

LIBRARY GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY MARKS MOMENTOUS OCCASION IN HISTORY OF UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

► A momentous occasion in the history of the University of Leicester was marked on May 23 when Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess performed the ground breaking ceremony for the University of Leicester's £25m new Library development.

"The last time the University of Leicester built a Library was in 1974," said Professor Burgess as he addressed a gathering of construction representatives and University members. "When I arrived in September 1999, one of the first things the estates department showed me was the back of the existing Library with its temporary cladding - which had been there since the 70s.

"One of my resolutions was that we would remove the cladding and build a Library. By the end of next year, we will take delivery of the new building and thereafter will begin the work on refurbishment and bringing the buildings together.

"This is an exciting project in the centre of the campus - we wish to create an iconic building of which the University can be justifiably proud. I am very enthusiastic about this development - this building is crucial



DRIVING FORCE: Librarian Christine Fyfe and Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess at the ground breaking ceremony for the University of Leicester's £25m Library project which is part of a £300m Development Plan.

for the success of the University in terms of research, teaching and learning - it heralds a new era for the University of Leicester."

University experts have toured the US in order to inspire the new

development which will double the size of the existing library. It will be completed in 2007 providing a centrepiece for the University's Jubilee celebration, marking 50 years since the granting of the Royal Charter.

The building, under the management and direction of Leicester Academic Library Services Ltd, is part of a £300m Development Plan - one of the biggest of any university in the UK.

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The Library expansion fulfils an ambition when the original Library was built in the 1970s and will feature new facilities, including a 500-seater lecture theatre, the biggest on campus.

A highlight of the design will be a new atrium, allowing natural light to cascade into the centre of the building. The façade will also be replaced to provide additional natural light at the perimeter reader spaces and to increase the overall thermal performance of the scheme. As part of a University research programme funding has been secured to incorporate photovoltaic cells within the triple glazed façade of the extension.

University Librarian Christine Fyfe said: "We're really excited about building an innovative library for the 21st century which is both inspiring and accessible".

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: Members of the University and developers at the ground breaking ceremony



KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

► Design respects the sensitivity of the site and complements the adjacent Grade II* Stirling and Gowan Engineering building and the Grade II Fielding Johnson building scheme provides a total of 15,500sq.m. of space study spaces will be expanded to 1500 seats, group study rooms will be provided along with a Special Collections suite, Graduate School area, increased IT facilities, cafe, bookshop

and Careers Library existing library will be refurbished incorporating a new atrium circulation space to increase natural light at the heart of the building and assist with navigating the collection of over a million volumes façade will be replaced to provide additional natural light at the perimeter reader spaces and to increase the overall thermal performance of the scheme final part of the

scheme includes a fully glazed atrium link to the existing Fielding Johnson building

Library project forms part of a campus-wide £300M development plan, the aim of which is to transform the University of Leicester's physical environment, creating a forward-looking campus in which to work and study. This is the biggest expansion plan for the University since the 1960s.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER LIBRARY - TEACHING SUITE

► One of the highlights of the University of Leicester's new landmark library building will be a teaching suite comprising seminar rooms and a large lecture theatre which will enable recording, links to other lecture theatres on campus and web-casting across the world.

The 500-seat lecture theatre is more than 50% bigger than any current auditorium on campus. It is anticipated that the lecture theatre will also attract international conferences, as well as companies and other groups in the region.

The tiered seats will focus on a double width screen approximately 10-metres wide. Other state-of-the-art features include dual electronic data projection and camera facilities, with control from both the lectern and an audio-visual services booth.

Wireless networking will allow the use of on-line laptop computers for e-learning applications and increased interactivity. The design has incorporated "future proofing" and "flexibility" to allow the lecture theatre to accommodate new technologies as they become available.

Comfortable "flip-up" seating, covered in blue cloth, will be complemented by writing surfaces and wall cladding in a cherry wood finish.

Three large seminar rooms are also included in the new teaching suite, each with flexible seating arrangements for approximately 36 people. Again, the very latest innovative equipment will allow a wide range of uses. The dividing walls between the seminar rooms have been designed to be retractable open into larger rooms of up to 200 square metres.

University Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor John Fothergill commented: "This teaching suite, together with all the learning resources becoming available in the new library, will be a resource that is greatly valued and much-appreciated by all students and academics."

DEVELOPERS FACTFILE

► £25 million scheme designed by Associated Architects project led by Leicester Academic Library Services Ltd (LALS) project team led by Faithful & Gould as Project Managers and Quantity Surveyors with Structural and Engineering services provided FaberMaunsell project due to start on site during the summer of 2005 and will be completed, to allow student access throughout, in two phases in 2007. The main contractor is to be Marriott Construction. existing 1970s library by Castle Park Dean & Hook





£38M IN CAMPUS DEVELOPMENTS

► The next stage of the University Development Plan amounting to nearly £38m of work is being rolled out.

The single largest project is the new £25m Library which commenced on 23 May. The combined effect of capital allocated by the Higher Education Funding Council and University fund raising will result in one of the largest building programmes on the Central Campus since the 1960s.

The University has introduced the following measures to mitigate the disturbance from noise, dust, contractors' vehicles and site compounds but there will, undoubtedly be some residual problems.

- Replacement car parking will be available to designated staff adjacent to the Henry Wellcome Building (subject to obtaining planning permission).
- Additional parking adjacent to De Montfort Hall can be pre-booked for events at least three weeks in advance through University Security.
- Contractors will be strictly limited to parking in designated areas.
- Measures to reduce demand for car parking are being explored.
- Traffic light operation adjacent to the Bookshop between Engineering and the top of Mayor's Walk is being investigated.
- The pedestrianisation of the front of the Fielding Johnson Building has been deferred until work on the Library is complete.
- Some activities will be relocated to temporary accommodation during the work: Purchasing, Safety Services, Staff Welfare and part of the Management Centre are now to be found in Freeman's Common blocks K, L, M, AVS Graphics and AVS Print have moved partly off site to Chiswick Road and partly to the existing Library.
- The Library building will be completed in two phases allowing all services to be maintained throughout the project.

An indicative programme for the major projects for the remainder of 2005 is set out below:

	Start on site	Completion
Library	9 May	Easter 2007
Engineering Thermodynamics & EM suite	On site	September
Adrian Building refurbishment and Genetics CETL	On site	June 2006
MSB basement alterations	On site	mid May
MSB 115 & other smaller areas	June	September
Astley Clarke refurbishment for Economics & Admin.	June	September
Ken Edwards reorganisation for Management Centre	September	December
Physics CETL	June	September
Geography CETL	June	September
Hodgkin Air handling unit replacement	July	September
Percy Gee water services renewal	mid May	August
Attenborough heating system reconfiguration	July	September
Archaeology Building toilet upgrade	On site	June
Rattray concourse lift	July	December
CWB Sports Hall ventilation replacement	May	September
CWB mezzanine, 5 & 6 floor toilet upgrading	June	September

Please advise visitors to allow additional time to reach their destination in the University and not to travel by car if a suitable alternative is available.

Simon Britton, *Director of Estates*



NEW LECTURE THEATRE NAMED AFTER FRANK AND KATHERINE MAY

► An inspirational man has become associated with an inspirational building at the University of Leicester.

Dr Frank May and his wife, Katherine, were hailed at a reception to mark the opening of the new lecture theatre named after them in the Henry Wellcome Building.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob Burgess recalled how it was the University's good fortune that the Mays became associated with the institution in the 1980s and he paid tribute to their continuing support for the University:

"Frank and Katherine regularly come and support young staff who are developing their careers and give a named prize lecture that they sponsor. This is very significant for the development of the Medical School and a great support to the individuals concerned.

"We thank them for their inspirational support and it is fitting that their names are associated with this inspirational building where the next Frank May Lecture will also be delivered.

"This is a splendid opportunity for the University to commemorate the long-standing relationship between the University and the Mays in this way. The Frank and Katherine May Lecture theatre is one of the major features in a new building which gives the Schools of Biological Sciences and Psychology at Leicester first-class facilities. It is a reflection of the internationally acclaimed research that goes on throughout all departments in the Schools. We are all very proud that Frank and Katherine May have given their names to this lecture theatre."

The opening, on 26 May, was attended by members of the University and guests, including internationally renowned singer Engelbert Humperdink.



LECTURE THEATRE: *The Mays with the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Nilesh Samani and his wife, Varsha. Professor Samani delivered the inaugural lecture in the new lecture theatre.*

well-equipped laboratories, which will bring together scientists from several research groups working in related fields.

The building is part of a major development to provide state-of-the-art accommodation for the School of Biological Sciences and the School of Psychology, which also involves major refurbishment of the Adrian Building and floor 3 of the Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building.

One of the jewels of the new building, the 130-seater lecture theatre will not only offer a venue for the many research seminars from internal and external speakers, but is also expected to form a focus for national and international research symposia.

Dr May said: "Katherine and I thank the University for the honour of naming this most prestigious lecture theatre. It is a lasting tribute which gives us much pleasure."

Dr May's association with the University of Leicester dates from 1982 when he was recommended to the University by the late Dr Mac Goldsmith. For over 20 years, Dr May was a trustee of the Medical Research Foundation, including its Chairman. On retiring, he was invited to become its first Honorary President. In a desire to encourage and to reward medical research with the University's medical school, he established an annual prize-giving lecture and also a biennial lecture inviting national/international medical science speakers to address an invited audience. The University awarded Dr May an honorary Doctor of Laws in 1992 and he was awarded an MBE in 1994. In 2004, he was conferred the Freedom of the City.

Following the official opening, there was a lecture by Professor Nilesh Samani, both a foundation student and a foundation professor at the University of Leicester Medical School, and now Professor of Cardiology and head of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences. His talk was entitled "Olovnikov's Clock and Coronary Heart Disease".



PLAQUE: *Dr Frank May and his wife, Katherine, with the Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess and Engelbert Humperdink.*

The Frank and Katherine May Lecture Theatre is part of the new £20m Henry Wellcome Biomedical Sciences Building, designed to provide modern,

SUCCESS FOR LEICESTER

► Improvements in a number of key indicators have propelled the University of Leicester upwards 5 places in the latest Times University League Table.

The University has risen to 24th in the table of 100 universities. Critical to performance in the league table are the grades students enter with. This year's table uses 2002 entrance data but we already know Leicester's average grades continue to improve in 2003 and 2004.

A number of departments scored well in the subject tables. The best

performance was from the School of Archaeology & Ancient History where strong research, a good teaching score and an impressive graduate employment rate secured it 2nd place behind Cambridge - ahead of both Oxford and Durham.

The full tables are available on line (link below). The University's Marketing Office can advise on how the various league table compilers construct their tables (richard.taylor@le.ac.uk)



ACCOMMODATION ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF THE INSTITUTION

► The quality of residential facilities at a University speaks volumes for the institution and positions it in terms of recruitment and enhances the university's public relations.

That's the view of Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess who highlighted the multi-million pound investment occurring in the University residences during a familiarisation lunch for admission tutors on 11 May.

"We have a huge asset here at the University of Leicester in terms of our residential facilities and our Botanic Garden. These Edwardian halls of residence are first-class and add to the character of one of the finest areas of the city and county.

"There is a lot of evidence to suggest that if you put people in excellent facilities, they will treat it well – and Leicester has made considerable strides in terms of delivering accommodation that is first rate."

Admission tutors were told that the following requirements of undergraduate students had been identified:

- Pastoral care
- Security
- Good standard of accommodation
- Single rooms
- Choice of accommodation-more en-suite
- Internet access
- Proximity to university

Frances White, Residential Services Manager, said Leicester had made considerable efforts to address these issues:

Pastoral Care: A very generous provision of sub-wardens is given at Leicester, 1:50 in halls and 1:80 in self catering, sub-wardens play a major role.

Security: There is a large educational programme on arrival, booklets, leaflets and talks by the Warden and sub warden. Increased CCTV coverage across the site, mobile security van, 24 hour contact number.

Choice of bedrooms: ensuite and standard single rooms plus some twins, which are requested.

Internet access: Identified as a top priority for students for pleasure, social and academic use. Currently all rooms can dial the Internet through the telephones at 1p per minute. Presently discussing implementation of new broadband type facility for introduction to the Oadby halls this September.

Close to University: although the halls appear to be a distance, there are benefits to the location; highly regarded area of Leicester and 'safe' environment of the city, the site is away from City Centre which helps with study, good bus service – which is also improving.

Flexible Catering: Focus groups are regularly held to identify students' preferences. In addition, meal option match lecture times eg: early breakfast and meal exchange tickets.

Facilities and Entertainment: Termly hall balls, concerts, comedy shows, organised trips eg: France and Alton Towers, Inter-hall events. Music lessons are available and the sports facilities close by.

Listen to students and committees: Act upon what we hear, for example Beaumont Hall will become no smoking from September 05, provision of internet facilities, catering hours, bar prices. Communicate through bulletins, notices, committees and staff.

Carefully planned contracts: to enable the accommodation package to offer the best value. Our research has shown that most UK students do not require accommodation during vacations, so they only pay for when they stay during term time, therefore, compared with self catering accommodation, students are getting a lot more per week at the halls of residence.



Plus, the possibility at clearing to guarantee hall accommodation – a relief for students

Professor Burgess said living in Halls eased the transition for students moving from home to university and enabled them to adapt to community living in a supportive environment.

"They have the reassurance they can talk to someone in confidence and living in halls also helps students concentrate on settling into university life and their studies without the financial burden of budgeting for utility bills and monthly rent.

"Living in halls promotes healthy living with nutritional meals made available and sports and leisure facilities on site. The cluster of halls and investment in providing better links between them adds to the student village atmosphere."



Professor Burgess added that over five years, conference bookings had increased by 11 percent while income had increased by 67percent. Conference income stood at over £1.4m in 03/04 with over £580,000 being invested in the University.

Conference delegate numbers were soon expected to exceed 20,000, with the surplus providing better facilities for staff and students.

More than £8m had been spent on improving facilities at Stamford, Gilbert Murray and Beaumont. Work included division of double rooms to form singles, redecorating and upgrading of all 182 bedrooms at Stamford, creation of 50 en-suite bedrooms at Gilbert Murray and provision of 100 en-suite rooms in Beaumont Hall.

Professor Burgess added that the University was continuing to invest and expand and future plans included:

- Demolition of the existing 202 bedrooms at Villiers Hall
- Creation of 580 new en-suite rooms
- Catering and self catering options

- A new look dining room and bar area
- Better accessibility
- Design and landscaping to further enhance the community feel of the site.

Professor Burgess said the £20m project would be open by September 2006 and, following that, the University would also upgrade The Coppice to en-suite accommodation.

"Leicester is centrally located with easy access by road, rail and air. Our accommodation is available for 20 weeks of the year for conference bookings and there are 1,300 bedrooms – 300 of which are en-suite.

"At Gilbert Murray, facilities are available all year for conferences for up to 450 people and I would urge departments to use this location for their away days for booking conferences.

"Half of our customers return to Leicester and the one-stop service provide by the conference office, the availability of residential and non-residential facilities and the variety of accommodation makes Leicester a very attractive option."

Admission tutors were told that the provision of self-catering accommodation at Oadby for the first time also added to the attractiveness of the accommodation being made available at Oadby.

OADBY RESIDENTIAL FACTFILE

- Sept 2005: 1,400 catered rooms (326 en-suite)
- Sept 2006: 2048 rooms (catered and self-catered, 968 en-suite)
- Sept 2007: 1273 catered rooms (775 self catered)
- In addition there are 2664 rooms available in Knighton, Nixon Court, Freeman's Common and Opal Court.
- The total numbers of beds at Leicester in September 2005 is 4064.
- 16 acre botanic garden
- Sculpture exhibition every summer
- Frequent bus service
- Sports facilities nearby

CENTURY OF SCULPTURE CELEBRATED

► Following the immense and growing success of the University of Leicester's annual summer "Sculpture in the Garden" exhibitions, the Royal British Society of Sculptors will be holding **Sculpture in the Garden; a Celebration of the RBS Centenary** at the University's Harold Martin Botanic Garden from **Friday 8 July to Monday 26 September 2005**.

Forty-four UK and international artists from countries as far afield as Iceland, Switzerland, Germany and Hungary will be exhibiting their work in the peace and tranquillity of the landscaped gardens only three miles from Leicester's city centre. Their sculptures – some on a grand scale – will be transported to the gardens, where they will be on show to the public, free of charge, over the summer months.

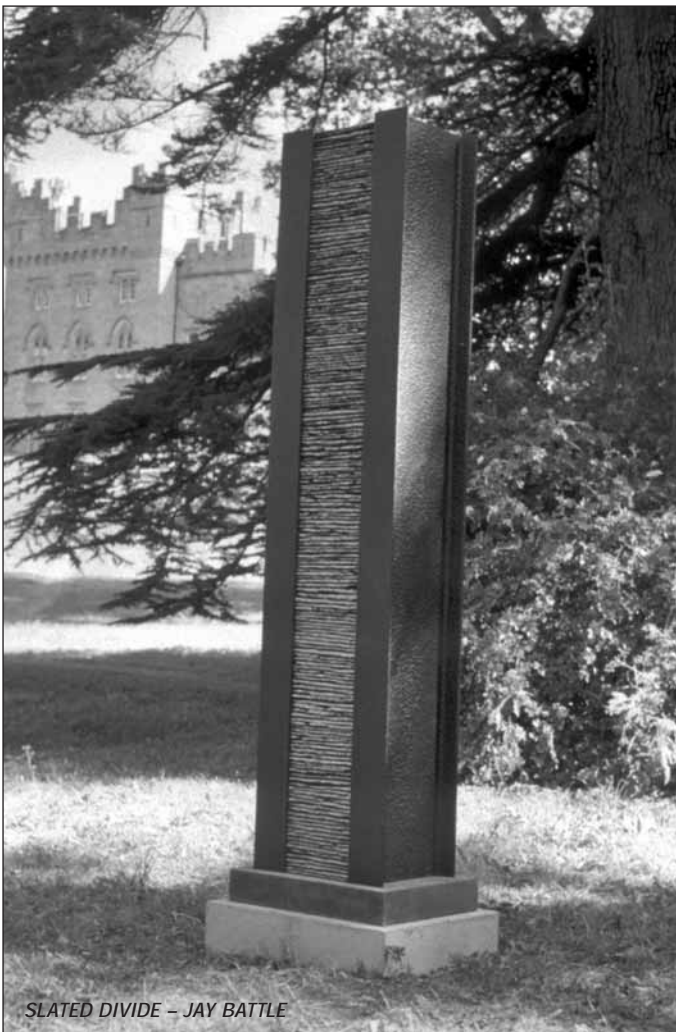
While some sculptures will be hoisted into place fully assembled, the public will be able to watch other works being created by the artists during the weeks before the exhibition. Icelandic artist Gudrun Nielsen will assemble a 3.2m high Japanese tea room in the garden, while Professor Adam Farkas, Rector of Hungary University of Fine Arts, will build a 1.5m sculpture from the contents of seven small boxes which will duly arrive at the University gardens.

Other artists will create sculptures that respond to the surroundings, some including objects found on the site. Lorna Green, a site specific and environmental artist, feels the Botanic Gardens lacks a river and intends to create one of coloured local stones and wood. UK based American artist Joan Edlis will create connecting cylindrical rooms of willow rods that allow visitors to enter and, like Alice in Wonderland, experience shifts in spatial dimensions.

Professor Bill Forster, who is working with Helaine Blumenfeld, Vice President of the RBS and Jacquelyn Murphy, RBS Exhibitions and Event Manager, to coordinate the contributions of the University and the Society, commented: "It is particularly valuable to see the academic and artistic worlds working together in this way. There could be no better way for the University to express its obligations to the community than to take this opportunity to make widely available the imagination and talents of the RBS and thus promote an interest and delight in the highest quality of sculpture. This is an exhibition not to miss. Past years have shown that the sculptures and the garden enhance each other."



TURKEY HEN – SALLY ARNUP



SLATED DIVIDE – JAY BATTLE

The Royal British Society of Sculptors (RBS) is a society for professional sculptors from around the world, founded in 1904 by a group of eminent sculptors of the day. First granted in 1911, royal patronage continues today with HM Queen Elizabeth II.

It is a registered charity which promotes the art of sculpture, particularly the widespread understanding of contemporary work. Leading sculptors involved over the years include Sir Hamo Thornycroft, Alfred Gilbert, Ivor Roberts-Jones, Dame Elizabeth Frink, Michael Kenny, Sir Anthony Caro, Eduardo Chillida, Richard Serra, Philip King, Allen Jones, Michael Sandle and many others. The RBS is now a thriving community of artists, some at the pinnacle of their profession, others starting out on their careers or still students.

The RBS not only provides professional advice and advocates good practice, but runs practical workshops and lectures. The premises at 108 Old Brompton Road, where the Society has been since 1982, houses an archive and resource centre as well as an exhibition gallery.

The RBS manages and facilitates commissions and shows works in its own gallery and in other sites. It has plans for a major redevelopment of 108 as a new centre for sculpture in the UK.

2005 is the start of five years of Centenary celebrations for the RBS. As part of the Centenary, the RBS is planning a rolling programme of exhibitions, both on and off site, educational initiatives, archive development and symposia between 2005 and 2010. It aims both to celebrate the past and look to the future, to involve members, and to raise the profile of the Society and sculpture.

The University of Leicester Harold Martin Botanic Garden was founded in 1921 with the assistance of the Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society, and has been on its present site in Oadby since 1947.

It comprises the grounds of four houses: Beaumont, Southmeade, The Knoll and Hastings, which were built early in the 20th century and are now used as student residences. The four once-separate gardens have been merged into a single entity. Its 16 acres display an array of interesting features, including an arboretum, a herb garden, woodland and herbaceous borders, rock gardens, a water garden, the National Collections of Skimmia, Aubrieta, hardy Fuchsia and Lawson's Cypress, and a series of glasshouses displaying temperate and tropical plants, alpines and succulents. There is also an associated arboretum.

The gardens, which are open to the public free of charge all year round, are the site of scientific research carried out by students and SEED (Support for Education in Environment and Development), the education programme of the University of Leicester Botanic Garden.

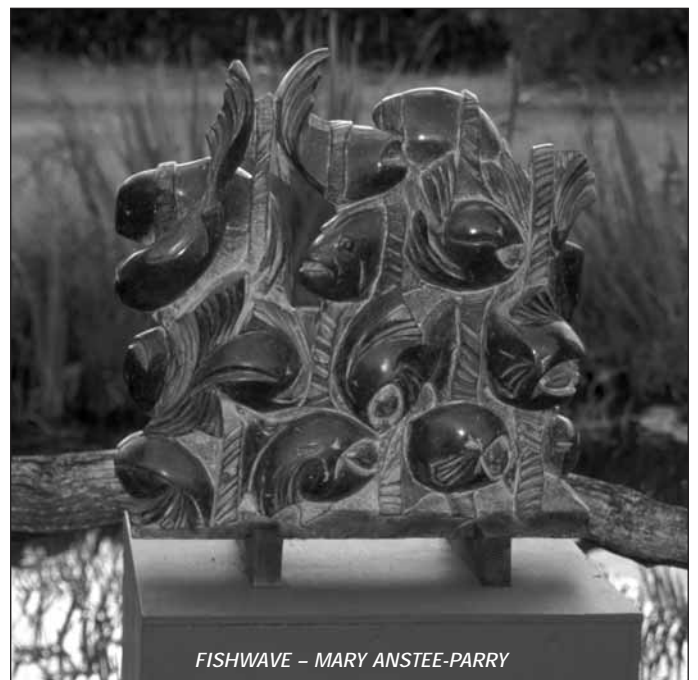
Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, Professor Robert Burgess, commented: "We are delighted that the Royal British Society of Sculptors is sharing its centennial celebrations with the University of Leicester in this way. The popularity of the University's Sculpture in the Garden series has increased every year, as people living in the region and beyond have enjoyed the opportunity to see innovative works of art – some on a very grand scale indeed – by prestigious sculptors in the beautiful setting of the gardens."

Other artists who plan to exhibit include:

Carole Andrews, Mary Anstee Parry, Sally Arnup, Barbara Ash, Patrick Barker, Jay Battle, Olivia Clifton Bligh, John Sydney Carter, Sophie Dickens, Stephen Duncan, Wendy Earle, Joe Hillier, Simon Hitchins, Deidre Hubbard, Polly Ionides, Dilys Jackson, Giles Kent, Beat Kriemler, Robert Kögell, Paul Frank Lewthwaite, Bridget McCrum, Dianne McLean, Janet McLeod, Barry Mason, Charlotte Mayer, Ruth Moilliet, Terry New, Peter Newsome, Eric Stanford, Christy Symington, Almuth Tebbenhoff, Guy Thomas, Jeremy C Turner, Marcus Vergette, Sheila Vollmer, Johannes Von Stumm, Graham Williams, David Worthington.

Sculpture in the Garden; a Celebration of the RBS Centenary is open to the public, free of charge (except on special occasions), from 8 July to 26 September, daily from 10am to 4pm.

The University of Leicester Harold Martin Botanic Garden is situated about 3 miles south-east of Leicester city centre, opposite Leicester Racecourse. Buses 29, 30/31 or 80 from the City or Station go to Glebe Road. By car, head for the junction of the A6 and the A563 (outer ring road) - the Garden backs on to the roundabout at this junction. Use the Glebe Road entrance.



FISHWAVE – MARY ANSTEE-PARRY



HONOURS AT SUMMER DEGREE CEREMONIES

► The University of Leicester will be honouring 14 acclaimed individuals at its degree ceremonies at the De Montfort Hall from 12th – 15th July 2005.

For the very first time this year, the University will be celebrating the contribution and achievement of two supporters of the University through the awards of Honorary Distinguished Fellowships. These awards mark distinguished service to the University and the inaugural awards are being made to Dr Helen Scott OBE and Dr Frank May MBE.

TUESDAY 12TH JULY – 3PM

- Sir Donald Sinden, CBE (DLitt), actor
- Vikram Seth, CBE (DLitt), writer and poet

WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY – 11AM

- Ms Yasmin Jetha (LLD), Executive Director and member of the Abbey Board

WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY – 3PM

- Professor Jane Plant, CBE (DSc), Chief Scientist of the British Geological Survey
- Professor Sir David Wallace, CBE (DSc), Vice-Chancellor of Loughborough University and Treasurer and Vice-President of the Royal Society

THURSDAY 14TH JULY – 11AM

- Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, OBE (LLD), renowned Paralympic athlete
- Dr Helen Scott OBE (Honorary Distinguished Fellow)

THURSDAY 14TH JULY – 3PM

- Margaret Nkrumah (LLD), Head Teacher of the SOS Hermann Gmeiner International College (Ghana)
- John Rutter (DMus), distinguished contemporary composer

FRIDAY 15TH JULY – 11AM

- Professor Carol Black, CBE (DSc), President of the Royal College of Physicians
- Professor Sir Peter Lachmann (DSc), distinguished Immunologist
- Dr Frank May, MBE (Honorary Distinguished Fellow)

FRIDAY 15TH JULY – 3PM

- The Very Reverend Derek Hole (LLD), Provost of Leicester
- Mark Haysom (LLD), Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council

IMPROVED SAFETY EARNS REWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

► Chisanga Mwelwa, a Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and an Associate Member of the British Computer Society, a PhD research student at the University of Leicester, has picked up a top accolade for his project to increase the safety of vehicles by better systems for writing safety-critical software. His project is sponsored by MIRA, the UK's leading independent automotive design and development centre whose Head Office is at Nuneaton, and Dr David Ward, Head of Advanced Engineering, Electrical Group, at MIRA, says, "We are delighted that Chisanga is receiving this award in recognition of his work in this important field"

The East Midlands' Universities, in partnership with the East Midlands Professional Engineering Institutions (EMPEI) can each award an annual Masters Prize to the student whose project is identified as 'most likely to change the future.'

This year, seven Awards of £250 each were presented on May 3 at Henry Ford College in Loughborough. This event was a joint celebration with the culmination of the region's Engineering Education Scheme where teams from schools and companies across the region showcased their finished engineering projects.

Roy Briggs from EMPEI said, "This joint event promotes science, engineering and technology as well as celebrating the excellent engineering achievements of the region's young people."

The EMPEI Masters Prizes aim to encourage, reward and recognise good work by the individuals and the universities. They can be awarded for project work by students of any age who are researching for a higher degree in science, engineering or technology at an East Midlands' university.

Chisanga was born in London, went to school in Zambia and achieved his first degree at the University of Leicester. He was nominated for the Masters Prize by the University of Leicester, which is a centre of excellence in research on programming embedded computer systems underlying modern drive-by-wire electronic motorcar controls. Chisanga says, "The new software tools we are developing at Leicester mean programmers can write safety-critical software with far fewer errors and much more quickly. As a result we shall see both safer cars and fewer expensive manufacturer recalls that have cost many millions of pounds in recent years"

Chairman of East Midlands Development Agency, Dr Bryan Jackson OBE said, "This event provides a great opportunity to showcase how businesses, large and small, can exploit the opportunities that science and innovation can bring to them. Research and development is key in driving forward the economic agenda of the East Midlands, as we strive to become a top twenty region in Europe by 2010.

"The move from a resource intensive economy to a knowledge economy will see a significant change. But by capitalising on the expertise of our science and technology assets, the transition should bring rewards for all.

"It is vital that industry and academia work in partnership. Events like this also encourage young people to take up careers in science, engineering and technology and I warmly commend all of the award winners making new ground in an exciting and vitally important field of work".

Barry Stickings CBE, Chairman of the East Midlands Science, Innovation and Industry Council congratulated Chisanga adding, "I am very impressed with the standard of this winning project and it has great potential to make a major impact on the way the embedded software is written, with major impact on cost and safety."



Chisanga Mwelwa receives his prize from Barry Stickings.



DR RICHARD GORNALL

► Dr Richard Gornall, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biology and Director of the Harold Martin Botanic Garden has recently been elected President of The Botanical Society of the British Isles and will serve for a three-year period.

The society traces its origins back to 1836, when it was founded as the Botanical Society of London. From its earliest days it has welcomed both professional and amateur members, and it remains the biggest and most active organisation devoted to the study of botany in the British Isles. It has an excellent reputation for its work on the taxonomy and distribution of British and Irish plants and is the largest contributor of biological records in the world.



Dr Richard Gornall

ELSIE & BARNETT JANNER TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP IN POLITICS 2005

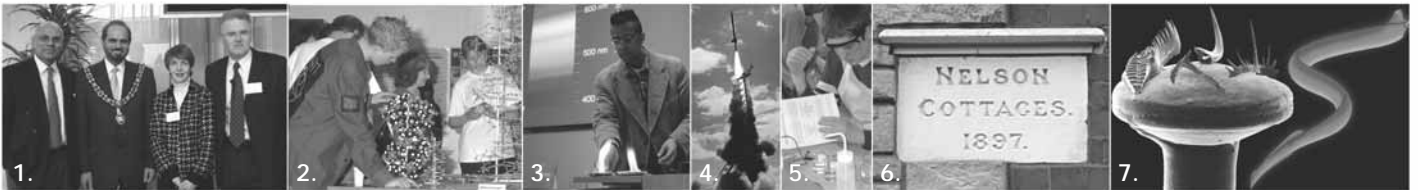
The panel consisted of Dr Laura Brace, Professor John Hoffman and Lady Ruth Morris.

Joint Award:

► Jamie Hindle (BA International Relations 2) and Rhodri Mortimer (BA History / Politics 2) – Their research will examine how Russia has advanced since the fall of communism.

Second Award:

► Joanne Greening (BA Politics 2) – The influence of NGOs and cooperatives in Haiti.



captions for photostop (back page)

1. The Leicester Centre for Ethnic Health Research was launched on 11 March at Loughborough University. The audience of over 160 included the Lord Mayor of Leicester.

The centre will provide a co-ordinated approach to helping address some of the major health issues for ethnic minority populations in Leicestershire, which are a major concern for the delivery of equitable health care across the UK.

2. Hands on activities for adults and children at the successful Genetics Open Day in April.

The world-renowned Department of Genetics at the University, Britain's only 5*-rated Genetics department, celebrated a double anniversary with an open day - 40 years since the Genetics Department was founded and 20 years since the discovery of revolutionary DNA genetic fingerprinting.

3. The Faculty of Science Annual Lecture – BIG BANG: the history of the Universe in 60 minutes by Simon Singh, author of Fermat's Last Theorem and The Code Book took place on 17 March to a packed theatre.

Simon explained about the Big Bang theory, and recounted how it emerged, and told the story of the brilliant and eccentric scientists who fought against the establishment idea of an eternal and unchanging cosmos.

4. Skylark, one of the World's longest running space programmes, lifted-off for the final time in April

and the University of Leicester has played key role in this historic space programme since 8 July 1959.

The launch of the 441st Skylark sounding rocket marked the end of 50 years of outstanding scientific research that has included investigations into atmospheric conditions, X-ray astronomy, land use and the effects of microgravity.

Picture: The Skylark Rocket during a launch. (Credit: EADS Space)

5. Sixty students from 15 schools in the East Midlands enjoyed a fun-filled day of chemistry at the Salters' Festival of Chemistry – An all day festival on 5 April in partnership with The Royal Society of Chemistry at The University of Leicester Department of Chemistry.

During the morning the teams took part in a competitive, hands-on, practical activity, "Salty's Challenge" in which they used their analytical chemistry skills. In the afternoon, they competed in "The University Challenge", a practical activity chosen by the University, in which they were required to use their skills to produce solutions of as many different colours as possible.

The Salters' Festivals of Chemistry are an initiative of The Salters' Institute, whose aim is to promote the appreciation of chemistry and related sciences among the young. The Festival at The University of Leicester is one of a series of forty-eight Festivals which are taking place at Universities throughout the UK and Ireland between March and June 2005.

6. "History on your doorstep - all around us in fact." – That was the theme of Professor Richard Rodger's lecture 'Signs of the Times: Building nationalism at street level'.

How many times have you wondered where the names of streets come from? Or more specifically, asks Rodger, the names of tablets or 'plaques' as he calls them, on the fronts of terraced houses?

The research, based on over 1000 plaques in Leicester and over 500 in Edinburgh in the same period 1860-1914, shows intriguing traces of nationalist influences, claims Rodger, professor of urban history at the University of Leicester.

In Leicester, 'establishment' figures - royalty, prime ministers, generals and Church of England archbishops can be found on the terraced house fronts. 'This is a deliberate act of representation' says Rodger. 'Placing Oliver Cottages alongside Cromwell Cottages, or Livingstone Villa alongside Stanley Villa is not coincidental.' There are also streets, known locally as Martyrs' streets with names of archbishops inscribed upon them. Heroes are cemented to the exterior walls - Horatio cottage beside Nelson cottage and, interestingly for landlocked Leicester, another maritime heroine, Grace Darling, represented as Grace cottages, Darling cottages, Bamborough cottages, and Longstone cottages.

7. The picture shows fossilized teeth of an extinct marine creature called a conodont between 430 and 320

million years old sitting on a pinhead (Copyright Mark Purnell, Geology, University of Leicester).

Palaeontologists, Dr Philip Donoghue of the University of Bristol and Dr Mark Purnell of the University of Leicester, appear to have explained evolutionary 'leaps' between species. The scientists' claim that these evolutionary 'leaps' are not real, but a consequence of ignoring the fossil record. When fossils are incorporated into the evolutionary tree, a very different picture emerges. Dr Donoghue explained:

"We consider the current picture - a view of living animals only - is seriously distorted. What appear to be evolutionary jumps are really just gaps in the evolutionary tree - dead branches that have fallen by the wayside. These branches are not 'missing links', more like 'missed' links, and when we use the fossil record to put them back in place, the vertebrate evolutionary tree looks very different."

Dr Purnell added: "The new evidence, from examining ancient fossil fish, reveals that the 'jump' between, for example, lampreys and sharks turns out to be nothing of the sort. The major changes in anatomy didn't occur suddenly, as a result of a gene doubling; they took place over 70 million years or more, through a series of intermediate, but now extinct fossil fish."

The findings will set them on a collision course with geneticists who argue that the evolution of humans and other vertebrates - animals with backbones - was driven by sudden changes in their genes.



UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER HISTORY GRADUATE IS 'THINKER OF THE YEAR'

▶ Anne-Marie Bunting, 25, has won the prestigious Scotsman 'Thinker of The Year' competition. Anne-Marie, a former history student at the University of Leicester is now a development manager for the Prison Reform Trust in London in which she organises the trust's conferences and events, and its fundraising for research into prison conditions.

At the finals in Scotland she presented two papers, one on the most important influences in her life, and the other outlining her proposals on how to improve the UK in which she spoke about public perceptions to crime and punishment.

GOLD AWARD FOR PRESS AND MARKETING CAMPAIGN AT UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

▶ A University of Leicester press and marketing campaign to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the discovery of genetic fingerprinting has won the top prize in its field - a Gold Award in the Heist Awards for Education Marketing.

The prize was awarded on April 19 at an awards ceremony in Leeds where Leicester beat entries from across the UK and emerged top of six finalists in the category: Marketing or Public Relations Campaign: Non-Student Recruitment. The Heist awards are in association with Euro RSCG Riley.

"Whilst the judges were looking for an enterprising and novel solution, they felt it important that projects should fit within the overall long term strategic objectives of the institution. This would not only gain internal support, but would aid the lasting impact of the campaign."

Different sections and people across the University contributed to the success - not least the magnificent effort put in by Genetics as well as AVS (TV, photography, graphics and reprographics).



From left, Ather Mirza (Director of Press and Publications), Jane Pearson (Journalist), Helen Pennack (Marketing Assistant) and Richard Taylor (Director of Marketing).

RATCLIFF PRIZE

▶ Dr. Joanna Herbert (Centre for Urban History, Leicester) has been awarded the prestigious Ratcliff Prize for an important contribution by an individual to the study of Folk Life in Great Britain and Ireland.'

Joanna Herbert's 80,000 word study, based on her doctoral thesis 'Contested Terrains: Negotiating Ethnic Boundaries in the City of Leicester since 1950' considers the experience of recent migrants to Leicester and sets this in a context of mediation and negotiation. She has a contract with Ashgate to produce a monograph from the thesis.

The presentation ceremony for the Ratcliff prize will be in mid-June in Edinburgh.

QUEEN'S HONOUR FOR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

▶ Sir David Attenborough has been awarded the Order of Merit by the Queen. The honour is a personal gift of the monarch for exceptional distinction in the arts and sciences.

Sir David Attenborough has close links with the University and has returned to the University on many occasions. He is an honorary graduate of the University and his father, after whom the Attenborough building is named, was a Principal of the University College from 1932-51. Their former home, College House, is in the heart of the campus.

APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF THE ETB

▶ Dr Sarah Hainsworth, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Engineering, has just been appointed to the board of the Engineering Technology Board.

The Engineering Technology Board is one of the major engineering bodies in the UK and works in partnership with business and industry, Government, education and the engineering profession to improve the perception of science, engineering and technology (SET).

The board is chaired by Sir Peter Williams, formerly Chairman of Oxford Instruments, and includes Claire Curtis-Thomas MP, Julia King CBE (Principal, Faculty of Engineering, Imperial College, and Chairman, Defence Scientific Advisory Council), Richard Parry-Jones (Group Vice President, Ford Motor Company) and Mike Howse (Director, Engineering & Technology, Rolls-Royce plc).



Dr Sarah Hainsworth



LEICESTER PSYCHOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE, 23 YEAR-OLD SHAUN DELANEY, CELEBRATES SUCCESS AT GRADUATE OF THE YEAR AWARDS CEREMONY

► Shaun was one of five finalists in the Graduate of the Year awards, run by Real World, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Moloney Search Graduates, in a hard-fought competition with thousands of entrants.

The awards were made to students who threw themselves wholeheartedly into the university experience, with enthusiasm and commitment for life and learning outside the lecture theatre. The competition seeks to identify exceptional students who have made the most of their time at university, contributed to university life, their local community or society at large.

Shaun's CV shows that he has found the time to be a course representative, co-president and treasurer for the Psychology Society and a student trainer. He has also sat on the Students' Union Council, on the committee that administers the Council and its elections.

In something of a feat of time management, Shaun has held down three part-time jobs, while continuing his undergraduate studies. He has also volunteered to work with the Leicester Nightline for between 20-50 hours a week. This is a phone helpline for students, which, as an elected co-ordinator, he helped turn around when it was in danger of closing. As a Graduate of the Year finalist, Shaun won £500.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER STUDENTS RECEIVE FIRST EVER NATIONAL GOLD AWARDS FOR THEIR VOLUNTEERING ACHIEVEMENTS

► Hayley Simpkin and Victoria (Tori) Thomas, both 3rd year Biological Sciences students and members of the Student's Union Association Contact Student Volunteers have been recognised for their dedication and commitment in the first national Student Volunteering England Gold Awards.

The Gold Awards are the most prestigious awards in student volunteering aimed at highlighting the truly outstanding contributions of the winners to community volunteering. The awards were presented by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Burgess, at Contact's annual celebration event on Monday May 9th in Elements Café Bar, Student's Union building.



Hayley Simpkin and Victoria Thomas with Vice Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess.

SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS FOR FACULTY OF LAW FINALIST

► Hannah Paling, a final year law student in the Faculty of Law, has recently been awarded the Jules Thorn Scholarship from Middle Temple, London for the Bar Vocational Course (BVC), amounting to £9000. The Inn of Court award will enable Hannah to undertake the BVC at Nottingham Law School in September 2005.

NATIONAL COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED

► The University of Leicester Management Centre is delighted to announce the winner in its national essay competition for sixth-formers on the subject of 'Management and Education'.

The winning entry was by Claire O'Brien from St Mary's Grammar School in Magherafelt, Northern Ireland, whose essay appealed to the panel of judges for its 'creative blend of autobiography, significant analysis of what made her school well managed and her clear enthusiasm for education today and in the future.'

Claire and her school each win £1000, to be presented at a ceremony which will include members of the Management Centre class of 2004 who recently graduated with a BA Management Studies.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER PROFESSOR HEADS INTERNATIONAL SECURITY RESEARCH

► The ASIS International Foundation announced that Professor Martin Gill has accepted the newly created position of Research Council Chair.

The Research Council was established to oversee the projects the Foundation undertakes in studying and expanding the security industries body of knowledge. Professor Gill has been involved in security and crime-related research for more than 15 years and brings a wealth of experience and expertise as a researcher of security and also as the editor of Security Journal, the only peered reviewed journal of security research in the world.

Early initiatives of Professor Gill and the council will focus on establishing a research agenda to proactively direct independent research on "what works" in the industry.

NORTHAMPTON LEARNER TRANSFORMS LIFE AND WINS AWARD

► Jim O'Rourke, aged 52, from Northampton has been officially recognised for his dedication and commitment to learning by the organisers of the UK's largest festival of adult learning, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE).

"In 1995, when I retired, I had not been in education for nearly 30 years and my skills were out of date," said Jim. "With self-improvement in mind, I returned to study and have never looked back."

Jim took early retirement after 20 years' service as a housing officer owing to painful curvature of the spine and crippling arthritis. He began with a computer course and then undertook an Access to Higher Education Certificate in Humanities and Social Sciences in 2000 followed by a BA (Hons) in Criminology from which he graduated in 2003.

Despite his disability Jim also founded a charity in 2000 and has raised over £100,000 and created two paid part-time jobs. His nominator said, "Jim's learning experience benefits many sick and disabled people; he is a voluntary lifelong learning tutor for Northants County Council in Health Studies. Jim is also a mentor for young people and is showing what can be achieved, even with a disability."



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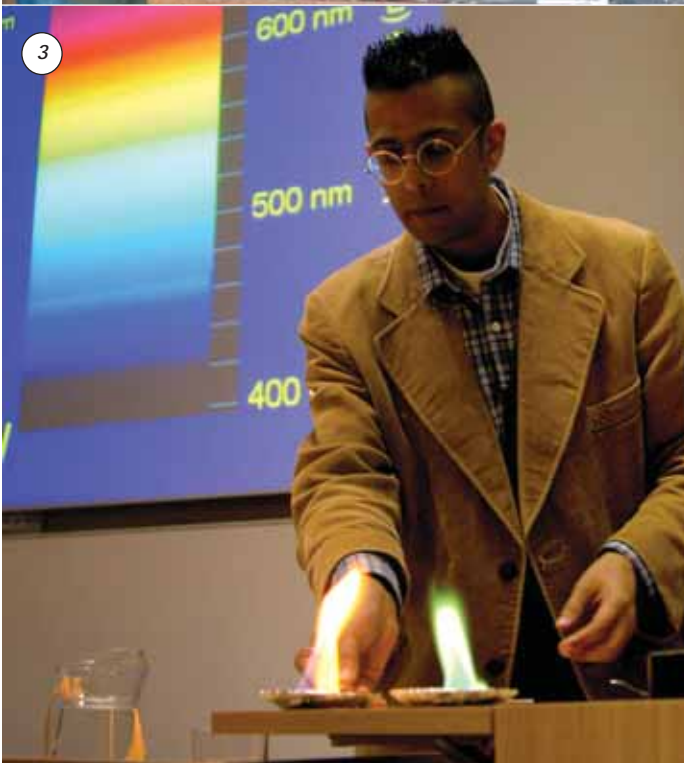
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Editor: Ather Mirza (3335)
pressoffice@le.ac.uk
Deputy Editor: Simon Edwards (2415)
swe4@le.ac.uk
Journalist: Jane Pearson
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