

From: External Relations
Sent: 30 November 2017 16:39
To: Staff
Subject: Geoff's Update - November 2017



Geoff's Update - November 2017

Futureproofing: The Way Forward update

The Strategic Plan Review Team has now met a number of times since it was set up following the staff roadshows in September.

Good progress is being made and a number of themes have emerged from sessions so far which are being explored further.

So far on the tracker there are 19 themes being looked at. These include nurturing students, admissions, marketing and events, recruitment and UK outreach, PGT recruitment strategy, international activity, use of HEIF, budget savings, regulation and student opportunity, EU recruitment and academic staff development.

The various sub-groups of the Strategic Plan Review Team have also met a number of times and themes have emerged from them which are now being worked up for submission upwards.

One of the first main recommendations to come out of the review team which is being actioned is the decision to change the structure of the Directorate of Academic Support to create two directorates: an IT Directorate and a refocused DAS.

The new structures will allow for greater focus and alignment with the University's Strategic Plan. The detail will be worked through over the next few months and the two directorates will be in place by spring 2018. The only structural changes will be reporting arrangements for some DAS staff. In the meantime, there will be no change to the existing staff structures. Following the recent departure of the Deputy Director (IT) for another job, [REDACTED] is now working as Interim Deputy Director, and the recruitment process for a new senior IT Director is underway.

Further information about the Strategic Plan Review Team, its sub-groups and terms of reference are all available on the [Futureproofing web pages](#).

Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) pilot

HEFCE is piloting subject level TEF over the next two years. As we know, the subject level TEF will become compulsory from 2019-20. The University has been selected to participate in the pilot in year one looking at two models. Work is ongoing and will run through to February.

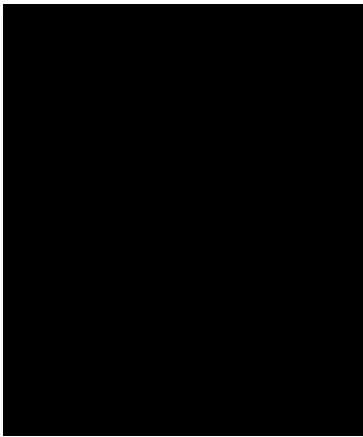
Nominations now open for Honorary Awards 2018

Each year the University awards honorary degrees in recognition and celebration of inspiring individuals – the nominations process is now open for 2018 and you can find out more information and how to nominate [here](#).

Stafford centre open

The University's new regional learning centre, known as University of Wolverhampton in Stafford (UWiS) is now open. Based within the Staffordshire Place complex it will offer a range of courses, advice and guidance, business support and networking. The centre will be made up of two teaching rooms, social learning and meeting spaces. It marked its opening with a community day on Saturday.

Staff appointments and successes

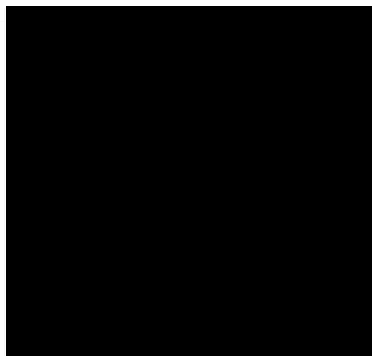


Congratulations to Professor Fiona Hackney, Faculty of Arts, who has been awarded £143,833 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for the Designing a Sensibility for Sustainable Clothing (S4S) project, which aims to co-create workshops with experts and participants that reflect the various stages of the life-cycle of fabric and clothing. We are collaborating on this project with other organisations, with project lead University of Exeter.



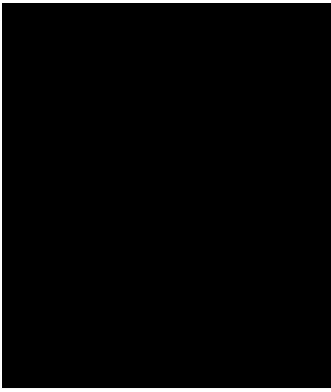
Professor Jean Williams, Faculty of Education, Health and Wellbeing, has also received an award from the AHRC - £69,969 for a PhD thesis to be written on the history of women's hockey, in collaboration with partner The Hockey Museum. This will be the first of its kind and based on oral histories – along with what is already available, it will enable The Hockey Museum to have the largest collection of artefacts related to women's hockey anywhere in the world.

Jean has also been selected as academic lead for a project depicting the history of women's football for the National Football Museum.



Alison Carminke, Faculty of Arts, and Neil Reading, Arena Theatre, have been awarded EUR 103,893 for the Audience Blending by Arts project by Creative Europe Culture. This is a collaborative project with many partner organisations, with the result being five new versions of the original play 'Kukunor ja Unikuu' – translated into spoken and sign language - in the five partner countries involved; Finland, Portugal, Belgium, Croatia and Bulgaria.

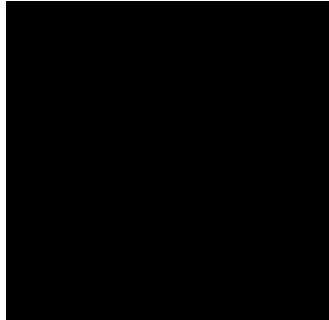
Alison has also been awarded EUR 155,290 from Erasmus+ Key Action 2 for the CASTLE project – new employability skills and business creation in the audiodescription and subtitling sector. This project is in collaboration with European partners.



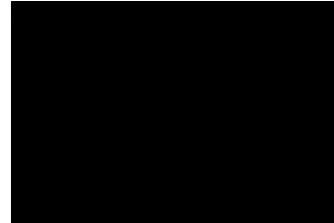
A further award from Erasmus+ Key Action 2 is EUR 81,082 for Helen Sargeant, Faculty of Arts, for the SignMedia Enterprise project - a training opportunity for European deaf media professionals. The University is collaborating with five other European university partners.



Judo Development Officer Wayne McDonald picked up the Coach of the Year at the Black Country Physical Activity Awards and sports student and judo player Acelya Toprak won sports personality of the year.

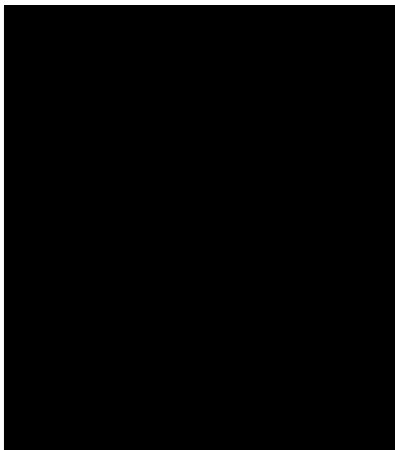


Congratulations to Governor Ben Reid OBE who has been chosen to represent the UK on the International Co-operative Alliance. Ben is Chief executive of the Midcounties Co-operative.

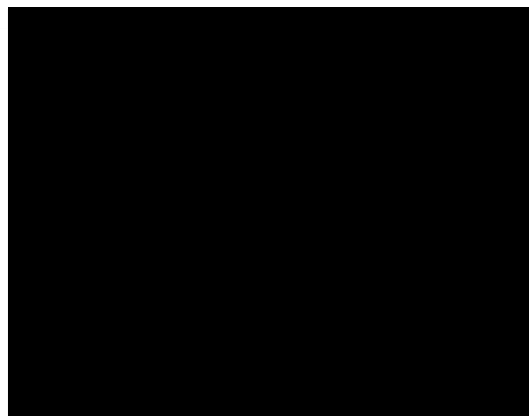


And finally the University won in the quality initiative category at the HPC EDF Excellence Awards for its delivery of a specially designed Professional Practice course for the nuclear energy provider in conjunction with the Institute of Clerk of Works Construction Inspectorate. (ICWCI)

Research news



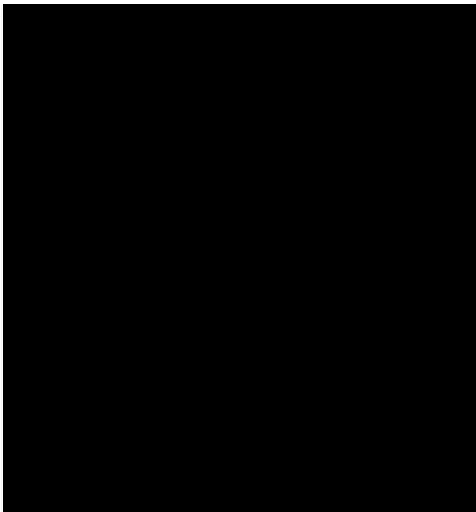
Dr Spencer Jones from the Faculty of Social Sciences recently appeared on a Channel 4 documentary called Britain's Forgotten Army about the story of the Chinese Labour Corp during the First World War. Spencer was the historical



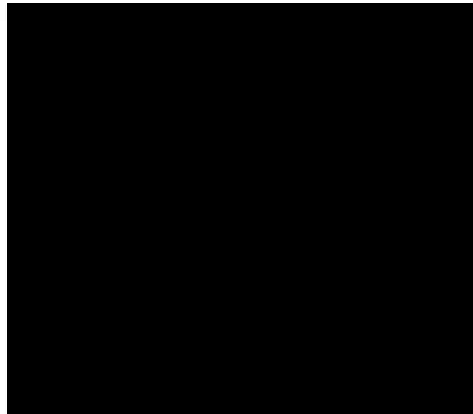
Professor Mike Thelwell of the Faculty of Science and Engineering has been included in the highly cited researchers list. This list is made by the owners of the Web of Science and includes researchers that are in the top 1% most cited for the

consultant to the programme which aired on Remembrance Sunday.

year 2017 in their broad disciplinary area.



Professor Peter Walton of FOSS is working with the Kenyan government to overhaul insolvency legislation in the country. Peter was nominated by the World Bank to work as a consultant, reviewing and updating laws to assist businesses in Kenya and support future economic investment.



Dr Arun Arjunan of FSE has been named the Young Scientist of the Year 2018 by the International Association of Advanced Materials (IAAM).

The award is an honorary accreditation in recognition of Dr Arjunan's research in the field of advanced acoustic materials and technology.

Athena Swan: We Want To Hear From You

The University has been a proud holder of an [Athena SWAN](#) Bronze Award for gender equality since 2013. What began as a programme to help universities reflect on, and remove, the barriers that prevent greater participation of women in STEM teaching and research, has evolved into one that promotes gender equality more generally.

We are currently developing our application, and would like to hear from staff members in any faculty or directorate about any issues they have experienced or witnessed that they believe specifically disadvantage people of a specific gender. Likewise we would like to hear about examples of good practice that we could include as case studies in our submission. Please send feedback to xxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xx.xx by 14 December, 2017.

Financial Regulations

There has been a refresh of the University of Wolverhampton Financial Regulations, which have been approved by Board of Governors. If you have any questions please liaise with your contact in the Finance team.

To find out more visit the [financial regulation section on Staff Pages](#).

Estates update

The new fleet of University double deck buses have now arrived and went into service on Monday 27 November. The five Volvo buses, fitted with wi-fi and charging points, are part of a £1.2m investment and are in direct response to student feedback on inter-site travel.

At city campus work continues on the alternative entrance for the Wulfruna Building, due to be completed next month. A new centrally timetabled computer lab/teaching room is being created in Wulfruna MA042 and will be available from semester two. The newly refurbished social area is open in the Wulfruna basement which includes new seating and a Starbucks on the go machine.

At Walsall, the new car park is now open and work is progressing on the new entrance off the Broadway. Work has also been completed re-modelling the Sports Centre with improved fitness and catering facilities.

Get Involved In Your Staff Networks

The University of Wolverhampton supports the Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans (LGBT), and Disabled Staff Networks to provide staff members who self-define as belonging to a minority with an independent voice within the institution. These networks and the work they do on behalf of the University is highly valued by Senior Management, and I meet with the officers every term to discuss the progress they are making.

As part of the recent Agresso Data Cleanse, the Staff Networks have revised membership lists. If you are a member of a Staff Network but are not receiving their emails, please contact equality@wlv.ac.uk to be added onto the mailing list.

Effective staff networks help ensure that the University is properly supporting all its staff members, and is a strong advocate of Equality and Diversity. It is University policy that every staff network member has the right to engage with their activities.

Accessible and All Genders Toilets

You may have noticed recently that many of the accessible toilets have been re-designated as accessible and all genders toilets. This step has been taken to provide those trans and non-binary people who do not wish to use gendered facilities with an alternative. It does not change the right of trans and non-binary people to use whichever facilities best conform to their gender identity, as outlined in the University's Policy Statement on Gender Identity.

To ensure that the change does not disadvantage disabled people we have kept facilities that we believe to be in high demand as accessible-only. Please contact equalixx@xxx.xx.uk if you feel an accessible and all genders toilet is becoming

inaccessible due to heavy use. Please remember that not all disabilities are visible.

Staying Well At Work

I'd like to remind colleagues that the University now has an [Employee Assistance Programme](#) that can provide them with support if they are struggling to cope with stress or pressure in their daily lives, and the [Chaplaincy](#) is open to anyone (regardless of faith) who may require pastoral support.

Geoff

University of Wolverhampton
Wulfruna Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1LY

Website : www.wlv.ac.uk



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