

**News release**

6th May 2016

**Lecturers Swapping Lecterns for Laughs**

**Stand-up comedians often make jokes about politics, their childhood or everyday observations – but a new breed of comic is getting laughs out of academic research.**

[Bright Club](http://www.brightclub.org) is a nationwide project to turn academics into comedians, and [Bishop Grosseteste University](http://ww.bishopg.ac.uk) is the latest institution to join in the fun.

BGU will host its first Bright Club event at its Curiositea café on Thursday 12th May. Compered by professional comedian [Simon Bligh](http://www.jongleurs.co.uk/act/simon-bligh/), the evening will feature comic turns by

education experts, drama tutors and even the university’s chaplain!

“Academics are notoriously solitary creatures, and while they’re used to presenting their research at conferences this is a chance for them to put across the research they’re doing in a much more fun and inspired way,” said Elinor Vettraino, a business and enterprise academic at BGU who is organising the event.

“Bright Club began life at University College London and it occurred to me that it’s an interesting way of engaging people within the BGU community to share practice and learning while having a fun evening.”

At the BGU event next week former Perrier Award nominee and Time out Comedian of the Year Simon Bligh will introduce participants including:

* Dr Julia Lindley-Baker Academic Co-ordinator, Educational Special Needs
* The Reverend Dr Peter Green University Chaplain
* Graham Meeson Head of Education & Learning
* Dr Dennis Eluyefa Senior Lecturer in Drama
* Elinor Vettraino Academic Co-ordinator, Business & Enterprise

“To prepare our budding stand-ups who are treading the boards for this first pilot experience Simon has held two training sessions,” said Elinor.

“But the idea is that it’s a risk, and at the same time it’s great fun. It’s helps lecturers, whose job it is to engage with students and get their message across, to make their repertoire more versatile.”

Tickets for the event cost £5 on the door (£2 for students) at Curiositea and are open to members of the public as well as to BGU staff and students. Doors open at 7pm and the event starts at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th May.

Universities involved in Bright Club include Cambridge, Oxford, [[Leicester](https://brightclub.wordpress.com/2014/01/07/bright-club-leicester/), [Loughborough](https://www.facebook.com/brightcluboro), [Manchester](http://brightclubmcr.org.uk/), [St Andrews](http://brightclubstandrews.blogspot.co.uk/), Belfast](https://twitter.com/brightclubbelf) and Bristol.

To find out more about Bright Club visit <http://brightclub.org/>

**Notes to Editors**

* Bishop Grosseteste University was established in January 1862 and celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2012.
* It is an independent higher education institution based in Lincoln which awards its own degrees at foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate level.
* It changed its name from Bishop Grosseteste University College to Bishop Grosseteste University in November 2012.
* BGU has over 2,300 students, including undergraduate, postgraduate and research, with over 280 students at collaborative partners across Lincolnshire.
* In 2015 BGU was the second highest ranked university in the UK for employability with almost 99% of leavers in work or study six months after graduating (2013/14 DLHE).
* To learn more about Bishop Grosseteste University visit [www.bishopg.ac.uk](http://www.bishopg.ac.uk)
* Bright Club began life at [UCL](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/) – more information can be found at <http://www.brightclub.org/>

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