Rising up the ranks

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13th in THE TIMES HIGHER ‘Table of Tables’
From #IAMIN to #WEAREHERE!

The University was a hive of activity in mid August, when students received their A level results and found out whether they had a place at Loughborough.

Over a period of five days, around 90 staff and students were based in a special call centre in the Haslegrave building, taking enquiries from students. In the first hour of day one, 25 calls a second were received by the University. Staff in all the University’s Schools were also busy advising students on decisions, and the Vice Chancellor and Students’ Union president were on hand for a while to call successful students.

In the build up to Clearing and Adjustment, the University had a dedicated website, with details of available places, infographics to highlight University facts and achievements, video, student blogs about their Clearing experiences, and top tips for students and their parents. Students were also able to ask questions and get advice from staff and current students in an online chat room.

On the Saturday after results day the University held an open house event to enable students who’d been made an offer through Clearing or Adjustment to study at Loughborough to see the campus for themselves.

All the Clearing activity was supported by an expansive social media campaign. Students who’d been made an offer through Clearing or Adjustment to study at Loughborough were sent a postcard with #IAMHERE frames at each of the University’s halls of residence and the Students’ Union so groups of friends could take collective photos.

“Loughborough’s well-known for its community feel, so we wanted to have an initiative that makes our freshers feel part of the University right from the outset,” said Rob Whittaker, LSU President. “And the giant photo frames on campus will definitely help to generate some light-hearted inter-hall competition, with a prize for the hall with the most selfies!”

The VC, Professor Bob Allison, was happy to get involved with the campaign as well. He said: “We want to let our students know that the staff here at Loughborough are very accessible, so we thought the #WEAREHERE message was appropriate for us too – we are here to help them make the very best of their time at the University.”

Five Star Loughborough

Loughborough has achieved a five star rating in an independent assessment of its performance.

The QS Stars scheme provides institutions with a broad range of criteria that allows them to highlight their particular areas of excellence.

According to QS, a five star university is “world class in a broad range of areas, enjoys a high reputation and has cutting edge facilities and internationally renowned research and teaching faculty.”

The assessment looked at four core criteria – teaching, research, employability and internationalisation. It also assessed the University’s facilities, its innovation, including the number of research projects undertaken with external companies, and access – including the value and number of scholarships and bursaries available.

The review of Loughborough included an additional assessment of its performance in mechanical, manufacturing and aeronautical engineering.

Loughborough gained five stars for each of the areas in which it was assessed.

“To have received five stars right across the board is an outstanding achievement and confirms the breadth of excellence at Loughborough,” said the Vice Chancellor. “This rating puts us alongside the country’s leading higher education institutions.”

The guide ranks universities on eight key criteria – student satisfaction, research quality, graduate prospects, entrance qualifications, degree results achieved, student/staff ratios, services and facilities spend, and drop-out rates. Loughborough’s results rose this year in six of the eight performance measures.

The Vice Chancellor says the University’s rise in the rankings reflects the commitment and dedication of all members of the University community, with the coordinated approach taken by the University and Students’ Union of particular importance.

“We have a very significant common interest – to provide the best experience for our students,” says Professor Allison. “The close working relationship that the University and Students’ Union have gives Loughborough an exceptional cohesiveness that really benefits our students. We want to provide opportunities for every one of them to be the very best they can be, which ultimately contributes to the success of the University.”

LSU loyalty scheme now open to staff

University staff can now sign up for the Students’ Union’s Loyalty Points scheme.

For every £1 you spend in the Union’s shops, catering outlets and bars, you’ll get four points if you scan your staff ID card. You can then redeem your points on a range of products, from meal deals and coffees to hoodies and notepads.

For more information and to sign up go to lsu.co.uk/loyalty
Staff development course guide
The new Staff Development Guide 2014-15 is now available online at www.lboro.ac.uk/services/sd
The guide lists all the courses that Staff Development have on offer, from essential training to courses for specific staff groups. Printed versions are available in the Rutland Building (first floor) or contact Sue Savin (S.V.Savin@lboro.ac.uk) for copies.
Reserve your place on any of Staff Development’s courses via myHR.
See p14-15 for more information about the revamped myHR.

Teaching Centre changes its name
The Teaching Centre has changed its name to the Centre for Academic Practice.
The Centre is for academic staff and others who support learning. It offers a range of services, including the design and delivery of nationally accredited postgraduate courses.

Alex wins engineering X Factor!
Dr Alex Lyness, an Enterprise Fellow within the Healthcare Engineering Research Centre, was a winner in this year’s ‘I’m an Engineer… get me out of here!’ competition, beating engineers from numerous other universities, including Oxford, to take the title in the Health Zone category.
‘I’m an Engineer…’ and its sister event ‘I’m a Scientist…’ allow school children from around the UK to ask scientists and engineers anything they want. It’s a free, online X-Factor-style competition where students are the judges, voting for their favourite scientists and engineers.
To find out more or get involved go to imanengineer.org.uk or imascientist.org.uk

Breaking news...
As news.atlboro went to print Vince Cable MP had just announced that Loughborough University in London is to host the first ‘Spoke’ of the Advanced Propulsion Centre, which was established to position the UK as the global leader for the production and development of low carbon propulsion technology. The London Spoke will be a centre of excellence in digital engineering and test.
The Spoke’s location at Loughborough University reflects the university’s position as a centre of excellence in digital engineering and test. The Spoke’s location at Loughborough University in London will enhance the APC’s visibility, reach and effectiveness among key decision makers and investors, strengthening its sphere of influence in order to attract to the UK further innovative businesses aligned to the automotive sector.

Stuff email is getting BIGGER
It Services are moving staff email across to Office 365. Following feedback they will also be increasing email quotas, from 1GB by default to 5GB.
Office 365 is hosted in the Microsoft Cloud and is a reliable system, available 99.9% of the time.
There will be no change to the way you use your desktop client. However, if you access your work email on your mobile or tablet you’ll need to make a small change to the configuration on your device. Details of how to do this are available on the IT Services website. You will be able to access your email via the built-in email client, new OWA web based email and OWA App for iPhone/iPad, which is available free from the App Store.
It Services will let you know in advance when your email will be migrated.

Academics take on comedy challenge
Have you heard the one about the academic in the comedy club?
Members of staff have been performing at Loughborough’s very own Bright Club, a comedy club that originated at University College London in 2009 and has since swept the country – and even sprung up in Australia. The Bright Club is held at the Organ Grinder pub in Loughborough and the three events staged so far have been sell-outs.
The academics use their research as the basis for their acts. The idea of Bright Club is to promote engagement with the public and foster good relations. It has been described as a ‘thinking person’s comedy night’, and ‘where funny meets brains’.
Performers to date have mostly been PhD students but the organisers are trying to get more lecturers and professors involved.

Kate Simpson, who helped get the club up and running, admits it’s scary but says: “After attempting comedy, a regular presentation will never be scary again.
“Academia can be very serious and I think it helps make us seem more human and approachable to the public.”

Keep up-to-date with the latest staff news at www.lboro.ac.uk/internal/news
**Loughborough Initiative wins Times Higher ICT award**

In June Loughborough won the Departmental ICT Initiative of the Year award at the 2014 Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards – known as the ‘THELMAs’. The THELMAs celebrate the sector’s leadership, management, financial and business skills, and showcase the innovation, teamwork and commercial acumen of higher education institutions.

The Departmental ICT Initiative of the Year award recognises a team’s innovative use of ICT to improve both its own departmental performance and that of the institution.

The award was presented to Loughborough for an initiative that streamlined the ICT admin and management practices for student placements across the School of Aeronautical, Automotive, Chemical and Materials Engineering (AACME). The system is now being rolled out across the University.

The University’s Centre for Engineering and Design Education (CEDE) worked closely with AACME in the development of the project.

**On your feet!**

People in the most sedentary jobs are the least likely to be active outside of work, according to a study from Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences.

Researchers monitored 170 full-time office workers over seven days to record sedentary behaviour (or ‘sitting time’) both inside and outside work. Results showed people spend up to 70% of working hours in sedentary behaviour, and those who were most sedentary during the working day were also most sedentary away from work. Sedentary behaviour has proven links to weight gain, obesity and chronic diseases including Type 2 Diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

**Fruit Routes now in print**

A map of the Fruit Routes on campus has been launched by the Sustainability Team.

The map is the culmination of three years’ work to develop the Fruit Routes on campus by artist and sustainability campaigner Anne-Marie Cullane, the Sustainability Team, Grounds and Gardens, and the Students’ Union’s Landscaping and Gardening Society (LAGS).

Loughborough is the first university to develop a Fruit Route, and leading environmentalist Jonathon Porritt has urged more academic institutions to follow Loughborough’s lead. While on campus to deliver a lecture as part of his role as a visiting professor, Jonathon said: “The Fruit Routes is a great initiative. I love the way it is building bridges between the University and the surrounding community, with a lot of the route running along the edge of the campus boundary.”

Find out more: Email: environmental@lboro.ac.uk
Blog: www.fruitrouteiloughborough.wordpress.com

**Online resource ‘Research Professional’ now available**

The Research Office has taken out an institutional subscription to Research Professional – an online resource providing a comprehensive database of research funding opportunities, access to Research Fortnight, and research policy and practice news from around the world.

Staff can set up email alerts to stay informed of the latest funding opportunities and/or news articles in their chosen area.

The subscription is open to everyone at Loughborough and all academic staff should have received details of personal log in details in information. Training sessions have already been organised and future sessions will be run on demand.

Further information is available from Kristen Clements (K.M.Clements@lboro.ac.uk)

**Self-service printing**

Design and Print Services have taken over management of self-service printing from IT Services.

The change has been facilitated through a project led by the Change Team.

IT Services and Design and Print Services will continue to work closely together and provide service delivery, with Design and Print managing customer facing activities including the purchase of new devices, replenishment of consumables, the supplier relationship and all financial matters. IT Services will continue to provide technical support to the service.

The service complements those already available through Design and Print Services, including the over the counter print services, based in the Manzoni building, and online printing.

It is hoped that the service will continue to develop under the new management with the provision of advanced usage reporting for all schools, departments and professional services to ensure that the best value for money is achieved.

Details of all the print services are available at www.lboro.ac.uk/services/printing-services.

All enquiries, requests and fault reporting relating to print should now be directed to print@lboro.ac.uk

**Staff presented with University Medal**

Three members of staff were presented with the University Medal at this summer’s degree ceremonies. The Medal is awarded to those who have made a distinctive and long-running contribution to the University. They have championed the values of Loughborough throughout their long careers and consistently gone above-and-beyond the requirements of their role.

Steve Hughes, former Senior Finance Business Partner, joined the University in 1984 as an accounting assistant within the finance team. He retired in April this year.

Geoff Nealke joined Loughborough in 1990, after a period as Chief Technician in the RAF As Senior Technical Tutor within Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering, he has made a huge contribution to the Department’s teaching.

Terry Neale joined the University in 1977, working as an Electronics Technician in the department of Chemical Engineering up to his retirement in October last year.

**Research-informed teaching awards presented**

The University’s Research-Informed Teaching Awards were presented at the summer degree ceremonies. The awards take place annually to recognise and celebrate Loughborough academics who have demonstrated excellence in research-informed teaching.

This year’s recipients were:

Professor Jo Bullard (Geography), who is developing innovative ways of using external data from NASA to help develop her students as researchers. The panel commended Jo on the high quality of her teaching and research and the way in which she helps students to engage.

Dr Marcus Collins (Politics, History and International Relations), who is developing a national reputation for the impact he is having on student learning. His work was commended by the panel for the way he has informed his teaching and encouraged students to develop themselves as engaged researchers.

Professor Malcolm Cook (Civil and Building Engineering), who is fostering student engagement, especially through his use of relevant and appropriate case studies. His work was commended by the panel for the way it helped students engage in a variety of ways which were appropriate to their industry and encouraged them to develop as researchers.

**Tribute to Dr Ann O’Brien**

Dr Ann O’Brien from the School of Business and Economics died suddenly at the end of May. She had worked for the University since 1989 and had built up extensive experience in teaching and research in the organisation of information.

Professor Graham Matthews, Head of the Information Management Discipline Group, said of Ann: “Students and colleagues were the beneficiaries of her warm, cheerful personality and her generosity of spirit. She took full part in the staff/student events and student respect for her was evident in the range of activities in which she participated. She listened to students and offered them positive support, advice and wisdom when they needed it. She was a valued colleague and friend and will be greatly missed by all those who knew her.”
The National Student Survey (NSS) is an annual census of nearly half a million students across the UK. It gives them a powerful collective voice to help shape the future of their course and the university as a whole.

NewsatLboro takes a look at how Loughborough fared in the 2014 survey, the results of which were published in August.

Now in its tenth year, the NSS seeks final year students’ feedback on the quality of their courses.

The survey consists of 23 questions, relating to six key aspects of the student learning experience – teaching, assessment and feedback, academic support, organisation and management, learning resources and personal development. There are also questions about students’ overall satisfaction with their course and their satisfaction with the students’ union.

In each of the eight core areas, Loughborough’s results in the 2014 survey are higher than the UK sector average.

**89% OVERALL SATISFACTION**
Eighty-nine percent of Loughborough students were satisfied with the organisation and management of their course, significantly ahead of the sector average of 79%.

**92% LEARNING RESOURCES**
Loughborough students rated the University particularly well for its learning resources, with 92% of them, compared with the UK average of just 85%, saying they were satisfied with the library resources, the IT services and the specialist facilities and equipment.

**77% TOOK PART**
Almost 77% of Loughborough’s final year undergraduates completed the survey, compared to the national average response rate of 71%.

**88% ORGANISATION & MANAGEMENT**
Eighty-eight percent of Loughborough students were satisfied with the organisation and management of their course, significantly ahead of the sector average of 86%.

**9 OUT OF 10 STUDENTS’ UNION**
Nine out of ten Loughborough students were satisfied with the Students’ Union.

**WHY THE NSS IS IMPORTANT**

The NSS is one of the most important externally-driven initiatives for the University, says Professor Morag Bell, Pro Vice Chancellor (Teaching).

“Our finalists’ feedback makes a real difference to the learning experience for other Loughborough students, both now and in the future and it is critical to others’ perceptions of us.

“The results contribute to driving improvements in the curriculum, teaching and learning quality, learning resources and academic support – areas which are fundamental to our students’ academic experience. “They help prospective students make informed choices about where and what to study. The results are included in the Key Information Set (KIS) for every HEI on the Unistats website – the official site to search for and compare data and information on university courses across the UK. They also influence the UK national league tables.

“Each year Schools, Professional Services and the Students’ Union encourage finalists to participate in the survey; they work hard to promote the results and to respond to the outcomes as part of our quality cycle. It is rewarding for colleagues to see some very strong results this year and thank you to all.”

**TURNING WORDS INTO ACTION**

Some of the improvements the University has made as a result of students’ feedback.

**STUDYING**

All Schools and Departments are working to a feedback turnaround on coursework within 3 weeks.

The Library has undergone a £4.5 million transformation. As part of this Level 4 of the building was integrated into the Library to provide 300 additional study spaces, including 70 for silent study. The number of open access computers was increased to 200, with more short stay PCs and better access for groups.

Several lecture theatres have been refurbished - 100% in the Welford building has been re-fitted; one of the Edward Herbert Building lecture theatres has been extended to create tiered seating for up to 400 students; a former storage and office space in the James France building has been converted into a 120-seat tiered lecture theatre; and a tiered lecture theatre has been provided in the Brockington building.

**LEISURE**

As part of the redevelopment of East Park, Martin Hall Square will be transformed into a fully pedestrianised public plaza, which will also be used for special events such as graduations, markets and outdoor theatre/musical performances.

The new health and fitness centre on the West Park area of campus, which is now open, offers courts for inter-hall competitions and gym equipment, for those who don’t want to participate in competitive sport.

Preparations are already underway for next year’s National Student Survey, and information about the 2015 campaign will be sent out in the coming weeks.
The Athena SWAN Charter is a national initiative which, ultimately, aims to increase the number of women working in STEMM subjects in academia – Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine.

Launched in 2005, and run by the Equality Challenge Unit, Athena SWAN evolved from the work of two influential initiatives – the Athena Project and the Scientific Women’s Academic Network (SWAN), both of which aimed to advance the representation of women in STEMM.

Athena SWAN helps universities and research institutions to create more equitable working environments for women in STEMM and rewards institutions that are making positive steps by presenting them with bronze, silver and gold awards.

The scheme now has 114 members from around the UK, including numerous universities and leading research organisations such as the Natural History Museum and the British Geological Survey.

All members sign up to the Charter’s six principles. They pledge to take action at both organisational and departmental levels, monitor their progress and put in place plans to improve women’s participation and progression in STEMM.

Bronze, silver, and one day gold?

Loughborough was one of the founding members of the Athena SWAN Charter in 2005. It has held an institutional Bronze award since 2009 and this was recently renewed following the successful submission of the November 2014 award round.

In 2013 the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences successfully applied for a Silver award and in 2014 Loughborough Design School was awarded Bronze.

Several other Schools and Departments have also committed to making a submission in 2015 (Maths Education Centre, Mathematical Sciences, Civil and Building Engineering, School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering, Aeronautical, Automotive, Chemical and Materials Engineering).

The awards, available at both institutional and departmental levels, recognise and celebrate good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women in STEMM in HE. They are valid for three years.

Organisations recognise the challenges and have planned activities to address them.

Holders have taken action to address the challenges and are assessing the impact of their actions.

Organisations are able to demonstrate a substantial and well-established record of working towards equality in career progression in STEMM, and act as beacons of best practice.

27% of science and engineering technicians, 15% of ICT professionals and 5.5% of engineering professionals are female.

Get involved

Throughout the year the Athena SWAN team at Loughborough coordinate a number of events and activities to celebrate women in STEMM and inspire those who work right across the University.

One such event was the first-ever Claudia Parsons Memorial Lecture, held at the start of 2014 as part of a brand new series for Athena SWAN. Claudia Parsons was a student at Loughborough College from 1919-22, and was one of the first women to receive a diploma in Automobile Engineering. She became the first woman to circumnavigate the world by car and wrote about her experiences in a number of influential travel books.

The first Claudia Parsons Memorial Lecture was given by renowned space scientist and The Sky At Night TV presenter Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock.

Drawing on her own experiences, Dr Aderin-Pocock talked to a packed audience about how a change in female representation in STEMM could be achieved. She also recounted some of the pioneering women in space science, as well as her own adventures and triumphs.

11% of STEMM business owners are women.

Assessing the impact of Athena SWAN

In May this year, Loughborough researchers revealed that the Athena SWAN Charter does advance gender equality and change the working culture and attitudes within participating departments and universities.

The ECU had commissioned the team to undertake an independent assessment of the impact and benefit of the Athena SWAN charter on all participating higher education institutions and the wider sector.

The research was undertaken by Dr Felimnitha Murir, Hilary McDermott and Carolynne Mason from Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences (SEHSS), Professor Barbara Baghirole from Social Sciences, and Mary Nevill and John Morris, formerly of SEHSS.

According to Dr Murir, higher education tends to mirror the general UK workplace pattern. Women are usually well represented in universities, but there is a lack of women in senior positions, particularly in academic posts. And there are also differences between disciplines, with women heavily represented in language-based studies and lightly represented in STEMM.

“STEMM subjects tend to be male-dominated and can be perceived as difficult environments for female progression,” said Dr Murir. “Across the sector this perception is sometimes accurate, with biased workload allocation and male academics behaving in a better career development and progression.

“Our research found that in STEMM departments that hold an Athena SWAN award, there is less gender bias and better career satisfaction for both men and women.”

The importance of the awards has also now been recognised by the Department of Health, who say that in the future the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) would not expect to shortlist any NHS-university partnership for biomedical research funding unless the academic department holds at least a silver Athena SWAN award.

The number of female professors in Loughborough’s STEMM schools has increased from 6% in 2007 to 12% in 2013.

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FIND OUT MORE

The Athena SWAN team:

DR KATRINA KALAWISKY - Athena SWAN Project Officer
LIZ QUINBY-FOUNTAIN - Athena SWAN Project Assistant
ABIDA AKRAM - Staff Development Adviser (Equality and Diversity)

PROFESSOR STEVE ROTHBERG - (Pro Vice Chancellor for Enterprise) is the Athena SWAN University Champion

For more information about the Athena SWAN Charter at Loughborough, including the contact details of coordinators within Schools and details of events and training opportunities, go to the University’s Athena SWAN web pages at www.lboro.ac.uk/athena-swan

Or for more general information go to the Equalities Challenge Unit site www.ecu.ac.uk/athena-swan

13% of those working in occupations classed as STEMM are women.

Just 11% of STEMM business owners are women.

Just 13% of those working in occupations classed as STEMM are women.
Communication and culture can both unite processes through which inclusion and exclusion divide communities. Understanding the problematics, performance and practices of inclusion.

Loughborough’s research addresses the need to accelerate the delivery of distinctive solutions to regional, national and international issues. Newsatboro takes a look at each of the Challenges.

**COMMUNICATION, CULTURE AND CITIZENSHIP**

Communication and culture can both unite and divide communities. Understanding the processes through which inclusion and exclusion divide communities. Our research addresses the need to accelerate the delivery of distinctive solutions to regional, national and international issues. Newsatboro takes a look at each of the Challenges.

**ENERGY**

Society’s use of energy has created one of our greatest challenges – global climate change.

Loughborough is a leader in energy research, with a strong focus on low-carbon technologies. Our research has been cited in several trade reports, most recently in the UK’s 2050 Energy Roadmap.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

Major health challenges are an escalating problem for the UK. Ill health has a negative impact on the quality of life of both patients and their families and dependants and the spiralling costs of healthcare are a huge challenge at a time of severe economic constraint.

Building on Loughborough’s excellence in advanced manufacturing and materials, and its world-leading reputation in sports science, the University addresses the broad dimensions of health and wellbeing through the application of its expertise in design, engineering, sport and manufacturing to regenerate medicine and lifestyle interventions.

**SECURE AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES**

Societies around the world face many potential external threats and human-induced hazards, and must put in place robust and effective strategies, preparedness and response and rapid decision-making and planning technologies for use in the field.

**CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Countries are facing challenges from climate change, natural hazards, water shortages and environmental pollution, against a backdrop of population growth, increasing migration and urbanisation.

By placing Loughborough’s understanding of environmental processes into the context of land, water and the atmosphere, with its research on design, construction and operation of critical processes and their impacts on land, water and the atmosphere, civil engineers, Loughborough is able to provide the scientific evidence base, professional skills and expertise needed to identify and implement sustainable solutions.

**ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES**

New technologies need to be driven by the very best ideas, fit for purpose, targeted and efficient to enhance lives.

Loughborough’s researchers undertook society’s ability to remain secure and resilient to the twin threats of climate change and technological disruption. Our multidisciplinary research is concerned with developing ideas and putting them through to cutting-edge research, which is then translated into practical solutions.

**CASE STUDY**

Loughborough’s research into high-risk vehicle markings has improved road safety across the UK.

The initial research, to develop the UK’s first national livery for police and enforcement vehicles, was undertaken in the early 1980s. It successfully created a scientifically validated motorway patrol vehicle marking standard which would enhance the conspicuousness of police vehicles.

The outcomes of the research have enabled police and enforcement vehicles to be more identifiable and more effective in tackling crime.

**CASE STUDY**

Fuel cell technology research originated at Loughborough in the 1950s and the ground-breaking work has grown to a new generation of clean power systems.

In 1995, the research team constructed the first 1kW proton exchange membrane fuel cell, and in 2014 delivered the Advanced Power Sources – now Intelligent Energy with its headquarters on Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park – was launched to explore the pre-commercial development of prototype fuel cells.

Intelligent Energy now provides low carbon fuel cell systems for global partners in the consumer electronics, automotive and distributed power and generation markets.

**CASE STUDY**

Slope ALARMS can detect and warn about potentially devastating landslides. Developed and patented in partnership with the British Geological Survey, the novel technology is low cost and more sensitive and reliable than existing systems. A battery-powered sensor – attached to a steel tube placed in the ground – is imbedded in the unstable slope – measures the acoustic emission as the slope deforms and provides updates and warnings via text messages.

There are now 12 Slope ALARMS sensors in the UK, Europe and Canada, improving safety in places like Huddersfield and Alpine railways, highways and settlements on coastal slopes.

**CASE STUDY**

Less than 20% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa use piped water. In urban areas, non-piped sources include boreholes, springs and hand-dug wells – are highly susceptible to contamination.

Research conducted by experts from Loughborough has helped more than one million people to access safe piped water services, enhancing their health and quality of life.
THE BENEFITS OF ONLINE INFORMATION

my.HR allows staff to take control of their own financial and other records.

✔ Access is available 24/7
✔ Information can be accessed remotely, anywhere in the world if necessary!
✔ Online access removes the need to consult the payroll, HR or Professional Development teams in many situations
✔ Security has improved – payslips are no longer left in pigeon holes or around the workplace*

*Please note it is the responsibility of individual members of staff to retrieve historical payslips upon leaving the University as access to my.HR expires on the last day of employment. (Please see the HR webpage - Leaving the University for more information.)

Employee Self Service (my.HR) was launched in 2012. The system is widely used throughout the University. With an impressive makeover due as newsatlboro went to print we put the system under the spotlight to see what it offers members of staff, and what is coming next.

my.HR allows staff to:

✔ View and download payslips and P60s (past and current)
✔ Add or amend contact details, including emergency contacts
✔ View and update sensitive personal information (eg equality data)
✔ Supply HESA personal data (eg Academic Teaching Qualifications, Academic Discipline)
✔ View absence data
✔ Access training and development opportunities
✔ View courses attended

Access to my.HR is via a link on the University home page and staff are strongly encouraged to review their personal information periodically to ensure it remains up to date.

my.HR is changing!

The University’s Itrent support team is working closely with the software suppliers to deliver a new look and feel to the system. The new version of my.HR was due to go live as newsatlboro went to print and will deliver a more modern look that incorporates slicker ways to access information. Additional features will include:

Extended coverage: access to my.HR was initially introduced for employees paid via the monthly and four-weekly payroll. It is now being extended to University Teachers paid via the claims payroll and off-campus access will be available. This follows the recent Change Team/HR project to improve methods of communication, employment, reward and payment for this staff group.

Holiday bookings: future development to create a streamlined, cross University process for booking and recording holidays.

Expense claims: future plans will see this incorporated into my.HR, taking expense claims online. Individuals will submit their claim through my.HR which will then trigger a departmental approval process. This will facilitate speedier processing and allow the payments to be made with salaries.

FEEDBACK

The HR team are continuously working with their suppliers to improve the my.HR user experience and previous feedback has been used in developing the recent changes to the system. There has also already been some very positive feedback from pilot users:

“I loved the new system. Much easier to use”

“The new version looks great and is easy to navigate”

“This looks a lot clearer and easier to use, as a new comer this version was simple and easy to navigate”

“Wow, love it. When can we start using it?”

The all new my.HR will be rolled out to all users in the coming months. Additional comments are welcome. Please let the HR team know your thoughts by emailing itrentadmin@lboro.ac.uk
Over the summer, a team of past and present students and Loughborough-based athletes headed for Glasgow to compete in the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Newsatlboro takes a look back on their achievements.

WHICH SPORT ARE YOU MADE FOR?

Researchers from Loughborough helped the BBC to devise an online test that allowed people to determine which of the Commonwealth Games’ 22 sports they might be best at.

The light-hearted quiz was part of the BBC’s Get Inspired campaign, a London 2012 legacy initiative to encourage more people to participate in sport and activity.

The test asked players to rate their physical and mental attributes on a scale of one to ten. Their three closest matched sports were then revealed.

To develop the quiz, the researchers from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences drew up an initial list of the physical and mental attributes crucial to success in sport, with each sport in the Commonwealth Games then rated against these attributes.

GOLD

Vicky Holland Triathlon, mixed team relay
Fran Halsall Swimming, 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly
Dan Greaves Athletics, discus F42/44
Libby Clegg Athletics, 100m T12
Sam Oldham Gymnastics, men’s team event
Georgia Davies Swimming, 50m backstroke
Adam Barrett Swimming, men’s 4x100m medley relay
Steve Lewis Athletics, pole vault

BRONZE

Vicky Holland Triathlon, women’s individual event
Liam Tomac Swimming, 100m backstroke and 50m backstroke
Adam Barrett Swimming, 100m butterfly and men’s 4x100m freestyle relay
Molly Rosshaw Swimming, 200m breaststroke
Sophie Hitchon Athletics, hammer
Mark Dry Athletics, hammer
Anya Gesseau Athletics, women’s 4x400m relay
Sally Scott Athletics, pole vault

Sarah Holt combines being a hammer thrower with working for the University as a Sports Business Coordinator. She gives newsatlboro her insight into what it was like to compete at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games...

Was Glasgow a home Games for us English athletes? Absolutely! The experience of competing at Hampden Park to a myriad of St George’s flags is without doubt the highlight of my athletics career. The energy from the crowd was incredible. Dancing to the Proclaimers with nearly 50,000 people singing at the top of their voices was also a lot of fun!

My qualifying session was to a full house. One of my main thought processes going into the day was to stay in control of my emotions. Even though I have thrown in packed stadiums previously I knew that the adrenaline would be ridiculous, I wanted to enjoy the crowd and the home support whilst competing.

I qualified for the final with the distance of my opening throw. But I knew for the final that my focus had to improve.

The biggest challenge of throwing is that to throw further you must relax your body more. The harder you try the worse you throw. I couldn’t afford to tense up and I was very conscious of trying to stay relaxed and hit key technical positions.

I finished the competition in fourth place. But I was happy. My preparations had been hampered due to a calf tear in late March and I considered myself fortunate to have been on the field competing. I felt like I could leave knowing that that performance was the best I could do on the day, for me that meant that I could hold my head up high and be proud of myself.

Inside track: Sarah Holt
Gold medallist praises Peter Harrison Centre

Colleagues at the Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport are to continue supporting British Para-Alpine Skiing after the team returned from a successful 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games with five medals.

Kelly Gallagher and guide Charlotte Evans ended Britain’s 38-year wait for a first ever gold medal in skiing at the Winter Games after winning the women’s Super G event.

In May the Centre welcomed back members of the team into the laboratory for physiological profile testing in preparation for the new season which began in September.

Speaking about the support the Centre has provided, Charlotte Evans said: “I think that it has made us more professional. It’s a great opportunity for our team to have the best facilities and work with great people.”

On winning the Olympic gold medal Charlotte added: “It’s a team effort. It’s never an individual medal or a single win. There are a lot of people involved in getting you there and Loughborough has been a major part in setting us up how fit we are throughout the season.”

Loughborough coach named in British Para-Swimming support team

Loughborough Swimming’s Steve Bayley has been selected to work with the British Para-Swimming team in the lead up to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

Steve, who is one of ten coaches selected to the Coach to Rio programme (College and University Business Officers) Awards, which recognise the achievements of those working within the higher education sector.

The University was a joint winner of the Excellence in Student Sport Experience, a new award for 2014.

The creation of My Lifestyle has developed a programme of regular recreational sporting activities and classes, with an emphasis on participation rather than performance. My Lifestyle has also been significant in creating dedicated recreational facilities or ‘Parks’ across campus that give students and staff the opportunity to organise and play unstructured activities for free. The latest development to support recreational sport is the £5.6 million Holywell Fitness Centre, situated at the west end of campus.

Dawn Cooper, My Lifestyle Coordinator at Loughborough, said: “It’s really humbling to get this award from CUBO recognising the work of My Lifestyle, the Sport Experience Team, and also our wider sporting offer.

“I’m delighted that this award has been voted for by peers from across other universities, who recognise that Loughborough are leading the way and are one of the best at providing a positive student sport experience.

“We will continue to drive student sport forward, to provide even more opportunities to play, compete and have fun, whilst at the same time create a sporting habit for life for our students that will continue after University.”

Student sport experience recognised at CUBO Awards

Loughborough’s recreational sport programme has been recognised at the CUBO (College and University Business Officers) Awards, which recognise the achievements of those working within the higher education sector.

The University was a joint winner of the Excellence in Student Sport Experience, a new award for 2014.

Loughborough Sport competes in new National Badminton League

Loughborough Sport is competing in the new National Badminton League (NBL) – the UK’s first ever professional national league - which started this autumn.

The game-changing NBL began on 6 October and matches are being televised live on Sky Sports, as well as globally to over 10 million homes in 16 countries via Eurosport Asia-Pacific. Matches will also be streamed live on the Internet.

The league matches include a new game format, unique scoring system and dynamic in-game features.

Loughborough Sport is one of six teams in the league.

A Lightning return for new head coach

Netball Superleague team Loughborough Lightning have appointed Loughborough alumna Karen Atkinson as their new head coach.

Karen had an illustrious international career, representing England in 122 matches, which made her the second most capped player in English history. She won three Commonwealth Games bronze medals in 1998, 2006 and 2010, and two World Championship bronze medals in 1999 and 2011.

She also played for Loughborough Lightning, before moving to Hertfordshire Mavericks, whom she has been coaching since her retirement as a player.

She said: “I am extremely grateful to have spent the last eight years playing and coaching at Hertfordshire Mavericks, the opportunities it has given me and the fantastic people I have been able to work with.

“However it feels fitting to come back to Loughborough where I started my Superleague career and I am excited about the new challenges it will bring.”

Karen was the Athlete Representative for Team England and technical coach to the England Netball squad at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

She was awarded an MBE for services to netball in the 2014 New Year’s honours list.

The new Superleague season begins in the New Year, with Lightning playing their first home match against Celtic Dragons on 9 February.

Ticket details can be found here: http://loughboroughsport.com/loughborough-lightning/fixturesandresults

University confirmed as an official Team Base for Rugby World Cup 2015

Loughborough University has been confirmed a Team Base for Rugby World Cup 2015.

41 Team Bases have been selected for the 20 nations competing in the Tournament being held between September and October next year.

Loughborough will be a Team Base for Namibia, Tonga and Uruguay.

The Team Base will consist of outdoor and indoor training facilities comprising the Sir David Wallace Sports Hall, 50 metre swimming pool and Powerbase gym.

Ben Almeida, Sports Business Development Manager at Loughborough University said: “I am delighted that Loughborough University has been selected as an official Team Base for Rugby World Cup 2015, and that we will host some of the teams who will be playing matches in the Midlands region.

“We have built our reputation on sporting excellence and have vast experience of hosting elite teams that have competed at global sporting events.

“Therefore we look forward to welcoming teams onto our campus and supporting their preparations for the Tournament.”
With the 20th Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow this year, newsatlboro looks back on just a few of Loughborough’s golden moments through the years.

1954 Vancouver
Physical Education graduate Ken Jones won bronze for Wales in the 220 yard sprint. Ken was not only a fine sprinter who won a silver medal in the 4 x 100 relay at the 1948 London Olympic Games, but also represented Wales and the British Lions in rugby union.

1970 Edinburgh
John Sherwood won gold for England in the 400m hurdles, the event that he also claimed a bronze medal in at the Mexico 1968 Olympic Games. Seb Coe has described John, who studied Physical Education, and his wife, long jumper Sheila Shenwood, as his inspiration for pursuing athletics.

1998 Kuala Lumpur
University graduates Olivia Murphy and Karen Aspinall were part of the England squad that claimed bronze in the first ever netball competition held during the Games.

2002 Manchester
Competing for England, graduate James Gibson won gold and bronze in the 50m and 100m breaststroke. In 2006 in Melbourne he claimed silver in the 100m event. James has now returned to Loughborough as lead coach for British Swimming’s National Sprint Programme.

For a round-up of Loughborough at Glasgow 2014, take a look at the feature on p16.