LU to host £10m sport and exercise medicine centre

The University is to be the base for a pioneering East Midlands sport and exercise medicine centre that will help increased numbers of people be more active, and treat injuries caused by exercise, as well as those conditions associated with lack of exercise.

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley visited campus in January to announce the £10m initiative which sees Loughborough host one of three regional hubs that together form the country’s first-ever National Sport and Exercise Medicine Centre of Excellence. The East Midlands hub will be run by a consortium of six universities and hospital partners and will focus on population groups including athletes, people with chronic illness, and those at risk of chronic disease. Its work will also help to enhance the wellbeing of the general population.

Professor Myra Nimmo, Dean of the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, said: “The co-location of university researchers, clinicians and service delivery will provide a new model in healthcare provision, allowing researchers to work in close contact with the people who ultimately benefit from their work. This new way of working will crucially enable us to speed up the translation of pioneering academic research into clinical practice.”

“With so many elite athletes studying and training on the Loughborough campus, we have a unique living laboratory. This will allow us to study athletes at the peak of their physical fitness and, with our clinical partners, to apply that knowledge to those who might be considered to be at the opposite end of the spectrum – people who have, or are at high risk of, chronic disease.”

The establishment of the Centre will fulfil one of the key 2012 Olympic bid commitments and will be a lasting legacy of the Games. It is expected that the East Midlands Centre will be operational by 2014-15.

New VC announced

Professor Robert Allison has been appointed as the next Vice Chancellor of Loughborough University.

Professor Allison joins Loughborough from the University of Sussex, where he is currently Professor of Geography and a Pro Vice Chancellor, with specific responsibility for strategic planning, research, enterprise and innovation.

He is also Director and Chairman of the Sussex Innovation Centre Ltd and of Sussex IP Ltd, which promote knowledge transfer between the University and external organisations.

Professor Allison is due to take up the role this September. Professor Shirley Pearce will step down as Vice Chancellor at the end of July and Council has agreed Professor Chris Linton will be Acting Vice Chancellor for the interim period.

Green initiative makes an Impact

As new Hong Kong goes to print, the 23 teams registered for Green Impact across the University are waiting to find out who has won the coveted Gold award for their sustainability efforts.

Launched at Loughborough at the start of the year, the NUS-led Green Impact scheme empowers individuals and departments to reduce their environmental impact by encouraging, rewarding and celebrating practical actions that will help the environment.

The scheme has already produced measurable changes to staff attitudes and resource use on campus, with a variety of fan and innovative pre-environmental initiatives devised by teams, including one group’s commitment to swap 1,000 car miles for sustainable travel, and another group’s introduction of team eco-meals.

The Green Impact Awards are being held on Wednesday 25 April where teams will be presented with Wednesday Awards, Bronze or Silver awards, with the top scoring team receiving the coveted Gold.

Development are being put in place to further improve the scheme for next year, and to continue to reduce the University’s carbon footprint. Sign up a team for next academic year or find out more about Green Impact on Environment Day at the EHB on Wednesday 16 May. See page 4 for details.

Olympic Flame to come through campus

The Olympic Flame is to travel through the University campus on Tuesday 3 July, Day 46 of the Olympic Torch Relay.

And a number of Loughborough’s students and staff past and present will get the chance to carry the torch on its journey through Leicestershire and beyond.

Dan Greates (Paralympian and Loughborough graduate), Rachel Thomson (Professor of Materials Engineering and Director of the Materials Research School), and current student Rebecca Willison, were chosen through the national Samsung Torchbearer nomination programme.

Professors Myra Nimmo and Ian Henry (both SSEHS), Rich Smith (SDC), Richard Bebbington (IT), student Jen Jones and graduate Sue Campbell (Chair of SportPark-based Youth Sport Trust and UK Sport) and Dan Greaves (Paralympian and Loughborough graduate) were also chosen.

A number of Loughborough researchers and other staff will also be chosen to carry the torch as a way of recognising the contribution they’ve made to the Games through their work.

On the day, there will be a Loughborough Olympic Village in the Campus Centre from 10am to 7pm, with an Olympic Village ‘pod’ also set up in Loughborough Library. The University’s information services will have their own stand in the Campus Centre.

The University’s Olympic penfriend project will also be on display in the Campus Centre, giving people a chance to write to the 150 penfriends they have already been paired with.

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Train ticket collection on campus

East Midlands Trains has installed a ticket collection machine in the Students’ Union, giving staff and students a quick and easy way to collect train tickets booked online.

The new style ‘ticket on departure’ machine is the first East Midlands Trains facility to be installed at a location other than a railway.

Sourcing sustainable food

The University has received recognition from Compassion in World Farming for its policy of using cage free eggs across its catering operations.

Imago head of catering Mark Price managed the move from battery to free range eggs five years ago, and cage free eggs are now used in all catering from Burleigh Court and Imago buffets to student halls and campus outlets. The University sources its free range eggs from Sunrise Eggs in Barrow Upon Soar.

Mark has now turned his attention to sourcing sustainable seafood and has been working with the Marine Stewardship Council to deliver student events raising awareness of the importance of switching to MSC certified fish. Find out Mark’s tips for cooking up some fishy treats on www.studentcooking.tv.

Design

Dean retires

Professor Tony Hodgson, who was Dean of the Loughborough Design School, retired from the University at the end of January.

Tony had worked at Loughborough for almost 20 years, having joined in 1992 as a lecturer in the Department of Design and Technology. He was Head of Department from 2005 to 2011, before being appointed as the first Dean of the new School last summer.

Professor Tracy Bhamra has been appointed as Tony’s replacement.

Science and Engineering Week goes with a bang

Loughborough once again played a major role in the National Science and Engineering Week (NSEW), helping to launch the national campaign, taking part in the Big Bang Science Fair and hosting several local events.

NSEW celebrates science and engineering and their importance to our lives, and gives people the chance to participate in science and engineering activities, experiments and discussions in their local area.

Dr David Stensel from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences joined forces with the British Science Association and legendary fitness guru Mr Motivator to help launch NSEW across the UK. Together they challenged the nation to boost their health by turning their homes into a gym, with research showing an hour of chores a day can meet minimum daily recommendations for moderate intensity exercise.

Academics from the Loughborough Design School worked with the Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors to create a stand for the Big Bang Fair, the flagship event for NSEW. The stand focused on the theme of designing for an ageing society and incorporated three activities. The star attraction was a Scalextric racing game where visitors got the chance to steer a model racing car round a track first as themselves and then, with the help of aging devices, as someone much older.

Several local events were hosted on and off campus to celebrate NSEW. These included a families Science and Engineering Fair, which was attended by more than 300 adults and children, and a public lecture by the highly esteemed scientist and Nobel Peace Prize Winner Sir John Houghton.

Short films sell Loughborough

Four short films to accompany a new student brochure have been posted on the University’s YouTube channel.

Loughborough: become a part of it features four current students who explain what it’s like to live and study in the town. The films cover living and studying in Loughborough and highlight the opportunities for getting involved in student and community life as well as how the University can help develop students’ employability and personal skills.

The brochure and films were developed by Marketing, and Design and Print Services, and are designed to help persuade prospective students to choose Loughborough.

Student Charter seeks feedback

The University and Students’ Union are working together to update the Student Charter, a document that provides an aspirational framework for how students and staff can work in partnership.

Developed with financial support from the Development Trust, the Charter outlines how the University, students and Students’ Union can work together to ensure Loughborough remains a leader in student experience.

The Charter, which came into effect at the start of the academic year, is being reviewed to ensure it stays relevant. The Teaching Centre is asking staff, students and student representatives to provide feedback on the resource during a consultation period from 23 April to 11 May. To take part in the consultation please contact Quality Enhancement Officer Dr Maurice Fitzgerald on m.fitzgerald@lboro.ac.uk.

The Student Charter is available online at www.lboro.ac.uk/studentcharter.

Take part in Active Travel Week

Active Travel Week runs from 14-18 May to give staff a taste of a healthier way of life through a range of events, activities and competitions on campus.

A series of campus walks, a skirts and suits cycling competition, free bike tagging from Security and a wide range of promotions from University partners including Coop, Charnwood Borough Council and Kinch buses are planned throughout the week.

For more information visit www.lboro.ac.uk/sustainability or see the staff noticeboards.

Environment Day

This year’s Environment Day on Wednesday 16 May is bigger than ever with events taking place at the EHB and various venues across the campus, and freebie galore being given away.

Find out more about being more environmentally friendly at work and home, taste samples from local Fair Trade and organic suppliers, meet representatives from the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, have a go at a pedal-powered Scalextric, see electric car demonstrations and much more.

There’s even the chance to win a Eurostar trip to Paris, Brussels or Lille, and many other prizes, including £100 to spend in the campus cycle shop.

Find out more at www.lboro.ac.uk/Env-Day or keep an eye on the staff noticeboards for more information.

Find out more about other events which are taking place throughout Environment Day.

For more information visit www.lboro.ac.uk/Env-Day or follow us on Twitter @lboro_environmentday.

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For more information visit www.lboro.ac.uk/studentcharter.
New Leadership and Management courses

Loughborough has become an Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) approved centre and is now delivering four new ILM programmes tailored to the University.

A group of 28 staff have successfully completed the first round of ILM level 2 and level 3 programmes which were delivered in-house by Staff Development’s Siobhan D’Reilly and Sue Jones.

ILM Level 2 - Award in Team Leading is designed to give a basic knowledge of the roles, functions and responsibilities of a team leader. It is delivered in three days over three weeks.

ILM Level 3 - Award in Leadership is based on five high-impact, interactive day-long sessions that will help improve management and leadership practice.

ILM Level 3 - Award in Workplace Coaching for Team Leaders and First Line Managers is a concise and practical qualification made up of five workshops to introduce the key aspects of coaching in the workplace, and includes real workplace coaching and reflective practice.

ILM Level 5 - Certificate in Management has been designed to give practising or aspiring managers a solid foundation in their formal development. The programme, which concentrates on the theory and its application at Loughborough, consists of seven units to be completed over two years. Single units (lasting one to four days) are available, and these are accredited if you sign up to the full programme.

For more information and to reserve a place for any of the ILM courses visit www.lboro.ac.uk/service/sd/mdl

New projects to improve teaching quality

Eight Teaching Innovation Awards worth up to £5,000 each have been distributed to academics across the University to support new projects that improve the quality of teaching at Loughborough.

Departments to receive funding are the Design School, Politics, History and International Relations, School of Business and Economics, School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences.

The fund is part of the Teaching Awards Scheme which recognises, celebrates and promotes excellence in learning and teaching. Academic and learning support staff are able to apply to the fund annually, with a deadline for the 2013 fund expected to be January next year. The scheme is managed by the Teaching Centre. Visit www.lboro.ac.uk/service/teachingcentre for more information, and a list of funded projects.

Passport photo service

Design and Print Services are offering an instant passport and ID photo service from as little as £5 for eight images. The portraits, which are taken by the University photographers, can be set up to meet both the UK and international requirements and are suitable for passports as well as visa applications, driving licences, ID cards and CVs. The service is also ideal for babies and young children for whom sitting in a photo booth can prove a challenge.

Customers can view their photos before printing, and take away as many extra copies as needed. Photographs are taken and printed in the Hazlerigg Building.

For more information or to book an appointment call 222190 or email photography@lboro.ac.uk

SU wins best international experience

Loughborough Students’ Union has been named number one for international experience at the NUS Internationalisation Awards. The SU picked up the gong for its ‘Experience the World’ initiative, which aims to provide all of Loughborough’s students with continual and varied international perspective programmes.

Just for men

Staff Development is now able to offer male employees the chance to take courses accredited by the Navigator Men’s Development Programme. Occupational Health Adviser Tim Ellis took time out of his usual routine to undertake a one-week training course enabling him to deliver the programme at Loughborough.

Navigator is part of the Springboard suite of courses, which also include Springboard (aimed at women), Fresh Steps (aimed at more experienced workers) and Spring Forward (for new, aspiring, or first line managers).

All programmes are aimed at giving staff the opportunity to take time out to look at both their personal and work life. A briefing session has been arranged for Monday 3 September for staff to meet the University’s five accredited trainers, speak to colleagues who have previously completed the courses, and to find out more.

For more information or to reserve your place visit the staff development pages; www.lboro.ac.uk/staffdevelopment

New chaplains join the team

Three new chaplains have joined the University’s Centre for Faith and Spirituality. Muslim chaplain Mrs Midhat Batool and Jewish chaplains Rabbi Amielt and Rabbetin Einat Vasi are the first non-Christian chaplains to be appointed to serve at the University as part of an ongoing commitment to ensuring diversity and acceptance of all religions at the Centre. All roles are part time voluntary positions.

The new chaplains are based at the Brockington Building on dedicated days and at other times can be contacted by email or phone: Midhat Batool (m.s.batool@lboro.ac.uk), Amielt (amiel@mychaplaincy.co.uk, 07980 955 026), Einat (einat@mychaplaincy.co.uk, 07854 439 551).

Awards & honours

PhD student Jessica Vann-Rastell from the School of Civil and Building Engineering has been awarded the coveted Smec prize for best student paper at the Universities’ Transport Study Group Conference.

Loughborough Design School’s Professor Roger Haslam has been elected a Fellow of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA).

Dr Natalie Pearson, from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, has been awarded the Early Career Award by the UK Society for Behavioural Medicine, which recognises the work of promising early career researchers.

Department of Chemistry student Lillian Hinscow has been named ‘Best Placement Student’ at the 2012 National Placement and Internship Awards in recognition of her work at Microsoft.

Dr Stephen Rose, from the School of Computing, has been awarded the Early Career Award by the UK Society for Behavioural Medicine, which recognises the work of promising early career researchers.

Department of Chemistry student Paul Brack was awarded best research poster at the Loughborough University Research Conference 2012. His essay on his industrial placement year experiences.

PhD student Simon Howroyd from the Department of Aeronautical & Automotive Engineering was awarded best research poster at the Loughborough University Research Conference 2012. His essay on his industrial placement year experiences.

Professor Yannis Vardaxoglou and Michael Kong from the School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering have been named Fellows of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).
Many of you will have noticed a number of exciting new and improved sports facilities appearing across campus over the last 12 months.

Although the London 2012 Games and hosting Team GB and Japan have been the catalyst for some of this work, the developments are equally significant in illustrating the University’s commitment to providing greater opportunities for recreational sport and physical activity within the overall student body.

The latter is a key element in ensuring that sport continues to make a major contribution to our unique student experience.

So what are the new facilities and refurbishment programmes that have been developed?

New facilities

The single largest development sited at the west end of campus is the Holywell Sports Complex and University Stadium which through a total investment of £4 million has seen the creation of a purpose-built outdoor sports facility.

The stadium provides a home ground for the University’s football team which plays in the Midland Alliance and has had to play its home matches off campus for the last few years to comply with Football Association pitch regulations.

When completed, the project will include 14 new team changing rooms, a multi-purpose sand court and the development of a further two pitches, creating a complex of nine outdoor pitches at the West End of campus.

The floodlit stadium can accommodate nearly 4,000 spectators, with 300 seats in the main grandstand that houses the changing rooms and the clubhouse.

The complex will provide a fitting new home for our successful Athletic Union teams in football, rugby (union and league) and American football. But just as importantly it will host major sports events and tournaments, utilising all of the new facilities and encouraging hundreds of our students to enjoy mass participation activities in both intramural and recreational sport festivals.

To celebrate the opening of the stadium, the football club will host the Tottenham Hotspur U20s on 4 May, and the following week (9 May) the rugby team will play the Barbarians. See page 19 of the University’s online events listings for more information.

The NationalThrows Centre

The National Throws Centre is situated behind the High Performance Athletics Centre (HIPAC) on the former Cayley football pitch.

£350,000 of funding from the University and UK Athletics has seen the development of a unique facility that will support all throwing disciplines: hammer, javelin, shot and discus.

Because the area is dedicated solely to throwing, and bordered by a safety fence, athletes can train and compete unhindered. This has already borne fruit for hammer thrower Sophie Hitchon, who became the first British female to throw over 70 metres in a recent event at the Centre.

And because the Centre is partially covered with a distinctive white canopy, it allows more detailed analysis of the throwers which cannot be done in the infield of the HIPAC athletics track.

Participation programme

As well as creating facilities for performance sport, an equally significant role for the University’s Sports Development Centre (SDC) is to create participation opportunities for all students regardless of sporting prowess. Already a remarkable 58% of our students participate in sport at least three times a week – a figure more than twice the national average, and SDC has set the ambitious target of having 75% of students doing regular sport and physical activity by 2015.

Funding from Sport England’s Active Universities programme has allowed the creation of a new development team to drive participation and sports volunteering work over the next three years, and a number of key facility projects are being progressed across campus.

Next to the rugby team’s first XV pitch, tennis courts are being transformed into a new ‘Ball Park’ that will provide for free casual and organised recreational activities including football, rugger, basketball and netball.

Close to Village Park, and next to the existing full-size 4G synthetic pitch, a football Games Park is being created to provide similar opportunities principally for 5-a-side football, volleyball, rugger and touch rugby.

The Beach Park at Holywell will provide an exciting new flexible space for workouts, outdoor dance classes, beach volleyball, ultimate frisbee, beach soccer and other sports that can be adapted to play on sand. It will also be used as a national training venue for beach soccer and beach volleyball and is part funded by Santander Universities and England Volleyball.

Plans are in hand to formalise a range of running routes across the whole campus. The installation of markers and signage will support runners, joggers and walkers of all abilities to maximise the routes as part of their training and fitness programmes.

Refurbishment programmes

The most significant work to take place has been in the iconic Powerbase gym, in the Performance Centre building.

Powerbase was created 10 years ago as one of the leading strength and conditioning facilities in the country. It has had a £600,000 refurbishment that includes a complete gym overhaul and improvements to the already impressive sports medicine centre and sports science labs shared with the English Institute of Sport.

Although Powerbase has been refurbished in time for the Olympics, it is also being used extensively by students who are able to access one of the most extensive gyms in the UK. It is also used by national performance squads, such as the England Rugby Union team who used the gym during their recent visit to the University.

Hockey pitch. Adjacent to the HIPAC is the University’s water based hockey pitch. The surface was changed in the summer of 2011 to match the pitches that will be used in the Olympic Park.

Again, the value and importance of working with governing bodies of sport can be illustrated in this project, where England Hockey and the University worked together. It also provides a legacy to our students who can play and train on an Olympic standard pitch.

Also, the Badminton Centre has had a new floor laid in 2011 and the Netball Centre has been refurbished with the new Loughborough Sport branding.

The ECB Performance Centre has recently been refurbished and a new cricket pavilion at Brockington, named after former Loughborough coach Graham Dilley, is to be opened in April 2012.
The 2012 Staff Survey is now underway. This is your opportunity to put forward your thoughts, feelings and suggestions on all issues relating to working at the University, such as job satisfaction, pay and conditions, and training and development.

The survey is largely internet-based. If you have computer access, you should already have received an email from Capita Surveys and Research Unit – the external consultancy who are running the survey for the University – giving you instructions on how to complete the survey online.

However, if you don’t have easy access to a computer, you will be sent a paper version of the questionnaire. If English is your second language, you will be able to complete the survey over the phone in your first language.

The survey is easy to complete. Most questions just require ‘tick box’ answers, but there are some comment boxes too in case you want to provide additional remarks.

The survey project is being led by Professor Jon Binner, Dean of the School of Aeronautical, Automotive, Chemical and Materials Engineering.

“We had an excellent response rate of over 65% for our first survey in 2008 and we’d like even more staff to complete the survey this time. We want to know what you think the University’s strengths are and where you consider change is needed,” says Professor Binner.

“We know that last time some staff were concerned about whether the survey was totally anonymous and that the University might be able to work out individuals’ responses. Please let me reassure you – it is totally anonymous. The completed questionnaires go directly to Capita Surveys and Research Unit, who will analyse the information and provide results to the University in a way that does not allow any individual or their response to be identified. We absolutely guarantee this.”

Questionnaires need to be completed by Friday 25 May – so don’t miss your chance to have your say. When the survey is complete, the findings will be circulated.

To help encourage as many staff as possible to fill in the questionnaire, the University has agreed to donate £1 to charity for each completed survey. The three nominated charities are:

- the Matt Hampson Foundation (www.matthampsonfoundation.org)
- the Anthony Nolan Foundation (www.anthonynolan.org)
- Rainbows (www.rainbows.co.uk/the-hospice)

You said… So we...

Following the 2008 Staff Survey the University made a number of changes in response to staff feedback. Here are just a few:

“My development needs are not reviewed regularly”,

... introduced the Performance and Development Review procedure to ensure that all staff have an opportunity to talk candidly with their line manager or supervisor about their performance and future development.

... and we also began a Job Shadow scheme to provide staff with the chance to learn more about what other staff do and about the University’s processes and procedures.

“Different parts of the University do not communicate effectively with each other”.

“Cooperation between teams across different departments is not good”.

“In my department the impact of everyone’s actions on each other is not necessarily considered”.

... started circulating monthly e-newsletters from the VC.

... are implementing a team briefing process across the University.

... developed a new induction process for new staff.

... also made improvements to the content and format of ‘newsatlboro’.

... and have implemented a system which enables information from ALT to be cascaded to staff and provides a route for staff to feedback comments to ALT.

“Too many approvals are needed for routine decisions”.

“I don’t have time to carry out all my work”.

“I have had to put in a lot of extra time in the last two years to meet the demands of my workload”.

... started to appoint Operations Managers in each of the Schools to support sharing of best practice.

... established a more robust group of databases, repositories and software solutions which are maintained centrally.

... developed a central timetabling system to allow staff to operate more efficiently.

Why should I fill in the survey?

It’s an opportunity for you to voice your opinion about your working life at Loughborough. The University can then find out about what you think it’s doing well and where it needs to change or make improvements.

The University has also agreed to donate £1 to charity for every completed questionnaire.

“You say the survey is anonymous, but how can it be if you’ve got my email address?”

Capita needs to be able to communicate directly with all staff in the University as they need to send you details of where you can complete your questionnaire. Your email address will not be used for any other purpose and Capita will not keep it after you have completed the questionnaire. Your email address will not be linked to your survey responses or used in any reports. Capita will send the University aggregated data that is put together in a way that deliberately and explicitly prevents the University from being able to work out any individual responses. You can be quite certain that your response is entirely anonymous.

Will I be allowed time out of my working day to complete the survey?

Yes, your manager or supervisor will allow you time during your working day to fill in the questionnaire, as agreed with the Academic Leadership Team (ALT).

How long does it take to complete the questionnaire?

It takes about 20 minutes. There are some text boxes for you to add comments, so it really depends on how much you want to write.

It’s difficult for me to fill in the survey at my desk at work. Is there somewhere else on campus I can go to complete it?

The PC Lab (room 1.08) in the Rutland Building has been booked on the following dates:

www.lboro.ac.uk/staffsurvey

What if I’ve been invited to participate in the online survey but would prefer to complete a paper version of the questionnaire?

Call the Capita Freephone helpline on 0800 587 3115 and you will be sent a paper version.

What if I need help completing the questionnaire?

Call the Capita Freephone helpline. If you’d like to complete the survey over the telephone, a trained researcher will go through the questionnaire with you and submit it on your behalf.

Who will see my completed questionnaire?

Unless you choose to show your completed questionnaire to someone, only Capita Surveys and Research Unit will see your questionnaire. They are an extremely professional organisation and will not share your responses with anyone.

What changes happened after the last survey in 2008?

A summary of what staff said and what actions the University took as a result is given on the opposite page.

What if I have any questions?

Call the Capita Freephone helpline on 0800 587 3115. The line is open between 9am and 5pm on weekdays. All calls are in the strictest of confidence and no calls are recorded.
Contributing to the community

The University has worked closely with Charnwood Borough Council and Voluntary Action Charnwood to allocate the Strategic Fund money. Two community facilities in deprived parts of Loughborough have been supported - The Marlos Tinenti Centre (MTC) in the Peel Drive area and Altogether Place (APP) on the Warwick Way Estate.

Both centres act as a focal point for the community and provide a base that agencies and other service providers can operate out of, taking services to the heart of the community. They are run by their own independent management groups drawn from local residents and supporting agencies.

With Charnwood Borough Council having secured the conversion and refurbishment of both properties, the University donations have been allocated to organise events and activities aimed at increasing community confidence and building relations between residents and agencies.

At MTC craft events and community socials have been held as well as trips. Regular groups operating from the facility include ‘Yurt and Knatter’, sexual health advice, and activities dedicated to both men and women. A breakfast club is their latest initiative designed to help vulnerable people living locally.

At APP much of the organising is done by the Warwick Way Action Group (or WAGS for short). They have also held trips and events designed to promote engagement, including BBQs, a cycle workshop for children and visits to the pantomime and Outwoods.

In the two years the University has supported the two centres, the number and range of activities has grown substantially, as have the numbers using the centres. The aim is that both groups start to develop their own and other sources of income so that the University’s funding can be allocated to support other projects and activities within the Charnwood area.

The deadline for applications to this year’s Inside Out Fund is Friday 8 June. To find out how to apply for this, and other categories in the Donations Fund, visit: www.iboro.ac.uk/community.
AN ENTERPRISING UNIVERSITY

WHAT IS ENTERPRISE?

“ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT WITH BUSINESS, PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO CREATE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE.”

Teaching, research and enterprise are the three cornerstones of the University’s academic strategy. We’re very familiar with the first two, but what about Enterprise?

Enterprise covers a whole host of familiar academic activities from sponsored degrees to contract research to commercialising intellectual property.

Partnerships with business and public and voluntary organisations play a big part. Often these organisations are external to the University but others, like spin-out business, social enterprises and graduate start-ups in our Commercialisation Studio, are the fruits of Loughborough’s own entrepreneurial labours.

Professor Steve Rothberg, who became Pro Vice-Chancellor (Enterprise) last October, wants to raise the profile of enterprise with colleagues across the University.

“In the shifting landscape of higher education funding, enterprise activity has a huge role to play in ensuring Loughborough continues to thrive,” he said.

“The entrepreneurial spirit among our students is stronger than ever and our vibrant student enterprise offering is a great recruitment tool.

“External partnerships enhance the student experience by keeping our taught programmes relevant and by underpinning our extensive placement schemes. At the same time, these partnerships maintain our focus on research that matters and keep us on track to maximise the social, cultural and economic impact of our work.

“All of this is great for the University’s reputation, but it is the emphasis given to impact in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) that is really focussing the mind right now.”

$0.5 billion is the estimated value of Intelligent Energy, the clean power technology company founded on Loughborough research.

Business Development

The Business Development team supports the University’s major collaborative projects with industry, business and government agencies. This involves winning and negotiating funding, building and managing partnerships, with staff working across departmental and disciplinary boundaries to create new opportunities for income generation. The team is the first port of call for businesses interested in accessing the University’s facilities and expertise.

An enquiry from waste solutions company Corys was managed by the team, working closely with the Research Office and Dr Steve Christie from Chemistry. This has resulted in new research to support Corys’s technology which transforms plastic waste into diesel, with a lab-scale recycling plant being installed at the University.

Consultancy enables academics to use their expertise to work for an outside organisation for a commercial fee. As well as the financial benefit, working as a consultant can enhance professional skills and industrial contacts and develop research collaborations. The team supports academics by negotiating fees, advising on the legal and intellectual property aspects of the work and ensuring all the right paperwork and insurance are in place.

Dr Ben Halken, from the Sport Technology Institute, was asked by the GB Rowing Team to look at the reconfiguration of instrumentation on rowing equipment. Ben’s expertise delivered crucial data that will be used to determine future training needs to maximise the possibility of world class success.

Student and Graduate Enterprise

The University offers a wealth of extra-curricular activities for students and recent graduates to encourage entrepreneurial activity. Workshops, competitions, forums and specialist advice are available to anyone interested in setting up a business or boosting their employability. Many events are also open to staff. Last year saw the launch of The Studio, a new initiative to support creative graduates. With professional work space in the Design School, each graduate member benefits from access to University facilities, mentoring, business support and guidance to develop their ideas commercially.

The Glendencrook Centre for Enterprise Education contributes to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching across University Schools and delivers a wide range of topics ranging from employability and personal effectiveness through to skills for self-employment to students. The Centre also delivers staff training and executive education focused around research impact and knowledge transfer. It has recently piloted a specialist workshop on patent searching and continues to deliver a series of enterprise workshops for staff covering commercialisation of research.

The Innovation Centre

Now situated within our Science and Enterprise Park, the Innovation Centre has been attracting high growth companies since it opened in 2002. Tenants benefit from access to the University’s research expertise, students for projects and placements and graduates and postgraduates for employment. The Centre offers fully serviced office, workshop and laboratory space, flexible tenancies at affordable prices and on-site business support and mentoring.

Loughborough spin-out and Innovation Centre tenant Diogenes is developing Pad®, for rapid, non-invasive assessment of Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD), to prevent heart disease and stroke. The existing market for PAD screening is expected to grow over fortified with the introduction of chronic disease management programmes to stem escalating healthcare costs. Diogenes has been granted £400,000 by the Department of Health to get Pad® into GP surgeries and it is obtaining regulatory approval in Europe and US.

BUSINESS PLACEMENT SCHEMES

1/2000th is the accuracy of University spin out Phase Vision’s Quartz scanner, making it an invaluable measurement tool for the manufacturing industry.

129 business ventures were launched by our students and graduates last year.

20 nanometres is the particle size of ultrafine ceramic powders being used by the Materials Department to produce nano-ceramic components for the first time. A recent licensing deal will benefit major industry sectors by providing component parts such as valves, with greatly enhanced water and heat degradation and other properties.

50,000m² of business space is occupied on the University’s Science and Enterprise Park and SportPark.

10 new Associate Deans (Enterprise) are working to embed enterprise within their Schools.

550+ regional companies have been supported by the Transport.Net project.

65 countries sell kitchen products from Joseph Joseph, founded by Richard (Loughborough design graduate) and Antony Joseph.

Commercialising Intellectual Property

The Intellectual Property team supports academics interested in commercialising their research, helping them to assess the market potential of an idea, protect their intellectual property and secure the funding needed to progress towards exploitation. Some projects can lead to the formation of a spin-out company or technology licensing.

Physicists Dr Daniel Elford and Dr Luke Chalmers have developed a new type of noise barrier which – unlike traditional solid structures – allows light and air to flow through, is cheaper to build and maintains and allows wanted noises like fire alarms to be heard. Full-scale prototypes have been successfully demonstrated, over 30 companies are engaged in the technology’s development and several licenses are being negotiated.

The estimated value of Intelligent Energy, the clean power technology company founded on Loughborough research.

Innovate Loughborough

INNOVATE Loughborough is the University’s innovation agency, offering a spectrum of creative services.

IDEAS

Loughborough University Partnerships group

Student Enterprise @lboroenterprise

www.lboro.ac.uk/studententerprise

Student and Graduate Enterprise

www.lboro.ac.uk/enterprise

Intranet (log in required): www.lboro.ac.uk/enterprise/intranet

Working with Business: www.bom.ac.uk/enterprise

Enterprise intranet (log in required): www.bom.ac.uk/enterprise/intranet

Student and Graduate Enterprise: www.bom.ac.uk/studententerprise

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ENTERPRISE

Contact: 01509 222792

Loughborough University Partnerships group

Student Enterprise @lboroenterprise

www.lboro.ac.uk/studententerprise

www.lboro.ac.uk/enterprise
A sporting chance

When Britain’s best athletes arrive in Loughborough in the final weeks before the London 2012 Olympic Games this summer, many will have already benefitted from findings from the decades of sports research at the University.

newsatlboro takes a look at just eight of the multiple Olympic and Paralympic related projects underway or recently completed on campus.

Care homes get competitive

The British Heart Foundation National Centre for Physical Activity and Health has been working with the National Association for Providers of Activities for Older People (NAPA) to develop the Go for Gold 2012 Challenge, designed to increase physical activity within the UK care and residential sector.

The Challenge focuses on health-enhancing physical activity for older people, giving them the opportunity to take part in physical activity challenges including games, assisted walking, dancing, a special Try-athlon and wheelchair races, a special Try-athlon and wheelchair races.

Make your own muscles

Scientists have been growing muscle in the lab, then exercising it in order to gain a deeper understanding of changes that happen at gene and cell level as a result of exercise. Professor Mark Lewis and his team have been able to examine a wide range of ‘exercise’ regimes and their related biochemical responses without the need for human participants. Their findings can be used to develop interventions to improve performance amongst elite athletes.

Exploring coach-athlete relationships

Sports psychologist Dr Sophia Jowett is exploring the role coaches play in helping athletes achieve their full potential.

With performance and well-being outcomes largely predicted by the degree to which coaches and athletes are interdependent, Sophia and her team have developed the Closeeness, Commitment, Complimentary, and Co-orientation (3-1Cs) model to understand and assess the quality of the coach-athlete relationship.

Tools have been developed to measure the relationship quality, communications strategies, and personal orientations of bonds and attachment styles.

Extending the prohibited list

Researchers from the Physiology and Nutrition Research Group have been studying and identifying the impact of prescribed mental health drugs (those that produce a direct effect on the central nervous system) on exercise performance. Already, studies have shown significant evidence to demonstrate a performance benefit of the drug bupropion – used to assist the cessation of cigarettes-smoking, and methylphenidate, a drug, used in the management of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

The aim of the study is to determine the case for an additional category to be added to the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List.

Eliminating illness amongst the elite

Prof Mike Gleeson’s research on the impact of exercise and training on the immune function has led to changes in health monitoring procedures, training prescriptions and new interventions to reduce the risk of illness amongst elite athletes.

Most recently, his studies with Dr Nicollete Bishop into the positive impact of probiotics has led to English Institute of Sport (EIS) nutritionists recommending regular ingestion to their athletes, which will hopefully lead to fewer succumbing to illness ahead of and during Olympic competition.

Creating a lasting legacy

The Centre for Olympic Studies and Research is undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the impacts and legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

One of the largest ever studies of Games legacies, researchers are addressing overarching questions relating to the impact of the Games on areas including the UK economy, social cohesion, the regeneration of East London, the development of elite sporting performance and the uptake of sport.

Commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 2010, the study aims to provide Government with a comprehensive and robust framework through which to understand and demonstrate the long-term impact of the Games and to help ensure current and future programmes provide value for money.

Testing times for ID athletes

Dr Stephan Bandelow, Dr Veronika van der Wardt, Professor Eef Hogervorst and Ken Black have developed a new, convenient and cognitive test battery for athletes with intellectual disabilities (ID) that has led to their re-inclusion in the Paralympic Games.

The test, which is able to scientifically validate athletes’ mental capabilities, has been verified with over 400 athletes. The development of such a standardised assessment means ID athletes are to compete at the London 2012 Paralympics – their first Games since 2000.

Perfecting the performance wheelchair

Dr Vicky Tolfrey and Barry Mason in the Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport have been working with Britain’s elite wheelchair athletes to optimise chair configuration for mobility and performance in court sports.

Areas investigated include the performance of different sized wheels, the effect of gloves for rugby performance, and the impact of the rear-wheel camber angle.

A handbook detailing their findings has been developed for British athletes and sports governing bodies, as well as rehabilitation centres and less experienced athletes looking to step up onto national programmes.

The work has been funded in partnership with UK Sport and Paralympics GB.
Olympic news
Keep up-to-date with Loughborough’s Olympic news and the latest campus operation information via the new staff bulletin Gearing up to the Games and by visiting the University’s dedicated website. Gearing up to the Games will be emailed to staff as information becomes available, and news will be regularly posted online at www.lboro.ac.uk/london2012.

Team leaders are asked to ensure newsletters are circulated to staff on campus without ready access to a computer.

AWARD WINNING COACH JOINS CRICKET TEAM

Former Leicestershire batsman Russell Cobb has been appointed as Loughborough’s new MCCU Head Cricket Coach. Russell has over 20 years’ experience of youth coaching, and has recently worked as the High Performance Coach at Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

“It is a great honour to be appointed MCCU Head Cricket Coach at Loughborough University,” said Russell. “I have seen for myself how the University’s cricket programme has developed over the last few years since becoming part of the MCC Universities scheme.

“I am looking forward to working with talented athletes and guiding them along their University cricketing pathway. My aim is to continue and develop the good work of Graham Diley.”

Loughborough is one of the six MCC Universities (MCCU) - a scheme set up in 2005 to support young talented cricketers to go into higher education by providing them with the best possible opportunities to develop their cricket while at University.

Staff make the most of health and wellbeing event
The University’s first Mental Health and Wellbeing Day on 22 February was a huge success with many staff taking the opportunity to receive free health tests and speak to health and lifestyle specialists. Sainsbury’s Pharmacy staff provided cholesterol and blood sugar testing, while representatives from the NHS, PostAB, Snowwell alcohol and drug awareness, LJMU massage and Staff Development were also on hand to provide advice and information.

Keep updated on Health and Wellbeing at Loughborough at www.lboro.ac.uk/health-wellbeing

Sport signs kit deal with Kukri
The University and Students’ Union are celebrating after signing a major new kit deal with leading sports company Kukri.

The agreement is a landmark moment for sport at Loughborough, as for the first time all of the representative teams will play in the same colours and designs.

The three year deal will be rolled out in time for the start of the 2012-13 academic year.

Loughborough cricketing trio selected for England squad
Three Loughborough MCCU cricketers have been touring New Zealand after being selected for the England’s women’s team. Loughborough captain Tammy Beaumont and first year students Anya Shrubsole and Georgia Elwiss were part of the team for a five match Twenty20 series and three One Day Internationals against New Zealand.

The girls are no strangers to the England squad; Tammy and Anya have been playing for England on and off for three years, while Georgia made her international debut in March.

Games Time
On Saturday 9 June the unique Games Time production will be performed in Loughborough’s Southfields Park. The spectacular outdoor stage show has been organised as part of the Cultural Olympiad and combines music, video, fireworks, professional dancers and 160 people from in and around Loughborough.

The project is being coordinated by Derby-based Deda Producing, in partnership with the University, Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, Charnwood Arts, and Spark Children’s Arts Festival.

Visit www.games-time.org.uk or play online at www.games-timelive.org.uk

Stadium to open with high profile fixtures
Loughborough Students will play some of their highest profile fixtures ever this May to celebrate the opening of the University’s new stadium on the Holywell pitches.

Loughborough’s footballers will take on a Tottenham Hotspur Under 20 XI on Friday 4 May, and are followed by a showcase rugby match just days later when the students take on the Barbarians on Wednesday 9 May at 7.30pm.

Dave Morris, Head Coach of Loughborough Students Rugby Football Club, said:

“We are delighted that we have attracted the legendary Barbarian Football Club to play a fixture against the Students to celebrate the new stadium. Having such a world famous sporting institution on campus will ensure that it will be a fitting occasion.

“We hope that such a high profile event will attract great support from staff and students as well as members of the local community and rugby fans further afield.”

Ticket information for both fixtures is still to be confirmed. Details will be made available on the University website as soon as they are available.
in the news...

Keeping colds at bay

Professor Mike Gleeson from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences has said that exercise could have both a positive and negative effect on immune function. He concluded that ‘moderate’ exertion, such as a brisk walk every day, is better for the immune system than prolonged strenuous activity, such as running marathons.

Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, country wide regional media, various international media

Mapping Britain’s child poverty

Researchers at the University’s Centre for Research in Social Policy have worked with the Campaign to End Child Poverty to design a map and collate figures to determine local levels of child poverty. Based on the analysis of tax credit data, the report claims that areas in East London have the highest rate of child poverty in the UK.

BBC, country wide regional media, nurseryworld.co.uk

Desks are bad for workers’ health

Dr Myanna Duncan, Aadi Kaz and Professor Cheryl Haslam in the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, have been researching the health of desk-based workers. They found office workers spend an average of five hours 41 minutes sitting at their desk every day, and suggest prolonged sitting at a desk was potentially bad for a workers’ mental wellbeing and physical health. Researchers hope to encourage workers to get up and move around more, and talk to people face-to-face instead of using email.

BBC, Independent, Science Daily, country wide regional media

Experts to address eating disorders in sport

A hub of research and clinical expertise to help tackle eating disorders in sport and educate athletes and sports professionals in this sensitive issue has been established between the Loughborough University Centre for Research into Eating Disorders and Leicester NHS Eating Disorders Service.

The Times

Shops waste money on unwelcome heating

Professor Ken Parsons from the Design School has been researching the effects of heating high street stores to the recommended 20ºC. Whilst shops hope their warm surroundings will welcome customers in cold weather, many shoppers become uncomfortable browsing in their winter clothing.

Daily Mail, SourceWire, freshbusinessthinking.com, responsesource.com international media

Loughborough has a long heritage of investing in its sports facilities.

In the 1920s and 30s, cricket, rugby and football pitches, tennis courts, pavilions, a sports hall and the athletics track were all created or extended on the former playing fields site (now the main University campus) under the direction of Loughborough College Principal Herbert Schofield.

One major project was the construction of an open air swimming pool built in 1926 by students.

Then in 1939, a state of the art indoor pool was built in its place, in what was known as the Old Sports Hall. This was demolished some years ago to make way for the Clyde Williams Building.

Find out about the University’s latest investments in its sports facilities on pages 8-9.