



# Newsletter

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Dear Colleagues

We are pleased to present the latest newsletter from the School of Physical Sciences. The past few months has seen some exceptional successes for the School in research and knowledge exchange projects, in the face of a challenging external environment.

We have also have had several colleagues who have been recipients of prestigious external awards. We congratulate also nominees, those short-listed, and the winners from the school in the inaugural University of Liverpool Celebrating Success awards. Details of all these can be found within.

We are also pleased to be able to bring to your attention the new School and Department websites: see [www.liv.ac.uk/school-of-physical-sciences/](http://www.liv.ac.uk/school-of-physical-sciences/) and links therein.

We wish all colleagues a relaxing winter break and a happy and successful new year.



**Ronan McGrath**  
*Head of School*



**Jo Arthur**  
*School Manager*

## Philip Leverhulme Prize

Congratulations to Prof Lasse Rempe-Gillen from the Department of Mathematics for being awarded a prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize for his outstanding research achievements.

## Doctor Honoris Causa



The University of Aix-Marseille (AMU) recently presented Prof Alexander Movchan from the Department of Maths with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. Presented by Prof Yvon Berland (president of AMU), Prof Movchan was one of 3 distinguished Professors to receive this Honorary Degree associated with the highest distinction of AMU. The ceremony follows the decree signed by the former French president Nicolas Sarkozy earlier this year allowing AMU to distinguish five Doctors Honoris Causa in 2012. In the introductory speech given by Prof Frederic Zolla (Fresnel Institute, CNRS/AMU) the crucial work of Alexander Movchan on the development of

modern tools of asymptotic analysis of fields in multistructures was detailed. Prof Zolla stressed that Alexander Movchan's leadership in a vast number of topics is assessed by no less than 200 publications in the highest quality international peer-reviewed journals - a fact that many members of AMU's scientific council viewed as an exceptionally prolific research for an applied mathematician - and by the many textbooks he wrote for undergraduates, postgraduates and researchers. Last, but not least, the importance of his contribution to the development of new research-led teaching techniques in higher-education and outreach activities for primary and secondary schools in the South of France and North-England (led under the umbrella of the British Council, EPSRC and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs) was highlighted. The long-standing collaboration he initiated between specialists in metamaterials and invisibility cloaks at the Fresnel Institute (CNRS/AMU) and young as well as more senior researchers within the area of applied mathematics at the University of Liverpool was also praised.

## Student Voice website

The University has launched a new website to show the student voice in action. *Voice* has been created to inform students about how their feedback influences improvements to the student experience. It brings together information about improvements in three key areas: buildings and facilities, learning and teaching, and student support services.

The site, which is accessible through Student Digital University, highlights changes that have made as a result of feedback from the National Student Survey, service questionnaires, liaison committees and guild forums. Students can read about and comment on University schemes, rate initiatives, and submit ideas for future improvements. The new site will be profiled as part of a campaign to show how the University listens to and acts on student feedback, in the run up to the National Student Survey.

Staff are asked to contribute to site content by contacting Victoria Haberfield, Market Research Officer in the student recruitment team.

## Institute for Public Policy and Practice Workshop

The Institute for Public Policy and Practice is inviting staff to take part in a workshop that will help identify opportunities to strengthen networks around major policy themes. The session, held at the Foresight Centre on 30 January, will consider what shared research questions can drive the Institute's future direction, and how ideas can be converted into funded activity.

Ged Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Liverpool City Council will give a keynote address, which will be followed by roundtable discussion.

For more information or to book a place, contact Matthew Cliff in the Management School.

## Gender Equality Focus Groups

A series of focus groups are being held to gather ideas on how the University can improve gender equality within Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) subjects.

Staff views will contribute to the development of the Athena SWAN Action Plan, which aims to improve support for female academics in SET. Athena SWAN is a national charter recognising commitment to women's career development in science, engineering and technology (SET) subject areas. The University already holds a Bronze Award, and is aiming to achieve silver by 2015.

Focus groups take place on 17 December and 9 January, between 12-2pm. To book a place, contact Darren Mooney in Human Resources.

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### Any articles for future editions should be sent to:

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