Welcome!

The School of Earth and Environment continues to go from strength to strength. Two new agreements to strengthen international research and collaboration have been signed on behalf of our School in recent weeks.

The first is between Geosciences and the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China: http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/news/news-inner/new-international-agreement-between-leading-geoscience-institutes/

The second is between the Sustainability Research Institute and Balloon Latam, Chile: http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/news/news-inner/new-agreement-strengthens-international-research-and-collaboration/

We have recently been given the go-ahead on a £multi-million refurbishment of the old Staff Centre building adjacent to SEE, which will be renamed the Priestley Building in honour of the new Climate Research Centre (which featured in the last alumni newsletter).

We were delighted to hear of a paralympic gold medal in Rio for Karen Darke (BSc Chemistry and Geological Sciences 1992) in hand cycling: well done Karen!

We welcome contact from our alumni at anytime and would be delighted to hear from you: alumni@see.leeds.ac.uk

Joanna Bowen, Alumni Engagement Manager
http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/alumni/

Alumna shapes the future of the University Campus

Sam Tyer, BA Environmental Management, 2014 now works as an Environmental Engineer for Sir Robert McAlpine. Recently this included working on the £20 million refurbishment of the University of Leeds Student Union.

I cover multiple projects within the North East for Sir Robert McAlpine, my role varies day to day and includes engagement with subcontractors and our supply chain, compliance and audits on site and general management of issues that may arise on site; either as a result of the development e.g. contaminated land or existing issues e.g. ecological issues.

“It’s great to be have been a part of the development of a space I once considered my own, it’s really coming on and will be a great asset to the campus once complete.”

Leeds Network reaches 1000 profiles

There’s no substitute for first-hand accounts of career progression, realistic advice about breaking into a profession or insightful tips for career advancement.

Our students need this sort of boost to get onto, and move up, the career ladder. The Leeds Network puts them in touch with the sort of real-life information they need, from people like you. Whatever you do and wherever you live, there will be a student or young graduate who will value your insight.

In January the Leeds Network hit the 1000 profiles milestone! Over the past month SEE students have viewed 23 Leeds Network profiles online but new ones are always needed so please consider registering as a Leeds Network volunteer: https://alumni.leeds.ac.uk/leedsnetwork

QS World University Rankings 2017

The latest QS University Rankings have placed us =3rd in the UK and Top 20 worldwide for Earth Sciences and Top 15 in the UK for Environmental Sciences, Top 10 for Research Impact (Earth Sciences) and Top 10 for Academic Reputation (Environmental and Earth Sciences).

Engineering Geology Jubilee Dinner

The Jubilee Dinner to celebrate 50 years of Engineering Geology @ Leeds was attended by over 90 people including current students, alumni, current and former staff. http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/news/news-inner/jubilee-dinner-to-celebrate-50-years-of-engineering-geology-at-leeds-friday-13-january-2017/
**Free online courses**

As alumni of the University of Leeds, you are welcome to access our range of open access online courses. These MOOC’s (Massive Open Online Courses) are free to all and have no entry requirements. You will learn from our top lecturers and study at a pace that suits you.

For a full list of courses available, including Environmental Challenges and Innovation: the key to business success (which has been developed in partnership with M&S), see [http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130503/online_courses/478/](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130503/online_courses/478/)

Start dates vary throughout the year (information provided online).

---

**Virtual Landscapes Project wins Times Higher Education Award 2016**

Students on courses with a geology element can use the tool developed by the Virtual Landscapes team at the University and Leeds College of Art to help them to prepare for field work.

They explore a virtual landscape as they would a real one, interacting to collect real-time data, determine location, and map regional geology. This means that time can be used more profitably when they are out in the field.

The tool can also be used by students who cannot undertake fieldwork due to illness or injury, enabling the same skills and processes to be taught in a manner not previously possible.

Dr Jacqui Houghton, Lecturer at Leeds and director of the Virtual Landscapes project said: “This is a fantastic example of team working, using experts from different disciplines and institutions to find a solution to a problem we had been grappling with for some time.

“Virtual Landscapes was developed from a pencil and paper exercise originally devised by Dr Geoffroy Lloyd into a tool that has revolutionised the way that students learn about geology.”

Professor Randall Whittaker, Director of Studies at Leeds College of Art, said: “We are absolutely thrilled to have won the Outstanding Digital Innovation in Teaching or Research Award at the Times Higher Education Awards 2016, the most prestigious awards for the UK education sector. “This collaborative project demonstrates the benefits of using the creative and digital skills of our staff and students to address real-world problems and deliver engaging digital solutions.”

The tool has been so successful that it is being evaluated by other UK Universities, including Keele, Durham, and Liverpool, and used in universities in the USA, South Africa and Guyana.

For more information see: [http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/virtual_landscapes/](http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/virtual_landscapes/)

Also, just in the last month the team has secured almost £500K of HEFCE catalyst funding working with colleagues at the Open University and Plymouth University to further develop this learning tool!

---

**President of Iceland visits Leeds**

In September the President of Iceland, Guðne Th. Jóhannesson visited Leeds to make the Keynote Speech at the Future of Wild Europe event hosted by Enhance ITN.

The President described how Iceland’s wild landscape has been changed by humans over the past 1000 years. He also spoke about the potential impact on its human and non-human inhabitants would be if woods were regrown and wetlands restored. For more information about the event see: [http://enhanceitn.eu/wildeuropetalk/](http://enhanceitn.eu/wildeuropetalk/)

---

**Did you know... we are University of the Year?**

University of Leeds has won the Times Good University Guide University of the Year for 2017!

---

Follow us on Linked in, Facebook and Twitter. Search: School of Earth and Environment Alumni.