chapters on ‘The new humanitarianism: Neoliberalism, poverty and the creation of disability’ for inclusion in Collection on Disability, Human Rights, and Humanitarianism and ‘The global economy of care’ for inclusion in Disabling Barriers - Enabling Environments.

Professor Martin Bland spoke on ‘Regression towards the mean or why was Terminator III such a disappointment?’ at Statistical Issues in Research, NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust and King’s College, London.


Professor Simon Gilbody, Steve Parrott and Qi Wu contributed to the ‘Smoking and mental health’ report by the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Dr Antonina Mikocka-Walus has secured a fellowship from the Brocher Foundation in Geneva to collaborate on a paper researching the most optimal model of care for inflammatory bowel disease.

The Department has been ranked top Department in England for Nursing in the 2014 Guardian league table.

History

Dr Simon Ditchfield took part in a discussion at ‘Originality and decorum’ which was part of the Federico Barocci: brilliance and grace exhibition at the National Gallery. He also gave the Michael Ó Cléirigh Lecture at University College Dublin on ‘The Making of Roman Catholicism as a world religion?’ The circulation of the sacred c1500–1700’ and spoke on ‘Thinking with Rome: space, place and emotion in the making of a world religion?’ at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

The Leverhulme Trust awarded an International Network grant of £123,000 for the ‘Exploring Russia’s environmental history and natural resources’ project led by Professor David Moore.


History of Art

Professor Helen Hills contributed to Radio 3’s
‘Baroque Spring’ season and a special feature on ‘The Baroque’ on Radio 3’s Night Waves, and was a Visiting Professor in the History of Art Department at Emory University, USA.

Professor Jason Edwards published the first in a series of new Object in Focus articles for Tate, on the late-Victorian sculptor Edward Onslow Ford.

**Housing Policy, Centre for**

Professor Becky Tunstall, contributed to a discussion on Radio 4’s Today programme, on the new measures the Government is putting in place to stimulate the housing market. She also gave evidence on welfare reform in the North to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on housing in the North.

Dr Alison Wallace discussed ‘Support for mortgage interest’ at the Social Security Advisory Committee stakeholder event at the Law School, York. She also presented ‘Poverty and ethnicity in Northern Ireland: an evidence review’ to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, and gave a presentation to the All-Party Group Members of the Legislative Assembly on Minority Ethnic Communities on the same subject.

Dr Julie Rugg gave evidence to the House of Commons CLG committee on the private rented sector and presented on ‘The private rented sector and welfare reform’ at the European Network of Housing Researchers conference, Derry.

Nicholas Pleace attended a European Observatory of Homelessness meeting in Berlin.

Professor Janet Ford, Dr Alison Wallace and Deborah Quilgars presented Build it Yourself? Understanding the changing landscape of the UK self-build market – research undertaken for Lloyds Banking Group, to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Self-Build and Independent Housebuilding with the Housing Minister Mark Prisk MP at Westminster.

**Language and Linguistic Science**

Dr Heather Marsden co-organised a workshop on ‘Applying generative second language acquisition research to the language classroom’, at the Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition (GASLA) conference at the University of Florida. The organising team presented ‘How we can learn from acquisition: the acquisition-learning debate revisited’.

As part of the Bayesian Biometrics for Forensics (BBF02) network Dr Dominic Watt, Natalie Fecher, Erica Gold and Philip Harrison presented at a workshop on Bayesian networks at the University of Twente, Enschede, Netherlands.

Dr Dominic Watt spoke at the Borders and Identity Conference (BIC2013) in Rijeka, Croatia.

Professor Peter French, Dr Dominic Watt and Philip Harrison were appointed members of the Forensic Speech and Audio Group, and will draft supplementary documentation to complement the Home Office Forensic Science Regulator Codes of Practice and Conduct.

**Management**

Dr Bernd Brandl has been appointed as an Expert Member to the Industrial Relations Advisory Committee at the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound).

Dr Ignazio Cabras has received funding from the Vintners Federation of Ireland to explore and analyse the role of the village pub in creating community cohesion, social capital and engagement, and economic wellbeing in rural areas of Ireland.

Dr David Ellerman, Senior Fellow at the Center on Global Justice, University of California at San Diego, and Visiting Scholar, Philosophy Department, University of California at Riverside, presented ‘Rights inalienable, even with consent: a litmus test for classical liberalism’ at a joint White Rose Employee Ownership Centre and the Human Resource Management Group seminar.

Simon Sweeney presented ‘Emergence and coexistence: European and member state strategic cultures’ at the ‘Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Strategy: A reality of wishing truthful?’ seminar at the University of Surrey.

Dr Moshilque Uddin won the best paper prize at the ASCENT Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for his presentation of ‘Barriers of internationalisation of SMEs in Bangladesh’.

The Centre for the Evolution of Global Business and Institutions (CEGBI) and the Department of Archaeology organised a workshop on ‘Whose business is heritage?’ which included talks from University staff and external speakers, and a round table discussion chaired by Jane Grenville, Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

The York Management School hosted Research Week for PhD students which included events in the School and wider university including a question and answer session on practical guidance for getting published, featuring Professor Stephen Linstead, Dr Lynne Baxter and Dr Kevin Tennent. Professor Bob Doherty, Dr Ignazio Cabras and Dr Andy Charlwood gave sessions discussing impact and engagement with the media using case studies.

Indah Ratnasari received the prize for most outstanding poster.

Dr Andy Charlwood was awarded a British Academy fellowship to investigate the role of social norms in shaping job satisfaction and well-being at work.

**Mathematics**

Dr Henning Bostelmann and Daniela Cadamuro spoke at the North British Mathematical Physics Seminar hosted at King’s Manor by the Department.

Professor Paul Busch organised mini-workshops in the Department, on ‘SCIs, MUBs and all that’ for the White Rose–supported ‘Optimising quantum processes and quantum devices for future digital economies applications’ student network. He also visited the School of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Tel Aviv, Israel, where he contributed to the Topology in Dynamics and Physics (TIDY) programme and presented ‘Quantum uncertainty - in all its guises’, ‘On the ‘Zoo’ of Heisenberg uncertainties’ and ‘How to measure incompatible quantum observables’.

He took part in a discussion at a Quantum Theory without Observers conference at the Zf, University of Bielefeld.

Professor Zdzislaw Brzezniak spoke on ‘Invariant measures via bw-Feller property’ at the ‘Stochastic analysis and control: 50 years of

**Improvement of Living and Working Conditions**

Deputy First Minister, and gave a presentation to the office of the First Minister and Law school, York. She also presented ‘Poverty and ethnicity in Northern Ireland: an evidence review’ to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, and gave a presentation to the All-Party Group Members of the Legislative Assembly on Minority Ethnic Communities on the same subject.

Juliana’s research into the endangered habitats, the rate of degradation of which is reportedly ‘higher than [in] coral reefs and rainforests’, is being supervised by Professor Callum Roberts and Dr Julie Hawkins.

The Faculty for the Future programme was set up in 2004 to support female scientists from developing countries and help them realise their academic ambition. So far it has awarded grants to 323 women from 63 countries.

**Fellowship to help at-risk mangroves**

Effective ways of reversing the decline of mangrove forests and river estuaries in South America will be investigated by a PhD student from the Environment Department after the Faculty for the Future foundation awarded her a fellowship covering all expenses.

Juliana López Angarita, who is about to finish the first year of her PhD in Environmental Sciences, is researching how successfully the current Marine Protected Area network in Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador and Colombia – her home country – has conserved its biodiversity.

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Juliana identifying mangrove species in Costa Rica

**Parking award for green campus**

BBC Radio 4 presenter Reverend Richard Coles presented the University’s Travel Plan Co-ordinator Fiona Macey with a Parking and the Environment Award at the 2013 British Parking Awards, recognising the University’s commitment to staying green while expanding its boundaries.

Schemes such as ‘Don’t Renew Thank You’ - where staff who don’t renew their parking permit receive a £40 voucher at a bike shop, or three months’ free bus travel – were mentioned as motivation for the accolade. Other initiatives include an ‘Occasional Use’ parking permit, which is heavily subsidised and allows staff a limited number of days to park within the University, encouraging them to walk or cycle on other days.

The combined effect of these energy-saving schemes, which together form the University’s Sustainable Travel Plan, has been a nine per cent decrease in the number of University staff using cars to get to work.

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Student’s placement performance ‘outstanding’

Jemma Pogson, a third-year Health Sciences undergraduate, has been awarded for her Outstanding Contribution to Practice Placement at the 2013 Student Nursing Times Awards. Jemma’s placement was at a Learning Disability ward in a medium-secure forensic hospital in Doncaster, for patients who are diagnosed as having a learning disability and mental health issues.

Lyn Gilbert, who nominated Jemma for the award, explained that although the placement was complex and demanding Jemma carried out all her work to a high standard and, during her time there, completely redesigned her ward’s Health Action Plan template. The new template has since been adopted by the rest of the hospital.

Said Lyn, “Jemma has established a good rapport with patients and has been proactive in developing tools to aid the patients to have a better understanding of their care and improve their quality of life.”

Staff find room for new colleagues

Staff are helping to provide a warm welcome to colleagues who are about to move to York to take up posts at the University, thanks to a new initiative by Human Resources called Rooms to Rent. Through the scheme, staff members with a spare room let it out to new starters who have just arrived at York, so they can immediately settle into the city before finding a more permanent base elsewhere. Living with another member of staff also makes it easier for newcomers to get acquainted with the city and the University. The scheme forms part of the Welcome Service, which was set up in 2011 to ease the transition for staff relocating to York. So far, the Service has helped more than 100 staff members find homes in York.

The welcome team: Maria Turkenburg, Yalan Patrick, Joyce Hannam and Barry Thomas

scientific activities of Professor Jerzy Zabczyk’s conference at the Banach Centre, Bedlewo, Poland. Professor Brzeznik co-organised the ‘Nonlinear PDEs in micromagnetism: analysis, numerics and applications’ workshop at ICMΣ Edinburgh where PhD students Javed Hussain and Liang Li presented posters and Professor Roy Chantrell (Physics) spoke on ‘Ultrafast dynamics using an LLB equation-based micromagnetic approach’.

Music
To celebrate the first European Day of Early Music, a concert including a performance by Incantiamo, conducted by Robert Hollingworth, Jamie Wright and Simon Harper, took place at the National Centre for Early Music and was streamed live online.

Liz Haddoon presented a paper at the Rhythm Changes: Re-thinking Jazz Cultures Conference, University of Salford. Liz also organised a conference on ‘Creative teaching for creative learning in higher academic music education’ in the Department.

Philosophy
Professor Peter Lamarque presented ‘About a workshop at ‘The semantics of fictional discourse’ at the University of Gottingen and ‘Thought, make-believe and the opacity of narrative’ at the Philosophy and Literature Workshop at the University of Lisbon.

Politics
Dr Martin O’Neill spoke on ‘The special significance of equality of opportunity’ at the Center for Human Values, Princeton University and the Department of Law, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona.

Dr Nick Ritchie’s book A Nuclear Weapons-Free World? Britain, Trident, and the Challenges Ahead was launched at a British Pugwash Group-hosted event in London, attended by representatives from the Ministry of Defence, House of Commons, and US embassy. Dr Ritchie also spoke on ‘Trident: prospects for change’ at the University of Leicester and on ‘Trident and nuclear disarmament’ for the Quaker’s Hexham Debates. He spoke at a Foreign Office-sponsored China–UK Next Generation Nuclear Dialogue workshop and lectured on UK nuclear weapons policy at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham. Dr Ritchie participated in a round-table discussion on UK nuclear weapons policy and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, hosted by the UK’s Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva at the Foreign Office. He published a briefing paper with the London and Washington-based British American Security Information Council (BASIC) on the UK Cabinet Office’s Trident Alternatives Study.

Psychology
A full page article ‘Research reveals Margaret Thatcher’s cunning use of psychology – was this the key to her success?’, based on Dr Peter Bull’s analysis of Margaret Thatcher’s interview style, appeared on the front page of the Huffington Post.

Reviews and Dissemination, Centre for
Dr Bob Phillips has joined the Children and Young People’s Health Outcomes Forum, a national independent group of experts helping to develop a new strategy for improving care for children and young people.

CRD hosted a workshop to develop an extension to the PRISMA reporting guidelines tailored specifically for systematic reviews and meta-analyses of individual participant data, which was attended by researchers experienced in the conduct of IPD reviews and journal editors.

Alison Booth spoke on ‘Registration of experimental studies and systematic reviews’ at a symposium on ‘Systematic reviews in laboratory animal science’ held in Edinburgh.

Professor Lesley Stewart presented ‘Building blocks of healthcare guidance: increasing access to trial data and implications for systematic reviews of individual participant data’ at Evidence Live in Oxford.

Dr Amanda Snowden has joined the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Public Health Advisory Committee.

Social Policy and Social Work
Dr Neil Lunt participated in the Nuffield Council on Bioethics’ Forward Look Seminar in London, focussing on the area of medical tourism and cross-border care.


MA Social Policy student Nabila Idris secured a Chinese Government Scholarship Award enabling her to study in China for a year.

Dr Stefan Kuehner visited the Centre for Greater China Studies, Hong Kong Institute of Education where he presented ‘Comparing the effects of cash benefits and in-kind services on family outcomes using macro-level cross national data’, attended the launching ceremony of the Inter-University Consortium for Comparative Social Policy in Greater China and participated in ‘Managing migration and urban governance in Greater China: challenges and policy responses’ symposium.

Dr Carolyn Snell and Dr Mark Bevan presented initial research results on the relationship between fuel poverty and disabled people at a workshop in London for representatives from national charities.

At the European Conference for Social Work Research, Jyväskylä, Finland, Dr Mark Hardy co-presented ‘Minimising inaccuracy in social work: developing a model for differentiating procedural and judgement based practice’ and contributed ‘The quality and effectiveness of higher education in the training of professionals – a comparative analysis’ to a symposium on ‘The role of the academy in the future of social work’. Dr Martin Webber presented ‘Using ethnography to enhance the internal validity of social work interventions prior to evaluation in a randomised controlled trial’, ‘Evaluation of the Connecting People intervention: a quasi-experimental study’ and ‘The role of the University in the future of social work’ (symposium) at the same event.

Dr Martin Webber wrote a piece on ‘Integrated health and social care could help victims of abuse’ for The Conversation website and has secured an NIH School for Social Care Research funding of £30,000 for ‘Adding value...
to the Connecting People studies’. He spoke at
the BASW England conference and took part in a
discussion on ‘Overcoming the challenges facing
mental health social workers’ at Community
Care Live.

Professor Nina Biehal took part in a
Department for Education expert working
group on long-term foster care in London and
participated in a Ministerial pre-consultation
seminar at the Department of Education to
discuss planned changes to policy on children’s
homes.

Sociology

Dr Rowland Atkinson discussed middle-class
enclaves and escapes on BBC Radio 4’s Thinking
Allowed.

Memorylands: Heritage and Identity in Europe
Today by Professor Sharon Macdonald has been
published. She spoke on ‘Cultural heritage and
tourism of painful pasts’ at the Department of
Tourism, South-Eastern University, Beijing.
At Peking University, Beijing she presented
‘Memorialising trauma’ in the Department of Art
History and ‘Post-socialist nostalgia in Europe’
in the Department of Sociology and Social
Anthropology. Professor Macdonald presented
‘Exit through the gift shop. Social and cultural
perspectives on museum shopping’ at the
‘Whose business is heritage?’ workshop. She
chaired the Berlin Roundtable event ‘Museums
and travel: rethinking the modern experience’,
Irmgaard-Coninx Foundation and Humboldt
University of Berlin.

Dr Laurie Hanquinet spoke at ‘Engaging
audiences: international perspectives on
museum and heritage visiting’, an event of the
European Centre for Cultural Exploration (ECCE)
and the Institute for the Public Understanding
of the Past, organised by Professor Sharon
Macdonald and Dr Geoff Cubitt (History).

Alejandra Jaramillo Vazquez organised and
spoke at Cultural Institutions and Creativity
which also included talks by visiting academics
Professor Ligia Dabul (Fluminense Federal
University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and Du Hui
(Minzu University, Beijing, China).

Social Policy Research Unit

Professor Bryony Beresford and Lucy Stuttard
co-hosted a conference with the Association
of Child and Adolescent Mental Health on
‘Managing behaviour and sleep: group-delivered
interventions for parents of disabled children’
where they presented findings of the SPAR
project.

Dr Wendy Mitchell and Dr Jenni Brooks
presented ‘Balancing service users’ and carers’
needs and interests in personalisation’ at the
‘Policy in practice’ seminar, where Professor
Caroline Glendinning also presented and, with
Dr Mitchell, was part of a panel discussing
research gaps and priorities.

Professor Caroline Glendinning presented
‘Reforming social care in England: personalisation
and its challenges’ at the
‘Reforming social care across the borders’ forum
on Interprofessional Care, Sahmyook University,
Seoul, South Korea. She also presented ‘Home
care reablement services: impacts and cost-
effectiveness’ at the Govtoday-organised Social
Care conference, London and ‘Personal health
budgets: experiences of budget-holders and
carers’ at the ‘Personalisation in the health care
system: evaluation of the personal health budget
pilot programme’ conference.

Dr Jenni Brooks presented ‘Involving carers
in personalised adult social care practice’ at the
NIHR School for Social Care Research conference
at the London School of Economics.

Anne Corden presented ‘Funeral poverty in
scope’ at ‘Funeral poverty in Scotland: a meeting
for discussion’ in Edinburgh, organised by the
Scottish Grief and Bereavement Hub.

Jo Dixon presented ‘Leaving care in England:
models of good practice for care leavers’ at an
International Expert Seminar ‘What happens
after out-of-home care? models of good practice
for care leavers’, Frankfurt, Germany.

Professor Gillian Parker presented ‘Living well
with dementia: research, policy and practice’
at ‘Living well with dementia: a conference
for health care workers’ organised by the
Congregation of Jesus Charitable Trust at the Bar
Convent, York.

Dr Parvaneh Rabiee ran a session on ‘Local
authority managed personal budgets: choice
and flexibility of home care for older people?’ at
the Social Services Research Group workshop
‘Fair welfare services or farewell to services? An
assessment of the funding, fitness and future
of social care and related services’ at Coventry
University. She presented ‘Young disabled
people leaving care: implications for transition
processes and practices’ at the Scottish
Universities Insight Institute-organised ‘Getting
it right for looked after disabled children and youth
people’ in Glasgow.

Gemma Spiers presented ‘What should
be considered when developing nurse-led
community healthcare for children and young
people who are ill?’ at ‘Transforming community
health: the nursing impact’, University of
Edinburgh.

Professor Mike Stein presented ‘Promoting
the resilience of young people from care to
adulthood’ at the Raising the Bar: National
Throughcare and Aftercare Conference in
Edinburgh. He presented ‘Young people’s
transitions from care to adulthood: research,
policy and practice’ at ‘Improving outcomes
for fostered young people’ at the University
of Oxford, and ‘Care Less Lives: the story of
the rights movement of young people in care’
at ‘Getting it right for looked after disabled
children and young people’ at the University
of Strathclyde. Professor Stein presented
‘Promoting the resilience of young people from
care to adulthood: messages from research’ at
the Lifelong Learning Centre, University of Leeds
and presented this as part of a webinar,
organised by Practice and Research Together,
Canada. He chaired a Question Time panel at
Passport to Parliament, an event in Manchester
for young people living in care, organised by the
Who Cares? Trust.

Big bash for Education’s half-century of achievement

The Department of Education celebrated its
half-century at a party in Hendrix Hall.
As one of the University’s six departments
when it opened in 1963, Education marked
its 50th year by inviting former Heads of
Department, academic and administrative staff
past and present, alumni and current students to
share memories at the event.

The Department is also hosting a series
of public lectures on subjects such as dyslexia,
teaching science in schools and Shakespeare’s
Globe to celebrate this anniversary.
50th Anniversary

Staff Garden Party

Wednesday 17 July 2013, 3pm to 5pm
Rear Lawn, Heslington Hall

Register online at http://uoy50staffparty.eventbrite.co.uk

Drinks, strawberry tarts
music, raffle