



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the interactive newsletter from the School of Built Environment, Engineering and Computing. I hope you enjoy reading snippets on the range of activities undertaken by colleagues and students, and I encourage you to read more about all of our [amazing stories](#).

Please take care and stay safe.

Professor Akintola Akintoye
Dean of School

STARTING UNIVERSITY DURING THE PANDEMIC - TOMIDE ADEYEYE

"It's hard to imagine what it would have been like to study at Leeds Beckett without a pandemic. I often hear about the way things were done differently prior to Covid-19, but for me, my reality has been vastly different.

I found ways to embrace the change and make the most of the new normal. We had online lectures, which was new to me. Having to watch a video by a lecturer before meeting for a live session felt odd at first, however, I grew to really enjoy it. The credit must go to the tutors who were always very open to feedback and would sometimes tweak their teaching methods to suit circumstances. There was always a sense that both students and tutors were in this together. In order to interact with fellow students, some modules featured discussion boards and live sessions exclusively for student interaction. In addition to lectures, I attended online sessions on career opportunities as well as professional and academic development.

Interestingly the city of Leeds often feels like a multicultural melting pot and I have really enjoyed basking in the city even though it's been considerably limited because of the national restrictions. A lot of things have been virtual, and the few physical classes often felt like an exciting chance to get face-to-face with the lecturers whose voices I had become so accustomed to.

All through these peculiar experiences, I have found an appreciation for some of the simplest things of life and academia, from the little things such as sitting in a classroom, to having a chat with a fellow student over a cup of coffee. I also recognise some of the advantages of the virtual classroom, such as being able to re-watch lectures."

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL REP

"Hi everyone! I'm Coleen Bergantinos and I'm your school rep for 2020/21. My aims for the year are to build a school community and prioritise student's mental health. Covid-19 makes it difficult for me to get to know everyone, especially because I'm stuck in Northern Ireland! So please don't feel shy to say hi, I'd love to get speaking to all of you whilst becoming new friends!"

STUDENT STORIES

Robot fingers point to success for student: With the "rise of the robots" comes the need for talented robotics engineers. Here at Leeds Beckett, we nurture these future roboticists. One student in touch, literally at times, with our future robot friends, is George Brayshaw. A recent project saw George combine artificial intelligence (AI) techniques, including machine learning (ML) methods, with electronics and additive manufacturing. By first capturing and measuring a human operator's gestures, using myoelectric sensors on the skin, George developed a system to process these signals. Correctly identifying the gesture, the system then recreates the human movements on a 3D-printed humanoid robot arm.

Placement at ALDI: Business Information Technology student Daniel Johnson recounts his year-long placement at Aldi, "The level of trust invested in me was amazing. Straight away I was compiling data to present to directors on a weekly basis. I constantly had support from the team. They were welcoming and helped me to settle in. They explained things I was unsure of. As time progressed, I was involved in a range of projects, including, developing automatic dashboards for director level and above. I worked alone to produce visualisations to display data as part of a useful summary. I was complimented on this by the Managing Director of IT for ALDI UK & IRE. It was a great feeling knowing I had actively contributed to the business."

Working within a Cold Case Unit: Computer Forensics and Security student, Christopher Richardson, spoke about the opportunity to be part of a Cold Case Unit. "As a team, we have been focussing on a large-scale case from 1989 involving a missing person. We have been conducting research to identify new information and to piece together the events of the disappearance. We talked to a relative about the missing person and viewed historical details about the case. We could provide our own suggestions of how to move forwards as well as follow set actions. Overall, being in the CCU has enabled an experience that I will cherish forever and be able to take into my future career, as it has enabled me to work through real-life cases. One of the major things being part of the CCU has shown me is that the case affects real people's lives, and therefore, should not be taken lightly and requires our full focus and dedication."



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT, ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING

ALUMNI EXPERIENCE – Q & A WITH GRADUATE, BRANDON PARKINSON

Brandon studied MEng Computer Science and graduated in 2019. We recently caught up with him.



What have you been up to since graduating?

I am currently a graduate software developer at Cimlogic. I was delighted to get the role and it has been a brilliant experience.

How did Leeds Beckett equip you for the role?

I believe the experience I gained helped shape me both as a software developer and a person. I received great support from the lectures and course leaders. They were experts in their fields, and it was great to be learning from knowledgeable and experienced people.

What were the benefits of studying your course?

The course structure covered a broad range of topics. The various classes and projects allowed me to gain a range of technical understanding in several fields. These technical skills are there to help you decide what branch of computer science you would like to specialise in. For me, I was interested in coding. However, I had friends that went on to work in Networking, IT Support, and Project Management.

Did you have any reservations before university?

One of my initial fears was doing a dissertation. I was worried about the word count and timeframe. However, on reflection, I enjoyed it. I applied various technical and soft skills that I had developed during my time at university.

Finally, how did you find the community?

The people I met on my course and at university have become lifelong friends. By undertaking team projects, I was able to prepare for a career in software, and I still share my experiences and knowledge with my lecturers. I had a brilliant time at Leeds Beckett.

RESEARCH AND UPDATES

MONICA - Management of Networked IoT

Wearables: After three productive and rewarding years, the European Commission project; MONICA ended in 2020. The Horizon 2020 Project on wearable technologies for outdoor events has just passed the final review as the most successful Large-Scale Project (LSP) on Internet of Things (IoT)! All three reviewers and the PO congratulated the team for the tremendous good work, professional management and extremely useful results for open-air events in large cities!

Annex 67: Exploring the potential for buildings to be more flexible in their consumption of energy:

Forming part of the International Energy Agency (IEA), Energy in Buildings and Communities Programme. The principle aim of Annex 67 is to fill the gap and develop an insight into the energy flexibility of different building types, and what they may be able to contribute to future energy systems.

The pandemic, the digital transformation, and what happens next:

Professor Dorothy Monekosso was elected to the Honorary Fellowship of the BCS. The chief executive of the BCS spoke of Dorothy's world-leading contribution to the development of smart technologies and in particular her work on devices that help people living with dementia to remain in their own homes for longer.

Will the Government's Green Homes Grant help make homes warmer and cheaper to run?

Colleagues from the Leeds Sustainability Institute (LSI) have been evaluating the Government's Green Home Grant. The £2 billion voucher scheme aims to stimulate the construction industry. As well as this, it aims to resolve societal ills of cold homes, carbon-intensive heating, and high fuel bills. The LSI has utilised their 30 years' experience examining energy use in buildings. They have designed a mini, hypothetical, experiment to understand the national impact of the voucher scheme.

Pioneering Access-to-Water Technology features in "UN at 75" Sustainability Book:

Researchers have contributed to a landmark publication to celebrate both the 75th year of the United Nations (UN) and advances in engineering sustainability.

MoreLife launches a new data management system:

MoreLife has been delivering weight management and healthy lifestyle interventions for over 20 years. MoreLife works with Leeds Beckett researchers to provide evidence-based weight-management services to the NHS and local initiatives. MoreLife's core is to deliver tailor-made, evidence-based, and psychologically informed health intervention programmes to individuals, families, local communities, workplaces, and schools.

Visit us to find out more from the school