

CONNECTING THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK WITH
ITS NEIGHBOURS IN COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE

CommUnity

Autumn/Winter 2011

TACKLING THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES - AND SOME LOCAL ONES TOO

As the University of Warwick approaches its 50th birthday in 2015, it is planning a series of new initiatives designed to tackle the major challenges facing the world, and to improve the quality of life of local people. In a fundraising campaign called 50 Forward, the University is seeking to raise a total of £50 million in philanthropic donations to support these initiatives, and it has already received more than £5 million towards this target.



The University's Vice-Chancellor
Professor Nigel Thrift explained:

"I have a question and it goes like this. Just suppose we are in a period in which the future of human life on the planet is seriously threatened – then are the world's universities really doing all they could to mitigate and even head off the risks? So far as I'm concerned, it's a rhetorical question.

As a leading University, we have an immense obligation. As we approach our 50th anniversary, I believe that a university like Warwick is well placed to nurture the next generation of global decision makers and to identify solutions to some of the pressing challenges confronting the world. Of course, a single university can't do everything. But, as global citizens we can and must play our part."

The programmes that the University wants to develop with the £50 million are:

- Research to improve the health of people in resource poor communities; reduce hunger in the UK and in the developing world; and extend the Warwick in Africa teaching programme.
- Collaborate with local hospital partners and health organisations to improve healthcare in Coventry and Warwickshire; and work with local communities to reduce rates of diabetes and obesity in the West Midlands.
- Innovate in bio-medical cell biology to identify new treatments for cancer; develop a greater understanding of how to control viruses that affect human and animal wellbeing; and gain new insights into human behaviour to help policy makers.
- Create a world-class Life Sciences facility to harness applied research into food security to ensure the supply of sufficient, safe and nutritious food; and expand work in biotechnology to develop biosensors to improve crop yields.
- Find renewable energy sources and develop new techniques for energy efficiency.

ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



Summer graduation at the University of Warwick

The 4,638 students who graduated from the University this summer benefitted from being taught by world-leading academics, on a campus with a global reputation.

Despite the difficult economic situation which has seen a sharp drop in government funding for teaching, the University is committed to improving still further the experience enjoyed by students in the future, and plans to invest a further £150 million on the campus infrastructure by 2015.

The University Senate and Council have approved a proposal for the University to set fees at £9,000 for Home and EU undergraduate students, with effect from the 2012-13 academic year (students start repaying the fee when earning over £21,000). The proposal would see students from state schools - or on full bursary schemes at Independent schools - whose family income falls under £25,000, receive a package of fee waivers and bursaries worth a total of up to £4,500, half the cost of the standard fee. Around 19% of Warwick's current undergraduate student population would benefit from these terms.

COVENTRY COMMUNITY COHESION AWARDS 2011

The University was shortlisted for the recent Coventry Community Cohesion Awards for a partnership project involving Westwood Academy in Canley. The Westwood Community Cohesion Project aims to improve community cohesion in Canley and Tile Hill by raising the aspirations of young people in the area; encouraging respect for different faiths and cultures among the pupils and their families; and addressing health issues.

Initiatives devised by the University and Westwood Academy have included higher education days hosted by the University for the school's pupils; activities co-ordinated by Warwick Volunteers and the Students' Union; participation in One World Week and the Volunteering Fair, both held annually on campus; and the creation of opportunities for pupils to meet senior University staff.



Architect's drawing of IIPSI

CAMPUS CAPITAL PROJECTS

This summer witnessed the most intensive period of campus development in the University's history, with six major capital projects in progress simultaneously. Some of the buildings have been completed ready for the new academic year, and others will be completed over the next 12 months.

The projects are:

- Improvements to Warwick Business School's Teaching Centre, creating a base for the WBS Doctoral Programme and providing additional and improved teaching space.
- The Materials and Analytical Science Building, which is built over five floors next to the Science Concourse, with a bridge connecting the two at Level 03 of the Concourse.
- Bluebell Views Halls of Residence, offering a further 500 student bedrooms, and new student residences at Lakeside.
- The Mechanochemical Cell Biology Building, which will house scientists working on the building blocks of living cells. Based at Warwick Medical School, the Centre will focus on the science of cells and molecular systems and apply new knowledge to help develop treatments to benefit patients.
- The International Institute for Product and Service Innovation (IIPSI) completes the main development to Academic Square. It will provide an open plan environment for engineers and innovators from local SMEs, enabling them to access some of the world's leading product and service design technology, and discuss their needs with on-site experts.

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS AND DEPARTURES

A number of senior appointments have been made at the University. There are two new Pro-Vice-Chancellor appointments – Professor Tim Jones and Professor Stuart Croft. Professor Jones is Pro-Vice Chancellor for Knowledge Transfer, Business Engagement and Research (Science and Medicine), and Professor Croft has become Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (Arts and Social Sciences).

Pro-Vice-Chancellor's continuing their roles are Professor Ann Caesar for Education and Student Experience and Professor Margot Finn, for Access, Widening Participation and Development. Professor Koen Lamberts is now Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic Resourcing.

The University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mark Smith, will leave the University of Warwick to take up a post as Vice-Chancellor at Lancaster University in January 2012.

CENTRE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING LAUNCHES OPEN STUDIES COURSES

Over 170 local people attended the Centre for Lifelong Learning's Open Studies Taster Day in September to sample one of the certificates being offered this autumn. Subjects on offer on campus and at venues in the local community include Shakespeare; history and history of art; creative writing; hip hop studies; and the big society. The Centre has also seen a rise in the number of local people registering for its flexible degree programmes - foundation, 2+2 and part-time degrees.

For more information about courses on offer visit: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/cll>

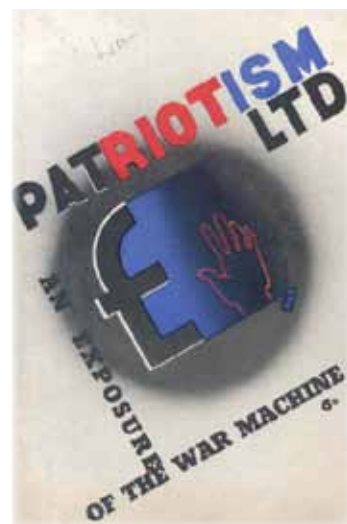
MAKING HISTORY AVAILABLE TO ALL

The Modern Records Centre, based at the University Library, is one of the largest of its kind in the UK, holding 13km of original documents and records. Following a £1.2 million refurbishment this year, the Centre has made it easier for visitors to access to its holdings.

The Centre was founded in 1973 with the principal objectives of locating and preserving primary sources for modern British social, political and economic history, with special concentration on the national history of industrial relations, industrial politics and labour history.

Main archive collections at the Centre include records of trade unions and trade associations; motor industry records; the National Cycle Archive; records of radical British political movements; and records concerned with social and penal reform, human rights, disarmament, education and health. Special collections relate to art history, architecture, music, theatre, film, literature and philosophy.

Members of the public can use the Modern Records Centre, which is free of charge and open on weekdays throughout the year.



Pamphlet attacking the arms industry, published by the Union of Democratic Control

For more information visit: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc>



Participation in a Music Matters workshop led by Warwick Volunteers

YOUNG PEOPLE – A FORCE FOR GOOD

During the 2010-11 academic year, the University's student and staff volunteering network, Warwick Volunteers, contributed an estimated 18,625 hours of voluntary activity to schools and community groups across Coventry and Warwickshire. Music workshops, mural painting and reading in schools are just some of the ways that the 2,371 student members of Warwick Volunteers have helped the local community. Altogether, volunteering has taken place in 67 schools and dozens of community groups.

A number of new student-led initiatives were successfully delivered during the year, including: **Step**, maths mentoring sessions to help pupils prepare for exams and offer an insight into studying maths as an undergraduate; **Bake It Up!** workshops for secondary school pupils with the aim of improving self-esteem whilst learning new skills and working as a team in the preparation of food; **Music Matters**, workshops held at a local primary school, giving young people the chance to create music of their own.

Warwick Volunteers' established projects also had a busy year, with 311 volunteers supporting classroom activities in local schools. In addition, the University's student societies and sports clubs undertook volunteering projects in dance, music, juggling, netball, hockey and American football, coaching at local schools and youth clubs.

To cap a very successful year, Warwick Volunteers achieved Investing in Volunteers status in recognition of the high quality of their work.

REACHING LOCAL SCHOOLS

As well as the work of Warwick Volunteers several other departments and units of the University - the Institute of Education; Warwick Arts Centre; the Student Admissions and Recruitment Office - also provide support for local schools and the University is active in, or has links with, more than 500 primary and secondary schools in the region and beyond.

A number of academic departments have developed particularly strong working relationships with local schools. These include the Chemistry Department, which provides teacher training, practical laboratory sessions, workshops, tutorials, demonstration lectures, tours of the department, and careers events. The Maths Institute works closely with local schools on further maths teaching, revision support and CPD initiatives, and the Physics Department works with students on outreach activities held at the University and in the classroom setting.

In addition, the Language Centre takes language roadshow events to schools in the area, and the success of its work has resulted in a number of schools now running their own language and careers events for their pupils.



LIVE LIFE WITH GUSTO

The University welcomes the new addition of Gusto Oven & Bar onto campus from October - a new destination restaurant located inside Warwick Arts Centre.

Local residents are encouraged to sample a delicious menu offering a selection of meat dishes, oven fired pizzas, pastas and much more, served from a theatre style kitchen. The restaurant also offers a separate bar area complete with a tapas menu, which is perfect for enjoying time with friends.

Gusto's passion for food and excellent service makes it a great place to enjoy any occasion. Open for lunch through to dinner Mon -Sat.

For more information visit
<http://www.gustovenandbar.co.uk>
 or book a table on 024 756 22900.

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK RESEARCH SNIPPETS



Astronomers observed that a recent flash from one of the biggest and brightest bangs yet recorded came from a massive black hole at the centre of a distant galaxy, ripping apart a star that had wandered too close and creating a beam of energy that crossed the 3.8 billion light years to Earth.

Researchers have uncovered a network of genes that play a part in defending plants against attacks from pests and diseases, making it possible to explore new avenues for crop improvement and ensuring future food security.

New research reveals that the frequency of wars between states increased steadily from 1870 to 2001 by 2% a year on average, with conflict fed by economic growth and the proliferation of new borders.

A study covering a randomly selected sample of 30,000 Europeans from 27 countries revealed that 10% of middle-aged adults took antidepressants in 2010, a practice that appears to peak in people's late 40s.

UNIVERSITY ON TRACK TO LIMIT TRAFFIC INCREASE

The University's Masterplan is supported by a comprehensive Travel Plan, the emphasis of which is on reducing single occupancy car use to and from campus. The results of the 2010 Travel Survey conducted with staff and students last November are extremely positive with the University already exceeding its 2013 targets for a number of transport modes - car driver sharing, public transport use, walking and cycling.

The overall response to the survey exceeded the total number of responses for the previous 2003 and 2005 travel surveys, with a total of 2,496 responses received, an increase of 236 (10%) compared to the 2005 survey. Responses from staff rose significantly compared to the 2005 survey, with a total of 1,444 responses received, representing almost 33% of the total staff at the University.

In addition, the latest Traffic Survey of all accesses to the University was also carried out in November 2010. Analysis of the results shows that, between 2007 and 2010, two-way car trips to and from the University have fallen in both the morning and afternoon peaks, by 18.7% and 21.2% respectively.

In April 2011 the University subsidised the start-up and development of new bus services. The services, which operate from Coventry and from Leamington Spa, offer a sustainable and alternative public transport service for staff, students and visitors, which is hoped will further underpin the University's Travel Plan.

SABBATICAL OFFICERS 2011-2012

The Students' Union Sabbatical Officers, or 'Sabbs' as they are known, for 2011-2012 took up their new roles on 1 August. They were elected by the student body earlier this year to run and develop the University of Warwick Students' Union and associated activities. This year's Sabbs are Leo Boe (president); Sean Ruston (education); Chris Luck (democracy); George Whitworth (development); Izzy John (welfare); Matthew Rogers (societies); and Chris Sury (sports).

JOIN LEADING ACADEMICS FOR THE IDEAS CAFE

Members of the local community are welcome to attend an Ideas Café event on food security, which will take place on Monday 14 November in the University House café.

Feeding the world's growing population sustainably and fairly is one of the most challenging issues of our time, and the University of Warwick has internationally leading expertise in this area. Food Security is one of the Global Priorities Programme research themes, which is identified as part of the University's research strategy. Four leading University academics will each present their interest and research strand on the theme of Food Security, and the session will be introduced and chaired by Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Tim Jones, who was involved in establishing the Crop Centre as part of the wider Food Security initiative.

The audience will be encouraged to engage in debate around the topic, raising questions and ideas to the panel.

The event is free, but registration is required. Please see: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/insite/ideascafe/>

KEY DATES 2011 - 2012

- Autumn Term**
3 October – 10 December 2011
- Postgraduate Open Day**
16 November 2011
- Spring Term**
9 January – 17 March 2012
- Winter Degree Ceremonies**
17, 18 and 19 January 2012
- One World Week**
23 – 29 January 2012
- Summer Term**
23 April – 30 June 2012

PARKING RESTRICTION SCHEMES IN ROADS NEAR CAMPUS

As reported in the Spring 2011 issue of CommUnity, Coventry City Council agreed in March to make the majority of the Traffic Regulation Orders covering local roads permanent, and to introduce new experimental TROs in areas still affected by parking problems.

This was to be the second phase of a scheme designed by the Council, and funded by the University, to address the issue of student and staff cars parked

locally, and was due to be completed before the start of the Summer.

However, we understand that some of the parking restriction schemes agreed by the Council had still not been implemented by the beginning of this term, so we have again asked the Council to complete all the outstanding schemes as soon as possible. The Council have indicated that they will continue to monitor the parking on local roads, on an ongoing basis.

CommUnity

Comments Welcome

If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter, or any other aspect of the University of Warwick, please call 024 7615 1041 or email: community@warwick.ac.uk

To find out more about University activities visit:
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/community>

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