



# University of Leicester



# University of Leicester

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# Annual Report 2002 • 2003

Visitor  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

OFFICERS 2002-03

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#### COVER PICTURES

Front cover: (left to right)

International students from over 80 countries play a vital role in the academic, cultural and social life of the University – 26% of these are taking postgraduate courses – the University of Leicester has the highest proportion of taught postgraduates in the country.

PAW (Position Adjustable Workbench), constructed by the University's Space Research Centre Beagle 2 team – the University is one of Europe's leading centres for space research.

Researchers in the University's Department of Oncology, based at the Leicester Royal Infirmary – Leicester is one of the first centres to be selected in the world to trial a revolutionary new cancer prevention drug, based on a natural compound found in red wine.

Back cover: (left to right)

University of Leicester Archaeological Services staff, working alongside local community groups, helped to excavate the largest hoard of Iron Age gold and silver coins ever found in Britain – the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, grade 5 RAE rated in both disciplines, achieved a maximum teaching score from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Transformation – Tree of Life, Bronze by Helaine Blumenfeld, FRBS, one of over 34 exhibits in this year's major international sculpture exhibition at the University's Botanic Garden – the University continues to raise the arts profile of the community and region, with performances, classes and workshops open to the public.

University of Leicester graduates have gone into careers as varied as medicine, engineering, financial services, law, computing, sales and marketing, scientific research, public service and teaching.

There is one companion volume to this report:

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2002/2003: Contains Treasurer's Report, statements on corporate governance and the responsibilities of Council, and detailed accounts for the year ended July 31 2003.

Available from  
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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.

# The University

- ▶ Established 1921 as University College
- ▶ Gained full University status in 1957
- ▶ More than 19,000 students
- ▶ Turnover £155m
- ▶ Total estate of 94 hectares
- ▶ Rated in UK top 20 universities by the *Financial Times*. Medical School top ranked by the *Guardian*
- ▶ Biggest percentage of taught postgraduates in the country – topped the *Financial Times*' league table for taught postgraduate education for three consecutive years
- ▶ Among the top 10 for research income per full-time member of staff
- ▶ Research grants and contracts announced in past two years totalling over £80m
- ▶ Announced £300m Development Plan over 30 years
- ▶ Won Queen's Anniversary Prizes in 1994 and 2002 for achievements in Physics and Astronomy and Genetics
- ▶ Renowned for the discovery of DNA genetic fingerprinting by Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys
- ▶ Houses Europe's biggest academic space research centre
- ▶ Co-founder of the £52m National Space Centre in Leicester
- ▶ Rated excellent for teaching in every assessment since 1998
- ▶ 84% of staff entered for research assessment found to be conducting national or international calibre research
- ▶ Involved in a £400m investment programme in health and medical education
- ▶ Over 3,000 staff
- ▶ Students from over 100 countries
- ▶ Over 83% of undergraduates and 97% of postgraduates entered employment, further training or other activity
- ▶ Graduates represented among top 100 UK companies
- ▶ Management Centre MBA is AMBA accredited
- ▶ Houses one of largest cancer prevention research groups in Europe
- ▶ School of Historical Studies among biggest in country
- ▶ Diverse centres specialising in humanities research, *inter alia* sport and society, sociology of football, ethnicity, criminology and pluralism
- ▶ More than 140 undergraduate programmes, 100 postgraduate programmes and some 400 certificate and general interest courses

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# Vice-Chancellor's Introduction

► The academic year 2002-2003 has had major significance for the higher education sector. Never before has the UK witnessed such a wide-ranging public debate about the role and purpose of higher education in society and the social and financial implications of expanding the system. Much of the impetus for the public debate comes from the White Paper, *The Future of Higher Education* that was published in January 2003 and put higher education in the public eye. One thing is apparent – change is inevitable and universities need to respond positively to many of the challenges. In the University of Leicester colleagues are already working very hard to bring about effective changes, to make the University more responsive, to develop strategies for teaching and learning, to develop and enhance the research base to engage in world class activities and to work in partnership with a range of institutions within and beyond the higher education sector. All together, the work of colleagues has contributed to the University being highly rated in a range of media league tables with our Medical School being named by *The Guardian* as the best in the UK. Overall, we were delighted to be placed in the top twenty Universities by the *Financial Times* for the third consecutive year.

To sustain and develop an effective university, it is essential to establish a firm financial base. This continues to be challenging but I am delighted to report that once again we achieved a surplus in the last financial year of £2.5 million on a turnover of £155 million. This is essential if we are to continue to establish a thriving University community. The success of my colleagues is all the more commendable at a time when the University has only received a small increase in government grant but has grown its turnover by 26% over the last three years. This result is



the consequence of a team effort by all members of the University working to ensure that we achieve the very best in everything we do.

Our financial achievements have allowed us to think creatively about the development of our estate. Working with a team of Development Plan Architects, we put together our vision for the University of Leicester over the next thirty years which will see new buildings on our academic and residential sites and a range of refurbishments so that staff and students are working in state of the art facilities. But plans are all very fine – it is essential they are translated into action. This year has witnessed the largest building programme in the history of the University. We have completely refurbished our Chemistry laboratories where staff, who have worked in a range of institutions, report they are working with the best facilities that have ever been made available to them. Our School of Archaeology and Ancient History has moved into a refurbished building complete with laboratory facilities. This will allow the School to develop its scientific activities and to grow its already thriving postgraduate community.

The first new building in our current development was completed in June. We

now have appropriate space for our Mathematical Modelling Centre – an interdisciplinary research group that brings together staff and postgraduate students from Mathematics, Engineering, Chemistry, and Physics. In addition, more accommodation has been provided for our Space Research Centre. Meanwhile, the physical landscape continues to change with the construction of a £20 million Biomedical building that should be available by July 2004. Much time has also been devoted to planning the Library extension and refurbishment which it is intended to start in the autumn of 2004. This will give us a Library that is appropriate for the 21st century and will be central to our academic development.

All the activities that take place in the University of Leicester are intended to enhance and develop the quality of teaching and research. It is the contributions of our academic staff that gives the University a high profile. There are many detailed examples of academic achievement provided throughout this report. This year we were delighted when Professor Nilesh Samani in our Medical School was awarded a British Heart Foundation Chair (one of only 20 made available in the UK). This will bring additional equipment and staff to develop the very successful research in the newly established Department of Cardiovascular Sciences.

In the Social Sciences, Professor Alan Felstead and Professor Lorna Unwin have won a grant of over £1 million from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to study workplace education. This project is part of the ESRC's Teaching and Learning Research Programme - a £26 million development that brings together social and educational researchers to build research capacity, to innovate in the social sciences and link with policymakers and practitioners.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

► THE University's Division of Medicine for the Elderly received funding of over £1.7 million for three national pioneering studies on blood pressure and strokes that are being co-ordinated at the University. The grants represent a great achievement for Leicester which now leads the field in this area and the results of Leicester

research will significantly alter the management of stroke patients worldwide.

► A MAJOR European trial studying different blood pressure treatments and the effects of additional cholesterol lowering, announced that it has stopped part of its trial earlier than expected because results collected already show a

significant benefit to patients on one of its treatments. It found that among 10,297 patients with hypertension and cholesterol levels lower than currently recommended for treatment, those given the cholesterol-lowering drug atorvastatin suffered significantly fewer heart attacks and strokes compared with those receiving the placebo treat-

ment. The University of Leicester was one of the largest centres in Europe involved in the Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial (ASCOT).

► THE UNIVERSITY'S Centre for Labour Market Studies will deliver its new professional Doctorate in Social Science by Distance Learning in partnership with Hong Kong

Indeed, there are many ways in which our research is for a wide audience and captures the public imagination. This year the Department of Physics and Astronomy has worked with the Open University in partnership with EADS Atrium to develop Beagle 2 – the UK's first mission to another planet. Missions to Mars have always been challenging, but Beagle 2 like others before it, has advanced our scientific knowledge and increased the public profile of British science – an achievement in its own right.

It is these research activities and many others that inform teaching. Our students are taught by academics who are leaders in their fields. They bring subjects alive, and get students to develop a range of skills that can be used in future careers. The graduating class of 2003 pushed the standard even higher in terms of the quality of degrees obtained. One

*'The success of my colleagues is all the more commendable at a time when the University has only received a small increase in government grant but has grown its turnover by 26% over the last three years.'*

group it was particularly pleasing to congratulate were the first graduates from the newly established two year Foundation Degree in Educational Studies for Teaching Assistants we had developed with members of Bishop Grosseteste College in Lincoln. This has led to many new developments in curriculum, pedagogy and assessment, and new partnerships with other higher education institutions.

Partnership has been at the centre of debate in the sector this year. The University already plays a major role in the region through the East Midlands Universities Association where ten higher education institutions collaborate on a range of research activities. In turn, we also collaborate in other groups that bring together institutions in the East and West Midlands. The Leicester-

Warwick Medical Schools based on a federal structure is working effectively by bringing together groups of researchers from both Universities. Another significant development is the UK Healthcare Education Partnership involving City University, the University of Ulster, the Royal College of Nursing and the University of Leicester who are engaged in developing post registration courses in nurse education. This development firmly places the University in the forefront of e-learning initiatives which will link with our distance learning activities, where we are seen by the Financial Times as the market leader at post-graduate level.

The year also saw a huge amount of planning to put in place a new partnership agreement between the University, Bishop Grosseteste College (BGC) in Lincoln and Newman College in Birmingham. Each institu-

tion retains its autonomy but we can see the advantages of working together. Initially, the University will validate all courses at Bishop Grosseteste and Newman but it is also envisaged that a number of other projects will be developed. Already we have been successful with a new centre in Science Education with BGC and the University of Nottingham and new work for the Teacher Training Agency with Newman. This is just a start. We want to develop further activities between the three institutions and with members of the Colleges-University of Leicester network that has now increased in number from fourteen to twenty two.

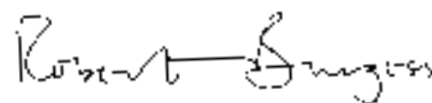
The University of Leicester has continued to engage in a number of distinctive activities that rely on teams of people working together. Three different examples illustrate how

developing strong working relationships is a recipe for success. First, we were delighted that our Department of Genetics won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for its distinguished work in research and teaching. Several celebrations were held during the year. The most significant was marked by the Awards Ceremony at Buckingham Palace when students and staff were present to receive this award from Her Majesty the Queen. This award brings great credit on members of the department of whom we are very proud.

A further team effort of a different kind included all members of the Residences, Conferences and Catering offices who have successfully grown our conference business by 83% over the last four years. In addition, the conference trade in 2002-2003 increased by 20%. This is an achievement of which all can be very proud as the work involved raises our profile with conference visitors and contributes to the finances of the University and its academic development.

Finally, we held our second Sculpture in the Garden exhibition at the Botanic Garden. This year the show was more ambitious and received sponsorship from the Arts Council and a number of local companies. The exhibition resulted in two Sculptures being donated to the University and a further twenty pieces being loaned to us. It was all the result of tremendous hard work by the sculptor Helaine Blumenfeld and Emeritus Professor Bill Forster working with the gardeners, the graphics team and other members of the Estates Department. Again, a team effort brings success and in this case, contributes to cultural activities in the region.

These examples also highlight another feature of the University, namely that our success relies on our staff to whom I once again convey my thanks for their dedication and commitment.



*Professor Robert Burgess,  
Vice-Chancellor*

R J A N U A R Y F E B R U A R Y M A R C H A P R I L M A Y J U N E J U L Y

University from April 2004. This illustrates the University's responsiveness to its overseas markets and recognition of the quality of its distance learning by a high status university in that region.

► RESEARCHERS led by University are extending a project to fit minute backpack satellite transmitters on flamingos to provide a solid

base for tracking their movements across primary feeding lakes in East Africa. This pilot study is being undertaken to attempt to answer the many unsolved questions surrounding the unpredictable movements of the lesser flamingo, *Phoenicaias minor*, and thereby increasing its chances of survival.

► A TEAM of University sociolo-

gists has won funding from the Economic and Social Research Council to examine issues surrounding children's clothing consumption. They hope to understand what motivates children to choose the fashions they wear, how clothing purchases are negotiated within the context of the family and something of the signifi-

cance of clothing and fashion in different aspects of children's lives. ► SCIENTISTS from the University are among the first European researchers exploring some of the most remote and inhospitable areas of the world thanks to a unique 1 million euro (£625,000) collaboration between Europe and China. Leicester researchers have ►



Image: Paul Mellor

**CELEBRATION AND JUBILATION:** During a year punctuated by distinctive achievements, the University of Leicester received Royal recognition. (Main) Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess and Head of Genetics Dr Annette Cashmore are presented before HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on the occasion of the University winning the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. (Inset, L-R) Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex at the University's Richard Attenborough Centre; HRH The Duke of Kent visited the Department of Engineering (pictured) and the Department of Genetics; HRH Prince Michael of Kent visited the Scarman Centre.

*Royal visits and honours  
during the year were a testament  
to the strength and achievements  
of the University across many disciplines.*

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

◀ recently collaborated with other academic partners to mount expeditions to unique soda lakes, salt lakes and hot springs in seldom-accessed and remote regions of Inner Mongolia and Yunnan province. The aim is to explore and access microbial biodiversity at these exceptional sites with a view to the discovery of a new

generation of industrial catalysts that will be tested and developed for the market place by the industrial partner.  
▶ SCIENTISTS in the Department of Physics and Astronomy are spearheading the MAPSCORE project, a European Commission Environment project which investigates a major cause of ozone

depletion – high altitude polar clouds which activate the chlorine originally from CFCs and lead eventually to severe ozone destruction. Leicester researchers have demonstrated that it is possible to map the global distribution of polar clouds from space, and to determine their composition.  
▶ RESEARCH into celebrity wor-

ship suggests that, although following a celebrity can be a positive influence on people's lives, in some extreme cases people admit they would lie, steal or worse if the object of their admiration asked them. These are some of the findings of a new research programme conducted by psychologists at the University in

# Pride of Place

## University Wins Queen's Anniversary Prize

▶ The University of Leicester was selected as a winner of the Queen's Anniversary Prize – a tremendous accolade for the University which has now achieved this highest distinction twice in less than a decade.

The University was honoured by Her Majesty The Queen for its world-renowned achievements in Genetics – the only 5-star rated genetics department in the UK (Research Assessment Exercise 2001).

The Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education has been awarded to the University for a period of four years in recognition of innovative, pioneering research, its impact on society, and promotion of the public understanding of science. The University was among the first winners of the Prizes when they were launched in 1994, winning it for the world-class achievements in Physics and Astronomy.

A reception to announce the prizewinners was held in St James Palace and the University was presented with a Prize Medal and illuminated Prize Certificate at a national honours ceremony in Buckingham Palace. The Chancellor of the University, Sir Michael Atiyah, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Burgess, joined Genetics staff and students for the ceremony.

## Genetics Landmark

▶ During its 80th anniversary year, the University of Leicester, home of the discovery of DNA fingerprinting by Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys in 1984, had a double reason for celebrating the achievements of its prestigious Department of Genetics.

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) honoured Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys by awarding a 'Chemical Landmark Plaque' to

the Adrian Building – which houses the Genetics Department including the laboratory where Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys made his revolutionary discovery.

This took place on the same day as the launch of the Institute of Genetics, which draws together the expertise in genetic research which, although centred in the Department of Genetics, extends across 14 departments within the University and includes more than 250 researchers.

Professor Sir Paul Nurse, Nobel Prize winner and Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK, formally launched the University of Leicester Institute of Genetics during the week the University hosted the British Association's Festival of Science.

## A Royal Year

▶ Three visits from members of the Royal Family to the University of Leicester in the space of five weeks formed a magnificent finale to a year of celebrations for the University's 80th anniversary.

The visits followed a visit from Her Majesty the Queen and HRH Prince Philip to the city and the National Space Centre, co-founded by the University, where they met with University staff and viewed research projects.

Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex visited the University of Leicester's Richard Attenborough Centre where they met members of staff and students at the Centre before viewing an exhibition of some of the art produced in the Centre. They also listened to a drumming workshop and watched a short dance programme.

His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent visited the Scarman Centre. The Scarman Centre's international reputation in the field of business crime is what has attracted Prince Michael of Kent to make the visit. He himself

plays a prominent and supportive role in the security world as the British Secretary of the Industry Association.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent visited the University of Leicester Departments of Engineering and Genetics. He formally opened a new academic centre of excellence, the Electrical and Electronic Power Engineering Research Laboratories.

## £400m Investment in Health and Medical Education

▶ The University of Leicester Medical School is looking forward to a major boost in its accommodation and facilities as part of a £400 million development which is set to transform health provision and medical education in the region.

The new initiative takes account of the changes in medical education that came about with the forming of the Leicester Warwick Medical Schools, and of further expansion in student numbers in Leicester, including a new four-year medical course for health sciences graduates.

The project is part of the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust's Pathway Project, a reconfiguration of clinical services at all three Leicester Hospitals. It will involve substantial new building, particularly at Glenfield General Hospital and Leicester General Hospital. The total value of the Pathway Project is over £400m, and the academic facilities alone are valued at over £40m. It is anticipated that the University's academic facilities will be completed during 2007. It is one of the biggest Private Finance Initiative projects in the health/education sector. Leicester General Hospital will become a key site for training doctors from the University's Medical School, nurses and midwives from De Montfort University and existing hospital staff.

R J A N U A R Y F E B R U A R Y M A R C H A P R I L M A Y J U N E J U L Y

conjunction with psychologists in the USA. Their findings also indicate that celebrity worship is not just the remit of teenage girls prone to idolisation or science-fiction fans, but affected up to nearly 30% of the people sampled.

▶ LEICESTER is leading a university consortium to develop a new approach to education for

Physics and Astronomy undergraduates. The consortium will introduce problem-based learning into undergraduate teaching in the UK in an initiative known as Project LeAP.

▶ UNIVERSITY researchers presented policy messages from their research to the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select

Committee. The research is concerned with means-tested social security benefits for pensioners. Evidence suggests that there are many poor pensioners who do not claim all the social security benefits to which they are entitled. Reasons for this may include the social stigma associated with benefit dependence, the 'hassle'

involved in making a claim and the difficulty in getting information about eligibility.

▶ UKeU, the government-backed company set up to provide online degrees from UK universities, announced its involvement with the UK Healthcare Education Partnership. The Partnership is a consortium which comprises the



**VISION OF THE FUTURE:** The University plans to create a state-of-the-art campus with enhanced facilities for teaching and research. (Main) An artist's impression of the proposed extension to the University Library. As well as improving the capacity of the library, the extension will include new lecture theatres and study areas, as well as office space for administrative staff. (Inset L-R) An impression of the interior of the Library looking over the award-winning Engineering Building; An impression of the new Library facade, which will overlook a revitalised pedestrian square in the heart of campus; An artist's impression of the new Biomedical Sciences Building.

*The University of Leicester unveiled  
the most ambitious development plan  
in its history – surpassing the investment  
that had occurred over the past 40 years.*

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

◀ Royal College of Nursing (RCN), City University, the University of Leicester and the University of Ulster. Working with UKeU, it will draw together the academic, technological and professional expertise needed to develop, deliver and support high quality, online learning for healthcare professionals.  
▶ EXPERTS from Birmingham and

Leicester are participating in a collaborative project with the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), based in Sarajevo. They are bringing their knowledge and experience – and some of their 'state of the art' equipment – to Bosnia and Hercegovina as part of the overall effort to locate and identify the thousands of persons

still missing following the Balkan conflicts.  
▶ THE DEPARTMENT of Engineering was selected in the second round of a Government programme promoting solar energy. Under the Department of Trade and Industry's Major Photovoltaic (PV) Demonstration Programme, the University has received a grant

of £237,183 to install 40kWp of PV panels on the roof of its Engineering Building.  
▶ MOST Gulf War veterans do not have a formal psychiatric disorder and rates of post-traumatic stress disorder amongst the group are low, finds a study co-authored by the University. The research suggests that the mental health pat-

# Bigger and Better

## Going for Growth

▶ The University of Leicester unveiled a £300 million 'vision of the future', creating a state-of-the-art campus with enhanced teaching and learning facilities to meet the needs of new generations of researchers and students.

The Development Plan, produced by architects Shepherd Epstein Hunter, suggests increasing building capacity by 50,000sq.m – a 30% increase in space on the central campus. Key principles and objectives of the Plan are:

- Establishment of academic sectors with distinct identities
- Building a major Library extension in order to improve student access to the latest information technology
- Creating a new central core at the heart of the University
- Making optimum use of academic space
- Improving the interface with the city and community
- Developing a pedestrian-priority campus
- Upgrading/replacing/refurbishing accommodation to provide first-class facilities for students and conference users
- Enhanced landscaping
- Respecting Listed buildings and existing spaces of high quality

The plan examines the University estate, which has developed historically, and seeks to develop it as an integrated whole. It proposes that the University's estate on University Road should be seen as three parts of one major campus – North, Central and South:

▶ **Central Campus:** The University site on University Road

- Creating a new face for the University along University Road and a new square as the main entrance into the campus
- Creation of a new Central Square – with social, catering, teaching facilities and landscaping

- Providing a new entrance square to the University from Victoria Park
- Expanding the Library and linking an arcade or gallery to the historic original building of the University, the 1837 Fielding Johnson Building.
- Consideration given to change of use or relocation of existing facilities to ensure they are in buildings which are more suited to their purpose
- Providing underground parking and increasing provision of pedestrian-only areas
- Adding 50,000sq.m of new buildings on the central campus

▶ **North Campus:** University sites on Regent, Princess, Salisbury and London Roads

- Review of use of these sites to ensure optimum use is being made
- Create new pedestrian and landscaped links wherever possible between these sites and the historic New Walk promenade

▶ **South Campus:** Freeman's Common and Nixon Court

- Freeman's Common, a prominent site at the University Road/Welford Road junction will be completely redeveloped for academic and teaching use

▶ **Vaughan College:** The College in the heart of Leicester, located at the ancient historic Roman site of the city, is part of the University's Institute of Lifelong Learning and provides a valuable interface with the people of Leicester. Under the Development Plan, it would become a gateway to the broader activities of the University rather than being seen as an outpost of the campus. This would be achieved by enhanced and improved signage.

▶ **The Residences:**

- Creation of a 'student village' by examining the feasibility of a new pedestrian network linking the Oadby halls of residence
- Comprehensive review and redevelopment of all residences

## Investing in the Future

▶ The University is investing heavily in the future and, over the year, committed more than £30m to projects. Notable among them are:

- The £2.5m refurbishment of the George Porter Building to accommodate both Chemistry Teaching and Research. The refurbishment has provided state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories.
- The £0.5m refurbishment of a building for the School of Archaeology and Ancient History. The refurbishment has allowed the School to bring together its previously fragmented operations from the Attenborough Tower and Seminar Block, the Ken Edwards Building and Bennett Link.
- Mathematical Modelling Centre £3.7m. The second phase of the Space Research Centre has been completed and contains a £0.35m specialist Clean Room facility for the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The building also contains a Mathematical Modelling Centre for the Departments of Engineering and Mathematics as well as facilities for Chemistry.
- Work commenced on site earlier this year for the new £20m Biomedical Sciences Building being constructed adjacent to the Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building. The building will be completed in 2004 and will provide state-of-the-art laboratories for biomedical research. The project is part funded by a grant of £10m from the Wellcome Trust.
- The University has committed itself to providing a £10.2m refurbishment and extension to the existing main Library to dramatically improve the existing facilities. Work is due to start on site late in 2004.

R J A N U A R Y F E B R U A R Y M A R C H A P R I L M A Y J U N E J U L Y

terns of Gulf Veterans reporting physical disabilities differ little from those of other disabled veterans. Whatever the nature of Gulf veterans' symptoms, they cannot be explained by exposure to events conventionally understood to be psychologically traumatic, the authors conclude.

▶ THE UNIVERSITIES of Leicester

and Leeds were commissioned by the Food Standards Agency to study the possible association between maternal caffeine consumption and low birth weight. The Agency has commissioned the study to reduce uncertainties in the current risk assessment and provide a robust basis for the Agency's advice to pregnant

women on caffeine consumption. In addition the FSA are funding a three year study on the risk/benefit assessment of vitamin C supplements.

▶ SCIENTISTS from the Hammersmith Hospital and the University of Leicester have found a new way to control which segments of DNA are used to make

messenger RNA, which is used to make proteins. Using an idea developed at Leicester and tested in London at the Dubowitz Neuromuscular Disease Unit, the researchers were able to restore proper expression of a defective gene in cells from a patient with spinal muscular atrophy. The researchers are hoping to develop ▶



Image: Leicester Mercury

**NEW FRONTIERS OF LEARNING:** The University of Leicester continues to advance knowledge in diverse fields. (Main) Medical advances help to improve the health of the nation. (Inset, L-R) Dr Mark Sims (left) and Professor Alan Wells played leading roles in the UK Beagle 2 project on board the European Mars Express mission; The Ken Edwards Building houses the Management Centre which announced a major investment in resources; A number of Leicester academics were involved in TV programmes, including Head of English Professor Elaine Treharne who worked with Eddie Izzard for a programme on English identity.

*Growing expertise in a wide variety  
of fields placed the University  
of Leicester at the forefront of the  
latest research and developments.*

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◀ this into a method for rescuing expression in a number of genetic diseases and for improving treatments of diseases such as cancer.  
▶ A NEW degree offered by the University will equip graduates with two of the skills most highly prized by employers – numeracy and business awareness. The Leicester BSc in Mathematics with

Management has been developed to produce versatile graduates with excellent mathematical skills, a thorough understanding of key issues in the business world, and the ability to apply sophisticated mathematical methods to business solutions.  
▶ GEOLOGISTS from the universities of Leicester and Cambridge

have produced the first maps of the structure of the deep crust beneath the UK, which will lead to a better understanding of the geological evolution of the British Isles. The maps have been drawn from deep seismic surveys using technology developed with the oil industry over the past 20 years.  
▶ THE UNIVERSITY of Leicester

Richard Attenborough Centre (RAC) was one of just 171 UK organisations out of almost 1,200 applicants to be awarded project funding as part of the European Year of Disabled People 2003. The arts education centre was awarded a grant of £9,980 to deliver a project called PALP (Promoting Artistic Leadership and Participation) to

# Advancing Knowledge

## World First Cancer Trials

► Leicester was selected as one of the first centres in the world to trial a revolutionary new cancer prevention drug, based on a natural compound found in red wine. This will form a major part of the cancer prevention research at the University of Leicester. Cancer researchers from the University's Department of Oncology, have been awarded just over £1 million sterling (\$1.7 million) along with the University of Michigan. The award, from the US National Cancer Institute (NCI), is the first time that a group outside America has been funded by the NCI for the early clinical development of a drug that may prevent cancer.

The money will be used to conduct pre-clinical and clinical evaluation of resveratrol, a natural compound found in red wine, grapes, peanuts and several berries. It is present in fruit juice from these berries and in wine.

The research group has also attracted international publicity for investigating the cancer-fighting properties of curcumin, an ingredient in curries. During this academic year, they won a three year funding package of £107,349 from the Association for International Cancer Research to study the anti-cancer role of curcumin in a pilot trial in cancer patients.

## New Frontiers of Science

► The University of Leicester was a Principal Partner in the UK's Beagle 2 Mission, launched on board the European Space Agency's Mars Express Mission which took off on June 2 from Kazakhstan.

The University of Leicester is one of Europe's leading centres for space research and was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education nearly a decade ago for its world class research in space science. The University is a co-founder

and a major partner in Leicester's Millennium Commission-funded National Space Centre.

The University has had principal responsibility for managing the technical development of the scientific instruments for Beagle 2 including co-ordination with Astrium-EADS, Beagle 2's prime contractor, and with the European Space Agency. The Open University was the lead partner in the project.

The project represents a triumph of collaboration with scientific and industrial partners – some of the technologies developed for the space mission now have important applications on earth. A key development is the creation of an Operations Centre in the University of Leicester research suite at the National Space Centre – this was developed for the Beagle 2 project and will play a role in future space missions. Uniquely, it allows visitors to the Centre to watch University of Leicester space scientists working on actual projects.

## Major Advances in Economics

► A substantial programme of investment in the Department of Economics has seen it grow to become one of the largest in the UK.

This follows the success of the Department in the Research Assessment Exercise and the Quality Assurance Agency's review of the quality of education that is offered. Student numbers have grown considerably and typical entry requirements continue to be raised across all programmes.

The Department has strengthened its research profile and teaching capabilities very significantly and, in terms of research, the Department has strengthened its position as one of the strongest Economics Departments in Applied Econometrics in the UK. Research capability has also been strengthened in a number of important areas, including Contract Theory, Public Economics, Labour Economics,

Financial Econometrics and Environmental Management and Sustainable Development.

The Department is also introducing a range of new modules. A significant development on the teaching front relates to course reviews which are leading to further enhancements in the quality of Economics programmes.

Besides teaching and research activities in Leicester, members of the Department have been actively involved in the dissemination of their work through conference presentations and external lectures, refereeing papers for academic journals and research proposals for grant-awarding bodies, on editorial boards, as organisers of research networks and conferences, and have made invaluable professional contributions as external examiners and assessors at other universities. Furthermore, the Department has welcomed a number of visiting scholars during the year, hosted a very active Departmental Seminar series, internal Research Workshops and a PhD seminar programme.

## Forward Thinking Management

► The University revealed it had clear plans to carve a distinctive niche in management education, announcing a new head for the Centre and a massive investment in resources.

The University of Leicester Management Centre is emerging as one of the top management schools in the United Kingdom. During the year, the University committed substantial resources to bring together one of the largest groups of critical scholars in accounting, marketing, management and organisation studies in the country.

The research talents of this group not only means the University has one of the most vibrant and engaged management schools in the United Kingdom, but designate the Management Centre as an international leader in critical thinking in business.

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deliver a project during the year.  
► RESEARCHERS in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry are engaged in a pioneering research initiative looking at housing problems experienced by homeless children and their parents. Different studies are evaluating a family support and resettlement service for this vulnerable

client group. Another project is evaluating mental health services for homeless young people aged 16-25 years in Foyer Centres in different UK areas.  
► AN ABNORMAL gene found in a particularly aggressive form of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia comes under investigation by University scientists, thanks to a grant

of £140,000 from the Leukaemia Research Fund (LRF). Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) is the most common form of leukaemia in the western world, affecting 2,750 people in the UK each year.  
► AN AUTHORITY on communicable diseases, particularly influenza, at the University was called up at urgent notice to join an interna-

tional health team investigating SARs – the pneumonia-like illness. Professor Karl Nicholson of the University Department of Microbiology and Immunology flew to Hanoi where he is assisted top World Health Organisation (WHO) consultants in identifying and combating the highly infectious disease, deemed to be a 'world-



Image: Andrew Hasson, Takeaway Media



**INNOVATION:** New processes and techniques brought benefits to people. (Main) Former University of Leicester student Cecilia Fung, who featured on the cover of a revolutionary game, *Mastermind*, recreated the image 30 years later. (Inset, T-B) The first fast-track medical students in the country graduated from the University – a number of them are pictured with Professor of Cardiology Nilesh Samani and Head of Medical Education Professor Stewart Petersen (the 'patient'); Photographer Lou Boileau staged an exhibition of images of the stars of stage and screen; The University contributed to a television documentary, 'Motherland'.

*The University's achievements  
across a broad spectrum of activities  
brought it academic  
and media attention.*

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◀ wide health threat' by WHO.  
▶ GENETICISTS from across the UK, including Leicester, have examined a process that leads to the creation of new species and engineered it in a lab. The work will have wide-ranging ramifications, from agriculture to medicine. Their published research describes how one process that leads to the

creation of new species can be engineered in the lab to study its role in the evolution of yeasts.  
▶ AN EXHIBITION of images of the stars of stage and screen which has proved hugely popular in Northampton was also held in Leicester. It profiled the work of photographer Lou Boileau who has been taking black and white pho-

tographs of famous actors, including the late John Thaw, Alan Bates, Rik Mayall, Richard Briers, Norman Wisdom, Simon Callow and Leslie Phillips.  
▶ THE UNIVERSITY'S Institute of Lifelong Learning held a ceremony at its Northampton Centre to commemorate the life and work of Emeritus Professor Henry Arthur

Jones, Vaughan Professor of Adult and Continuing Education at the University from 1967-1981. Described by colleagues as "a giant influence of our lives and times", Professor Jones was a leading figure in the Government's Russell Report on Adult Education in England and was awarded the CBE.  
▶ THE UNIVERSITY is to play a

# Original Thinking

## Knee 'Scaffold' Study

▶ Scientists from the University are taking revolutionary research further with the potential to offer new hope for knee-injury victims. They are following up international research that aims to improve knee cartilage repair techniques, termed 'chondrocyte implantation'. The procedure, developed in Sweden 10 years ago, involves growing a patient's knee cartilage cells in a laboratory, which are then implanted through open knee surgery. Recent exciting developments revolve around the materials or 'scaffolds' that the cells are grown on. The scaffold is inserted into the knee with the seeded cells growing on it, and disintegrates slowly once the knee's cartilage cells have become established. Researchers from the Chemistry Department and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery are collaborating to find the perfect biodegradable polymer scaffold.

## Bone Marrow Hope

▶ New hope for sufferers of heart disease is possible after research led by the University suggested that bone marrow cells injected into a heart can help repair damage from a heart attack.

The pioneering research gave injections of bone marrow taken from 14 patients' own breast bones during non emergency heart bypass surgery and again at six weeks and ten months.

Within weeks, areas of the heart that had ceased to operate began to beat again, a finding of particular importance since damage to the heart muscle cells is usually irreversible. Scar tissue resulting from a heart attack hampers the pumping of blood through the heart's chambers, which can eventually lead to heart failure.

The findings from the University of Leicester Department of Surgery (Cardiac) were presented at an international conference in Chicago, USA.

## Back To Your Roots – With DNA

▶ University geneticists have been involved in a pioneering study attempting to trace the origins of British African-Caribbean people, whose ancestors were uprooted from Africa in the slave trade hundreds of years ago, and transported across the Atlantic to work on sugar plantations.

In the study, conducted for the BBC documentary film *Motherland*, the Department of Genetics found that more than a quarter of British African-Caribbean men have a Y chromosome (passed from father to son) which traces back to Europe rather than Africa. In contrast it was found that only around 2% of British African-Caribbeans have mitochondrial DNA (passed from mother to child) which traces to Europe. This is a genetic reflection of the sexual politics of slavery.

## Pioneering New Back Pain Relief

▶ The University received £650,000 funding from the Department of Work and Pensions to develop nationwide a pioneering technique in back pain relief that has been successfully trialled by Leicestershire hospitals.

The new techniques developed at Leicester involve integrating health care, employment training and vocational assistance into work. The aim is to identify a person's potential rather than the barriers presented by the back disability, and develop their employability in the eyes of local employers.

The team includes physiotherapists, psychologists and private industries recruited to offer opportunities to those with back pain. The candidates go through an intense six-

week activity programme with later follow up to assist them into work.

Findings so far have indicated that disease and pain are less important in work absence and unemployment than psychosocial factors.

## Lighting up the Brain

▶ Eye specialists at the University are using a new technique of 'lighting up the brain' to investigate and understand eye diseases.

The Ulverscroft Foundation has funded a new five-year research post at the University to probe into the link between the eyes and the brain with a view to increasing knowledge about common eye problems and improving treatment for patients.

The researchers are using a new technique called functional MRI. This method visualises changes in blood flow in the brain that accompany brain activity. By doing this, it is possible to see which areas of the brain 'light up', or become active, as people look at different pictures and patterns. Understanding how the brain works in conjunction with the eyes is an important step to fully understanding what happens in eye diseases.

## Top Scientific Achievement

▶ Research undertaken by the Department of Geology, in collaboration with colleagues from the universities of Bristol and Oxford, was highlighted by the Natural Environment Research Council as one of their 'Top eight scientific achievements' for 2002. The research has developed a new way of reconstructing 420-million-year-old soft-bodied creatures, now preserved as crystals. The technique involves grinding away the fossil in very thin slices, taking photographs at each stage, and then using a computer to create a three-dimensional image of the whole animal.

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key role in a new UK project, CASIX, which brings together a diverse team of scientists from around the UK to investigate air-sea interactions and how they affect climate change. Earth Observation scientists from the University will provide global levels of carbon dioxide, measured from spacecraft measurements.

▶ NATURALIST and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough gave the 2003 University of Leicester Graduates' Association Lecture entitled *Discovery and the Camera*.  
▶ RESEARCH presented by the University reveals that humour can play a key role in international business meetings – and can influence the power play within meet-

ings. A study in the School of Education found that humour is an important linguistic resource which can be used to include and exclude people – to the extent that members at a meeting can subvert the meeting and even usurp the power of the Chair.  
▶ THE UNIVERSITY'S Harold Martin Botanic Garden received a

donation of trees and shrubs in memory of the late Bennett Professor Peter Sylvester-Bradley, and his wife, Mrs Joan Sylvester-Bradley, who died earlier in the year.  
▶ THE UNIVERSITY launched a new course that aims to empower people to contribute more effectively to the voluntary and community sectors by equipping them ▶



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE:** Research by the University of Leicester has wide-ranging implications. (Main) A Leicester researcher assessed how forest fires contribute to global warming. (Inset, T-B) Around 35 consultants and trainees attended a master-class organised by the University of Leicester Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and the University Hospitals of Leicester on the care of hand fractures; Student fundraisers amassed tens of thousands of pounds for charity during the year, particularly through the Students' Union RAG. The University Theatre raised funds for Comic Relief by hurling Shakespearean 'insults' at people; The Department of Chemistry staged a series of demonstrations for local school pupils based on a Harry Potter theme.

*The health of the nation as well as issues of social and educational significance focused the minds of academics conducting high impact research.*

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◀ with relevant skills. The Certificate in Managing Voluntary and Community Organisations is run at Vaughan College, part of the University of Leicester's Institute of Lifelong Learning.  
 ▶ A NEW two year part-time course in Black and Asian Studies has been launched by the University's Institute of Lifelong Learning.

The course is aimed at people interested in understanding the critical and historical Black and Asian presence in Britain.  
 ▶ THE UNIVERSITY of Leicester RAG (Raising and Giving) raised over £26,000 for local and national charities.  
 ▶ RESEARCHERS from Leicester and Cambridge have been puzzling

over why some graptolites – extinct, ocean-going animals – are so curiously preserved. They believe ancient 'clingfilm' – a combination of microbial films and jelly-like particles of 'marine snow' which fell from the ocean surface to a deep sea floor – enveloped the fossils which prevented mud and silt from penetrating into their interiors.

▶ THE WORLD'S most advanced Earth Observation satellite ENVISAT successfully completed the first 12 months of its five-year mission to give the planet a health check. The European Space Agency's £1.4 billion satellite, to which the UK contributed £300 million in funding, was launched in March 2002. Images of the

# Hope For The Future

## Asian Families in Obesity Probe

► Researchers at the University have launched one of the biggest studies into childhood obesity in the UK, funded by the British Heart Foundation.

The key aim of the £100,000 two-year project is to determine the prevalence of health diet and physical activity behaviour in children of South Asian origin and to evaluate an action research intervention to improve health lifestyles. The Leicester team also aims to determine the association of health lifestyle factors in South Asian children of adults with coronary heart disease and diabetes and those without.

## Probe Into Major Diseases

► A team of academics at the University is to play a leading role in a £45 million national study that could make a major contribution to our understanding of the causes of common life-threatening and debilitating illnesses such as breast cancer, diabetes, heart disease and Alzheimer's disease.

Leicester will host the administration centre for a consortium of seven universities tasked with recruiting 120,000 patients from GPs surgeries across the Trent, West Midlands and South West Regions. These patients will become part of half a million people nationally who will have their genetic make-up and lifestyles studied over a 15-year period under the ambitious UK Biobank project, being funded by the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust and the Department of Health.

## Genetic Causes of High Blood Pressure

► The results of a six-year, Medical Research Council (MRC) funded study – involving 20 University of Leicester researchers – to identify the genes responsible for hypertension, were published. The MRC British Genetics of

Hypertension (BRIGHT) study is the largest white European genome scan for high blood pressure (hypertension) published to date, involving 1600 families with at least two siblings who have severe hypertension.

The MRC BRIGHT Study has identified four areas of the human genome that may contain genes causing hypertension. These findings facilitate understanding of the main inherited causes for human hypertension.

## Heart Accolade

► A British Heart Foundation (BHF) Chair in Cardiology was awarded to Professor Nilesh Samani, Professor and Head of the Division of Cardiology at the University of Leicester and Consultant Cardiologist at Glenfield Hospital Leicester. The new Chair is supported by a £1million investment from the BHF to fund a range of research studies and clinical trials.

The award recognises the reputation of cardiovascular research in Leicester – a particular strength of the Leicester Medical School since its inception. Its sustained excellence has been recognised in all the Government Research Assessment Exercises, including in the 2001 RAE, where cardiovascular research at Leicester received a 5 rating.

## Cerebral Palsy Study

► New funding worth over \$1million has been brought to Leicester by a researcher from the US.

The Department of Cell Physiology and Pharmacology at the University will now host basic neuroscience research that relates to cerebral palsy in babies – the single most common human birth disorder.

So important is this research in the eyes of the American National Institute of Health – a major source of research funding in the US – that they have taken the rare step of allowing

the researcher to bring funding amounting to \$1.4million with him to his Leicester laboratory. The funding is for five years during which it is hoped to make progress towards a better understanding of cerebral palsy.

## Ethnic Pupils' Achievements

► The first ever national picture of primary school pupils' achievements according to ethnicity has been created by researchers at the University, working with academics from Bristol.

The research team has provided the government with a national database, based on evidence collected from local authorities. The government can now monitor LEA strategies for raising achievement and determine patterns and trends in provision and exam results.

## No Heat Without Fire

► An international group of scientists led by a Leicester researcher has highlighted how forest fires contribute significantly to global warming through the release of greenhouse gases.

Their published research presents new insights into the effects of tropical forest and peatland fires on global climate. They used a combination of satellite-based earth observation and intensive field data collection to estimate the amount of the greenhouse gas CO<sub>2</sub> released by fires in the forested and deforested peatlands of Indonesia.

Peat swamp forests represent approximately 40 per cent of the land area in Indonesia that burned during the 1997/1998 El Niño driven fire disaster. The amount of carbon released into the atmosphere during that time is the biggest ever measured and, at 0.81-2.57 Billion tonnes, corresponds to 13 to 40 percent of the annual global production by burning fossil fuels, such as oil, coal and gas.

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Earth are being acquired by the Advanced Along Track Scanning Radiometer (AATSR), which is a space instrument on board Envisat. The University of Leicester has a particularly prominent role in the AATSR project.

► THE Meteosat Second Generation Satellite (MSG) – part of which was developed at the Uni-

versity – was launched on an Ariane 5 rocket. It will replace the ageing Meteosat weather satellites and will change meteorology and weather forecasting forever. In future, the satellite pictures on our televised weather reports will come directly from the MSG satellite.

► THE COST of drug treatment for multiple sclerosis is high, but

decreases with prolonged treatment up to 20 years, concludes a study. Researchers, including experts from the University of Leicester, evaluated the cost effectiveness of four drugs currently licensed for the treatment of multiple sclerosis in the United Kingdom.

► THE UNIVERSITY is to deliver a new distance learning programme

in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management in Singapore. Staff from the University's renowned Scarman Centre will teach the Master's degree course to students of the Singapore Civil Defence Force.

► THE UNIVERSITY beat off strong competition to be selected for the annual Summer Science Exhibition organised by the Royal Society. ►



**CREATIVITY:** The work of Leicester academics had important applications in industry. (Main) This BAFTA-nominated game drew upon Leicester research into simulating multi-body systems for its game engine. (Inset, from left) A University of Leicester biologist aims to untangle the complex way fishers' behaviour, resource ecology and economics interact in the fishing industry; The University's Richard Attenborough Centre is involved in a programme of visual arts for HSBC staff; For the second consecutive year, a University engineering graduate, Liz Burgess, won the ALSTOM Graduate of the Year award.

*The University of Leicester conducts research that provides practical benefits and impacts upon a number of different aspects of life.*

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◀ Members of the Department of Chemistry featured new ways of producing ionic liquids which are providing a potentially cleaner way to carry out chemical processes that rely on the use of solvents.  
 ▶ THE UNIVERSITY held a Chemistry Masterclass – a full day's practical experience of a modern chemistry laboratory and tech-

niques designed to inspire and challenge students studying AS level Chemistry.  
 ▶ THE LEICESTER Green Chemistry and Catalysis Group took delivery of a unique, dedicated high pressure reactor facility which will contribute greatly to a number of research projects in the Group.  
 ▶ THE UNIVERSITY Careers Ser-

vice obtained funding from the Higher Education Active Community Fund to increase student and staff involvement in the local community through volunteering. Working in close collaboration with the Students' Union volunteer association (Contact Student Volunteers), the project has been able to develop new links in the com-

munity and increase opportunities for volunteers.  
 ▶ UNIVERSITY STAFF are involved in a new consultancy, ILH Consulting, which provides advisory and training services to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries and medical equipment manufacturers.  
 ▶ THE UNIVERSITY'S Teaching

# Just The Business

## Arts in the Workplace

▶ Thanks to a £12,150 funding award from Arts & Business, the University's Richard Attenborough Centre (RAC) has extended a recently developed partnership and set up a programme of visual arts for HSBC staff at the nearby UK Commercial Service and Sales Centre in De Montfort Street.

HSBC Commercial Service and Sales Centre recently committed to exclusively sponsor four concerts per year for three years under the banner 'A New Musical Generation at the RAC'. The Arts & Business New Partners funding will enable the Richard Attenborough Centre to put together a visual art programme with HSBC over the same three-year period.

## Praise for Innovative Centre

▶ Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State for Trade & Industry and MP for Leicester West, visited the Centre for Labour Market Studies at the University – one of the foremost global providers of long distance and e-learning higher degree courses.

Patricia Hewitt commented: "I am very impressed by what I have seen at the Centre and particularly by the international teaching that has put the University of Leicester at the centre of a network of professionals all around the world".

## Applying Mathematics to Industry

▶ A recently established centre at the University will meet the needs of business and industry through a new outreach programme.

The Centre for Mathematical Modelling (MMC) places mathematical modelling at the heart of modern technology and industrial processes, by developing simulation techniques and modelling principles that can be

used in a wide range of applications.

Research from the Centre has already provided part of the foundation for a hit BAFTA-nominated computer game. The game uses techniques developed at MMC in its computational schemes for simulating the dynamics of rigid and flexible multi-body systems. While originally aimed at molecular simulation, these same methods turn out to be important building blocks of modern computer gaming engines.

The techniques used in the game can be used to study biodynamics (such as the way people walk) for a range of physiological and artistic applications.

## Partnership with Aerospace Industry

▶ The University's Department of Engineering has been selected as a Preferred Academic Capability Partner (ACP) by BAE SYSTEMS in the field of Control Systems. This prestigious partnership will match the requirements of BAE SYSTEMS with academic expertise, enabling the two parties to develop through research, related teaching and the creation of recruitment pools in ways that are mutually beneficial.

Supported by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the BAE SYSTEMS Academic Partnerships promote long-term and large-scale integrated research involving a network of academic partners. The Partnerships ensure that funding goes into academic research that best meets the future needs of the aerospace and defence sector.

## Households in 'Water-Poverty'

▶ Around four million households in England and Wales, that is one-in-six, have trouble paying their water bills. The conclusion that so many households face 'water poverty' is

the main finding of research into the affordability of water by the University's Faculty of Law and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

Using the same methodology as the Government in its fuel poverty strategy, the research suggests that households needing to spend more than 3% of their income on water charges should be considered to be in water poverty. The average UK household spend on water is just 1% of income.

The research also notes that over four million households are in debt to their water company. The researchers recommend that the water regulator, Ofwat, should undertake more research into water debt, and that, as it is doing with fuel poverty, the Government should bring forward measures specifically to address water poverty.

## A Fishy Tale

▶ University biologists have been carrying out a study to reveal the 'Biological and Socio-economic Implications of a Limited Access Fishery Management System', detailing the arguments for and against keeping different methods of fishing apart. The aim is to discover a fishery management system which will encourage co-operation between stakeholders using the coastal zone.

The collaborative study has already helped to build up a pattern of data which may reveal important seasonal changes in fishing habits, and it is hoped that it may provide a better understanding of the 'essential fish habitat', the conditions on the sea bed required for stocks to remain healthy. The study is also examining how fishers interact with each other on the fishing grounds and how these interactions are influenced by the fishers' social background.

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and Learning Unit, through funding from the Royal Literary Fund, welcomed two published authors who offered services to postgraduate students to assist them in improving their writing skills.

▶ A NEW concert series at the Richard Attenborough Centre focusing on outstanding British-based musicians of the young

generation, including a number of BBC Young Musicians Competition finalists, was made possible through a 3-year sponsorship agreement with HSBC UK Commercial Sales & Service Centre. The RAC's relationship with the BBC competition was further underpinned by its hosting of a regional heat in the

prestigious competition.

▶ AFTER FORTY years together, and what will be 16 consecutive series at the University, the Lindsays announced their retirement. Until March 2005, they will continue to pack the Fraser Noble Hall with six concerts per year. This season music lovers were treated to exhilarating

performances of string quartets by Haydn, Schumann and Brahms together with 20th century composers, including the first British performance of Nathaniel Stookey's lyrical first quartet.

▶ MEMORIAL concerts were held for composer, teacher and pianist, James Walker. He was a founder member (with violinist Kenneth



**BENEFITS:** A wide range of University activities involved projects with different communities. (Main) The work of Carmen Allen featured in an exhibition at the University's Northampton Centre. (Inset, T-B) Lord Attenborough returned to the University for a documentary on his 80th birthday – his father was a former Principal of the University College; A prestigious international sculpture exhibition was held at the University's Botanic Garden bringing together the work of UK based sculptors with that of 20 Pietrasanta sculptors from 10 countries; Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, visited the University to give a public lecture and participate in a conference organised by the University's Institute for the Study of Indo-Pakistan Relations.

*The activities of the University of Leicester  
reverberated far beyond the region,  
having a national and  
international impact.*

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◀ Page) of the University-appointed piano trio, the Archduke, in the early 1960s. Tributes were paid for his long association with the University's music programme and, in earlier years, his influence as a teacher. The most recent concert – in May 2003 – included a performance of a piano duet sonata that James had recently

completed and was scheduled to have taken part in during the autumn of 2002.  
▶ ARUN Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, and founder-director of the MK Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence based in Memphis, USA, visited the University to deliver a public lecture. He also delivered a keynote

address in London when he participated in a conference organised by the University's Institute for the Study of Indo-Pakistan Relations (INPAREL).  
▶ THE ARTIST in Residence Scheme was launched at the University's Northampton Centre and resulted in a ceramic panel being produced. A later Exhibition enti-

tled 'Young Black and Beautiful' featured the work of Carmen Allen, who had recently graduated in Art, and whose work went on to become part of the region's celebrations of Black History Month.  
▶ WHAT ARE the essential differences between rugby fans and football fans? New insights into this question will be provided

# A Valuable Asset

## Drug Use in Football

▶ The University's Centre for Research into Sport and Society, with the cooperation of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), completed the first ever survey of drug use in English professional football. Using the PFA database questionnaires were sent to all 2,863 player members of whom 708, almost 25%, replied. Key findings of the survey include:

- 70% of players indicated that recreational drugs were used by footballers and 46% of players personally knew other players who had used them. 1 in 8 respondents estimated that 6% or more of players in the game used recreational drugs.
- 50% of players indicated that performance enhancing drugs were used by footballers and 5.6% of players personally knew other players who had used them. 1 in 9 respondents estimated that the proportion of players in the game using performance enhancing drugs was over 3%.
- Almost 6% of our sample indicated that they had been told in advance that they would be tested. This represents a clear breach of drug testing protocol.

## Focus on Film

- The University named its new film studies resources room after Herold and Joan Goddard, distinguished patrons of the History of Art Department and the University, of which they are honorary graduates. The Goddard Room and the 150 seater Film Theatre and Seminar Room are part of a larger arts development, in which the University has also created a 400-seater theatre for the University of Leicester Theatre Society in the £117,000 refurbishment of the Queen's Hall in the Percy Gee Building.
- Gerry Anderson, Creator of Thunderbirds,

delivered a public lecture as part of the University of Leicester international event – The History of the Future: Visions from the Past. Film and communications historians from around the world converged on the University to discuss the ways movies imagined the future and the future of the media in the digital age as part of the twentieth biennial conference of the International Association for Media and History. The Royal Historical Society and the InterUniversity History Film Consortium were among the organisations that joined IAMHIST and the University of Leicester in staging this conference

- A University of Leicester international film expert, who teaches on the University's newly launched BA degree programme, Film Studies and Visual Arts, received a £98,345 grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Board for a four-year large research project on the theme of Balkan Cinema: Film and History.
- Research carried out at the University into making Leicester the Indian film and television capital of Europe was presented to key figures from the media, business, public and government sectors. The study, led by a specialist on South Asian media and diaspora at the Centre for Mass Communications Research, found there is great demand for the use of UK and European locations and facilities by Indian producers.

## Innovation Award

▶ The University's Research Centre for Museums and Galleries (RCMG) launched a research project to bring to light the historical evidence of disabled people's lives that has often been hidden from public view.

The project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board's Innovation

Awards scheme ([www.ahrb.ac.uk](http://www.ahrb.ac.uk)) is entitled *Buried in the Footnotes: The representation of disabled people in museum and gallery collections* and aims to identify the evidence that exists within museums' and galleries' collections that can attest to the historical lives of disabled people. It also aims to explore the factors that might influence the way in which this material is recorded and presented within museums.

## Sculpture Exhibition

▶ Leicester's standing as a city of cultures was further enhanced by a prestigious exhibition of international sculpture set amidst one of the city's 'hidden jewels' – the University's Botanic Garden.

The immense success of the University of Leicester's 2002 'Sculpture in the Garden' exhibition led a group of international sculptors working in Pietrasanta, Tuscany, to respond to an invitation to send their work to be exhibited at the University.

The exhibition brought together the work of UK based sculptors with that of 20 Pietrasanta sculptors from 10 countries.

## Treasure Discovered

▶ Amateur archaeologists discovered the site of the largest hoard of Iron Age gold and silver coins ever found in Britain, along with a unique Roman gilded silver helmet. The discoveries led to excavations in 2001 and 2003 carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services with assistance from members of the local archaeological group and funded by English Heritage, BBC Television and the British Museum.

In excess of 3,000 silver and gold coins have been found, mostly made by the local Iron Age tribe – the Corieltavi. This is almost the first time Iron Age coin hoards have been archaeologically excavated.

R J A N U A R Y F E B R U A R Y M A R C H A P R I L M A Y J U N E J U L Y

through research being undertaken at the University's Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research, part of the Department of Sociology.

▶ A NEW study, the Effects of the Events of September 11th 2001 on Discrimination and Implicit Racism in Five Religious and Seven Ethnic Groups, was produced

by the University. Muslims were found to have not only the greatest risk of being victims of both implicit racism and general discrimination before September 11th, but also the highest increase in experiences of racism and discrimination since the events of that day.

▶ RESEARCHERS from the Scar-

man Centre were invited to lead a Home Office-sponsored conference designed to develop initiatives to improve relationships between criminal justice agencies and minority ethnic groups. This followed research examining minority ethnic communities' attitudes towards crime and the criminal justice system revealed disturbing

levels of concern about many types of crime, high rates of victimisation and low confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

▶ THE UNIVERSITY'S Centre of Quality Excellence (CQE) in the Department of Engineering recently ran the University's first global Web Cast session, for students ▶



**MAKING PROGRESS:** The University of Leicester developed new links and activities that enhanced its reputation. (Main) Educational developments and progress featured prominently in the University year with the establishment of new centres and courses. (Inset, T-B) The University's Rugby League Club made history by reaching the final of the BUSA National Cup; The University Chemistry Department produced a lump of 'kryptonite' at the request of the Royal Society of Chemistry to mark the 70th anniversary of Superman's 'arrival' on Earth; University student Ibiba Don Pedro (right with Nelson Mandela) was acclaimed African Journalist of the Year at a CNN awards ceremony in South Africa.

*Innovative new courses,  
strategic alliances and ambitious plans  
for growth reflected the dynamism  
of the University of Leicester.*

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

◀ employed by Rolls-Royce and based in Indianapolis, USA, and in Montreal, Canada. The event was an induction for the Rolls-Royce students who are taking a Masters degree in the Management of Quality Excellence.

▶ 'SUPERMAN' swooped on to Piccadilly to deliver a lump of kryptonite to mark the 70th

anniversary of his arrival on the planet Earth. Commissioned at the request of the Royal Society of Chemistry to celebrate the first appearance of the superhero, the crystal was produced by the University of Leicester, whose chemistry department has worked on the chemistry of the real element krypton. The RSC had asked the

university to investigate the possible nature of 'kryptonite'.

▶ THE FIRST cohort of students on the new Foundation Degree for Teaching Assistants in Educational Studies, pioneered by the University of Leicester and Bishop Grosseteste College in Lincoln, gained their degrees.

▶ THE UNIVERSITY won funding

for a flagship initiative to improve employability opportunities for students with disabilities. The University's Educational Development and Support Centre (EDSC) received a £100,000 grant from the Higher Education Funding Council, England, (HEFCE) to fund an innovative project to develop key employability skills.

# Plenty To Think About

## History in the Making

▶ The establishment of the new School of Historical Studies on January 1 2003 marks a further stage in the development of Leicester of one of the United Kingdom's leading centres for historical research and scholarship. The new School incorporates the Departments of History and Economic & Social History, which since 2000 had included the Department (now Centre) of English Local History.

The new School is one of the largest in the United Kingdom, with more than 30 members of academic staff, 10 members of research staff and more than 1,000 students.

## Opportunity for Health Workers

▶ The University of Leicester and Loughborough College are working together to provide a new Foundation Degree in Health & Illness. This degree will enable people working in, or aspiring to work in the health sector, to take the first steps on a 'skills escalator' which could lead them eventually to hospital consultant.

The University also won an award from the Higher Education Funding Council's Fund for the Development of Teaching & Learning amounting to £1/4 million for a medical education project led by the Leicester Medical School in partnership with Imperial College, University of Leeds and University College Northampton.

Developing Tomorrow's Leaders in Health & Social Care Education is an initiative that will improve the management of health and social care education by identifying future leaders and providing personal development programmes for them.

## Degree for Science Leaders

▶ The University announced an exciting

innovation in science HE, designed to address the fading interest of students in science. The degree programme is designed for students who may not want to enter the rarefied spheres of academic research but wish to take on more general roles such as R&D, teaching and science-related management, marketing or media work.

Modules for the new Leicester BSc and MSci in Integrated Science are taught by problem-based learning. A typical example might be the construction and significance of Stonehenge, and among the skills students will need to use are Physics, Archaeology, Astronomy and Mathematics in their quest to explore why, when and how it was built and the controversies surrounding its use. Other topics draw on skills applicable to Biology, Chemistry, IT, Geology and Geography and will feature problems on, for example, space travel, the origins of life and the environment.

## Strategic Alliance

▶ The University of Leicester and two colleges of higher education – Bishop Grosseteste College in Lincoln and Newman College of Higher Education in Birmingham – are creating a new strategic alliance. This will enable the three institutions to collaborate on a number of initiatives and provide new educational opportunities across the Midlands.

The University of Leicester already has links with HE and FE colleges – but this new collaboration aims to strengthen existing ties, forge new partnerships and develop innovative initiatives within the HE sector.

One of the opportunities likely to emerge from the extended partnership is the development of new Foundation Degrees. Leicester was chosen as one of the pilots for the delivery of the new-style degree and it already offers the Foundation Degree (two years) in Educational Studies for Classroom

Assistants in collaboration with Bishop Grosseteste College.

Under the new arrangements, academic benefits arising from the partnership include the sharing of good practice and expertise in teacher education, distance learning and other degree programmes. The alliance also increases the possibility of making joint bids to external bodies, as appropriate, to provide new streams of education in line with local needs.

## New Education Centre

▶ The University established a new centre that aims to improve educational standards in schools and address problems of pupils' underachievement.

The Centre for Innovation in Raising Educational Achievement was established in the University's School of Education – one of the UK's top 10 teacher training centres.

It will carry out research, identify and disseminate good practice relating to strategies for improving pupils' attainment in schools while also providing direct intervention in the classroom environment through a consultancy service.

The Centre aims to:

- carry out research of national and international quality into the nature, prevention and tackling of educational underachievement among children and young people;
- promote developmental work in schools and other educational settings in order to foster the prevention and remediation of educational underachievement;
- provide advanced education and training to educators and other professionals;
- provide consultancy services;
- engage with local and national agencies in the promotion of knowledge and understanding of educational underachievement and its remedies.

## D I S T I N C T I O N S D I S T I N C T I O N S D I S T I N C T I O N S

▶ **Dr Rob Colls'** (Economic and Social History) new book, *Identity of England*, was selected as Book of the Year in the Observer; **Professor Clive Hollin** (Forensic Mental Health) and **Professor Eilean Hooper-Greenhill** (Museum Studies) were listed among the top 10 people in their respective disciplines by the Independent on Sunday; **Dr Dina Iordanova** (History of Art) was selected as one of a handful of world critics invited to compile her

top 10 best films of all time list for the magazine *Sight and Sound*; **Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys** (Genetics) was selected through a poll in the Leicester Mercury as the county's top figure; winners of the first teaching awards at the University were **Heather Crick** (Pre-Clinical Sciences), **Nick Everitt** (English), **Emma Parker** (English) and **Chris Willmott** (Biochemistry). **Professor Ian Lauder** (Dean of the Medical School) has been appointed as an

Academic Advisor to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. **Emeritus Professor Ken Pounds** (Physics and Astronomy) has been appointed by the Select Committee on Science and Technology as a special advisor for the International Collaboration Inquiry. **Professor Robert Smith** (Head of the School of Biological Sciences) has been invited to serve an additional two-year term as a member of the Government's Advisory

# Distinguished *degrees & accolades*

▶ More than 4,000 students celebrated degree success at the University of Leicester and honorary degrees were awarded to a number of distinguished people in recognition of their important contribution to various fields.

## Winter Ceremony

▶ **Mr Andrew Constantine**, (DMus), conductor. Andrew Constantine won the Donatella Flick Conducting Competition in 1992.



He is considered to be one of Britain's most dynamic and versatile conductors, and has worked with leading orchestras, artists and opera companies. He was involved in the formation of Leicester's renowned Bardi Symphony Orchestra, and has recently founded the Malcolm Sargent International Soloists' Competition. Throughout his career he has supported the work of a variety of charities.

▶ **Dr Margaret Gelling**, OBE, (DLitt), President of the English Place-Name Society. Her continuing research over many years has contributed much to the understanding of the origins and meanings of Anglo-Saxon names, and she is well-known as one of the few specialists in Britain working in this area.



▶ **The Rt Rev'd Tim Stevens**, (DLitt), Bishop of Leicester. After ordination, he became Team Vicar of St Alban's, Upton Park; Team Rector of the parish of Canvey Island; Archdeacon of West Ham, and Bishop of Dunwich before taking up his present post in 1999. He is President of the Council of The Children's Society. He has an active interest in developing interfaith relations in Leicester.



▶ **Sir Derek Thomas**, (LLD), Chairman of the British Institute of Florence and a former British Ambassador to Italy. Derek Thomas has

spent his life in public service, representing British interests in the United States, Canada, and Europe. He was for a time Deputy Under Secretary of State for Europe and Political Director at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. His career has included appointments as Director of Rothschild Italia and other commercial businesses.



## Summer Ceremonies

▶ **Professor Sir Peter Bell**, MD, FRCS, (DSc), Professor of Surgery at the University of Leicester since 1973, distinguished for his contribution in the field of basic and clinical vascular surgery and transplantation. President of the International Society of Vascular Surgery and a Council member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, he was knighted in 2002 for services to Surgery.



▶ **The Honourable Mrs Ann Brooks**, (LLD), a key figure in public life in Leicester and Leicestershire. Ann Brooks has engaged in a variety of charitable works. She is the wife of the former Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire.



▶ **Ms Siobhan Davies**, CBE, (DLitt), a leading dancer and choreographer for London Contemporary Dance Theatre. Siobhan Davies made her first work, *Relay*, in 1972. She was named as one of six Creative Britons in 2000 and was awarded a CBE in 2002.



▶ **Professor Sir Martin Harris**, CBE, (DLitt), Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester. Sir Martin Harris began his academic career at the University of Leicester in 1967, where he lectured in French Linguistics. He received the CBE in 1992 and was knighted in 2000.



▶ **Dr Adam Hart-Davis**, (DSc), freelance photog-

rapher, writer and broadcaster. He is well known for his television appearances as the enthusiastic presenter of the history series, *What The Stuarts/Tudors Did For Us*. His publications include numerous books on science, mathematics and ghost stories.



▶ **Ms Patricia Hodge**, (DLitt), actress. In 2000 she won a Laurence Olivier Award for Best Supporting Actress for her part in *Money*. Other notable performances include roles in *Betrayal* and *The Elephant Man*.



▶ **Mr Anthony Howard**, CBE, (DLitt), columnist and former Obituaries Editor at *The Times*. His publications include *Rab: The Life of R A Butler*, and he was editor of *The Crossman Diaries*. He was awarded the CBE in 1997.



▶ **Professor John Matthews**, DPhil, FRHistS, FSA, FBA, (DLitt), Professor of Roman History at Yale University. John Matthews is a former student of Wyggeston Boys' Grammar School, Leicester. He has been described as one of the leading scholars of the late antique world.



▶ **Professor Sir Paul Nurse**, PhD, FRS, (DSc), Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK. Sir Paul Nurse was jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology/ Medicine, and received a Knighthood in 1999.



▶ **Mr Peter Preston**, (DLitt), columnist and Editorial Director of the Guardian Media Group. Peter Preston was a student at Loughborough Grammar School. He is the recipient of numerous newspaper awards.



▶ **Dr June Scobee Rodgers**, (DSc), founding Chairman of the Challenger Centre for Space

## D I S T I N C T I O N S D I S T I N C T I O N S D I S T I N C T I O N S D I S T I N C T I O N S D I S T I N C T I O N S

◀ Committee on Pesticides and to act as its Deputy Chairman. He has also been invited to become Chairman of the Environmental Panel from January 2003. **Dr Nigel Brunskill** (Cell Physiology and Pharmacology), **Professor Ian Eperon** (Biochemistry), **Ms Sarah Kenyon** (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) and **Professor Peter Williams** (Microbiology and Immunology) have been invited to join the MRC Advisory Board. **Professor Karl Nicholson** (Microbiology and Immunology) has been elected as one of eleven non-executive

members of the Health Protection Agency (HPA). **Professor Nigel Scrutton** (Biochemistry) has been awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry's Charmian Medal for Enzyme Chemistry. **Professor Joanne Shattock** (English) has been elected a Fellow of the English Association. **Mrs Maureen Strange** (Engineering) and **Mrs Margaret Crawford** (Personnel) have achieved NVQ Assessor Awards and were both complimented by the External Verifier on the quality of their work. **Professor David Evans** (Medical Physics) has

been elected President of the European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology. **Dr Richard Evans** (Cell Physiology and Pharmacology) has been awarded a major award of the British Pharmacological Society – the Novartis Prize for 2002. He is also the Frank May Prize Lecturer this year in the Faculty of Medicine and Biological Sciences. **Professor Peter Furness** (Pathology) has been elected to the Council of the Royal College of Pathologists. **Mr Tony Lawson** (School of Education) has

# Statistics 2002 • 2003

Science Education. Wife of American astronaut R Francis 'Dick' Scobee, who lost his life in the 1986 explosion of the Challenger spacecraft, she has been a lifelong promoter of science and maths education in the USA.



▶ **Dame Gillian Weir**, DBE, (DMus), distinguished organist. Dame Gillian Weir has performed across the world with leading orchestras and conductors. She is also a broadcaster, teacher and writer, and is known for her virtuosity and musicianship.



## Honours and Accolades

▶ **Professor David Mattingly**, Professor of Roman Archaeology in the University of Leicester's School of Archaeology and Ancient History, was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

▶ **Emeritus Professor Michael Clarke**, from the University of Leicester's Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, received a CBE in the Queen's New Year Honours for services to public health medicine.



▶ **Professor Malcolm Shaw**, Professor of Law at the University of Leicester, was installed as an Officer of the Order of Valour (Officier de l'Ordre de la Valeur) of the Republic of Cameroon.

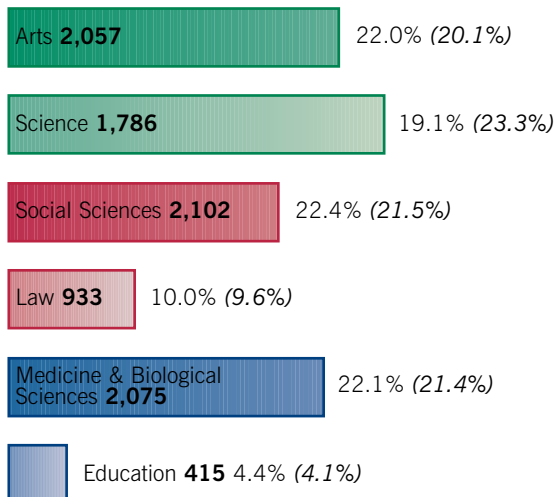
▶ **Dr Laurence Howard**, Sub-Dean of the University of Leicester Medical School, was appointed by Her Majesty the Queen to the post of Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland.



• A full list of Distinctions and other Personalities is published in the Official Record.

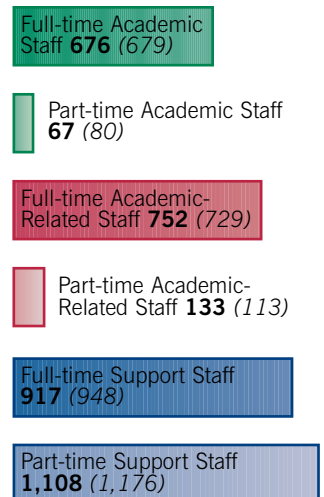
<b>Total Registered Students</b> .....	<b>18,949</b>
Undergraduate .....	9,458 (8,241)
Postgraduate .....	9,491 (10,327)
<b>Distribution of Full-time Students</b>	
Home/EU .....	8,242 (8,005)
Overseas .....	1,338 (1,055)
<b>Full-time Undergraduates over 21 on admission</b> .....	9.9% (8.9%)
<b>Taught Postgraduate Students</b> .....	2,150 (3,493)
<b>Total Postgraduate Research Students</b> .....	1,238 (1,172)
<b>Total Registered Distance Learning Students</b> .....	7,088 (5,699)

## Full-time Student Numbers



## Staff Numbers

(All sources of funding as of 30/04/03)



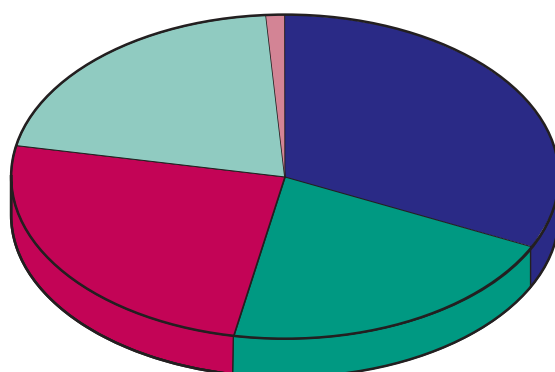
**Total Full-time Students** .....

(Figures in brackets relate to 2001/2002)

First Degree Graduates entering employment/training/research .....	87%
First Degree Graduates not available for employment .....	6%
Full-time Higher Degree Graduates entering employment/further training .....	95%
Full-time Higher Degree Graduates not available for employment .....	2%

## ONSDISTINCTIONS

been re-elected as National President of the Association for the Teaching of the Social Sciences for a further three years. **Professor Jean McHale** (Law) has been invited to sit on the Interim Advisory Group (Ethics and Governance) for the UK Biobank Project. **Professor Lorna Unwin** (Centre for Labour Market Studies) has been invited to become an Honorary Member of the City and Guilds of the London Institute in recognition of her personal contribution to vocational education, training, and assessment.



**Total Income 2002/2003**  
.....**£155.1m (£145.8m)**