

LEICESTER RESEARCH GRANTS AND BOOKS

Press Coverage of Research Grants

The Bulletin is sent to the media as well as other external contacts. As a result, details of grants appearing in this section may stimulate press interest. The Press Office may also actively seek media coverage of particular grants detailed in this section. It is therefore the grantholder's responsibility to request that any grant of a sensitive or confidential nature be excluded from the Bulletin.

This can be done by contacting the Research Office, which has responsibility for compiling this Research section (2495).

ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANCIENT HISTORY

Dr R Young
RA11064
International Hindu Kush Symposium
£900 *Royal Society*

BIOCHEMISTRY

Professor D Critchley
RM31030
Supplement - Role of the cytoskeletal protein vinculin in focal adhesion dynamics and cell motility
£13,892 *Cancer Research UK*

Dr A Fry
RM31127

Co-ordinate regulation of the microtubule anchoring protein Nlp by the Nek2 and Plk1 centrosome Kinases
£233,492 *BBSRC*

Dr A Fry
RM31128

Identification and validation of Nek2 kinase inhibitors (Year 1)
£78,592 *Cancer Research UK*

Dr A Fry
Co-investigator **Dr M Pfuhl**,
Biochemistry
RM31133

Structure-function analysis of the dimerization domain of the Nek2 protein kinase
£75,000 *Hope Foundation for Cancer Research*

Dr A Fry
RM31134
Examining the role of Nek6, Nek7 and Nek9 protein kinases in cell cycle progression and spindle assembly in *Xenopus laevis*
£170,622 *The Wellcome Trust*

Dr D Heery
RM31036
Supplement - Structure/Function Analysis of the Leukemogenic Fusion protein MOZ-TIF2 and the wild type MOZ protein (year 3)
£640 *Cancer Research UK*

Professor A Munro
RM31131
Conference Grant
£1,000 *Royal Society*

Professor A Munro
RM31132

Royal Society Senior Research Fellowship Scheme 2004
£31,226 *Royal Society*

Dr J Norman
Co-investigator **Dr I Barsukov**,
Biochemistry
RM31126

Role of the paxillin/poly(A)-binding protein 1 complex in mRNA trafficking during cell migration
£216,359 *BBSRC*

BIOCHEMISTRY / CHEMISTRY

Professor N Scrutton / Dr J Woodward
Co-investigator **Professor A Munro**,
Biochemistry
RP31130

External magnetic fields and human health: a link to biological enzyme reaction systems
£78,307 *EMF Biological Research Trust*

BIOLOGY

Dr D Harper
RM48072
Achieving sustainable lakes in Kenya's Rift Valley
£31,586 *Earthwatch Institute*

Professor P Heslop-Harrison
RM48071
Cryogenic detectors
£15,000 *HEROBC*

Professor P Heslop-Harrison
RM48075
Generation Challenge Programme: Unlocking Genetic Diversity in Crops for the Resource Poor
£16,292 *INIBAP*

Dr E Mallon
RM48076
Immune response affects flower choice in the bumblebee *Bombus terrestris*
£4,175 *Association for the study of animal behaviour*

Dr E Rosato
RM48074
Molecular analysis of *Drosophila* cryptochrome
£334,824 *BBSRC*

Professor D Twell
RM48073
18th International Congress of Sexual Plant Reproduction
£1,200 *Royal Society*

Professor G Whitelam
RM48045
Supplement - TSE Strain Typing
£34,500 *ADAS*

CANCER STUDIES AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE
Dr S Ablett
Co-investigator **Dr K Pritchard**
Jones, Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine
RM60044

Tissue Banks UKCCSG Tumour Bank (Year 1)
£200,629 *Cancer Research UK*

Professor J Jankowski
RM60045
ASPIrin and Esomeprazole Chemoprevention Trial (ASPECT)
£70,129 *Cancer Research UK*

Professor J Jankowski
RM60046
Unrestricted Educational Grant
£54,000 *AstraZeneca via UHL*

Dr G Jones
RM47023
Supplement - PhD Studentship - Gabriela Martinho de Almeida
£500 *Portuguese Ministry for Science and Technology*

CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCE
Professor M Galinanes
Co-investigators **Dr B Matata**,
Cardiovascular Sciences and Dr D Chin & Dr J Davies, UHL
RM61032

Efficacy of the mode of delivery of autologous bone marrow cells into heart scar muscle for the recovery of contractile function
£157,540 *British Heart Foundation*

Professor I Gottlob
RM17007
Supplement - Clinical and Genetic assessment of nystagmus
£39,000 *University Hospitals of Leicester*

Professor I Gottlob
RM61026
Charitable Funds Grant - Pharmacological Treatment of Nystagmus: a pilot Study
£5,500 *University Hospitals of Leicester*

Professor I Gottlob
RM61027
Pharmacological Treatment of Nystagmus: a pilot Study
£5,000 *Nystagmus Network*

Professor I Gottlob
RM61033
Supplement - Development of an educational intervention for amblyopia treatment
£1,765 *Augenstern e. V.*

Professor L Ng
Co-investigator **Professor A Tobin**,
Cell Physiology and Pharmacology
RM61028
Kinase activation of NADPH oxidase in pre-eclampsia
£83,028 *British Heart Foundation*

CELL PHYSIOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY
Dr B Grubb
RM36016
Supplement - Prostaglandin Receptor Distribution and function in the peripheral central nervous system
£2,981 *GlaxoSmithkline*

CHEMISTRY
Dr D Davies
RP10111
Travel grant to attend 21st International Conference on Organometallic Chemistry
£750 *The Royal Society*

Professor E Hope
RP10113
Conference Grant
£321 *Royal Society*

Dr P Monks
Co-investigators Leeds, Liverpool, NERC, UMIST, York, East Anglia, Cambridge
RP10109
African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis - UK (AMMA-UK)
£61,476 *NERC*

Dr E Raven
Co-investigator **Dr P Moody**,
Biochemistry
RP10110
Towards a unified view of substrate binding in heme peroxidases
£229,638 *BBSRC*



ENGINEERING

Dr L Boulter
Co-investigator Professor T Bendell,
Engineering
RP12095
Research into the impact of effect
implementation of organisation
excellence strategies on key
performance results
£76,667 *EFQM*

Professor A Ponter
RP12104

Travel Grant for IUTAM Congress,
Warsaw
£1,168 *Royal Society*

GENETICS

Dr C Kramer
RM33084
Conference Grant
£1,060 *Royal Society*

GEOGRAPHY

Dr C Mercer
RP13022
Development through the Diaspora:
Hometown Associations in Africa and
Britain
£186,169 *ESRC*

Professor AJ Parsons
Co-investigator Kings College
RP13005

Supplement - Jornada Basin LTER IV:
Linkages in Semi-arid Landscapes
£21,666 *NSF via New Mexico
State University*

Dr M Phillips
Co-investigator Dr S Page, Geography
RP13020
Gentrifying rural nature
£46,785 *ESRC*

Dr J Pickerill
RP13021
Finding common ground:
Environmental justice and the
interrelationships between white and
aboriginal groups in Australia
£4,986 *British Academy*

GEOLOGY

Professor A Khan
Co-investigator Professor P Maguire,
Geology
RP14063
Interpretation of the IANGASS 95
seismic data
£7,964 *Geological Survey of
Cyprus*

Professor A Khan
Co-investigator Professor P Maguire,
Geology
RP14067
Geophysical Education in the UK
£3,093 *Royal Astronomical
Society/Geological Society*

Professor M Lovel
Co-investigator Dr T Brewer, Geology
RP14068
Inter-disciplinary Network for
Improved Physical Properties
Characterisation of the Natural
Environment (Knowledge Transfer
Fund Network Application)
£61,351 *NERC*

Professor D Siveter
Co-investigator Oxford
RP14065
Silurian soft bodied excavation,
Herefordshire
£540 *English Nature*

HEALTH SCIENCES

Professor R Baker
RM62046
Primary Care Collaborating Centre
£263,252 *NICE via Royal College of
General Practitioners*

Professor P Burton
Co-investigators Dr C Hajat, Health
Sciences & Professor N Samanif,
Cardiovascular Sciences
RM62047
The genetic and environmental
regulation of ambulatory blood
pressure and pulse waveform
phenotypes
£165,246 *Medical Research
Council*

Dr M Dixon-Woods
Co-investigator Dr Shaw, Health
Sciences
RM62044
DESMOND: Diabetes Education and
Self Management for Ongoing and
Newly Diagnosed
£25,000 *Diabetes UK*

Professor C Hollin
RM62045
CAMHS Health Needs Analysis
£13,000 *Leicester City West PCT*

Dr K Khunti
RM62022
Supplement - Audit of secondary
prevention of coronary heart disease
in primary care (phase2)
£500 *NHS (Leic) Interface
Audit Group*

Dr K Williams
Co-investigators Professor K Abrams,
Dr N Cooper, Dr C McGrother (Health
Sciences), Mid Yorkshire Hospitals
and University of Cardiff
RM62043
Long-term outcomes of a RCT of the
clinical and cost effectiveness of
services for urinary symptoms
£120,306 *MRC*

HISTORY

Dr N Aston
RA15039
Religion and the Arts in Enlightenment
Europe, 1700-1800
£15,000 *Paul Mellon Centre*

INFECTION, IMMUNITY, INFLAMMATION (CLINICAL)

Dr A Bevington
Co-investigator Dr T Herbert, Cell
Physiology and Pharmacology
RM63034
The role of the hexosamine pathway
in global protein synthesis in protein
wasting states
£60,030 *The National Kidney
Research Fund*

Dr P Bradding
Co-investigator Professor A Wardlaw
RM148019

Human mast cell adhesion to
bronchial epithelium and airway
smooth muscle
£44,464 *National Asthma
Campaign*

Professor A Wardlaw
Co-investigator Dr S Bolton,
Infection, Immunity, Inflammation
(Clinical)
RM63033
Patterns of eosinophil, mast cell and T
cell migration in 3D collagen gels
£116,277 *National Asthma
Campaign*

INFECTION, IMMUNITY, INFLAMMATION (NON-CLINICAL)

Professor L Ziegler-Heitbrock
RM63036
Interaction of mycobacterium and host
in tuberculosis
£740 *Royal Society*

LABOUR MARKET STUDIES

Dr V Beck
RS141019
Employers, Young People and Gender
Segregation in Wales
£7,982 *Equal Opportunities
Commission*

LIFE LONG LEARNING / MODERN LANGUAGES

**Professor J Benyon & Professor R
Littlejohns**
RE03003
Audit and Needs Analysis of Modern
Foreign Language and Community
Languages across Leicester City and
Leicestershire
£35,000 *Leicester Shire Economic
Partnership*

**Professor J Benyon & Professor R
Littlejohns**
RE03003
Supplement - Audit and Needs
Analysis of Modern Foreign Language
and Community Languages across
Leicester City and Leicestershire
£10,000 *Leicestershire and
Leicester City Learning
Partnership via
Loughborough College*

MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Professor C Williams
RS101003
Small Businesses in the Informal
Economy: Making the Transition to the
Formal Economy
£25,210 *Small Business Service*

MATHEMATICS

Dr A Baranov
RP201019
Asymptotic problems in representation
theory
£12,000 *Royal Society*

Dr J Levesley
RP201016
Conference grant for 11th
International Conference in
Approximation Theory
£830 *The Royal Society*

Dr F Neumann
RP201018
Conference Geometric Topology,

Discrete Topology and Set Theory
£625 *Royal Society*

MEDICINE AND THERAPEUTICS

Dr R Norman
RM141027
Supplement - Interactions between
Kir6.0 and sur subunits of ATP-
Sensitive potassium channels
£5,000 *Saudia Arabian Cultural
Bureau*

Dr I Squire
RM141025
Supplement - Epidemiology of heart
failure in Leicestershire 1993-2004
£17,751 *Nuffield Hospital*

MUSEUM STUDIES

Mr R Sandell
RA17028
Not for the Likes of You - A Resource
for Practitioners
£2,600 *Arts Council of England*

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Professor M Barstow
RP16147
Royal Society Travel Grant:
Astrophysics in the Far Ultraviolet
£960 *The Royal Society*

Professor A King
Co-investigator Cambridge
RP16153
UKAFF - ensuring continuation of a
national service
£265,939 *PPARC*

Dr J Lees
RP16154
Grant in aid of research
£10,000 *UHL NHS Trust
Charitable Funds*

Professor R Warwick
RP16078
Supplement - The Leicester Data
Archive Service
£31,917 *PPARC*

Professor M Watson
Co-investigator Dr T Linde, Physics &
Astronomy
RP16156
Astrogrid 2 Central Fund Holder
£283,434 *PPARC*

PSYCHIATRY

Dr R Palmer
RM21033
Supplement - Eating Disorders
Research
£751 *Leicestershire
Partnership NHS Trust*

Professor A Colman
RM43022
Conference Grant
£532 *Royal Society*

SURGERY

Mr G Peck
Co-investigators London School of
Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, East
Anglia, Various NHS collaborators
RM22016
Supplement - CESAR
£19,522 *HTA via London School
Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine*



Workers, Establishment and Services in the European Union

Robin C A White

Oxford University Press: Oxford EC Law Library series, lxiv + 285, October 2004, £70.00 (hardback)
ISBN 0 198 26776 2

► The aim of the Oxford EC Law Library series is said to be to publish important and original studies of the various branches of EC Law. Each work should provide a clear, concise, and original critical exposition of the law in its social, economic and political context, at a level which will interest the advanced student, the practitioner, the academic, and government and Community officials.

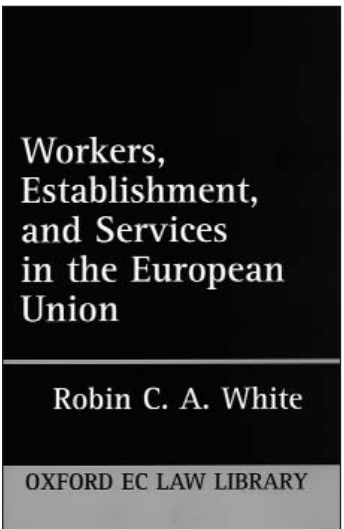
This book examines the Treaty rules, secondary legislation and case law dealing with free movement of workers, freedom of establishment,

and free movement of services. It seeks to offer a new approach to the two lines of case law in the area: one concerns the convergence of principles applicable to free movement of goods, persons, services and capital, while the other concerns the rights of individuals when moving within the European Union. There is sometimes a considerable tension between these two lines of authority.

The approach taken in the book is based on distinguishing between those rules which relate mainly to

the regulation of business activities in the internal market, and those which are mainly concerned with individual rights for citizens of the European Union. The intention is to offer a modern exposition of the law relating to workers, establishment and services in the European Union without over-elaboration or over-simplification.

• *Robin White, a Professor in the University's Department of Law, is a former Dean of the Faculty of Law and has also served as a University Pro-Vice-Chancellor.*



Turf War

The Clinton Administration and Northern Ireland

Timothy J Lynch

Ashgate Publishing Limited, October 2004, £47.50
ISBN 0 7546 4294 1

► This provocative and remarkable book is the first significant study of how the Clinton administration revolutionized US policy toward Northern Ireland in the 1990s. Based on interviews with the major actors in the episode, Timothy Lynch examines in detail how the internal American turf war fought over Northern Ireland shaped the quality and character of US engagement.

Turf War will be essential reading for all those seeking to understand American policy toward Northern Ireland; the institutional dynamics of

US foreign policy after the cold war; the perils of locking terrorists into a democratic process; and US interventions more broadly.

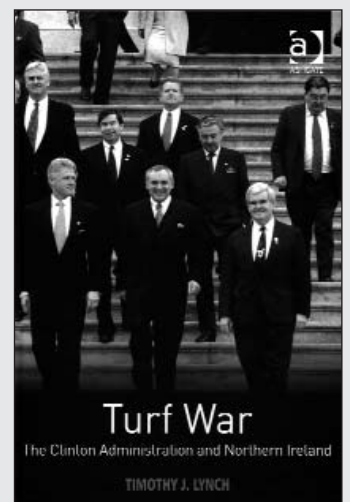
The book is based on original research and top-level interviews with key members of the Clinton Administration. Lynch's approach is also original, and his excellent

'Timothy Lynch has written a first-rate account of the Clinton Administration's involvement in the Northern Irish peace process.'

PROFESSOR JOHN DUMBRELL, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS, UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

discussion of the 'bureaucratic politics' of the Clinton Administration will interest all who are concerned with the making of American foreign policy.

Professor Marc Landy of Boston College, USA, describes the book as a model piece of historical and political analysis. He has also said that *Turf War* is indispensable reading for anyone interested in Northern Ireland and/or in US foreign policy, and that the author does a first rate job of depicting how US policy towards Northern Ireland evolved during the Clinton Administration.



• *Timothy J Lynch, Department of Politics, lectures in American Foreign Policy at the University of Leicester.*

Values and Practice in Children's Services

Roger Smith

Palgrave Macmillan, 2005, £16.99 (paperback)
ISBN 1 4039 1474 5

► The impact of values and beliefs on policy and practice with children and families has been a long-standing area of interest. This book extends our previous understanding of the relationship between ideas and practice to build an effective framework for understanding developments in children's services. It demonstrates the application of this framework in a variety of practice settings.

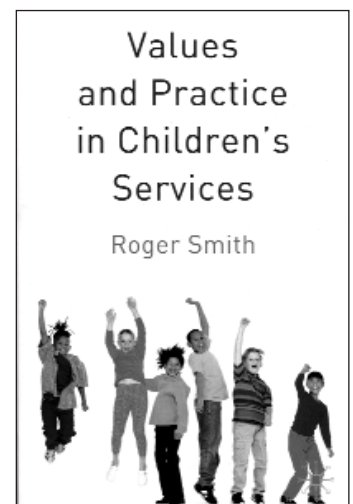
The book starts by reviewing established ideologies of social welfare, which it adapts to the

specific context of children's services. It then examines important developments and debates in practice, law and policy. The challenge of making sense of competing value positions is addressed by looking at key dilemmas likely to be encountered by practitioners, such as the continuing tension between child protection and family support.

The book also discusses the requirements of anti-discriminatory practice. Its conclusions will help students and practitioners in

children's services alike to make sense of competing expectations, whilst remaining child-centred.

• *Roger Smith is a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at the University of Leicester. Also by Roger Smith; Under the Breadline, Children and Divorce (with John Bradford), The Pre-Trial Guide (with Sharon Moore), Poor Relief or Poor Deal? (edited with Trevor Buck) and Youth Justice: Ideas, Policy, Practice.*





Staff and Student Distinctions

As reported at Senate

Staff Distinctions

- ▶ **Professor John Benyon (Institute of Lifelong Learning)** has been re-elected to serve for a further three-year term as Treasurer of the Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom.
- ▶ **Dr Ann Briggs (Education and Continuing Studies)** was awarded the BELMAS/ Toshiba prize for the best doctoral thesis at the annual Conference of the British Educational Management, Leadership and Administration Society. [see report below]
- ▶ **Professor David Critchley (Biochemistry)** has been appointed to the Scientific Executive Board of Cancer Research UK and will chair the CR-UK Programme Grants Committee.
- ▶ **Dr Meryem Fethi (Management Centre)** has achieved a coordinator position on the EURO Working Group on Data Envelopment Analysis and Performance Measurement.
- ▶ **Dr Sarah Hainsworth (Engineering)** has been invited to serve on the editorial board for the new International Journal of Forensic Engineering.
- ▶ **Dr John Lees (Physics and Astronomy)** has been appointed to PPARC's Industrial Programme Support Scheme Assessment Panel for three years from September 2004.
- ▶ **Professor Joe Lunec (Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine)** has been appointed to serve for a further three years on the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment.
- ▶ **Professor Sarah Spurgeon (Engineering)** has been invited to serve on the editorial board for the new International Journal of Forensic Engineering. She has also been elected to the grade of Senior

Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc.

▶ **Professor Greg Walker (English)** has won the Times Higher's 'campus novel opening chapter competition' (published in the Higher on 14 October). [see report below]

▶ **Dr John Williams (Cardiovascular Sciences)** has been recognised as having delivered the best trainee presentation at the Spring meeting of the UK Anaesthetic Research Society, and has separately won the Royal College of Anaesthetists' Jubilee Medal for a presentation which has subsequently been published as an abstract.

▶ **Dr Chris Willmott (Biochemistry)** has been invited to edit the Learning and Teaching Support Network Centre for Bioscience's e-journal Bioscience Education.

Student Distinctions

- ▶ **Ms Claire Irving (PhD student – School of Mathematics and Computer Science)** has been awarded a scholarship by the British Federation of Women Graduates. [see report following]
- ▶ **Mr Ozlem Olgu (PhD student - Management Centre)** has won first prize for his poster presentation at the North American Productivity Workshop held in Toronto.
- ▶ **Katie Sharp (PhD student - Chemistry)** has won the Royal Society of Chemistry's Laurie Vergano Award for 2004 for her PhD research undertaken with Dr Emma Raven and Dr Peter Moody. The award comprises a prize of £200 and the opportunity to give a presentation on her work at one of the national RSC Dalton meetings.

▶ **Katie Sharp (PhD student - Chemistry)** has won the Royal Society of Chemistry's Laurie Vergano Award for 2004 for her PhD research undertaken with Dr Emma Raven and Dr Peter Moody. The award comprises a prize of £200 and the opportunity to give a presentation on her work at one of the national RSC Dalton meetings.

Funding Success for Faculty of Law Graduates

- ▶ Three Faculty of Law graduates

were recently successful in receiving financial assistance from the Leonard Sainer Foundation to help them pursue further study towards a career in the legal profession.

The Leonard Sainer Foundation awards interest free loans to students who wish to pursue a career in law.

The Foundation is administered by Dechert LLP Solicitors, an international law firm. The Faculty of Law put forward three students, who graduated in July 2004, to be considered for an award.

All students, Hannah Al-Shaghana (an LLB graduate), Paul Clark (an LLB with French law graduate) and Nicole Topham (an LLB International graduate), were successful and each recently received an interest free loan from the Foundation to help them pursue further study of law with a view to a career in the legal profession.

University of Leicester academic wins prize in Times Higher writing competition

▶ There's a new Vice-Chancellor in town. He's bringing in compulsory circuit training for everyone below the rank of professor; tracksuits bearing the university logo are to be de rigueur at graduation, and the offspring of premiership footballers are enrolling for part-time degrees.

Before Personnel is inundated with letters of resignation, this is not

the University of Leicester. Nor, in fact, any existing HE institution.

It is the backdrop for Professor Greg Walker's Times Higher prize-winning first chapter of a campus novel, based on the idea of the perfect Vice-Chancellor for the modern era.

Greg Walker, Professor of Early Modern Literature and Culture, hit on the novel idea that the ideal VC for a modern university would be a Premiership football manager, given, as he says, that university management and football management are so similar nowadays.

Intrigued by a competition in the Higher, inspiration struck him on a train, and he jotted some notes, later moulding them into coherent prose and – in his words – “adding some awful jokes into the bargain”.

He explained: “The scenario was Big Ron Basset's first year at Kettering Metropolitan University, which offered the chance to poke gentle fun at some of the more bizarre recent trends in academic culture, and plenty of scope for puns about thinking inside and outside the box. A kind of alternative Leicester is loosely disguised beneath the University in question, and some of the sillier developments at HEFCE and UUK, as well as the new cosmopolitan outlook to football management are behind the football spoofs. But I don't think it will trouble the scorers

JANUARY DEGREE CEREMONIES

▶ Friday 28 January at 11.30 am

Honorary Degrees: Dr John Ashworth (Doctor of Laws), Ms Anna Pavord (Doctor of Letters)

Postgraduate Degrees: Faculties of Science, Medicine and Biological Sciences, Social Sciences (excluding Management Centre)

▶ Friday 28 January at 3.30 pm

Honorary Degree: Professor Isobel Armstrong (Doctor of Letters), Mr Richard Deacon (Doctor of Letters)

Postgraduate Degrees: Faculties of Arts, Social Sciences (Management Centre only), Law and Education and Continuing Studies.



when the best satires of the last 150 years are being sorted out.

"Needless to say, I didn't expect to hear any more about it, but was astonished to learn that I had won the competition. I would have appealed for a recount, but Laurie Taylor was one of the judges and as, like most people, I love his weekly column in the Higher, I felt compelled to accept."

He is a little evasive about the remainder of the novel. "Is the rest of the book written? No, it isn't. But if I get the right offer from a publisher, who knows?"

Professor Greg Walker's winning entry in the THES competition for the opening chapter of campus novel about the VC of the future was published in the Times Higher on 15 October 2004.

BFWG's Fellowships and Scholarships represent a key part of the organisation's commitment to women. Committee members are active academics in university posts, who are familiar with the standards required of research students and the economic climate in which they operate. Their decisions are, however, made on the sole grounds of academic excellence.

Claire Irving achieved a first class honours MMath Mathematics degree from the University of Leicester in 2002, and is now studying for a PhD in pure mathematics at the University, under the supervision of Professor John Hunton.

After sending in a summary of her research with a CV and

She commented: "This year, I took a greater interest in such issues because I was involved in discussions which will lead to a project taking place in the Mathematics Department to investigate reasons why fewer women become researchers in Mathematics. One of the aims of the project will be to check that the reasons are related to personal choice and not to discrimination of some kind.

"I feel that this is particularly relevant to me, as I am also a wheelchair user. This means that I sometimes encounter physical obstacles which make taking part in certain activities more difficult. For example, if I would like to attend an event scheduled to take place in an inaccessible building, I have to either request a change of venue, which could be very disruptive to the plans for the event, or make special access arrangements to ensure that I will be able to take part.

"I take an interest in women's issues in order to help ensure that there will be no additional obstacles for me to overcome because I am female as well.

Major National Research Society Award for Educationalist

► Dr Ann Briggs, a member of staff in the University's School of Education based at the Centre for Educational Leadership and Management, recently won a prize for her doctoral thesis, *Modelling Aspects of Role Among Middle Managers in English FE Colleges*.

The results of her research offered clear insights into how the seeming complexity, turbulence and contradictions within the college environment could be understood.

Dr Briggs, whose PhD supervisors were Les Bell, Professor of Educational Management at the School of Education, and Dr Marianne Coleman, received this significant award from the British Educational Leadership, Management and Administration Society (BELMAS), a major national

research society for this field.

Her thesis, completed in 2003, was commended for being exceptionally well written and presented. "Research into the management of further education colleges is rare," confirmed Dr Briggs, "so I feel pleased that this area of educational research has been recognised through the award."

Dr Briggs acknowledges that the granting of a term of study leave by the University gave her valuable time and space to undertake the final intensive stages of thesis writing.

University of Leicester Students STEP Up for Success

► Two students from the University of Leicester have achieved outstanding success in enterprise competitions that have brought commercial benefits to businesses.

The students engaged with the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (STEP) – a national programme arranging structured summer work placements for students at small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). The scheme matches highly skilled undergraduates to SMEs with specific development projects, in order to increase the growth and innovation potential of the business. While working with the host company, students can put the theory they have learnt into



Claire Irving (left) received scholarship funding.

National Scholarship for Research Student

► A University of Leicester student, Claire Irving, has been awarded a prestigious scholarship, which will help fund her final year, from the British Federation of Women Graduates' Academic Awards Committee.

references, Claire was invited to submit a 2,000 word document on her research, and was interviewed by a panel including a lawyer, and graduates in English and Engineering, to whom she had to give a presentation. She also had to answer a series of questions, one of which was on her interest in issues facing women graduates.



ACHIEVEMENT: Dr Ann Briggs, pictured just after the prize ceremony, with Professor Ray Bolam, who presented her with the BELMAS award.



practice.

Helen Kerr, who studies Psychology with Neurosciences at the University of Leicester, was a joint winner of the award for Most Enterprising Student in the North West. She scooped her award for her work at Preston-based Future Environmental Services Ltd.

Graham Collier, who is studying Computer Science at this University, won the East Midlands award for his work at Weedon's Acoustic Solutions and came third in the national finals.

In just eight weeks Helen managed to design and produce new business development materials for her company. The corporate brochure for Future Environmental Services can be used straight away, projecting the company's services to a wider market and targets a wider region. It also has the potential to create new business and sales.

Martyn Hopkinson, Commercial Director of the firm, said: "Helen got to grips with a really challenging project very quickly. She succeeded in a high pressure, male dominated workplace that is often extremely unglamorous – after all one of the business solutions we provide is CCTV for underground drains. With the combination of her great personality and skills, Helen was a highly valued member of our team. Her project will certainly have a lasting benefit to the business."

Helen said: "I am thrilled to have come this far in a nationally recognised competition. I have learned so much this summer, and I am confident this will stand me in good stead for the future."

Graham Collier of Bozeat won the top East Midlands award and was second runner up in the national competition for his work at Weedon's Acoustic Solutions.

During his placement, Graham designed and implemented a goods-in and re-work system that will save the company significant amounts of time and money.

Graham said: "Winning the regional award is great for me, not

least because it will improve my job prospects when I've finished my degree. I thoroughly enjoyed the placement and am really pleased that the project I worked on will save Acoustic Solutions an estimated £126,000 per year."

Salina Gendoo-Smith of Business Link Northamptonshire said: "Since STEP started 18 years ago, we have had a consistently high quality of work from students in Northamptonshire. This latest success shows that the programme is a very effective way for students to gain valuable skills and for local companies to benefit from fresh ideas.

"There was a rigorous judging process at the regional finals and Graham's enthusiasm and commitment to his work made him a clear and worthy winner."

Department of Engineering student, Ken Idigo, a student in electronic and software engineering, also undertook a STEP placement with the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) based in Wigston.

For the third year running, the International Affairs Department at IOSH employed a student as part of the scheme to help with various projects. This year, Ken Idigo helped the department mainly with the development of a website. The website, maintained by IOSH as the secretariat of the European Network of Safety and Health Practitioner Organisations (ENSHPO), required a lot of improvement.

Ken's technical expertise helped IOSH to improve the website and make it look more professional and user-friendly. The placement was also very beneficial for Ken who experienced the importance of corporate image and communication.

Ken also helped with creating a Microsoft Access database to compile a number of global International Occupational Health and Safety organisations with search facilities.

Hat Trick for University of Leicester Plant Biologist

▶ A University scientist has recently received the EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organisation) Young Investigator Award, the first UK plant biologist to be awarded this prestigious international prize.

Dr Simon Geir Møller received the award for his work on plastid division and development in plants. His research seeks to understand how the plant cell regulates the division of chloroplasts, work which holds out hope of a safer way of genetically modifying crops, with implications for agriculture.

The EMBO Young Investigator Panel seeks out 'the best and most promising young independent researchers in Europe'. The highly competitive nature of the EMBO awards is reflected in the fact that over the past five years only 23 young UK scientists have been honoured in this way.

Dr Møller commented: "It is particularly hard for plant scientists to get this award; prior to this round, only five plant scientists in Europe had received recognition in this way. So I was very happy when I heard the news, because this recognition is great for UK plant science and it means that EMBO recognises the importance of plant biology."

This is the third award in quick succession that he has received. Earlier this year he was given the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology (FESPB) Young Scientist Award, and The Society of Experimental Biology (SEB) President's Medal in Cell Biology.

Scholarship Winner is in the Right Place at the Right Time

▶ A research student from the University of Leicester has won a prestigious international scholarship in recognition of his work in geographical Information Science.

Paul Robinson, in the Department

of Geography, was one of six winners of scholarships, awards and grants to students and educators who have demonstrated exemplary performance in advancing the future of Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

The awards were made at an international GIS conference held at the University of Maryland. The GIScience conference brought together scientists from academia, industry and government to analyze progress and to explore new research directions, focusing on emerging topics and basic research findings across all sectors of GIS.

Paul, of Coventry, received a student travel scholarship worth \$800 used to cover the cost of registration, travel and hotel accommodations for the conference.

He said: "My PhD work has been analysing uncertainty in land cover mapping. Part of this work was submitted to the GIScience 2004 conference committee for review, and on the basis of the submission I was awarded the travel scholarship. This has given me a fantastic opportunity in enabling me to attend a major international conference to present my work."

Prestigious Award for Urologist

▶ A Consultant Urologist at the University of Leicester has been awarded the 2004 Karl Storz – Harold Hopkins Golden Telescope Award.

Recipient of the award, Kilian Mellon, Professor of Urology in the University's Department of Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine, is currently researching a new treatment for prostate cancer at the Leicester General Hospital, which it is hoped will become available on the NHS.

Professor Mellon and his laboratory group at the University are also pursuing molecular studies of bladder and prostate cancer which are intended to lead to new therapeutic approaches for patients with these tumours.



Speaking of the Golden Telescope Award, Professor Mellon said: "To be the recipient of this award is a huge honour for me personally, but I must acknowledge the contributions of other colleagues. I am fortunate to be part of a laboratory group which is committed to understanding the molecular pathology of bladder and prostate cancer with the longer term goal of developing new treatments. I am also part of a highly progressive clinical department at Leicester General Hospital which is at the forefront of many of the clinical developments in Urology".

As well as the award, Professor Mellon receives the sum of £1,000. The award is given to members of the British Association of Urological Surgeons who have made a significant and lasting contribution to Urology. It is made within ten years of their first consultant appointment, with the intention of recognising excellence in young urologists.

University of Leicester Graduate Heads World Museums' Body

▶ A University of Leicester graduate has been appointed as the world head of a body representing 22,000 museums and museum professionals in 140 countries.

Alissandra Cummins is the new president of the UNESCO-based

International Council of Museums (ICOM) - she is the first woman to lead ICOM in its 58 year history.

Now the Director of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, Alissandra Cummins gained the University's Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies in 1983, and the MA in Museum Studies in 1989. She is also the first President from the Latin America and Caribbean region.

She and two other people closely associated with the University of Leicester have been honoured at the General Assembly of the ICOM held in Seoul, Korea.

ICOM elected two Honorary Members - Geoffrey Lewis, who lives near Hinckley and who is a Past President of ICOM and currently chairman of its Ethics Committee, is a former Director of the Department of Museum Studies, University of Leicester (and was Alissandra Cummins' MA tutor).

The second is Professor Patrick Boylan of Leicester, a former Director of the Leicestershire Arts, Museums and Records Service, who is a PhD graduate of the University of Leicester (Geology & History of Science 1985), and who retired from office at the Conference after holding a range of senior positions in ICOM continuously for over 27 years.

Simon Knell, the current Director of the Department of Museum

Studies at the University of Leicester, said: "Alissandra's pioneering achievement is very important at a time when there is much change in the sector. We are absolutely delighted by it, and to see her build upon the contributions of two other distinguished Leicester workers".

A Week in Westminster - The Scientific View

▶ A University of Leicester scientist was recently 'paired' with an MP in an innovative programme run by the Royal Society to help build bridges between parliamentarians and some of the best science research workers in the UK.

Biochemist Dr Mark Pfuhl spent a week in Westminster and the MP he is paired with, Helen Clark, Labour MP for Peterborough, in turn spent time in the lab at the University of Leicester.

The MP Scientist pairing scheme was set up in 2001 as part of the Royal Society's Science in Society programme. The scheme aims to:

- Give MPs the opportunity to forge more direct links with the scientific community so that they can familiarise themselves with the process of scientific understanding and be better informed of current science issues.
- Help research scientists from across the UK become aware of the potential methods and structures through which they can influence the science policy process.

During his week in Westminster, Dr Pfuhl had the opportunity to see 'behind the scenes' gaining first hand experience of how science policy is formed. He attended seminars (on general Parliamentary proceedings and on science in the UK Parliament) and spent time with the MP.

Dr Pfuhl said: "I had received a visit from Patricia Hewitt who is the MP of my constituency. In her function as head of the DTI she also oversees the research councils which is of course of interest to me.

Consequently I put a lot of questions on the running of the research councils, allocation of funding and the development of funding strategies which from my view are a bit too much developed at the top with little insight into what we scientists actually do, how we plan our work, how we decide on priorities.

"This discussion reminded me that it is really important to discuss issues with those who are in a position to do something about it. When the MP pairing scheme came along shortly afterwards I was therefore keen to take part to continue learning more about the way politicians arrive at their decisions and how the public can influence them.

Dr Pfuhl's research interest lies in the structure of proteins. He said: "These are the little machines that make all living beings work by e.g. converting the sugar and fats that we take up from food into energy and building materials to make proteins or nucleic acids.

"The proteins on which I am focusing at the moment are from the heart muscle. The heart is obviously a vital organ yet there are many diseases that affect it. Many of these are caused by the environment, e.g. through infection, inappropriate food, stress, alcohol or smoking. But some of these are strongly enhanced or caused by mutations that are inherited from generation to generation in a family. One of these is known as sudden cardiac arrest and is the most frequent cause of death in young athletes.

"By determining the structure of proteins that cardiologists have shown to be causing this disease, we are able to find out what exactly happens and ultimately this might provide ideas as to what one could do about it. In a recent work we found that one of the many mutations that are known is causing the structure of one of the important proteins to collapse. If a protein loses its structure in which all atoms are positioned precisely where they are needed it is unable



Left to right: Geoffrey Lewis, Alissandra Cummins and Professor Patrick Boylan.



to fulfil its function. If it is a vital protein, then the whole organ, will fail as well.

“Because of the importance in better understanding what all of these disease-causing mutations do, my work is supported by the British Heart Foundation.”

Home Office Criminologist Appointed to University Chair

► A Home Office criminologist has joined the University of Leicester's renowned Department of Criminology.

Carol Hedderman has been appointed to the post of Professor of Criminology. Professor Hedderman has been at the Home Office since 1986, with a break between 1999-2002 when she was the Deputy Director of Criminal Policy Research Unit at South Bank University. Since 2002 she has been Assistant Director of Home Office Research, Development and Statistics.

As Director of a team of 64 researchers and statisticians at the Home Office, with responsibility for conducting research and analyses

basic skills training, drug treatment and cognitive behavioural programmes; and producing projections of the prison population and probation caseloads. She has advised Ministers and senior officials on research and statistics, to ensure that Government policy is abreast of the latest criminology evidence.

Speaking of her appointment at Leicester, Professor Hedderman commented: “I have really been looking forward to joining the Criminology Department at Leicester. I see my role as working with colleagues here to raise our research output and research profile. The qualities I bring are a wealth of practical research experience on a range of criminological topics as diverse as responding to the victims of domestic violence, identifying the age at which children can give reliable evidence, measuring and explaining sentencing disparities between different parts of the country, the treatment of female offenders compared to men in the criminal justice system, and the effectiveness of programmes designed to assist offenders into employment.



Professor John Holloway and Jenny Holloway in the 'stretch limo'.

into sentencing and prison and probation, she will have a wealth of experience to bring to the University, which is, itself, internationally acclaimed for its research.

The projects she oversaw for the Home Office include investigating alternative ways of measuring reoffending, such as using criminal records and self-report by offenders; evaluating initiatives designed to reduce reoffending by providing

“I am also keen to build on and further develop good relations with other University departments, as I find working across different disciplines such as psychology and economics rewarding and stimulating.”

The current Head of Department, Andrew Willis, commented: “Professor Hedderman brings enormous research expertise to the Department. We have an

international reputation in the fields of crime, criminal justice and policing. Professor Hedderman's appointment makes a strong department even more distinguished. We are delighted to welcome a colleague of her standing.”

Combined 72 Years of Service to University Marked in Style

► Retirements of Professor John Holloway and Dr David Russell

The end of September marked the retirements of Professor John Holloway and Dr David Russell from the Department of Chemistry - and the occasion was marked in style. Professor John Holloway and Dr David Russell, together with their wives, Jenny Holloway and Elaine Russell, who had arranged the trip, were taken in a 'stretch limo' from the Department of Chemistry to Rutland for an evening dinner at a restaurant.

There was also a leaving party, held in the Department, to which over 100 people came. Professor Holloway was presented with a cheque towards a summer house - in which he hopes to spend time watching his garden grow, and Dr Russell's cheque will be used to commission a painting of his holiday home in France.

Professor Holloway, who has also served as a University of Leicester Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Dr Russell have a combined total of service to the Chemistry Department of 72 years!

Shortly before he retired, by popular request, Professor Holloway gave one of his popular Demonstration Lectures, entitled Chemistry for Everyone in the Rattray Lecture Theatre on campus.

Key Contribution to University

► After 34 years of service to the University, Eric Coates, Assistant Director (User Services) of the Computer Centre, has taken early retirement. Colleagues and friends gathered to wish him well for the future at a farewell reception on Thursday, September 30, and present him with a retirement gift.

Eric graduated in Physics from Hull University in 1967 and started his first job soon afterwards as a Scientific Officer at the UKAEA Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (Radiation Measurements Section) Aldermaston, working on design and development of linear energy transfer systems. He spent some of his time at Aldermaston developing a system for Paper Tape input to an ICL Atlas II computer.

He arrived at Leicester in 1970, ostensibly to work as an Algol programmer but soon assuming the role of Operations Supervisor. He developed user services and trained operators on the Elliott 4130. When the Bennett roof collapsed in 1973, the 4130 was moved to the Rattray Coffee Bar and continued to run for 18 months. In 1974 a CDC Cyber 72 computer was installed (back in the Bennett) and Eric was promoted to Operations Manager.

Eric became involved in the environmental aspects of the computer operations and hence began his long association with the Estates Office. He also took on the role of Head of Administration in the Computer Laboratory (it didn't become a Computer 'Centre' until 1985) and became involved in purchasing and contract negotiation.

In 1981 he took six months leave of absence and went to work for Arabian Data Systems in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on a contract to the Meteorological and Environmental Protection Agency as a consultant in setting up a new computer operation - using his experience gained at Leicester.

In the mid 1980s, the University finally decided to build a new Computer Centre, after



Eric Coates.



procrastinating for the previous ten years. This was where Eric came into his own. He would probably like to have built it himself single-handed, but from then on he became the 'Building Supremo'.

The new building was a new departure for the University in many ways, one of which was the inclusion of the first Open Plan Office accommodation for Academic Related staff. He allocated himself an office as far away from the Director's office as it was possibly to get: also strategically placed to observe anyone coming into or leaving the building.

In the late 1980s Eric became heavily involved in procurement and became an active member of regional purchasing consortia. For many years he was chairman of the North Eastern Universities Purchasing Group, which strangely extended its borders as far south as Leicester! This activity has continued to the present day in conjunction with the Purchasing Office and has resulted in numerous financial deals which have benefited the University by several million pounds over the years.

Also around this time Eric bought his first microcomputer, a BBC Micro, and was largely instrumental in persuading the Computer Centre to become involved in these new 'toys' – although it took him quite a while to convince my predecessor that they were anything but toys and that they did in fact have a serious future.

His part-time secondary career as a lecturer began at this time with an invitation from the University Centre at Northampton to lecture on 'computer concepts' and BASIC. (He had moved on from Algol.) This eventually moved to Vaughan College under the auspices of the Adult Education department.

In 1990/91 Eric found himself working for a new Director. He was promoted to Assistant Director (User Services) with responsibility for all the Centre's 'customer-facing' services. He has also continued his various liaison roles as Security Officer, Safety Officer and of course Building Supremo. Most recently he became Equal Opportunities Officer

for the department.

Eric has overseen a number of building projects, several internal restructuring schemes, installation of intruder alarm, fire protection systems etc.

On the staff or personnel side he has been instrumental in organising student placements and setting up a Help service involving first of all postgraduate students on a part-time basis and then a more permanent arrangement.

Eric has always had a wide variety of interests and multifarious hobbies outside work, including: motor cycling, bee keeping, archery, calligraphy – and of course DIY. It is this last item which was the basis for most of the gifts which were presented to him at his Retirement Reception, comprising a Jig Saw, various clamps and other bits and pieces.

He threw himself wholeheartedly into his work for the University of Leicester over the long period he worked here, seeing it not just as a job but as a way of life. On countless occasions he has committed himself to being available on site in evenings and weekends when required, and I'm sure the Estates Office and Security Office have been extremely grateful to him for his co-operation at such times.

I for one am extremely grateful to Eric for his diligence, thoroughness and conscientiousness over many years. We shall certainly miss him, but wish him well in this new phase of his life.

In fact Eric will not be totally lost to the University just yet. He is joining Compusys, our current PC supplier, in order to implement the Government's Home Computing



Dr Bill Cockburn.

Initiative for encouraging employers to provide computers for their employees' use at home.

John Wilson

Academics with Nearly 70 Years of Service

► On Tuesday, 7 September, the School of Modern Languages held a party attended by 50 guests to mark jointly the formal retirement of Robert Kenny and Christopher Rolfe, Lecturers in French.

Christopher joined the University in 1969, Robert in 1972, making a total of 67 years service together. The party was attended not only by colleagues in Modern Languages but also by well-wishers from all over the University, in particular Chris's friends in the Badminton Club and supporters of Robert's musical activities.

Professor Richard Littlejohns, Acting Head of the School of Modern Languages, presented the two retiring colleagues with gifts and paid tribute to Christopher's role in bringing staff together during his two years as Head of School (1999-2000) and to Robert's longstanding

contribution to the theatrical and musical life of the School.

Both colleagues have been awarded the title of University Fellow and will continue to teach on a part-time basis. Christopher will also carry out duties as Associate Director of the Centre for Quebec Studies, and Robert will go on organising the Modern Languages Choir, in particular its popular Christmas concerts.

Professor Richard Littlejohns

Retirement of Biologist Dr Bill Cockburn

► On Friday, September 24, the Biology Department held a reception to mark the retirement of Dr Bill Cockburn after almost 37 years' service to the University.

Many of Bill's colleagues and students from the past and the present joined in the occasion to wish him well for the future.

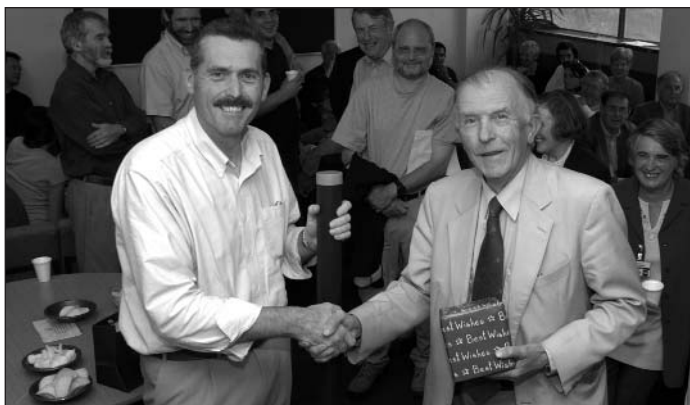
The Head of Department, Professor Garry Whitelam, presented Bill with an specially commissioned caricature of himself and also a digital camera.

Biologist Dr Peter Shelton retires

► On Friday, September 24, the Department of Biology held a reception to mark the retirement of Dr Peter Shelton after 32 years' service to the University.

Many of Peter's colleagues were able to attend the reception to give their best wishes for the future, and the Head of Department, Professor Garry Whitelam, presented him with a Rotary watch and a new fishing rod and reel.

Peter plans to spend much more of his time at his favourite hobby - fishing.



Dr Peter Shelton receives his gift from Professor Gary Whitelam.



Obituaries

► Mrs M Jewson (née Oldershaw)

The University has learnt, with regret, of the death on 13 October of Mrs. Marilyn Jewson. Mrs. Jewson was an undergraduate student in Economic and Social History from 1990 and graduated in 1992/93.

► Mr O M Brown

The University has learnt, with regret, of the death of Mr Oliver Brown, a second-year student reading for the BA degree in American Studies.

► The Venerable Harold Lockley

The Venerable Harold Lockley, an Archdeacon with strong local connections and a long and distinguished contribution to the church, died on the morning of Sunday, September 26, aged 88.

Leicestershire born, following graduation from London University, he initially trained as a teacher at Loughborough College. At the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Navy, but responded to a call to Holy Orders and returned to Loughborough in 1946 as a Curate (later to become Vicar) at All Saints Church.

Following completion of a Master's degree in Theology, and his appointment as Vicar of a Leicestershire parish, he also undertook duties as Director of Ordination Training and Senior Examining Chaplain to the Bishop

of Leicester. His contribution on the educational life of the church and the whole Leicestershire community was without doubt considerable.

He was appointed a part-time lecturer in Biblical Studies at this University and continued in this post until his retirement.

He held posts as Canon Residentiary and Chancellor of Leicester Cathedral, where he also edited its quarterly journal. For 20 years from 1960, on his election to the Convocation of Canterbury and the Church Assembly, he was to play a wider role in church government.

From 1963, he was appointed Archdeacon of Loughborough - a post he held for over 20 years. He was chaplain for both the Leicester Royal Infirmary and the Leicestershire Yeomanry Association, and was a founder governor of the Leicester Grammar School.

He retired in 1986. His wife, Ursula, who died in 1990, was a cousin of the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In the early years of his career Harold Lockley had studied German theology. He is survived by three sons.

► Mr P McCarthy

Travel writer, broadcaster and comedian Pete McCarthy died on 6 October 2004 aged 52. He graduated from the University of Leicester in 1972 with a first class degree in Combined Studies (English). McCarthy was born in

Warrington, Cheshire, to an English mother and Irish father.

After attending West Park School, he came up to the University of Leicester where he took a degree in Combined Studies Arts. English was his main subject and he graduated in 1972 with first class honours.

Reading James Joyce at the age of 14 inspired him to become a writer, but upon leaving Leicester he took up comedy, co-founding Brighton's Cliffhanger Theatre. In the 1980s he wrote television comedy scripts for Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones and compered for the Comedy Store in London.

In the 1990s he travelled the world as presenter of Channel 4's Travelog, a new style travel series, following this with programmes for BBC2 and Meridian. He was also a regular broadcaster on Radio 4. In the event he came late to prose writing, but McCarthy's Bar, a humorous exploration of his Irish heritage, which focused on Ireland's legendary hospitality, especially in its pubs, sold a million copies and won him the newcomer of the year prize at the British Book Awards in 2002. The sequel, The Road to McCarthy, took him across four continents in search of Irishmen, and McCarthys in particular, everywhere. It too was acclaimed. He was planning a third book when he was diagnosed with cancer.

McCarthy lived for many years in Brighton before moving to a village on the South Downs, where he loved to take solitary walks. He once described the South Downs Way "as a kind of Neolithic M25. I like that feeling of walking a route people have been walking for thousands of years". He leaves a wife, Irene, and three daughters.

► Miss D Bown

The University has learnt, with regret, of the death of Miss Dorothy (Dot) Bown on Sunday, 10 October. Miss Bown joined the University as a Domestic Assistant in the 1960s and continued to work for the Hall until her retirement from the post of Dining Room Supervisor in 1990.

► Miss E Smith

The University has learnt, with regret, of the death on 27 September 2004, of Miss Ethel Smith. Miss Smith joined the University in September 1966 as a member of the clerical staff in the Department of Engineering. In May 1967 she transferred to the Accounts Department and was promoted to the post of Senior Clerk in that Department in January 1969. She retired in July 1980.

► Mrs J M Hughes

The University has learnt, with regret, of the death of Mrs Joan Hughes on Thursday, 23 September. Mrs Hughes joined the University in February 1977 as a Cleaner in the MSB. She retired in April 1986.

LEICESTER AT NEWMAN DEGREE CEREMONIES

► Graduates from Newman College of higher education, Birmingham, received their awards at two ceremonies held on 7 October 2004. This is the first time that Newman awarded University of Leicester degrees having chosen Leicester as its validating partner.

The College, part of a Higher Education Alliance that links Leicester with colleges in Birmingham and Lincoln, held its graduation ceremonies in Symphony

Hall for the first time in order to accommodate the increasing numbers of graduates from its wide range of programmes. Newman College, named after Cardinal John Henry Newman, Birmingham's great theologian and educator, provides degrees in social sciences, the humanities and initial teacher training.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess, who presided at the ceremonies and gave the

opening address, said: "This is a proud and historic occasion. It is the first time that students at Newman are graduating with degrees validated by the University of Leicester- this provides an example of the real benefits brought to the education sector by universities and colleges working together.

"The University of Leicester will continue to seek ways to broaden access to higher education by working with colleges like Newman

to provide opportunities for people to study on high quality degree programmes."

The Honorary graduates were chosen with particular care for the relevance of their success to the mission of the College:

Margaret Robinson, Doctor of Letters
The Rt Hon the Baroness Scotland of Asthal, QC, Doctor of Laws

Professor Bartholomew McGettrick, Doctor of Letters



VICE-CHANCELLOR APPOINTED AS CHAIR OF ADVISORY BOARD OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES NETWORK

► Dr Michael Jubb has been appointed as Director of the Research Libraries Network (RLN) based at the British Library, with Professor Robert Burgess, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, taking up the role of Chair of the Advisory Board. With £3 million funding from a consortium of funders, the RLN will ensure 'joined up' information services for UK researchers.

The RLN will bring together the UK's four higher education funding bodies, the British Library, the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales and the eight members of

Research Councils UK, to develop the UK's first national framework aimed at addressing the information needs of researchers. The RLN will run initially for three years and start operating in February 2005. It will be led by an executive unit - based at the British Library - and take strategic guidance from the advisory board. More key executive unit and advisory board positions will be appointed in the near future.

Michael Jubb brings a wealth of experience to the post. He comes to the RLN from the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB), where he has been

Director of Policy and Programmes and Deputy Chief Executive since its establishment in 1998. He has played a leading role in developing the Board and its activities, and in its transition to full Research Council status.

Professor Burgess carries his knowledge of the education sector to his role as Chair of the RLN Advisory Board. He is a member of the British Library Board, the Council of the Institute for Employment Studies and an Academician of the Academy of Learned Societies in the Social Sciences. He was previously Director of CEDAR (Centre for

Educational Development, Appraisal and Research) and Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick. He was also President of the British Sociological Association, and Founding Chair of the UK Council for Graduate Education.

Professor Burgess said: "The Research Libraries Network will play a vital role for UK researchers, and will contribute enormously to our research infrastructure and capabilities. It is a welcome development and I look forward to making a contribution to this important and groundbreaking initiative. 🗨️"

ASTHMA STUDY TALK AT UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

► The 2004 Frank May Prize Lecture will focus on pioneering work being done at the University which has the potential to develop better future treatment of asthma.

Dr Chris Brightling of the Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation at the University of Leicester has been selected to deliver the Frank May Prize Lecture on 13 December at 5.30pm in Lecture Theatre 1, Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building.

The Frank May Prize Lecture was

established in 1991, endowed by the generosity of Dr Frank May and is delivered annually by a member of the Faculty of Medicine and Biological Sciences at the University of Leicester.

Dr Brightling, a Senior Clinical Research Fellow, said: "Asthma is an important cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide.

"People with asthma become wheezy and breathless because the airways narrow excessively in response to stimuli like allergens and infections. The airways are inflamed



Dr Frank May.

and a number of inflammatory features are thought to be important in causing airway narrowing.

"We have recently found that patients with eosinophilic bronchitis,

a condition causing chronic cough without abnormal airway narrowing, share many of these features except that in asthma cells called mast cells are localized within the airway muscle suggesting that this may be critical in the development of abnormal airway narrowing.

"We have been studying the signals, which draw mast cells into the airway muscle and the effects of these cells on each other. Understanding why mast cells move into the airway muscle and the how these cells interact may provide us with novel targets for the future treatment of asthma."

The Frank May Prize Lecture is free and open to the public. 🗨️"

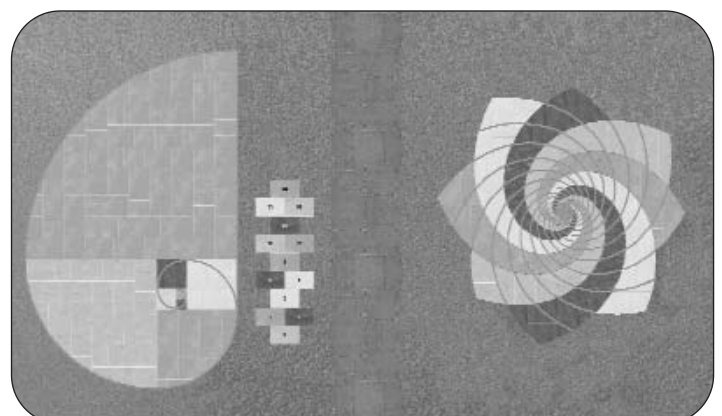
FIBONACCI PAVEMENT AT BOTANIC GARDEN

► Three Fibonacci pavement designs are to be incorporated into the herb garden at the University of Leicester's Harold Martin Botanic Garden in Oadby.

Designs featuring a shell, a hopscotch court and a pine cone have been selected, and the work will be completed by Scenic Blue of Rugby. The pavement will be made from contrasting slabs of four colours of natural sandstone, and the numbers on the hopscotch will be

those of the Fibonacci sequence: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, etc.

This set of numbers was named after a 12th-century Italian mathematician from Pisa, who discovered them while considering how rabbit populations might increase in number. The series is worked out by starting with 1 and 1, and adding the last two numbers together to make the next. The numbers translate into a spiral. 🗨️"





Dates for your Diary

University of Leicester Bulletin
December '04 – January '05

A complete list of events can be viewed in Events Diary at <http://www.le.ac.uk/press/events/prevents.html>

INAUGURAL LECTURES

The following Professorial Inaugural Lectures will be held in Lecture Theatre 1 of the Ken Edwards Building at 5.30pm on the dates shown. These Lectures are open to the public and free.

Tuesday January 11

Education and Redistribution. Professor Gianni De Fraja, Department of Economics.

Tuesday January 18

The Journey to Mars. Professor Martin Turner, Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Tuesday January 25

P2X1 Receptors: Important Roles in Blood Pressure and Stroke. Professor Richard Evans, Department of Cell Physiology and Pharmacology.

Tuesday February 8

Title to be announced. Professor David Bonner, Department of Law.

DECEMBER

Monday December 13

Frank May Prize Lecture: EB, or not EB: With Asthma that is the Question. Dr Chris Brightling, Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, Institute for Lung Health. 5.30pm, Lecture Theatre 1, Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building. The lecture is open to the public and free. For further details contact Jackie Marriott on 0116 252 2962.

Wednesday December 15

Literary and Philosophical Society Lecture Schools Lecture: A 'SWIFT' Tour of the Universe. Dr Graham Wynn, Department of Physics and Astronomy. Admission to this lecture is by ticket only. The event will take place in the Rattray Lecture Theatre on the University of Leicester campus. Contact Jackie

Wetzig at the University of Leicester on 0116 252 2674 for further details. For further details concerning the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, contact the Membership Secretary, Mrs Silver, on 0116 271 4920.

JANUARY

Friday 14 January

Vaughan Historical and Archaeological Society Lecture: Farm Houses and Cottages in East Leicestershire. Nick Hill. For further details about the VAHS or this lecture contact Ted Humphreys on 0116 247 7898 or Gerry Stacey on 01455 636686.

Saturday 24 January

Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society Lecture (sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry): Nature's Nanotechnology. Professor

Clive Bagshaw, Department of Biochemistry. 7.30pm, Victorian Gallery, New Walk Museum. Non-member of the Society are welcome to attend on payment of £1 per lecture. Further details from the Membership Secretary on 0116 271 4920.

Thursday 27 January

Centre for English Local History Seminar: Religion and Community: Dorchester-on-Thames, 1800-1920. Dr Kate Tiller (University of Oxford. Currently Honorary Visiting Fellow at the University of Leicester's Centre for English Local History). 2.15pm, Seminar Room, 1 Salisbury Road. Seats are limited - to book a seat or for more information contact Miss Audrey Larrivé on 0116 252 2762 or by email al34@le.ac.uk



Small Advertisements

MOZART HOUSE NURSERY GARDEN

Nursery Garden at Wigston has plants that emphasise texture, form and foliage, including large collections of bamboo, other grasses and ferns. Telephone Des Martin on 0116 288 9548 for details.

PROOFREADING AND EDITING

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