

Bulletin

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UNIVERSITY'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AMONG BEST IN UK

Vice-Chancellor highlights rapid growth in turnover

► The University of Leicester's improvement in financial performance over the past four years is among the best of any UK university, it has been revealed.

It means the University can aspire to achieve projects it could once only dream about, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess told the 47th annual meeting of the Court. In his annual report to academic and lay members, Professor Burgess focused on the theme Developing Institutional Performance and highlighted the changes that had occurred since 1999 when he was appointed as Vice-Chancellor.

"This is my fifth year, and it provides me with an opportunity to compare trend data on how the University has developed," said Professor Burgess. "When people think about higher education, they have a series of perceptions by which they evaluate a university – I want to focus on five of these:

- Research performance
- Quality of teaching and learning
- Interaction with the region
- How the estate is presented and maintained
- Finance – how surpluses are generated

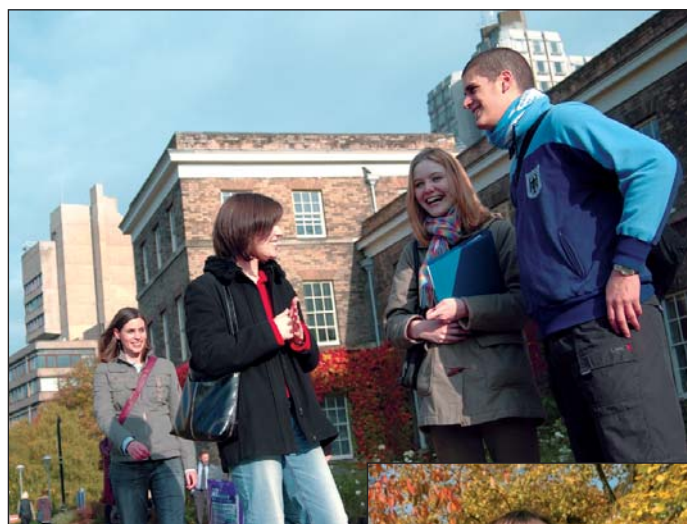
erated for ploughing back into academic developments

"When I came to Leicester, indeed one of the factors that attracted me to the post, was the huge potential the University had – it wanted to succeed, and wanted to be placed among those universities that were highly ranked.

"Where did we stand in 1999? At that time the Council and the University had witnessed a deficit position for seven years, apart from one year when it had sold a parcel of land in Northampton. The profile of the University was as follows:

1999	
Finance	7 years of income and expenditure deficits
Research	56% RAE 4 and 5
Teaching	1 score of 22
Publicity	Mainly local
Estate	2 new academic buildings in 10 years
Conferences	Held at University – but not massive generator of income

"The University also had many distinctive features, not least the fact that its student population was 50% postgraduate. The University staff had huge potential – I am very impressed with activities that professorial staff engage in and the levels of research grant and contract income



earned by members of staff – but I am sure they can impress me even more and set higher records."

Professor Burgess cited areas that are being developed, for example Criminology, as an area of social science research that linked policy and practice, and which impinged on the natural sciences and the life sciences. It is the University's ambition to build that department up to a very high order in terms of research and teaching. Related multidisciplinary work in subjects like Psychiatry, Law, Genetics, Pathology and Psychology could be pulled together and developed even further to provide a very strong research base, he said.

In Arts, he highlighted how Leicester had achieved great renown for Combined Arts and he said the provision of new joint honours degrees in the Faculty of Arts was now a fast growing and exciting development. "People can see we have quality de-

velopments and we need to repackage them and offer them in different ways," he said.

Commenting on the type of university Leicester is, Professor Burgess said the term Civic University reflected the ethos and aspiration of Leicester: "It is very important that the University interacts with society and contributes to it. The University has to be very good internationally and locally – as I said when I arrived here, "If we want to be good in New York, we have to be good in Oadby".

"The international University impacts on the region in many ways, by providing high quality teachers,

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University of Leicester



University's Financial performance among best in UK *(continued from page 1)*

social workers, doctors, lawyers and more who all contribute to the locality. This is also why Court is so important as it re-emphasises our connection with Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and the wider region." In this context, Professor Burgess highlighted how Leicester had extended its network of links with HE and FE colleges, and particularly associations with Bishop Grosseteste College in Lincoln and Newman College in Birmingham.

"We see great potential for the work we can do with these colleges and this will in turn have an impact on our interaction in the wider region."

The Vice-Chancellor praised staff and their enthusiasm to succeed: "One thing that is exceedingly important about the University is the culture that exists and the enthusiasm of its members. A University is only as good as the enthusiasm, the energy, the effort and expertise that can be contributed by its members – that underpins the whole of the attributes that we have at the University," he said.

Professor Burgess highlighted another critical success factor for the university – the increase in student recruitment (see 'Student Numbers').

Turning to the running of the University, Professor Burgess said: "Running a University with a turnover of £155m is like running a company with higher education at its heart. The objective is to produce surpluses which are ploughed back into the academic development of the University."

He said the former decentralised method of budget control had not allowed the University to develop in a strong way. The current centralised system, with the involvement of Deans provided a strong interaction between the management team and academic departments and had allowed the University to generate surpluses and to pave the way for new activities and development of the estate.

STUDENT NUMBERS

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS				
	Home	Inter-national	Outcome Home	Outcome International
2000:				
Registration	2006	171	-253	
Target	2259			
2001:				
Registration	2471	239	+131	+68
Target	2340			
2002:				
Registration	2431	308	-4	+69
Target	2435			
2003:				
Registration	2464	335	-74	+27
Target	2538			

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Numbers	380	490	657	973	1005

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT RECRUITMENT					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Taught Masters (campus-based and DL)	6,532	7,353	7,997	7,718	
PhD Research	1,142	1,172	1,247	1,487	
TOTALS	7,674	8,525	9,244	9,205	

"The University is now generating a surplus, as it has done for the past three years, and it exudes confidence. We have seen a steady rise in our league table position from being in the low 30s to becoming a top 20 University as ranked by the *Financial Times* for the past three years. Our aim is to be ranked in the top 20 in all media assessments of the quality of universities."

Speaking of new projects and developments, Professor Burgess described recent building work, for example the refurbishment of the Chemistry building, Archaeology and Ancient History, the development of the new Space Research and Mathematical Modelling building and the Biomedical Research Building. Court heard that the new £20m Biomedical building would be called the Henry Wellcome Building and the lecture theatre would be named after Dr Frank and Katherine May.

He said the University was planning to double the size of the Library and the appointment of Nicholas Corah as Special Pro-Chancellor in charge of fundraising



"A University is only as good as the enthusiasm, the energy, the effort and expertise that can be contributed by its members – that underpins the whole of the University."

VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR ROBERT BURGESS

aimed to help the University achieve an ambition to raise £20m in five years. He added a two-week pilot alumni

fundraising operation has raised £20,000 which demonstrated the huge amount of goodwill that existed towards the University and provided the potential for more fundraising.

A key change in the profile of the University had also been the number of new people who had joined the workforce – there were 75 new professors out of 180, said Professor Burgess.

Professor Burgess cited the exceptional increase in turnover as one of the great successes of the University, particularly as a result of business activities such as conferences and catering, and he congratulated staff on their achievements.

UNIVERSITY TURNOVER	£000
1999/00	122,942
2000/01	132,634
2001/02	145,842
2002/03	155,056
% change over 4 years:	25%

Professor Burgess highlighted how total income for the year was now over £155m while expenditure was £152.5m generating a surplus

of £2.5m.

Key indicators

In conclusion, Professor Burgess reflected on some of the critical differences in the University as it was in 1999 and now:

SOME FEATURES OF THE UNIVERSITY		
	1999	2003
Finance	7 year deficit	3 year surplus
Research	56% RAE 4 AND 5	84% RAE 4 AND 5
Teaching	1 score of 22	12 of 22+ (last year all at 24)
Publicity	Mainly local	Local, national & international
Estate	2 new academic buildings in 10 years	2 refurbished, 1 new building completed, 1 to be completed, 1 planned
Conference		+20%

LEAGUE TABLES	
Leicester is in or around the top 20 in many media league tables and has been named in the top 20 UK universities for three consecutive years by the <i>Financial Times</i> and has been cited as 102nd in a world ranking of universities.	



PROFESSOR HONoured AT THE DAILY MIRROR'S PRIDE OF BRITAIN AWARDS

► Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys of the Department of Genetics received the Lifetime Achievement award at *The Daily Mirror's* Pride of Britain Awards 2004.

Prince Charles and Prime Minister Tony Blair headed the list of celebrities who honoured the nation's unsung heroes at the star-studded ceremony on London's Park Lane.

Serial killers and rapists have been caught and convicted, the innocent freed, and families reunited – all thanks to the ground-breaking work of Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys.

The 54-year-old academic is the pioneer of the revolutionary crime-fighting technology known as genetic fingerprinting.

More than two million DNA profiles are now held on the UK's National Database alone – and sixty countries, including the United States use the technique Sir Alec discovered to combat crime, identify family links in paternity cases, decide immigration disputes and even fight the illegal smuggling of endangered animal species.

In the trials of the Washington snipers last year an FBI expert testified that DNA evidence from the two accused was found on the rifle and the rifle sight.

On this side of the Atlantic Sarah Payne's killer Roy Whiting was convicted with the help of the technology, as was Soham murderer

Ian Huntley.

And further afield the remains of the last Tsar of Russia and his family were only identified because of Sir Alec's work.

When he first mooted the idea of applying the new technology to criminal investigations he was literally laughed at.

Sir Alec, Royal Society Wolfson Research Professor of Genetics at the University of Leicester, says: "Now every time you turn the TV on you hear DNA has led to another conviction.

"It's my baby. I feel like a doting father to the technology. It has impacted on heavens knows how many people in a very direct and

personal way.

"Since my discovery the speed and sensitivity has increased, but basically it is the same. At the end of the day it did start with me in my lab and I am extremely proud."

The Pride of Britain judges said: "DNA fingerprinting technology is vital throughout police work and in paternity and immigration cases, helps solve many mysteries and saves many innocent people from prison. Sir Alec has made a massive contribution to the world."

More than 100 stars from the worlds of showbiz, sport and politics united for the sixth year of Britain's most remarkable awards ceremony.

• *Distinctions for Sir Alec, page 7*

NEW CANCER RESEARCH FACILITIES UNVEILED

► The University unveiled new cancer studies facilities which will enhance its reputation as one of Europe's leading centres for research into cancer prevention and treatment.

The £100,000 new facility has already attracted national attention – researchers have received major funding from Cancer Research UK to undertake a three year study into how tumours respond to radiation

treatment.

The newly refurbished research laboratories are at the University of Leicester Biocentre. Dr Jones said: "The principal research work to be conducted in these new labs will be in the area of radiation biology; the aim being to better understand and improve the radiation treatment of tumours, particularly of urological cancers.

"The new facilities are excellently equipped to undertake radiation studies and allow us to be along side and to collaborate with other cancer scientists of the Cancer Biomarkers and Prevention Group already in the Biocentre. These are led by Professor Peter Farmer & Dr Maggie Manson."

Apart from the new facility, the cancer research team at the University of Leicester have had double

cause to celebrate – receiving major funding from Cancer Research UK to undertake a three year study to investigate 'The molecular characteristics of cancer cell radiosensitivity'.

This study aims to generate methods for better predicting a patient's tumour response to radiation treatment for bladder cancer, and should lead to the improved treatment of this malignancy.

EAR PRINT IDENTIFICATION – NEW BREAKTHROUGH

► Experts at the University of Leicester working with a Northampton company have made a breakthrough in developing a computerised system for ear image and ear print identification, for use by police agencies, immigration and intelligence services.

The Forensic Pathology Unit, University of Leicester, in conjunction with K9 Forensic Services Limited, Northampton, England, have developed what they believe to be the first computerised system for ear image and ear print identification. This system works on whole or partial ear images and whole or partial ear prints.

The state of its present development was presented by members of

the University's Forensic Pathology Unit at a meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Dallas.

Professor Guy Rutty, Head of the Forensic Pathology Unit at the University, whose knowledge and expertise are internationally recognised, spoke on a computerised system of human ear image and print identification.

Dr Ben Swift, SpR in Forensic Pathology, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, who is one of two forensic pathology trainees within the Forensic Pathology Unit at Leicester spoke on Developing the "Isotope Fingerprint" in Human

Skeletal Remains

The developments in isotope fingerprint analyses have resulted in the creation of new technologies to assist forensic investigations. From an unidentified body, estimations of the time that has elapsed since death and the geographical origin of a person across their lifetime can be made.

These new techniques have been successfully applied to police cases within the United Kingdom and, through a close association with the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), have assisted in resolving issues of war crimes in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Professor Guy Rutty has worked for

13 English Police Forces. He has assisted the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) with war crime investigations in Bosnia, and the Unit is currently assisting the International Commission for Missing Persons in the Former Yugoslavia (ICMP).

He commented: "This is a very exciting development within the field of ear image and ear print identification. This breakthrough in the computerisation of the identification system may ultimately allow the development of a system similar to that of the national finger print system which is used for the identification of individuals by police forces across the world."



UNIVERSITY IN TALKS WITH SAUDI ARABIA TO EXPAND HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

▶ The University of Leicester recently received a delegation from Saudi Arabia to discuss new avenues for providing higher education to the growing population of the Kingdom.

The delegation will advise the Saudi Government about the development of distance learning – the University of Leicester is one of the UK's leading providers of distance learning education.

Professor Kevin Lee, Graduate Dean, said: "Saudi Arabia has a very young population, and the universities cannot be expanded quickly enough to meet its needs. One of the possibilities that the Saudi Government is considering is providing more degrees by distance learning, a field in which the UK is a world leader.

"Leicester concentrates on the

provision of Master's degrees in a range of disciplines geared to the training needs of populations across the world. With over 7,000 distance-learning students, half of them from some 100 countries outside Europe, Leicester has the largest number of postgraduate students in the UK.

"It is a terrific opportunity to be engaged in these high level discussions and to showcase the

University in areas in which we excel."

The delegation from Saudi Arabia had meetings with leading experts in distance learning at Leicester, led by Professor Kevin Lee. They met a group of the University's Saudi students taking on-campus courses and attended a dinner hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bob Burgess.

A TRYST WITH TUSCANY

▶ The University of Leicester held a series of activities celebrating the arts and culture of Italy.

The focus was on the region of Tuscany with which the University of Leicester has many associations. The programme of events included talks, cinema – and a marathon reading of Dante's *Inferno*.

The Tuscan Week was organised by The University's Centre for Tuscan Studies, in collaboration with the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and the School of Modern Languages.

It featured the Degree Ceremony – the granting of an honorary D. Litt. to Riccardo Nencini, President of the Regional Council of Tuscan which

was followed by the Annual Lecture of the Centre for Tuscan Studies, delivered by Riccardo Nencini, on the subject of *Tuscany from the Middle Ages and Renaissance to the Present*. The reception featured entertainment by the University of Leicester Italian Chorus, conducted by Professor Maurizio Morgantini (Musical Director of the Coro Santa Barbara, Massa Marittima, Tuscany).

There was a lecture by Dr Joanna Cannon (Reader, Courtauld Institute of Art): *Moving Remains: Late medieval burials, reburials, and shrines of holy people in the Dominican churches of central and* a screening of the film *The Night of*



the Shooting Stars (La notte di San Lorenzo), made by the Taviani brothers.

Hell: A Marathon Reading of

Dante's Inferno by University students, staff and friends of Italian (and of things Tuscan!) rounded off the programme.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP COMBAT 'BIRD FLU'

▶ A world leading researcher, Karl Nicholson, Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Leicester and the Leicester Royal Infirmary, is seeking local volunteers to help test vaccines against 'bird flu'.

The work in Leicester is sponsored by the Department of Health, and is being carried out with the Health Protection Agency, the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, and international vaccine manufacturers.

Professor Nicholson commented: "We have no vaccines against the new H5 variant of bird flu yet, and won't have one for several more months at least. We need volunteers to test a vaccine against H9 bird flu, which like H5 has jumped from birds into man in the Far East.

"We did a small trial with H9 vaccines at the Leicester Royal Infirmary and the results were published in *The Lancet* before Christmas, but we need another 600 volunteers to test more vaccine formulations to see which is the best.

"The H9 trial won't protect people against the H5 virus, but the work may help us respond more effectively to a pandemic of H5 influenza, or another strain, when it occurs. It is likely that vaccines against the new H5 virus will also be tested locally when they are developed."

Professor Nicholson's work to date indicates a number of problems in developing effective vaccines against bird flu, including the strong likelihood that it will be necessary to give two doses of vaccine, and even then the antibody responses may be less than optimal.

The research findings published in *The Lancet* on vaccines for both an H5 strain of bird flu that caused the outbreak in 1997 and an H9 virus that subsequently occurred in China and Hong Kong, suggested that, although the vaccines were safe and well-tolerated, a single dose is likely to be inadequate.

This research is highly significant and the resulting data were presented at a meeting hosted by the

US National Institutes of Health with World Health Organisation participation.

Professor Nicholson has been working in collaboration with Dr John Wood at the National Institute of Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) and Dr Maria Zambon, at the Health Protection Agency Central Laboratory in Colindale, London.

The vaccines were made by several vaccine manufacturers (Chiron, Bema Biotech, and Solvay) using vaccine seed provided by Dr Wood.

Dr Zambon carried out the laboratory studies together with Dr Iain Stephenson from Leicester Royal Infirmary, while clinical trials were carried out at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, often with nurses who had volunteered their help. The work was supported by the Department of Health.

• *People wishing to find out more about this study with a view to taking part can contact Professor Nicholson through Sheila Hewitt at the University of Leicester Department of Infection, Immunity, and Inflammation, tel 0116 252 2951.*



RECORD PAYMENT FOR ORIGINAL THINKING

► An agreement with a well-known international diagnostics company has led to the largest up-front payment the University of Leicester has ever received for a licence deal.

As a demonstration of the mutual advantages a commercial collaboration can bring to academic research, Professor Leong Ng's work in the area of diagnosis and prognosis in heart disease and the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences will benefit in two ways:

- The University's Research and Business Development Office has licensed to the company three patents based on Professor Ng's ideas, in return for £90,000 plus future payments as products are developed and marketed.
- In addition, the company is funding a £150,000 research programme in Professor Ng's laboratory to further his academic research in the same field.

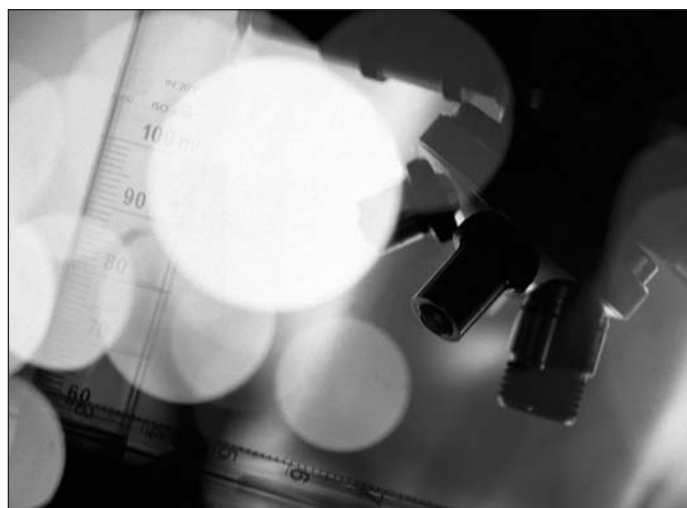
"This is an excellent example of how University staff can get the best of both worlds," said Clare O'Neill

from the University's Research and Business Development Office. "They can maintain a high level of excellent academic research output, and at the same time they can benefit from the commercialisation of some aspects of that research."

While the lion's share of the licence payments will go to Professor Ng, his department and the University itself will also benefit. This happens automatically under the University's policy for sharing any profits from licence revenues.

Professor Leong Ng is Professor of Medicine and Therapeutics. His research interests include:

- Studies on the role of cardiovascular peptides in heart disease,
- Use of hormonal markers for diagnosis and prognosis in heart disease and the determination of therapeutic response to various drug treatments,
- Investigations of surrogate ion transport phenotypic markers for hypertension and the complications of diabetes using cultured



- human cell as models,
- Role of free radicals in hypertensive and diabetic tissue damage,
- Free radical biology in pre-eclampsia.

Commenting on the deal with the diagnostics company, he said: "We are very pleased to be able to carry out this work in Leicester, as many of the original diagnostic tests were de-

vised here."

- *Staff interested in finding out how their own research might benefit from links with the commercial world can contact Dr Clare O'Neill, Business Development Manager, Research and Business Development Office, University of Leicester, telephone 0116 252 3333, email cmo4@le.ac.uk*

UNIVERSITY AMONG SELECT PATRONS OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

► The University of Leicester has joined a select club – as patrons of the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce.

The group of patrons is limited to 10 companies or organisations. A space became available when the Chamber merged with the Leicestershire Development Agency, which ran Business Link, one of the ten patrons.

The University took up the place from April 1. Chamber managing director Martin Traynor said: "We are delighted to be working with the University of Leicester and see this very much as a partnership."

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester Professor Robert Burgess said: "The University of Leicester is delighted to be included as one of a handful of organisations that are patrons of the Chamber of Commerce.

"As a major employer and magnet for investment, it is appropriate that the University plays an influential role in the business life of the city. In recent years, the University, in partnership with other organisations, has helped bring the £52 million National Space Centre to the city, the University itself has attracted £80m in research income over the past two years and we have an annual turnover exceeding £150m.

"We employ over 3,000 staff and have over 19,000 students and have extensive links with businesses and industry across the region and beyond. We have announced an ambitious £300m plan over 30 years to expand the University with the aim of enhancing our position as one of the UK's top 20 universities. We believe that supporting the Chamber of Commerce is key to the business prosperity of the city and region."

EARLIEST HUMAN REMAINS REVEAL A BLOODY END

► Analysis of human remains found during archaeological work carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services has established that they are the earliest remains ever to be found in the county – and that they met with violent deaths!

Experts from the leading research and teaching department have just completed investigations on remains that had been found eight years ago in a gravel quarry near Watermead Country Park, Birstall.

A series of scientific tests undertaken this year have come up with some gruesome results.

The remains, including two skulls, vertebrae and long bones, were found together in a peat deposit – originally an old channel of the River Soar – during gravel quarrying. Radiocarbon dating has provided surprising results: although found together the bodies had been deposited in the marsh 2000 years apart! The remains of two individuals

– a male and a female – were dated from the Early Neolithic (around 3000BC), the earliest known human remains from the county. The skull and upper vertebra from another person were found to date from around 800BC during the Bronze Age.

How and why did these remains end up here? Analysis at the University of York and the British Museum have concluded that before the bodies were disposed of the blood supply was cut off quickly – perhaps pointing to their being put to death. More tangible evidence was found on the vertebra of the Bronze Age individual. Here cut marks showed that the person's throat had been cut by a knife.

Susan Ripper the Site Director said: "These are remarkable if somewhat gruesome discoveries. The evidence suggests the people suffered from violent deaths, and soon after death the bodies were placed in a waterlogged area alongside the river."



UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER PLAYS KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPING 'SOPHISTICATED SUPER-SENSITIVE CAMERA'

▶ The Hubble Space Telescope has brought the wonder and spectacle of the Universe into every home. Its successor, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) due to be launched in 2011, will have a 6.5 metre diameter mirror – 2.5 times larger than Hubble – enabling it to produce even sharper and more spectacular images from the farthest depths of the cosmos.

In order to look even deeper into the Universe than Hubble the JWST will carry a suite of three cameras that are sensitive to infrared wavelengths. The most sophisticated of these, a super sensitive camera called the Mid InfraRed Instrument (MIRI), is being developed by an international team led by Dr Gillian

Wright of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council's Astronomy Technology Centre (UK ATC) in Edinburgh and Professor George Rieke of the University of Arizona in the USA.

The University of Leicester is leading the structure and mechanical systems work for MIRI. This includes overall design responsibility, and specific responsibility for designing and building the MIRI 'primary structure' which will support the whole instrument and allow it to be secured to the JWST spacecraft.

Dr John Pye, Space Research Centre Manager, said: "In meeting the science and engineering challenges presented by the JWST mission, and by MIRI in particular, the University

is building on its long-standing, but continuously developing experience and expertise in space instrumentation."

Advanced computer-aided design (CAD) systems at the University's Space Research Centre are being used to develop the complex MIRI structure and ensure that it will meet the tight requirements on weight, strength and stability.

MIRI will stand roughly a metre high and weigh around 100kg. The first test version of the structure will be put together in the large, new clean-room suite at the Space Research Centre during the coming summer.

The University is also involved in the planning for MIRI in-orbit opera-

tions and calibrations.

JWST activities at Leicester are being funded by the UK Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council at a total level to launch of £1.7M. The University has this week received a grant of £300,000 towards work in the first two years of the programme.

Professor Martin Ward, of the University's Department of Physics and Astronomy, and a UK Science Co-Investigator on the MIRI project said: "Using this mid-infrared instrument we will be able to view the Universe at unprecedented sensitivity, which will help us to solve the mysteries of galaxy birth as well as the formation of solar systems – a key to understanding our own origins."

UNIVERSITY INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NHS UNIVERSITY

▶ The University of Leicester is the sole institution in the East Midlands selected to work in partnership with the new NHSU.

NHSU announced the result of its national call for collaboration in August 2003 to which 80 universities responded.

The University of Warwick, whose medical school has been established in a partnership with the University of Leicester, will be the NHSU's principal national academic partner. Warwick is the leading member of a consortium which also includes the University of Leicester and Coventry University.

The role of this national collaboration is to help shape and support the

academic programmes and processes of NHSU and aid the progression towards its goal of achieving full university title.

In addition, NHSU has announced 11 further regional academic partners, working mainly in consortia. One of these regional consortia is also made up of Warwick, Leicester and Coventry universities. These partners will assist with and contribute to NHSU's aim of transforming learning within health and social care.

This rich mix of academic partners will lead to the development of new courses, learner support, teaching methods, practice and delivery, including e-learning, work-based learning, knowledge creation and research.

UNIVERSITY'S FIRST ARTS WEEK A TRIUMPH

▶ The University's first ever Arts Week, held from 5-11 March, has been hailed a success, with attendance at some events packed out.

The week of music, theatre, art and film, included contributions from the University of Leicester Theatre; the University Music Department and its associated student bands, orchestras and choirs; the Richard Attenborough Centre; and the University Film Club with the History of Art Department.

Among the week's notable

triumphs was its launch, when the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Burgess, formally opened the City Secondary Schools Art Exhibition in the Charles Wilson Building, before an enthusiastic audience of 200 school students and 100 members of the public.

The Art Exhibition, co-ordinated by Sir Jonathan North Community College (a Specialist Arts College), formed the backdrop to the Arts Week Fringe, a series of free events from Classical Indian Dance workshops to the Crown Hills Steel

Pans Band, demonstrating flair, panache and their sheer love of performing to the public.

Marketing Director Richard Taylor pointed to other popular highlights, including "Pollock", the portrayal in film of the life of the US artist, Jackson Pollock, and performances of "Cabaret" and "Richard III". "Arts Week is definitely something we are keen to repeat next year," he said, and paid tribute to the hard work put in by Jean Baxter, Admissions Office, and Karen Bignold, Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Administrator.

Planning for Arts Week 2005 has already begun, with the City Secondary Schools Art Exhibition again forming the focus, and with additional input from the City Further Education Colleges.

Dr Laurence Howard, who masterminded the operation, commented: "Arts Week displayed the tremendous range of talent that exists in the University, and I very much hope that this year's success will encourage everyone who has such talents to become involved in next years Arts Week."



Staff and Student Distinctions

Staff Distinctions

▶ **Professor Helen Atkinson (Engineering)** has been appointed to the new national independent Implementation Group for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology.

▶ **Dr Ann Briggs (Education)** has been given an award of £2,000 by a Learning and Skills Research Network Conference for the best research paper at the conference, and has been commended for her contribution to research in the sector.

▶ **Dr Gillian Butcher (Physics and Astronomy)** is serving as a member of the Women in Physics Group of the Institute of Physics.

▶ **Dr Sarah Davies (Geology)** has been appointed President of the British Sedimentological Research Group.

▶ **Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, FRS (Genetics)** will be awarded the Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine in April 2004. This award identifies the most distinguished biomedical research in Europe. He has also been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by the University of Hull and presented with an Honorary Medal by the Royal College of Surgeons of England. In November 2003, he received an Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics from the US Association for Molecular Pathology. [news of a further distinction for Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys is reported below]

▶ **Dr Prashant Kidambi (Historical Studies)** has been awarded the Herman Diederiks prize by the International Association for the History of



Professor Helen Atkinson

Crime and Criminal Justice for his article entitled The Ultimate Masters of the City: Police, Public Order, and the Poor in Colonial Bombay 1893-1918.

▶ **Professor David Mattingly (Archaeology and Ancient History)** has recently served as the J W Altman Humanities Scholar in Residence in the Department of Classics, Miami University, and in March 2004, he has been invited to deliver the J Berry Lecture at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

▶ **Professor Steve Nahorski (Cell Physiology and Pharmacology)** has been invited to join the MRC's Physiological Medicine and Infection Board from September 2004 for four years.

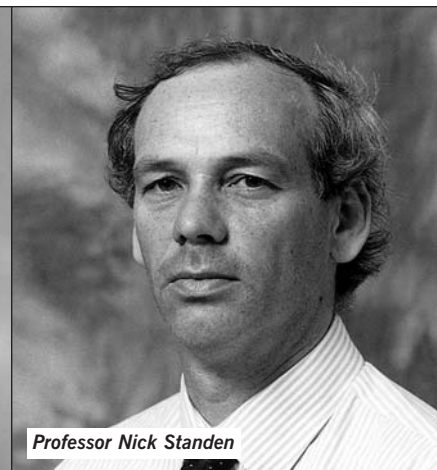
▶ **Professor Clive Ruggles (Archaeol-**

ogy and Ancient History) has been awarded a two-year Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship starting in October 2004 to undertake critical synthesis of European archaeoastronomy.

▶ **Professor Graham Shipley (Archaeology and Ancient History)** has been elected as the Chair of the Council of University Classical Departments for the period 2003-6.

▶ **Professor Nick Standen (Cell Physiology and Pharmacology)** has been invited to serve on the Chairs and Programme Grants Committee of the British Heart Foundation.

▶ **Professor Alan Wells (Physics and Astronomy)** has been appointed by the Universities Space Research Association Board of Trustees in the USA to serve on a Centre for



Professor Nick Standen

Program/Project Management Research Science Council for a three-year term.

Student Distinctions

▶ **Mark Fuller (MSc Advanced Mechanical Engineering)** has won the East Midlands Professional Engineering Institutions' Master's Prize for 'Engineering projects to change the future'.

▶ **Sarah Sargent (DL Certificate in Welfare Housing Law and Policy and Director of Legal Services at the Kansas Children's Service League)** has won an international student competition organised by the Learning in Law Initiative, on the theme, Is Legal Education Working?.

▶ **Mr Andrew West (PhD Chemistry)** is a joint first prize winner in the inaugural CRYSTAL Faraday Partnership's Gordon Conference essay competition, for his essay Tomorrow's World. [see full story following]

• As reported to Senate

Genetics Professor to receive honorary degree from Oxford

▶ Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, FRS, is among an international group of seven men and women who are set to receive honorary degrees at Encaenia this year, subject to approval by Oxford's congregation.

Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, the Royal Society Wolfson Research Professor at the University, is an Honorary Fellow of Merton College. He

invented genetic fingerprinting, a technique which has had profound impact on national and international life. He is a founder member of the Academy of Medical Sciences (1998).

Fellow honorands are Sir Martin Wood, Kt, OBE, FRS, The Rt Hon The Lord Woolf, Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Professor Dame Marilyn

Strathern, DBE, FBA, Professor Suzanne Cory, FRS, and Professor Ahmed H Zewail.

The honorary degree ceremony takes place on June 23.

The Vice-Chancellor announced that plans were being developed for a display of Professor Jeffrey's numerous awards in the entrance hall of the Fielding Johnson Building.





New Sub-Dean for Leicester Medical School

▶ Dr Annette Cashmore is the new Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Biological Sciences at the University of Leicester. Dr Cashmore is currently Head of the Department of Genetics, which last year was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize.

Dr Cashmore takes over from Dr Laurence Howard, who has been Sub-Dean since 1990. Though retiring as Sub-Dean, he will continue to

work part-time in the Medical School, while fulfilling his new role as Lord Lieutenant of Rutland. This represents the culmination of a lifetime of public service, as Justice of the Peace, Chairman of a Board of Prison Visitors, Chairman of the Rutland Bench, Chairman of the Leicestershire and Rutland Magistrates' Association and Freeman of the City of London.



Plaque commemorates birthplace of eminent historian

▶ How many of Leicester's professors have had a plaque set up on the house where they were born? The answer probably is 'only one', namely William Hoskins, a founder member of the Department of English Local History.

Hoskins came to the University College of Leicester in 1931 as a Lecturer in Commerce, but he dispelled the tedium of lecturing on trade statistics by evening teaching to enthusiastic audiences at Vaughan College, on topics in local history and archaeology.

While in Leicester he researched pioneering papers on a wide range of historical specialisms which have subsequently flourished – on historical demography, urban history, agrarian history, the evolution of vernacular architecture, landscape history and local history.

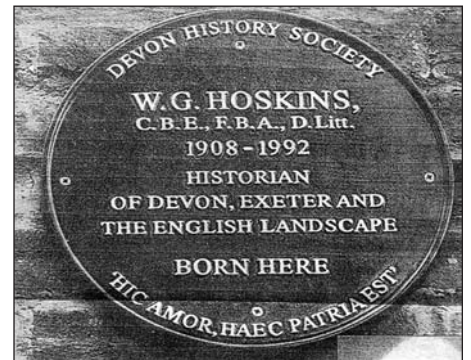
He was a prolific author. His books ranged from *The Making of the English Landscape*, which in-

spired a television series and led to his being championed by the Green Movement, to *The Age of Plunder*, about Henry VIII, in which he attacked bureaucrats. He was also a writer of popular historical guide books where he expressed strongly-held opinions on building and landscapes.

The plaque (pictured) is on the wall of his home in Exeter, where his father was a baker. The urban history of Exeter features in Professor Hoskins' writings, along with a great number of other books on Devon.

After the unveiling ceremony, there was a celebration of his life attended by dignitaries from county, city and cathedral. Among the speakers was Professor Harold Fox, Professor of Social and Landscape History in the University's School of Historical Studies, who gave a talk on Hoskins's work and life in Leicestershire.

Harold Fox



The Englishness of W G Hoskins

▶ On Friday, April 23 (St George's Day), Professor Rob Colls, Professor of English History, School of Historical Studies, gives the Vaughan Historical and Archaeological Society's W G Hoskins Lecture, *The Englishness of W G Hoskins*, at Vaughan College. For further details, see Bulletin's Dates For Your Diary.

USA study option success for engineer

▶ Mayank Vaducha, who is studying Electronic and Software Engineering, is one of the first students from Leicester to take the option of studying at Clarkson University, New York as part of his 'with USA' engineering degree. Since then, he has spent a year working in industry at Alstec in Whetstone, Leicestershire. Final-year student Mayank found both experiences hard work, but most enjoyable and maturing.

Clarkson has an internationally-renowned engineering school. The flexibility of learning was impressive and Mayank received outstanding support from tutors. However he found the regime of continuous assessment and 'surprise tests' a shock to the system. Nevertheless he emerged from the exchange with considerable academic credit.

Mayank Vaducha met the Vice-Chancellor at a reception following the Department of Engineering Annual Industry Lecture on January 29. The Vice-Chancellor gave his enthusiastic support to the schemes available within the engineering degrees and commented that Mayank's experiences highlighted some very encouraging aspects of the opportunities available to Leicester students; he looked forward to seeing more students taking full advantage of these opportunities.

Professor Paul Gostelow

Leicester academic plays key role in international workshop

▶ A University of Leicester academic had the distinction of being selected as the UK co-ordinator for an international biomolecular sciences workshop.

Dr David Heery, of the Department of Biochemistry, and Professor Yongfeng Shang of Beijing University, co-organised and chaired the workshop in Beijing in March 2004. The event was organised under the International Networking for Young Scientists scheme, a British Council-funded initiative launched last year.

The theme of the meeting, which was convened at Beijing and Tsinghua Universities, was Genome Analysis and Biomolecular Sciences. The event also showcased research from leading young scientists in China and the Universities of Leicester,

Cambridge, Manchester, Imperial College, Institute of Cancer Research, Cancer Research UK and the Sanger Institute.

Among the UK participants, the University of Leicester was represented by Dr David Heery (Department of Biochemistry) and Professor Ed Louis (Department of Genetics).

Dr Heery, who is a Wellcome Senior Fellow, said: "The aim of the INYS scheme is to foster interactions and research collaborations between young scientists in the UK and overseas countries. The itinerary for this event included site visits to the major biological research institutes in Beijing. The Department of Biochemistry hosted a similar visit to UK research centres by a team of Chinese scientists in March 2003."



Senior Lecturer selected as Leicestershire 'Woman of the Year'

► Dr Angela Lennox, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medical and Social Care Education, has been named Leicestershire's Woman Of The Year.

Dr Lennox, who is a city GP, was honoured at the county's first Women Of Achievement Awards. A total of eight inspirational women were chosen from hundreds of nominations to pick up honours at the Walkers Stadium.

She received the accolade for her work in the NHS and setting up the £1.7million Prince Philip House, one of Britain's first combined health, academic training and community centres.

Dr Lennox, who is also chair of Leicester Shire Promotions and a director of Leicester Regeneration Company, said: "This event has shown how wonderful a place Leicestershire is for women to achieve. You get on with your job, whether it's teaching young medics about the challenges they'll face, or being a director of the Leicester Regeneration Company – and don't expect recognition. I hope this ceremony inspires young women to achieve."

Farewell to Cynthia Brown

► Cynthia Brown has left the East Midlands Oral History Archive section to take up a new post as Workforce Development Officer with the East Midlands Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (EMMLAC). She writes: "I enjoyed my time at EMOHA, and am proud of what we have achieved since the project was established in March 2001. The quality of our work has been recognised nationally and internationally, as well as within the East Midlands region itself. I am looking forward to the challenge of a new job within the museums, libraries and archives sector, and I am sure I will maintain my contact with many of you in the future." She sends her thanks to those who have expressed interest and support for the project over the past three years.



PRAISE FOR PROJECT: Cynthia Brown (centre right) praised the quality of work within the East Midlands Oral History Archive at a farewell gathering of her friends and colleagues in January.

Academic gives keynote address at Disaster Response conference

► Dr Simon Bennett, from the University's Criminology Centre, recently gave the keynote address at an international conference, Disaster Response: Challenging Myths and Improving Reality.

The Kenyons-sponsored conference held in February attracted over 100 delegates from around the world. Dr Bennett talked about the July 2002 mid-air collision over Uberlingen in southern Germany. His analysis focused on the underlying causes of the disaster. Dr Bennett commented that the 2004 accession of eastern European states to the European Union provided a 'window of opportunity' to address disjunctures in operational practice.

Former member of staff at Leicester is new Principal of Stirling University

► Professor Christine Hallett, a leading authority on child protection, has recently become only the second woman to accede to the post of principal in the six centuries since universities originated in Scotland. She previously held teaching and research posts at the Universities of Oxford, Keele and Leicester. Professor Hallett had been acting principal and vice-chancellor since the sudden death in post of Professor Colin Bell a year ago.



International award for young Science writer

▶ The price of a box of painkillers has soared to £10 and other drugs are too expensive to buy since the drug companies ran out of raw material supplies [...] Trees are too rare and precious to use for paper, you haven't seen a recent newspaper in weeks.' This stark view of the future is not the setting for a new sci-fi novel, but a national prize-winning essay by Andy West, a University of Leicester PhD chemistry student in his final year who also read for his undergraduate degree here.

One of three students to have won the prestigious Crystal Faraday competition for his essay, he wins an all-expenses paid trip to attend the Gordon Conference on Green Chemistry in USA this July.

His essay on the 'potential impact of green chemical technologies on life in the UK', was entitled Tomorrow's World.

Andy West said: "All the experience will be great and I get to meet some leaders in the field of green chemistry and get noticed." He also added that: "The Gordon Conference win links in with my journalistic skill – I would like a career in science writing and I am already looking into this."

Andy West is working with Professor Eric Hope as part of the Green Chemistry group at the University of Leicester. The full essay and further details of the competition can be seen at www.crystalfaraday.org

Scott England

Success in leaps and bounds for medal-winning student

▶ William Sharman, a first-year BA Economics student at this University, is a talented athlete. His most recent success was to win a silver medal in the 60m hurdles at the British Universities Sports Association indoor champions meeting, held in Cardiff, where some of the best senior athletes in the UK were taking part.

Due to injury, he had to pull out of the Long Jump and High Jump competitions, but came eighth in the finals of the 60m Sprint from total of over 80 contenders. On the second day of the competition, before competing in the Hurdles event, he was pleased to meet and talk with world record hold-

er Colin Jackson. He then went on to qualify in a personal best time. William's performance in the Hurdles final elevated him straight into 9th position on the Senior UK rankings.

"What made the weekend more significant was the fact that these championships were my first competition back since a shoulder operation as a result of a polevault accident seven months ago. I had trained only lightly before I went to this event, having completed only three Hurdles sessions. From this experience, I feel that I have the potential to make great strides in the future", said William.



Law students show team spirit

▶ In the prestigious International Jessup Mooting Competition held in Aberdeen the team representing the University of Leicester, Dan Cohen, Paula Barnes, Da Yu Au and Sarla Subramaniam, was awarded the prize for the team best demonstrating the 'Spirit of Jessop'. This prize is given to the team that best demonstrates the professionalism, team spirit and fun attitude that sets the benchmark for excellence in the Jessup Moot.

Congratulations are also due to two third-year Law students, Benson Tsoi and Anisha Sinha, who won the final of the Inner Temple Inter-Varsity Mooting Competition on February 28. They defeated teams from Kingston, University College Northampton, University College London and Newcastle to reach the final and then defeated Manchester University to win the competition. The final was judged by Adrian Brunner QC, Mr Robin Spon-Smith, Mr Tim Dutton and Mr Francis Davey. Benson and Anisha won a shield and two bottles of champagne.

Correction

▶ In reporting the award of the medal of Warsaw University to Emeritus Professor Grodecki (February/March issue of Bulletin, page 9) his term of office as Head of the Department of Law was incorrectly given. Professor Grodecki was appointed as the Founding Professor of Law in 1965, and remained Head of Department until 1973 when he became Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the new Law Faculty. He served a second term as Head of Department from 1976 to 1984.

Addendum

▶ The list of University of Leicester academics cited in Who's Who 2004 (as listed in February/March issue of Bulletin) also includes:

- FORSYTH, Professor Murray Greensmith, FRHistS, Professor of Politics, University of Leicester, 1990-94
 - JONES, Professor Tudor Bowden, Radio and Space Plasma Physics Group, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Leicester
- A complete list is available at <http://www.le.ac.uk/ebulletin/people/universityofleicesteracademics.html>



Obituaries

► Mrs A Garratt

The University has learnt, with regret of the sudden death of Annie (Amarpal) Garratt on Saturday, February 28. Mrs Garratt was employed as a Chief Clerk in the Clinical Psychology Department from May 1, 1999 to January 4, 2002 and at the time of her death was studying for the degree of MBA in the University's Management Centre.

After a background working in an administrative capacity for the police force and a housing association, Annie was keen to develop her career and embarked on part-time study for an MBA, retaining the University connection by continuing with her studies here.

She leaves 12-year-old twins, Ashley and James. She was a loving mother and a kind and supportive friend to many. Her funeral ceremony reflected Annie's Christian beliefs and her Sikh background.

Heather Roach

► Dr Trevor Hold

All those whose lives have been touched by Trevor and his music – and there are many – were saddened to hear of his death in January.

He was born in Northampton and it was his claim that it was the influence of the local brass band tradition and a mother who kept him at his piano practice which led him to read music at the University of Nottingham where he graduated with a First.

His first post was as the music master at Market Harborough Grammar School. He then moved into higher education – first as an Assistant Lecturer at Aberystwyth in 1963 then as a Lecturer in Music at the University of Liverpool. It was the University of Leicester's good fortune, and the good fortune of many in the region, that his homing instinct took over in 1970 and he came to the Department of Adult Education with a dual role as Lecturer in Music (Senior Lecturer in 1979) and with responsibility for organising the Department's programme throughout Northamptonshire.

Early on in his career at Leicester he filled an interregnum by acting as

the Director of the University's Music Department for one year in addition to these roles. He took early retirement in 1989 to devote himself to his writing and composition, although he continued to teach for the Department for many years after that.

Apart from his close family and his wide circle of friends Trevor had two loves – the first was his music, and the second was natural history and all that went with it. Whilst this latter found its main expression in Northamptonshire, his knowledge of our national bird sanctuaries and other conservation areas was detailed and profound. And this, of course, spilled over into his music, most of which was founded in the English pastoral sensibility as was his poetry. As well as being a prolific and widely performed composer and the author of studies of English song writers, he also had four slim volumes of verse published in his lifetime.

Trevor's music was performed nationally by the BBC and the writer has a particularly personal and warm memory of the London Voices performing his settings of Hardy poems at the Purcell rooms some years ago. But the University was a principal beneficiary of his creativity and Anthony Pither writes:

Since 1975 the University Music Department has performed 17 of Trevor Hold's works, one of them, Kemp's Nine Daies Wonder, by his friend and colleague, the composer and pianist, the late James Walker – three times.

Many of Trevor's compositions are settings of poems by his favourite poets – from E E Cummings to fellow-Northamptonshire poet, John Clare. For a number of pieces, Trevor set his own poems or wrote his own libretto, as in *Book of Beasts* (1984) and *Glaserion* (1977, first performed in 1984), an ambitious work for tenor and harp that is being repeated at a University concert on February 21, 2004. For his PhD in Composition at the University, he submitted an opera, *The Second Death* (1988), again to his own libretto, and, like *Glaserion*, involving a story within a story.

There are also pieces with traditional titles, such as *Trio*, *Clarinet Quintet*, and most recently, *Sonata*. In all Trevor set out to do – and he accomplished a great deal – his writing was always beautifully presented (he was not attracted to computers!), his musical arguments always cogent, and his music in a style that usually related to the English pastoral tradition. In a discussion with Trevor shortly before Christmas 2003, we agreed to feature his new *Piano Sonata*: it will form part of a lunchtime concert in February 2005. Planning ahead made the news of Trevor's early death all the sadder. At the same time we know that his music and poetry will live on.

Trevor wrote extensively on *English Song*. Reviewing his last published book, *Parry to Finzi: Twenty English Song-composers* (2002), John Talbot described Trevor as "a real companion on his reader's journey of discovery". In the same year, his setting of Laurie Lee's *Day of these Days* won the English Poetry and Song Society/English Music society 2002 Golden Jubilee Song Competition. And back in the early 70s, Trevor published notated vocalisations of birdsong that he, like Messiaen, had studied, and subsequently incorporated into his music. The pastoral element ran through almost all Trevor's work.

This brief notice can do little other than give a flavour of Trevor's contribution to the cultural life of the University and the region. He was meticulous in all that he did. He believed that music had something to offer to everybody and he brought a sense of values along with him to all his colleagues and friends. He was a first rate accompanist in his own right and a talented teacher. As one who taught alongside him on many occasions – his love of English song gave rise to a series of courses on words and music – I never came away from one of his teaching sessions without knowing that I had gained something. His energy, his occasional tetchiness when he came across something which he considered second rate, his capacity for friendship and his belief that life,

like music, was not something to be observed but something in which one participated, will be sorely missed. But we are fortunate that he has been with us and that his music remains.

Bill Forster

► Professor C Eaborn

The University has learnt, with regret, of the death of Professor Colin Eaborn on Sunday, February 22 after a long illness. Professor Eaborn joined the University in 1947 as an Assistant Lecturer in Chemistry. In 1954 the personal title of Reader in Physical Organic Chemistry was conferred on him. He left in 1962 when he was appointed to the Chair of Chemistry in the University of Sussex.

• *A full obituary will appear in the next issue of Bulletin.*

► Mr K Elsdon

Konrad Elsdon, who graduated in 1949 with a first-class honours degree from University College Leicester, died on January 30, 2004.

A well-respected educationalist, his long and distinguished career was driven by a deeply-held belief in the benefits of lifelong learning.

His book, *An Education for the People* (2001), is a history of lifelong learning since World War II, and his last book, *Crisis of Opportunity* (2003), argues strongly in support of its continuation.

On his retirement, the University of Nottingham awarded him the honorary title of Professor.

In the course of his life, Konrad made many firm friends. Among them were staff and fellow students at Leicester, including his tutor, Professor Arthur Humphreys and his wife, Jean Humphreys. Loyal and supportive and motivated by a deep Christian and liberal humanism, Konrad Elsdon is remembered with warmth and affection.

He leaves a widow, Sheila, herself an English graduate of University College.

• *A full obituary of Konrad Elsdon by Denis Watson can be found at <http://www.le.ac.uk/press/ebulletin/people/obitkonradelsdon.html>*



(1). **DIGGING THE DIRT ON THE PAST:** University of Leicester archaeologists have found the earliest remains ever to be uncovered in the county – and the gruesome end they encountered. Dr Patrick Clay is pictured with remains from the historic find. *Full story page 5.* (Image: Max Ewen, Leicester Mercury.)

(2). **WILLIAM SHARMAN**, a first-year BA Economics student at the University of Leicester, is a talented athlete. His most recent success was winning a silver medal in the 60m hurdles at the British Universities Sports Association indoor champions meeting, held in Cardiff. The two-day event for William allowed him to compete in the 60m Sprint and the 60m Hurdles. His race in the 60m Sprint heats qualified him for the final. *Full story page 10.*

(3). **KING RICHARD III** returned to Leicester as students from the University of Leicester brought Shakespeare's play to the Cathedral – a stone's throw from where Richard was buried in the city centre after his defeat at the Battle of Bosworth 500 years ago. Leicester University Theatre (LUT) staged Richard III at the University last year – and it was so well received that Theatre Manager Dr Roger Scoppie got permission to revive the show for a final one-night stand at Leicester Cathedral.

(4). **PARTICIPANTS IN GIRLGUIDING UK'S Take Our Daughters to Work Day** were on campus in March for an opportunity to learn more about the world of work, and to find out about the wide range of careers available. The University welcomed 23 Guides, aged 10-15, who shadowed undergraduate students, experienced work in Genetics, Engineering, Physics and Astronomy and Personnel departments, and toured the campus.

(5). **A SPECIAL HONORARY DEGREE CEREMONY** was held for Riccardo Nencini, President of the Regional Council of Tuscany, who was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt). President Nencini gave the Annual Centre for Tuscan Studies that evening and the honorary degree was conferred upon President Nencini at a ceremony prior to his lecture. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Burgess, presided at this ceremony.

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