



Who's next?

A major programme of events showcasing an example of the exciting work being done by EBI to the rest of the University and the wider city is one of the contributions of the University to the Leeds 800 year celebrations. As you can see, the event includes not only a science workshop but also 2 public lectures (one for lay people, one for school children). There is also an art exhibition, which I thoroughly recommend you find time to see when you are in Leeds city centre. We have also arranged for a talk by a Nobel Prize winner Ivar Giaever that will be of interest for all EBI members, both academics to find out what they should have done in their research careers and junior staff to find out what they should do. I hope and expect this will provide a blue print for subsequent events organised by EBI that will showcase other exciting work by our members.

Mike Krom, Director of EBI

How would you spot a 'Martian'?

Thursday 15th Feb at 6pm
Holy Trinity Church, Boar Lane

The Astrobiology conference has attracted a series of international scientists to Leeds including NASA-funded Andrew Steele and Marilyn Fogel, who will be giving a public lecture 'How would you spot a 'Martian'? The search for life on Mars brought down to Earth' at Holy Trinity Church, Boar Lane.

The Church, an unconventional venue for a science talk about life on Mars, doubles as a venue for public events and we are honoured to have the city organist playing on the evening of the lecture! This promises to be both entertaining as well as scientific, so **arrive early** to avoid disappointment.

How to win the Nobel Prize

Nobel Prize winning physicist Professor Ivar Giaever will come to Leeds for the Astrobiology Workshop and present a Plenary Talk, 'The Nobel Prize and the Future of Science' on **Friday 16th February at 17:00** in the **Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre**, Leeds University. Admission is free and there are no tickets so early arrival is recommended to get a good seat.

Prof Giaever will address the origin of the Nobel Prize, discuss the difference between science and technology, and describe how science has changed in the last century. He will also predict where science is heading in the future and hint at what is necessary to receive the Nobel Prize.

Ivar Giaever was born in Bergen, Norway, April 5, 1929 and became a naturalized US citizen in 1964. He won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1973 and is an Institute Professor at Rensselaer in Troy, New York. His Biophysical research includes Immunology, Tissue Culture and Manipulating Single Molecules, and he is President of Applied BioPhysics, Inc. He has four children and four grandchildren... so a high achiever all round!

AMASE Art Exhibition

at The Light, Leeds from 12th to 25th February

AMASE stands for 'Arctic Mars Analogue Svalbard Expedition'. The AMASE team are an interdisciplinary group of scientists, engineers and artists, who carry out their research in the harsh conditions of the Arctic, on Svalbard, near the North Pole, where the geology and the climate represent a close analogue to those on Mars.

The engineers and scientists test and develop equipment for future Mars missions, some of which is scheduled to fly on two NASA and ESA Mars Missions in 2011 and 2013. Their main task is to integrate a suite of 'life detection' equipment with the capabilities of a Mars Rover and an Astronaut. These in turn will deploy the sampling and analytical equipment in future missions for the 'Search for of Life on Mars'. The artists observed this scientific field work, and produced beautiful photographs, videos and abstract art inspired by the Arctic environment and the people working in it.

The exhibition breaks down the barriers between art and science and fits perfectly with the motto of the AMASE team: 'Bringing the Search for Life down to Earth.' Come and see for yourself!

Astrobiology Workshop with Added Value

EBI members will already be aware of the Astrobiology Workshop led by Liane G. Benning from Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th February.

What may not be immediately apparent is that all the 'Life on Mars' events mentioned here are spin-offs from the workshop, and this massive initiative has become a model exercise in how to bring scientific research to the attention of the public. Key participants have been opted into public talks, and the art exhibition is directly related to the AMASE expeditions to Svalbard, as the team involves artists as well as scientists and engineers.

The extended programme was made possible with the backing of EBI. Liane has been working with Pre Carbo in a superhuman effort to make it all happen, and they have been assisted by colleagues from the City and Regional Office and Leeds City Council. Both the University and the council have funded these extra activities as part of the Celebrate Leeds 2007 programme, which marks 800 years since the city was established.

In addition to the events outlined here, there will a lecture for schools by Andrew Steele and his 9 year old daughter Alisha, and a 'Build a Mars Rover' Competition for after school clubs. Scientists will be taking a break from the Astrobiology Workshop to judge the rovers, which will be on show in The Light from Thursday 15th February.

Details of the programme are available from a link on the EBI News page at www.ebi.org.uk/news.

Programme of Events (more info at www.ebi.org.uk/news)

Monday 12th to Sunday 25th Feb

AMASE Art Exhibition in 'The Light', Leeds. A collection of prints, photography and video installations inspired by the AMASE expeditions to Svalbard. FREE.

Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th Feb

Scientific Workshop: 'Astrobiology and the Search for Life in Extreme Mars Analogue Environments'.

Thursday 15th Feb

'How would you spot a 'Martian'? The Search for Life on Mars Brought Down to Earth'. A public lecture by Andrew Steele and Marilyn Fogel at 18:00 in Holy Trinity Church, Boar Lane, Leeds. FREE.

Friday 16th Feb

Lecture by Nobel Prize winning physicist Professor Ivar Giaever, 'The Nobel Prize and the Future of Science' at 17:00 in Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre.



Jake the astronaut operating the prototype Mars Rover. Photo by Kjell Ove Stovrik.

Photographs, prints and video installations inspired by the AMASE expeditions can be seen in The Light from Feb 12th.