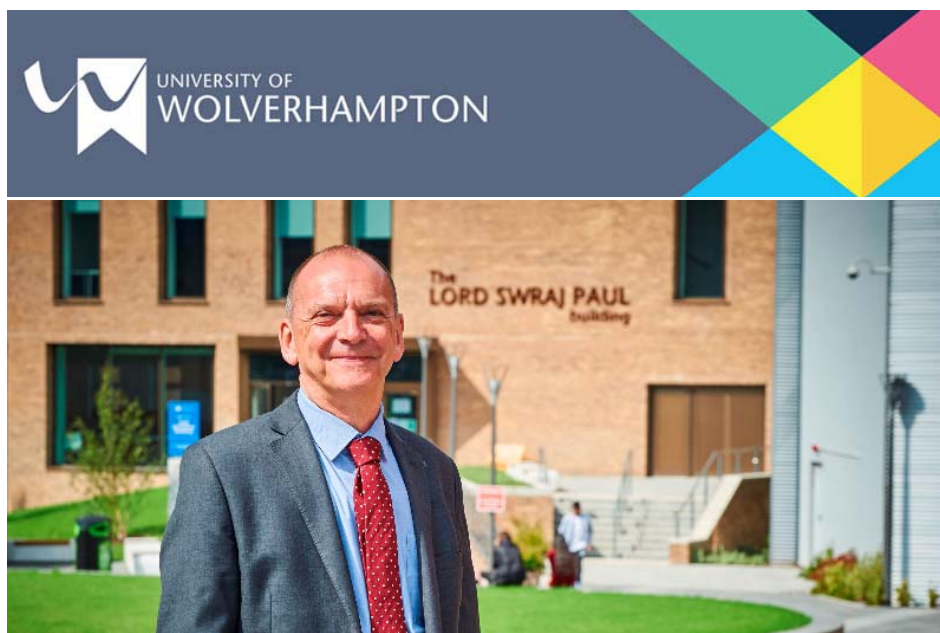


From: External Relations
Sent: 19 December 2018 15:39
To: Staff
Subject: Geoff's Update - December 2018



Geoff's Update - December 2018

As we move towards the Christmas break I would like to thank you all for your efforts over the last 12 months and wish everyone a good break over the festive season.



UUK Made at Uni Campaign

The University's pioneering Three Minutes to Save a Life programme, which is dedicated to tackling the issue of suicide and self-harm, has been highlighted in a national campaign.

The programme, which aims to support students who may experience suicidal thoughts, has been featured in

the [#MadeAtUni campaign](#) which highlights the ways universities have improved everyday life. More than 800 University staff and students – including security, caretaking and academics – have now been trained to recognise early warning signs in at-risk students and how they can escalate concerns proportionately and compassionately.

Fundraising success

We have recently been successful in raising £1m as part of our efforts to support ongoing work at the University.

Our Chancellor, Lord Paul, has agreed to donate £500,000 as a legacy gift in memory of his son Angad – who tragically passed away in November 2015.

The money is to be used to support a number of initiatives for students and staff. These will be:

- Early Careers Research Fund – to support early careers researchers leading up to the Research Excellence Framework 2021
- Excellence in Teaching Fund - to support individual and group teaching excellence reward initiatives
- Fund to support Student Entrepreneurial Initiatives

In recognition of his generous gift and also as a tribute to Angad, the University has decided to rename the Hutchison Building (SA) at our Telford Campus the Angad Paul Building in February 2019. The Hutchison name will still live on within the building through the naming of the Hutchison Library.

I'm also pleased to announce we have also been successful in obtaining a £500,000 gift from the Garfield Weston Foundation to support the capital costs of the new School of Architecture and Built Environment at Springfield.

It is part of their major grants programme and one of the largest grants which they now award. The family-founded charitable grant-making foundation supports causes across the UK with grants totalling over £60million each year. What makes it all the more welcome is that it is the maximum grant the foundation awards.

A lot of hard work has gone into securing both gifts and I'd like to thanks all those involved.

VC Roadshows Action Plan

I met with each School/Institute and Directorate back in the spring of this year for targeted staff discussion meetings. We have now published the report which details the issues raised in those meetings, the actions that were taken away and the progress that

has been made on those actions to date. Inevitably, many of the points raised and issues recorded are part of longer term developments and therefore can't be closed off completely for some time. However I am pleased to see that we are making significant headway in many of the areas that you raised with me and that is down to the hard work of many members of staff. The [action report is available here](#). A further progress update on this report will be circulated in early 2019.

Staff and student successes

Our sports teams have made a strong start to the BUCS campaign having already exceeded last year's total points tally and a number of teams have made it through to the quarter finals of the cup competitions. This is a great tribute to the hard work and dedication of the WLV Sport team, our first-class coaches, and to our long-term Focus Sport Plan.

Well done to students [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who all won their categories at the British Senior Judo Championships recently.

[REDACTED] a BSc (Hons) Sports Science student, was successful in the -78kg category. BSc (Hons) Exercise and Health student [REDACTED] clinched gold in the -70kg category. Meanwhile, [REDACTED] who is studying BSc (Hons) Strength and Conditioning, won the gold medal in the -73kg competition.

The students, who train at the British Judo Centre of Excellence at the Walsall Campus, all receive support from the University's Sports Scholarship scheme.

It was also good to see one of our students named as one of 50 young trailblazers for the marketing industry. MSc Marketing Management student [REDACTED] was named in The Founding 50, a group of 50 marketers aged under 30 who are collaborating with the School of Marketing to change the perception of marketing among young people across the UK.

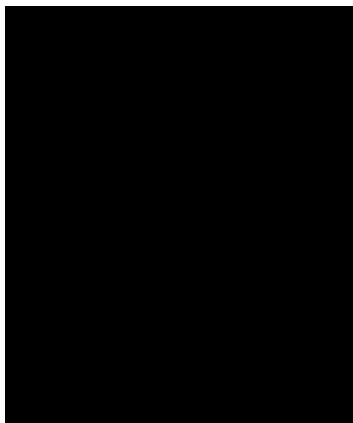
The [REDACTED] answered the call to become an ambassador for the industry, which will involve going into schools during 2019 to raise awareness and understanding of marketing as a career.

Professor of Dance Science Matthew Wyon has been recognised for his research at the One Dance UK Awards ceremony. Matthew was presented with two awards for 'Dance Science' and 'Research in Dance – Impact'. The One Dance UK Awards recognises the inspirational work of professionals working in the dance sector.

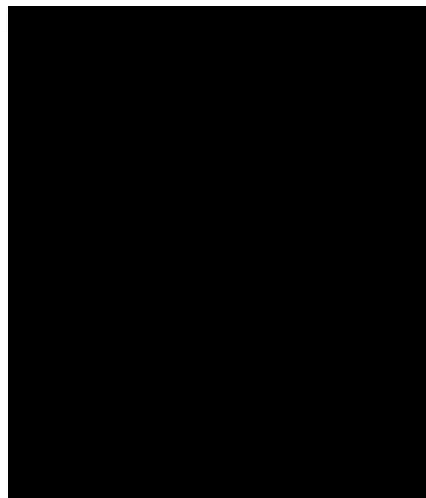
Equality and Diversity

The University successfully hosted a day-long conference in the Chancellor's Hall this month on the subject of Tackling Micro Aggressions and Hate Crime. It specifically looked at what more universities can do to tackle microaggressions and hate incidents. The event was part of an Office for Students Safeguarding Catalyst Project, which has also seen a training video called 'Different Voices' that seeks to explain to students how everyday comments can be infused with racism, disablism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, transgender and homophobia. In doing so, it attempts to demonstrate the impact that micro-aggressions have on individuals. You can [view the video here](#).

Staffing



After a long and fruitful Research and Leadership career at the University, Professor John Darling has decided to retire. John will continue to be active as an



I am pleased to announce that Professor Tracy Warr will act as the Interim Director of the Research Institute in Healthcare Science and the Unit of Assessment

Emeritus Professor in his field of cancer research. I would like to thank him for all he has contributed and I am sure that we will all want to wish him all the best for the future.

Coordinator for UoA3.

Welcome to Denise Hollebon who started in the role of Director of Estates and Facilities on 10 December 2018. Some of you may have met Denise already as she is currently working at the University as the Interim Assistant Director of Facilities. Denise joins the University with a wealth of experience, having worked as a Senior Director in large organisations such as Interserve, Sodexo, Kier and ISS across both the public and private sector business. Denise succeeds [REDACTED] who will retire from the University on 31 December 2018.



Estates Update

Ground has officially broken on the new School of Architecture and Built Environment at Springfield. We were joined by contractors ISG and other stakeholders at the event to mark the occasion. We should start to see the new building rising out of the ground in the Spring and the building itself is due to be completed by May 2020.

The main lecture theatre at Telford (SA102) is currently being refurbished to create an attractive and modern space with new carpet, seating, doors and blinds to join the new IT and AV equipment. This follows more than 100 spaces being revamped over the last few months.

An audit of all centrally managed learning and teaching spaces is to commence early next year to identify further refurbishment requirements to allow for a costed schedule and works programme.

Sustainability

During a period of great uncertainty in higher education, we have all been working hard to maximise our position and we will continue to be competitive. However, at times institutions like ours have to reflect on our role and this is the start of a University-wide consideration of sustainable development.

The issue of sustainability is crucial to the development of our economy and society and

we need to use our role to make real change. There are many developments and arguments in this area, but what is clear is that it is crucially important for all our futures. We will be entering challenging waters where there are difficult tensions and strongly held differences of view. Debating and discussing these are important in ensuring change.

The proposal we will be asking our community to discuss is about our role in securing a positive and responsible position towards sustainable development and that might mean, for example, that by 2025:

- The University campuses will become beacons for sustainability
- We will have reviewed the University curriculum to ensure that each course has developed an understanding of, and knowledge about, sustainability
- The University's research programme is aligned to United Nation Sustainable Development goals
- By using initiatives such as the Wolverhampton City Learning Region, we will work with and influence our community through promoting the values of sustainability.

We will need to focus on:-

- Campus
- Communities
- Curriculum

This is a bold agenda. It may not be complete, and it may change, but the crucial issue is that we develop an agreed ambition and put it into practice.

In January I will be holding a series of open meetings to help to shape the way forward. The details of these meetings are as follows:

Tuesday 8 January – 1pm-2pm – Walsall Campus, Samuel Johnson Building WN004
Tuesday 8 January – 3.30pm-4.30pm – City Campus, Millennium City Building MC001
Thursday 10 January – 9am-10am – Telford Campus, Darby Building SC028
Thursday 10 January – 11am – 12pm – City Campus, Mary Seacole Building MH002

I really hope you will be able to contribute.

Geoff

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