

DE MONTFORT
ON TRIAL!
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I see education as the
**most precious
gift...**

Baroness Lawrence, DMU's new
Doctor of Laws, on standing with
pride for diversity and justice



Fit for a king The Duke of Cambridge
gets his hands on DMU shoe designs!



Happy campus Praise for
putting our students first



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Royalty lends a hand
with DMU creativity



"I will always
challenge you if
I think you are wrong"



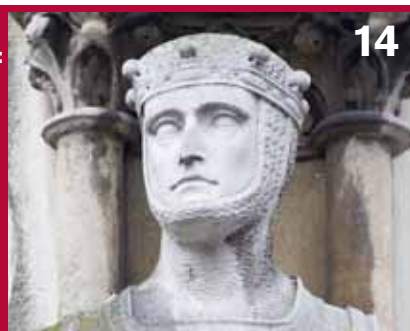
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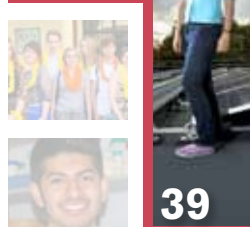


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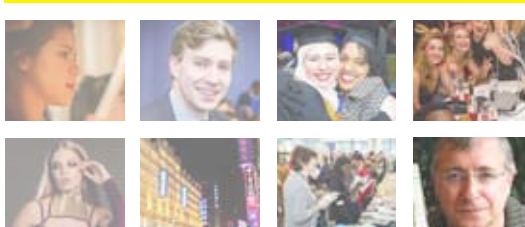


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standard for
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Project connects students with stones that saw the last of Richard

The two remaining arches of Leicester's Church of the Annunciation – noted as the place where the battle-scarred corpse of Richard III was put on public display after his death at Bosworth – form the centrepiece of a new Heritage Centre opened at DMU.

The centre, which is free to visit, was opened to the public by university Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard and students who had helped create it.

It celebrates the rich history of DMU – first opened as the Leicester School of Art in 1870 – and the ancient buildings that surround it, dating back to the 11th century.

The church arches were unearthed in 1935 when an extension was being built for the university's Hawthorn Building and they have stood preserved in the basement of that building ever since.

Now an entire museum has been built around them in a celebration of DMU's past, present and future, using the vast knowledge of university archivists as well as the skills of DMU Interior Design, Design

Craft and Architecture students.

Professor Shellard explained how the church arches had previously been dimly lit and surrounded by computers and vending machines and how he wanted them to be celebrated rather than hidden away.

He praised the students involved, saying: "I am absolutely bursting

with pride. We did not employ expensive consultants to create this centre, we asked our students from Design Crafts, Interior Design and Architecture to help... and what a tremendous job they did.

"It is an incredible achievement to create and design something of such quality in just over a year. I am incredibly grateful to all."

The third year Interior Design students were thrilled with the finished Heritage Centre.

Ra'eesah Hassan came up with the idea of the ancient map of Leicester to be etched on the glass surrounding the arches.

She said: "It gives lightness and warmth to the area and the design

gives the feel of material patterns to bring in the university's art and design history."

"It's been an incredible project to be part of," added Okam Bulbul. "We each had different concepts to begin with then we came together as a design team and combined our ideas. We were given a blank canvas – it was a computer suite and a corridor – and went from there."

"We kept sneaking in to have a look, but the first time we saw it all finished we were so proud," said Mallika Virenerkumar.

Natasha Loasey said: "It is a great thing to have on your CV and we are all very grateful to DMU for giving us this opportunity."

Bid to bring new life to hidden historic gem

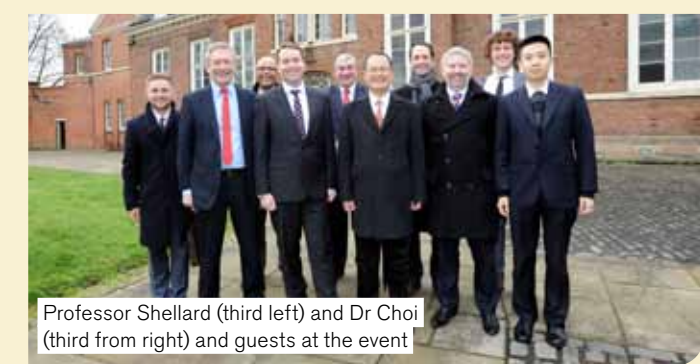
Plans are under way to bring the Great Hall of Leicester Castle, one of the city's finest hidden gems, back into use as part of a multi-million pound proposal announced by DMU as part of its partnership with one of Hong Kong's largest multi-national companies.

Following generous investment from Dr Jonathan Choi, the chairman of the Hong Kong-based Sunwah Group and Sunwah Foundation, DMU hopes to take out a lease on the ancient building,

parts of which date back to the 11th century, and restore it for use as the Dr Jonathan KS Choi Business School, which would bring world-renowned academics and international students to the city.

Dr Jonathan Choi has enjoyed a long-standing and fruitful relationship with DMU via the

Sunwah International Business School, based at Liaoning University in mainland China. Last year Dr Choi announced that the Sunwah Foundation would donate a substantial sum of money to create the Jonathan KS Choi Creative and Cultural Centre within DMU's £136 million campus redevelopment.



Professor Shellard (third left) and Dr Choi (third from right) and guests at the event

Royalty lends a hand with DMU creativity



Footwear student Charlotte Hackett and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard with the Duke of Cambridge, as he inspects a special children's last – a moulded shape used by shoemakers

The Duke of Cambridge works with students on a special shoe at prestige event in China

HER the Duke of Cambridge worked with Footwear Design students from DMU to

create a pair of children's shoes. The Duke saw the bespoke shoes being handmade at the British Government's GREAT

Festival of Creativity in Shanghai as part of a VIP tour. DMU was the UK's only higher education partner at the prestigious event and was selected by Number 10 Downing Street.

William was able to punch holes

into cut leather as part of a brogue design, based on a concept by third year student Bethany Roberts.

Bethany, 22, said: "I'm so happy that my shoe designs were seen by the Duke of Cambridge. What an amazing thing to be able to put on my CV, when I graduate and begin my career."

The Duke was also shown the university's innovative Footwear Design, Contour Fashion and Game Art exhibitions. DMU students displayed a range of designs, as well as a special children's last – a moulded shape used by shoemakers.

Footwear Design student Charlotte Hackett, 20, from Leicester, who helped the Duke to make Bethany's design, said: "We are always taught on our course to work to the highest standards and

an honour to speak in front of such an engaged audience. At DMU, we understand the importance of equipping our graduates with skills that meet the needs of global employers and by 2017, every DMU undergraduate degree will include a #DMUglobal opportunity.

"Providing students with international experiences which are academically aligned and career-focused is a key focus of #DMUglobal."

employment and skills for the CBI, said: "#DMUglobal is a great example of universities playing a vital part in employability of young people and one of the elements key to unlocking the next creative generation."

DMU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard told how students at DMU have benefited enormously from #DMUglobal experiences, enhancing their employability and helping bring their studies to life. Professor Shellard said: "It was

The DMU Footwear Design stand at the festival showcased the process of designing and creating a different shoe each day, live, in front of festival attendees.



to be able to show this to the Duke is fantastic.

"Being at the festival has been a brilliant opportunity. It will be extremely valuable to say to future employers that I have been demonstrating my skills at such a prestigious event."

The DMU Footwear Design stand at the festival showcased the process of designing and creating a different shoe each day, live, in front of festival attendees.

The Duke was also able to see an example of a completed men's classic formal welted shoe, designed for the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dominic Shellard, by DMU student Vickie Thornes.

Professor Shellard, who met the royal guest ahead of giving a keynote speech on preparing

graduates for work in a global environment at the festival, delivered alongside the CBI and BAFTA, said: "The first thing we talked about was the theme of the footwear display, the design of a quintessentially British shoe, the

'Truly inspired' by culture and quality

Students described taking part in the GREAT Festival as an incredible experience. David Benbow, part-time Footwear Design student said: "The coming together of a massive influential festival was truly inspiring.

"I saw the importance of the relationship and understanding between students and staff, and how communication and support is key to making an event like this successful."

Megan Rice, a Game Art graduate now working for development

company Bossa Studios in London, said: "It has been a wonderful experience to come to such an amazing event and celebrate the Game Art course at DMU."

DMU Contour Fashion graduate, Emily Roberts, now working for Clover Group International in Hong Kong, said: "It was brilliant meeting people from different strands of creativity at the festival and to talk about my experiences at DMU."

Performing an original Shakespeare-inspired piece in front of a crowd on the final day, with fellow graduates, Performing Arts graduate Laura Evans said: "It has been really interesting having to make something for such a diverse audience."

brogue. He showed an interest in the fact that I was wearing a pair of black brogues made by Vickie.

"When I told him that one of our students had designed a pair of bespoke children's shoes inspired by Prince George, he laughed and I said we would send the pair of shoes for his second birthday.

"The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are fantastic ambassadors for British creativity, and I am honoured that our students were able to take part in this event during his visit.

"Our core mission at DMU is to ensure that our students are equipped with the skills to make an impact on the world, both in their future career, and in their

contribution to society, and what better way to do this than give them this unrivalled experience."

DMU exhibited work from five subject areas: Contour Fashion, Footwear, Game Art and Drama, and showcased the artificial pancreas. Other partners included British Airways, Mulberry, Jaguar Land Rover and BBC Worldwide.

DMU's working world-view praised

#DMUglobal, the UK's most ambitious programmes to ensure students get the international experiences employers are looking for, won praise from the CBI at the festival.

Neil Carberry, director of



GREAT FESTIVAL OF CREATIVITY
GREAT BRITAIN

We're just so happy to be here!

DMU recognised for putting students at the heart of everything we do



Thank you for listening

DMU has been named in the top 5% of universities that involve students in course changes.

DMU is one of just seven HE institutions picked out by Which? magazine as demonstrating good practice in this area.

Jo Cooke, director of DMU Student and Academic Services, said: "DMU is a university which

puts students at the heart of everything we do. We endeavour to involve students in decisions which affect their studies at DMU and work closely with De Montfort Students' Union (DSU) to ensure their views are considered."

The You Said, We Did campaign is highlighting DMU's positive response to student feedback. Changes made in response to student requests include:

- Texting students if a cancellation or room change happens less than 24 hours before their class
- The creation of Frontrunners, DMU's flagship employability scheme, to provide more opportunities to develop career experience
- Our £8 million leisure centre to provide better sporting facilities on campus
- A 25% increase in DMU's annual grant to DSU, allowing it to offer more opportunities, great societies and support

Which? defines 'good practice' as having systems in place which allow change only when they were beneficial to students or where students had been widely consulted and the majority had agreed with the change.

The data used by Which? for its investigation was based on responses to the magazine's Freedom of Information requests about changes made to courses once students were enrolled. Responses were analysed by a Which? consumer lawyer.

Breaking good

Work to transform DMU buildings with innovative new 'breakout' areas to study and relax in continues - and the latest has proved to be a huge hit with students.

The work, in the lower ground floor of the Hawthorn Building, is

part of the ongoing £136 million campus transformation project which, when completed, will provide cutting-edge new buildings, teaching and learning facilities and a green lung of open space running through the heart of the campus.

The huge project will ensure

DMU has one of the finest higher education complexes in the country, meaning students can enjoy the best experience possible during their studies and be better prepared than ever before for the world of work.

Work includes bespoke furniture finished in bright materials which provides pockets of space for

group work, fitted benching against the walls with additional seating and plug sockets, creating study space and room for laptops, high-back booth seating for informal meetings before or after lectures and for relaxing, and cafe-style tables and chairs in a vending machine area.

Zaineb Sayed, who is studying an

MSc in Health Psychology, said: "This is the place that we want to come to during our breaks between lectures. It is a really inviting space."

Fellow MSc Health Psychology students Hira Syed and Alisha Patel agreed.

Hira said: "The space looks so much better and it is so much brighter." Alisha added: "This area is

so much more spacious. We come here to chat about our assignments and relax. It is ideal for that."

Shahan Salih, a first year Pharmacy student, holds a group meeting with fellow students in one of the new study booths. He said: "It is a nice, warm, relaxing area. It is a great place for us all to come to during our breaks and do our work."

Books at bedtime... & beyond

Students have praised DMU's Kimberlin Library, which has extended its 24/7 opening all the way through to May.

This includes Friday and Saturday nights and continued through the Easter holiday.

Longer opening hours are a response to feedback from students as part of DMU's commitment to listen to, respond and react to student views. It is one of many student-inspired initiatives further enhancing the DMU experience.

Claire Nyland, a Criminology and Criminal Justice student, said: "I find it easier to come here during the night and get everything done - more peace and quiet, and it's so much easier to work in a library environment."

Maxwell Akotia, a Computing for

Business student, said: "It's really good that the university listens to students. With lots of assignments, I can come here to focus. It's a great thing."

DMU's excellent library service scored highly in the latest Times Higher Education magazine Student Experience Survey, which ranked DMU in the top 40 universities in the country. The extension of the 24-hour service reflects the determination to build on this success and offer even more support to students.



Welcome to DMU's world

DMU has changed its campus tours to give prospective students an even bigger taste of the fantastic student experience available here.

Campus tours are one of the best ways to see what the university has to offer, and from 2015 there are twice as many opportunities to explore DMU, with tours taking place twice a week, on

Mondays and Thursdays at 1pm.

The tours not only take in our world-class facilities including the £8 million Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Leisure Centre, award-winning Campus Centre, Kimberlin Library and halls of residence, they also give students the option to take a tour of the city of Leicester.

Another new addition to the campus tour experience is the bespoke faculty tour, tailored to specific courses and led by a student studying in that area.

Faculty tours give prospective students the chance to experience the amazing facilities available in all our buildings and learn even more about their subject of interest from a student who is studying it.



Film with a message

Actress and activist Vanessa Redgrave made an impassioned plea for the safeguarding of human rights during a special debate held at DMU.

Ms Redgrave CBE and her son, director Carlo Nero (pictured below), took part in a panel discussion centred on the screening of Nero's film *Bosnia Rising*, which she produced.

The film tells the story of workers in Bosnia whose protests at the closure of their factory sparked unrest last year, seen by some as a reaction to years of privatisation, stripping of assets and the creation of a wealthy elite.

It was the first time the film had been publicly shown since its recent premiere in London.

Following the screening was a panel discussion involving Ms Redgrave, Mr Nero, and activist and economist Fred Harrison, Dr Damir Arsenijevic, Leverhulme Fellow at DMU, and Dr Kenneth Morrison, reader in Modern Southeast European History at DMU, who organised the event.

Dr Morrison said: "The screening of the film generated some interesting and lively debate, not simply about the contemporary political, social and economic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but of wider ideas about civic engagement in politics, the role of ideology, alternative approaches to economic development and human rights.

"It was wonderful for DMU to bring Vanessa Redgrave, Carlo Nero and Fred Harrison to our campus."



DMU's Ben Browne in conversation with Baroness Lawrence before an audience in Trinity Chapel.



I will always challenge you if I think you are wrong,

Doreen Lawrence, mother of murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by DMU in recognition of her long fight for justice and commitment to human rights

Baroness Doreen Lawrence was hailed as 'an inspiration' by students gathered at a DMU ceremony making her an Honorary Doctor of Laws.

She was praised for her courage and unstinting campaigning to ensure justice for Stephen, who

was murdered in a racist attack in London in 1993. An inquiry found that institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police was the reason it failed to solve the case.

Accepting the award, Baroness Lawrence told students: "I see education as the most precious gift we can give to our children. Savour your accomplishments. I wish you

every success for the future."

Baroness Lawrence founded the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds into a career in architecture. Her son had dreamed of becoming an architect.

It has helped hundreds of young people to gain qualifications and now the trust aims to branch out into other disciplines such as law and journalism. Since 2013, she has been a Labour peer in the House of Lords as Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon.

After the ceremony, she took part in a moving Q&A appearance

with DMU's chief operating officer, Ben Browne.

Lucie Adewusi, a Sociology student, said: "It gave me insight, to hear somebody who has been through something so tragic still have so much faith in society. As a black female, to hear that was very powerful."

Law student Claudia Biriwaah-Yeboah said: "It's good to have someone with a message of 'push on'. It's really encouraging.

"I have never really had a role model and now, I think I do. Baroness Lawrence is an inspiration."

I had to speak up,

Baroness Lawrence gave an interview to DMU's chief operating officer, Ben Browne, following her graduation.

On the Independent Police Complaints Commission

The IPCC needs to have new people in, new investigators, so it can be truly independent rather than having retired police officers. I think the police sometimes act in a 'them and us' way. Police need the public in order to police. They need to remember the human beings underneath the uniform.

Her message for young people

Whatever is in your heart, follow what you feel inside. Strive for the future and you can be whatever you want to be. Whatever it is, whatever you want to do you should go ahead and try. Young people need to value themselves. I was in Brixton, and someone said to me, [they] didn't expect to live beyond the age of 25. That is shocking.

On fighting for justice

We all love our family, we all love our children. I just felt that Stephen did not have a voice. Those in authority, who could do something, they almost turned their backs on us. Stephen was black, and nobody wanted to know... I had to speak up, because if I didn't, no one else would care about him.

On challenging authority

As long as I'm respectful to people, but at the same time challenging, I will always challenge you if I think you are wrong. I feel like I have got to step up to the mark.

On the House of Lords

There are not enough people like me in the House of Lords... not enough people who know real life. If there is one thing I would like to do in the next five to 10 years, I would like to build the confidence to stand up and say: "You're talking nonsense!"

On her inspirations

My grandmother was born in Jamaica. She never turned anybody away and looked after people. Maya Angelou – when I read I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, that really touched me and I was fortunate enough to meet her quite a few times. Nelson Mandela, I was privileged to meet him. In 1993, when no one wanted to know what happened to my son, he was the one who stood up and spoke out.

On the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, set up in memory of her son who dreamed of being an architect

Quite a few involved are architects now. They are mentors to other students. We are looking to the future and the next generation. We are working with a school in the borough of Greenwich to inspire students who want to get into law.

On what has changed since Stephen's murder

In some respects, things have changed, especially after the report came out. Everybody was talking about race relations, equality and diversity.

Laws have changed. Police are part of the Race Relations Act now. Race is something that nobody likes to talk about. They talk about diversity. They are comfortable with that word.

DE MONTFORT
ON TRIAL!

Simon de Montfort: The man who broke the rule

Students put DMU's namesake in the dock as part of democracy celebrations

As part of celebrations marking 750 years of Parliament, De Montfort University student put the man who started it on trial - for treason.

People and places that today honour the name Simon de Montfort, as DMU does, recognise his connection to a seismic shift in the English way of life and as 'the Father of English Democracy'.

But there are two sides to the story – and the students honed their legal and debating skills in a mock trial to settle whether, by imprisoning his king, Montfort was in fact a traitor.

Prosecution and defence teams were presided over by Supreme Court Judge Lord Sumption, one of Britain's leading legal minds, in front of a jury of 10 people made up of academics, staff and members of the public.

After an hour-long legal pull-and-push, the jury delivered their verdict: not guilty. The verdict drew cheers from an audience of 200 people that included not only students and staff but mayors, council chairs and Lady

Gretton who, as Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, is the Queen's representative in the city and county.

Lord Sumption concluded: "If Simon de Montfort had been bothered to turn up he would be leaving with not a stain on his character."

"Many a scoundrel has done good things by accident. And I believe Simon de Montfort was a scoundrel."

The defence team was delighted to have won the legal battle with team captain Courtney Bent, who studies LLB Law, saying: "The result is a reflection of the months we spent preparing. The hard work has paid off. It was nerve-wracking to be fronting the prosecution in front of a Supreme Court Judge but it was also our chance to impress him. I am convinced the right team won."

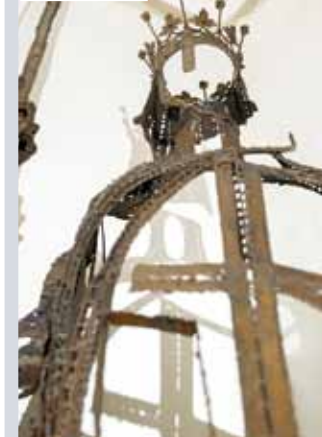
Fellow defence team member Elena Malajko, a post-grad studying International Law, added: "It feels amazing. The gut-wrenching nervous feeling I had has dissolved into ecstasy! It feels such an honour to have taken part. There is so much we have learned on the way too."

Prosecution team member Odogwu Irene Anastacia Oby, known as Stacey, is studying an MSc in Project Management. She said: "I felt Simon de Montfort did commit treason... but I do have to say I think it was a fair judgement in the end. This was an amazing opportunity for us all and I was so glad to be given the chance to take part."

Members of the public praised the event and the students' hard work. "I thought it was tremendous," said Sarah Ward from Leicester. "On the evidence, I would have voted guilty but I was hoping he was going to be the father of democracy. It was a great thing for the university, and what an opportunity for the students to present in front of a Supreme Court judge."

Prosecuting the case were Law students George Emery, Kelly England and Jasmin Mohammed, Stacy Odogwu, and Alpesh Jethwa, who is studying Law and Criminal Justice. Defending Montfort were Courtney Bent, Nadia Kobarenko, Dale Ghanem, all LLB Law students, and Elena Malajko.

The hollow crown: A sculpture in the foyer of DMU's 14th-century Trinity House



Knight takes king

The fluidity of English identity through history is caught perfectly in Simon de Montfort: literally an icon of the nation and its values, he was born and raised in France. He rose quickly in Henry III's court, married the king's sister and as Earl of Leicester kept order in the city and its lands in the king's name – although there's no evidence Montfort ever visited the city.

A fractious relationship developed between Montfort and the monarch. Henry found the earl troublesome and over-forceful in official conduct. Montfort increasingly regarded the king as a weak and wasteful leader. Backed by powerful and influential barons, Montfort drew up demands that the king accept a new form of government, removing his political power. The coup installed a council of barons able to appoint ministers and manage the country through parliaments.

There was a further strengthening of the position of both barons and the courts. When the barons themselves split, Henry reasserted the royal position. Civil war broke out in England.

Montfort bid for popular support by ruthlessly expelling

foreigners and England's Jewish population. After a brief unstable truce, the Battle of Lewes (1264) saw Montfort capture Henry. Montfort called a Parliament that lasted between January and March 1265. When it sat, its representatives included knights from each county and two common citizens from England's cities and boroughs – in effect, a proto-House of Commons.

The king's son, also a prisoner of Montfort, escaped to lead royalist forces against him. Simon de Montfort was killed at the Battle of Evesham in August 1265.

Montfort's forceful pursuit of change created what would become the central institution of the State. The restored king and his line began to accept the role of commoners in the political process.

Montfort created an undeniable landmark on the English political landscape and shaped its mindset. He stood for a new political rectitude and a more just way, one symbolised in every 'X' put on every ballot paper at the 2015 General Election. Through his story, we can focus on the importance of our relationship to Parliament today.

DMU's link to Simon de Montfort comes via our living link to the city of Leicester and its place in English history. One of the statues on the Haymarket Memorial clock tower in Leicester depicts Montfort and a sculpture overlooks the foyer of DMU's 14th century Trinity House. His image also has a place on the walls of the United States House of Representatives.



Solid citizen? Montfort's statue stands in the centre of Leicester



Proceedings were overseen by Supreme Court Judge Lord Sumption (centre)

DMU students' cutting-edge work featured in Underlines magazine and at the Moda trade show



Leaders of the pack

Fashion shoot and trade show success boost students' career prospects

Students from DMU's world-renowned Contour Fashion courses have had their work shown in one of the fashion industry's leading lingerie magazines, Underlines.

The cutting-edge work was also displayed on the DMU stand at the

UK's leading intimates trade show, Moda, at Birmingham's NEC.

The fashion industry double-whammy is giving final year students on the BA Contour Fashion course an incredible opportunity to be noticed.

The Underlines shoot was captured by MA student photographer Sean Goldthorpe, giving DMU another string to its fashion bow. The Contour students were given just a week to determine their design concepts.

Selected garments were photographed on location in Market Harborough at Euromec, featuring a number of vintage motorcycles.

Student Alison Hunt, from Dudley, West Midlands, said: "It's really nice to get recognition for all the hard work we've put in, and to see it all photographed professionally is very satisfying.

"I'm hoping to get a career in the intimate apparel industry so it's going to be brilliant to have my work seen by potential employers in the industry at the Moda show."

Amelia Lohan, from Bolton, Lancashire, said: "I was really excited to be featured and rang everyone straight away to tell them. This is so good for building up my portfolio and getting my name out there. The course is brilliant as



you get to work on and achieve so many things that just aren't done anywhere else, as there are just a select few of us from across the UK studying this subject."



Getting into the picture

The Underlines shoot was the biggest in the nascent career of Sean Goldthorpe, a DMU Photography MA student, **writes Jack Brooke-Battersby.**

Sean said: "I've got a friend on the Contour Fashion course that put my name forward for the shoot and the module leader Gillian Proctor got in touch saying she wanted me to do it.

"It was amazing to see my work spread over so much of the magazine. I was quite nervous at first as I knew it was going to be a big challenge, there were so many outfits to picture, it was definitely the hardest day I've ever worked in photography. I'm doing the MA which I have to juggle with doing freelance and commission work to pay for the studies, but that's part of postgrad study, finding that right balance between studying and real-world work - but it's totally worth it.

"This experience will help me in the future, it's nice to have an actual magazine to show potential clients rather than a printout I've done myself.

"It's also a good reflection on the university, they're keen to give you a chance to get experience and they nurture their own talent by providing these opportunities for those willing to grasp them."



Claire Bloom



Talking with giants

Giants from stage, literature and other creative fields shared their inspiring life and career stories with the DMU family as part of our annual Cultural eXchanges festival.

The festival, a week of interactive discussions, performances and talks showcasing an eclectic programme of guests, was hosted by the Faculty of Art, Design and Humanities and run by students on the Arts and Festivals Management BA (Hons) degree.

Legendary actress Claire Bloom was special guest at the opening event and in a riveting conversation with Professor Steve Chibnall, of DMU's renowned Cinema and Television History centre, and drama specialist Alissa Clarke, gave an insight into her illustrious acting career.

Bloom worked with actors including Charlie Chaplin, Richard Burton, Laurence Olivier and Paul Newman and was described by drama critic Kenneth Tyne as 'the best Juliet'.

Poet and playwright Dame Carol Ann Duffy also enchanted a sell-out audience. The Poet Laureate gave an hour-long reading.

The festival also featured writer and academic Eva Hoffman, theatre chief Rosemary Squire, musician Steve Sidwell and comedian Ishi Khan Jackson.

Barbara Matthews, Pro Vice Chancellor/Dean for the Faculty of Art, Design and Humanities at DMU, said: "One of the pleasures of hosting the Cultural eXchanges festival is the opportunity it gives us to welcome through our doors people who might not normally have a reason to visit a university."



Carol Ann Duffy

Politics & comedy? Seriously?

Comedy's power to hold politicians to account inspired Dave's Leicester Comedy Festival's inaugural comedy and politics debate. DMU lecturer Alistair Jones (pictured) was part of a panel which also featured comedian and former Labour Party campaign strategist

Matt Forde, and chair Dr Sharon Lockyer of Brunel University's Centre for Comedy Studies Research.

Alistair explored the satirical value of good sketch writers and political cartoonists and questioned comedian Russell Brand's recent political rebirth, saying: "It's not very intelligent, telling people not to vote. There are a lot of politicians who do things for people, who make a difference, they can't all be tarred with the same brush."



The gift of Wisdom

TV and radio scripts, theatre programmes and memorabilia from Sir Norman Wisdom's 60-year show business career were given to DMU at the launch of Dave's Leicester Comedy Festival.

The archive was presented to Professor Steve Chibnall, Professor of British Cinema, by Sir Norman's biographer and film historian Richard Dacre.

Sir Norman was the first patron

of Leicester Comedy Festival in 1994. Professor Chibnall said: "He was a hugely successful figure in his day, the most successful person in the British box office in the 1950s and his films in the 1960s saved Rank. Charlie Chaplin loved him.

"He's still hugely popular, particularly in Europe because physical comedy translates so well, and of course he is a cult figure here as well as being a knight of the theatre. It will be a tremendous

resource and one which we can study and curate here."

Richard Dacre said: "I always intended to donate this to an institution and after careful consideration I am delighted to offer it to DMU. It is a natural extension of DMU's interest in British popular cinema to acquire such collections, and they have already proven their expertise in this area, not least in publicising their holdings and making them available to serious researchers."

DMU is already the home of Hammer Film archive – a collection of scripts, memorabilia, books and merchandise from the legendary studios.



Keeping comics happy offers great insight into radio

Dave's Leicester Comedy Festival took over the airwaves at DMU's Demon FM, **writes Jack Brooke-Battersby.**

Students from the Music Technology and Media Production

courses interviewed comedians every day as part of their radio shows and got the chance to join the festival as part of the advanced radio production module. Media Production student

Brialen Williams said: "My main role was to make sure that guests didn't clash. It was really stressful to sort out but was also a lot of fun, the experience is all really useful and this puts me in really good stead for getting into industry roles. The opportunities are there."

Amy Ashfield, a final year Media Production student, said: "We want to know exactly what it's like preparing for such a big show and the experience will be really useful for real-life radio shows because it's all new to a lot of us but it's the career many of us want to pursue."

"There is a lot of hands-on learning, it's not just theory - based as you really get thrown into the industry to get the experience and I'd definitely recommend it."

A very funny experience

DMU students got first-class events experience working behind the scenes of Dave's Leicester Comedy Festival. The annual event, first put together by DMU students in 1994 and now Europe's largest comedy festival, attracts thousands of people to the city - and a team of 25 Arts and Festivals Management students were part of it, organising events at two comedy venues.

They ran dozens of shows at The

Criterion pub and Duffy's Bar in Leicester, Stuart Keating leading one team, Grace Barraclough the other.

The duo (pictured) said they loved the experience, which they said had been hard work.

Grace said: "It's a lot of work packed into two weeks. It's a good experience because you have to deal with absolutely everything – for instance, we had to re-arrange a show because of a rugby match,

which we had not considered!"

Each team was split into artist liaison teams, box office and front of house staff, with students taking it in turns to gain experience of each role.

Stuart said: "We were responsible for all aspects from contacting the artists ahead of the gig to introduce ourselves, producing promo material and seeing what technical requirements are needed."

"It is great experience because you can apply what you've learned but it also tests you because you have to deal with anything that's thrown at you. It's also good for the CV."





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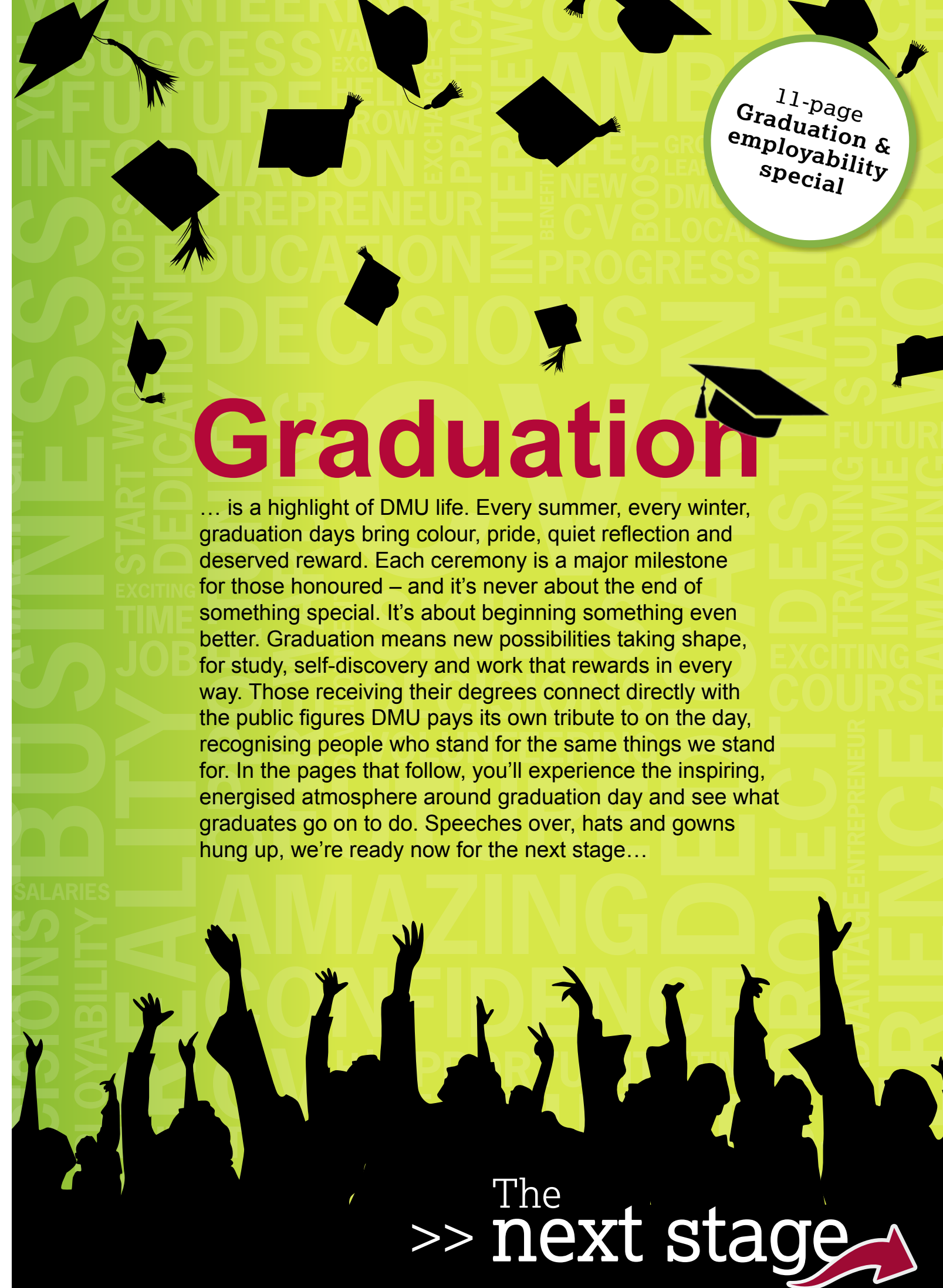
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Graduation

... is a highlight of DMU life. Every summer, every winter, graduation days bring colour, pride, quiet reflection and deserved reward. Each ceremony is a major milestone for those honoured – and it's never about the end of something special. It's about beginning something even better. Graduation means new possibilities taking shape, for study, self-discovery and work that rewards in every way. Those receiving their degrees connect directly with the public figures DMU pays its own tribute to on the day, recognising people who stand for the same things we stand for. In the pages that follow, you'll experience the inspiring, energised atmosphere around graduation day and see what graduates go on to do. Speeches over, hats and gowns hung up, we're ready now for the next stage...

The
>> next stage

“People leave here and go on to change the world”



Honorand
Benjamin
Zephaniah

Cheers and applause greeted renowned poet Benjamin Zephaniah as he delivered an inspirational speech to graduates.

He accepted an Honorary Doctor of Letters from DMU, awarded in recognition of his literary career and the impact he has had upon students here and around the world.

Last year, he came to DMU as part of the annual Cultural eXchange festival, where he met and talked to students and gave advice on writing and performing.

This time, he urged students to 'have poetry in their lives'.

Zephaniah talked about being racially attacked as an eight-year-old in Birmingham, and how in his 20s in London he faced National Front supporters.

He said: "Bigots don't have any poetry in their lives. We need more poetry. It's a great thing. It brings people together. It gave me a voice – the young me, who was dyslexic, who felt he was not being listened to by the establishment, I used poetry to tell the world how I felt.

"I still had a lot to say and I started saying it on the streets, it gave me a voice. Not everybody can be a poet, but if there's one message that I have for everyone here – the young people, families, friends, even some of the academics – you should have some poetry in your life. It's a way of reaching out and touching people.

"This university is a good place. I know it is because I know people who have graduated from here and I know people who have taught here. People leave here and go on to change the world and I hope some of them will go on to be great leaders in the world. Whoever you are and whatever you do, please, please have some poetry in your life and preach the peace."

Talented Toyin proves to be a perfect for PR

A DMU graduate has landed a job with one of the world's biggest PR companies. Toyin Peters, who studied Media and Communication and graduated last year, is now at Golin PR in its London office. The company represents giants such as Cadbury Schweppes and has offices around the world.

"I'm really excited about it," said Toyin.

"I'm still pinching myself about getting such an opportunity. I did work experience there and it was amazing."

Toyin decided PR was for her after taking it as a module, taught by PR lecturer Liz Bridgen, and credits DMU and Liz with helping her land the job by suggesting she apply for a place with the prestigious Taylor Bennett Foundation, a training programme for graduates

from African Caribbean and ethnic minority backgrounds.

Toyin said: "I found out about Taylor Bennett when Liz Bridgen did a career tutorial and mentioned it.

"I thought, this is for me, so when I graduated, I applied."

After a tough interview and assessment process, Toyin was offered a place. "They called me while I was on the train and I was screaming with happiness," she laughed.

The training programme is an

intensive, high-pressure course. Only six people were chosen from around the country.

During the course, each graduate has a mentor and they are taken to visit major media companies and given practical assignments and coached in interview techniques.

Toyin said: "It was hard work but it was such a good experience. After the course finished, I contacted Golin because we had visited them and I got two weeks' work experience. When I finished

they told me about another job which was coming up and I got it!"

Toyin is now a consumer connector trainee at the company working on its high-profile accounts.

Her former tutor Liz is delighted. She said: "It's terrific news for Toyin and I hope she does well. Toyin is the second DMU student to secure a place on the training programme – in 2012 Francis Graham joined the training programme and now works in PR with a major London agency."



Ready for the next step

Graduates get job offers and training courses as they collect their degrees – and praise the DMU courses that helped

Graduating students praised courses at DMU for making their career dreams come true as they received job offers and training contracts as well as collecting their hard-earned degree certificates.

Pamela Hardaker graduated from the Intelligent Systems and Robotics MSc and has secured a high flyer scholarship to complete her research as a PhD student at DMU.

She said: "I did my bachelor's degree here 20 years ago and

when I was looking for a master's degree it was De Montfort University that came up trumps for me a second time.

"I'm 50 this year and it just doesn't matter, you can do it at any time, you really can. I never thought I'd come back and do it, but I've wanted to do a PhD for ever so it's like a dream come true."

Midwifery graduate Ellie Archer has secured a job in the hospital where she completed part of her degree training. Ellie said: "I'd always had an interest in midwifery since I was a child; I thought it was quite amazing, and my degree helped me get this position because of the placements and experiences on the course.

"In my third year, we also had the opportunity to create our own placement and I went to work

in Tanzania, which was really interesting and such an eye-opener. It made me realise how good our healthcare is."

Khalid Al-Maamari (pictured left) was sponsored to undertake his master's in International Corporate Social Responsibility by his bosses at Oman Tel, a telecommunications company in Oman. He said: "My company supported me to do this course and I have learned so much, I am so proud today. Already, we have been able to launch new initiatives as a result of what I have learned on the course."

Louise Courtney (pictured below) and Natalie Goldsworthy graduated from the Legal Practice Course and immediately started training contracts. Natalie said: "I'm now a trainee solicitor at Wilson Browne solicitors, and the Legal Practice Course has given me the practical skills you need to become a solicitor."

Louise said: "I'm a trainee solicitor with Moore & Tibbit. Without the course I simply couldn't have got on to the training contract."



Mentors make perfect match

DMU students are getting free professional help to find work in their chosen careers thanks to the university's Employability Mentoring Project.

The scheme matches DMU students with some of Leicestershire's top business people to enhance graduate job prospects in a whole range of industry sectors.

Its main aims are to improve DMU students' awareness of industry work requirements, enhance their knowledge of key industry contacts and increase graduates' competitive advantage in the recruitment process.

Among the graduates benefiting from the programme is Waseem Jussab, who graduated from DMU with an honours degree in Business and Management. Waseem has been taking part in regular mentoring sessions with Leicester-based tax consultant Pete Miller (pictured) of The Miller Partnership – an arrangement which is working well for both parties.



Leicester-born Waseem grew up in Malawi where his father has a business but chose to study for his degree in his home city. He said: "What I really want to do is go into investment banking but it's a competitive sector with not many openings.

"When I told Pete this he suggested I look at other careers in finance so that when the right opportunity in banking does come along I will already have relevant experience. I'll have more to offer a bank and skills which will help me stand out from the other candidates. "Pete has worked in the public and private sectors and through hearing about his experiences, I've come to realise that there is more than one route to a successful career."

Pete said: "When we first met, Waseem's search criteria were too narrow but he's now looking at many more opportunities within his chosen field. Mentoring is rewarding and a role I'd highly recommend."

Andy Morris, DMU's employability mentoring project officer, said the university was extremely grateful to mentors like Pete who give up their time for free to assist graduates.

He said: "Mentoring helps bring out the best in our students and allows them to make a greater impact when they do start work. We work with many mentors in many different fields, including alumni of the university, and are keen to hear from other industry professionals who would like to get involved in the programme."

Think about your lives and what makes you happy

A dedicated nurse whose work has helped the most vulnerable people in society has been given an honorary degree by DMU.

Jane Gray is the executive director of Inclusion Healthcare,

a not-for-profit social enterprise which provides healthcare services for the homeless and other vulnerable groups.

Based in Charles Berry House, in Leicester city centre, it reaches

1,000 people making a real difference, often in life-or-death situations. Its surplus money is ploughed back into improving services for the vulnerable people it serves.

Jane, who is a DMU graduate, has also helped students here by passing on her expertise and many have gained invaluable experience at Inclusion Healthcare.

She said: "I feel deeply honoured just to have been considered for this award. I am genuinely both stunned and delighted that De Montfort University have given me this honorary degree in recognition of the work I feel privileged to do, serving the city's homeless and vulnerable populations, members of our community who I care passionately about."

Graduating with her were hundreds of students from the university's Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. They include those working in the healthcare disciplines such as audiology and biomedical science to criminologists, social workers and pharmacists.

Dr Gray said she was 'completely humbled' to be receiving the Honorary Doctor of Letters and had sage advice for the graduates.

She said: "I continue to be inspired by the incredible people I meet and often I reflect on the resilience and courage of the people we serve as they move away from homelessness.

"As you leave here, do stop and think about your lives and what makes you happy. Think about your future and what you wish to achieve. You can't change what has already gone, but you can choose how you move forward. Set your goals, work towards them, believe in yourself – you may surprise yourself."

Computer giant IBM is drawn to city by DMU's IT reputation

DMU's reputation for shaping IT talent has helped persuade computing giant IBM to open a major £3m centre near campus.

Bosses at the US-based firm will draw on the 'fantastic pool' of skills shaped by DMU and other HE institutions to fill the 300 posts it is creating at its New Walk base, 10 minutes' walk from DMU.

Some 100 DMU graduates are currently working for IBM in roles as software developers, engineers, consultants, application specialists, architects and 'cloud' experts, and in other fields.

DMU has an enviable reputation for technology partnerships. We

joined with the world's largest technology company, HP, to launch a BSc Business Informatics degree and are partnered with Deloitte to run a unique MSc in Cyber Security, training the next generation of professionals keeping Britain safe from cyber-attack.

Professor Andy Collop, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of De Montfort University, said: "Graduate employability is a key focus at DMU and it is fantastic a business such as IBM is establishing a base in Leicester

"We have a long tradition of teaching computer science at DMU and IBM's presence in the city will greatly enhance the prospects of our students and is a great endorsement of the quality of degrees we offer.

"It's just one of the many initiatives we have with hi tech companies to improve the employability among our graduates."

New role is a news role

William working on major TV stories for Russia Today

A Media and Communication graduate has given his top tips for succeeding in the industry - after he landed a TV role.

William Njobvu (pictured) has been working on major stories for Russia Today, including the marches in London in the wake of the Charlie Hebdo tragedy.

He said: "Experience, perseverance and the hunger for chasing stories will get you a job in journalism. I pitched a story idea to the Russia Today editor, I helped him to cover the story and I got invited in for an interview."

Russia Today is a 24/7 news channel which is available to 550 million viewers worldwide. Its

London operation opened earlier this year. William has to produce a minimum of three stories a day and sources interviewees from around the country for his news pieces and interviews.

Working in the media was William's ambition from a young age but he deliberately chose a wide-ranging degree in Media and Communication to explore all the options available in the industry before deciding on his specialism.

"It helped me to discover my true passions," he said. "Doing Demon FM was a great experience too." He paid tribute to DMU lecturer Stuart Price for inspiring him during his media discourse module, which he said "helped me discover that I enjoy reporting the news."

He said: "DMU overall helped me to build on my research, writing and analysis skills, and these three skills are helping me big time."



William's advice for people wanting to get into the industry is: "Watch the news every day, keep up to date with current affairs. To be a journalist you have to be inquisitive. Get as much work experience as you can, pay attention in all of your classes and network – the media is all about connecting and communicating with people.

"I'm still at a very early stage in my career and I've still got a lot to learn, but DMU certainly helped me to get to this stage."

Raising the profile of research

A new project to raise the profile of research has been launched by DMU's Square Mile programme.

The SMART research project will see 50 Graduate Champions assigned a researcher at DMU.

Their role will be to help develop their online research profile and disseminate their work, as well as help find participants for projects that have a potential public benefit.

Mark Charlton, Square Mile manager, said: "The SMART

project aims to demonstrate DMU's commitment to public good, something the award-winning DMU Square Mile has been at the forefront of since it began in 2011.

"It will help our Graduate Champions develop research skills,

learn media techniques and give them the ability to confidently use new ways of reaching audiences. They will be presenting, writing and keeping a blog of their achievements."

Paddy Bull (pictured left), a History and Politics graduate, is working with politics researcher Professor Jonathan Davies, currently leading an international project looking at the effects of austerity policies, and PhD student Aamir Hussain of the Plant Science department.

He said: "I'm incredibly excited to be part of this project. I didn't realise all the research which is done here."

Jessica Nain (pictured bottom left), a Criminology with Criminal Justice graduate, said: "This will give us research, presentation skills and I'm looking forward to learning new things." The team's first job will be to work on the research web pages of the new DMU SMART website. DMU Square Mile now has more than 40 different projects across four faculties involving 60 staff and 1,500 students.



Honorand Jane Gray

Savour your accomplishments

Baroness Doreen Lawrence has been made an Honorary Doctor of Laws at DMU. She was praised for her courage and unstinting campaigning to ensure justice for her son Stephen Lawrence, who

was murdered in a racist attack in London in 1993.

Accepting the award, Baroness Lawrence said: "I see education as the most precious gift we can give to our children."

She told graduates: "Savour your accomplishments. I wish you every success for the future."

Baroness Lawrence founded the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds into a career in architecture and the built environment. Her son had dreamed of becoming an architect and the trust has helped hundreds of young people to gain qualifications.

Recognising the Baroness as 'a powerhouse of ordinary courage', her citation at the ceremony said: "We understand her caution, even resistance, to personal praise. Her work, her mission, is what matters most."

“ So much of what Baroness Lawrence embodies, we at DMU aspire to ”

"Yet in everything she now represents, Baroness Lawrence is the best of us, epitomised in her daily summoning, over decades, of strength used to serve a wider good. Despite blow after blow, she is able to lead, quietly persuading the young to have the confidence to stand against racism. It is possible to come through even the darkest times and make something good, she tells us, to keep in check the institutions that are meant to be responsible to all in society."

"So much of what Baroness Lawrence embodies, we at DMU aspire to, with our commitments to public good and our embracing and celebration of cultural diversity. Our great institution is honoured by having her here and by being in a position to offer an inspiring figure our acknowledgement."

Getting busy thanks to Graduate Champions

A graduate has just taken up a full-time position at one of the country's most prominent charities thanks to the DMU's pioneering Graduate Champions scheme.

Callum Bergin (pictured below), who received a BA in Advertising and Marketing Communications, is now working as Marketing Executive for the Matt Hampson Foundation, based in Leicestershire, after working as a Graduate Champion for six weeks. Callum says every DMU student should know about the Graduate Champions scheme because of the incredible opportunities it creates.

The Matt Hampson Foundation, whose motto is 'Get Busy Living', was set up by former Leicester Tigers and England prop Matt 'Hambo' Hampson after a rugby accident in 2005 left him paralysed



from the neck down and breathing with the aid of a ventilator.

The charity provides support, advice and treatment mainly for those who have suffered similar sports-related injuries or a disability.

Callum said: "I am working with everything concerning digital marketing, such as the website, as well as tying up with social media, specifically what to post and when to post it. It is a big tool for the foundation as obviously we run on quite a tight budget."

"So far I have made several improvements to the website both functionally and visually with the aim of increasing traffic to the website following the principles I learned at university, such as search engine optimisation."

The innovative Graduate Champions scheme offers recent

graduates the chance to take up a six-week internship with a leading UK organisation to enhance their skills and help them stand out from the crowd in a furiously competitive jobs market. For DMU graduates, these placements bring sought-after opportunities to gain valuable insight into graduate-level work that is relevant to their chosen career path, and business people have free access to some of the brightest and best young talent in the UK today. Those on the scheme are paid the living wage by DMU.

"I would say the scheme is fantastic, to be honest," added Callum. "Obviously employability is a huge thing because these days the only positions going, at least when I was looking, are unpaid internships and you cannot really afford to do that, especially if they are based in London."

"The Graduate Champions scheme has been massively helpful. I have been offered the full time position. Even if I hadn't, it would be something great to put on my CV."

Sam learns the Wembley way

In one of the most high-profile internships arranged through the DMU Graduate Champions scheme, Sam Warren has been working with the Football Association at its Wembley HQ.

Sam, who graduated from DMU with a 2:1 in Business and Management, took a role as a financial regulation associate for the football governing body in England, lodging player-representation contracts during the recent transfer window and assisting in a FIFA-led change in regulations.

He also liaised with senior FA managers as well as officials and representatives from professional football clubs while learning about the legal side of football.

Sam said: "It was a really dynamic environment where I had to display strong communication

skills and work on my own initiative to get tasks completed. Working for such a big name like the FA is obviously going to stand out, if I want to go into a position relevant to sport which is ultimately where I want to end up."

"It's good fun as well, because everyone has their own team that they support so there's a good-natured humour to the environment which really helps you settle in."

Sam is also full of praise for the Student and Academic Services team at DMU, who work to get graduates into internships so they gain experience and stand out.

He said: "The internship has really improved my confidence and commitment, especially having to commute to London, but I'm learning about the finer details of something I'm really interested in."

"The university doesn't just teach you to the point that you graduate, after you graduate you're entitled to a lifetime of support which they offer and they really help you on your way to becoming a success."

In the last year, hundreds of graduates have enjoyed internships with firms across the country under the DMU Graduate Champions scheme, giving them the opportunity to apply their knowledge in the workplace, enhance their CVs, and help them stand out from the crowd in a furiously competitive jobs market.



Work-ready skills are a crucial addition

One of the world's largest accountancy bodies has teamed up with DMU to offer incredible work opportunities for graduates.

ACCA - the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants - is helping DMU's Graduate Champions scheme which aims to help graduates boost their CVs in today's competitive jobs market.

Seven graduates have been working with ACCA members and approved employers to gain vital industry experience.

Georgina Stone (pictured right), who graduated with a First in Business Management and Finance, is now on an internship as an accounts associate with charity National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE).

Georgina said: "The internship has proved to be an invaluable experience so far as it has given me the opportunity to make good business contacts and learn relevant business practices which will without doubt be useful in my future career."

"As the finance department within NIACE is a relatively small department, I've been able to be of some real use and have been given responsibility for tasks which are relevant in the company's day to day operations."

"I whole-heartedly recommend Graduate Champions to anyone who is looking to gain some extra experience in a given field because this experience has been invaluable and I can see the benefits it will have to my job prospects."

Leah Brown, Student Recruitment Manager at ACCA UK, said: "It's great to work with DMU because of their focus on graduate employability, they invest heavily in finding ways to help their graduates launch themselves into a career which is equally as beneficial for the graduates as it is for the ACCA members looking to acquire new talent."



"Part of our ethos is about nurturing the next generation of accountancy and finance professionals, which is why ACCA members are keen to support graduate schemes such as DMU Graduate Champions."

"We want graduates to join us so that they can become members and we can integrate them into the profession. Students get the opportunity to acquire work-ready skills which set their academic knowledge into a professional environment."

Richard Bowden, internships manager at DMU, said: "We know from listening to feedback we get from students and graduates that Accountancy and Finance graduates are really keen for high-quality work experience in their chosen field."

"Working with the ACCA to communicate with their members has therefore been a major development for the DMU Graduate Champions scheme and will allow us to continue to provide graduates with highly sought-after paid internships in accountancy and finance roles."

“ It's great to work with DMU because of their focus on graduate employability ”

Honorand
Baroness
Lawrence

The habit of questioning and understanding is seriously important

Children's author Pippa Goodhart started a new chapter of her life as she became a Doctor of Letters at DMU.

Pippa has written nearly 100 children's titles. These include the You Choose book - named Best Picture Book of All Time - and,

under the pen name Laura Owens the successful Winnie the Witch series. Pippa is also a part-time lecturer at DMU in creative writing.

She told students: "The habit of questioning and understanding is seriously important.

"I did my degree and PGCE and went back to working in a bookshop - so was my degree wasted? No, I was the one who said 'yes' to doing a job swap with publishers, to taking books home to review, to meeting writers and illustrators.

"This degree is a great honour and a great surprise and I thank you very much for it. But the honour should really go to those full time lecturers and teachers at DMU. Thank you."

Joining Pippa were students from the Faculty of Art, Design and Humanities and the Faculty of Technology. Vanessa Williams, graphic design graduate, has already got a job with a design company in London.

She said: "DMU has been a great experience - it's a bit strange to think it's all done - I'll be moving to London to be a junior designer. It's very exciting!"

Abdualrhman Alhula, from Libya, has just finished an MSc in mechanical engineering - which he completed while working. He said: "I am so happy that I have now finished, it's very hard work combining study with a job - I was just one mark off a distinction!"

Anna Vennard-Tierney, English Literature and Education Studies, is off to the Far East to teach English for the summer after graduating. She said: "DMU has been so good to me, I have had such a good time. I have loved Leicester, too, it's a great city."

Take us to the top!



The success of two graduates, sisters Heidi and Melanie Lister, illustrates perfectly the potential a DMU degree unleashes.

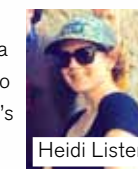
After studying Textile Design with us, both were offered jobs when they graduated. Heidi's career took her to New York and now California, where she is senior designer for US brand Patagonia, which makes climbing, running, surfing and outdoor clothing. Heidi 'road tests' her design by scaling peaks in Yosemite.

Melanie first worked for Ford in Birmingham and is now chief colour consultant at Jaguar Land Rover's design studios in Gaydon,



Melanie (far left) and Victoria Beckham (second right) at the Evoque launch

Warwickshire. She was heavily involved in the styling of the successful Land Rover Evoque, which also had input from Victoria Beckham. The two met at the vehicle's launch.



Heidi Lister

'They build and enhance your CV at every opportunity'



A top student from DMU enjoyed her time here so much that she has returned for further study, thanks to the Vice-Chancellor's 2020 Scholarship programme.

Emily Robbins (pictured left) graduated with a First Class Honours in Business and Marketing in 2013, and is now studying for an MSc in Strategic and Digital Marketing thanks to the scholarship scheme, which offers 50 per cent off selected full-time and part-time postgraduate courses running in the 2015/16 academic year.

Emily, from Nuneaton, said: "After I graduated I was really devastated to be leaving DMU as it was the most enjoyable three years I could have wished for. I spent the next year saving money knowing that I wanted to come back and do a master's.

"Suddenly, out of the blue, I had an email that said I had qualified for the Vice-Chancellor's 2020 Scholarship and that made my mind up to come back.

"I had always found Leicester pleasant, friendly and just a likeable environment. When I looked around

the Hugh Aston building, home to the Faculty of Business and Law, it was immaculate and the Campus Centre has a real buzz about it. I just went for it and applied, which turned out to be the best decision I have ever made."

As for the MSc in Strategic and Digital Marketing, Emily is equally impressed. She said: "The course really is designed to help you in the working world and to make the transition from education to work as smooth as possible.

"Tutors often have amazing experience in the marketing industry and draw on this. The university is built around the courses and its students' needs and the tutors really strive to build and enhance our CVs at every opportunity."

Once she has graduated in 2016, Emily hopes to work in advertising - a career path which she says DMU has given her the opportunity to follow.

"It's a very current, work-related course with a mix of practical and theory-based learning," she said. "It allows you to develop yourself and has really encouraged me to push myself to be the best I can be."

'The more qualifications you have, the better it is going to be'

A graduate in January, DMU Biomedical Sciences student Anmol Thakor is now studying for a master's thanks to the Vice-Chancellor's 2020 Scholarship programme.

Anmol always knew he wanted to do a master's degree but he wasn't sure when would be the best time to do it. "I was thinking of getting experience of working in laboratories before I did the master's but when I found out I could do it for half the price straight away, there was no decision to make. The scholarship represents a huge saving."

The 2020 Scholarship programme was launched last year by DMU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard as a commitment to helping the university's graduates enhance their careers and personal development through further study.

The scholarship offers a tuition fee discount of up to 50 per cent to recent home/EU DMU graduates who achieved a 2:1 or greater to continue their studies at DMU by enrolling on a postgraduate taught course. The offer, which saw close to 200 graduates enrol for the 2014/15 academic year, is open again for 2015/16 graduates.

Alongside the cost-saving aspect of the 2020 Scholarship, Anmol says there are other reasons why staying on at DMU was so attractive, not least the opportunity to build on the relationship he already had with his tutors.

"They have known us for three years so they understand our capabilities and they can help us out where it is needed, and we can approach them more easily too," he said.

"They will also have the confidence to step back and allow us to be a lot more independent with our work and research, which you need to do with a master's."

While Anmol's area of interest

is the cardiovascular system he recognises that having a wider field of study will make him more employable.

He said: "The really good thing about the DMU course is that laboratories now want seniors who are specialists in everything not just one thing and that is what this course provides, especially the quality management module. Moreover, our course leader, says that in a few years' time it might even be the case that to get a job in a lab at all you will need a master's."

Anmol hopes that he will be able to join a research organisation or company once he has completed his master's although further study is not off the cards as he is also considering undertaking a Qualified Persons course within industry.

Whichever direction he chooses, Anmol would definitely recommend that his fellow students work hard to ensure they qualify for the scholarship. "In this day and age, it is getting so much harder to get a job.

"The more qualifications you have under your belt, the better it is going to be."



Anmol Thakor



Facing the future

Smiles all around as students share graduation celebration

Thousands of DMU students each marked a major milestone in their life at memorable winter

graduation ceremonies.

The five events saw students from DMU's four faculties – Business and Law, Technology, Art, Design and Humanities, and Health and Life Sciences – collect their degrees and share in the pride and emotion of the day.

As ever, there was a great sense of excitement as all involved looked to the future.

Vanessa Williams, a graphic design graduate, was thinking ahead to her new job with a design company in London. She said: "DMU has been a great experience – it's a bit strange to think it's all done – I'm moving to London to be a junior designer. It's very exciting!"

Abdualrhman Alhula, from Libya, had finished an MSc in mechanical engineering, which he completed while working. He said: "I am so happy that I have now finished, it's

very hard work combining study with a job – I was just one mark off a distinction!"

Anna Vennard-Tierney, English Literature and Education Studies, is off to the Far East to teach English after graduating. She said: "DMU has been so good to me, I have had such a good time. I have loved Leicester, too, it's a great city."

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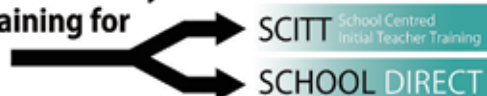
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Building a better way for Indian children

Team creates washrooms in Indore as part of the project run by DMU Square Mile

Students from DMU have worked to transform a school in India and help make a difference to the lives of children there.

The team are helping to build washrooms in Indore as part of the project run by DMU Square Mile, which shares the experiences of

staff and students for the public good.

A lack of separate washroom facilities is one of the main reasons girls drop out of school. According to Indian children's rights organisation CRY, one in 10 schools does not have basic facilities and only 18 per cent have

separate toilets for girls.

DMU Square Mile is working with a DMU partner school, Daly College, on the project and it is run with #DMUglobal, DMU's pioneering programme to offer students a valuable international experience during their studies, on campus and overseas.

Jess Bogic, who works for the Square Mile team, said the students had met the pupils, adding: "It



has been an amazing experience. Meeting young girls who have benefited was incredible."

Student Emma Tatlow said: "We feel so privileged to be helping this community."



**DMU
SQUARE
MILE**

Chips served in paper

Professor Panikos Panayi, Professor of European History at DMU, shared portions of his book *Fish and Chips: A History* at the prestigious Words by the Water literary festival, in the Lake District. His fellow speakers included Margaret Drabble, Claire Tomalin and Lord Bragg.

The book examines the origins, history ethnicity and 'Britishness' of fish and chips.



On target for sci-fi prize

A novel by a lecturer at DMU has been short-listed for one of the world's most prestigious sci-fi writing prizes.

Rod Duncan, who teaches creative writing at the university, has seen his work *The Bullet Catcher's Daughter* named as one of the nominees for the Philip K Dick Award.

Rod, the only British author on the shortlist, discovered he had been nominated for the prize via a Tweet by the MD of his publishing company.

Rod said: "I had no idea that my book was even in the running, so to discover it had made it on to the shortlist of six books was a complete surprise."

The Bullet Catcher's Daughter is part one of a series of at least three books which will form "The Fall of the Gas-lit Empire". It is set in a Victorian version of Leicester and Lincolnshire and events happen in the aftermath of a Luddite revolution that has reined in technology.

The Bullet Catcher's Daughter is published by Angry Robot Books.

Fully booked: The dramatic launch of the Six Book Challenge.



Lining up to celebrate word power

Passionate people from across the DMU community came together to celebrate the power of words - and again launch the university's annual Six Book Challenge. For the past five years

Andrew Jennison, from the post and portage department, has encouraged hundreds of colleagues to get into reading and complete a diary based on six things they choose - anything from novels and poems to newspaper articles.

His efforts have seen DMU named the number one workplace in the UK for people taking up the challenge and in 2014 Andrew was awarded a British Empire Medal for his commitment to transforming lives.

Andrew organised a dramatic launch for Six Book Challenge by getting 71 members of staff, students, academics and a visiting college to read one line each from the poem *Until You Try*, by Tony Walsh. It captures the essence of reading and its effect on lives, concluding: "Try passion, try living, try reading."

Dozens lined up to deliver their lines following

an introduction from Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor David Wilson. Guests then attended lectures by Nicola Valentine, an award-winning author who lectures in Creative Writing at DMU, and Stephen Done, an author and curator of Liverpool Football Museum.

Erica Mortimer, a cleaning supervisor at DMU, has completed the challenge for the last three years and has turned one of the cleaning stores into a mini lending library.

Deborah Hyde, from The Reading Agency, which organises the Six Book Challenge nationally, said: "Andrew's idea was so unusual but wonderful in the way that it brought together people from across the university and across the city."

Professor Wilson added: "Reading raises your spirits and fires your imagination. This is positive action to support our strategy on well-being, creating links with people right across the campus and to reinforce our deeply held belief that this university is a public good."



Andrew Jennison

Partnership to be proud of

DMU has pledged its support to a new programme to help educate and train local organisations in meeting the needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

DMU is one of three organisations to pledge backing to Leicester Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Centre at the launch of its 12 Partners Programme.

The scheme provides diversity training and specialist advice in return for £10,000. DMU has been joined by Leicestershire Police and Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group.

Interim chief executive Paul Fitzgerald said: "We're seeing ever-increasing demand for our services across the city and county but we can't continue to help people

without funding.

"I hope that we'll be able to persuade more partner organisations to sign up to our scheme and help the centre get back onto a more secure financial footing."

Vice-Chancellor of DMU, Professor Dominic Shellard - who is the new honorary president of the Leicester LGBT - said: "I am extraordinarily fortunate to be the Vice-Chancellor of one of the most diverse universities in the country.

"DMU prides itself on being a university which believes in and promotes equality and works for the public good.

"The work of the LGBT Centre is absolutely vital for many people who come to an inspiring place like this to find the support they need."

A level playing field

DMU sports teams wore special #DMUpide T-shirts to matches to show their support for efforts to rid sport of homophobia.

DMU's first #DMUpide festival saw more than 20 events staged to raise awareness of and celebrate the LGBT communities in DMU and across our home city of Leicester.

Sports teams from rugby to tennis and lacrosse to American football wore the special T-shirts emblazoned with #DMUpide in support of the month-long festival.

Carol Fitzpatrick, treasurer and player for women's rugby, was one of those proudly wearing a T-shirt. She said: "Everyone deserves to

Cementing a reputation for equality

DMU's commitment to equality has been confirmed by Stonewall as we were placed in their top 100 employers list for the very first time.

DMU has leapt 93 places to 75th place in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, a national benchmark which recognises employers who are committed to supporting lesbian, gay and bisexual members of staff.

From supporting same-sex parents to promoting equality around the world, organisations listed in the top 100 have consistently shown their commitment to sexual orientation equality.

Stonewall Chief Executive Ruth Hunt said: "At Stonewall we know that people perform better at work when they can be themselves. That means working in an environment that is free from discrimination but also in an environment that enables them to bring their whole selves to work."

have equal rights and everyone deserves to feel safe. It's also important that everyone is included regardless of their sexuality."





Living colour

Crowds of students joined in the colourful celebrations for Holi, the Hindu festival of spring. Hundreds of students from across DMU packed into Bede Park for the festival, organised by DMU Indian Society and DMU Square Mile, which works to share the skills of staff and students with the community.

All about attitude

Campaigner Laura Bates praised a 'new wave of feminism' and awareness in universities as she visited DMU.

Laura, who founded the award-winning Everyday Sexism Project, has collected more than 50,000 different stories of women's experiences of sexist attitudes and behaviour.

The event included a panel

discussion featuring Laura alongside academics and a performance by drama students Kaneesha, Harriet and Natalie which was based on stories from the NUS's "lad culture" survey and Laura's Everyday Sexism book.

The very image of success

Footwear Design students from DMU were challenged by fashion house All Saints to come up with cutting-edge designs – with five then selected to take their ideas down to All Saints HQ in London and deliver a presentation to the brand's top talent scouts.

All Saints reps praised the standard of the students' submissions calling them 'technically gifted' – and even suggested some designs could influence an entire collection. All Saints is just one of dozens of big name companies which have formed partnerships with DMU.

Welcome to the world

Students from all over the world were given a warm welcome to DMU at the International Students Welcome Event on campus. Organised by the university's dedicated international student

welfare team, the event saw more than 100 students register from 26 countries including Angola, the Czech Republic and Kenya. Adil Waraich, President of De Montfort Students' Union said: "This event represents two of the core values for DMU and DSU, equality and diversity."

Salima's cutting comments

A successful graduate returned to DMU to talk about her experiences in the fashion industry and share her story of how to run your own business.

Salima Hussain-Chowdhury

graduated in 2000 after studying at the School of Fashion and Textiles and her hard work and determination has seen her progress through the industry to where she is today, running her own design consultancy company called Sachy Ltd.

Salima said: "I learnt so much from the course at DMU it was fantastic and the teachers were inspirational."

Taking ideas to the top

Leicester's elected mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby, met with DMU students to discuss their ideas to improve the city. Sir Peter heard the results so far of DMU students' 100 Ideas For Leicester.

The project, run by the Department of Politics and Public Policy's DMU Policy Commission, will see students come up with ideas to improve the city, based on interviews with city residents, businesses, workers and community groups.

Inside story on BBC careers

First year Journalism students were given a fantastic opportunity when a BBC editor came in to talk about what it is like to work for the world's oldest national broadcasting organisation.

Lucy Collins, BBC Radio Leicester's programmes editor, was invited to speak to students at the Leicester Centre for Journalism, at DMU, to give them an insider's perspective on how you go about finding a job with the BBC.

It is another example of DMU's commitment to help students prepare for the world of work by bringing in experts.

Teaming up with cricket professionals

DMU is the new official sponsor of Leicestershire County Cricket Club, writes **Jack Brooke-Battersby**.

The club will give students expert coaching, allow them to experience the day in the life of a professional cricketer, use the indoor and outdoor nets at Grace Road as well as offer free tickets for some matches.

Leicestershire's first team will run out onto the pitch in shirts emblazoned with DMU's logo and the players will continue to use the university's state-of-the-art Queen Elizabeth leisure centre.

Gold standard for green vision

DMU has been named one of the UK's greenest universities in a league table published in the Guardian.

The university also recorded its highest ever position in the league being placed 11th out of 151 institutions.

The People and Planet University League, is the UK's only comprehensive and independent green ranking of universities. DMU is one of 30 universities to achieve a 'First' in the 2015 league, and this marks the fourth year in a row in which it has achieved a First Class award, the highest possible. The award is assessed by looking at DMU's policies, action plans and actual performance including energy generation and carbon emissions.

DMU has always taken a proactive approach to

addressing environmental and sustainability issues. The recent installation of solar panels on a number of buildings is already generating cleaner electricity, and the implementation of an environmental management system is assessing the university's largest environmental impacts and setting out plans to reduce them. Initiatives such as the Green Impact campaign and Student Switch Off mean that every member of the DMU community is able to work towards making the university a greener place.

Alongside innovative degrees such as the Architecture and Sustainability MSc, looking at the creation of green buildings, and the Climate Change and Sustainable Development MSc, DMU has taken steps to embed education for sustainable development

within many taught courses.

Recent travel initiatives have also increased cycling rates amongst staff to around four times the national average. Work to measure the environmental impact of the university's procurement and supply activities which includes staff and student travel and commuting, emissions from waste and water, and our supply chain emissions has been used as a benchmark for other HE institutions to follow.

Karl Letten, environmental and sustainability officer said: "To be placed 11th, our highest placing to date, is a fantastic achievement."

Hannah Smith, who compiled the People and Planet University League, said: "We're particularly impressed with the work DMU is doing to evaluate the climate risks associated with their investments as well as a strong commitment to education for sustainability. People and Planet rate DMU as one of the UK's most progressive universities for environmental and ethical standards."

Fuelling the debate

The energy efficiency expert who first coined the term 'fuel poverty' has given a talk at DMU about the issue. Dr Brenda Boardman is an Emeritus Fellow of the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Unit and has been one of the leading figures on energy policy for several decades.

She came to DMU to speak about the ongoing issue of fuel poverty – said to be where a household cannot afford to keep their home adequately warm 'at a reasonable cost' given their income.

Paul Eccleshare, Energy Manager at DMU, said: "These kinds of meetings are going on all the time, and fuel poverty is an important issue for a number of reasons, one of which is health wise. Energy efficiency is also important for DMU. From a cost basis, any money we save can be put back into education, and from a climate change point of view we are always trying to cut emissions."

Hot & cool

Inaugural Winter Ball sees degree success celebrated in style

Superstar DJ Zane Lowe headlined the first ever DMU Winter Ball - a lavish affair laid on by the university and De Montfort's Students' Union (DSU) as part of a ongoing commitment to a great student experience.

Top covers band iPop, who have played for the Queen and Prince Charles, and performed with Tinie Tempah, Ellie Goulding and Robbie Williams, also added to the glitter of the ball, arranged after students said they wanted a formal way to celebrate their degree.

The hot ticket saw them entertained by street performers, who created a carnival atmosphere outside the venue, while inside there was a fun casino, cocktails and food.

After Zane Lowe's DJ set brought the ball, at the Athena Leicester venue, to a close, an after-party at DSU's Level 1 venue topped off a night which was all about providing students with a fantastic experience and celebrating their hard work and dedication to their studies.

DMU has been named as one of the top 40 universities in the country for student satisfaction.

DMU went up 16 places from 55 to 39 in the Times Higher Education magazine's 2014 Student Experience Survey.

The annual study, the higher education sector's benchmark of students' views, was published just a week after DMU leapt 10 places up the table in the UK's Complete University Guide.

Students were asked to rate their university in 21 areas including social life, community atmosphere, accommodation, security and tuition.

DMU has been ranked 54th in the Sunday Time Guide, thanks to our great record on graduate employment and our determination to provide an excellent student experience.



DJ Zane Lowe gave the event a superstar touch; clockwise, the glittering event was arranged after students said they wanted a fun and formal way to celebrate their degrees.



The inaugural DMU Winter Ball was a suitably lavish affair; right, the coolest ticket in town!

They'll always have Paris

One of the world's finest lingerie brands has offered two Contour Fashion students the chance to work with them in Paris.

Ellie Balwako and Hannah Jones will spend the summer with Aubade after impressing judges with their designs in a competition for students at DMU.

The contest was run by LECTRA, a world-leading technology company which supports the fashion industry, and luxury lingerie company Aubade, renowned for its use of high-end fabrics and innovative design.

It was the first time the contest had been run. Final-year DMU students were asked to develop a

Advice from Olympian

Sarah Winckless, who won bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympics and was world champion in 2005 and 2006, came to DMU to run workshops and talk to PhD students about how they can manage their studies.

Four lecturers and researchers at DMU – Dr Catherine Flick, Dr Matt Jones, Dr Laurice Fretwell and Dr Louise Dunford – also came along

six-piece collection on the theme of English handwriting, using LECTRA's Modaris pattern making technology.

The prize was originally for just one student to have an internship but judges were so impressed they offered both a six-month role.

to answer questions and offer advice as part of a panel session.

It was organised by DMU's Graduate School as part of a new series of events being run alongside the university's current researcher training package.

There are about 750 postgraduate research students at DMU, of whom around 100 study overseas.

Influential leadership acknowledged

A senior DMU figure has been recognised in the 2015 Debrett's 500 list of the most influential people in Britain.

Ian Blatchford, Chairman of the DMU Board of Governors, was included in the list published in The Sunday Times. The prestigious list names the 'people of influence and achievement in British society' and acknowledges inspiration and leadership.

Mr Blatchford has been recognised for his work as director of the Science Museum Group, which includes the London Science Museum and the National Railway Museum in York. Debrett's describes Ian as "passionate about the role of museums in raising scientific debate and literacy for all ages."

He has previously worked for the Bank of England, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the Royal Academy of Arts, the Arts Council, and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Comedy connection is helpful, no question

Students were thrilled when comedian Steve Punt came to DMU to record an episode of hit BBC Radio 4 quiz show The 3rd Degree.

The show, hosted by Punt, of Mock the Week and Horrible Histories fame, is recorded on location at a different university each week. DMU was picked as one of the six venues for the new series, to be broadcast in April, when listeners will find out whether

academics or students won the day.

The 3rd Degree producer is David Tyler, for Pozzitive, whose credits include Spitting Image, Thanks a Lot Milton Jones! and Cabin Pressure. Thanks to an informal Q&A session after the show by producer David, some of DMU's Radio Production students got to find out how a BBC programme is set up, recorded and then broadcast to the nation.

And Demon Media students interviewed Steve Punt for their newspaper and radio station.



Student radio producer Josh Munday interviewed Steve after the show: "I am loving being at DMU! I got to interview one of my heroes. I first started listening to him on the radio when I was at school. This is a massive experience to put on my profile for my radio career."

James Hinckley, who is also DJ

for Demon FM's daytime Tension show, took on one of his Film Studies lecturers Dr James Russell. After the quiz, he said: "This experience is testament to what DMU is about – it offers a lot of extra-curricular activities and this one was a laugh, really enjoyable, and now I'm going to be on national radio too."



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It has a twin bedroom, open plan kitchen and lounge. The kitchen has a 4-ring hob, oven, microwave, toaster and washing machine. There is a family sized bathroom. The lounge has a sofa (which converts into two more single beds) and a table to seat four. A TV, DVD and CD player are also available. Both the lounge and bedroom have patio doors which open onto the balcony offering views over the swimming pool and across Lagos. There is ample car parking space in front of the building.

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A taste of life with dysphagia

Puréed lasagne, sloppy mashed potato and thickened orange juice were just some of the things three students from DMU put on their menu for five days to highlight the challenges faced by people experiencing dysphagia – a condition that makes it difficult to swallow.

Jo White, Olivia Hallam and Rosa Stoppard Holden, studying BSc Human Communication: Speech and Language Therapy have been learning about dysphagia and how it affects the quality of life for many people with dementia as well as those who have had a stroke, brain injury and many other conditions.

Speech and language therapists will meet many patients throughout their career with dysphagia and may recommend they change their diet. Jo, Olivia and Rosa decided they should do more to understand the condition and raise awareness about it among health workers, fellow students and the

wider public, so they put themselves on a diet where they could only eat pureed food and thickened drinks, while being sponsored to raise money for Dementia UK.

They kept their own blogs about the experience, which included cooking videos, recipe tips and advice for producing pureed food, listed facts and figures about dysphagia and have raised more

than £1,000 in the process. Vitality, they also passed on their findings to a conference full of students, pharmacists, social workers and psychologists as part of their awareness campaign.

Rosa said: "A lot of the things we read online explained what dysphagia was but did not go into the experience of living on pureed food."

App help on autism

Mums whose children have autism have worked with programmers at DMU to develop an app to help the youngsters.

AutisMe allows families affected by the condition to download personal information which can then be shown to anyone, such as teachers, friends, carers or employers. It provides at-a-glance information on likes, dislikes, signs

of stress and things to avoid for those reading it.

Dr Yasmin Delargy and friend Alison Lehman, who have children with autism, came up with the idea of the app and approached DMU to help develop it.

Dr Samad Ahmadi of the university's Vir.AL research group, invited them to the Hackathon, which sees developers from DMU, Leicester University, Microsoft, Leicestershire County Council and other organisations come together to develop software solutions to issues.

Feasts of colour at King's birthday bash

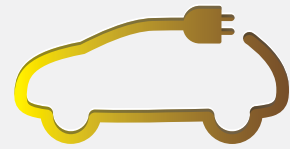
DMU celebrated the King of Thailand's birthday in style on campus with traditional dance and Muay Thai boxing performances.

The Thai King is the longest-reigning monarch in the world, having served for 68 years. His birthday holds a special place in the hearts of Thai people and is marked with a national holiday in Thailand.



DMU's Pro-Vice Chancellor for Strategic and International Partnerships James Gardner welcomed students to the event and said: "We are proud of the diversity here at DMU and support all our students in sharing their culture with others."

#DMUglobal is the university's pioneering programme giving students the chance to enjoy a valuable international experience while they study and equip them with the skills which global employers are looking for. The programme offers opportunities on campus, in the UK and all over the world and recently supported nursing students on global placements, including to Thailand.



A bit of a plug for Rafaela's design

A talented international student has designed the branding for an electric car being used in a major research project. Rafaela de Aguiar's work can be seen on the Nissan LEAF used by DMU's acclaimed team from the Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development.

It is being used in work which looks at how to extend the travel range of electric vehicles. Her design of a blue plug and matching slogan ensures that anyone who spots the car on the roads knows about the DMU research.

Rafaela, part-way through a product design degree, said: "It's been good to see my work all over DMU."



Making expert witness

As future digital investigators, DMU's Forensic Computing students will be expected to give evidence in criminal cases or civil disputes - so DMU has arranged for final year students to get expert advice on how best to handle court appearances with Bond Solon, the UK's leading expert witness training provider.

Third year students will be given a masterclass as part of their studies, as part of DMU's continuing commitment to delivering real-world expertise.

Nuclear music gets powerful reaction

Students travelled to Stockholm to make music in a very unusual venue – a former nuclear reactor.

The Music, Technology and Performance students from DMU played a gig during a visit to the Royal College of Music, Sweden. The exchange was organised as

part of their studies, enabling them to create and write electronic music with their Swedish counterparts.

After a week they unveiled their collaboration in the unique space, Sweden's first experimental nuclear reactor, R1, which is 500 metres deep beneath Stockholm

city centre.

DMU's Music, Technology and Performance course is aimed at musicians experienced in performance and music technology, who want to experiment with innovative ways of performing and interacting with other musicians and artists.

Tolerance project honoured

One of DMU's collaborative partners has been recognised at a major international conference in Oman for promoting religious tolerance, understanding and coexistence.

St Philip's Centre, a Leicester charity which works to enhance interfaith relations and understanding, has been working in partnership with DMU since 2009

to offer postgraduate certificate, diploma and masters courses in inter-religious relations. The courses are taught at St Philip's Centre and accredited by DMU.

The conference in Oman explored the successes and the next steps forward for an exhibition titled Religious Tolerance: Islam in the Sultanate of Oman.

Lisa Allden, partnerships manager for DMU's Educational Partnerships, said: "DMU has always celebrated its diversity and recognises the importance of tolerance in all aspects of society. To know that our association with St Philip's is helping promote those values through education is very satisfying." The patron of St Philip's Centre is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The good news is...

A website and newspaper telling the stories of Leicester's Newfoundpool area has been created by journalism students at DMU.

Residents approached DMU's award-winning Square Mile project, which works to share the skills of staff and students with the community, to ask whether a newsletter could be created to

share news from the area.

Students decide to go one better, creating a 12-page newspaper, overseen by DMU's Director of the Leicester Centre for Journalism in the Leicester Media School, John Dille. DMU prides itself on giving students real-world experiences which will enhance their employability - and as a university which works for the public good, it allowed students to share their

skills to help others.

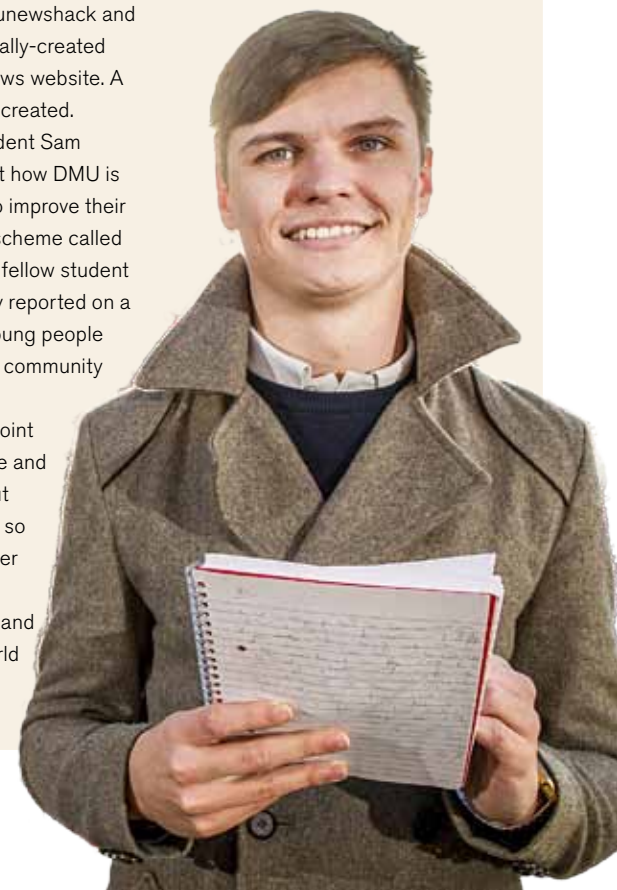
A newsroom was set up in the Leicester Centre for Journalism and students hit the streets to find stories and interview residents.

Stories were tweeted using the hashtag #dmunewshack and posted on a specially-created Newfoundpool news website. A podcast was also created.

Journalism student Sam Smith wrote about how DMU is helping schools to improve their maths through a scheme called Play Dough while fellow student Jonathan Whitney reported on a scheme to give young people more of a voice in community life.

He said: "The point is that Square Mile and journalism is about serving the public so the two go together hand in hand. It's exciting to go out and get some real-world stories."

Newfoundpool





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