

Welcome!

Welcome to LECtern, our new alumni newsletter for graduates of Lancaster Environment Centre, a department formed in 2007 incorporating the original Environmental Science, Geography and Environmental Biological Sciences departments. We hope that you will enjoy hearing LEC's news, seeing how it changes and grows over time, and sharing in its success.



I would be very happy to [hear from you](#), including what you think about this newsletter. I'd also love to hear from you if you'd like to create an alumni profile so we can inspire our current students with all the different places you've ended up in.

- [Paul Young](#), Lecturer and LEC Careers and Alumni Officer.

**Latest News****Latest Blog****Careers Event****Recognition for Lancaster Professor**

Professor Louise Heathwaite, LEC's Professor of Land and Water Science, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and is recognised for her "high calibre" research and role as advisor to the Scottish Government.

[Read more](#)**Unlocking the Secrets of the Deep**

What is a Himalayan geologist, typically acclimatized to working at altitudes in excess of 4000m, doing in the Bay of Bengal, bobbing around at sea level? Dr Yani Najman explains.

[Read more](#)**LEC's 2nd Dedicated Careers Event**

In February, the Lancaster Environment Centre welcomed businesses and alumni into its Courtyard to advertise and discuss careers and dispense advice to the enthusiastic students that attended. A successful event all round with both students and visitors responding positively.

[Read more](#)**Alumni Panels****Internships****Soil Security Introduction****LEC Careers Alumni Panels for Students**

Students were treated to talks from a host of alumni over a series of three panel events. The alumni gave their own careers experiences and advice with the hope of helping students understand what the future holds for them.

[Read more](#)**Science and Technology Internships**

Could your business benefit from a student intern? Our students can offer businesses an excellent opportunity to address a skill or resource shortage and they have up-to-date scientific skills and knowledge. Please see the link to our website for further information or [contact Pam Pickles](#), Student Employability Manager.

[Read more](#)**John Quinton and the BSSS**

Professor John Quinton researches and lectures at LEC on the importance of soil and soil erosion. The British Society of Soil Science is an established international membership organisation and charity committed to the study of soil in its widest aspects.

[See more](#)**In Brief****New LEC Laboratories**

The new £4.4 million joint [LEC/Biology Teaching Labs](#) have been completed and are due to open for students next term, providing a high tech space for over 200 students in its 680m² of laboratory, teaching, office and storage facilities.

Replacing labs previously used by LEC students in the older biology building, the new facility will bring a modern teaching workspace much closer to LEC than before, featuring high environmental standards in both its design and construction.

Enterprise and Business Partnership

LEC and the Faculty of Science and Technology facilitate impactful research by maintaining a bespoke Enterprise and Business Partnership office. The EBP staff maintain extensive contacts with local, national and international businesses, with LEC itself housing ~20 innovative environmental SMEs. [Read more](#)

**Staff Leavers**

LEC is sorry to see the following staff leave us, but wishes them well with whatever is next! Rita Balderson (Finance, retiring Apr 2015), Steve Benner (IT, retired Dec 2014), Diane Wilkinson (Teaching Office, retired Dec 2014).

New Faces

We are pleased to be welcoming the following new or soon to start staff to LEC: [Fernando Espírito-Santo](#) (lecturer); [Paul Carmichael](#), [Rob Lamb](#), [Julio Louzada](#), [Felix Wackers](#) and [Jonathan Grey](#) (Professors in Practice); Samuel Jones (Stores) and Geoff Clarke (Teaching Office).

RefLECTION

We'd love to hear what you think of these newsletters and what you'd like to see in the future. Would you like to get more involved with helping our students shape their futures? In all cases, please send Paul an [email](#).

LEC's Keep in Touch:**LEC NEWS****LEC BLOG****LEC EVENTS****UNIVERSITY NEWS****ALUMNI OFFICE****Contact**

Lancaster Environment Centre
Lancaster University
LA1 4YQ
+44 (0)1524 510082
lec@lancaster.ac.uk