

Visitor

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

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COVER PICTURES

Front cover: (Clockwise from top left) Model of The National Space Science Centre for which Leicester won £23 million of Millennium Commission funding; Celebrations at Graduation; Jubilee Open Day, attended by more than 10,000 people; Diana, Princess of Wales, opening the Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts on May 27.

Cover picture of Diana, Princess of Wales, by John Stillwell, Press Association.

This page: A winter's morning on campus. Picture by Jo Vivian.

Back cover: Students head for the University along the tree-lined routes through Victoria Park.

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There are three companion volumes to this report:

OFFICIAL RECORD, Volume I: Contains departmental reports for the year August 1 1996-July 31 1997.

OFFICIAL RECORD, Volume II: Contains details of research grants and contracts, publications, personalia, degrees and prizes for the period August 1 1996-July 31 1997.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Contains Treasurer's report and detailed accounts for the year ended July 31 1997.

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CREDITS

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MISSION STATEMENT

The University of Leicester

- re-affirms the commitment in its Charter to
the advancement of knowledge, the diffusion and extension of arts, sciences and learning and the provision of liberal, professional and technological education
and will strive to enhance its position as a leading research and teaching institution, cultivating the synergy between research and teaching;
- will strive to enhance and fully utilise its physical resources and develop and nurture its human resources in order to further these academic purposes;
- will offer an education of the highest quality to its undergraduate and graduate students, encouraging and stimulating critical intellectual development through guided learning in a research environment;
- will develop and enhance its international reputation for research at the cutting edge of a range of disciplines through the encouragement of centres of excellence and individual scholars;
- will make available the University's knowledge and expertise to the international, national and local communities and to industry and commerce through publication, technology transfer and other ways of disseminating knowledge;
- will develop its role as a significant resource to enrich the local community and provide continuing professional, vocational and adult education to the surrounding region, collaborating with nearby educational institutions in order to maximise the benefits to the community.



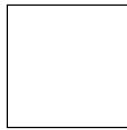
Picture: Jo Vivian



CONTENTS

<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vice-Chancellor's Report</i> 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Building on Success</i> 4
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Partnerships</i> 6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>A Year of Jubilee Joy</i> 8
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>A Date with Destiny</i> 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Reaching Out</i> 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Shaping the Future</i> 14
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Knowledge for Life</i> 16
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Advancement</i> 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Statistics</i> 21

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



During a year of national introspection about higher education related to the Dearing Inquiry, Leicester University celebrated a Jubilee Year distinguished by major milestones.

The past year has been dominated by national introspection about higher education. The focus for this discussion has been the deliberations of the National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education, the Dearing Committee. The report of the Committee, which was published in July 1997, covered a wide range of topics and contained 93 recommendations. Parallels have been drawn between the Dearing Committee and the Robbins Report in the early 1960s, but there is an essential difference in the circumstances of the two reports. The Robbins analysis created the case and provided the framework for large expansion in higher education which followed in the late 1960s, while the Dearing Inquiry took place after the large expansion which occurred in the early 1990s and attempted to deal with the consequences of that expansion. One of the principal concerns of Dearing was the issue of providing appropriate funding for the enlarged system. Immediately following the publication of the Dearing Report the Government proposed its own mechanism for dealing with funding rather than accepting any of the options proposed within the Report. The other recommendations of Dearing will be the subject of a Government White Paper due to be published soon.

The general nature of the likely response by the Government is, however, reasonably clear in that there will probably be strong emphasis on lifelong learning and on the contribution which higher education can make to the community, especially in producing a skilled work force and creating a high level of employability amongst the population. Lifelong learning has a variety of facets and relates to a wide range of different higher education courses. Programmes followed might be at sub-degree level, first degree level, postgraduate courses or related to continuing professional development.

The opportunities at different levels will involve funding from a variety of sources; for undergraduate programmes this is likely to include some contribution from graduates, but at postgraduate level will be largely private, whether provided by the individual student or by some organisation on his/her behalf.

create a strategy towards achieving those aims? Is the strategy robust enough to cope with minor fluctuations in the environment, while at the same time being flexible enough to be able to adapt in a coherent way to major perturbations? These are some of the questions which such a re-assessment must address.



LANDMARK YEAR: *The Vice-Chancellor, right, with Pro-Chancellor Sir Edwin Nixon, centre, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Asa Blakeley, left, marking the start of Jubilee Year.*

Each university must seek to find an appropriate niche or niches within this wide diversity of provision. Questions which must be asked include: 'What is the University good at?', 'What can it offer that is distinctive?' and 'How does that match the opportunities which occur?' The University of Leicester is in the process of re-assessing its own strategic objectives against the background of a strong wish to take positive steps to determine its own future. What kind of University do we hope to be in five years' time or in ten years' time? How can we

There are many uncertainties facing the University. First, and amongst the most important, is the impact on the demand for education that the Government's decision about student contributions towards the costs of tuition will have. In particular it raises the question as to whether there will continue to be a large demand for the traditional full-time, campus-based undergraduate programme. Second, what will be the impact which the new information and communication technologies will have, especially on teaching and learning but also on other aspects of the way the universities operate?

Third, will the funding for research become yet more selective? Fourth, to what extent will competition from

outside the university system in the provision of educational programmes and in research increase?

Bearing these factors in mind, the discussion within the University about its own future continues, but amongst the aims which are becoming clear are:

- The development of courses and of total support facilities which will continue to attract high-quality students who seek a campus-based educational experience.

- Continued expansion at postgraduate level and in the provision of programmes for continuing professional development; in particular, it is likely that extensive development in distance learning techniques and part-time provision, possibly combined, will continue.
- Stimulation of research within an overall coherent University strategy which encourages and facilitates interdisciplinary programmes.

Our aims for the future must be based on our present achievements and our current excellence. The past year has demonstrated again the academic vigour of the University in ways which are developed in some detail in the rest of this Annual Report.

One of the major events has been the announcement by the Millennium Commission of an award of £23M towards the costs of creating a National Space Science Centre in Leicester. This project was the subject of a joint bid by the University and Leicester City Council and its implementation has now attracted widespread involvement and support from local businesses and other parts of the community. In particular, attention is now being devoted towards closing the funding gap. The Centre will be a great asset to both the City and the University and it has an enormous potential to inform and enthuse young people about science. The academic heart of the NSSC will be the excellence of the University's own astronomy and space programmes, particularly, of course, in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

The Department of Physics and Astronomy achieved a Grade 5 in the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise results announced last December. It was one of five departments to achieve that rating, while one department, Cell Physiology and Pharmacology, achieved the highest rating of 5*. Overall the results demonstrated the general research strengths of the University, a conclusion confirmed by the fact that Leicester was one of only 15 universities returning 90% or more of all eligible staff in the exercise.

The University continues to be very successful in obtaining research grants from a variety of sources to support its activities. For the year 1996/97 the income generated in this was £24,652,000 which is nearly double the figure five years ago when the income (in 1991/92) was £12,723,000. This success is highly commendable, but it has brought its own problems because over that same period the level of support for research in the form of money provided by the Funding Council has remained more or less constant at about £10M. The Funding Council money is supposed to provide for most of the indirect costs of research programmes which are supported by external sponsors, as well as allowing for innovative research and for research in areas where there is little likelihood of obtaining direct sponsorships. This developing gap in our ability to support our own research infrastructure is a serious problem to the University as it is for all research-active universities. It was identified as a problem in the Dearing report and Government Ministers have recognised it as an issue. We now await to see if action follows.

In May 1997 the formal opening of the Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts was performed by Diana, Princess of Wales. It was one of her last formal engagements before her tragic death, but we are left with very positive memories of the happiness of this occasion and the

warmth and genuine sense of caring which she displayed, particularly for the students of the Centre.

Our future ambitions require that we have a sound financial base. Over the past few years, the University has been concerned to ensure that we make the best possible use of the funds which we have received; funds which from Government sources have been declining in value in real terms on a per student basis. In doing this we have had as our primary objective the maintenance of the quality of our teaching and research activities.

The splendid achievements of the University of Leicester so far in the 1990s provides an excellent track record and a firm basis for development into the next decade.

Over the past year, we have satisfied this objective while also achieving some further build-up of reserves. During the year our income increased somewhat. Much of this, however, was due to significant one-off items, of which the largest was a £1.3M VAT repayment. The creation and maintenance of a reasonable level of reserves is important for, on the one hand, it provides some buffer against a sudden loss of income or a rapid rise in inflation, while on the other hand, it creates the potential for some investments in new developments to enable the University to seize new opportunities. These will certainly occur as the range of contributions which universities can make to national, and indeed international, life increases in the future.

The University is now in a very strong position to take advantage of such opportunities while also maintaining its standards of excellence in teaching and research and the vital interaction between them. The splendid achievements of the University of Leicester so far in the 1990s provide an excellent track record and a firm basis for development into the next decade.

KJR Edwards

BUILDING ON SUCCESS



A year when the University went from strength to strength

The University continued to expand and develop in exciting new directions – the building of a Space Research Centre and the opening of the new Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts were two landmark developments during the year.

SPACE FOR SPACE RESEARCH:

Construction of the new building for the University's Space Research Centre commenced and will provide new accommodation for the Department of Physics and Astronomy's Space Hardware and Earth Observation Science Groups. The University's Space Research Centre will eventually form an integral part of the National Space Science Centre which is a joint University and City Council-led Millennium Project.

NEW OBSERVATORY: Staff and students benefited from a new observatory on the University estate at Manor Road. The facility was funded by a donation of £10,000 from Dr A K Velan who formally opened the observatory.

ANCIENT GARDENS:

The Friends of the Botanic Garden have raised £25,000 towards the cost of a project to build a new display greenhouse. The proposed greenhouse will contain tropical and temperate plantings, devised not only to be informative but also to provide a better facility for the Garden's burgeoning schools programme. It will feature a reconstruction of a garden from ancient Greece.

HOSPITAL BUILDING: A major impetus to development in the University Department of Oncology was the opening of the Osborne Building at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. This provides high-quality accommodation for patients.



GREEN SPACE: Sir David Attenborough opened the new University arboretum on Carisbrooke Road, Knighton, Leicester, naming it the Attenborough Arboretum after his family, several of whom are closely associated with the University. Scores of school children attended the event.

REFURBISHED SITE: The Department of Museum Studies' newly consolidated and refurbished premises was formally opened. Formerly, the Department was split into two sites.

NEW MOVE: The MRC Institute for Environment and Health, which works closely with the University, moved from its temporary buildings adjacent to the Centre for the Mechanisms of Human Toxicity to new premises on Regent Road, Leicester.

NETWORKING: The Computer Centre was successful for the second year running in its bid for funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England to enhance the computer network links.

FACILITIES: A new computer suite for students was provided by the University in the Students' Union building, and plans for a new gymnasium to be run by the University Sports and Recreation Service were set in motion.



NEW BOAT: Left, members of the University's Rowing Club acquired a new £8,000 boat. The boat, named *The Magic Sponge*, was funded by the University and the Students' Union sports association. Members of the club also raised £2,500 towards the final cost of the boat.

Above: The construction of the new Space Research Centre.

RARE

COLLECTION: The Library opened the reorganised rare books collection, coinciding with the 21st anniversary of the main Library building. The newly designed area includes a storage room for the thousands of volumes of rare and valuable editions, plus an office and reading room.



RESEARCH GYM: The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery is extending its research into trauma, particularly hip fractures, by the opening of an orthopaedic research gym at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. This facility will have both gait and balance analysis equipment, which will enable a more detailed assessment to be made of patients who have sustained fractures around the hip.

development of a laser cytometer facility at the Glenfield General Hospital. It attracted a steady stream of visitors from UK and Europe and the new technology will allow the Department to become involved in new aspects of cancer research. Also at Glenfield, the Department of Radiology established a research facility, a development which coincided with the opening of the Magnetic Resonance Unit.

HITTING THE AIRWAVES: A trial run of the Students' Union new radio station LUSH FM took place in the Union building and a licence to transmit was granted for November 1997.

INVESTMENT: As part of the Chemistry Department's strategy to maintain excellence in teaching and research, state-of-the-art NMR machines have been installed. One of the machines, costing £320,000, was among the first to receive joint funding from industry and has led to the creation of an NMR teaching facility. The Department's investment in a modern X-ray structure facility was also well rewarded helping to determine the previously unknown shapes of 120 molecules during the year.

LABORATORIES: New cell biology laboratories were created within the Department of Child Health. A new device for measuring lung function in infants and young children was developed and piloted in partnership with the Department of Paediatrics, University of Bern. New laboratories were also officially opened in the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics' new Division of Gastroenterology. The new laboratories were set up with the aid of a £400,000 grant from Leicester General Hospital NHS Trust.

TECHNOLOGY: The University Department of Surgery saw the

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES, OPENED UNIQUE CENTRE

On May 27, just weeks before the tragic accident that claimed the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, the University was honoured by her presence on the occasion of the official opening of the Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts.

Describing the visit as 'an auspicious and triumphant day for the University', Lord Attenborough praised the University and Centre staff for the development of the unique Centre.

The Princess toured the Centre, met staff and students, and saw demonstrations of wheelchair dancing, art and sculpture. She described it as a Centre that 'enriched the lives of us all, and added: "In this beautiful building I have seen what I thought was impossible.

"I have met students in wheelchairs who were dancing, visually disabled artists creating superb sculptures and a painter who has been blind since birth.

"People with disabilities are able to become involved and excel in all kinds of artistic activities. The joy and purpose throughout the building can be felt."

The purpose-built £2million Centre - part of the University's Department of Adult Education - was designed by architect Ian Taylor of Bennetts Associates following a national competition which attracted 128 entries. The two-storey Centre provides high quality acoustics and is equipped with sculpture, painting, music and drama studios, a research library and studio area.

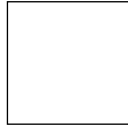


SPECIAL MEMORIES: Above, Diana, Princess of Wales with Mrs Margaret Gray, a student at the Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts.

Below: The Princess with Lord Attenborough at the opening of the Richard Attenborough Centre. Following her tragic death, a musical tribute in memory of the Princess was staged at the Centre.

Lord Attenborough led the fund-raising campaign for the Centre, with support from Friends of the Centre. An award of £730,000 was made by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of England and there were several other major donors.

PARTNERSHIPS



Working together with community and business

Leicester University's role in the region extends far beyond that of being a centre of educational excellence, a major employer and commercial force. The success of the National Space Science Centre bid, in association with the City Council and other organisations, is an example of how partnerships with Leicester University have helped contribute to prosperity within the region.

CHARITY FOCUS: Leicester University Students' Union Charities Appeal raised more than £48,000 for local and national charities through a variety of events, including a Rag Week.

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES: The Department of Adult Education's ability to reach wider sections of the community was greatly aided by continuation of funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England. A Certificate in Legal Advice, organised jointly with Highfields Community Centre and funded by the Single Regeneration Budget, was among the initiatives during the year.

NOTABLE CHOICE: The varied programme of Music offered by the University included a staged production

SOCIAL CONCERN: A study by the Scarman Centre revealed disturbing evidence that the needs of black people in the county are not being met. It pointed to the suspicion with which members of the African

Caribbean community held local and national government, highlighted concerns over education matters and suggested that a complacent attitude exists towards issues of racial equality within government agencies.



of Handel's *Acis & Galatea* at the Phoenix Arts; a concert given by the Eberle Quartet as the first musical event at the Richard Attenborough Centre, and a spectacular charity event – the first complete modern performance of William Boyce's *Ode to Charity* (1771) with the Proteus Chamber Orchestra, University Singers and Soloists in the Church of St. James the Greater. Town and gown came together in the annual Digby Hall carol service.

CENTRE OF ATTRACTION: The Richard Attenborough Centre widened its programme and contacts with national arts organisations and created new links with local disability communities. A varied dance, music and arts programme is in place and major events included performances by Emma Johnson, the Siobhan Davies Dance Company and the Nettle & Markham Piano Duo.

ON THE BALL: The Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research again carried out the annual fan survey for the Football Association Premier League. New research initiatives include work on sport and disability and on women's football.

CARING: In the School of Social Work staff were involved in projects to identify when children are at risk from families where there is domestic violence and parental problems of mental illness, drugs and alcohol abuse; they also played an active part in helping the Department of Health shape national policy on child-related issues.

MAGIC MOMENTS: The School of Education continued a study of pupils' transfer from primary to secondary



Picture: Terry Cavanagh

THREE ORCHIDS: The green stained wood tripod and plain wood orchids sculpture at Abbey Park, Leicester. The History of Art Department played an important part in gaining a £470,000 grant from Lottery funds awarded to the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association to survey the wealth of Britain's outdoor monuments and sculptures.

schools and investigated the use of discretionary time in primary schools. The study suggested that opportunities for spontaneous encounters between teachers and pupils, described as 'magic moments', had been reduced as a result of the National Curriculum. In the School's Centre for Citizenship Studies in Education, staff were involved in a national campaign that aimed to promote citizenship education for pupils of all ages.

THAT'S LIFE: Departments in the School of Biological Sciences supported a national schools' Science and Technology programme as a result of an agreement with the Leicestershire Education Business Partnership. Children as young as 11 were helped in projects in Life Sciences as a result of the University support and that of Bioscience company, Zeneca.

LEICESTER: THE ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY

BUSINESS INTERFACE: The University launched its business magazine, *Business Interface*, highlighting how the University and businesses are benefiting from a range of collaborations and suggesting ways in which industry can fruitfully work with universities.



SOUND RESEARCH: The influence of music on shopping

behaviour was tested by psychologists from the University. They set up a wine display at a superstore in Leicester and discovered that playing French or German music influenced the choice of wine bought by the customer according to the type of music played.

GENDER AND WORK: The Sociology Department embarked upon the second stage of a five-nation comparative study of gender relations, employment and occupational segregation. The gender and globalisation research group completed work on nations and nationalisms in Latin America and on migration and labour in Europe, including a European Commission study of domestic labourers in EC countries.

SPONSORSHIP: Merchant bankers Singer and Friedlander sponsored a football research fellowship in the Centre for Research into Sport and Society. Other companies also supported projects at the University - for example, in the School of Education, Barclaycard and the Charter Unit of the Cabinet Office provided funding for the production of a schools' pack on the use of public services. The Department of Cell Physiology and Pharmacology's links with Astra Charnwood were strengthened by the award of a visiting Professorship to Dr. Paul Leff of Astra Charnwood Research Centre.

SKILLS STUDY: The Centre for Labour Market Studies, together with Leeds University, is analysing changes in the skills of the British labour force over the past decade as well as examining aspects of training in companies. Centre staff are also studying the relationship between national systems of education and training and economic growth in the

Asian 'Tiger' economies. In the Management Centre, a study into the functioning of the European labour markets was carried out in collaboration with Birmingham University, examining issues of 'work and society'.

SMART AWARD: A Lincolnshire company, Marshall Barry (Lincoln) Ltd. was successful in

winning a SMART award for innovation for the development of technology licensed to them from the University. The project's aims are to design and assess the feasibility of a new type of energy efficient, variable speed, universal DC electronic motor generator/drive.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: Leicester BioSciences Ltd., a unique joint venture between the University and Life Sciences Associates Ltd., has been formed to find ways to best exploit the intellectual property generated from research in life and medical sciences.

ENGINEERING SUCCESS: The Department of Engineering continued to strengthen links with industry: 'with industry' degrees where students work a year in industry during their course gained in popularity;

progress was made in the study of 'electrical trees' which can eat their way through high voltage insulators causing catastrophic electricity supply failures and a collaborative project with Perkins Technology and Lucas Advanced Vehicle

Systems studied novel schemes for the monitoring and control of diesel engines.

GROUND-BREAKING: Borehole Research in the Geology Department continued to be highly successful holding major contracts with industry. The research group holds a major contract with the international Ocean Drilling Program, based at College Station, Texas. In addition, the department has collaborative projects with aggregate and industrial minerals companies.

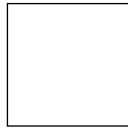
INNER SPACE: A facility developed for space science is being applied in dentistry. Derivatives of Charge Coupled Devices developed and manufactured by EEV Limited in conjunction with the University Department of Physics and Astronomy, are being used by dentists for X-rays as a replacement for film. CCDs, highly sensitive silicon chips, mean that patients need only receive 20 per cent of the X-ray dose associated with traditional techniques.



FACE TO FACE WITH NATURE: Thousands of visitors and schoolchildren enjoyed educational trips and fairs at the Harold Martin Botanic Garden which celebrated the 50th anniversary of its transfer to the magnificent Oadby estate.

JOBS: The Student Employment Centre, which started in 1995-96, became well established in the Students' Union and is used by numerous city businesses.

A YEAR OF JUBILEE JOY



Nostalgia, celebration and optimism for an historic year

Leicester University celebrated 75 years since its foundation in 1921 and 40 years since the granting of the University's Royal Charter in 1957. The University's strong community links were marked by a programme including a Jubilee Open Day that attracted 10,000 people.



A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Conferences, drama and sporting celebrations were also features of the Jubilee Year, which was permanently marked by the publication of a new history of the University.

Written by Brian Burch OBE, Librarian of the University from 1982-1995, it is fully illustrated in colour and chronicles the many achievements and personalities of the University from its formative years to the present era.

It was a particularly active year for Leicester University Theatre, which presented a production of John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* and Joe Orton's *What the Butler Saw*. This production launched the University's successful £60,000 appeal to secure the Orton Papers - a collection of

unpublished manuscripts, letters and other documents of the Leicester-born dramatist,

which will now be preserved and made available for scholars in the University Library.

Media interest in the variety of events at the University continued unabated and made a marked impact with broadcasts of *Gardeners' Question Time* and *Any Questions?* from the University during the year.

Internationalism and multiculturalism on campus were celebrated by the International Students' Association which marked its 10th anniversary during the year.

Jubilee Year also marked the start of the University's biggest ever fundraising campaign. A letter-and telephone-based programme was headed by celebrity graduate Michael Nicholson. Thousands of graduates and the parents of current students were contacted in order to support appeals to enhance the Library and improve sporting facilities across the University. By the end of the Jubilee Year, a sum totalling £1million had been pledged.



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DRAMATIC: Below, Leicester University Theatre staged Orton's *What the Butler Saw* to launch a successful £60,000 appeal to secure the Orton Papers.
Right: Joe Orton.

JUBILEE FOCUS: Above, Curator of the Harold Martin Botanic Garden, Dr Richard Gornall, standing, with broadcasters from *Gardeners' Question Time* who visited Leicester University as part of the Jubilee Year programme.



CELEBRITY LECTURES

A star-studded line-up of celebrities enhanced the University's normal programme of public lectures throughout the year, and provided a major attraction for the local community and the media.

The galaxy of speakers included Britain's first woman in space, Helen Sharman, and astronomers Dr Patrick Moore and Dr Heather Couper - all of whom added lustre to the year in which the University and City were awarded Millennium funding towards a National Space Science Centre.

The former Director-General of the National Trust, Sir Angus Stirling, launched the lecture programme with the Convocation Lecture, *Let Nature Never Be Forgotten*, on the relationship between landscapes and architecture; architect Jeremy Dixon, delivering the Peach Memorial Lecture, also commented on aspects of the built environment.

Sir David Attenborough delivered the Annual Botanic Garden Lecture - held, exceptionally, in the De Montfort Hall; explorer David Hempleman-Adams shared some of his Polar exploration

experiences while novelist and Leicester graduate Professor Malcolm Bradbury discussed

Literature and Place at the

Open Day. Actress Janet Suzman, television newsmen John Simpson and Michael Nicholson, DNA pioneer and Leicester Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys were other notable speakers during the year.

They were joined by Deputy Editor of *The Spectator*, Anne McElvoy, and Justice of the International Court, Dame Rosalyn Higgins while inaugural lectures given during the year covered subjects as varied as Genetics, Medicine and Therapeutics, Geography, Mathematics and Computer Science and Economics.

Professor Robert Hinde, of St John's College, Cambridge, delivered the Sluckin Memorial Lecture on the subject of *Violence and War*, while the Jubilee History of Art series of lectures saw outstanding speakers in the field of art address audiences at the University. They



Malcolm Bradbury



Michael Nicholson



Sir Angus Stirling



Dr Patrick Moore



Janet Suzman



included one of the most distinguished critics of modern art, David Sylvester; the Keeper of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Richard Calvocoressi; the art critic of *The Times*, Richard Cork; Dr Margaret Garlake of the Courtauld Institute of Art and Nicholas Watkins of the University.

As part of the Jubilee celebrations, the Library also hosted three lectures, including the prestigious Follett Lecture by Peter Graham.

JUBILEE OPEN DAY

Jubilee Year offered many occasions when members of the public, students, graduates and parents could attend events - but a focus for many of the activities of the University was provided through Open Day on March 15 when more than 10,000 people attended.



Jubilee Open Day was filled with hands-on demonstrations, interactive learning, lectures, quizzes, competitions and fun events that offered learning and leisure. It was a day filled with an amazing variety of events - totalling more than 100 - and almost every aspect of the University was open to scrutiny from an enquiring public.

Leicester University highlighted its community credentials and demonstrated the vast variety of education and research that is carried out for the advancement of learning and the betterment of society. The University's commercial facilities, like bookshops, travel shop, catering and conference venues were also on show along with facilities freely available to the public - the splendid Botanic Garden, the lecture and music programme and the fascinating variety of the University's architectural heritage.

MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Jubilee Year afforded an opportunity for the University to highlight the excellence of its year-round contribution to the local musical scene. The brilliance of South Korean-born pianist Young-Choon Park, a further series by the magnificent Lindsays, and a visit from the distinguished Chilingirian String

Quartet were among the attractions in a packed programme of music where variety was the keynote.

The year saw performances by the University Wind Band, Orchestral and Choral Societies; the Proteus Chamber Orchestra; Elaine Delmar, Keith Smith and the Manhattan Club Trio; the Kingfisher Chorale; the University's Afrikan-Caribbean Choir; Yamanu Jazz Sextet; Shirley Smart; William Howard; Emma Johnson, Susan Alexander-Max and many others.

A DATE WITH DESTINY



Millennium bid for National Space Science Centre is a success

A consortium spearheaded by the University and Leicester City Council was successful in securing £23m funding from the Millennium Commission for a unique National Space Science Centre to be built in Leicester. The success was the culmination of determined efforts by a dedicated team and provided a testament to the excellence of space research at Leicester University over three decades.

The Millennium Commission announced in June that the National Space Science Centre would be its landmark project for the East Midlands region.

The £46 million project, of which Leicester University and the City Council are principal partners, will provide a unique facility and will advance the work of the University in space research.

Chris Smith MP, Chairman of the Millennium Commission, said: "The National Space Science Centre and New Technopolis (in Norwich) embody the concepts of education and science and technology which will be central to all our lives in the new Millennium.

"The National Space Science Centre will be a world class centre of research of which the whole country can be proud."

Millennium Commissioner and astronomer Heather Couper said: "The National Space Science Centre reinforces Britain's position at the forefront of space science research. I am also very excited that it will open up this fascinating subject to over a quarter of a million visitors every year."

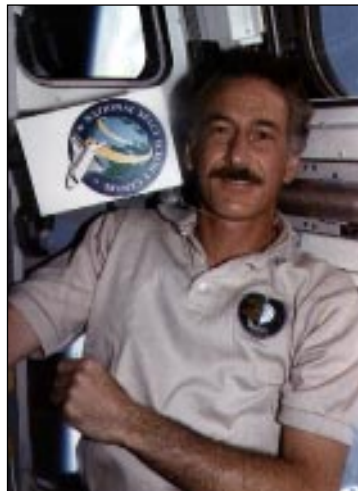
John Eggleston, steering committee chairman and senior partner, KPMG, said: "It's a great honour for Leicester to be behind the National Space Science Centre for Britain - truly a project of international significance."

Leader of Leicester City Council Mr Peter Soulsby said: "The project shows

Leicester's national status. Leicester is open for business and determined to attract developments which regenerate the city."

The Vice-Chancellor Dr Kenneth Edwards added: "The National Space Science Centre will underline Leicester University's place as the leading space research centre in Europe. The Space Science Centre will be an opportunity to showcase that expertise."

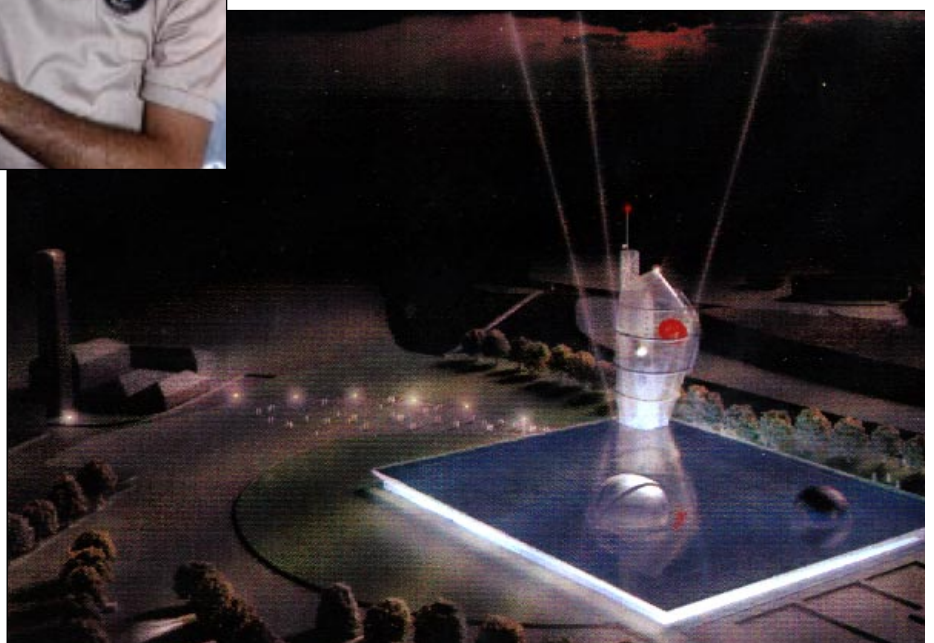
Leicester Promotions Chief Executive Peter Cottingham commented: "This bid has generated an unprecedented level of co-operation between the public and private sector. We now have excellent links to the local communities who will benefit from this major project. The NSSC will form one of the largest tourist attractions within the region providing significant economic benefits for many years."



**A MILLENNIUM PROJECT
SUPPORTED BY FUNDS
FROM THE NATIONAL LOTTERY**

HIGH-FLYING: Left, former NASA Astronaut and Leicester researcher Dr Jeff Hoffman in space with the NSSC logo.

Below: The model of the National Space Science Centre to be built in Leicester.



CENTRE WILL BE OUT OF THIS WORLD

Support for the Centre has been voiced from many quarters. Astronomer Royal Sir Martin Rees and astronomer and broadcaster Dr Patrick Moore are among those who have supported the Centre.

Dr Moore said: "Leicester is at the very forefront of space research and education, and this is exactly the sort of project the Millennium Commission ought to support."

Sir Martin Rees said: "Leicester already has unrivalled credentials among universities as a centre for space science, and this proposal will not only raise that profile further, but meet a real national need."

Britain's first woman in space Helen Sharman said: "People in Britain want to find out more about space, and how space will influence them. I would support anything that would give people more understanding of science."

Science writer Nigel Calder said: "When the crowds flock to Leicester and the NSSC, politicians and the media may at last wake up. There is far more public interest in space exploration and research than they

imagine.

Space flight is our equivalent of the ocean voyages of Columbus's time, and it's just as exciting and useful."

Former Astronaut Dr Jeff Hoffman said at the time of the announcement: "I am absolutely delighted that the Millennium Commission has decided to support the NSSC in Leicester. As a former Leicester resident with strong ties to the UK, I am happy for what this project will offer to all the people in Great Britain, and especially to students.

"As an astronaut and former space scientist, I'm looking

forward to this project spreading to the public at large the tremendous excitement of space exploration. It is a fitting project to celebrate the Millennium."

Astronomer Paul Murdin said: "Space science continues to attract great interest, particularly from the young, and is a proven route by which students are drawn into science.

"Europe now has a first-rate programme in space-science. British scientists and engineers continue to play a leading role in this effort and Leicester is a particularly appropriate location for the NSSC given the University's world class reputation for space research."



TOP CLASS: Astronomer Royal Sir Martin Rees praised the NSSC.

Below: An artist's impression of the Challenger Centre.



Image: IDEAS

The Building

- Design by Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners, chosen after competition
- 35 metre tower with express lifts will provide excellent display facilities for rockets, satellites etc. and a dramatic addition to the landscape
- The main exhibition halls are partly sunk below the ground; a particular feature will be the roof where water will be retained to provide a reflective pool
- The total floor space of the main building will be approximately 11,000 sq.m., of which some will be retained for future expansion
- The NSSC will also incorporate the Research Centre building located at Leicester University.



REACHING OUT



Educational excellence for a global market

Leicester University's campus is a cosmopolitan mix of students from more than 80 countries and the University is among Britain's biggest providers of postgraduate distance learning programmes. Research advances and collaborative projects across a diverse range of fields helped the University share the benefits of knowledge and the excitement of new discoveries with partners around the world.

GLOBAL NETWORK: The Centre for Research into Sport and Society consolidated its position as a major international centre for teaching and research in the sociology of sport. The Centre has distance learning students in 30 countries and attracted its first graduates from Israel and Zimbabwe.

FIRST: The Management Centre, with its managing agents RDI, established a joint management training programme with Globis Management in Japan. Globis is one of five dynamic Japanese companies offering 'cyberspace learning' - Leicester is the first British university to enter into this kind of arrangement in Japan.

COMMUNICATION: The Centre for Mass Communication Research's residential MA included their first student from Eritrea, who had helped produce the country's

Constitution. The first students from Botswana also arrived - one of whom had been responsible for designing a number of Botswana's stamps, based on traditional imagery. Staff continued their involvement in international projects including Women, Media and the Middle East, Info-Kids TV, a pilot programme for continuous vocational training involving eight countries and a comparative study of media coverage of parliamentary institutions.

OLYMPIAD: The Department of Physics and Astronomy was successful in attracting the International Physics Olympiad to Leicester in July 2000. This will bring to the University students from 68 competing countries. The competition consists of theoretical and experimental examinations and many social and cultural events.

language courses cannot ensure a full understanding between people of different cultural backgrounds.

INITIATIVE: The Law Department developed an exchange programme for undergraduates with the National University of Singapore. The International Centre for Management, Law and Industrial Relations celebrated its 10th anniversary during the year.

CO-OPERATION: A new international agreement was signed between the School of Education and the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Research links will be developed in classroom organisation and school effectiveness studies; mentoring and principalship training and curriculum innovation.



MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE: Salt mines on earth may provide valuable insights into life on Mars, according to Leicester research in East Africa.

REMOVING BARRIERS: Dr. Chris Hall and students from the School of Modern Languages studying German met European colleagues for a two-week intensive seminar on intercultural communication. This new and expanding interdisciplinary field has developed out of a recognition that that traditional

CONSERVATION: A Leicester ecology project received praise in the maiden speech of the Earl of Enniskillen in the House of Lords. Dr. David Harper, of the Department of Zoology, with support from Earthwatch, has been running a long-term study of the ecological reasons behind the deteriorating state of Lake Naivasha, Kenya.

FAMINE ALERT: Accidental introduction from Central America of a beetle that attacks maize has caused local famine in Tanzania and devastation to food stores across parts of Africa. The Department for International Development has supported research in the Zoology Department on sex-attractant pheromones which aims to manipulate the behaviour of the beetles. This work will help increase understanding of the role of the pheromones and thereby help to develop new methods of manipulating and eventually controlling the pest.

EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGE: The Pre-Clinical Sciences Department strengthened its far eastern links - Dr. Feng Quiang from the State Key Laboratory of Reproductive Biology in Beijing joined the Department for a prolonged period of research while Dr. Y. Satoh of Nippon Dental University, Nigata, Tokyo, co-operated in a study of the control of mastication in a new laboratory funded by the Wellcome Trust.



Picture: Chris Smith



DRIVING FORCE: Staff and students from the School of Archaeological Studies were involved in digs at Germa in southern Libya, capital of the Garamantes tribe 2,000 years ago, as well as field surveys in Moldova, southern Jordan, central Italy and Spain.

STIMULATING DEBATE: The Centre for European Politics and Institutions in the Department of Politics

organised two major international conferences, supported by the EC: one on relations between the EU and the USA and one on EU policies in the areas of justice and home affairs. The Centre for the Study of Diplomacy established more formal links with several overseas institutions.

PROTECTION: The Division of Chemical Pathology in the Department of Pathology was involved in the launch of a major international project associated with its research interest into mechanisms of autoimmunity. Scientists aim to determine if there is any protective effect

TOGETHER: International students celebrate Cultural Night.

against disease processes such as cancer through increasing antioxidant vitamins in the normal diet.

SEEKING VIEWS: The Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care was involved in a comparative study of

patients' opinions in eight European countries with different systems of primary health care. The research has already identified those aspects of general practice important to patients in every country.

HEALTH REFORM: The Greenwood Institute of Child Health in the Department of Psychiatry received

backing to promote mental health reform in Russia. HealthProm, in association with the Medical School, won an Overseas Development Administration's Know How Fund contract to design and deliver a programme of technical assistance in Russia.

AWARD-WINNING: The Gynaecology Research Group led by Mr. Farook Al-Azzawi, senior lecturer in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, runs the largest Menopause Research Clinic in Europe. The group presented several papers at a conference in Australia and the outstanding work of the unit was recognised with the award of a Team of the Year prize by *Hospital Doctor*.

OUT OF THIS WORLD: Staff in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology were concerned not only with planet Earth, but with extraterrestrial life too. Professor Bill Grant has an exhibition at the Science Museum on salt mines on Earth - which provides valuable insight into life on Mars. Professor Peter Williams visited Madras to study E. Coli induced diarrhoea as part of his ongoing research into the condition which claims many lives in south India. Professor Steven Myint's research into pomegranate extract as an antiviral agent led to collaborations with organisations in India and Hungary.



DEGREES OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Dr. Saka Abadi, the Management Centre's first distance learning student in Indonesia led the way last year for more than 170 other students who joined Leicester University programmes in Indonesia.
- A group of students from Hong Kong were awarded Master's degrees from the Scarman Centre. The two-year part-time course was run by the University and taught at Hong Kong University.
- The first cohort of officers from The Police Staff College, Bramshill, completed a programme at the Scarman Centre. The International Commanders' Programme is taught at the College and is seen as the international leader in the provision of management and operational command skills training for senior police officers.
- A group of teachers from Taejong in Korea were the third group to complete the English language and teaching methodology course offered by the University's English Language Teaching Unit within the School of Modern Languages.
- Lieutenant John Peters, the 'human shield' during the Gulf War, gained his MBA from the Management Centre. Lt. Peters was shot down, held and tortured by the Iraqis for seven weeks during the war.
- The University also presented scholarships to a number of international students. With the help of the British High Commission in Delhi, the University awarded the full cost of fees and maintenance to three students from India.

SHAPING THE FUTURE



Sharing the excitement of new discoveries

Breakthroughs in science and technology, advances in arts and the humanities are helping to increase our knowledge and understanding of the world - and beyond.

ANCIENT FOSSIL: A 440-million-year-old fossil was discovered by a team led by a Leicester geologist. The discovery identified an important new source of evidence of the evolutionary history of soft-bodied animals.

BADGERS' DEFENCE: A DNA breakthrough in the Department of Zoology has been used in criminal proceedings against alleged badger baiters and diggers. The research can match microscopic samples of badger blood and hair found on clothing or dogs with individual animal corpses. The development came after years of research during which the Zoology team worked closely with the University Department of Genetics.

REMARKABLE DISCOVERIES: The excavation of a medieval vellum factory - probably the source of the vellum for the Lindisfarne Gospels - on Holy Island was made by the School of Archaeological

Studies. Closer to home, the School's contract archaeology service ULAS, University of Leicester Archaeological Services, found the earliest prehistoric site ever to be discovered in Leicestershire, near Launde. They also discovered a Bronze Age ritual site, at Birstall, with evidence for human sacrifice and an Anglo-Saxon settlement at Eye Kettleby - where a pot full of cremated bones, pictured, was uncovered.



exists - or has ever existed - on Mars. The Mars Express mission was initiated by the Open University's Professor Colin Pillinger whose team has linked with the Physics and Astronomy Department to set up a European consortium with the aim of developing a Lander module to place instruments on the Martian surface.

EPIC PROJECT: The X-ray Astronomy group in the Department of Physics and Astronomy is heavily involved in the European Space Agency's next cornerstone mission, XMM. This is the largest X-ray telescope ever launched and will provide information on the creation and redistribution of elements in the universe.

SUPERNOVA: A scientific highlight of the X-ray Astronomy programme in the Department of Physics and Astronomy was the discovery of evidence that following the destruction of a star in a supernova explosion, the outburst can linger for tens or even hundreds of thousands of years.

FIRST IMPACT: The Department of Physics and Astronomy was voted first for research impact by the Institute of Physics, reflecting the continuing excellence of its programmes in Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Plasmas, Earth Observation Science and Solid State Physics. The University was also placed top in the field of animal and plant science by the Institute of Scientific Information - the world's leading analyst of science publications. The Institute

COOL FIND: Scientists from the Department of Physics and Astronomy discovered the coolest brown dwarf to be identified. It was located in a star cluster commonly known as the Seven Sisters - and is one of only four brown dwarfs ever recorded. Stellar observers from the University also took part in a project on the Space Shuttle Columbia, the 80th shuttle voyage, to investigate white dwarf stars.

BEAM LINE: Dr Chris Binns of the Physics and Astronomy Department worked on a collaborative project to build a new source of ultra violet light to enhance the facilities of Daresbury Laboratory, Cheshire. The advanced Vacuum Ultraviolet beamline will be built on the Synchrotron Radiation Source at Daresbury and used for research in all the natural sciences.

MARS MISSION: The University continued to further the boundaries of space research with a new collaborative initiative to discover whether or not life



FLY-BY-WIRE: After many years of research in the Department of Engineering into the design of fly-by-wire flight control systems for helicopters, successful tests were carried out in flight on a Bell 205 helicopter.

listed plant and animal science at Leicester as top of the list for citations per paper.

GENETIC ENGINEERING: Pioneering research in the Department of Botany on the responses of plants to light signals led to the use of genetic engineering techniques to improve crop plant performance in the field.

GAME THEORY: Research by University psychologists using game theory suggested that attempts to eliminate crime by imprisoning increasing numbers of offenders was futile - because others took their place. The study in the Department of Psychology used a mathematical game to study the evolution of antisocial behaviour.

PRIVATE DETECTIVES: The Scarman Centre completed a two-year investigation which delved into the true world of the private detective - beyond that of the television sleuth or the stuff of thrillers and mysteries. They uncovered a reality in which private detectives did play



Picture: Leicester Mercury

LIVING FOSSIL: A worm, thought to be new to science, was discovered by a team in the Department of Zoology. The type of South African velvet worm was discovered by student Beverley Sherbon while researching for her Ph.D.

a useful role in a wide variety of fields - some of which might potentially encroach on the preserve of the police. The Centre was also involved in a number of other research projects including the control of firearms in the EU; retail crime; drugs in prison; the use of ID cards; the notion of an 'underclass', and policing in Europe.

'SEX TOURISTS': Popular stereotypes of 'sex tourists' and child prostitutes were shattered by a study in the Department of Sociology based on interviews with the 'sex tourists', prostitutes, pimps and

RATINGS CONFIRM UNIVERSITY'S HIGH STANDING

The University's standing as a leading research institution was confirmed by the results of the Research Assessment Exercise carried out by the Higher Education Funding Council.

In the results of the 1996 Exercise, the University's tally of subject areas awarded the top ratings of 5-star or 5 went up to six. This compares with one top rating in 1989 and three in 1992.

The following subject areas received a 5 or 5-star rating: Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Physics, Archaeology, Genetics and Economic and Social History assessed together with English Local History.

The University had a total of 34 subject areas assessed and was one of only 15 universities in the whole country to enter 90 per cent or more of its academic staff in the Exercise. The results reveal that some 94 per cent of staff entered at Leicester are in areas rated 3a or above.

brothel keepers. They found that child sexual exploitation was inextricably linked with racism, sexism and poverty.

JILLS OF ALL TRADES: Tight controls on education spending, increased class sizes and other demands on schools have led to the growth of classroom assistants in primary schools, a study by the School of Education found. So prominent has the

role of classroom support staff become that the Department of Education and Employment instigated pilot courses across the country for Specialist Teacher assistants.

SMALL CLASSES: Small classes do lead to better

teaching - but teachers fail to take full advantage of the opportunities they offer, a study by the School of Education revealed. The study found that there were many more advantages for teachers and pupils in small classes although teachers needed to be trained to make the most of small classes.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT: Former Science and Technology Minister Ian Taylor backed a national report prepared by staff in the School of Education assessing successful strategies for attracting girls into science, engineering and technology.

The report stated that the alienation of girls from the world of science and technology is neither inevitable nor irreversible.

GENE HUNT: Scientists from the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics are involved in a national campaign to recruit 1,500 sets of brothers and sisters - in an attempt to uncover the origins of high blood pressure. The five-year project involves researchers at six British universities in equal partnership. The five-year study will focus on the inherited aspects of high blood pressure.

ALL IN THE MIND? A new research group in behavioural neuroscience was set up in the Department of Psychology. Collaborative research on brain and behaviour, and its disturbance in clinical disorders, is under way with the Department of Cell Physiology and Pharmacology and the Centre for the Mechanisms of Human Toxicity.

HOME TRUTHS: A new study of attitudes and behaviour towards financial planning for care in old age was carried out in the Nuffield Community Care Studies Unit, part of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. One suggestion from the research was that people should be encouraged to think of homes not as castles to be passed on but as major capital holdings, representing a wise investment to provide for care in old age.

PERFECT CUPPA! Research carried out in the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics Division of Clinical Pharmacology suggested that cups of tea may reduce the risk of strokes and heart problems. Although the benefits are mild - there is an effect on cholesterol and blood pressure, the study revealed.

KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE



Medical work of University provides practical benefits

Leicester University Medical School, and other University departments concerned with cognate disciplines, provide enormous health benefits both within the immediate region and beyond.

PATIENT CARE: Researchers from the University Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care are involved in a unique trial project comparing a Hospital at Home scheme with ward admissions. The aim of the study is to compare the process, outcome and effectiveness of care for patients.

QUALITY: The first randomised trial of out-of-hours care provided by deputising services and practice doctors was conducted by the Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care in conjunction with the University of Manchester. The study found that patients place more importance on being able to see a doctor out-of-hours than on getting one from their own practice.



ULTIMATE PAINKILLER: A compound which holds out hope for sufferers from Alzheimer's Disease and works as a powerful painkiller without the side effects of conventional drugs, is being investigated in the Chemistry Department. Toxic substances secreted by a brightly coloured tree frog from South America inspired the development of the compound which has been made in the laboratory eliminating the need to work with the frogs themselves.



Picture: Leicester Mercury

BIOLOGICAL WARFARE: A team from the Biochemistry Department, headed by Professor Robert Liddington, has investigated a weapon of biological warfare to assess its potential benefits. The innovative research into anthrax suggests that it could be used in the treatment of genetic diseases such as muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis.

DEAR DIARY: The Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care conducted the first project of its kind in the country by asking patients to fill in diaries describing their health care. The project, run by the Eli Lilly National Clinical Audit Centre in the Department, is set to benefit the whole country by providing feedback on patients' satisfaction.

PERSONAL RECORD: A new development involving a team from the University Department of Psychiatry is helping patients in Leicestershire. Staff from the Greenwood Institute of Child Health, part of the Department of Psychiatry's Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Fosse Health NHS Trust worked together on special pages for the Personal Child Health Record which is carried by parents within the Trust's area. It will enable details of the child to be written down and updated by everyone seeing the child.

HELPING HANDS: Doctors from the Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences are studying hands that have been affected by nerve damage. They will examine the possible benefits of special exercises which, if successful, could restore agility even if the damage occurred some years before.

VISIONARY WORK: An extensive study being conducted in Melton Mowbray by the Department of Ophthalmology is likely to benefit the whole country. The five-year Melton Eye Study, involving more than 1,200 local people aged between 55-75, reached the end of its first phase.

CARE: Research undertaken by the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, funded by MRC and Trent Regional Office, is examining the different patterns of care for patients with diabetes. Around one-third of diabetes patients visit their GPs at special clinics or at regular check-ups. Hospital clinics see less than half the patients with diabetes. The study is trying to determine whether there is a relationship between the pattern of routine care for diabetes and a patient's likelihood of being admitted to hospital.



PRACTICAL SKILLS: As part of the re-organisation of undergraduate medical education, the Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care was given lead responsibility for an innovative integrated course in Clinical Methods in which all students spend eight weeks full time in a mix of general practice and hospital settings in their third or fourth year. The Department was principally responsible for devising the course content and the process of assessment.

INCONTINENCE STUDY: In the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health activity within the MRC Incontinence Programme of studies accelerated notably. In the prevalence study, 75% of Leicestershire GPs agreed to participate, and 14,500 people on their lists have been mailed, of whom 70% responded. 1,000 home interviews of people with urinary incontinence have been done (80% response) by nine trained part-time interviewers.

TEACHING INITIATIVE: A new multi-agency teaching initiative was launched at Prince Philip House Health Centre for all third-year medical students. Students spend two morning sessions at the innovative centre which gives them an opportunity to appreciate the range of professionals involved in primary health care in both the voluntary and statutory sectors.

SAFE SURGERY: The Department of Surgery was involved in research which provided direct benefits for patients. Staff examined ways in which vascular operations could be made as safe as possible and became a model for other surgeons examining the Department's endovascular programme in aortic aneurysms.

NEW PROJECTS: The Department of Psychiatry began several new projects including an evaluation of the early treatment of psychosis; the efficacy of initial intervention in bulimia nervosa cases; and a study of aspects of Alzheimer's Disease.

MIND AND BODY: The Faculty of Medicine's Medical Physics Division worked on a new way of visualising the internal connections of the brain. This looks at the diffusion of water molecules as they move inside the tissue fibres of the brain. The Department also studied techniques for evaluating the severity and extent of heart disease and the assessment of new treatments for stroke.

DRUG DESIGN: Scientists in the Centre for Mechanisms of Human Toxicity examined a family of enzymes which are the body's first line of defence against drugs and other foreign chemicals. They developed new methods for understanding the way in which the



Picture: Barbara Evripidou

HEALTH LEADERS: Attending a briefing on the joint Medical School plans are (from left) Professor Ed Hillhouse, of Warwick University, Gary Reay, of Walsgrave Hospitals NHS Trust, Michael Shattock, Registrar of Warwick University, Professor Frank Harris, Dean of Leicester University Medical School, Dr Stewart Petersen, Head of the Division of Medical Education, Leicester University, and David Loughton, Chief Executive of Walsgrave NHS Trust.

enzyme acts on a wide range of chemicals to which the body is exposed. The aim is to predict the action of these enzymes on new drugs in order to speed up the drug design process.

CHILDREN: The Department of Child Health created a group of clinical research teams working towards a single common goal - the establishment of the causes, treatment and ultimately prevention of virus-induced wheezing disorders in young children.

COT DEATHS: The Child Health Department was involved in a new study of how babies control their breathing. The study will examine the theory that babies may transiently become less sensitive to changes in oxygen levels.

IT'S A PAIN: The Department of Anaesthesia, in collaboration with Manchester University, was commissioned by the Department of Health to examine clinical standards and services in pain management. A new MSc course in pain management was set up and appointments made to the department to complement work in anaesthesia and pain management.

PROPOSALS FOR JOINT MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Universities of Leicester and Warwick prepared a bid for a joint Medical School.

The possible creation of a joint undergraduate Medical School is in anticipation of the strong

likelihood that the Medical Workforce Standing Advisory Committee will recommend that the Government increases significantly the number of medical students being educated in the United Kingdom.

Leicester Medical School has an intake currently of

175 students per year. The new proposal would allow an intake very much greater than this, and would involve in a significant fashion the Coventry and Warwickshire hospitals.

ADVANCEMENT



Developments in teaching, new technology and learning

Teaching and learning was enhanced by the use of the latest technologies ensuring that the University remained in the vanguard of efforts to equip students with the latest developments in the world of learning.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: The Learning Technology Group was established within the Computer Centre to develop teaching and learning resources using the World Wide Web, following on the success of the STILE (Students' and Teachers' Integrated Learning Environment) and CWIS (Campus Wide Information System) projects. The University's Teaching and Learning Support Network Centre is also part of this group and is active in supporting the wider academic community to integrate technology into teaching and learning by disseminating experience at Leicester.

INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES: The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science continued its tradition of high academic standards with new and innovative teaching techniques, such as the use of student presentations, project work and supplemental instruction - the last of which attracted favourable national media attention.

THAT'S IT: A research project in the Department of Museum Studies examined the provision of museum IT training for the 21st century and will form the basis of new developments in teaching in this area.

INTERACTIVE TOURS: The School of Archaeological Studies' commitment to innovative computer-based teaching included the development of interactive tours around Roman buildings and Internet materials being made available to classics students.

LEARNING ON THE WEB: In the Department of Pathology's Division of Histopathology, The Biology of Cancer's special studies module was organised for the third time and attracted a full quota

of students. Details about this course, and the Mechanisms of Disease module were provided on the Campus Wide Information System for the benefit of University medical students. The Departmental Web pages were also updated and the Internet was used to provide a web site for the Ion channel research group at Leicester.

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE: The Department of Economics launched a new initiative in learning technology. In partnership with Shue Yan College, Hong Kong, work began on a pilot distance-learning course, based entirely on the World Wide Web.



INFORMATION SUPER HIGHWAY: *The University makes use of the latest technology to keep staff and students at the cutting edge of developments.*

VALIDATION: In recommending a much higher profile for the role of learning technology as a means of enhancing student learning, the National Commission of Inquiry into Higher Education effectively validated several years' work by the CTI Centre for Geography, Geology and Meteorology, in the Department of Geography. Now approaching its ninth year, the Centre promotes the appropriate use of

technology in teaching through a variety of publications, both digital and conventional, professional development workshops and other activities.

COLLABORATION: *GeographyCal*, a Teaching and Learning Technology Programme project led by the CTI Centre in the Geography Department, involved the active collaboration of 100 academics throughout the UK in the design and specification of a suite of 17 computer-assisted learning modules which provide 40 hours of interactive learning.

ELECTRONIC CATALOGUE: The English Local History Department was involved with electronically cataloguing a collection of photographic plates by Principal of the University College Mr F Attenborough as well as the Department's extensive collection of maps and prints.

CARING ENVIRONMENT: An award of £164,570 was made by HEFCE under its Special Initiative to encourage High Quality Provision for Students with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities. The three-year project aims to develop a whole institutional approach to providing support for students with mental health difficulties.

The work is being undertaken by the Educational Development and Support Centre in collaboration with the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and the Freeman's Common Health Centre.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES: Support from the University's Teaching and Learning Initiative has assisted the Department of Law in developing the

postgraduate programmes in Welfare Law by recruiting outside professionals to undertake the course. Other Master's courses were also being developed.

NEW CENTRES: Two new centres were inaugurated by special lectures in the Department of History: a new Centre for the History of Religions, Inter-Faith Dialogue and Pluralism and the Centre for Early-Modern History.

NEW PLATFORM: A Centre for American Studies is being established in the Faculty of Arts. This venture will crystallise a number of existing initiatives and provide a new platform for the development of American Studies at Leicester.

TEACHING INITIATIVE: The School of Education and Homerton College, Cambridge, launched a new science teaching initiative - the SCICentre. Based at the University, this is a national Centre for initial teacher training in primary school science.

SCIENCE SKILLS: In the Pre-Clinical Sciences Department, curriculum development work continues with staff contributing specially devised third-year science skills courses to the new student-centred medical curriculum. These courses were taken for the first time in 1997 as the initial wave of students moved through their professional training. A newly-approved Postgraduate Diploma Course in Biomedical Technology, run with the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, is fully operational, with the first cohort of students successfully having completed their training in 1997.

MASTER'S PROGRAMME: The Urban History Centre in the Department of Economic and Social History was awarded funds by the European Community to establish, jointly with the University of Stockholm, Leiden and University College, Dublin, a new European Master's programme in European Urbanisation.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE: The Economic and Social History Department was represented on the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments (Scotland) panel which involves listing and documenting 20th-century buildings.

HONORARY DEGREES FOR A SPECIAL YEAR

Honorary degrees were first awarded at Leicester in 1958 and, since then, more than 300 leading international, national and local figures have received honorary degrees. To celebrate the double Jubilee Year of the University, the list of honorary degrees included five former students and members of staff who, in achieving high public distinction, had brought great credit to the University.

Honorary Degrees Awarded at Leicester



Professor Raymond Baker, (D.Sc.). Chief Executive of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, who read Chemistry at Leicester.



Mr. Jack Birkenshaw, (MA). Cricket Manager of Leicestershire County Cricket Club.



Dr. Heather Couper, (D.Sc.). Astronomer and broadcaster, who gained a degree in Physics/Astronomy.



Ms Sue Cook, (D.Litt). Television and radio presenter, who read Psychology at Leicester.



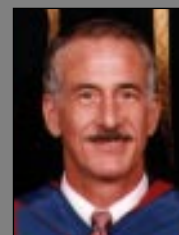
Miss Carol Galley, (LL.D.). Vice-Chairman of Mercury Asset Management Group, who graduated from Leicester with a degree in German.



Her Excellency Dame Rosalyn Higgins, (LL.D.). Judge at the International Court of Justice.



Sir Dai Rees, (D.Sc.). Former Secretary to the Medical Research Council.



Dr. Jeff Hoffman, (D.Sc.). Former NASA Astronaut and researcher in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Honorary Degrees Awarded at Nene



The Right Honourable Sir Stephen Brown, (LL.D.). President of the Family Division of the High Court of Justice.



Mr. Patrick Coldstream, CBE, (LL.D.). Former Director of the Council for Industry and Higher Education.



Sir Richard George, (LL.D.). Chairman and Managing Director of Weetabix Ltd. and Chairman of Whitworths Holdings Ltd.



Mrs. Anita Tasker, OBE, (LLM). Magistrate.



Commander Michael Saunders Watson, CBE, (D.Litt). The owner of Rockingham Castle.

Continued overleaf

Continued from previous page

COURSE DEVELOPMENTS: Large numbers of applicants were attracted to the postgraduate courses in Clinical and Forensic Psychology offered by the Department of Psychology. The MSc course in Forensic and Legal Psychology by distance learning exceeded all expectations in the interest it generated. The first intake of students in Criminal Law and Justice; Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management occurred over the year.

NEW SECTION: In the Department of Psychiatry, a section of Social and Epidemiological Psychiatry has been established. Based at the Brandon Mental Health Unit at Leicester General Hospital, it is involved in a study of the mental and physical health of mothers after birth and a study of the prevention of post-natal depression by brief antenatal intervention.

SPEARHEADING TRAINING: The University, in partnership with the Northamptonshire Inspection and Advisory Service, was awarded a contract from the Teacher Training Agency to assess aspiring headteachers in the East Midlands for the award of National Professional Qualification for Headship. The contract will lead to the establishment of a regional assessment centre located at the University Centre, Northampton.

TEACHING PARTNERSHIPS: The teaching of ophthalmology to medical students was completely reorganised - third-year students are now allocated to consultant teaching partnerships. In addition, they are offered an introductory course on clinical skills in ophthalmology and this has been widely taken up.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: A first in Britain for any university department was achieved by The Centre for Labour Market Studies which gained accreditation for its distance learning courses in the USA. The Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council awarded CLMS accreditation for five years from June 1997. The Centre also committed itself to achieving Investors in People status.

TOUCHING THE STARS: Visually impaired children are being given a chance quite literally to reach for the stars, thanks to a project in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. A teaching pack written in braille and

including models of the planets which can be used as part of the schools' National Curriculum programme, was developed with funding support from the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council.

MEDIEVAL WORLD: A new centre was launched with its base in the English Department. The Medieval Research Centre was established to co-ordinate research in medieval subjects across the Faculty of Arts.



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

*medieval
research
centre*

TEACHING PRAISE: Aspects of Modern Languages' teaching and Engineering at the University were praised by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. French, German and Italian were assessed and all received gradings of either 4 (the top grade) or 3 in each of the six aspects of education assessed.

During the year, Senate and Council agreed that the individual departments of French, German and Italian should be formally disestablished and the full constitutional powers associated with a department conferred upon the School of Modern Languages. The Language Centre and English Language Teaching Unit combined to form the new Language Services Unit. The Engineering Department received ratings of 4 for student support and guidance, 4 for learning resources and 3 in other areas.

CARING ROLE: The Director of the School of Social Work, Professor Jane Aldgate, was appointed Advisor to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health in its work relating to children looked after by local authorities.

NEW ACCOLADE: The pioneer of DNA genetic fingerprinting, Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, was selected as the winner of the Albert Einstein World Award of

Science - regarded by the international scientific community as on a par with a Nobel Prize. The award, by members of the World Cultural Council, takes into special consideration those investigations which have brought benefit and well-being to mankind.

HONOURS: Three former students and members of staff were honoured in the New Year's Honours List. Michael Jack, MP for Fylde, was made a Privy Councillor; Professor John Edwin Enderby, erstwhile Professor in the Physics and Astronomy Department, received the CBE for his services to physics; and Mrs. Kathleen Curnock, a former member of the School of Social

Work, was awarded an MBE for her voluntary services work.

DEGREES: A total of 528 students received their postgraduate degrees in the first degree congregations of the University's Jubilee Year held on December 17. Students reading for Master's and Ph.D degrees were presented with their degrees by the Chancellor, Sir Michael Atiyah. The first cohorts of

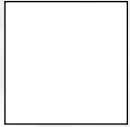
students from the following courses received their degrees: MA in English Literature and Literary Research; MSc in Criminal Justice Studies; MSc in Public Order and Information Management; MSc in Study of Security Management; MSc in Finance; MSc in Marketing; MSc in Forensic Psychology. The University awarded degrees to the first graduates from the Doctor of Clinical Psychology and the Doctor of Education taught doctorate programmes.

SUMMER SUCCESS: At the summer degree congregations, a total of 1,960 students received first degrees, including more than 120 graduating with first class honours and nearly 1,000 with upper second class honours. A total of 936 postgraduate students, including 398 on distance learning courses, also gained their degrees. Graduates of the University's Associated College, Nene College, Northampton, numbered more than 2,000.



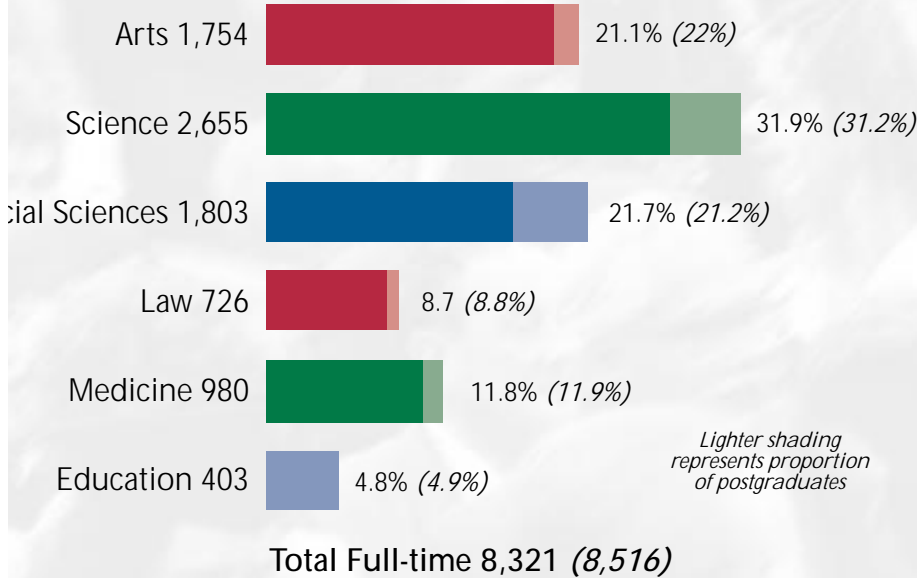
FLOURISHING: *The Engineering Department is housed in a striking Listed Building.*

Picture: Paul Smith

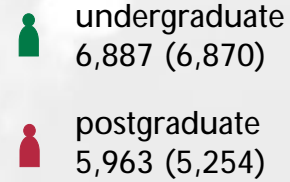


STATISTICS 1996/97

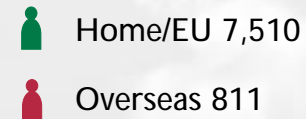
Full-time Student Numbers



Total Registered Students



Distribution of Full-time Students



Mature Students

(full-time undergraduates over 21 on admission)



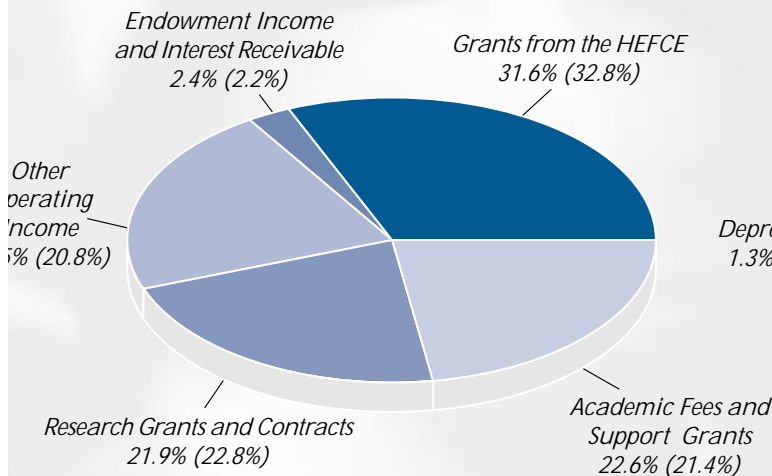
Staff Numbers



Distribution of Students by Gender

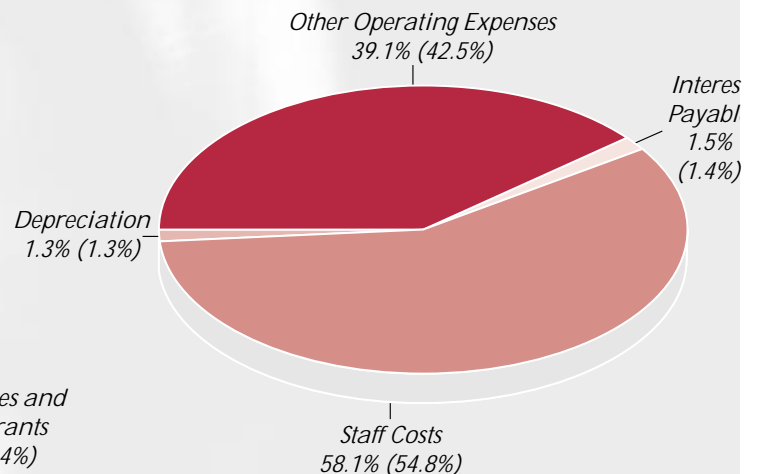


Income



Total Income: £112m

Expenditure



Total Expenditure: £108m