

12 months of
research
success

DMU World

Spring 2014

DMU on the
catwalk at

**Shanghai
Fashion
Week**

Centre celebrates

**Chinese
culture**

**DMU
breaks
records**

for UK stem
cell register

‘Hollywood’

effects scoop top
prize for students



Professor Joan Taylor goes Stateside with Bionic Man

Professor Joan Taylor has grabbed headlines across the globe with her revolutionary invention of an artificial pancreas. Now her creation has been on US television

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Welcome...

Welcome to the first edition of DMU World – a celebration of the successes of De Montfort University (DMU).

We are a truly global university and in these pages you will find examples of our growing overseas activities, such as our commitment to give 50 per cent of students an international experience. Back in Leicester, our pledge to provide students with the best possible university experience is exemplified by our multimillion

pound investment in the city centre campus, while our dedication to taking our expertise beyond the campus boundaries to benefit the public is highlighted by some of the remarkable projects undertaken by the DMU Square Mile team.

We hope you enjoy this magazine and look forward to bringing you more DMU success stories in 2014.



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Spring 2014

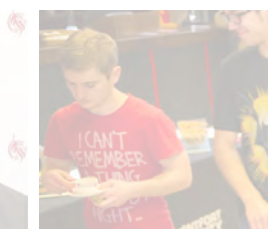
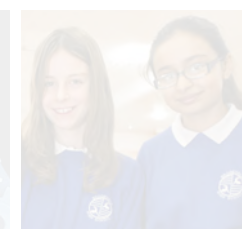


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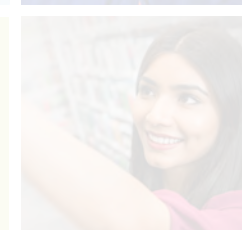
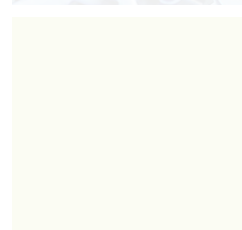
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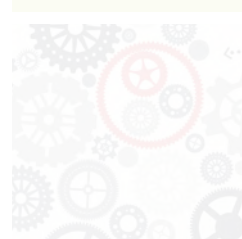
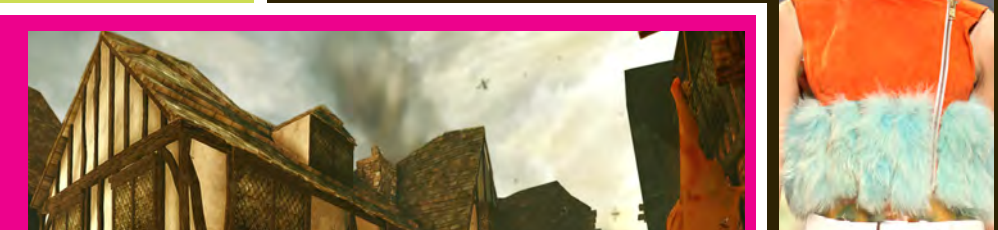
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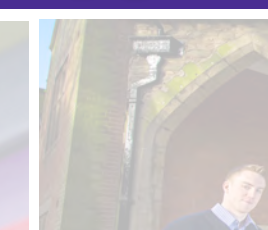
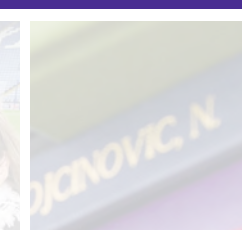
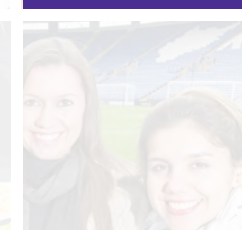
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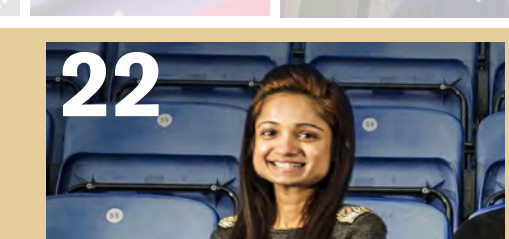
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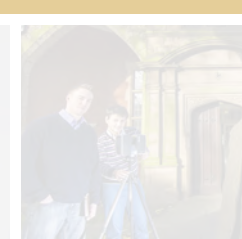
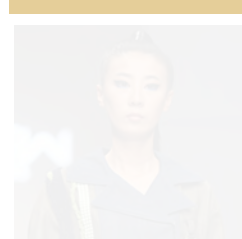
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DMU has helped more than 1,000 people to join the UK stem cell register – and all of them could be potential lifesavers.



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DMU BREAKS RECORDS FOR UK STEM CELL REGISTER

DMU has helped more than 1,000 people to join the UK stem cell register – and all of them could be potential lifesavers.

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World of opportunity for DMU students

The ground-breaking #DMUglobal project aims to offer the majority of DMU students the chance to gain an international experience.

DMU students have been signing up in their droves for #DMUglobal, a trailblazing initiative to provide relevant work and study-related opportunities around the world.

The #DMUglobal pilot project – which has been backed by British Airways – is designed to reflect

the university's global outlook, emphasis on graduate employability and commitment to an unrivalled student experience.

At the moment, only six per cent of UK university students travel overseas as part of their degree.

Through #DMUglobal, the majority of DMU students will have the chance of an overseas experience,

enriching studies and helping them stand out in an increasingly competitive graduate jobs market.

The initiative is the brainchild of Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard, who said: "DMU is proud to be a truly international university. #DMUglobal reflects the importance we place on providing students with a first-class experience and equipping them with the employability skills to prepare them for the world of work.

"DMU is able to call upon its extensive network of global partners to make some incredible opportunities available to our students.

"We strongly believe that in this increasingly globalised world, living, studying or working abroad – even if just for a short time – can make a significant difference to your outlook and development as well as adding value to your degree."

A pilot programme will see DMU team up with partner universities and businesses around the world to offer its students the chance to work and study in places such as Brazil, Japan, China, Italy, Hong Kong, India and Turkey.

The 2014 pilot programme includes:

- Four, fortnight-long internships in São Paulo, Brazil, two with the football World Cup Organising Committee and two with BM&F Bovespa, ranked among the



The #DMUglobal launch at the university's Campus Centre.

world's biggest stock exchanges.

- Chances to work in DMU's regional offices in Beijing and Nanjing, China, and in Delhi, India.
- Eight-week China internships, in association with the British Council's Generation UK campaign.
- An amazing summer study programme based at Kyushu University in the Japanese coastal city of Fukuoka.

#DMUglobal was launched with a host of activities in the university's Campus Centre.

Andrew Akinola, 20, a third year Law student said: "Something like this is great for a student and I have already signed up to say that I'm interested. I like going abroad and it will look good on my CV."



Jasmine Pearce, 19, a second year Arts and Festival Management student, said: "To be able to gain experience abroad and not just in the UK is really valuable, especially in the industry

that we want to get into." Kiran Kaur said on Twitter: "Amazing initiative #DMUglobal I am proud to be a student here!"

For more details on the scheme, visit www.dmuglobal.com.

DMU named one of UK's top creative universities

For the second year running, a leading survey has named DMU as one of the top creative universities in the UK.

The views of more than 16,000 students were gathered for the latest Which? University poll and DMU emerged as one of the UK's top creative universities.

Students were asked to rate their university on the role that music, theatre, art and dance played in university life, as well as the amount of art-related societies, events and facilities open to students.

It was the second year running that DMU received the accolade in the survey, which reveals the top-rated universities in a variety of areas – including creativity, sport and nightlife.

Professor Dominic Shellard, Vice-Chancellor of DMU, said: "To know that for the second year running students have named DMU as one of the UK's top creative universities is a tribute to the innovation of our staff and the quality of our facilities.

"It also reflects the excellent employability rates for our students

and the exciting internships that we offer, be it with Ubisoft, Gap, Hugo Boss or Hewlett Packard.

"We are proud that DMU offers outstanding creative courses, from our world-renowned Contour Fashion degree to Game Art Design, the first industry accredited game art course in England.

"Over the next two years we will also be undergoing our most ambitious campus transformation project yet, with £90 million being spent on state-of-the-art buildings and facilities.

"The centrepiece of this will be the development of a new complex for students in the Faculty of Art, Design and Humanities, which will be one of the most dynamic environments for creative students to work anywhere in the world."

Which? University is a free website designed to help students make more informed higher education decisions.



DMU's Contour Fashion degree is world-renowned.

“

Through #DMUglobal, the majority of DMU students will have the chance of an overseas experience

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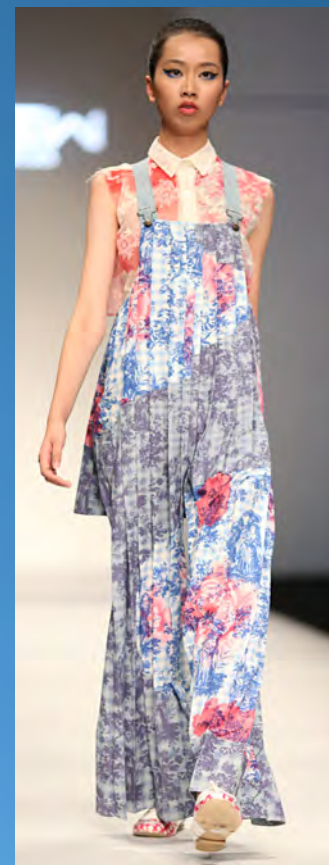
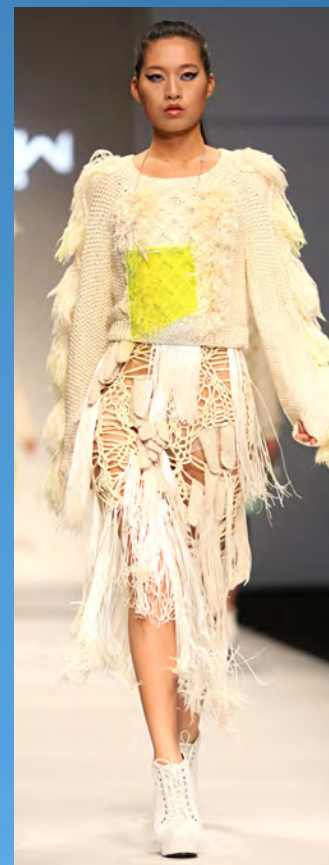
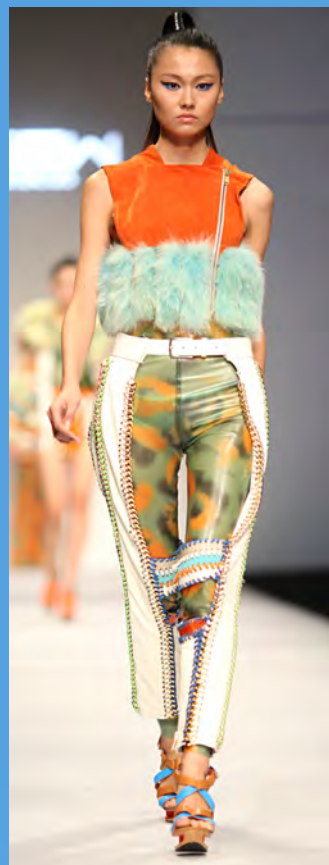


“

An extensive network of global partners makes some incredible opportunities available for our students

”

From left, designs by DMU Fashion Design graduates Bryony Moss, Austin Perry, Sarah Moran, Helen Senior, Naomi Lobley and Lizzie Arthur.



Shanghai surprises

Six graduates from DMU have joined some of China's biggest names in fashion showcasing their designs in Shanghai.

China is one of the most exciting fashion centres in the world – making it a perfect place to show off designs conceived at DMU.

Collections by DMU fashion design graduates Lizzie Arthur, Austin Perry, Bryony Moss, Helen

Senior, Sarah Moran and Naomi Lobley hit the runway at Shanghai Fashion Week in front of an international audience.

The showcase included Lizzie's farmwear-inspired collection, which features decorative prints and pleats; Bryony's country sports designs,

which include embroidery and printed illustrations, inspired by her upbringing in Northumberland; and Helen's menswear collection with roots in traditional British tailoring.

Lizzie said: "I was really excited to have my collection seen at Shanghai Fashion Week. It was great exposure for an up-and-coming designer."

Bryony added: "It was nice that my collection, which was largely inspired by where I live, was on display to another culture. It was great exposure and a fantastic opportunity for my work to be seen by a wide audience."

Helen said: "It is so exciting that my work is being shown in different

areas of the world and cultures."

Austin's brightly coloured 'biker chick' designs were also on show – fresh off the catwalk from the International Retail Awards in Paris – along with Sarah's designs inspired by her childhood, incorporating prints and photographs from her home town of Leamington Spa.

Sarah said: "To be chosen as part of such an amazing opportunity was so exciting. It can only help me to progress in the industry and develop contacts."

The six-strong DMU team was completed by Naomi, a former UK Knitted Textile Designer of the Year,

and her collection featuring traditional vintage cable knitwear patterns.

Now in its 11th year, Shanghai Fashion Week saw some of the biggest Chinese designers showcasing their new collections, including fashion pioneer Helen Lee – one of the leading figures in the Shanghai fashion scene – and Tony Wear, designer of one of the most successful men's fashion brands in the country.

And as well as attracting top designers, the event also drew in media and buyers from all over the globe, providing important exposure for the recent graduates who are establishing themselves as up-and-

coming designers in the industry.

It was the second time the graduates' designs have taken to the catwalk following a show at London's Graduate Fashion Week in June 2013, which featured work by the UK's best fashion graduates.

This time their work graced the catwalk in a joint show with the University of Minnesota in the US and one of DMU's international partners, Shanghai University of Engineering Science.

With more than 70 pieces of clothing and accessories on show from the three fashion schools, the catwalk showcased a diverse range of designs from different cultures.

Marvellous Mia bags fashion title

DMU graduate Yu-Shan Li has been crowned Accessory Designer of the Year at a glittering ceremony in Birmingham.

It was the "quirky and innovative" creations of Yu-Shan Li which wowed the judges at the Midlands Fashion Awards.

Her designs were chosen ahead of established brands to win the Accessory Designer of the Year title. Her collection, based on origami techniques, was for an accessory piece that could be worn as a hooded cape, a scarf or turned into a bag.

"It was a shock," said Yu-Shan, who is also known as Mia. "I am very pleased to win. It was an exciting night."

International student Mia's display showed the range of accessories she had developed as part of her Design Innovation MA degree major project work at DMU.

"The design is based on dual personality," she said.

"I wanted to create something that showed two different aspects of the mind."

Her work is made on double-sided, sustainable cotton and pure wool, edged with leather and fastened with press studs and zips.

The collection included a range of different bag designs, scarf forms and capes for men and women.

The prize was sponsored by Curvaceous Inc magazine and handed out by ITV presenter Lucy Kite at the awards ceremony in Birmingham.

The success is another accolade for DMU, which is known for helping creative students develop and for teaching practical skills which help their work stand out.

Dr Emily Baines, programme leader for the Design Innovation (MA) course, said: "This project exemplifies the type of design and approach of the course, combining creative design with marketing strategy to develop innovative products."

The judges described Mia's designs as quirky and innovative and added: "It was a wearable range with a funky twist."



Yu-Shan Li

‘Hollywood’

effects scoop top prize for students

Six DMU Game Art Design students have attracted global attention after winning a prize at Europe’s biggest video game festival.

More than 100 national and international media outlets, including the BBC, CNN and Daily Mail covered the story when six DMU students won a top competition at the GameCity festival.

Recreating the streets that went up in flames during the Great Fire of London for the setting of a video game earned the award for the Game Art Design team.

Students Chelsea Lindsay, Luc Fontenoy, Dan Hargreaves, Joe Dempsey, Daniel Peacock and Dom Bell were crowned the winners of the ‘Off the Map’ competition at the event in Nottingham.

Sponsored by the British Library and global video game company Crytek, students were asked to build interactive gaming environments inspired by the library’s historic cartographic map collection.



From left, Luc Fontenoy, Joe Dempsey, Dom Bell, Chelsea Lindsay, Dan Hargreaves and Daniel Peacock.

The efforts of the team from DMU, named Pudding Lane Productions, certainly impressed the judges.

Tom Harper, who is curator of cartographic materials at the British Library, said: “Some of these vistas would not look at all out of place as special effects in a Hollywood studio production.

“The haze effect lying over the city is brilliant and great attention has been given to key features of London Bridge, the wooden structure of Queenshithe on the river, even the glittering window casements.”

Using CryENGINE, a form of 3D technology used to create games, the competition challenged students from 11 universities to develop a playable game level – using the world-famous maps as a starting point.

Images from the team’s award-winning fly-through.



Set in 17th-century London – in and around Pudding Lane, where the Great Fire of London broke out in September 1666 – the team’s three-dimensional fly-through grabbed the attention of the judges

with its realism and attention to detail, showing tightly packed streets and lanes of the capital city.

Chelsea Lindsay, who is now on a year-long internship with BMW in Munich, said: “It’s great that

our hard work has paid off and we were successful in getting our concepts across.”

Joe Dempsey added: “We are so pleased to win this award. The Game Art Design course at DMU is fantastic and the competition allowed us to put our creative skills to great use.”

To recreate how the streets would have looked, the students researched detailed maps of London from the 1600s, as well as visiting museums and different architecture from the era, such as The Shambles in York and Shakespeare’s birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon.

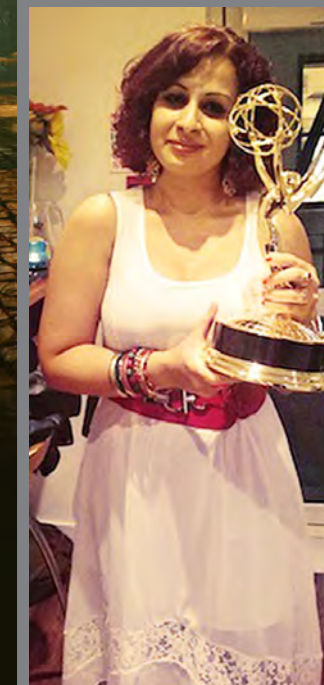
GameCity director Iain Simons said: “The Pudding Lane team’s entry was brilliant, using historic artifacts and cutting-edge technology to help show both in a new light.”

Heather Williams, senior lecturer in 3D Visualisation on DMU’s Game Art Design course, said: “DMU is renowned for its creativity and innovation and I’m so pleased to see the hard work of our students reflected through industry achievements such as this.”

Emmy win

for DMU graduate

Spectacular digital images of the Second World War, created by a DMU graduate, have won one of US television’s most prestigious accolades.



“About 80 per cent of the 90-minute show was created digitally,” explained Ajanta.

“Initially, we were a team of eight but we had to hire more towards the deadline. It was aired in the US and it was a huge success.”

As lead compositor, Ajanta, who did a PhD at DMU in interactive media in 2009, spent time in the archives of the National Museum in London, searching the photographs. From there, images were scanned and digitised using specialist software.

“Everything has an aerial view and it pans down from there to where the action is happening,” Ajanta said.

“We had to alter the pictures graphically to show explosions, fire and smoke, for example.”

Ajanta, who is from Calcutta, is still in touch with her DMU supervisor Nick Higgett.

“I learned a lot working on this project,” she said.

“I have never worked with archive shots before and there was a lot of graphic-heavy work involved.”

Ajanta Chatterjee, above, credits DMU with “starting her 3D career” – work which has now led to an Emmy Award.

Ajanta was part of a team who put together the programme *World War 2 From Space* for the History Channel, which won the outstanding graphic design and art direction prize at the US television awards event.

The team, from a company called Primefocus, spent six months working on the project, which aims to show the war from a bird’s eye view.

It meant that they had to pore over images of the war and redesign the pictures to make them appear 3D – giving viewers an aerial view of the drama unfolding beneath.

“
We had to alter the pictures graphically to show explosions, fire and smoke

Ajanta Chatterjee

”

Joan's invention goes Stateside



Joan Taylor and the bionic man.

Professor Joan Taylor has grabbed headlines across the globe with her revolutionary invention of an artificial pancreas. Now her creation has been on US television.

The story of how a 'bionic man' was built using the world's most cutting-edge prosthetic limbs and bionic organs – including an artificial pancreas created by De Montfort University (DMU) – has been broadcast on television in the United States.

The Incredible Bionic Man documentary was shown on the Smithsonian Channel and followed an unveiling of the six-foot-tall robot at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington.

The world's first bionic man was built entirely from synthetic body parts and organs, 28 of the most advanced artificial body parts ever made.

Professor Taylor said: "Being involved in the creation of the robot and the documentary has been amazing. It has attracted huge interest and has provided great exposure for the device.

"During the process I have enjoyed being able to link up with other researchers carrying out work

in the area of artificial organs to discuss similar problems that we've encountered."

Her revolutionary creation contains a reservoir of insulin kept in place by a special gel barrier. When glucose levels in the body rise, the gel liquefies and releases the insulin to the liver – mimicking the normal pancreas. As the insulin lowers glucose levels, the gel reacts by hardening again and preserving the reservoir.

It could mean the end of multiple insulin injections for sufferers of Type 1 diabetes – a large proportion of whom are at risk of over or under-medicating with current treatment methods.

The documentary was first broadcast on Channel 4 in the UK in 2013 with a simultaneous exhibition in the Science Museum in London, attracting hundreds of visitors.

The bionic man was then unveiled in the US during New York Comic Con, a huge pop culture event. He has also made appearances on some of the biggest TV shows in the country, including CBS This Morning, Inside Edition and the Today Show.

“Being involved in the creation of the robot has been amazing”
Joan Taylor

£14.6m grant to help train next generation of arts researchers

DMU and five other Midlands universities have secured a prized £14.6 million grant to train the next generation of arts and humanities researchers.

The new Midlands Three Cities Consortium is a doctoral training partnership (DTP) which will bring together six universities in the cities of Leicester, Birmingham and Nottingham.

The £14.6 million grant from the Arts and Humanities Research

Council will be match-funded by the consortium universities and the project will provide funding and training for 410 PhD student places over five years.

The consortium unites arts and humanities schools and departments at DMU, the University of Leicester, University of Birmingham, Birmingham City University, The University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.

Barbara Matthews, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty

of Art, Design and Humanities at DMU, said: "DMU's commitment to creativity and innovation, supported by internationally recognised academics, will underpin its contribution to this consortium and enable PhD students from around the world to enjoy the best-possible conditions within which to study and develop."

The Midlands Three Cities DTP will work closely with a number of partner organisations, including the British Museum in London and Curve theatre in Leicester, to offer exciting placement opportunities for postgraduate students.



Graduate lands job with global lingerie giant

Chih-Chin Chu is working with a leading international lingerie manufacturer just months after finishing her studies at DMU.

An international student from Taiwan has returned to her home country armed with a DMU degree and a job with one of



Chih-Chin Chu

the world's best-known lingerie brands.

Within months of completing her Contour Fashion course at De Montfort University, Chih-Chin Chu has landed a job as a technical design assistant at the Taiwan base of global lingerie manufacturer Triumph.

Born and raised in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, the 22-year-old is now living in the nearby city of Taoyun because of her new job and is delighted with the way her DMU degree helped her on her route to employment.

"Because I specialised in

the subject, because of my knowledge of lingerie and because of my well-prepared portfolio, I got a job interview quickly at Triumph Taiwan," she said, "and then it was down to me showing my professional attitude.

"In my job at Triumph I am just starting to get familiar with all the paperwork right now. Because we work with Triumph Hong Kong and Triumph Japan, every stage has lots of paperwork. I also help with my designer to do some minor changes of pattern and I get

chances to be involved with the fitting process."

Chih-Chin, also known as Jean, graduated in July 2013 after first hearing about DMU's world-renowned Contour Fashion course while she was studying at a college in Brighton.

Chih-Chin added: "I was very interested in fashion, so I was planning to apply for a fashion degree course when I saw the DMU brochure.

"The DMU course is quite a unique speciality in the fashion industry. In the second year we had the chance to work with clients such as Marks & Spencer, H&M and Gossard. The course has a good relationship with the industry and a very good reputation."



A design by Chih-Chin Chu.

“We had the chance to work with clients such as Marks & Spencer, H&M and Gossard”
Chih-Chin Chu

Lizzie is county's Young Business Executive of the Year

A DMU graduate who started a successful company while still studying has been named Leicestershire's Young Business Executive of the Year.

Lizzie Leary formed Kindred Sole, a hugely successful online retail company, with Beth Widdowson.

She was awarded the title at the Leicester Mercury Business Executive of the Year Awards, set up by the newspaper to recognise the leaders and talent across the

county's business community.

DMU places huge emphasis on employability and has many initiatives to ensure students and graduates get the best-possible start on the career ladder.

Its Enterprise Inc mentoring programme for start-ups helped Lizzie and Beth form Kindred Sole when they were studying Retail Buying. It offered a year's support package including business advice, mentoring and funding.

Lizzie said: "It feels amazing

and very significant for me to be recognised in the city where my business began. I started in Leicester and always wanted to stay nearby because of my strong connections with DMU.

"I've had very strong support from the university."

Judges said Lizzie had shown exceptional ability and true leadership in developing Kindred Sole, which has now moved to Coalville.

"In the past 12 months, we've consistently grown the business and year on year we are doubling in terms of revenue," Lizzie said.

"We are generating relationships with new designers and have some exciting shoe designers as well as recognised names."

In 2012, the company was awarded second place for Footwear Brand of the Year at the coveted Footwear Industry Awards.



Lizzie Leary

Professor Dominic Shellard
lays flowers at the Raj Ghat
Gandhi Memorial.



International awards for DMU

DMU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard has followed in the footsteps of former US president Bill Clinton and the Dalai Lama in receiving a top award in India.

DMU's innovative Square Mile project, which has worked with thousands of local residents since 2011, has now received international recognition.

DMU Vice-Chancellor Dominic Shellard was humbled to be

presented with the Mahatma Gandhi Seva Medal, for services to society, for devising the pioneering project.

DMU itself was also presented with the Mahatma Gandhi International Award, given to organisations that make a "distinguished contribution" to the

community. The awards – both recognition of DMU's commitment to be a public good – were presented in front of an international audience during a day of celebrations held in Delhi, India.

They were presented by the Gandhi Global Family, an international charity which spreads Mahatma Gandhi's message of helping others.

The Square Mile project uses university skills and expertise to help people living near DMU's city

centre campus. Prof Shellard said: "Unbeknown to me, the Gandhi Global Family visited the Square Mile last summer to talk to residents, staff and students alike. They were so impressed by the impact that the projects were having that they decided to bestow these two awards on DMU."

"I have been overwhelmed by the gracious way in which these awards have been presented. The kindness of the Gandhi Global Family, the generosity of their members and

their interest in the concept of public good at our university is humbling in every sense of the word."

Prof Shellard and Dean of International James Gardner accepted the university's award on behalf of staff and students, who volunteer their time on projects which make a difference to the community.

During a day of vibrant celebrations in Delhi, DMU delegates were invited to the Raj Ghat Gandhi Memorial, a VIP visit normally

reserved for heads of state, and the Birla House Gandhi Museum – the site of Gandhi's assassination. Professor Shellard was invited to lay flowers at both sites.

The award ceremony came during a visit by a delegation from DMU to open the university's new India Liaison Office in Delhi. The office will oversee and deliver the development of DMU's international strategy in India, including student recruitment and academic partnerships.



Professor Shellard at DMU's new Delhi office.



Professor Shellard speaks at the awards ceremony.



Professor Shellard receives a gift of a model charkha – a type of spinning wheel.

Biscuit decorating at the Summer in the Square Mile event.



Times Higher praise

There was more success for Square Mile when the pioneering programme was highly commended in the prestigious Times Higher Education Awards 2013.

It received the recognition in the 'Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community' category of the national education awards.

The Square Mile project was set up by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard in 2011 and he was delighted by this latest honour.

Professor Shellard said: "This is an important recognition for the university, the community and everyone who works hard to make the Square Mile project such a success."

"At DMU we passionately believe that higher education plays a key role in society and that universities should be a public good."

"I am keen to ensure that, as a

truly global university, DMU continues to make a positive contribution to the development of the Leicester area, as well as further afield."

Residents in the project area, which covers approximately one square mile, are given the opportunity to take part in classes and events which could help to improve health, education and job prospects and create a greater sense of community.

In the 2012/13 academic year, more than 5,000 members of the community participated in more than 40 Square Mile projects and events and some 499 DMU students gave up 6,784 hours of their time to help out.

In that time, more than 400 people received help managing diabetes, 150 people received free hearing tests, 120 children took part in a dance project and more than 100 residents received free English classes.

Square Mile is
a record-breaker
See Page 18



Maths magicians

DMU academics are using their expertise to help primary school children achieve top maths results.



Senior lecturer in accounting and finance Aaron Toogood has worked with DMU's Square Mile team to launch Square Mile Mathletics, part of the university's ongoing commitment to use its expertise beyond the campus boundaries for the public good. The aim is to help support the youngsters in achieving level 6 maths at Key Stage Two. The exam is equivalent to maths taught to first year GCSE students.

DMU's award-winning Square Mile project uses the expertise of academics, staff and students to make a difference to the lives of people in the community.

With schools judged on how many children achieve or exceed levels 4 or 5 at Key Stage 2, this project aims to increase the number of children exceeding level 5 – and in the process help improve the standing of primary schools in Leicester.

It also hopes to raise the aspirations of young people who would perhaps not normally consider going to university.

David Hollis, operations manager at Square Mile, said: "This project will have a profound impact on schools, in terms of increasing the number of

children over-achieving in primary level maths and as a result help improve schools' standings in the national league tables. Pupils said they loved the new lessons."

Montrose Primary School pupil Brent Navallo said: "It has been really good fun. I have learned quite a lot, for example interior angles and how you work them out."

Ashleigh Farrell-Chapman, of Christ the King, Glenfield Road, added: "Maths is my favourite subject. I have learned a lot of new stuff."

Jay Virk, head of Rowlatts Hill School, said: "Pupils came back buzzing with their brains challenged, already wanting to stay after school to follow up on extra homework – really captivated."

DMU breaks records for UK stem cell register

A drive to encourage students to sign up to the UK stem cell register has recruited hundreds of people – who could all be potential lifesavers.

Student volunteers from DMU Square Mile joined forces with the Rik Basra Leukaemia Trust and charity Delete Blood Cancer to organise a recruitment event at Leicester's Highcross shopping centre.

The event was run with charity Delete Blood Cancer, which registers people aged 17 to 55 on



to the UK stem cell register. As a result of the hard work of student volunteers, more than 700 people signed the register in only 11 hours.

DMU Square Mile manager Mark Charlton said: "This is just an incredible result.

"We had such a good response from our students who all wanted to be part of a campaign which could save someone's life. DMU is committed to being a public good and this is a tremendous cause."

The students were all trained in

the recruitment process and helped people to join the register by filling in consent forms and taking cheek swabs.

Leicestershire police officer Inspector Rik Basra contracted acute myeloid leukaemia, a form of blood cancer, four years ago and found a donor just in time to save his life.

He said: "We had the most amazing day and to register 709 donors was fantastic. Thank you to each and every one of you who joined."

It means DMU has helped more than 1,000 people join the UK stem cell register as potential lifesavers. The recruitment event follows a successful drive held at DMU's campus in March 2013 during which 366 people signed up – a new record for the single largest recruitment drive by a university.

Rik's wife Kas said: "It's very important, 72 people a day are diagnosed as having a blood cancer and only 50 per cent of those find a match, so it's absolutely vital."

Samantha is top of the glass

Glassware specialist and DMU graduate Samantha Donaldson has scooped a top prize at a prestigious design fair in London.

Samantha Donaldson's newly developed range of glass jewellery, as well as her larger sculptured pieces, helped her land an award at the Made London Design and Craft Fair in Marylebone.

Awarded by the Design Trust, her prize for the 'most promising creative and entrepreneurial design maker' makes her the third DMU graduate to win an award for her designs inside two months.

Graduate Bethan Gray was named the Best British Designer at the 2013 Elle Decoration Awards and Mia (Yu-Shan) Li was awarded the title of Accessory Designer of

the Year at the Midlands Fashion Awards. Graduating from DMU in 2009 with a first class honours degree in Design Crafts, it was during her time at university that Samantha first found herself drawn to working with glass.

She spent a further year at DMU on the university's coveted Artist in Residence scheme before going on to complete a Master's degree.

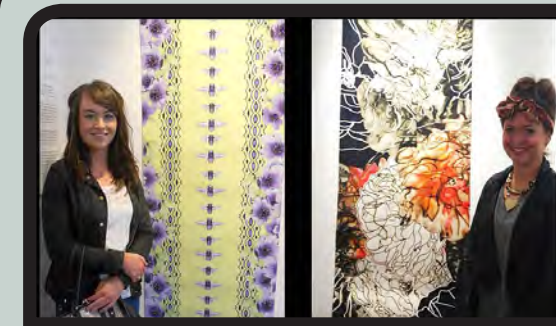
Samantha is now running her own business selling her glass pieces and as part of the prize the Design Trust, an online business school which seeks to aid designers to create and run better businesses, has offered her an intensive coaching programme and

a business club membership with the organisation. The 26-year-old, from Werrington, in Peterborough, said: "My time studying at DMU was an outstanding launch pad for my career.

"The tutors inspired me to achieve and gave me the ambition

to continue my journey. I am so very proud and grateful to the Design Trust for believing in me and for the opportunity of support to help me and to help my business grow."

She added: "I was extremely excited and emotional when the judges awarded me with my plaque and a rosette. Since receiving the award I have been given such positive feedback from the public."



Hannah Slinn, left, and Nina Willsher.

DMU students' creativity to be displayed around Europe

Two Textile Design students are to have their work displayed in exhibitions in two of Europe's major cities.

The quality of wallpaper designs and sketchbooks by DMU students Hannah Slinn and Nina Willsher took them into the finals of the

Annual Camac Student Wallpaper Design Competition in September.

Their work was included in Camac's first European travelling exhibition and went on display at the

Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen.

Wallpaper manufacturing firm Surface Print was so impressed with the quality of Nina's design that it has reprinted her work to feature on their stand at the prestigious Heimtextil trade fair in Frankfurt.

"I was really shocked when I first heard my work had been selected for this and I'm really proud and so happy," said Nina, 21, from Bury St Edmunds.

"It will give my CV a massive boost and hopefully put me at the forefront when I'm looking for a job. You just don't know who might see my work at the trade fair and what might come of it"

Nina is now in the third and final year of her Textiles Design degree course at DMU and hopes to embark on a career in interior textiles.

Specialising in mixed media textiles, she was shortlisted for the Camac Student Wallpaper Design Competition finals in September 2013 and was one of only a few second year students in the graduate-dominated entry list.

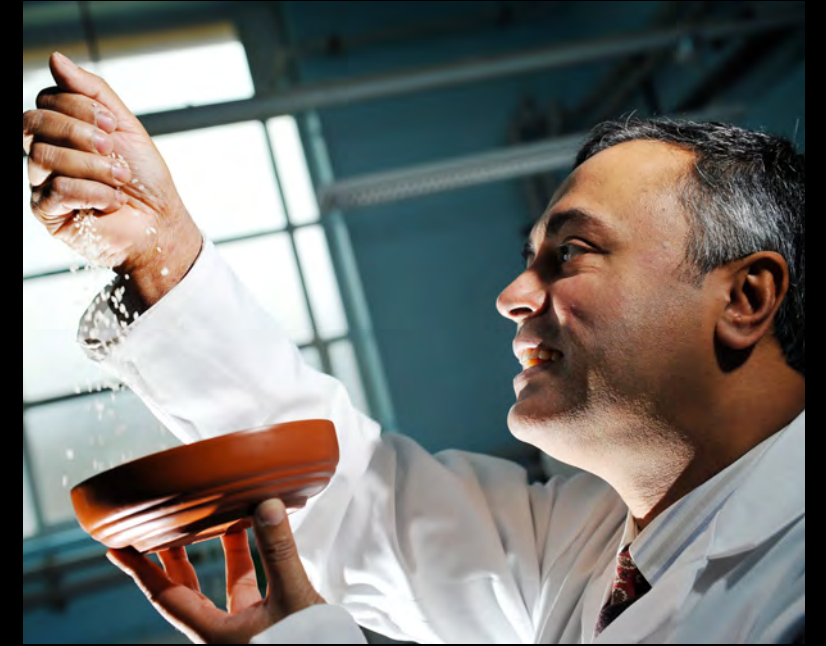
Hannah, 23 from Chesterfield in Derbyshire, who graduated from DMU last summer, won three prizes in that competition. She was Highly Commended in the Best Design category, won the Derwent Drawing Prize for the best drawing/sketchbook, and won a two-week placement at Blackburn-based wallpaper company CWV, including £200 towards travel.

The competition was judged by design experts including Liz Cann, design director for Zoffany and Sanderson, and the students' work was on display at the Imago Gallery in Mayfair as part of the London Design Festival.

Cath Hammerton, senior lecturer in DMU's School of Fashion and Textiles, said: "We are delighted that the high standard of work produced by our students is being recognised and valued by industry professionals.

"It is a great achievement for Nina and Hannah to have their work selected by Camac to be showcased at prestigious events around Europe. We are extremely proud of them and hope this accolade will help them in their future careers."

Clockwise from below: DMU academics are helping to bring electricity to rural villages in the Third World; DMU has been named a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence by the European Commission; The Centre for Comparative Housing Research is looking to solve Britain's housing crisis; DigiLit Leicester helps school staff with IT skills; Dr Parvez Haris has established a link between rice consumption and arsenic exposure; Dr Doug Cawthorne and team bring local heritage projects to life through digital imagery.



12

months of research success

De Montfort University is carrying out research that is combining the highest academic quality with impact on the public good.

- Professor Bernd Stahl, of the Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility, is a member of the EU's flagship Human Brain Project – a 1 billion euro mission to build a virtual brain. Prof Stahl will examine ethical issues presented by the research, such as use of personal data.
- My Electric Avenue, part of a £9 million study, will look at how recharging a multitude of electric vehicles at the same time affects the local electricity grid. DMU's Dr Rupert Gammon is involved in the project, led by EA Technology, Nissan and Ofgem.
- DMU's Digital Building Heritage team, led by Dr Doug Cawthorne, was awarded three grants from the Arts and Humanities Research Council in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The team worked with community groups across England and Wales to help them bring their local heritage projects to life through digital imagery.

- DMU academics are helping to bring electricity to rural villages in the Third World with grants from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Professor Subhes Bhattacharyya is working to bring off-grid electricity to areas of South Asia while Dr Rupert Gammon is developing small independent electricity grids in rural Africa.
- In 2013 DMU became one of only three universities in the UK to be named a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence by the European Commission. This accolade was given in recognition of its research and teaching in the field

of EU studies and will see DMU establish the De Montfort Centre for European Governance.

- An interactive website, map and mobile phone app have been designed by a DMU team to guide tourists to the sites of London's Shakespearean theatres. It will be the first time tourists will be offered the chance to tour the sites from one of Britain's greatest theatrical ages armed with a range of fully coordinated multi-media sources providing the most up-to-date tales and historical information on the period.
- Professor Colin Copus has produced a code designed to give local councillors more power to make decisions. The code, described by some commentators as Magna Carta II, could become

enshrined in English law and may lead to an overhaul of the current political system by devolving more powers to local government.

- The number of people who are becoming carers for elderly, sick or disabled relatives or loved ones has risen dramatically in recent years. DMU's Dr Mary Larkin is leading research into this important issue by bringing together policy makers, carers, charities and academics to share stories, experiences and research with the aim of improving services for carers.
- The mysteries of life on the Indian Ocean 1,000 years ago are being revealed in a study of 9th-century plaques called The Kollam Plates. The set of copper plates – legal documents drawn up in

849AD – have never before been studied as a single document. Dr Elizabeth Lambourn, reader in South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, led the international research network with Roberta Tomber, of the British Museum.

- A DMU project to help school staff make the most of technology won an international award in 2013. DigiLit Leicester saw DMU work with Leicester City Council on its first study of staff IT skills. One of five winners of the International Reclaim Open Learning Innovation award, the project has now been released on open licence so it can be copied around the world.
- A study of more than 18,000 people in Bangladesh has established a link between rice consumption and arsenic

exposure and toxicity. Although there have been studies before which have suggested a connection, this research, carried out by scientists from America, Asia and DMU is the biggest study of its kind. Dr Parvez Haris, co-author of the study and head of the Biomedical Environmental Health Group at DMU, said the study has major global health implications.

- Academics from DMU's Centre for Comparative Housing Research unit are looking at ways to tackle Britain's housing crisis. The study, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, will look at whether ideas used to boost house building in America and France could be the answer to offering the right incentives to UK developers.

Working at Leicestershire County Cricket Club

“Graduate Champions is really helpful. It is very difficult getting a job at the moment so having the chance to get this sort of hands-on experience is excellent. It is a bridge between university and the world of work and allows us to use our skills as graduates to help a respected name in the sporting and business world.”

Shyam Pankhania, 21,
graduate in Business and Marketing

“DMU focuses a lot on employability when you are studying there and it is great that they are recognising that graduates need support to. We are learning how important group work is and how important it is to have good communication skills. It is providing a great insight into the working world.”

Priya Gandhi, 21,
graduate in Psychology

“I think Graduate Champions is a really good scheme. Working for such a professional organisation, and being given such an important task, is great for our CVs and our future prospects.”

Gareth Dakin, 29, graduate
in Media Production

From left, Priya, Gareth and Shyam with
Leicestershire County Cricket Club chief
executive Mike Siddall.

Working at Leicester City Football Club



© Wally Hanes / Wikimedia

Jiteche Quessou, 23, who graduated in Graphic Design, Pooja Desai, who graduated in Software Engineering, and Priyanka Balcrisna, 26, who graduated in Computer Science, are all working for Leicester City Football Club.

Tom Crosse, marketing executive at Leicester City, praised the Graduate Champions scheme,

saying: “This gives the graduates a great experience and it will look brilliant on their CV. We are a huge football club and hopefully working here will create great opportunities for them.”

“It is great for us to have all these extra people, with graduate experience, working for us. It is busy all the time and the additional help is very welcome.”

“I am absolutely loving it here. It is challenging but great fun. This is an amazing opportunity for recent graduates. In this industry, if you do not have relevant experience you do not get a job. So this is a great experience for us.”

Priyanka Balcrisna, 26,
graduate in Computer
Science

“I am really getting to see how it all works in the real world. It is a unique and enjoyable experience that will also look good on my CV. Leicester City are really supportive. We have supervisors and get excellent feedback every day to help us learn and improve.”

Jiteche Quessou, 23,
graduate in Graphic Design

“I am really enjoying the work. I feel as though I am learning something new every day and building up new skills that will make me more employable. Graduate Champions is definitely a good idea.”

Pooja Desai, graduate in
Software Engineering

Sports clubs host DMU champions

Graduates from DMU have been gaining essential work experience and boosting their job prospects by taking part in an innovative new scheme called Graduate Champions.

The Graduate Champions scheme run by DMU is offering its recent graduates the chance to take up a month-long intensive work placement to enhance their CVs and help them stand out from the crowd

in a furiously competitive jobs market.

Each graduate is contracted and paid by DMU to complete 18½ hours a week of graduate-level work over the space of four weeks and the university pays the living wage of £7.65 per hour.

The first wave of graduates took up prized placements at Leicestershire County Cricket Club (LCCC) and Leicester City Football Club (LCFC), who both have partnership agreements with DMU.

The verdict from the graduates taking part in the scheme is that it will provide them with a huge boost when they embark on their chosen career paths, filling them with confidence as they get to apply their skills as graduates to solve real-

world problems in the workplace.

A total of 17 graduates have been working at the cricket club while another six were based at LCFC.

Shyam Pankhania, 21, who graduated last summer in Business and Marketing, Priya Gandhi, 21, who graduated in Psychology, and Gareth Dakin, 29, who graduated in Media Production, were working together at the cricket club on a project to attract new members.

LCCC chief executive Mike

Siddall is delighted with the way Graduate Champions is helping the club – and his new recruits.

He said: “I think this scheme is fantastic. It is an opportunity for us to offer graduates great work experience, working on key projects for the club and using their skills to come up with some answers.”

“Thanks to Graduate Champions we have young brains coming here with fresh ideas that are going to be a huge benefit to us and them.”





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Spectacular transformation of DMU's campus is under way

A multi-million pound investment has begun which will provide the modern, inspiring environment DMU's students deserve.

DMU's £90m campus transformation project continues at pace as the university presses ahead with its plans to provide cutting-edge new buildings and teaching facilities.

Huge diggers moved in to tear down the old ceramics block, former students' union and parts of the Fletcher complex, off Mill Lane, which will eventually make way for exciting cutting-edge buildings and teaching facilities, providing DMU with one of the best higher education complexes in the country.

A routine archaeological dig of

the area will be undertaken before construction begins on a new building in June.

Forty-eight years after the Queen Mother officially opened DMU's Fletcher complex, described at the time as 'truly revolutionary', the centrepiece tower block now stands empty, ready for a complete refurbishment inside and out.

The new complex will house the university's internationally-renowned schools of Fashion and Textiles, Art, Design and Architecture. A ground-breaking Confucius Institute – to promote Chinese language and

culture – will also be housed there.

The striking new and refurbished buildings will be surrounded by open parkland, creating a 'green lung' running through the heart of what DMU intends to be the finest city centre campus in Britain.

The spectacular new teaching spaces and facilities will ensure DMU offers the ultimate student experience and prepares its students better than ever before to enter the world of work.

Umesh Desai, deputy director of estates, said: "We are very happy with the progress being made in

what is probably the most ambitious project ever undertaken by DMU.

"Over the next two years we can look forward to some truly innovative and radical new buildings taking shape and the creation of a green lung, in the form of superb, landscaped open parkland, which we know will ensure our students and staff work, and relax, in wonderful surroundings."

The showpiece works are just the latest element of the wide-ranging project. Since summer 2013 the university has overseen:

- Provision of first-class teaching and learning facilities for students and staff in the Art Factory, Mill Studios, Wellesley House and Heritage House.

- Installation of solar panels on the roofs of the Hugh Aston Building, Gateway House and the Edith Murphy Building, saving DMU £25,000 a year in energy bills while dramatically reducing CO2 emissions.
- Creation of modern and relaxing student "breakout" areas in the ground floors of Gateway House and the Queens Building.
- Opening of a new Leicester Media School at Bede Island, offering industry standard technology for cutting-edge courses such as Game Art and Animation.
- Beginning of updating facilities in the Hawthorn Building.

Main picture, an artist's impression of the campus redevelopment and, from top, the new breakout area in Gateway House; some of DMU's solar panels and the new look inside Queens Building.



Centre celebrates Chinese culture

DMU is welcoming visitors to its new Confucius Institute, a vibrant celebration of Chinese language and culture for all.

DMU has started to welcome the public to its new Confucius Institute (CI), a celebration of Chinese language and culture aimed at students, staff and the wider community. The CI aims to become the

Chinese cultural hub of Leicester, allowing the community to experience a taste of Chinese life, enjoy creative activities and learn Mandarin – the Chinese national language.

As a preview for the vibrant range of activity on offer, the CI hosted a showcase with free activities,

performances and refreshments.

All students and staff, as well as the community, were invited to enjoy a taste of Chinese life and to find out first-hand what DMU CI will bring to the city.

Attractions included teaching Mandarin to local school pupils, traditional dragon and lion dances and musicians.

The initial free Mandarin taster sessions were very popular. Elliot



Winter, intern projects officer at DMU, said: "I thought the session was great fun and informative, the teachers were both really enthusiastic and made the session really enjoyable."

Santino Stifanelli, a DMU student, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was a really good session and I think it is a great opportunity."

Partnering with Hanban, a non-profit organisation affiliated to the Ministry of Education of China, this CI is the first of its kind to open with a new creative model.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard said: "It is an honour for DMU to be granted the new model Confucius Institute

by the Hanban, one for the first time in the history of Confucius Institutes that embraces the creative industries as well as Chinese culture and language."

Voted as one of the UK's most creative universities for the second year running by Which? University Guide 2013, DMU will connect its CI to its creative dimension and courses, enabling a fusion of Chinese and UK creativity on campus.

DMU students can also learn Mandarin as part of #DMUglobal – DMU's exciting initiative to provide more than half of all its students with an international experience as part of their studies.

Leicestershire schools and residents will also benefit from travelling workshops, taking Chinese cultural activities from DMU CI into the community.

James Gardner, DMU Dean of International, said: "DMU's Confucius Institute will play an important role in forwarding internationalisation on campus."

Strengthening its existing ties with China, DMU has also partnered with the University of Science and Technology in Beijing and the Sunwah Group, a diversified conglomerate based in Hong Kong, to establish this CI.



Bethan wins Best British Designer title

Stunningly eye-catching creations have helped a graduate of DMU win the title of Best British Designer.

Bethan Gray has enjoyed a fabulous year, launching several acclaimed collections of furniture and topping it off by being named Best British Designer at the Elle Decoration Awards.

Bethan studied design, specialising in furniture, and graduated from DMU in 1998.

DMU is renowned for its creative heritage and has been named as one of the country's top creative universities by Which? University guide for two years in succession.

Bethan said: "I'm really proud of having studied at De Montfort University. I won the New Designer award while I was still at the university for my final-year piece of work."

"It was winning that award which really saw the start of my professional career."

Bethan's collections in the last year have included a range of tables in wood, leather and marble under her brand G&T, in collaboration with furniture developer Thomas Turner, stunning monochrome marble tables and accessories for stone specialist Lapidica and oak lights for John Lewis. "I'm now really honoured to

have been awarded Best British Designer," Bethan added.

"Thanks to the team, it's been a great year full of exciting collaborations and events, including the project with Lapidica and my own solo exhibition at Great Western Studios."

"We are working on new and intriguing collections for 2014 with opportunities to work with stone, metallics and leather and also launching several new overseas collaborations."

Bethan was talent-spotted by Habitat's head of design Tom Dixon while still a DMU student. After a few years of freelancing, Bethan joined Habitat, where she worked for eight years, becoming its design director and producing many best-selling collections, including the Parker and Hana furniture ranges.

Her Pimlico kitchen range won an Elle Decoration award and she was instrumental in Habitat winning the Elle Decoration Best High Street Retailer title in 2007 and 2008.

In 2008, she left to set up her own design studio and has seen her work continue to sell in the Conran Shop, Case Furniture, John Lewis and Habitat.

Bethan Gray



Above and insets, the free showcase at the Confucius Institute featured traditional dancers and lessons for youngsters.

VIP visit for Brazilian students



The students enjoyed an outing to Leicester City.



DMU has played host to staff and students from a Brazilian university which was affected by a devastating fire tragedy.

More than 240 people died following a nightclub blaze in Santa Maria last year, a disaster considered one of the most devastating fires in Brazilian history. Around 150 of those killed were students from the Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM).

DMU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard, who has visited universities in Brazil to explore further collaborations, offered compassionate support to UFSM after the fire and subsequently extended the invitation to visit the UK. Professor Shellard said: "As a university of comparable

size to UFSM and with a similar international outlook, the disaster resonated strongly with DMU staff and students.

"We believe passionately our university should be a public good and make a difference to those we have contact with."

The 11 students who made the trip from the south of Brazil were accompanied by three UFSM staff members including Professor Shellard's counterpart, Felipe Martins Müller, Rector of the university in Brazil.

For a week, a specially designed programme provided the UFSM

students with valuable cultural and educational experiences aimed at offering an introduction to UK culture.

Students enjoyed first-hand experience of DMU's innovative academic expertise including the DMU Cyber Security Centre, state-of-the-art game design and learning from Professor Martin Richardson, the world's first professor of holography technology.

Students created personal holograms, including one symbolically featuring the DMU and UFSM pin badges together.

Visitor Matheus Trindade said during the class: "You have just changed everything I understood about 3D. It is amazing and crazy."

The students also had a sneak

preview of next year's Brazil World Cup exhibition – to be held in the host country by DMU's renowned International Centre for Sports History and Culture – when they attended a lecture on Brazil's influence on European football.

Some of the party also took part in a Brazil vs England five-a-side football match against DMU staff

"We believe passionately our university should be a public good and make a difference"

Professor Dominic Shellard



Creating a hologram with Professor Martin Richardson



The Brazil v England five-a-side match



The Chinese cultural workshop at Square Mile

and students (England won 7-4).

A VIP match day experience was arranged at Leicester City Football Club, including a behind-the-scenes tour, lunch in the club restaurant and watching a match from an executive box.

In addition, students took part in a Chinese cultural workshop

run by DMU's Square Mile project.

They also had a tour of the Houses of Parliament in London and met dignitaries, including the Brazilian Ambassador to the UK.

Matheus added: "I praise DMU for this great experience and I will speak highly of DMU to my college and other Brazilians."

Felipe Martins Müller, Rector of UFSM, left, signs the MOC with DMU deputy vice-chancellor David Wilson.



DMU strengthens Brazil ties

New international collaborations, a São Paulo office and exciting #DMUglobal opportunities pave the way forward for DMU and Brazil.

Students and staff are set to benefit as DMU strengthens its relationship with Brazil, as part of its truly global outlook.

The Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM) and DMU agreed to work together to bring about a new era of academic collaboration and overseas study through a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC).

The MOC includes developing further links through the Government scholarship programme Science Without Borders. More than 110 Brazilian students currently study at DMU through this programme.

It will also help identify opportunities for post-doctoral researchers and explore a programme of visiting scholars.

DMU students will be able to enjoy a cultural study trip to Santa Maria as one of several opportunities in Brazil, as part of #DMUglobal – DMU's ground-breaking initiative to ensure more

than half of all students have an international experience during their studies.

Relationships now exist with the Instituto Maua de Tecnologia, Mackenzie University, the University of São Paulo and the University of Santa Maria in Brazil.

Helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of Brazilian relations, a DMU Brazil office has now been opened in São Paulo. DMU is one of the first UK universities to set up an office there.

It is situated in the impressive British Chamber of Commerce building, which also houses the British Council.

"DMU students will be able to enjoy a cultural study trip to Santa Maria as one of several opportunities in Brazil"

New centre to boost international access to DMU degrees

Talented students from around the world will take a vital step toward degree-level study as a new college opens at DMU.

DMU has announced a partnership with international pathway provider, ISIS, to open a new centre on campus and increase sought-after university access for international students.

The DMU Leicester International Pathway College (LIPC) will be at the heart of DMU's campus and will welcome talented students from across the world.

It will prepare them for degree-level study at DMU through both English language training and academic qualifications related to their chosen subjects.

It will build on the extensive experience of ISIS as an accredited education provider and use its existing international recruitment network around the world.

The first LIPC students will arrive in June for English language learning at the centre, prior to beginning their studies in September.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard said: "DMU's choice of ISIS as a partner is indicative of the university's drive to break with sector convention and use creativity and innovation to promote UK education and the university abroad.



DMU vice-chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard, right, with David Brown, chief executive officer of ISIS.

"DMU is a truly global university. I believe that through initiatives such as LIPC we can provide our domestic and international students with far-reaching opportunities and help to ensure the university's growth in the future.

"For most students, attending university is a chance to explore their potential and ultimately pursue their dream career.

"By welcoming more international students to DMU who would otherwise not be able to access a UK university education, we also aim to expand our global awareness, bringing new perspectives to our university as part of the cultural exchange that will take place.

"We want all DMU students to emerge from their degrees thinking in global terms about how they can succeed in the future."

By partnering with ISIS, DMU will continue to increase international access and add to a portfolio of initiatives which already includes #DMUglobal, a programme that will see half of DMU's students offered an international experience during their degree over the next few years.

LIPC will teach foundation, first year and postgraduate programmes

that offer students a vital bridge between the education they have already received in their home country and the requirements they must meet to study at DMU.

From the day they start, LIPC students will be able to access all the fantastic facilities at DMU with some of their classes being taught in state-of-the-art labs and industry-focused workspaces.

They will also benefit from all the advantages of being a DMU student, such as the new Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Leisure Centre and the DMU Students' Union (DSU) which is funded to the tune of £1m by the university and boasts more than 100 clubs and societies for students to join.

DMU's Dean of International, James Gardner, said: "We are excited to partner with ISIS, a new generation of educational provider which shares our values in delivering quality courses to qualified students."

David Brown, chief executive officer of ISIS, said: "ISIS is delighted to have entered into this partnership with DMU.

"We are extremely impressed by the innovative, committed and forward-thinking approach that the university brings to the subject of international diversity and we are consequently very much looking forward to developing the Leicester International Pathway College at DMU into one of the most outstanding and quality focused pathway colleges in the UK."

“

We want all DMU students to emerge from their degrees thinking in global terms about how they can succeed in the future

Professor Dominic Shellard

”



Adele Tilley

Picture: Leicester Mercury

“Student of the Year” plans to inspire young people into a university education

A DMU masters student who grew up in care and escaped an abusive relationship before turning to education to help transform her life has been named Leicestershire's Student of the Year.

Adele Tilley, who is studying an MA in Business and Management at DMU, won the coveted titles of 'Student of the Year' and 'Undergraduate of the Year' at a glittering ceremony held at Leicester City's King Power Stadium to recognise the good work and achievements of young people across the county.

Judges of the awards scheme, run by the Leicester Mercury newspaper, said Adele's nomination "shone out" and she was thoroughly deserving of the top prize.

The 25-year-old, from Leicester, was among hundreds of nominees put forward for the awards and credits DMU for providing a great student experience that has helped her to thrive and for championing equality and diversity.

She said: "I am just used to being a single mum who spends all of her time studying, working and cleaning the house while raising my two children.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted when they read out my name. I really was overwhelmed. In fact when I won Student of the Year I started crying."

Adele was in and out of care up until the age of 18 when she

was sent out into the world as a "naive" young adult. She escaped an abusive relationship and was left to bring up her children, Amber, now five, and Presley, now three, as a single mum.

She said it was her children who were the motivation to turn her life around and turn to education.

As well as studying for a masters and being in the process of setting up her own business, Adele has signed up to the campus job agency Unitemps to bring in extra income, works as a 'student buddy' to help overseas students, takes part in a student mentoring scheme and is a brand ambassador, promoting her course to potential students.

She said: "I am happier than I have ever been. Every part of my life is better since I decided to educate myself. It isn't easy. But if I am not challenged in some way every day I do not feel as though I have achieved enough. Ultimately I want my children to grow up knowing they can achieve great things through education."

Adele says she would recommend university life to anyone. "DMU is a brilliant, diverse university where you do not get looked upon as being different, whoever you are or wherever you have come from."

Knowledge transfer hits 100

DMU is celebrating after being awarded its 100th Knowledge Transfer Partnership.

DMU's link-up with successful plus-size lingerie company Curvy Kate saw the university pass a major milestone in its work with businesses across the UK. The £84,000 deal, which will see

academics working with the London company to transform its business model, is DMU's 100th Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP).

KTPs are a national grant award scheme that sees academics work in partnership with businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity.

The national KTP programme, which was launched in 2003, aims to improve the performance of

UK businesses by accessing the knowledge and expertise available to them at UK universities.

DMU has a long history of success stories with KTPs, which have benefitted businesses large and small across a range of sectors.

Previous projects include:

- Experts from DMU's Leicester Business School transformed the fortunes of Leicester printing

company Flexpress, planning and steering a rebranding which led it to double profit margins and hit £1 million turnover two years ahead of schedule.

- Academics from the Faculty of Technology developed a revolutionary sat-nav system that can tune into satellite networks around the world. The system, called the Primo, was developed in partnership

with Nottingham Scientific Ltd, which saw sales soar as a result

- DMU expertise helped secure three years' worth of funding to support the arts, tens of thousands of pounds in income and developed a business strategy for Leicester's Phoenix Film and Digital Media Centre. The project hugely increased the centre's profile nationally.

DMU also has a long-established relationship with Curvy Kate through its renowned lingerie design course, Contour Fashion, regarded as one of the best in the world by industry experts.

Graduates have gone on to work with designers including Tommy Hilfiger, Superdry and Triumph as well as Curvy Kate, which supplies fashion retailers including Next, ASOS, Debenhams and New Look.



DMU experts behind Britain's first solar-powered home

DMU's expertise in the field of sustainability and energy research led to the university being approached to take part in a unique project in the UK.

Floor-to-ceiling glass, its own heat pump and the promise of cheaper electricity bills – welcome to the UK's first fully solar-powered house.

The property in Great Glen, Leicestershire, has gone on the market with a £1 million price tag.

DMU's Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development (IESD) is part of the team behind the five-bedroom property, built by Caplin Homes.

Set to exceed the requirements of the government's 2016 zero-carbon target, the house – which is set in two acres – is designed to collect enough solar energy to provide heating and hot water and around twice the electricity needed to run the system.

The Solar House uses an innovative combination of existing sustainable technologies to collect and store solar energy for use throughout the year.

Dr Andrew Wright, of the IESD, said: "So far the calculations suggest that the Solar House will perform well, so we're looking forward to starting our analyses once the house is occupied. We're very proud to have been asked to join the project and act as an independent assessor of its zero-carbon status."

"The house-building industry has to move towards more energy efficient living if it is to meet government targets and the Solar House project could be a landmark stage in that process."



Sporting chance for journalism students



Jacob Landers has been working at Leicester City.

Budding journalists at De Montfort University are putting their new-found skills into practice by taking up highly-prized placements with Leicester's professional sports clubs.

Final-year journalism students Jacob Landers, Lewis Hanson and Jordan Rowson are boosting their job prospects by gaining invaluable experience working at Leicester City, Leicester Tigers and Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

The trio are studying a sports journalism module at the Leicester

Centre for Journalism at DMU.

Tutor John Dilley, director of the centre, organised the placements for his students, who each had to apply for their job by writing an application and undergoing an interview.

Jacob has been working at Leicester City, Lewis at Leicester Tigers, Britain's biggest rugby club, and Jordan at the cricket club, which

is involved in several initiatives to help DMU students boost their employability.

A fourth student, Adam Redfern, successfully applied for a work placement on the Leicester Mercury's busy sports desk.

Jacob has been spending one day a week at the King Power Stadium for Leicester City and his match reports for the City under-18s have been published on the LCFC website and he has had a feature appear in the matchday programme, providing him with all-important cuttings for his CV.

Jacob, who is originally from Cornwall and is studying English Language with Journalism at

DMU, said: "This is a brilliant way for me to put everything I have studied into practice. It is such an exciting opportunity and I am really enjoying myself. It's superb."

Mr Dilley said: "We are really proud of DMU's partnerships with City, Tigers and the Foxes and grateful to the clubs for offering these golden opportunities to our students."

"Our students need to show that they know what it is like to produce accurate and entertaining copy, while under a lot of pressure to meet deadlines. Work placements are the best way of doing that."

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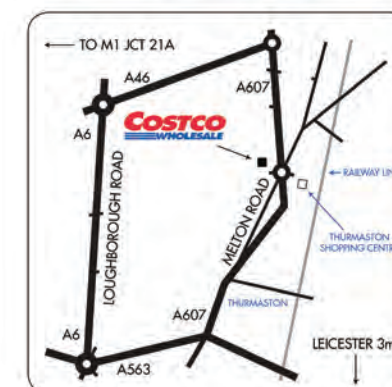
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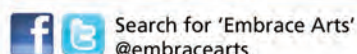
A group of stand-up comedians, with Mat Fraser, Liz Carr, Don Biswas, Lee Ridley and Steve Best.

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3. Mintel – UK Vehicle recovery report, September 2013. 4. Based on AA Case Repair Rate October 2012 – September 2013.