

THE BOLT

News from the University of Bolton **Issue 16** Autumn 2010

University
of Bolton

University
of Bolton

Celebrations

Our Chancellor
enjoys her first
Bolton graduation

Crash-test TV

Developing a new
seatbelt for
mums-to-be

Tasting success

University and
students' union
win Fairtrade status



WHAT'S NEW

The installation of the University's first Chancellor was an historic event in the long history of our institution. It marked a very public recognition of the work of University staff, governors, partners and students over many years, work that has made the University of Bolton the regional, national and international success it is today.

How appropriate then that Baroness Morris of Bolton OBE DL chose to combine her ceremony with one of our Degree Congregation ceremonies. This special time is when the entire University celebrates the success and hard work of our graduating students. Together we reflect on the past year's developments and look ahead to the future. It is shared with our many friends and supporters. So it meant that hundreds of members of the wider University community were able to see the investiture and hear Lady Morris' passionate words on education, Bolton and the role of a university in the 21st century (pages 12 and 13).

Our graduation special (pages 14 and 15) once again showcases the many and varied achievements of our students. Entrepreneurs, professionals, parents and students – they often combine family commitments and careers – and are the epitome of the modern university student.

Graduates Wayne Watkins and Ian Fitzgerald combined studying with the setting up of a successful international soccer coaching business. Inspirational Accountancy graduate Sarah Dixon, who had her baby son between years two and three and returned to achieve First Class Honours, is an exemplar of hard work and commitment.

The summer also sees the ever impressive Creative Degree Show (pages 18 and 19), a highlight of the University's cultural year. Other events in a rich and varied artistic and cultural calendar are featured here: Bill Naughton Day (page 11); our Gala event at The Octagon (page 5).

Research and business development is also showcased in this edition of the Bolt, from world class research symposiums to brand new business scholarships (pages 8 and 9).

We welcome new staff and congratulate those stepping into new roles, in particular our new Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Rob Campbell (pages 20 and 21).

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Back cover: Graduation celebrations



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FSC LOGO

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New campus in RAK

health and wellbeing

This summer the University of Bolton RAK Campus has relocated to a new, state-of-the-art campus. All academic programmes will be housed together at the new campus – a first for any British university in the UAE.

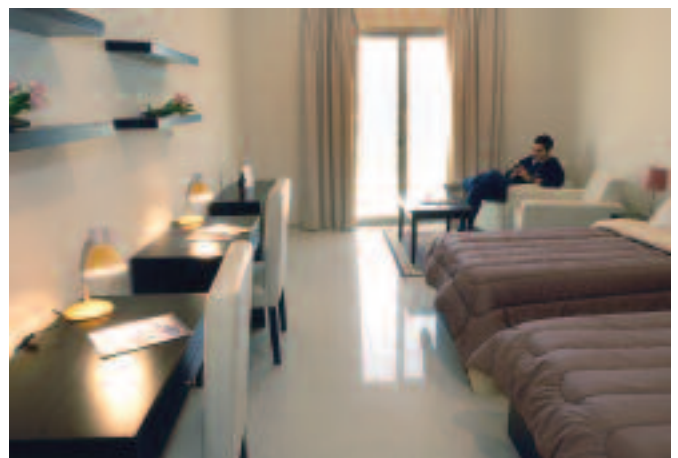
The 3,900 sq m facility includes classrooms, lecture halls, library, engineering and computing laboratories, plus office space. In addition, students have access to a purpose-built gym and fitness centre, featuring modern aerobic and weight training equipment. There are also outdoor sports facilities including basketball courts, tennis lawns, a football field and volleyball courts.

New student residences have been well received. The new accommodation is next to the new campus. The student residences comprise of two apartment complexes situated on either side of a new student centre. Each air conditioned apartment accommodates two students.

The student centre is the social hub of the campus. It offers a place to relax over coffee, have lunch, watch TV, play table tennis or football, or catch up on computer work. Students can also take advantage of a variety of shops, a cafeteria and coffee shop. The student centre will also house student clubs, recreation and games rooms, offices for student publications, as well as study areas and chill-out spaces.

Students based in Bolton can study at the new branch campus too. If their subject is taught in RAK, students can opt to study there for a semester as part of their own degree studies, gaining valuable experience of living and learning in an international environment.

Academic Director, Zubair Hanslot said: 'The new facility is exceptional on many fronts, in that it will not only provide a stimulating environment for teaching and learning but it will also enhance the student overall experience. Capital investment into any campus is a costly exercise, however I am confident with such state-of-the-art facilities the new campus will strengthen the University's position as a UK higher education provider in the UAE.'



Honoured friends of the University share in the celebrations surrounding the inauguration of our first Chancellor. See pages 12-17 for the full story

Fairtrade award celebrations for University and Students' Union

The University of Bolton and its Students' Union are celebrating being awarded Fairtrade University status.

The University and its students are proud to announce that their long standing commitment to social justice and ethical sourcing has been recognised by the Fairtrade Foundation.

The prestigious recognition is not only important to the University but recognises the voluntary contribution by staff, suppliers and in particular students. Students have supported trade justice and sustainable development within trade for many

years. They have promoted Fairtrade products through events such as the Fairtrade fortnight, quiz nights and recipe booklets. The University now offers Fairtrade products at all its catering outlets, the students' union bar and shop and at all University meetings.

Said Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Marsh: 'This is great news for the University. We are committed to making Fairtrade products available on campus and raising awareness of Fairtrade throughout the University.'

'From senior management to the students' union, we are fully committed to supporting Fairtrade and will be

promoting its mission at University events throughout the academic year.'

Products carrying the Fairtrade Mark guarantee a fair deal to producers in developing countries, to help them work their way out of poverty. Fairtrade producers also receive a 'community premium' to invest in local health or education provision or improved production methods, and are committed to farming in ways which respect the environment.

The University and its students have committed to more campaigns during the next academic year to increase the awareness of Fairtrade and make more products available across the University.

Crash-test TV stars

An international film crew from Discovery Channel recently visited the University's new crash test impact facility, to film high speed crash testing of a new pregnancy seatbelt harness.

Professor Clive Chirwa, Chair of Automotive and Aerospace Structures and head of Bolton Automotive and Aerospace Research Group (BAARG), said: 'We were delighted to welcome Discovery Channel to our new facility. It is an extension of our world-class crash testing and research centre. We are the UK's leading research centre for crash studies, and in the top ten research centres in the world in this field.'

The Discovery Channel team filmed testing of a new pregnancy seatbelt harness developed by inventor, and Bolton alumnus, Stephen Weston. The seatbelt is being extensively tested by a team led by Professor Clive Chirwa, who is a world-renown crashworthiness academic. The test rig can simulate various crash scenarios, including 35mph impact, into a rigid block. Precise comparisons of the results can then be made between outputs from a crash test dummy secured with a conventional seatbelt and when the new harness is used.



Stephen Weston, the founder of Reel and Shaft Handling Company, said: 'The testing is progressing extremely well and we expect to go to market within a year.'

The new facility extends the scope and reach of the team's internationally recognised research. Emmanuel Matsika, a researcher in BAARG, said: 'In this facility we can test and measure the effect of crashes on car occupants and

carry out new research into the effect of all types of crashes on wheelchair users.'

Across the world many people already owe their lives to crashworthiness research and development at the University of Bolton.

'It's our contribution to science and safety; it is an honour,' said Professor Chirwa, pictured right, with Emmanuel and Stephen, centre.

Research centre for health and wellbeing

The University opened a new research centre, The Centre for Research for Health and Wellbeing, in September.

The centre will undertake research into health and wellbeing and how it impacts on professional agendas and social issues. Community involvement and collaborative ventures will be at the core of research projects within the centre.

Its launch took place at the Putting Patients First in Health and Service Delivery conference, held at the University in collaboration with NHS Bolton.

Speaking at the opening of the conference was Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Marsh, who outlined the vision for Bolton One, a £31 million health, leisure and research centre due to open in 2012.

NHS Bolton Chief Executive, Tim Evans also spoke, as did Abdul Mulla, Chief Executive of Blackburn and Darwen Healthy Living Centre.

But the conference also explored issues as diverse as representations of disabled people in photography and the benefits of conducting community research in the back of a black taxi cab, via a range of diverse and engaging workshops and presentations.



Said research centre director, Prof Carole Truman, pictured right, with an NHS Bolton award won by the black cab project: 'In addition to our work with professionals within the arena of health and wellbeing, our research centre's early priority will be to build our postgraduate research capacity.'

'Health and community research work at the University has an established reputation for successful collaboration within the health and community sectors.'

'Our links with the primary care sector are set to flourish when Bolton One opens. We will be working side by side, literally, giving us greater opportunities to build our research alliance, working together in the community in the way

universities have more traditionally worked with hospitals.'

Said Prof Marsh: 'The opportunities for us to build and develop our primary health care-focused research within Bolton One makes us distinctive among universities and is a major research strength for the university.'

Tim Evans, Chief Executive of NHS Bolton, said: 'The new research centre will be a really useful addition to the borough. It will add to the excellent work the University already does around health and community research, and will provide us with even more valuable information to help us develop services based on what local people want and need.'

Octagon partnership

The University held an exciting gala evening at the Octagon Theatre, to celebrate the continued partnership between the two Bolton institutions.

The performance was *The Hired Man* based on the novel by Melvyn Bragg. University guests were honoured by the attendance of *The Hired Man* composer, and Honorary Doctor of the University, Howard Goodall, pictured left.

Having written the music and lyrics for the musical, Howard Goodall worked closely with the Octagon Theatre's Artistic Director David Thacker and Melvyn Bragg to compose new songs specifically for the Octagon production. The Telegraph review gave the piece four stars, saying: 'Adapted from Melvyn Bragg's 1969 novel, this production is infused with all the freshness of his youth and brings a legitimate tear to the eye'.

The partnership between the theatre and the University is being further enriched and deepened with work placements,



guest lectures and other unique opportunities for students and staff. David Thacker, pictured right, is also Visiting Professor of the Dramatic Arts at the University.

Bolton One takes shape

Bolton One is set to be a landmark building for the town with facilities that will strengthen the University's place at the forefront of education provision for the primary health care sector.

The innovative partnership between Bolton Council, NHS Bolton and the University of Bolton is a first within the higher education sector. The University will work in partnership with the primary care trust in the way universities have traditionally worked with hospitals.

Now hoardings have been put up around the site, keeping everyone informed of progress on the project, which is on track for completion in 2012.

The complex will house a swimming pool and leisure services, a four-storey health centre with urgent care, diagnostics and treatment facilities, a sports centre and sports science laboratories with teaching facilities – all under one roof.



Anyone off campus wanting to see the building work take shape can go to <http://timelapse.bolton.ac.uk> and Bolton One now has its own website at

www.boltonone.com where further detail is available and more will be added as building progresses.

Graduate Debra wins top award

Graduate Debra Ellis has been awarded the coveted NHS North West Assistant Practitioner of the Year award, which this year attracted almost 100 nominations from across the region.

Debra was one of the first students to graduate from the University's award-winning Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care.

Her Manager, Sue Orchard nominated her. She said: 'Debra has the most wonderful caring nature and has always been willing to go that extra mile for every patient. The generic nature of the Assistant Practitioner role has enabled her to extend her practice and treat people in the holistic manner she has endeavoured to do. Debra is an asset to the podiatry department and the epitome of the AP post.'

Debra, who has worked within the NHS for 30 years and within podiatry



for 18, is the first member of a podiatry department to achieve the Assistant Practitioner qualification. Debra's part-time university course took two years to complete and she graduated in 2006.

Said Debra: 'To have achieved the award is an honour for me. And the podiatry team has been very supportive. It was tough, really hard work at times. Juggling a family, a full-

time job and a part-time course really tests you, but when I completed my degree I felt I could achieve anything. I was told the course would change the way I think and it's true; what I gained from studying has changed me. I still go into the University of Bolton to talk to students starting the course, to give them an idea of what the student experience is like and what to expect along the way.'

Charter success for part-time MBA

The University's part-time Master of Business Administration (MBA) course has received professional recognition from the Chartered Management Institute (CMI).

Peter Moran, the programme leader of the MBA, said: 'This is a great result for the University of Bolton and the School of Business and Creative Technologies. It presents potential new opportunities for professional recognition of the work of those on the part-time MBA. This advance has been four years in discussion and development and a lot of hard work has been necessary to achieve it.'

The School of Business and Creative Technologies' part-time MBA course now gives students the opportunity to register with the CMI as associate members. They benefit from the CMI's extensive management library resources, and receive professional recognition on successful completion of the course.

Students on the second year of the part-time MBA have the opportunity to get an additional qualification – a CMI Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership. If they pay a registration fee, an external examiner will assess their work

and if it meets the grade they will get their diploma. They then go on to complete the MBA.

Pictured presenting the award is CMI Regional Organiser Roger McCartney, second right, to University Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Marsh. Looking on are Principal Lecturer, Judith Myers, Programme Leader, Peter Moran and Head of Undergraduate Provision, Bob Barrett.



Making ships safer

Research scientists in Bolton and Southampton are working together to develop the next generation of composite materials for ships, to make them less vulnerable to fire.

The universities of Bolton and Southampton have been awarded £775,000 by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to carry out this research.

The project, led by Bolton, begins in July and will run for 3.5 years. It has a series of goals:

- to develop new resins, which will be less flammable than those currently used in the production of shipping's large-scale composite materials
- to ensure that when these new materials do reach combustion point they produce minimum smoke and toxic products on burning
- to develop materials that will be lighter, do not corrode and cost less to produce than the currently used materials.

These new composite materials will initially be developed for the ship's superstructure. However, they could also find applications in other engineering arenas such as road, rail transportation and aeronautical applications.

The project has attracted collaborators from all sectors of the marine market – from materials suppliers (Scott Bader), ship builders (BVF) and boat yards (BVT) to operators (RNLI and MoD/Dstl/Royal Navy) and involves regulators (Lloyd's Register and MoD) and statutory agencies (Maritime Coastguard Agency). They will provide practical guidance on



issues such as regulatory issues, boatyard production challenges and vessel operating issues that may impact on materials design and selection.

Recorded shipping history lists dozens of vessels and thousands of lives lost to fire – as recently as 2004 when the Bow Mariner sank following an explosion. Twenty-one of its 27 crew died.

Said Professor Baljinder Kandola of the investigating team from the University's Institute for Materials Research and Innovation: 'Fire-retardant materials have been developed for many industries and we hope that shipping will be the next beneficiary.

'The materials we aim to develop could also have wider applications in both rail and air transport industries.'

The University of Bolton's Institute for Materials Research and Innovation has the UK's largest university fire materials research centre.

Computer love can break your heart

Modern life is undoubtedly stressful, but did you know the second biggest stress in your working life is your computer?

Your car journey to work takes the number one slot, but the PC on your desk is close behind in the 21st century stress-out stakes.

Yes, computer advertising may encourage us to fall in love with our laptop's aesthetic curves and contours, swoon at the sleekness of its design and generally marvel at the power of its hard drive capacity, but our everyday experience can be less than romantic bliss.

In fact, Dr John Charlton, research fellow in psychology at the University and a member of its Computer and Cyberpsychology Research Unit (UBCCRU), says it is this very association of human emotion with an inanimate object that is a root cause of our computer calm problems and can ultimately lead to health problems.

Said Dr Charlton: 'People habitually prone to getting angry and frustrated are at greater risk of angina and having heart attacks. If they frequently become angry with their computer this will obviously contribute to the risk.'

'Anger raises blood pressure and causes damage to arteries. There is also evidence that anger increases levels of low density lipoprotein (LDL), which is a risk factor for heart disease.'

Occasionally shouting at or threatening the computer is not likely to harm health but Dr Charlton says it is not true that venting anger is better than bottling it up. 'It's the outward expression of anger rather than inward feelings that is linked to heart problems,' he said.

Potentially damaging emotional responses are probably more likely among those who think computers have human attributes and expect them to respond like people, said Dr Charlton. 'Although on an intellectual level people realise that computers don't have thoughts and feelings and act on them, the way we interact with computers has many similarities with the way we interact with other people.'

In our 'dialogues' with computers we do something and the computer responds by doing something, often with words, explains Dr Charlton. 'Our expectation therefore is that computers will follow the same "rules" as interactions with people.' When they do not respond as we expect, or they are too slow, we become frustrated, our blood pressure shoots up, and we go into emotional meltdown.

'Many computing tasks involve intense mental activity and involve rapid cycles of input to, and output from, short-term memory over a sustained period of time,' explains Dr Charlton. And when the computer works fast we also increase the speed at which we work, so we are mentally highly aroused.

'This can result in lower thresholds for outbursts of anger when interruptions occur. We also get frustrated because our expectations are dashed.'



'Also, the computer can't respond to our anger and just sits there impassively, so our anger and frustration escalate.'

Expert tips to cut computer stress

Dr Charlton's tactics to help you keep cool with your computer:

- Remember it doesn't usually matter that much – no one is going to die;
- Train yourself how not to react. It will take time but it is possible to stop your pulse racing. Take a short series of deep breaths and repeatedly tell yourself to relax muscle tension;
- If the computer is taking a long time to respond or download something, look away from the screen;
- Relax and train yourself to think of other things when you are being provoked by the computer;
- Make sure the computer is suitable for what you are using it for: a year 2000 computer can't deal with today's large applications. Learn how to defragment your computer, otherwise the speed with which the computer retrieves files from memory can deteriorate over time.

Recycling symposium comes to Bolton

The University's Institute for Materials Research and Innovation will be the venue for the Third International Symposium on Fibre Recycling next June.

Held in collaboration with the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, and Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan, the symposium will showcase research into fibre recycling. Textile and fibre waste has become a growing concern for both environmentalists and those working in and with the waste disposal industries. The symposium provides a forum for scientists and industrialists to explore and discuss the latest research findings and innovative solutions in their field. Ideas can be exchanged in a spirit of lively debate and international co-operation. Dr Mohsen Mirafteb will chair the Symposium. Abstracts and papers are invited; for more information please contact the Institute for Materials Research and Innovation at bolton.ac.uk/IMRI/Symposium/Home

2010 Fund to build business talent

Bolton College and the University of Bolton have launched a new fund, to be known as the 2010 Fund.

The initiative aims to promote further collaboration between the two institutions and encourage students to progress from programmes at the college to programmes at the University.

Businesses are being called on to support the scholarship scheme, which aims to build up the workplace skills, knowledge and talent of Bolton's future employees.

Companies are being invited to provide graduate apprenticeships for the 2010 Fund scholarship students so they can gain valuable industrial and commercial experience while studying. The 2010 Fund has been established with the help of a donation from Dr Bob Oxtoby, chair of Governors at the College. In the 1980s and 1990s Dr Oxtoby was also Principal of Bolton Institute, now the University.

Dr George Holmes, Vice Chancellor of the University said: 'The University is truly fortunate to receive this donation from Dr Oxtoby. By using his own resources in this way he is demonstrating his longstanding commitment to the success of the College, the University and their students. The financial support available through the 2010 Fund scholarship will make a big difference to the recipients. Professional development is key to the student experience at Bolton. We want



our students to enhance their careers through their studies, so that when they graduate they can play a significant part in helping secure the future success of the local business community.'

The fund will be used to provide scholarship places, worth £1,000 a year, for locally based full-time students at the University, studying on degree programmes in business, IT, construction, civil engineering, sport, and health services. They must have successfully completed an appropriate level 3 course at Bolton College.

Dr Oxtoby said: 'I have recently completed 25 years of close involvement with further and higher education in Bolton. Both the College and the University have major building projects underway at the moment.

I am particularly looking forward to the College moving to its new campus adjacent to the University in August. My donation is intended to celebrate these landmarks and to foster participation in employment-related higher education. I hope very much that local firms and individuals who have connections with the two institutions will wish to contribute to the 2010 Fund.'

Donations to the 2010 Fund are currently eligible for gift aid and the University also takes part in the Government's match funding scheme, so for every £200 raised the Government contributes an extra £100. Bolton businesses can get involved by contacting Penny Knipe in the Alumni and Friends Association. T: 01204 903774, E: pjk1@bolton.ac.uk

New book by Professor of Children's Literature

Professor of Children's Literature, David Rudd, is the editor of a new collection of essays exploring his subject.

The Routledge Companion to Children's Literature is a comprehensive, contemporary investigation of children's literature, exploring its various genres and qualities.

Expert contributors worldwide provide in-depth analyses of why children's literature is the way it is. Topics covered range from the the history and



development of children's literature to the study of narrative structure and graphic novels and neglected areas of children's literature. This treasure trove of a book also involved the work of Art and Design Foundation diploma programme leader, Julie Brown, who designed the stunning cover.

Said Professor Rudd: 'As far as I'm concerned, it's the most up-to-date and thorough study of this rapidly expanding field that there's been – although I might be slightly biased!'

Business is blooming

A businessman has seen his revolutionary gardening product ideas blossom into life, with the help of the Product Development Service at the University.

Owner of the hanging basket company Plantopia, Chris Haley, had a vision for a new premiere line product – a wall basket with durability and strength that would allow for multiple planting through its front section.

Developed through 50 years of experience in horticulture, Chris had thought through even the finest details of his new product line – from to how the basket fix to a wall through to how it should stack and fit on Europe-wide standard trolleys.

The University team was tasked with drawing up plans, creating prototypes, working with a tool-making company in China who created the moulds and seeing through the process to the finished product.

The result is what product design senior lecturer and business consultant, Karl Gregory, describes as the 'Rolls-Royce of garden baskets'.

Said Karl, pictured left: 'Chris's vision of what he wanted to create was incredibly detailed. His experience clearly gave him a strong vision and exacting quality focus – my challenge was giving him everything he wanted.'

'Our rapid prototyping equipment here in the Product Design Studios is perfect for this type of challenge.'

'Quickly and simply, they allow us and the client to see before us what should work on paper. I was concerned we might miss the challenge's demands by fractions of millimetres, but the rapid prototyping machine enabled us to create a perfect model of what would be finally manufactured.'

'We have been involved in almost all the key moments in bringing this product to the customer and so we have picked up some new skills ourselves.'



The tool-making equipment was made in China and transported to a firm in Blackburn, Lancashire, called High-tech Plastics. Using recyclable plastic to create the baskets in three colours, 35,000 wall baskets have been manufactured since March and now sell as far away as Moscow.

Chris says that in the UK alone, 25 million hanging baskets are bought every year. He says his slice of that market is small, but growing. Plantopia hanging baskets have been featuring on a shopping channel and demand is rocketing.

Plantopia now produces three types of hanging basket – a 12" and 14" traditional, as well as the wall-mounted. They all have the 'gateway' feature, allowing plants to be planted within the basket body, giving layers of flowers which can potentially cover the basket in blooms.

Said Plantopia's owner, Chris: 'They are undoubtedly a success – we can't make them fast enough at the moment. That sort of success brings its own stress, but it's a good stress!'

New multimedia journalism masters

The University is launching a new Multimedia Journalism masters degree, taught in Beijing, China.

The MA International Multimedia Journalism concentrates on developing skills for journalists to deliver stories through multiple digital platforms.

The course, taught in English, runs full-time for 12 months, after which successful students gain a University of Bolton masters degree. The course has been created through collaboration between Beijing Foreign Studies University and the University of Bolton.

Said course leader, Dr Dave Clark: 'The course is taught by influential

international instructors and seeks to train both student and practicing journalists to embrace new media and find innovative ways to tell their stories on multiple platforms, such as TV, radio, print, web, mobile and e-reader.

'The course is specifically designed to prepare journalists wanting to work internationally with the skills needed to work innovatively on stories across multiplatforms.'

Course content of the MA International Multimedia Journalism is divided into three sections. Firstly, it will involve critical discussions on the core skills that span the three traditional modes of delivery (print, radio, TV) set against the emerging online international newscape. Secondly, students undertake project-based learning that will challenge them to work on creative projects that require both an in-depth understanding

of new technologies, and a willingness to innovate and apply them in a journalistic context. Thirdly, students engage with industry on live projects.

The new masters course builds on the successful University Photojournalism MA which was based in Dalian, China, but has now closed with the University of Bolton team move to Beijing.

During its time course students won international awards and praise for both their work and their coverage of news events, such as the 2008 Olympic Games.

Added Dr Clark: 'Our new course is very sharply focused on the demands made on today's international multimedia journalist and giving students the latest knowledge applicable to their profession.'

Town comes together to celebrate Bill Naughton

The life of the much loved playwright and author Bill Naughton was celebrated recently in a weekend of events driven by the University.

Bill Naughton is probably best known for *Alfie*, which was brought to the big screen in 1966, starring Michael Caine. Young people across the country begin their relationship with Naughton's work with the novels *My Pal Spadger* and *A Dog Called Nelson*, and then move on to the play *Spring and Port Wine*.

This year marks Naughton's centenary and to celebrate the town came together to enjoy a range of Naughton events. The mayor and representatives from the University and Octagon Theatre launched the day of celebration at Bolton Museum, attended by Bill Naughton's widow, Erna.

An academic conference at Bolton Museum Lecture Theatre brought together lecturers, playwrights, writers and students to discuss his work.

There was also a chance to spend the day observing how the novel *Alfie* moves from page to performance, culminating in a read-through by actors at the Octagon, pictured top.

Other activities included the opportunity for fellow Boltonians to record their own memories of Bolton in Victoria Square (pictured below) or take a bus tour of Naughton's Bolton, to see where *The Family Way* and *Spring and Port Wine* were filmed. In the evening, the Octagon Theatre presented *Rafta Rafta*, a play based on Naughton's own *The Family Way*, but set in a contemporary British Asian context.

The University's Professor David Rudd initiated plans for the celebration. He said: 'This was a fantastic opportunity for the town to remember and celebrate Naughton's work in all its aspects.

'His plays, films, novels and short stories, his autobiographical memoirs, and more generally, credit him for putting Bolton on the cultural map at a time when everything centred around London and the South.

'We were delighted that his widow, Erna, could to join us in the celebrations. The people of Bolton united in celebrating not only Naughton's Bolton, but also their own thoughts and memories of the town.'



Our first Chancellor

The University celebrated an historic event this summer as graduating students, honoured guests and university staff witnessed the installation of its first Chancellor, The Baroness Morris of Bolton OBE DL.

At the Friday morning Degree Congregation Ceremony Lady Morris, a deputy speaker of the House of Commons, was presented with two Honorary Doctorates by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Bolton, Dr George Holmes. This was a unique award for the University. She was then presented as Chancellor of the University.

And to celebrate and commemorate Lady Morris' appointment, those receiving Honorary Fellowships in the past, under the University's former title Bolton Institute, were invited to receive Honorary Doctorates.

Thirty-five Honorary Fellows returned to Bolton, among them Nobel Prize-winning scientist, Sir Harry Kroto; businessman and counsellor to the Muslim Council of Britain, Lord Adam Patel and the theatre, film and television actor, Frank Finlay.

In total, ten new honorary awards were presented this year, over two days of ceremonies. Recipients included journalist and television presenter, Gordon Burns; Olympic cyclist Jason Kenny and Blackburn Rovers FC and former Bolton Wanderers manager, Sam Allardyce.

Said Vice Chancellor, Dr George Holmes: 'The range and eminence of those receiving awards is a testament to the standing of the University and its significance to the region.'

'This was a unique occasion in our University's history. Welcoming our first Chancellor to our Degree Congregation Ceremonies was cause for much celebration. We were delighted to mark this occasion by honouring so many. These celebrated academics, professionals, business



people and community leaders have been great friends to the University and their support is greatly valued by us.'

New Chancellor, Lady Morris, told graduating students and their families she had chosen to share their graduation event, wanting to be a part of the University Degree Congregation Celebrations.

Lady Morris said the coalition Government was set to put future focus on more technical and vocational education, modernisation, including shared services, and better progression routes into higher and further education.

'It is now widely accepted that Britain's future will be as a skills and knowledge-based economy and we have in front of us a massive opportunity but one that can be grasped only by a step-change in the nation's skills.

'For the majority of our students, for more than half of our student body is part-time, our University easily competes with the universities in the top 60.

'We have great strength in our international ties. Long before Bolton became a university links were forged around the world.

'Becoming Chancellor of the university marries two of my great loves: education and Bolton. But there is also has another link, for the house in which my mother grew up in, the house where she cultivated her appreciation of literature was knocked down. In time, on the ground where the house once stood, was built the University of Bolton.

'And so for me this university is a very special place and so I am deeply honoured and enormously proud to become its first Chancellor.'

Celebration honours for Fellows

The University awarded a record 45 honorary awards at its summer Degree Congregation Ceremonies this year.

These were the first Bolton Degree Congregation Ceremonies to be attended by the University's first Chancellor, The Baroness Morris of Bolton OBE DL.

To celebrate and commemorate Lady Morris' appointment, those receiving Honorary Fellowships in the past from the

University, under its former title Bolton Institute, had been invited to receive Honorary Doctorates at the Friday morning ceremony.

Thirty-five Honorary Fellows returned to Bolton on Friday, among them Nobel Prize winning scientist, Sir Harry Kroto; businessman and counsellor to the Muslim Council of Britain, Lord Adam Patel and the theatre, film and television actor, Frank Finlay CBE.

George Almond CBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to the Fire Service and the region as County Fire Officer, President of the Institute of Fire Engineers and Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Greater Manchester

Professor Arup Banerjee OBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to medicine, especially medical education and research into ageing

Peter Bounds in recognition of outstanding contribution to local government in Bolton and Liverpool

Brian Bruce in recognition of outstanding contribution to the University of Bolton, principally as a governor and as Chair of the Governing Board

Josephine Burns in recognition of outstanding contribution to the arts and creative industries in Manchester and the North West

Jim Cartwright in recognition of outstanding contribution to the theatre as an innovative and highly influential playwright

John Cassidy in recognition of outstanding contribution to poetry and the teaching of creative writing

Cynthia Clarke in recognition of outstanding contribution to health and community relations (below)



Sir Alan Cockshaw in recognition of outstanding contribution to the civil engineering industry and urban regeneration

Andrew Dickson in recognition of outstanding contribution to business and the community in Bolton (below)

Pat Dickson in recognition of outstanding contribution to further education, the arts, business and the community in Bolton (below)



Frank Finlay CBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to theatre, film and television as a distinguished and highly regarded actor (below)



Les Gent in recognition of outstanding contribution to journalism and local history

Jeremy Glover MBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to Bolton, as Chief Executive of Bolton Lads and Girls Club

Anthony Goldstone OBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to business and commerce

Professor John Grant in recognition of outstanding contribution to writing, especially as the creator of the Lovejoy novels

Gordon Hargreaves in recognition of outstanding contribution to Bolton, as a businessman and chair of Bolton Wanderers Football Club

Dr Ron Hill MBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to sport and textile technology

Dr Brian Iddon in recognition of outstanding contribution to higher education, science and technology and to Bolton and the University of Bolton

Andrew Kluge in recognition of outstanding contribution to business and enterprise in Bolton

Sir Harold Kroto in recognition of outstanding contribution to science and innovation; Nobel Prize laureate (below)



Roy Lancaster OBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to horticulture and broadcasting

Joseph Locke MBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to structural engineering

James McKnight in recognition of outstanding contribution to mechanical and automotive engineering

Chris Mack in recognition of outstanding contribution to the University of Bolton, as Governor and Deputy Chair of Governors

Zahida Manzoor CBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to race relations and the health services

Michael Parker in recognition of outstanding contribution to textile studies and the textile industry

Lord Adam Patel in recognition of outstanding contribution to race relations and the Muslim community

Meena Pathak OBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to business and commerce (below)



Anil Ruia OBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to business and commerce (below)



Pam Senior in recognition of outstanding contribution to health and to the university as a governor

Norman Stoller CBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to business and commerce and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester

Peter Sydall in recognition of outstanding contribution to the University of Bolton, as Governor and Chair of the Audit Committee

Professor John Turner in recognition of outstanding contribution to education

Frank White in recognition of his outstanding contribution to community, parliamentary process and the regeneration of Bolton

Dr Anne Wright CBE in recognition of outstanding contribution to higher education

Graduates in the real world

More than 2,130 students graduated from the University this summer. Students flew in from as far away as Zambia to share in the Degree Congregation Ceremonies where students gathered with family and friends at the Victoria Hall, Bolton. Below are the stories of summer graduates already busy building their future careers.



Wayne and Ian score business goals
Entrepreneurial sportsmen Wayne Watkins and Ian Fitzpatrick are inspiring a new generation to fall in love with the beautiful game.

Graduation was a double celebration – both of their degrees and their business success. Appropriately enough for the football-mad graduates they were celebrating on the day that ‘Big Sam’ Blackburn Rovers manager, Sam Allardyce, was awarded an honorary degree for his contribution to the game and the town.

Wayne achieved a first class honours and Ian a 2:1 in Sports Development. Their academic success is matched by success on the pitch and in the boardroom. Both are professional football coaches and entrepreneurs. Ian is a former Manchester United pro-footballer and coach, and Wayne is directing football coaching for a leading Cypriot team. Their business World at Your Feet Soccer Academy offers innovative coaching programmes for children, young people and adults in the UK, Europe and soon Indonesia. Their team delivers a range of courses that have been influenced, designed

and created by top UEFA coaches, former pro-football players and talent scouts worldwide.

Their academic success underpins their practical experience and, combined with their passion and drive, the pair seem unstoppable.

Sarah makes degree and family add up
Super student Sarah Dixon graduated with a first class degree in Accountancy, and has landed a high-flying job in the accounts department of a major company. Her achievement is all the more remarkable since she has worked as well as studied and between her second and third years, she had her baby son, Harry.

‘The University was really flexible, and my partner and family have all been amazingly supportive. I was able to return to my degree course after I had my baby. It wasn’t easy and I have worked hard, but my career is taking off now,’ said Sarah. (pictured above centre).

Rachel is ahead of the rest
Sports Development graduate Rachel Taylor has set herself apart from the competitive graduate job market. Not

only did she work in local authority sports development while completing her course, she graduated with first class honours. ‘I hope that my degree and practical experience will give me an edge.’ Rachel is already hard at work in sports development in Tameside.

Celebrating PhD success

Dr Lu Lou has achieved the University’s highest honour and celebrated her PhD success with her family. Her doctorate explored how knowledge management functions are integrated into management information systems, creating a dynamic framework for the effective management of higher education. Dr Lu (pictured above) has joined the staff of the University of Sheffield.

- Pictured top are Zambia graduates Sangster Jere, who is Vice Principal and Training Manager at Technical and Vocational Teachers’ College (TVTC), in Luanshya, Zambia; Phylliss Kasonkomona, Vice Principal, Luanshya Technical & Business College and Pascal Ngosa, Head of Department, Research & consultancy at TVTC with Education Pathway Leader, Dr Chris Smith and Vice Chancellor, Dr George Holmes

Maths students take away prizes



The £1,000 Emmetts' prize for mathematics is awarded annually by Emmetts Solicitors of Longridge, Lancashire, to the student on the mathematics degree at the University of Bolton who obtains the highest marks in the second year of the course.

Prizes were presented by Gary Porter to the prize winners for 2009 and 2010, Lee Davies and Wendy Tan, at a ceremony held this summer.

Said mathematics admissions tutor, Dr Chas Lee: 'Both students won their prizes in competition with other exceptional students at the University. It is particularly to their credit that both of these prize winners did not gain their places at the University through the traditional route of A-levels, but joined the course as mature students, having taken the university's preliminary mathematics course,



Polymaths. This is an evening course designed for students who may have been away from education for some time.'

Lee Davies is a software engineer with Lord Alan Sugar's Amscreen company and is studying for his mathematics degree in the evenings as a part-time student. He is married with three children.

Wendy Tan is a full-time student. She spent her childhood in Guangdong in China and moved to Bolton in 1998. She is hoping to qualify as a secondary school mathematics teacher after she has finished her mathematics degree. She has already been working on placements in local schools as part of her degree course. She has two children herself, one a pupil at Bolton School and the other at primary school. Added Dr Lee: 'Emmetts solicitors are very pleased with the association they have with the mathematics degree at the University of Bolton. Legal cases related to finance, such as credit and loan agreements, can involve some intricate mathematics and Emmetts are keen to encourage students to take this essential subject at degree level.'

Portrait of a Lady

Baroness Morris was delighted to receive a unique gift to mark her investiture as Chancellor. She was presented with a creative portrait by Animation and Illustration graduate Jean-Marc Hoth.

Vice Chancellor Dr George Holmes commissioned the portrait, after he was particularly impressed by Jean-Marc's work as he visited the Degree Show.

Jean-Marc said: 'I have had an amazing three years here at Bolton and to be given this brief was a real honour. This was my first commission on this scale and the client Dr Holmes was involved in every stage of the process.' Jean-Marc graduated with a 2.1 and believes his course was ideal preparation for the competitive and fast moving creative sector.

'I came from Cameroon to study in the UK. I have had great support and encouragement from my tutors. I found digital art work really challenging but I enjoyed all aspects of my course, even the difficult parts, as it has prepared me for a



real career. I would like to keep in touch with my department via the Alumni Association.'

Jean-Marc is now working as a freelance artist in the UK and growing his portfolio with further commissions.

New honorary awards

In total, ten new honorary awards were presented this year, over two days of ceremonies. Recipients include journalist and television presenter, Gordon Burns; Olympic cyclist Jason Kenny and Blackburn Rovers FC and former Bolton Wanderers manager, Sam Allardyce.

Samuel Allardyce

Sam Allardyce (pictured centre) is the current manager of Blackburn Rovers of the Premier League. He was previously manager of Bolton Wanderers from 1999 to 2007 and Newcastle United from 2007 to 2008. He led Bolton to a League Cup final as well as guiding them to UEFA Cup qualification for the first time in their history.

'Big Sam' began his football career as a player, joining Bolton Wanderers as a centre-half in 1973 and is, perhaps, best remembered as a player for being part of the side which won the Second Division title in 1977-78 to secure promotion to the First Division.

Oleg Liber

Professor Liber (pictured right) is an innovative educator who has opened up effective ways of learning through technology.

At the University of Wales, Bangor he established its Centre for Education and Learning Technology (CERT). Based there, he set up a Centre for Educational Technology and Interoperability Standards (CETIS). He devised a system for peer-to-peer interaction in learning and became fascinated by Beer's work on the flow of information and feedback (cybernetics). From Bangor he came to Bolton in 2002 as Professor of Educational Technology. CETIS (now with worldwide impact) came with him, and the University soon created the flourishing Institute for Educational Cybernetics. Here he has developed the Inter-disciplinary Inquiry-based Learning (IDIBL) framework, having a highly innovative approach which offers learners the possibility of acquiring a qualification while still working full time. Focusing in action learning and action research, the awards range from Certificates and Diplomas to First Degrees, Masters and PhDs.



Iqbal Memon

Professor Memon (pictured left) has worked as a member of several University governor committees and served as Chair of the Board of Governors for the former Bolton Institute. His work has spanned the Bolton community; a founder member of the Community Partnership Initiative, and the Council for Multicultural Studies, Professor Memon is also well-known doctor in the Bolton area. He was appointed by the Home Office as Medical Referee for Preston City Council and also Medical Referee to Lancashire County Council Adoption and Fostering Panel. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene and also a Fellow of The Royal Society of Medicine. Originally qualifying in Pakistan, Iqbal Memon did his medical postgraduate training in this country. His widespread interests include healthcare, property and publishing.

Jason Kenny MBE

Jason Kenny, born in Bolton, is a gold medal-winning track cyclist. He specialises in individual and team sprints. He burst upon the scene in 2003 during the first season of events in the Manchester Velodrome. In his second season he emerged as one of the top ten 15-16 year old cyclists. In 2007 he won two bronze medals in the European Under 23 Track Championships. In 2008 with Chris Hoy and Jamie Staff at the Beijing Olympics he won a Gold Medal for Great Britain and a Silver Medal for the individual sprint, coming in behind his team mate Chris Hoy. In the same year, in the first round of the Track World Cup, he came first in the sprint and team events. In 2009 he collected Silver Medals in the UCI World Championships and Silvers in the U23 European Sprint team and Keirin Championships. He was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List in 2009. He is now preparing for the 2012 Olympics.



The Baroness Morris of Bolton OBE DL

Patricia Morris, who was Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party, became a member of the House of Lords in June 2004, when she was appointed a Life Peer. She is now a Deputy Speaker.

In the six years as a Front Bench Conservative working peer, Lady Morris served as Shadow Minister for Education, Shadow Minister for Children, Schools and Families, Shadow Minister for Women and was an Opposition Whip. Lady Morris was also a spokesperson on Health and Work and Pensions. Lady Morris is a member of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights and is also Chair of the Conservative Middle East Council as well as Chair of the All Party Group for the Arab League. Lady Morris is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Amman Arab University and also a Patron of the Committee for Education in the Commonwealth. Additionally she has been Vice-Chair of the All Party Group for Britain/Palestine. She is currently President of the World Travel Market. Other parliamentary roles and interests have included being Vice Chair of the Breast Cancer All Party Group and Vice Chair for the All Party Group on Children and Families, as well as co-Chair of Women in Public Policy.

She is uniquely honoured by the University with her admission simultaneously to the Higher Degrees of Doctor of Laws, for her contribution to legislative processes and democracy, and Doctor of Philosophy, for her contribution to political thought. Lady Morris became



the first Chancellor of the University of Bolton on 1 January 2010 and her formal installation is celebrated at this ceremony. Her tenure runs until 31 December 2012.

Gordon Burns

Gordon Burns (pictured above) is a journalist and television presenter. He was born in Belfast and began his career on the Belfast Telegraph. He then turned to television, working for Ulster Television. A keen sportsman, he also worked for many years in ITV as a news and sports reporter. For 18 years he hosted the extremely popular programme *The Krypton Factor*. He was heavily involved behind the scenes as well, writing all the scripts for the first 17 years.

Today he is seen every evening as anchor man on the BBC's local news programme, *North West Tonight*. During the ten years he has chaired the programme, it has won eight awards for the best news programme in the region. He has also won the coveted BBC Ruby Award for the best regional news presenter in the UK.

Elizabeth Tatman

Elizabeth Tatman (pictured left) is a specialist in the development of young children. She trained and worked as a teacher of young children and went on to share her understanding of young children's needs through teaching adults about the work of early years, including lecturing at the Bolton Institute, precursor of this University. She is still active in the training field working as Verifier and Moderator of courses for the Early Years. Mrs Tatman has also lectured abroad on her specialism and is still active in keeping links with supporting training for the early years in Romania.



Alan Cornthwaite

When Alan Cornthwaite (pictured above) joined the former Bolton Institute almost 30 years ago, his department was under the dominance of civil engineers. His major interest was in the design and construction of buildings. Alan firstly developed the HND course in Building. In the past five years, following the award of University Title, he designed and led four undergraduate degree programmes in the Built Environment subject area. The successful growth of these courses was highly dependent on their being approved by the relevant professional associations. This was achieved by Alan's skilful guidance. Alan subsequently became Head of both Civil Engineering and Building and he successfully led the merger of these two departments as the Dean of Built Environment and Engineering.

Chris Minta

Chris Minta took up his second teaching post as Head of PE when he came to Bolton to join the staff of the Junior Technical School, housed in the Technical College of Manchester Road, in September 1960. His students registered many successes in sporting competitions. Chris became Chairman of the Bolton Sports Council and a member of the NW Sports Council, serving for almost ten years with both organisations. He was also appointed to an influential TUC committee on which he served for a similar term. As time went on, he devoted more and more energy to employer – employee relationships and the promotion of harmonious working relationships. Chris is a member of the University governing body, a position he has held at various times over the past 14 years.

Show comes to town

Once again campus was transformed by the creative energy of students showcasing their work in the end of year Creative Degree Shows. As ever, the effect of seeing and hearing so much high quality work was truly inspiring.

Guest of honour BBC Commissioning Editor, Aaqil Ahmed, paid tribute to the inventiveness and professionalism of University of Bolton students as he opened the 2010 show.

He told industry guests how he had been impressed with the students working with his teams at the BBC. Hundreds of students exhibited work on campus, across all creative disciplines – from animation and illustration to media, writing and production.

Mr Ahmed, who trained in graphic design and photography, is now Head of Religion and Ethics for the BBC. He told guests the students had achieved 'no mean feat' in developing creative ideas for bringing religious programming to Radio 1 and pitching those ideas to Head of Religion Radio, Christine Morgan. The University and the BBC have been working together to open up pathways into employment in the media industry for students and to develop new talent in the North West, ahead of the major move to Salford next year.

The Partnership includes BBC Radio Drama Media Placements for Bolton students; writing workshops with BBC producers and writers; and BBC Writersroom networking events. The University is also supporting the BBC's religion and ethics section, helping the corporation to reach a broader cross-section of the community. Opportunities for student placements in sound recording and music production are also under development.

Together the two institutions are inspiring local young talent with an outreach programme for local colleges, which highlights the range of media careers to young people who do not traditionally consider the media as a profession, such as those from ethnic minority groups.

University of Bolton students won the BBC Writersroom Future Talent award for new writers 2009 and have been placed runner-up in the contest this year.



Land speed record attempt



MBA student Anthony Keating has designed and built one of the fastest land speed production cars, the Keating TKR.

With speed record attempt driver Mike Newman and the Speed of Sight team, Anthony aimed to break the world land speed record by a blind man, at Pendine Sands, Carmarthenshire, recently. The goal was to exceed 193mph.

And, if conditions were right, Anthony also planned to attempt the land speed record of 268mph, currently held by the Bugatti Veyron.

Pendine Sands is a seven-mile long firm, flat beach that creates a race track surface, straighter than any available road. In 1924 Malcolm Campbell in V12 Sunbeam Bluebird averaged 146.16 mph there and in 1927 Parry Thomas was killed at the beach, trying to break 175mph.

There were high expectations as Mike has previously held the record at 155mph, but lost it recently to Turkish singer, Metin Senturk in a Ferrari F430 that reached 193mph. Mike had high ambitions for the weekend, wanting to achieve 200mph in the Keating TKR Supercar. Two attempts last year had failed.

But mechanics struggled with the effects of sea water, sand in the engine and water leaks. These problems continued to reduce the time Mike and Anthony had to master the car on the sandy wet conditions.

By 5pm Anthony decided to do a high speed practice run, aiming for 200mph, but the soft sand conditions proved troublesome, creating a slippery surface. Anthony floored the car down the sand, reaching 180mph when it spun out of control, blowing up plumes of sand and ripping bodywork.

As Anthony Keating made his way back to the waiting crowd, he was fine. But he made the decision that Mike would not be attempting a record in TKR. Tony said: 'I'd rather me spin it than Mike, as he would be going another 30-40mph faster than me. It's just one of those things. That's racing.'

Mike attempted the world record in a Nissan on Sunday but failed to break 174mph. However, another attempt in the Keating TKR will be made in the near future.



For more information about Keating Supercars go to www.keatingsupercars.co.uk

Pictured: Anthony Keating and his support team.

University people



New Director of Research

New Director of Research at the University is Professor Elias Siores, previously Director of the University's Institute for Materials Research and Innovation.

He takes up the research director post previously held by new PVC, Prof Rob Campbell.

Prof Siores joined the University six years ago with a mission to focus on developing commercial research and the next generation of smart materials.

'When I joined Bolton my role was to plan for the future of our research centre, building up the research and development that was commercially focused.

'It is an exciting prospect, bringing that mission across the University's research portfolio. Bolton has always been fixed on research that has commercial potential and that is something I wish to advance,' said Prof Siores.

Prof Siores' career has taken him to Hong Kong, where he worked for Sci-Tech ingenuity, a company established to hold and commercialise the intellectual property for Hong Kong conglomerate, SFI Group.

He also spent 14 years as an academic working at three Australian universities, publishing more than 250 papers.

Now heading up IMRI is Professor Andy Alderson who is also head of the University's auxetics materials research team.



Welcome Julie Bateman

The University has appointed a new Head of Careers, to reflect the importance placed on the services offered to support students, alumni and employers who wish to connect with our Academic Schools and our graduates.

Julie Bateman will lead the professional Careers Service team's work in providing help and impartial guidance to all students.

In addition, the Careers Service works with employers, agencies and other organisations involved in student and graduate recruitment, and supports students interested in part-time work or volunteering opportunities during their time at Bolton. Julie brings a wealth of experience from the professional careers advice sector, including employability expertise. The University community welcomes Julie to her new role.



Our New Pro Vice Chancellor

The University's new Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic) is Professor Rob Campbell PhD.

The University's governing body and colleagues from across the University were involved in the interviews of candidates drawn from senior roles from across the UK higher education system.

Professor Campbell was previously the University's Professor of Applied Philosophy and Director of Research.

He is also author of many papers and books and his recent publications include *The Ethical Organisation* (with Professor Alan Kitson). The book examines corporate ethical behaviour within a business context and applies business ethics theory to functional areas of business.

Dr George Holmes, Vice Chancellor said: 'It is testimony to the quality of staff at our University that in a very competitive national recruitment exercise, the internal candidate was successful. Professor Campbell will take up his new role immediately, shadowing Professor Peter Marsh, prior to Professor Marsh's retirement next year.'

Student satisfaction results

The University is bucking national trends, showing an increase in student satisfaction.

While the annual National Student Survey found happiness with the quality of courses across England had stalled this year, Bolton students gave their university a higher rating than last year, moving up to 78 per cent.

Said Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Marsh: 'We are very pleased to have achieved an increase in satisfaction rating this year. It is very rewarding to know that students value the academic experience, professional expertise and personal support we offer to everyone on our degree courses.'

'However, we know we have more work to do and we will be striving to improve services for students in the coming academic year. Our increase in student satisfaction is up one per cent on last year which may seem small, but against the national picture this is very good news.'

'The National Student Survey is very thorough and provides valuable information which we use, along with our own surveys, in striving to provide the best student experience we can.'

How performing arts and health work together

Showing performing artists how the health arena can help build their careers was the focus of a one-day event held at the University of Bolton in September.

Performing Arts and Health, held in Senate House, will offer taster workshops in understanding the different elements of the health sector and how performers make a living within the health sector. The symposium targeted:

- Self Awareness and Reflective Practice
- Mental Health
- Physical Disability
- Special Educational Needs.

The event was created in collaboration with Bolton Council, Performing Arts Network and Development Agency, The Phoenix and The Octagon Theatre.

Said Rebecca Albrow of the University's Creative Industries team: 'This event gave attendees new to the area of arts and health the opportunity to increase their awareness and employment viability.'

Said Elaine Sherrington, Bolton Council Executive Member for Adult Services: 'Many performing arts professionals may not realise there are a number of careers open to them in the health sector. We hope this event opened their eyes to potential new avenues and career options in this area.'

The conference coincided with the Putting Patients First in Health and Service Delivery conference. Delegates had the chance to network with service deliverers, voluntary sector health organisations and research commissioners, maximising the opportunities for future partnerships.

Proud to support the Bolton Book Award

The University continues its proud sponsorship of and commitment to the Bolton Book Award.

The scheme involves hundreds of Bolton children choosing and reviewing their favourite new books. Not only do children read a shortlist, but they also develop skills in literary criticism and appraisal – all while having fun and growing in confidence as they construct their opinions on the year's selection.

The awards ceremony is the culmination of months of work by partners at the University, Bolton Literacy Trust, Bolton Libraries and book seller Page Nation.

Sam Johnson, Dean of the University of Bolton's School of Arts, Media and

Education, said: 'It is encouraging to know young people are so passionate about books and reading.'

This is the sixth year the awards have been held.

Many of the shortlisted authors took part in the awards ceremony and were inspired to hear the young people speak so passionately and eloquently about the books they had read.

This year's winner was Narinder Dhami, pictured right. Pictured below at a University Meet the Authors event for children are shortlist authors Tanya Landman, Malcolm Rose, Alison Allen-Gray and EE Richardson.



The Fourth Estate: next generation

Congratulations to budding journalists from Bolton's Mount St Joseph's School who took top prize in the Key103 Journalist of the Year contest for their amazing Aimhigher podcast.

Pupils spent time at the Key 103 studios in Castle Quay, Manchester to see how a radio station works in real time. They then hosted their own radio podcast and recorded an advertisement, as well as being given the chance to learn about sound effects and the all important interview techniques.

Pupils also had a chance to quiz radio station employees

about their university experiences and the value of focusing on a chosen profession when choosing the right university course.

Event judges included University Communications Manager, Deana Morris. 'The pupils presenting in the finals all produced really impressive, punchy podcasts that showed a maturity and professionalism way beyond their years,' she said.

This year's winner was Narinder Dhami, pictured right. Pictured below at a University Meet the Authors event for children are shortlist authors Tanya Landman, Malcolm Rose, Alison Allen-Gray and EE Richardson.

Leaping into university life

Primary school children in Bolton got a taste of university life recently as part of a scheme to raise aspirations.

I Can Make it Happen was jointly organised by the University Bolton at Home and Bolton Council. It involved 170 year six pupils aged 10-11, who took part in a week-long series of activities, culminating in a presentation of certificates at Bolton Town Hall.

Campus activities included a tour of campus and the opportunity to quiz professionals with different careers on what they do and how this had a positive impact on their lifestyle.

Aimhigher Co-ordinator, Ros Birch said: 'Many of the aims of this project tie in with Aimhigher targets for young people, mainly from backgrounds of little or no higher education heritage. I welcome the opportunity to reach out to primary school pupils. Giving an early taste of university life and the possible careers a university education can provide for them may inspire and motivate them to achieve things they never thought possible.'



Queen's Award for Professor Brian Toft

Former Governor and Visiting Professor, Professor Brian Toft received an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Professor Toft was a Visiting Professor at Bolton in the field of Risk Assessment for ten years, and served with the Board of Governors for three years. He has been recognised for his outstanding service to healthcare.

As Professor of Patient Safety at the University of Coventry, the entirety of

his work is focused on protecting patients and those who work in the health care sector. He said: 'I am deeply honoured by this award and the fact it is a very public recognition of the field of patient safety. It shows that the issues are very important and puts patient safety at the very forefront of medicine.'

Professor Toft will take his wife and young daughter Emma to his investiture at Windsor Castle in October. Emma,

who will be five years old, is interested in meeting the Queen and whether the castle is home to any dragons!

Professor Toft remains a proud and passionate supporter of the University of Bolton. 'I have very fond memories and a great affection for the University. To have served as a Governor when the University gained its title and to have been part of those celebrations was a great joy. The University should be justly proud of its achievements.'

