

Bulletin

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This Issue • e-Learning Conference on Campus • Careers advice goes global • Centenary Celebrations

► In ceremonies at Leicester's De Montfort Hall on 14, 15 and 16 July, eleven celebrated people will receive honorary degrees from the University of Leicester, before thousands of students and their families.

The honorary graduands come from the worlds of music, art, science, medicine, education, sport and public service. They include Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, one of the University's most distinguished professors and the scientist who discovered genetic fingerprinting. 2004 is the 20th anniversary year of his historic discovery.

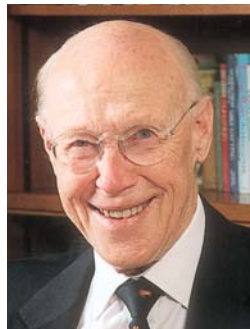
Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess said: "This is a time when the University celebrates the achievements of our students, and it is always a great source of pleasure and pride to award degrees to a group of honorary graduates whose contributions to the world and to society range over so many different fields. They are all distinguished in their respective areas of expertise and in many cases have established close links with the University and the region. They are an inspiration to our students, many of whom are just setting out on their career paths."

Recipients of the University of Leicester 2004 honorary degrees are as follows:

Wednesday 14th July

11 am, Faculty of the Social Sciences:

- **Jane Glover**, International orchestral conductor, *D Mus*
- **Rita Patel**, Chief Executive of Belgrave Baheno Women's Organisation and The Peepul Centre and non-executive Director of emda, *LLD*



DISTINGUISHED: From left (top) Bob Collins, David Wilson, Professor Sir William Taylor, Rita Patel, (bottom) Sir Martin Gilbert, Charles Palmer, Professor Isobel Armstrong and Professor Rosemary Cramp are amongst 11 people due to receive honorary degrees from the University of Leicester at Leicester ceremonies.

UNIVERSITY HONOURS

3pm, Faculty of the Social Sciences and Department of Archaeology:

- **Professor Rosemary Cramp**, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, University of Durham, *D Litt*

Thursday 15th July

11 am, Faculties of Education and Continuing Studies and of Law:

- **Professor Sir William Taylor**, CBE, distinguished educationalist, Former Director of the University of London Institute of Education and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hull and Thames Valley University. *D Litt*
- **Bob Collins**, former Head of Administration, Chief Executive's Department, Leicestershire County Council, *LLM*

3pm, Faculty of Arts:

- **Professor Isobel Armstrong**, Professor Emeritus in the School of English and Humanities, Birkbeck College, University of London, *D Litt*

- **Sir Martin Gilbert**, Historian and biographer of Sir Winston Churchill, *D Litt*

Friday 16th July

11 am, Faculty of Science and Department of Psychology:

- **Charles Palmer**, CBE, Former club secretary and captain of Leicestershire County Cricket, Chairman of Leicestershire, an MCC committee member, and MCC President in 1978-1979, *MA*

- **David Wilson**, Chairman and founder of Wilson Bowden PLC, *LLD*

3pm, Faculty of Medicine and Biological Sciences and Department of Physics:

- **Professor David Bradley**, Professor of Tropical Hygiene, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, *DSc*

- **Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys**, FFS (India), CBIol, Hon FIBiol, FLS, Hon FRCP, FRCPPath, FRS, FMedSci, Royal Society Wolfson Research Professor, University of Leicester, *DSc*.

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University of
Leicester



HISTORIC FIRST CEREMONIES AT LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

► This year represents a milestone in the University's history, with the graduation of the first cohort of 520 Bishop Grosseteste students in Lincoln with a University of Leicester degree. Professor Robert Burgess, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, will be officiating at two ceremonies at Lincoln Cathedral on Friday 9 July 2004, at which he will also confer honorary degrees on four VIPs, including the former Principal of the College.

Honorary Degrees to be conferred at Lincoln Cathedral:

Friday 9 July

11am, Undergraduate Ceremony:

► **Professor Eileen Baker**, Former Principal of Bishop Grosseteste College, *D Litt*

► **Reverend Professor James McEvoy**, Dean, Faculty of Philosophy, Saint Patrick's College, Ireland, and biographer of Robert Grosseteste, *D Litt*

7pm, Postgraduate and Masters Ceremony:

► **Bernard Ashley**, writer of children's books and former teacher, *D Litt*

► **Dr Robert Price**, Chief Executive of the Linkage Community, *LLM*

Bishop Grosseteste College and the University of Leicester are part of a Midlands alliance with Newman College of Higher Education in Birmingham. The alliance improves access to higher education for hundreds of students. Among the opportunities to emerge from the partnership is the development of new foundation degrees

The collaboration also facilitates wider participation in higher education, curriculum and innovative programme development, opportunities to develop new educational programmes, increased student choice and opportunities, and a commitment to the highest possible standards of education.

Principal of Bishop Grosseteste College, Dr Muriel Robinson, com-

mented: "We are particularly pleased that at this year's ceremonies, at which our students will for the first time receive University of Leicester awards, we are recognising four people with such strong connections with the College and its mission.

"Professor Baker not only led the College extremely ably for several years but has made a national contribution to teacher education through her work with the TTA and GTC; Professor McEvoy, as a renowned Grosseteste scholar provides a link with both the diocese of Lincoln, where Grosseteste was Bishop from 1235 to 1253, but also with Leicester, where he was Archdeacon until 1232; Bernard Ashley has made a significant contribution to children's literature as well as to primary education more generally; and Dr Price's work as a leading light in developing the Olympic Games for disabled people is entirely in keeping with our commitment to widening participation."

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

► In reporting the Vice-Chancellor's talk to Court (April/May issue of Bulletin, p.2) a table appears that suggests only two new academic buildings were constructed in 10 years. The 10-year period under consideration was 1994-2004 which saw the completion of the Ken Edwards Building and the Space Research Centre. In addition, the Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts was also completed.

Another table appears indicating the teaching quality score in 1999. The following subject areas achieved a score of 23 out of 24 in the QAA assessments that year: American Studies, Medicine, Physics. ☺

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER CHANCELLOR AWARDED 'MATHS EQUIVALENT OF NOBEL PRIZE'

► The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awarded the Abel Prize for 2004, jointly to Sir Michael Francis Atiyah and Isadore M Singer of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology "for their discovery and proof of the index theorem, bringing together topology, geometry and analysis, and their outstanding role in building new bridges between mathematics and theoretical physics."

The Atiyah-Singer index theorem is one of the great landmarks of twentieth century mathematics, in-

fluencing profoundly many of the most important later developments in topology, differential geometry and quantum field theory. Its authors, both jointly and individually, have been instrumental in repairing a rift between the worlds of pure mathematics and theoretical particle physics, initiating a cross-fertilization which has been one of the most exciting developments of the last decades.

The award was presented by King Harald of Norway at a ceremony in Oslo. ☺

Sir Michael Atiyah





E-LEARNING, E-TEACHING, E-SUPPORT CONFERENCE AT UNIVERSITY

► The University of Leicester is to hold a conference on 20 July that will help teachers and lecturers more effectively utilise e-learning.

Entitled E-Learning, E-Teaching, E-Support, the conference will bring together award-winning teachers and educational researchers to discuss the impact that computers and the internet have had on teaching and learning. Conference participants will be encouraged to consider practical ways in which they can adopt e-learning techniques to enhance the teaching and learning experience.

The E-Learning, E-Teaching, E-Support conference will explore what e-learning means for staff and students alike. Universities are beginning to adopt e-learning in a variety of ways that move IT into the heart of curricula. How will this e-learning change the experience of learning at university and what new skills will lecturers, tutors, teachers, educational developers, advisors and support staff need to acquire?

Conference organiser Tristram

Hooley said: "The conference is designed to support staff who are using e-learning and would like to know more about it as well as those who are considering e-learning for the first time. It will allow these practitioners to engage with researchers, teachers and developers at the forefront of e-learning."

"The University of Leicester has an impressive track record in e-learning that spans from the early days of using computers in teaching, through the beginnings of the internet up to the introduction of the University's Virtual Learning Environment. However it is only recently that the responsibility for e-learning has begun to move outside of a small band of learning technologists, e-learning professionals and brave pioneers and to become something that all educational practitioners are expected to be involved in. This conference will give teachers ideas about how e-learning can enhance what they are doing and give them the confidence to experiment with the potential of e-learning."

The E-Learning, E-Teaching, E-Support conference will be supported by a virtual conference which will run from the start of July. The conference will be based within Blackboard and will give delegates a chance to experience being an e-learning student. All delegates to the conference will be enrolled in this virtual conference where they will have the opportunity to view on-line presentations and take part in synchronous and asynchronous discussions.

Materials supporting the E-Learning, E-Teaching, E-Support conference and slides and other materials generated during the conference will also be posted on the Virtual Conference area.

University of Leicester staff can register for the conference for free on-line at the conference website. For further information, contact the Teaching and Learning Unit, University of Leicester or email, teach.learn@le.ac.uk

OADBY MASTERPLAN TAKES SHAPE

► The University is working with Oadby & Wigston Council, local residents and other stakeholders to develop a masterplan for development/change affecting all of the Oadby campus area owned by the University of Leicester. The plan will include the supporting statements and an Environmental Assessment.

This method of planning is becoming increasingly popular and has been employed in areas such as Brindley Place in Birmingham and Broadmead in Bristol. It gives applicants and the planning authority a degree of certainty sufficient to establish in broad terms what can be achieved at a site and accordingly give confidence to commit funding and reassure objectors, without the need to submit very detailed applications. The flexibility offered also means that the masterplan can respond to changes within the market or individual requirements. Importantly, it also gives certainty to local residents who know, upfront, the framework within which long term change will occur.

Public consultation commenced with an exhibition held in April designed to elicit the issues which residents and other interested parties felt were important in drawing up the masterplan and to indicate the potential content of the masterplan principles. A summary of the feedback will be published shortly together with some suggestions as to the detailed content of the masterplan principles. A link to the electronic version of the exhibition is available via eBulletin.

Simon Britton



STRONGER LINKS WITH BUSINESS

► The University of Leicester played host to a visit by the Leicester Asian Business Association (LABA).

The Vice-Chancellor of the University Professor Robert Burgess met with Mr Jiva Odedra, Chief Executive of LABA (pictured). Since the early 1990s, the University and LABA has worked on a number of initiatives - including hosting quarterly meetings and the University played the lead role in compiling and editing the annual magazine of the Association for a number of years.



Leicester Law expert in test case

► A University of Leicester academic has been involved in a test case relating to the Iraq war.

Professor Malcolm Shaw QC, who is the Sir Robert Jennings Professor of International Law at the University, was in a legal case raising novel points of law regarding the legality of the war.

It is the first time that the legality of the use of force by Britain and the US has been discussed in a criminal prosecution in England. The case relates to peace activists who tried to stop US bombers taking off for Iraq.

Professor Shaw argued that waging war is a matter of 'executive prerogative' over which courts have no jurisdiction. The Judge has issued a provisional judgment stating that the English courts have no jurisdiction over the question of the legality of the use of force in Iraq. ☪

Duration of Coughs in Children Study wins Research Paper of the Year Award

► A study looking at the duration of coughs in children was announced as the winning paper for the 2003 RCGP/Boots The Chemists Research Paper of the Year Award. The authors, Dr Alistair Hay, Dr Andrew Wilson - of the University of Leicester - Professor Tom Fahey and Professor Tim Peters, were presented with a cheque for £1,000 at an awards dinner at the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).

Coughs are extremely common in pre-school children and generate considerable parental anxiety. Originally published in *Family Practice*, the winning study aimed to discover the duration of coughs in children, compare this with clinical and parental prediction of cough duration, and to determine the clinical factors associated with prolonged coughs.

The research was conducted by Dr Alastair Hay whilst he was a lecturer in General Practice at the University of Leicester, and the research took place in local practices. The paper is derived from work for which he was awarded an MD by this University. ☪

► As universities have become international institutions, attracting students from around the world and sending increasing numbers of their graduates to all four corners of the earth to work, so their careers services need to adapt to serve this vast cohort of students from outside the UK.

With full-time students from 86 countries and more than 3,670 international distance learning students – without counting students from within the EU - Leicester is taking a lead in specialising in international careers advice. One of the first universities to use email as a means for advising students at a distance, it is also about to appoint a careers adviser to develop provision for international students, both on and off campus.

Head of the Careers Service Martin Pennington said: "Most university careers services pay attention to international students, of course, but we are actually recruiting somebody whose main role will be to help international students tackle their career planning within the context of other educational support and guidance available throughout their student days at Leicester.

"It will be quite a challenge to become familiar with the job market for our international students within the

CAREERS ADVICE GOES GLOBAL

range of countries from which they come. Our new appointee will also develop resources for international students who wish to work in the UK, and help to alert graduate employers to the qualities of our international students as well as those from the UK.

"I believe the role also has the potential to help the growing numbers of our home students who want to work elsewhere in the world."

The University of Leicester is one of the UK's leading providers of postgraduate distance learning programmes, and for the past two years the Careers Service has been developing email as a medium for careers guidance, partly in order to serve this distant, but major, sector of their student body.

Martin Pennington feels it has developed into a system that works well.

"Because it is less immediate than a face-to-face interview, both sides can consider what has been said carefully before they reply, rather than having to respond immediately as in a one-to-one situation. In the gaps between emails we have the chance to think:

'What does this person need? How can we best help?'

"You also have a record of what is said. We find that in one-to-one discussions people may go away with messages that were not intended. In writing emails there is less chance of this happening."

One of the drawbacks, he feels, is the lack of non-verbal cues, which can indicate how people are responding to an advisor. Also the response time is slowed down: any question has to wait for an answer, and advisers have had to learn to be quite disciplined over the amount of time they give to each email, avoiding the temptation to turn each exchange into the ultimate, perfectly-crafted reply.

Feedback so far from students and graduates has been very positive, and on a purely practical level it has meant that students can contact the Careers Service, through its website, at times that suit them. "People can email us at 2am UK time, if they want to, and we simply respond when we get into work," said Martin Pennington. ☪

Volcanoes, Asteroids and Mass Extinctions

► Neither massive volcanic eruptions nor extraterrestrial impacts are sufficiently powerful on their own to cause mass extinctions of life on Earth, research by University of Leicester geologists suggests.

Instead, both events coincidentally occurring together may be required to cause the worst mass extinctions.

In the last 300 million years, life on Earth has suffered three major mass extinctions: those of the end-Permian, end-Triassic and end-Cretaceous periods.

The third of these, leading to the demise of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, is believed to be caused by a meteorite colliding with the Earth, combined with the eruption of huge floods of basaltic lava.

Controversy rages over whether all three mass extinctions involve a similar combination of impact and vol-

canism, and if they did, whether this is due to random chance or whether there is any causal link between impact and volcanism.

Dr Rosalind White, Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellow, and Professor Andrew Saunders, both of the University of Leicester Department of Geology, recently looked at the statistical probability of any link between impact and eruptions to see whether it is credible that they occur during the same period by coincidence alone.

Their re-evaluation of the frequency of bolide (extraterrestrial) impacts and massive 'flood basalt' volcanism indicates that both events occur individually much more frequently than the incidence of mass extinctions.

This suggests that each, on its own, is not powerful enough to trigger a disastrous worldwide collapse of

ecosystems that would lead to a mass extinction.

The occurrence of flood basalts (caused by the outpourings of basaltic lava) and bolide impact may both be necessary to lead to the largest mass extinctions the planet has known.

That begged the question as to what the likelihood was of the two events occurring over the same period, if they were not linked.

Here, Professor Saunders' and Dr White's statistical analysis showed that three random coincidences involving both impact and volcanism over the last 300 million years are likely, and there would not necessarily have to be any link between them.

They therefore suggest that theories implying that flood basalts are generated by bolide impacts are unnecessary and unproven.


A report on the research carried out by Dr Rosalind White and Professor Andrew Saunders is to be published later in the year by the geological journal *Lithos*. ☪



► One of the most prestigious – and expensive – residential properties in Oadby has celebrated its centenary.

Beaumont House, part of Beaumont Hall at the University of Leicester, is the oldest hall of residence in the University's estate.

The hall houses 385 students, with most of those staying in the New and Old Courts and the rest split between the beautiful Edwardian Rocklands House and the 100-year-old Beaumont House.

To celebrate the centenary of the house the staff and students organised cream teas, music, children's entertainment, garden tours, treasure hunt and a small display about Beaumont Hall on May 9. 



HISTORIC HOUSE CELEBRATES CENTENARY


New Library Facilities for Vaughan College

► Greatly improved library facilities are set to benefit the many Leicestershire people who study at Vaughan College, the city-centre site of the University of Leicester Institute of Lifelong Learning, following a recent refurbishment project funded from a grant awarded by the HEFCE Higher Education Active Community Fund.

BBC Radio Leicester's John Florence was present to celebrate with Vaughan College staff and their guests the provision of a much wider range of up-to-date books in both print and electronic formats, the introduction of new library management and security systems and improved study facilities.

Dr Paul Poplawski, Director of Studies at Vaughan College, commented: "While the 'old' library had served us well since 1962, this

much-needed modernisation of our information resources has moved us decisively into the 21st century. We are now fully geared up to meet the contemporary learning and teaching needs of our students and tutors, and we are very proud to celebrate this substantial advance in our provision of lifelong learning opportunities for the community."

With over a thousand students enrolling each year, Vaughan College offers a wide range of part-time courses for adults, including a popular evening BA (Honours) in Humanities, an extensive programme of Counselling courses, and numerous Certificates of Higher Education in subjects as diverse as Archaeology, Bird Conservation, Creative Writing, Local History, Management Studies, and Psychology. 

Bringing Technology to the Fore


► Two Leicester universities came together in an exhibition showcasing technology transfer, which is expected to attract businesses from the region, as well as members of the academic community.

"Energising Innovation - working with your local universities", took place on 8 June, 2004 at the Midlands Conference Centre, Leicester City Football Club.

The event was organised by the University of Leicester and De Montfort University, and was supported by EMSEN (East Midlands Science Enterprise Network) and Leicester Shire Economic Partnership.

As well as keynote addresses, there were case study sessions in innovation and university-business

collaborations including four university spin-out companies, and presentations from the finalists of the De Montfort University Business Venture Competition. On display were a number of exhibition stands from the Universities and other organisations involved in technology transfer.

Enterprise Manager at the University of Leicester Institute of Lifelong Learning, Anne Newman, commented: "This was a marvellous opportunity to bring together local businesses, industrialists, enterprise and innovation networks, FDAs, academics, students, government and business support agencies – in fact anyone with an interest in university business collaboration, innovation and technology transfer." 

Leicester Rises in Guardian Table

► After accepting errors in their application of the University of Leicester's HESA data The Guardian has revised its 2004 University league table. As a consequence Leicester has risen from 48th to 27th in the table.

Director of Marketing, Richard Tay-


lor said: "The data used by the Guardian had been checked by the University and was essentially correct.

"The problem arose when The Guardian allocated students to a department to which they did not belong. The Guardian's overall listing is

very sensitive to small changes in the way departments appear. When this mis-application was corrected it had a very significant effect on Leicester's position.

"Leicester was not the only university to have benefited from revisions to

the Guardian table. A number of universities are now discussing the matter with the Guardian".

Links to all league tables are accessible through the Marketing Office's website. 



Minister for Arts Estelle Morris Delivers Richard Attenborough Centre Lecture

▶ Minister of State for the Arts Estelle Morris returned to the University to deliver the Richard Attenborough Centre Lecture, Education, The Arts and Inclusion. Her visit marked a return to the University she described as a 'role model' and to the very centre where she inaugurated the Institute of Lifelong Learning during the University's 80th anniversary celebration in 2002.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess said at the time of the visit: "We are very pleased to welcome back Estelle Morris who has been a terrific champion of lifelong learning and the arts- both of which are exemplified in the work of our Richard Attenborough Centre.

"The University of Leicester continues to work hard to find new, flexible and innovative ways of delivering higher education to a wide section of the community. Provision of courses with an accent on access for people with disabilities reflects one facet of this inclusive approach to education."

eBULLETIN: Your one-stop-shop for University of Leicester news and information

▶ The eBulletin was launched on the 1st March 2002, providing a new way to access University news, features, events, notices and pictures. Such has been its success that it has now become the central source for all University news and information. As a consequence, its profile has been raised, and from June 1 2004 it became part of the University's home page.

The eBulletin is more than a Web site, as every Monday morning a round up of the week's newly published eBulletin articles will be sent to CFS account holders via e-mail. This will provide an additional way of alerting people about new information.

Making a Contribution

On every page of the eBulletin Web site you will find a "Submit An Article" link, which takes you to a simple Web-based form. This form allows you to enter your news directly into the eBulletin system, which then notifies the eBulletin editorial staff of your submission. The editorial staff will review your article; e-mail the reviewed article back to you for validation before publishing it in the eBulletin Web site.

Alternatively, you can still contact the Press and Publications Office directly via pressoffice@le.ac.uk with

any news or events you would like to advertise in the eBulletin. The new look eBulletin is both an internal and external facing Web site, so however you choose to get in touch, you will be raising awareness and improving publicity for your news, information or event.

Editorial Control

The Press and Publications Office now manage the eBulletin Web site with a few exceptions: the Registrar's Office manages bereavements, the Personnel Office handles Job Vacancies, and Staff from the Students' Union Marketing and Advisory Service will manage the Students' Union News section.

By using the same technology as the rest of the eBulletin, the Press and Publications and Marketing Offices have also been able to take day-to-day editorial control and maintenance of the internal and external homepages respectively. The Computer Centre is therefore no longer responsible for processing requests for publicity on either of these pages.

New Technology

The eBulletin project had two aims: one was to create a single news distribution system and the other was to evaluate an Open Source "Content Management System" technology.

Using the Open Source Zope and Plone packages the Computer Centre has customised and developed an eBulletin Web application.

The eBulletin Web application has meant that behind the scenes, editorial staff can write and publish articles through their Web browsers. At the risk of down playing what has been generated, if you can type text into a series of boxes and press a button you will be able to author and publish an eBulletin article. Over time, and given the right authority and resources, it is hoped to move the whole CWIS into a similar system.

The eBulletin Team

The Information and Communications Strategy Committee (ICSC) and the Press and Publications Office commissioned the Computer Centre to address the de-centralised approach to institution-wide communication and the duplication of information between the internal and the eBulletin homepages and the Weekly Digest. This project was conceived, specified, designed, implemented by a team comprising Nichola Hayes, Steven Hayles, Michelle Heap and Alex Owen working with the Press Office team.

Captions for Photostop (back page)

1. University of Leicester archaeologist Simon James has published a book revealing discoveries from an ancient city in Syria which provide a unique insight into the lives - and violent deaths - of Roman soldiers on the eastern limits of the empire. The location of the ancient city of Dura-Europos was forgotten until 1920. His new book, *Excavations at Dura-Europos 1928-37, Final Report VII: The Arms and Armour*, is hailed as: "the most important single collection of arms, armour and other equipment to survive from the Roman period", and uncovers in text and illustrations a collection exceptional for its size, diversity and state of preservation. Dura's assemblage of armour and weapons also offers a rare view of Rome's forgotten Eastern armies. Pictured is a reconstruction of the

appearance of a Roman armoured cavalryman (cataphract) of the third century AD, based on archaeological evidence from Dura-Europos, Syria. Painted by Simon James. (c) S James, 2003.

2. Lord Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, delivered the Seventh Sir Sigmund Sternberg Lecture in Inter-Faith Dialogue hosted by the Centre for the History of Religious and Political Pluralism of the University of Leicester. Lord Carey returned to many points of controversy in the lecture entitled *Islam and the West*.

3. The University of Leicester men's rugby team won the third annual Varsity match between Leicester and DMU by 23-3. Both teams had entered the competition evenly matched. The women's rugby team

also made it a double victory for Leicester and created history in the process- this was the first Ladies rugby match on the Tigers turf.

4. A Bollywood picture was shot at the University of Leicester's Botanic Garden. Actor Aamir Ali and actress Ishaq Koppikar filmed for the movie *Raakh*, due to be released this autumn.

5. High Sheriff of Leicestershire and Chairman of the Everard Foundation, Mr Richard Everard, is pictured -with student volunteers-holding a cheque representing the Foundation's annual funding award to the student volunteer service, Contact.

6. Two thousand five hundred years of South Asian history was on show at a photographic exhibition at the University of Leicester. The

photographs were of the archaeological site of Charsadda, on an old caravan route from Kabul to Delhi, near to the city of Peshawar in modern North West Frontier Province, Pakistan. Dr Ruth Young, who teaches a course in South Asian archaeology in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History has worked on the archaeological site of Charsadda. She is pictured, centre, in Peshawar.

7. Professors Len Dissado (left) and John Fothergill in the High Voltage lab in Engineering, in front of a painting by Professor Dissado's wife, Enid. Enid recently completed a painting course at the Richard Attenborough Centre. The painting looks like a window in the wall into the next laboratory in which the two professors are discussing dielectrics.



Staff and Student Distinctions

As reported at Senate

Staff Distinctions

► **Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys (Genetics)** received a Lifetime Achievement Award at The Daily Mirror's Pride of Britain Awards 2004 on 15 March 2004. The award ceremony was televised on ITV1.

► **Mr Richard Thomas (Finance Office)** has been invited by HEFCE to join a group responsible for co-ordinating the purchase of equipment for the sector for SRIF 2.

Student Distinctions

► **Jonathan Lewis and Rosemary Pilcher (MEng Mechanical with Industry 5)** have achieved joint first place in the Undergraduate Section of the East Midlands Materials Society Lecture Competition.

► **A University of Leicester Mooting Team, comprising Da Yu Au (exchange student), Paula Barnes, (LLB 2), Daniel Cohen (LLB (International) 2), and Sarla Subrahnamiam (exchange student)** have been awarded a prize in the International Jessup Mooting Competition held in Aberdeen. The prize was for the team that best demonstrated the 'professionalism, team spirit and fun attitude'

which set the benchmark for excellence in the Jessup Moot.

► **Anisha Sinha (LLB Law 3) and Yat Ming Benson Tsoi (LLB 3)** have won the final of the Inner Temple Inter-Varsity Mooting Competition, defeating teams from Kingston, University College Northampton, UCL, Newcastle, and (in the final) Manchester.

Lecturer Honoured for 'Outstanding Merit'

► Dr Simon Møller, a lecturer in the University's Biology Department, has been honoured for his 'outstanding merit' at a national ceremony where he received the President's Medal for Cell Biology for 2004.

Simon, who received the prestigious Society for Experimental Biology award at a ceremony in Edinburgh, said "Plant Cell Biology is in an exciting phase. I am very fortunate to have bright and hard-working researchers in my laboratory helping to make our studies a success".

Simon's research is focusing on plastid division, plastidic Fe-S cluster biogenesis/repair and light signaling in plants.

University Sports Manager invited to launch event at no 10

► Sports and Recreation Manager Colin Hide was invited to No 10 Downing Street on May 13 for the launch of a scheme to improve athletics in the UK.

Part of the government-funded Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme's £3 million annual budget will go to provide financial scholarships, worth £3,000 per year, to 1,000 athletes aged 19-25 who wish to stay in Higher Education. The University of Leicester is part of the East Midlands Consortium that will be participating in the TASS scheme.

Colin said: "This scheme will have a major impact on the level of sporting performance within Higher Education, with some athletes going on to full international honours. Many sports allow students to study and train – a 'win-win' for sport and athlete.

"This is an exciting time for the University of Leicester, and we will play a big part in the success of the scheme within the East Midlands".



Colin Hide

Leicester student celebrates Entente Cordiale

► First-year Modern Languages student Gurpreet Singh, studying Law and French, was recently chosen to join a trip to Paris to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Entente Cordiale between France and England. He travelled on Eurostar with Prime Minister Tony Blair and 99 fellow British students. On arrival in Paris, they joined 100 French students and President Chirac at the Elysée Palace.

Obituaries

► Mr P J C Strong

The University has learnt, with regret, of the death of Mr Philip John Charles Strong in January 2004. Mr Strong read Law at the University and was awarded an LLB in July 1994. He was 30 at the time of his death.

► Professor M K Hopkins

The University has learnt, with regret, of the death of Professor Keith Hopkins. Professor Hopkins joined the University of Leicester as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Sociology in October 1961. He left in September 1963. He retired as Professor of Ancient History at Cambridge in 2001.

► Dr M A Higgins

The University has learnt, with regret, of the death of Dr Tony Higgins. Dr Higgins joined the University as an Administrative Assistant in 1967, and was promoted to the post of Assistant Registrar in 1973. He left the University in 1978 and subsequently held a number of posts in the sector, including that of Chief Executive of UCAS from which he retired in July 2003. Donations in memory of Dr Higgins can be sent to SportsAid, c/o Ginns & Gutteridge Funeral Directors, 51 Vaughan Way, Leicester, LE1 4NR. An obituary will appear in a future issue of Bulletin.

► Professor C Eaborn, FRs

Colin Eaborn, who died on February 22, 2004 at the age of 80, began his academic career at Leicester, joining the staff of the Chemistry Department in 1947 as an Assistant Lecturer. Obituaries in the national press have rightly emphasised his distinguished research in organosilicon chemistry and his achievements in founding and developing the Chemistry Department at the University of Sussex, but he also had a substantial and lasting influence on the University of Leicester.

In 1947 University College Leicester was affiliated to the University of London and only had about 200 full-time undergraduates. The science departments were small, with few resources for research. Nevertheless, Colin Eaborn embarked on an energetic programme of research; he identified high-quality projects in organosilicon chemistry, an almost entirely unexplored field at that time, which could be undertaken with simple laboratory equipment, and he was highly successful in attracting research funding from industry and from defence agencies in the United States.

As part of its efforts to achieve independent status, the College in 1954 took the imaginative step of creating a few Readerships to raise the research profile. These Readers, of whom Colin Eaborn was one (he with the title, Reader in Physical Organic Chemistry), were given reduced teaching loads and were ex offi-

cio members of Faculty Boards, so that they could devote more time to research and could influence Faculty policy.

Colin Eaborn seized the opportunities offered by his Readership to expand his research group and to stimulate colleagues to pursue research. By the time that the University achieved independence in 1957 he had earned an international reputation, and had very substantially increased the research output of the Chemistry Department. He was also active in Faculty and Senate, displaying excellent judgement and insight; he was almost alone at the time in favouring, and accurately predicting, the substantial growth of the University.

Colin Eaborn was exceptionally generous towards colleagues, sharing his research resources and giving them every encouragement to undertake research in the difficult circumstances prevailing in the 1950s. From the 1960s onwards, Chemistry at Leicester has had an exceptionally high level of research achievement for a department of its size; part of that is due to the improved facilities since 1960 and the sustained quality of new staff appointments since then, but part of the credit also belongs to Colin Eaborn for his major influence on the research ethos of the Chemistry Department in its early, formative days.

He left the University of Leicester in 1962 when he was appointed to the

Chair of Chemistry at the University of Sussex.

Emeritus Professor Iain Davidson

Mr A Fenton

The University has learnt, with regret, of the death on Sunday, March 28, of Andrew Fenton. Mr Fenton graduated in 1982 with a BSc (Honours) in Chemistry. The funeral took place in Weymouth on Thursday, April 8.

► Dr H Vine

Harry Vine, previously a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography, died on Sunday, April 11, aged 87.

Dr Vine joined the University in October 1965 as a Lecturer. In 1979 he was promoted to a Senior Lectureship. He specialised in Soil Science and had an earlier career in Nigeria based on this interest. He was also Tutor for Combined Science students in the final years of his career in the Department.

Following his retirement in September 1981, he maintained a keen interest in the Department, using the Soil Laboratory for his research on Nigerian soils and becoming a regular visitor, until this year, to departmental Inaugural Lectures and retirement celebrations. He will be remembered fondly by his students for turning the subject of any tutorial topic into a discussion on soils.

Colleagues and friends gathered for a remembrance meeting on Saturday, April 17.

Professor Ian Bowler



Captions for photostop on page 6

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