



**HEALTH, SCIENCE
AND SOCIETY IN PRACTICE**

WELCOME TO HEALTH, SCIENCE AND SOCIETY IN PRACTICE

Over the past 12 months, the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences has continued to excel in the teaching and research we deliver.

Our staff continue to be recognised in the UK and internationally for the quality of work produced, while as one of the top 25 UK universities for graduate employability our students are among the most sought after by graduate employers.

By continuing to build upon our collaborations with professional regulators, world leading organisations, partners and stakeholders, we aim to ensure that we continue to educate and develop current and future professionals who will make a significant difference to people's lives, health, well-being, communities and society.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to a snapshot of the incredible achievements made across the Faculty. I hope you are as proud as I am of what has been achieved and inspired to work with us in order to further develop teaching and research across the sector.



Best wishes
Dr Simon Oldroyd
Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean
of Health and Life Sciences



Welcome to De Montfort University

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY
LEICESTER
Edith
Murphy
House



INNOVATIVE TEACHING AT THE HEART OF OUR SUCCESS

The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences prides itself on the quality of teaching and the unique experiences that its students receive. This commitment has been formally recognised after Dr Momodou Sallah, a Senior Lecturer in Youth Work and Community Development, was named as the most innovative teacher in the country at the 2015 Times Higher Education Awards.

Dr Sallah received the award for his pioneering work in taking over 250 students on life-changing trips to The Gambia, in collaboration with the University's career enhancing #DMUglobal initiative.

On presenting the award, judges described the opportunities created by Dr Sallah as "an excellent case of truly innovative curriculum design, engaging students in deconstructing and reconstructing the curriculum, pushing the boundaries, and deepening students' understanding and appreciation of globalisation."

Following the award Dr Sallah, who was the recipient of a National Teaching Fellowship in 2013, explained: **"I try to take students out of the classroom, or to bring real-life situations into the classroom so that students can begin to look at theory within practice.**

"Study visits have a way of bringing theories alive and increasing depth and width of understanding. These spaces give us the opportunity to deconstruct and reconstruct reality, both with our heads and hearts, in an experiential and sometimes informal approach to learning."

When visiting mainland Africa's smallest nation, students are given first-hand experiences of helping to develop communities and explore the impact of globalisation and global inequality in developing countries, while immersing themselves in Gambian culture and history.

As well as developing their own CV, over the past four years DMU students have designed, fundraised and physically built a business development hub.

They have also supported projects to build the country's second largest library, and set up an online journal and publisher, while staying with local families, attending seminars and lectures and learning about colonialism as well as globalisation.



DMU INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED

De Montfort University (DMU) has been named as one of the 150 best young universities in the world by Times Higher Education (THE). Assessed across 13 key indicators, covering research, teaching innovation, international activity and knowledge transfer, DMU was one of only 25 UK universities to be included.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard, said: **"I am very proud with the recognition DMU is receiving for its continued improvement journey and academic excellence.**

"We aim to be the very definition of a 21st century, global university. Our pioneering projects such as DMU Square Mile India and #DMUglobal are part of that ambition and testament to our determination to challenge convention and create impact."

The ranking is the latest in a host of recent awards which have underlined the University's growing prominence in the higher education sector.

Named in the top 1.4% of 18,000 global universities for international impact in THE's World University Rankings 2015-16, DMU has also been listed in the top 25 UK universities for graduate employability by the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education. A meteoric rise in The Times league tables has also been maintained, with DMU reaching 53rd position out of 127 UK universities in the 2016 Good University Guide.





SQUARE MILE STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AS ACADEMIC MENTORS

DMU students are being given the opportunity to gain classroom experience, while inspiring sixth form students at New College in Leicester, as part of a #DMUlocal initiative.

Since the project began, students have volunteered for various activities, including mentoring programmes, the paired reading scheme, classroom support and one-to-one tutoring in science, mathematics and languages.

Allan Dunsmore, Project Development Manager at New College, explained:

“Our pupils benefit tremendously from working with DMU students, who impart their passion and knowledge for their subject as well as advice and insights into how to progress at school. The partnership has proved mutually beneficial as we have supported several committed graduates and undergraduate volunteers in securing places on postgraduate studies and teacher training courses.”

Third year Psychology student Christopher Daniels, is one of the DMU students to have benefitted from the initiative after working with two pupils at the College, offering calm non-judgemental support and providing any advice that he could.

He said: **“I was working with troubled/disadvantaged students who had problems either at school or at home. The mentoring was fun and a new experience, and has given me useful counselling experience in a school environment.”**



AUDIOLOGY 2016 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

DMU has been named runner up in the Teaching Excellence category of the Guardian University Awards 2016 for the unique experience which Healthcare Science (Audiology) students are given while on clinical placement.

The award is presented annually to recognise outstanding teaching initiatives that inspire student learning and attainment through innovative pedagogy, while championing the importance of university teaching.

Under the supervision of Senior Lecturer Wendy Stevens, students work with local charities and healthcare providers as part of DMU's Square Mile initiative, to undertake hearing screening in the local community.

As a result of the project students are able to gain practical experience of conducting basic screenings and more intensive tests, as well as the opportunity to network with professionals in their future field.

Following the award ceremony, Wendy said: **“This project allowed us to give something back to the community, while at the same time helping to develop students' communication and clinical skills in preparation for practice.”**

She also revealed ambitious plans to develop the project further: **“We are currently planning to take students to India to offer the hearing screening project there as well as at the Special Olympics in Sheffield 2017.”**

LIFE-SAVING RESEARCH PRESENTED AT PARLIAMENT

A PhD student has described the opportunity to discuss his life-saving research with politicians and fellow researchers as “invaluable”, after being invited to present his work at Parliament.

Having been shortlisted from hundreds of applicants in the SET for BRITAIN competition, Dennis Bernieh was asked to showcase how his work has the potential to save the lives of heart disease patients.

Cardiovascular disease affects an estimated seven million people in the UK. However, evidence suggests around half of all heart patients do not take their medicines as prescribed, leading to poor health, a high cost of care and, in some cases, death.

In order to tackle this, Dennis' research focuses on adherence to medication, with the goal of optimising treatment benefits for patients, using a dried blood spot analysis test.

The test, which was first developed at DMU by Dr Sangeeta Tanna and Dr Graham Lawson, has the potential to ensure medications are taken as prescribed, improving treatment



outcomes and saving the NHS money. Wasted (unused) medicines cost the NHS up to £4 billion annually.

After presenting his research the third year PhD student, said: **“I felt proud, it was a great experience for me to show the potential impact of my research to the wider community.**

“The experience I acquired will be invaluable and has inspired me to work harder in addition to the supervisory support I receive from Dr Sangeeta Tanna and Dr Graham Lawson.”

Dennis, who took the top prize at DMU's 10th annual Research Degree Students' Poster Competition, explained that the

chance to speak to fellow researchers from a range of academic backgrounds would also be beneficial to his work.

“My research is multidisciplinary and speaking to people across a range of SET subjects was an opportunity to engage with researchers in different but allied fields. It has enabled me to look at the research from different angles and allowed me to focus my ideas.”

The overall aim of SET for BRITAIN is to encourage, support and promote Britain's early-stage and early-career research scientists, engineers, technologists and mathematicians who are an essential part of continuing progress in, and development of, UK research.

SCIENTISTS FROM DMU TEST 'ALCOHOLISM CURE' PLANT

Researchers in The Leicester School of Pharmacy were asked to help people avoid New Year hangovers and stick to health resolutions as part of hit BBC show 'Trust Me, I'm a Doctor'.

Academics and researchers from the School were asked to carry out a series of experiments on a product marketed as Kudzu, or Japanese Arrowroot, which is said to help reduce alcohol cravings and make hangovers more bearable.

Professor Martin Grootveld, Dr Randolph Arroo, Dr Paul Bremner and PhD researcher Victor Ruiz-Rodado were tasked with carrying out a series of advanced multi-analytical tests on the product, which is used as a remedy for alcoholism and hangovers.

After confirming that the advertised product was indeed what the label stated, Professor Grootveld, Professor of Bio-analytical Chemistry and Chemical Pathology said: **“The product is called Kudzu but the active compound is Puerarin. The percentage of Puerarin that we found therein was the correct amount stated on the label.”**

It is not the first time DMU has played a key part in the BBC Two documentary series, which tries to answer common medical questions, using experiments and analysis to explode medical myths.

Last year the BBC asked Professor Grootveld to help investigate the “healthiest” oils to cook with.

Professor Grootveld said: **“It's testament to the professionalism and expertise within the department that we've been asked several times now to provide scientific analysis for the show.”**



DEMANDING ROLE HELPS PHARMACY STUDENT STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

Pharmacy students from across the UK met with international experts at DMU this February, during a British Pharmaceutical Students' Association (BPSA) and UK Clinical Pharmacy Association conference.

Organised by fourth year student Beenish Chaudhry, the conference focused on how pharmacists can become more involved in the care of surgical patients, the growing issue of antimicrobial resistance and the importance of continuing professional development.

Following the conference, Beenish said: **“Being part of the BPSA is an amazing opportunity for any student and an incredibly unique position to be in.**

“I really enjoy working with and getting to know students all over the UK, representing pharmacy students and the School on a national level and working alongside the BPSA Executive to ensure the student voice is heard.

“Some of the people you meet within the pharmacy world are inspirational. You learn so much more about the profession, and it really makes you stand out.”





HELPING THE MYANMAR HEALTH SYSTEM INTO A NEW ERA

DMU is set to play a major role in the development of the Myanmar health system following the launch of a new MBA in Health Management.

The two-year course, run in partnership with Lithan Hall University, is the first health related programme to be delivered by private education providers in Myanmar.

The course, which welcomed its first intake of students in September 2015, aims to equip healthcare managers and administrators with knowledge and insight of international practices and industry-relevant management skills, to help them become leaders in healthcare organisations.

Jim Dooher, Principal Lecturer in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, has played a lead role in the development of the course alongside colleagues from the Faculty of Business and Law.

Following the launch Jim explained: **“The students are primarily medical doctors seeking a programme that gives them the academic base and practical skills to take the Myanmar health system into a new era.”**

EBOLA MEDAL WINNING NURSE INSPIRES DMU GRADUATES

An award-winning nurse who spent months helping to fight the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone was named ‘Alumnus of the Year’ at DMU’s winter graduation in January.

Having volunteered at an Ebola Treatment Centre in the city of Makeni between late 2014 and November 2015, Hannah McReynolds was awarded the ‘Ebola medal for service in West Africa’. But despite withstanding searing temperatures and daily exposure to the deadly virus while in West Africa, the 2011 DMU nursing graduate said the experience had “nothing” on delivering this year’s graduation address.

In a show of the spirit and strength which twice prompted her to fly out to the stricken country, she overcame her nerves and delivered an inspiring address, telling the assembled graduands: **“I am privileged. You are privileged. But what we do with this is instinct and we should always trust our instincts.”**

After the ceremony, Hannah who works as a staff nurse in A&E at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, explained: **“It was a shock to be given the award. I just hope I can inspire people to act on their instinct. All I did was what I thought was the right thing. That’s it. It’s just about taking the decision to act.”**

Looking back on her work in Sierra Leone, she said: **“I went because I felt I needed to help my nursing brothers and sisters. Working alongside the African national staff was amazing – there were nurses there who were ex-Ebola patients themselves.**

“We taught them techniques and we helped treat people with either suspected or confirmed Ebola. You never get used to death and it was very hard to have to separate parents from children when tests confirmed Ebola. But there were survivors and there was hope.”



DMU RUGBY PLAYERS HELP TO RAISE LEICESTER'S PROFILE

Two students from the University's women's rugby team joined former Leicester Tigers players in the French Riviera this spring to help promote the city of Leicester to a worldwide audience.

Forensic Science student Jodie Fortuin and Audiology student Emily Gauci, joined the likes of Will Johnson and George Chuter to represent Team Leicester at the MIPIM real estate conference in Cannes.

Describing the competition as a once in a lifetime opportunity, Jodie explained: **"It is so exciting. I can't express how amazing it will be to play alongside the Tigers legends."**

"The event is to promote Leicester. Team Leicestershire invited the Tigers and wanted to make it more universal, so also approached DMU."

Almost 90 countries were represented at the four-day event aimed at property investors, developers and blue chip companies thinking of expanding into new cities or regions.



LEICESTER NAMED IN 10 BEST UK CITIES TO LIVE AND WORK

Leicester has been named as one of the best cities in which to live and work in the UK, according to latest research.

The 2015 Good Growth for Cities Index ranks Leicester in the top 10 of UK cities, highest in the Midlands and ahead of London and Cardiff.

The high ranking comes as no surprise to Sarah Harrison, Leicester City Council's city centre director, who said: **"Leicester is a city with a young and diverse population and this is reflected in its vibrant city centre."**

As home to the Premier League Champions 2015/16, the annual Dave Comedy Festival and Brit Award Winners Kasabian, as well as being listed as the third hottest retail location in the UK by Property Week in 2015, the city has a host of attractions, for all interests.

DMU SCIENTIST HELPS SAVE AFRICANS FROM FATAL MISDIAGNOSES

Millions of Africans at risk of fatal diseases like malaria, TB and AIDS have been made safer thanks to the efforts of a scientist from the School of Allied Health Sciences.

Peter Chimkupete, a Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Science, was picked to participate in developing a three-year initiative to drive up quality and safety standards at hospital laboratories in five African countries. Experts estimate that each year misdiagnoses cost African governments millions of dollars and account for many adult and child deaths.

The initiative, called LabSkills Africa, was set up by the Royal College of Pathologists and Mr Chimkupete was chosen to improve Quality standards in the ambitious project. A team of mentors was put together and, over three years, made visits to 20 African hospitals across five countries: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Mr Chimkupete and other mentors visited pathology laboratories, training staff and assessing procedures, trying to find ways to improve safety and quality, while working within the limited resources available to each facility.

He said: **“The work we were doing was about improving leadership and quality management; and improving the technical skills of the staff at labs.**

“Before we started the standards of pathology were lower than they are here in the UK. This is because they have far fewer resources, but there were a lot of improvements which could be made in the way procedures were carried out and the communication between hospital departments.”

Participant countries and individual labs were encouraged to come up with improvements which reduced costs to the labs and improved quality and efficiency. They shared good practice and quality control samples between institutions, rather than expensive outsourcing. The programme also put lab managers on a leadership and quality management course to improve management strategy.

As a result, safety standards have now been improved at the 20 laboratories, with one being singled out for its progress by the World Health Organisation, who raised its safety rating from two stars to three.

Mr Chimkupete said: **“That is a real achievement and we have seen similar improvements at all the labs. Now the Royal College wants to extend the programme into Western Africa and again, I will be playing a big role in that.**

“It makes me so proud; the staff have become quite ingenious in coming up with solutions to their problems and they have grown in confidence as their procedures and safety standards improve.”



STATE OF THE ART EQUIPMENT USED TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

Healthcare Science (Audiology) students at DMU are now among the first in the country to practice fitting hearing aids on a new high-tech dummy.

The £18,000 KEMAR dummy – a head and torso simulator – is used for measuring the performance of acoustic devices such as hearing aids and noise protectors.

While the device itself has been used for auditory research for a number of years, the mannequin is fairly unique as it is one of a handful used for teaching purposes in the UK.

Jeff Davies, lecturer in Healthcare Science (Audiology) BSc and Foundation Degree (Fd) Audiology, explained that the dummy will give students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in fitting and verifying the performance of hearing aids and probe tubes that go into the ear canal.

He said: **“If the student has never done this before they don’t have to worry about hurting or harming anyone, they can boost their confidence and practical skills before undertaking their actual placements.”**



PALLIATIVE CARE STUDENTS WIN AWARD FROM ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING

Two Adult Nursing graduates have been presented with a Royal College of Nursing award for the key role they played in promoting the work of the Centre for Promotion of Excellence in Palliative Care (CPEP).

Helen Keating and Grace Broughton received the accolade after promoting the Centre, which aims to influence the quality of palliative care for people approaching the end of life, as well as that of their family and friends.

Helen explained: **“Nothing prepares you for it, but CPEP brings in the public to promote acceptance of palliative care and make people more aware of it.”**

Both graduates have gone on to secure roles with the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, and believe that the

skills learned while working with CPEP will help them during their careers, having decided they wish to work in palliative care in the future.

Kerry Blankley, Senior Lecturer in Palliative Care and Adult Nursing at DMU - pictured below (right) with Professor of Palliative Care Jayne Brown, is also delighted that the students have been recognised with the award.

She explained: **“They put in so much work promoting palliative care, which is important to healthcare professionals caring for people in a range of settings. It’s a credit to them and the university.”**





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ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

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