



University of
Leicester



Annual Report
2001 • 2002

Visitor
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

OFFICERS 2001-02

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COVER PICTURES

Front cover: (left to right) Research student, Department of Genetics – the only Genetics department in the country to be awarded the top grade 5* in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise; NASA's Swift satellite – its X-ray camera was built by the University's Department of Physics and Astronomy which has played a major role in space research and provided space instrumentation since 1962; student numbers reached a record figure of 18,500 this year across a broad academic base in Arts, Education and Continuing Studies, Law, Medicine and Biological Sciences, Sciences and the Social Sciences.

Back cover: (left to right) Teaching quality is central to the University's learning and teaching strategy – all subjects reviewed by the national Quality Assurance Agency in the last four years have achieved results equating with excellence; Horse and Rider, a bronze by Tessa Pullan FRBS SEA – one of a prestigious exhibition of over 30 sculptures by internationally acclaimed artists installed by the University in its botanic garden as part of its 80th Anniversary celebrations; students celebrate success at degree congregations – many graduates choose to go on to further study both here and elsewhere – the University has the largest number of taught postgraduate students in the UK.

Swift satellite image: courtesy NASA

There is one companion volume to this report:

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2001/2002: Contains Treasurer's Report, statements on corporate governance and the responsibilities of Council, and detailed accounts for the year ended July 31 2002.

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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.



CENTRE OF ATTRACTION: The Sculpture, Souls, by Helaine Blumenfeld, with the Fielding Johnson, Attenborough and Ken Edwards buildings in the background.

The University

- ▶ A University College was established in Leicester in 1921 and the independent University of Leicester was created by Royal Charter in 1957. The University celebrated its 80th Anniversary in the academic year 2001-2002.
- ▶ The University is world-renowned for the discovery of the revolutionary technique of DNA genetic fingerprinting.
- ▶ Leicester houses one of the biggest University-based space research groups in Europe and is a co-founder of, and a principal participant in, the National Space Centre – the Millennium Commission's £52 million Landmark Project.
- ▶ The University was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2002 for its achievements in Genetics – the second time the University has won this accolade.
- ▶ Leicester is listed as a top 20 University by the *Sunday Times* and *Financial Times* league tables (2002). The *Sunday Times* identifies Leicester as one of the top three places to study in the Midlands and describes Leicester as 'challenging for a place in the top 10'. The *Financial Times* describes Leicester as an 'outstanding performer' in terms of its five year record.
- ▶ Leicester's estate extends to a total of 94 hectares. The original building of the University dates back to 1837 and there are a number of Listed buildings – including the Sirling-Gowan Engineering Building, described by English Heritage as one of the most important buildings of the 20th century. There is residential accommodation for 4,000 students.
- ▶ Leicester has around 40 academic departments in six faculties, more than 60 specialist divisions, centres and units, more than 140 undergraduate programmes, more than 100 postgraduate degree programmes and some 400 certificate and general interest courses.
- ▶ Leicester has the biggest total of taught postgraduate students in the UK – 7,755, amongst a total postgraduate population of over 9,000. The University offers many vocationally relevant courses and, in particular, a wide range of management courses. Of the total of more than 18,500 registered students, more than 6,200 students read for their degrees by distance learning.
- ▶ The University is a prominent member of the international academic community and has worldwide links in teaching and research. Students from more than 100 countries study courses run by the University.
- ▶ The University has a very strong reputation in terms of its teaching quality and has been graded as Excellent by the Quality Assurance Agency in 18 subject areas, including 14 successive scores of Excellent (22 points or above out of 24). These subject areas are: American Studies, Ancient History, Archaeology, Chemistry, Economics, Education, English, History (including Economic and Social History and English Local History), History of Art, Law, Mathematics and Statistics, Medicine, Molecular Biosciences, Museum Studies, Organismal Biosciences, Physics and Astronomy, Politics, and Psychology.
- ▶ The University has a very strong research base. In the latest national Research Assessment Exercise (2001), the University gained 13 top grades of 5 and 5* – and 84% of staff were rated as conducting research of a national and international calibre. The total value of grants and contracts announced during the year 2001-02 was £46.5 million.
- ▶ The University works closely with business and industry and, particularly in the fields of Medicine, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences and Engineering, has many established links with company research and development programmes.
- ▶ A programme of investment – the biggest since the Sixties – is currently under way. In 2002, the University unveiled its vision for the future – a £300 million development plan that

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aims to create a state-of-the-art campus over the next 30 years with enhanced teaching and learning facilities to meet the needs of new generations of researchers and students.

- ▶ The University's Medical School, established in 1974, is expanding and, in partnership with the University of Warwick, is set to become the biggest in England in 2003. A £403m investment in health and medical education, announced in 2002, means new facilities for medical training will be created at Leicester.
- ▶ The University employs 3,000 people and has an annual turnover approaching £150 million.

Vice-Chancellor's Introduction

► The academic year 2001-2002 marked the University's 80th Anniversary. This allowed us to engage in numerous events both in departments and faculties and at university level celebrating Leicester's achievements. It was also a time when we could look forward and plan boldly for the future.

The University of Leicester was established in 1921 as a University College and became a University in 1957. The success that has occurred across the years is demonstrated by our profile today as we have 18,568 students studying on undergraduate and postgraduate courses that are delivered on campus and by distance learning. Indeed, approximately 6,000 students study for postgraduate qualifications by distance learning and Leicester has the biggest number of taught postgraduate students in the UK. To deliver these courses and to provide a first class student experience requires a strong and committed staff. We employ over 3,000 people, which makes us one of the largest employers in the locality and a strong contributor to the local and regional economy. A key feature of university development is economic prosperity and I am delighted to report that, this academic year, Leicester achieved a £3.5 million surplus. This is the result of our success in a number of areas: recruiting and exceeding targets for new students (especially in distance learning), winning more research grants and contracts, and achieving increased activities in residences and conferences. This welcome financial surplus gives the University increased opportunities to develop.

We have taken the opportunity in the 80th

Anniversary year to pose the questions: What is a University? What kind of university would we like the University of Leicester to become? We have a compact estate in University Road and at Oadby but we need to consider ways in which they can be developed in the short, medium and long term. Accordingly, we have worked with development plan architects to deliver a vision for the University of Leicester in the 21st Century. Our plan looks at developments over a thirty-year time period but we have already commenced some capital works including a biomedical building and the

We are now placed in the top ten universities in the UK for research grant and contract income raised per full time equivalent member of academic staff.

building for space science and mathematical modelling (the latter brings together researchers from Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Engineering in an interesting interdisciplinary development). There is much work to be done in carrying forward these and other schemes, and managing them to time and within budget, as all these developments are essential to provide staff and students with the appropriate infrastructure for research and teaching.

Our research activities increasingly rely on research grants and contracts won in open competition and here our staff have been very successful. We are now placed in the top ten universities in the UK for research grant and contract income raised per full time

equivalent member of academic staff. But raising the funding is not an end in itself. It is a means to achieve higher standards in our research nationally and internationally. Across all the Faculties, much depends upon the quality of the individuals we recruit and the ways they can work collaboratively within and beyond the University. One of our largest concentrations of researchers is in the field of Space Research in which Leicester has been active for forty years. It is a world-class activity of which we are very proud. There are also other very successful research centres in other faculties. In Education the

Centre for Citizenship Studies has continued to do leading edge work and to contribute to policy and practice in the school system. In the Faculty of Arts we established a new Centre for Tuscan Studies that has the potential to bring together researchers working in related fields. Already we have established excellent links with the British Institute in Florence and with senior officials in Italy.

Research contributes directly to our teaching as students are provided with the latest developments in academic subjects. The quality of the teaching we provide is of a very high order and has been recognised as such by external panels that have visited the University to evaluate 'teaching quality'. All subject areas that have been visited in the

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

► A NEW South Asian studies centre was established in the School of Historical Studies. INPAR-EL (Institute for the Study of Indo-Pakistan Relations) is part of the University's Centre for the History of Religious and Political Pluralism. This leading

international centre was set up to encourage the exchange of ideas and the development of relevant policies and projects which strengthen cross-cultural relations.

► A CENTRE for the academic study of a region that has, for centuries,

been popular with writers, artists and visitors was launched. Major political figures from the UK and Italy attended the launch of the Centre for Tuscan Studies. The event included a public lecture, *Massa Marittima Reveals its History*.

► A NEW government-backed facility, the first of its kind, opened at the National Space Centre to provide the general public with information on the threat of impacts on Earth of Near Earth Objects such as asteroids and comets. The University's

Department of Physics and Astronomy operates an extension to its space research programme located at the National Space Centre; this facility provides offices, satellite control and receiving station and scientific backing for the staff of the



STRONG FOUNDATIONS: Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess at the site of the new £20m Biomedical Sciences building at the University of Leicester.

last three years have been recognised as providing excellent teaching. We need to look at new ways to deliver the teaching programme and add to our curriculum. The 'map of knowledge' is continually being redrawn and Leicester staff continue to contribute to its development.

Universities also make major contributions to their locality and we contribute much to Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (just as University College did from its inception in 1921). We provide many of the doctors, teachers, social workers and other professionals in the locality. We also contribute to culture and the arts in numerous ways. This year the Richard Attenborough Centre has had a series of exhibitions in Art and Music and has actively involved many schools in their programme. One of the most ambitious developments was a sculpture show in our Botanic Garden. We were very fortunate to secure support from many sculptors who staged a 34-piece show. This brought numerous visitors to the University. At the end of this anniversary year we also hosted the British Association Annual Festival of Science which had 9,000 delegates in one week. This allowed us to showcase our research and share our success with the community locally, nationally and internationally.

The University of Leicester is a dynamic organisation which delivers work of high quality. This depends on the activities of staff and students who contribute to our strong profile and to whom I am most grateful for their support in developing the University in imaginative ways.

Professor Robert Burgess
Vice-Chancellor

E R J A N U A R Y F E B 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

National Space Centre. Through this role, University research staff have played a major part in establishing the Near Earth Object Information Centre in Leicester. The University manages the SSRU, providing offices, satellite suites and

professional backing for the staff at the Space Centre. This make projects such the information centre for NEOs possible.
▶ THE FIRST in a fascinating new series of CD-ROMs on English Parish Churches was produced by staff in History of Art

and the Faculty of Arts. The CD forms the first volume in a projected series of CD-ROMs on English parish churches and their craftsmanship, based around a collection of photographs taken by Dr Donna Chaproniere since the early 1950s and

donated by her in 1993 to the History of Art Department.
▶ TWO HEARING-IMPAIRED trainee teachers were awarded Qualified Teacher Status after a year's training under the Graduate Teacher Programme. The training

was provided by the School of Education in conjunction with the Royal School for the Deaf, Derby. The trainees attended sessions on PGCE primary and secondary courses with their interpreters, and joined in activities with PGCE students. ▶



VISION FOR THE FUTURE: Work began on new buildings on campus and plans were laid for the development of the University over the next 30 years. (Main) A 3D rendering of the new development plan. Areas earmarked for new buildings are shown in blue, pedestrianised areas in yellow, and a new access road in red; (inset) Artists' impressions of new buildings on campus.

*A £300 million Development Plan –
the biggest expansion programme since
the sixties – was announced by the
University during its 80th Anniversary Year.*

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

▶ THE ENGLISH Language Teaching Unit offered language and study skills training to a record number of international students last year. 200 students took the 10-week full-time preparatory course during the summer, of whom 190 attained the required

standard for entry to their chosen degree programmes this academic year. ▶ TWO MOVIE legends joined forces at the University for the second annual Richard Attenborough Centre Public Lecture. In a heart-felt and often critical

speech entitled *The Moral Imagination*, Lord Puttnam, a Government adviser on education and maker of such films as *The Killing Fields*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Chariots of Fire* and *The Mission*, called for greater moral accountability from the film

industry and higher investment in education. Lord Attenborough followed by recalling the visit of Diana, Princess of Wales, who formally opened the Centre in 1997, and announcing that the main hall would be named after the

Princess to commemorate the event. ▶ BACKED BY 700 companies, organisations and individuals from every part of the region, and attracting 200 works of art in embryo, Great East Midlands (GEM) Landmark Competition

Development *£30m investment in facilities*

During the year, the 80th Anniversary of the University, a significant amount of work was undertaken in a number of areas of the University to enhance, refurbish, upgrade and extend existing accommodation – the University committed nearly £30m. The most notable projects were:

- ▶ Work on the enabling contract for the new £20m Biomedical Sciences Building adjacent to the Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building and Hodgkin Building was undertaken. The original allotment site was cleared, services altered and a temporary car park and a new piled retaining wall constructed. The new building is anticipated to start on site early in 2003 with completion early summer 2004. The project is part funded by a grant of £10m from the Wellcome Trust.
- ▶ The building work on the £3.7m Space Research and Multidisciplinary Modelling Centre started in the middle of the year and has progressed well on site. The building is being constructed adjacent to the existing Space Research Centre. The keenness of the tenders allowed the University to reinstate accommodation on the second floor that had originally been removed at the design stage. The new building will contain a £300,000 specialist Clean Room facility for the Department of Physics and Astronomy and facilities for Engineering, Chemistry and Mathematics and Computer Science.
- ▶ A major £3m refurbishment and reorganisation of the Chemistry Teaching and Research Buildings commenced earlier in the year. The scheme will fully refurbish the two buildings to a modern high standard and will provide accommodation for the University's School of Archaeology and Ancient History in the existing Chemistry Research Building,

whilst space has been reorganised and redistributed within the George Porter (Chemistry Teaching) Building to accommodate both Chemistry teaching and research. The project will provide both Departments with the facilities they need for the future.

- ▶ The University undertook a significant programme of upgrading of its lecture theatres from the HEFCE Project Capital Round 1 grant of £0.335m. Ten of the University's lecture theatres were upgraded: works included soft furnishing to seats, floor covering, decoration, provision of hearing loops and significant audio-visual technological improvements.
- ▶ The University has produced a draft Development Plan for the next 30 years. The Plan was produced in conjunction with the University's Development Architects, Shephard Epstein Hunter. A number of consultation sessions took place with staff, students, neighbours and the local city and borough councils. It is anticipated that the Development Plan will invest £300m of capital into building and infrastructure projects over the next 30 years. It is anticipated that the Plan will be formally approved by Council early in the New Year.
- ▶ The University is a significant partner in the £403m University Hospitals of Leicester Pathway Project. The PFI project will create £45m of research and teaching space on hospital sites including new accommodation on Leicester General Hospital's site for the Medical School. The project is in its development stage and it is anticipated that the whole project will be completed by the end of 2010.
- ▶ The University has been allocated over £1.58m funding in the Higher Education Funding Council's Project Capital Round 2.

The University is currently developing schemes to improve existing lecture theatres and seminar rooms. As a part of this grant, the University has also been allotted £0.58m to start the programme to comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act which will come into full effect in Higher Education establishments from 2005.

- ▶ Villiers Hall of Residence in Manor Road, Oadby is being redeveloped. The existing 207 beds are to be replaced with a modern £20m 600 bed en-suite development. Initial design has commenced and it is anticipated that this will start on site during the summer of 2003 with completion in 2005.
- ▶ The Knighton area residences at Mary Gee Houses, Clare Houses, College Hall and Elms Road Houses are to be refurbished. Preparation work has commenced on the options available to the University to refurbish and improve these buildings, including the provision of ensuite facilities.
- ▶ Preparation work has commenced on a feasibility study and option appraisal for the refurbishment of the existing Library and a new Library extension. The University has committed itself to providing a significant improvement and extension to the existing facilities. The building works will start on site during 2004.
- ▶ New theatre and film viewing facilities were established on campus – a 400-seater theatre in the Queen's Hall, Percy Gee Building and a 150-seater film viewing facility in the Attenborough Building. The creation of the film-viewing facility follows the University's expansion of degree programmes which includes a new Honours degree in Film Studies and Visual Arts which started in September.

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

reached its climax at the University's Richard Attenborough Centre where Lord Attenborough announced the winner of the competition to design a sculpture with the breadth and scale to symbolise the East Midlands. Nine entries were short-

listed and the winner was Cable Structure by a Nottingham trio. The aim is to give the East Midlands a potent symbol in order to strengthen regional identity.

▶ MUSEUM STUDIES researchers found that children who find difficulty

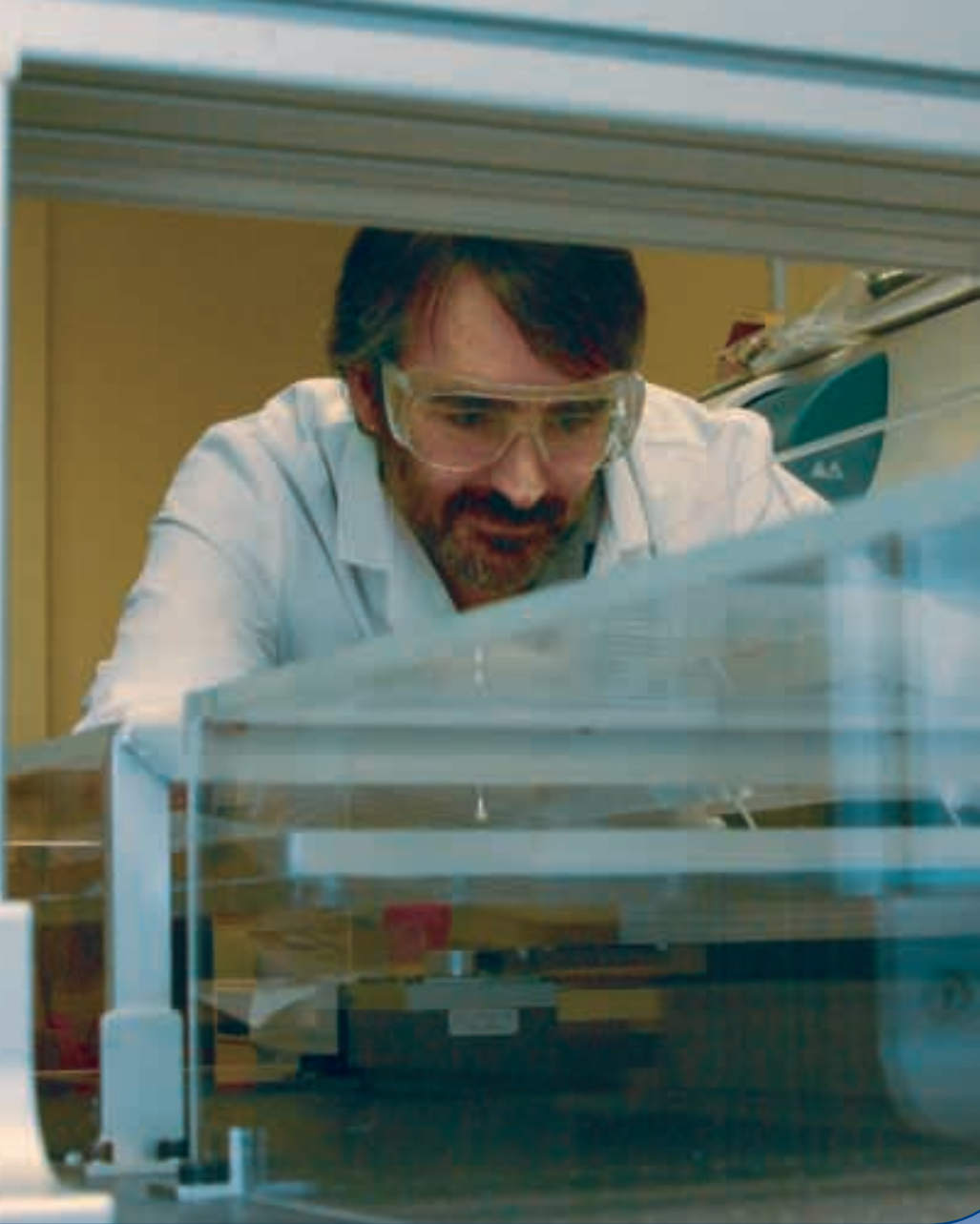
with classroom learning often responded very well to the educational opportunities offered by museums, and gained confidence and focus. Teachers also became more confident about fresh ways to work in the classroom.

▶ LONG-TERM over-

cooking of the immune system causing tissues to inflame and blood vessels to grow may be the single most important cause of cancer, claimed researchers. This could herald an entirely new approach to both preventing and treating

cancer, with the prospect that some existing anti-inflammatory drugs – currently front-line treatments for conditions like arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease – could be used to keep cancer at bay.

The study suggested that ▶



ACHIEVEMENTS: Leicester excelled in a variety of disciplines and was identified by the *Financial Times* as an 'outstanding performer.' (Main) The University of Leicester has the only 5* research rated genetics department in the UK. (Inset from top) Archaeology is among the top rated subjects at Leicester; the Rt Hon Estelle Morris inaugurated the Institute of Lifelong Learning; a mission to Mars is among the projects associated with Leicester.

The University of Leicester's many successes in teaching and research helped to enhance its reputation as a top 20 UK university.

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◀ the immune system overcooks, perhaps because of long-term exposure to an infectious or carcinogenic chemical, and it loses its ability to fight disease and instead may actually begin to nurture and protect young cancer cells. Calming the

immune system down with certain anti-inflammatory drugs could therefore reduce the rates of many common cancers. ▶ SCIENTISTS FROM 11 countries – including the Department of Biology at the University – announced the founding of

an international consortium to sequence the banana genome within five years. They will use the new genetic data to enable developing-world farmers to grow bananas that are able to resist the fungus “Black Sigatoka,” as well as other diseases

and pests. Bananas are a staple food for nearly half a billion people worldwide, but their crops are increasingly lost to disease. The genome sequence will also benefit U.S. and European consumers of the popular dessert banana, one of the world’s most chemically

dependent crops. ▶ THE UNIVERSITY’S Teaching and Learning Unit is approaching one of the services it offers students in a highly creative way. Novelist and short story writer, Mary Flanagan, has joined the Unit to provide guidance

Distinctive *outstanding success*

a top 20 university

▶ National media league tables placed the University among the foremost universities in the UK – and it leads the country in the number of taught postgraduate students.

Leicester achieved its highest ever rating in the *Financial Times* league table which placed the University at 17th – climbing two places from last year's 19th, the first time it had achieved a top 20 rating. The University is also ranked in the top 20 by the *Sunday Times*.

The FT identified Leicester as an 'outstanding performer' in terms of its five year record while the *Sunday Times* described Leicester as 'challenging for a place in the Top 10'.

a national role model

▶ Former Secretary of State for Education and Skills, the Rt Hon Estelle Morris, MP, visited the University to inaugurate the Institute of Lifelong Learning and to commemorate Vaughan College's 140th anniversary.

Unveiling the anniversary plaque, she said: "I am hugely optimistic when I see places like Vaughan College, where people are doing things right. If the founding fathers of this college were here, they would be proud of what you are doing today."

At the Richard Attenborough Centre she added: "I've heard good things about this Centre. I can say it is a centre of excellence in inclusion – thank you for being an example to others."

"Leicester scores well in the Research Assessment Exercise, your retention rate is amongst the best in the country. The quality of your teaching is good. You are above the HEFCE benchmark in many of the things you do and you show us that you can have

excellence and wider participation. You work with partner organisations like the WEA and colleges of further education.

"I congratulate you. You are a role model."

best research results

▶ The University recorded its best ever result in the national Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) – a crucial national barometer on the quality of research in British universities.

The University scored a total of 13 top grades of 5 or 5* – compared with six last time – and 84% of staff were rated as conducting research of a national or international calibre.

The results revealed that the University has more than doubled top grades since the last RAE in 1996.

The world-famous Department of Genetics received the highest possible rating of 5* – the only Genetics department in the UK to achieve this distinction.

Subjects rated 5 were Archaeology, Biochemistry, Biology, Economics, Engineering, English, History, Law, Applied Mathematics, Pure Mathematics, Pharmacology and Physics. Also rated 5 were Infection/Immunology, in the Clinical Laboratory Science Unit of Assessment, and Cardiovascular, in the Hospital-Based Clinical Unit of Assessment. A total of 12 subject areas were awarded a Grade 4.

full marks for Leicester

▶ The University added to its tally of excellent results for teaching quality during the year with the School of Education and the School of Archaeology and Ancient History both gaining top marks from the Quality Assurance Agency.

In a joint assessment of Archaeology and Ancient History, the School achieved 24

points out of 24 for each subject – bringing the total number of subject areas at Leicester with maximum scores to six.

The University has the rare distinction of having 14 successive QAA subject review scores of 22 points or more – which equates with a mark of excellent. Every department assessed at the University since early 1998 has achieved this result, adding to a number of "excellents" achieved in earlier years. It brings to 18 the number of subject areas that have achieved excellence.

The School of Education also gained full marks during the year. It joined Museum Studies, Economics and Psychology as subject areas at Leicester that have achieved the maximum scores.

royal interest in project

▶ Her Majesty the Queen and HRH Prince Philip were shown the British Beagle 2 space mission to Mars which was on display at the National Space Centre, co-founded by the University.

Beagle 2 is a unique British-led space probe, designed to search for evidence of life on the Red Planet. Beagle 2 will be transported to Mars on the European Space Agency's Mars Express spacecraft, with lift-off in May 2003 and landing on Mars on Boxing Day, 2003.

The University is a key member of the Beagle 2 partnership, which is led by the Open University together with Astrium, UK, the British National Space Centre and the European Space Agency. Scientists and engineers at Leicester's Space Research Centre have designed and built a significant amount of the payload instrumentation, as well as the PAW structure which serves as the hands and eyes of the Beagle 2 probe. Mission planning activities are also led from Leicester.

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

for graduate students on how they can best develop their academic writing skills. The post, funded by the Royal Literary Fund, will enable students to learn how to communicate their work in a refreshingly new way.

▶ WOMEN PREFER

attending a one-stop menstrual clinic rather than traditional gynaecology units. Researchers at the University and Leicester Royal Infirmary discovered such organisation may be appropriate for other clinical treatments too. The team from the Department

of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University and Infirmary sought the views of 239 women who attended a one-stop clinic and a gynaecology clinic. The study forms the basis for further developments that aim to enhance the deliv-

ery of care to women.

▶ A CONFERENCE at the University presented research carried out on one of the UK's largest supercomputers. At the conference "UKAFF1: Computational Fluid Dynamics in Astrophysics" astronomers from around

the world presented results of computer simulations carried out on the UK Astrophysical Fluids Facility (UKAFF).

▶ A UNIVERSITY mass communications expert has written a book revealing how the Balkans' recent turbulent



BREAKTHROUGH: Knowledge provided the key to greater understanding.

(Main) Medical scientists are engaged in many research projects bringing health benefits locally and beyond, including ongoing research into the treatment of TB; (inset) the impact of Leicester's work brought benefits in the classroom, industry and in space research.

*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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◀ history has been reflected in an explosion of cinematic activity. *Cinema of Flames: Balkan Film, Culture and the Media* examined the rich variety of international film projects triggered by political events in the Balkans and explored how

regional conflicts spawned films such as *Underground, Ulysses' Gaze, Before the Rain, Pretty Village, Pretty Flame* and *Welcome to Sarajevo*, taking a leading but ambiguous role in defining the Balkan upheaval through a narrow

range of selectively defined images. ▶ STUDENTS IN selected schools were chosen for a test run of a new educational card game featuring scientific satellites. The game, called 'Voyager', was developed in the University's Space

Research Centre and includes facts about 32 different scientific satellites, including the Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station. Any UK involvement with the satellites is highlighted on the cards, which also include a web address

specific to each satellite, where enthusiasts can find out more information. Following the pilot scheme, 'Voyager' will be developed into a fun education tool that – with the inclusion of teachers' notes – can be distributed to schools nationwide in future.

Innovation *fresh ways of thinking*

recreating Mars environment

► Scientists at the University's Space Research Centre recreated the hostile environment found on Mars in their laboratory, with a device known as the Martian Environment Simulator (MES). The machine reproduces the temperature, air pressure and unbreathable atmosphere known to exist on Mars.

The MES was used to test equipment on the Beagle 2 lander, part of the European Space Agency's Mars Express Spacecraft and due to arrive on Mars during Christmas 2003. The chance of Beagle 2 finding life, either current or past, on the red planet has increased recently due to the discovery of ice beneath the planet's surface. The MES will be used to test all future instruments for planetary science being developed at the Space Research Centre.

space in the classroom

► Have you ever searched for water on the moon? Or measured the depth of a Martian crater? Classroom Space is an innovative project from space scientists at the University that will provide school children across the UK with the opportunity to tackle these and other exciting challenges.

A ready made resource for teachers, Classroom Space provides all the necessary materials to teach key areas of the National Curriculum using exciting new examples. By bringing data and issues from real space missions in to schools, it uses pupils' enthusiasm for space science and astronomy to address declining interest generally in science subjects. All the classroom materials use real data from space missions that have studied Mars, the Moon or the Earth.

nose for the job

► An ambitious project is under way to build the world's smallest electronic nose.

If the project succeeds, it is expected that the technology would have many potential applications in areas such as environmental monitoring, healthcare and food safety.

The aim is to combine the odour sensors together with the signal processing components onto a single silicon chip, around a square centimetre in size. The instrument would require very little power and could be held comfortably in the palm of the hand.

The project is being carried out by scientists and engineers from the universities of Leicester, Warwick and Edinburgh, with funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

simplified computer control

► The concept of computer control in schools has been revolutionised by the launch of Control Insight, a ground-breaking computer package, from the University.

Recognising the link between physics and technology, education experts from the School of Education designed a comprehensive software package that facilitates the teaching of control technology and the active participation of pupils in solving control problems by computer.

The innovative development helps pupils fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Students are required to use ICT: 'to measure, record, respond to and control events by planning, testing and modifying sequences of instructions'.

TB research boost

► Researchers at the University received £105,882 from the EU as part of a cross-Europe consortium of researchers striving to find new treatments for tuberculosis (TB). The multi-disciplinary project (led by workers at the world famous Pasteur institute in Paris) involves

Leicester-based research to define new anti-TB drug targets, with the long term aim of developing new drugs that have multiple target enzymes in the TB bacterium. In this way, it is hoped that drug-resistance will not develop.

The Leicester research team was the first in the UK to uncover new structures for TB cytochrome P450 (or P450) proteins, found in unusually large numbers in the TB bacterium. P450 structures solved at Leicester have been the highest in terms of resolution and consequently researchers have been able to derive more accurate information from these proteins than ever before.

A further grant from the Wellcome Trust is allowing a team led by a Leicester biochemist to investigate a family of proteins (molecular machines) which are associated with the ability of the TB bacterium to infect people and also with the development of immunity to the disease. Funding was also received from the MRC, MediSearch and a second EU grant concerned with drug resistance.

The University is a growing centre of expertise on TB research, with several groups researching different aspects of TB epidemiology, biology, biochemistry and pharmacology.

birth of musical protégés?

► A study carried out at the University and shown on BBC's *Child Of Our Time* revealed for the first time that babies remember sounds they heard in the womb – and recognise them well into later life.

The study from the Music Research Group at the University's School of Psychology, demonstrated how one-year old babies recognise music they were exposed to up to three months before birth.

The discovery explodes the theory that babies can only remember things for a month or two – and suggests that memory could last a great deal longer than that.

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► EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHERS at the Universities of Leicester and Birmingham will be investigating issues relating to identity and ethnic culture among school-children in a new study funded by the Economic and Social

Research Council. In the first study of its kind to take place in Leicester, the Project Team based at the University's School of Education will study Complementary Schools in the city. The research aims to help to build awareness of how complementary

schools serve their communities. ► THE HISTORY of the village was one of the themes of the work of English Local History. A conference was held on 'coastal settlement', in which it was decided that in spite of the rich

resources of the sea (fish, salt, seaweed etc.) people were reluctant to live on the coast in permanent villages until quite a late date – after 1400. This year also saw the beginnings of a three-year phase AHRB-funded Whittlewood Project,

which explores the origins of villages, hamlets and farmsteads in an area on the Northamptonshire / Buckinghamshire border. ► PSYCHOLOGISTS From Leicester presented the first evidence that questions the often stated link between pop music ►



MEMORABLE YEAR: *The University of Leicester celebrated its achievements and looked to the future during its 80th Anniversary Year. (Main) Children engage in activities as part of the BA Festival of Science; (inset from left) Lord Attenborough and Lord Puttnam with Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess naming the hall in the RAC after Diana, Princess of Wales; University College students in the 1920s; a flower bed commemorates the anniversary celebrations.*

*The University celebrated its
80th Anniversary Year and hosted
the British Association's Festival of Science,
which attracted 9,000 people.*

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◀ and youth suicide. It is also the first evidence that questions whether pro-censorship groups are having the impact they desire. A key finding was that censorship of pop music could increase, rather than decrease, youth suicide rates.

▶ AMONG 70 undergraduates registering for a physics degree at the University were four students who already proved themselves outstanding in top international competition. The students, from the Republic of Moldova,

Bulgaria, Azerbaijan and Indonesia, were all medal holders from the XXXI International Physics Olympiad, held at the University in 2000, and were subsequently successful in applying for IPhO 2000 Scholarships to enable them to join the

MPhys degree course in September 2001. The scholarships are jointly funded by the British Physics Olympiad Committee and the University.
▶ THE UNIVERSITY Library was awarded a grant of £335,000 to

create a digital library of historical source material. The grant from the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) is for the digitisation of a large selection of eighteenth and nineteenth century local and trade directories from localities in England and Wales. It is

Celebration *a landmark year*



a magnificent anniversary year

▶ The University's 80th Anniversary Year, 2001-2, saw one of the biggest public programmes of celebrations in the University's history. Of the many highlights during this special year were the summer degree congregations when Leicester honoured people who had strong associations with the University, the City and County.

The media celebrated with the University, with live broadcasts and reports in national and local press on the many events held during the year. There were concerts, exhibitions and a programme of special lectures – Sir John Stevens, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Lord Puttnam, Professor Sir Harry Kroto and Estelle Morris were among the many notable people who spoke at the University.

Public programmes also included music, an inter-varsity rugby match, other sporting fixtures, reunions, campus tours and a children's lecture. Open days at the Botanic Garden and an exhibition of sculptures by distinguished artists were among distinctive highlights of the anniversary year. Internationally renowned soprano Dame Felicity Lott returned to the city to give a recital at the University and three Royal visits in the space of five weeks formed a magnificent finale to the Anniversary Year.

More than 9,000 people attended the BA Festival of Science and over 50 Leicester scientists presented papers at the event.

gene genius

▶ The inventor of genetic fingerprinting at the University of Leicester, Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, highlighted how fundamental knowledge of human genetic diversity can find unexpected applications, for example, in forensic identification. He described to the

BA Festival how heritable mutations, until recently only detectable in families when they cause disease, can now be detected by completely different approaches, in particular by analysing single human sperm, allowing the evolution of human DNA to be followed in real time. And he told how these new mutation monitoring systems can be used to investigate the genetic consequences of environmental agents on the frequency of heritable mutations in humans, in particular in people exposed to radioactive fallout following the Chernobyl disaster.

Professor Jeffreys also raised, and began to attempt to answer, a range of major questions, ranging from the wisdom or otherwise of DNA typing the entire UK population in an attempt to fight crime, through to our understanding of how radiation impacts on human germ cells and the long-term genetic risks that we may therefore face from environmental radioactivity.

stalking evidence

▶ A Leicester psychologist presented a new taxonomy of stalkers at the BA Festival. It is aimed explicitly at law enforcement practitioners with a view to assessing and managing individual real world stalking cases.

The research will help investigators to prioritise from the large number of potentially important factors present in any given case and the system should enable its users to better understand the motivations behind various stalking activities.

back to work

▶ Disease characteristics and biomechanical demands at work are less important in work absence, long term work loss and long term unemployment due to pain than psychosocial factors, researchers from the University's Department of Anaesthesia and Pain

Management told the BA Festival.

The previous assumptions and research about the ability of people with long term incapacity due to pain to work are not substantiated. People with pain associated disability are able to work provided suitable rehabilitation is provided.

Roman good living

▶ Leicester archaeologists examined the quality of life in the desert – and found evidence of high living in Rome's distant quarries.

They found that the distance and remote location of the quarry complexes did not affect the food supply and that workers had access not to a meagre diet of a few staples, but instead had access to a wide range of foods. This included staples and luxuries, plus locally produced greens and some meat. The foods recovered during the excavations reveal variety and the presence of luxuries. In terms of diet, quality of life was achieved despite the desert location.

making the earth move

▶ An appreciation that sexuality, as expressed by differences in gender, has been present in animals for over 500 million years was conveyed by a geologist from Leicester.

The geologist told the BA Festival that sex was first recognised in the fossil record in rocks dated at more than 500 million years old. Evidence for the existence of sexual dimorphism (males and females) in the fossil record of animals can be found in both the hard-parts (shells) of invertebrate animals and in those rare cases where particular conditions have resulted in the preservation of animal soft-parts including limbs. Fossil females and males, organs for copulation, and even specimens preserved 'in flagrante delicto' are testimony that, for animals, the fun and games started a long, long time ago!

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intended that 400 volumes, consisting of over 300,000 printed pages, will be digitised and made available on the internet, during the two-year span of the project.

▶ UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS worked with colleagues across the

country on a treatment for advanced cervical cancer that reduces the death rate significantly. Hailed as "the most important advance in the treatment of cervical cancer in 40 years" by Patricia Eifel of the M D Anderson Tumor Institute in Houston,

Texas, chemoradiotherapy has been shown to reduce the chance of death by 29 per cent for women with cervical cancer whose tumours are too advanced for surgery. The treatment, available at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, is the result of 19 worldwide

trials, conducted between 1981 and 2000, involving 4,580 patients. It works by partially reducing the development of cancer secondaries.

▶ RESEARCHERS FROM the Centre for Labour Market Studies unearthed a long lost set of research

documents from the early 1960s on how young people adjusted to working life and 'adult roles' in Leicester. As a result of their find, they were funded from the Economic and Social Research Council for a new research project entitled, From



NEW HORIZONS: The sky was not the limit for Leicester's research.

(Main) Space research at Leicester advanced new theories and increased understanding, studying gamma ray bursts using the XMM-Newton space telescope; (inset from left) student numbers grew at Leicester; Leicester excelled in sports activities – and studies; specialist clusters of academic expertise were established.

Findings by University of Leicester academics provided essential independent information upon which future policies can be based.

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◀ Young Workers to Older Workers: Reflections on Work in the Life Process. Its aim is to examine the process of adjustment to working life and retirement of one group of male and female workers over the four decades, 1962/3 – 2002/3.

▶ LEICESTERSHIRE DOCTORS and health workers will find they have information at their fingertips, thanks to a new initiative from the University. The University's Clinical Sciences Library launched its new information service for all

primary, community and mental health NHS staff in Leicestershire. The service aims to take library and information services into GP surgeries, health centres and community hospitals, rather than expecting busy staff to visit the Clinical Sciences

Library on the Leicester Royal Infirmary site. The service will support clinical practice and clinical governance, life long learning, research and audit.
▶ THE UNIVERSITY emerged as the first national champion in a

legal competition devised to identify a student project of benefit to the community. Sir Bob Geldof announced the University as the winning team in the 2000-01 Solicitors Pro Bono Group and Law Centres Federation Student Challenge. Pro Bono work

Knowledge *a key to understanding*

nuclear reaction

► In 1986 the nuclear accident at Chernobyl in the Ukraine contaminated the surrounding regions – and beyond – with radiation. The world waited anxiously to see what the long-term effects of this would be. Geneticists at the University of Leicester began to investigate, and their work continues today.

In the knowledge that predicting the genetic consequences for humans of exposure to ionising radiation and chemical mutagens has become one of the most important issues of human genetics, Leicester geneticists have developed a new system for monitoring radiation-induced mutation in the germline of mammals.

Tests have shown for the first time that those families from Belarus and Ukraine who were exposed to the Chernobyl radioactive contamination, and families from Kazakhstan exposed to the fallout from nuclear weapon tests, are significantly more likely to pass on mutations to their children. Among the wider applications of this research is the suggestion that their methods can also be used where there has been exposure to chemicals.

gamma ray bursts

► The cause of gamma ray bursts, the most violent and explosive events in the Universe, has remained a mystery since they were first discovered in 1967. Now a team of scientists, led by astronomers from the University, believes they have found an answer to the puzzle. Their research results indicate that gamma ray bursts are caused by the death of a star so huge that when it dies in a supernova, its core collapses to form a black hole, resulting in an intense outburst of gamma rays.

The scientists used the EPIC (European Photon Imaging Camera) instrument on the European Space Agency's XMM-Newton space

telescope to capture the X-ray afterglow of a recent gamma ray explosion in a galaxy 10 billion light years from Earth, and then conducted a detailed spectral analysis of the data.

The findings will be tested by SWIFT, a NASA led space mission that scientists from the University of Leicester and Mullard Space Science Laboratory are helping to build. Once it is launched in autumn 2003, SWIFT will study over 1000 gamma ray bursts.

it's good to talk

► Leicester children are growing up with poor conversation skills because they spend too much time glued to the TV, university experts in education revealed.

Studies of the speaking skills of city children over 20 years found their inability to communicate is a major obstacle to making progress at school. However programmes developed at the University with Leicester schools are leading to dramatic improvements in standards. The technique, which uses conversation and discussion to stimulate children's thinking skills, is being adopted by schools across Britain.

Researchers claimed that families traditionally used to gather together every evening and recount what they had done during the day. Children learned in that context to put verbal ideas together in their minds. Today, children come home from school and sit in front of the TV.

drugs in sport

► The British Medical Association's Board of Science and Education published the first ever UK report for health professionals on the use of drugs in sport.

The report, *Drugs in Sport: The Pressure to Perform*, co-authored by a University academic from the Centre for Research into Sport and Society, claims that using drugs to

enhance performance in sport, 'doping', is entrenched and widespread, and occurs both at the recreational level, for example in gyms, and at world championship elite level.

As well as focusing on elite level sport, the report highlights the use of anabolic androgenic steroid use in British gyms. Reasons for using steroids range from enhancing performance to improving body image. Some research indicates that one third of GPs are likely to encounter patients who use steroids.

patient confidentiality threat

► Club culture and intense media and commercial pressures have seriously undermined the ethos of patient confidentiality in English professional football clubs, finds a study in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.

This is despite guidelines issued by the British Olympic Association, the Football Association, and the British Medical Association, which clearly state that the duty of confidentiality of medical staff overrides that of their contractual obligations to their employers.

University researchers from the Centre for Research into Sport and Society, acting on behalf of the Professional Footballers Association, surveyed 58 club doctors, and held face to face interviews with an additional 12 club doctors, 10 club physiotherapists, and 27 current and former players.

They found that there was no code of ethics governing the way in which confidential issues were handled. And the amount and type of information about players that club doctors and physiotherapists freely passed on to managers varied enormously.

Physiotherapists were more often guilty of failing to respect patient confidentiality than doctors. But concerns were raised by the ethical behaviour of some of the club doctors.

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involves giving free or subsidised legal advice and assistance to those who could not otherwise afford or obtain it. Students from the University Faculty of Law already run a Student Legal Advice Centre for the benefit of fellow students and the current project will

extend the opportunities available to Leicester students to gain practical work experience.

► THE UNIVERSITY Department of Medicine is involved in a multi-centre study that will have important implications for the care of older persons who

suffer falls. The research will investigate the use of pacemakers in a condition responsible for falls in elderly people. The study aims to help people who suffer from carotid sinus hypersensitivity and falls from having further falls. The condition is an impor-

tant reason contributing to falls, particularly amongst elderly people.

► THANKS TO A £60k grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), a team from Cranfield University and Leicester will try and find the answer

of whether there is life on Mars. The team is producing prototype advanced biomimetic sensors which could fly on a future robotic Mars exploration. The sensors use the nanotechnology of molecular imprinted polymers, where cavities in the polymer surface are



BENEFITS: There were global, environmental and social outcomes from Leicester studies.

(Main) Research at Leicester helped to protect wildlife habitats; (inset from top) people of all generations benefited from Leicester studies; the attractive University campus provided a photo opportunity for the Royal Mail (picture Jason Tilley); University accommodation includes some picturesque Edwardian houses.

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

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◀ moulded to fit a particular shape of molecule, to detect biologically produced compounds which may remain stable over millions of years. This technology-driven development represents a quantum leap in sensing biomolecules on another planet.

▶ NEW RESEARCH indicates that there may be a distinctive style of Thai people development, which involves highly centralised decisions about training, with relatively little input from employees. The University's Centre for Labour Market Studies and

the Business Law Centre International Company Ltd in Thailand have produced a report following a research project on training and development practices in Thailand. One of its most striking findings is the strategic approach to training adopted by Thai

organisations, possibly linked to the number of companies with foreign investment.

▶ UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS have used former shoplifters to reveal the weak spots in store security. With the aid of miniature concealed cam-

eras – known as “thief-cams” – concealed about their person, the volunteer shoplifters went into shops to reveal the ploys and tactics of their illegal skills. Nothing was stolen, but researchers learned a great deal about the particular situations that are attractive

Impact *making a difference*

sensors in the sky

▶ The University's Space Research Centre is a major partner in a project hailed in the Financial Times as "The largest and most advanced satellite ever built to monitor the Earth's changing environment".

The Envisat satellite will relay to Earth information on environmental changes including global warming, ozone layer depletion, earthquakes, volcanoes and floods.

The £1.4 billion project has been developed over the last ten years and is backed by the European Space Agency with Canada. Weighing 8.2 tonnes, it is 10m high and the size of an articulated lorry. It will orbit 800km above Earth for five years and will relay its data continuously to scientists across Europe.

The Space Research Centre had a strong involvement in three of the ten sensors in Envisat, which is almost unprecedented for a University. The University has the Principal Investigator of the AATSR satellite project who is responsible for ensuring it achieves its objectives. Throughout the entire project of building the AATSR, he has been providing guidance and advice to the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Leicester is also responsible for co-ordinating validation of the accuracy of AATSR worldwide.

girls 'not a problem'

▶ Girls who are excluded from school or have stopped attending are an underestimated minority. Research for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation by the Centre for Citizenship Studies in Education at the University and the New Policy Institute points to a widespread belief among schools that girls 'are not a problem'. This has led to the scale of exclusion and self-exclusion going unrecognised and the particular needs of disaffected girls being inadequately met.

The new study finds that girls are seldom seen as a priority in the way that schools and local education authorities apply their behaviour and exclusion policies. The strong focus on conduct problems among boys means that the help available for girls who get into difficulties is often poorly resourced and inappropriate. Self-exclusion, where girls had 'opted out' of school, was identified as a particular problem.

birth defects double

▶ A new study in Australia found that babies conceived through assisted conception procedures are more than twice as likely to be diagnosed with major birth defects in their first year of life.

Major birth defects were apparent in 8.6% of infants conceived by intracytoplasmic sperm injection and 9% of babies conceived by in-vitro fertilisation compared with 4.2% of naturally conceived children.

The report co-author, from the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, said many factors increase the risk of birth defects including the relatively older age of infertile couples, the underlying causes of their infertility and the medications used to induce ovulation and sustain conception. There may also be an association with the procedures themselves such as the freezing and thawing of embryos or the method of fertilisation.

saving orang-utan habitat

▶ Recent EU funding for University research into Borneo peatlands will help to save the natural habitat of threatened species such as the orang-utan. The island of Borneo includes 11 million hectares of peatland, an area almost half the size of the land area of the UK, important reservoirs of biodiversity, which include rare and endangered animals.

A member of the University from the

Department of Geography and Institute of Lifelong Learning received European Union funding for a three-year research project that will result in improved management of tropical peatlands.

rationing social care

▶ Older people face increasing rationing of key services says a study entitled Nothing Personal: rationing social care for older people commissioned by Help the Aged and carried out by Nuffield Community Care Studies Unit at the University.

Changes in policy towards the provision of long term care in the NHS have put additional demands on over-stretched local authorities. Most of the problems older people experience in accessing social care were related to budgetary constraints under which local authorities were operating. In order to balance their budgets, most authorities had tightened the eligibility criteria and were targeting services to those in most immediate need. Consequently, services which may have helped to prevent disablement were seriously under-funded.

The report concluded that there was a need for greater openness about what can be expected of statutory services and clarity over support and financial arrangements for future care provision.

year of celebrations

▶ The UK Children's Cancer Study Group, based at the University, celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a series of events taking place throughout the year. The Group was formed in 1977 by a small number of doctors with aims of improving the management of children with cancer and advancing knowledge of childhood malignancies.

There are now over 400 members and it is the only national organisation devoted to the study and treatment of childhood cancer.

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to shoplifters. To make the exercise as authentic as possible, though store security managers were notified when the tests would be taking place, security guards themselves were unaware that any such event was happening.

▶ WHY DO some cancer

patients go on to develop leukaemia after receiving certain types of treatment? This is the question that researchers at the University are looking to answer after receiving a grant of £100,000 from the UK's leading blood cancer charity, Leukaemia

Research Fund. The research team is searching for the genetic changes that cause patients to develop what is known as secondary leukaemia, and to identify why some people are more prone to this than others. It is believed that the susceptibility is

genetically determined.

▶ A HARD-HITTING speech that attacked the criminal justice system for allowing the guilty to go free, and treating victims and witnesses shabbily, was made at the University by Sir John Stevens, Commissioner of

the Metropolitan Police. Sir John, who is both a graduate and honorary graduate of the University, returned to the campus for the third public occasion in a year to deliver the Graduates' Association and Haldane Society Public Lecture in celebration of ▶



KNOWLEDGE IS BUSINESS: *The University of Leicester provided training, facilities and commercial services for different sectors. (Main) The seat of the University's Management Centre which provides AMBA-accredited MBAs; (inset from top) Criminologists at Leicester studied the effectiveness of CCTV; a US technology giant invested in Leicester's Engineering department; graduates celebrating success at the University.*

*The University of Leicester works
in partnership with business and
industry, offering many commercial
advantages and research benefits.*

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◀ the University's 80th Anniversary.
▶ HEART SPECIALISTS at the University are spear-heading research into why some young people suffer heart attacks. Around 200 patients at Glenfield Hospital who have had a heart attack before the age

of 50 will feature in part of the £35,000 study. The Leicester team hopes to compare younger heart attack patients with 200 who have not had attacks, so they can determine whether some people have blood which clots too easily, leaving them prone to a

heart attack. In the long term, the research may help doctors to identify people at risk and prescribe blood-thinning drugs to help stop future heart attacks. It may also help existing heart patients by preventing further attacks.
▶ THE MEDICAL School

selected FD Learning's *le*®, as the virtual learning environment (VLE) to support its medical students. *le*®, provides controlled access for students to its MBChB curriculum while tracking their progress throughout the course.
▶ THE LEICESTER degree

of Bachelor of Laws (LLB) was recognised by the Bar Council of India. This means that the Leicester Bachelor of Laws degree, obtained after a three-year course, is being recognised in India as meeting the academic stage of training with a view to

Enterprising *business and technology*

supporting enterprise

▶ The University's Research and Business Development Office is leading an initiative to maximise the commercialisation of biotechnology research in the East Midlands. Leicester is the lead partner in EmPath, a consortium of universities and NHS Trusts in the region which will work together to identify and develop new innovations arising out of their biotechnology-related research.

EmPath will help the University to transform research results into real benefits. Biotechnology research has an impact on many areas including new drugs and vaccines, novel ways of diagnosing disease, and sustaining the environment. The project will help to develop these research ideas into finished products and services.

EmPath is supported by an award from the Department of Trade and Industry's Biotechnology Exploitation Platform (BEP) Challenge. This award greatly complements other initiatives that have been launched by the University during the year. The Lachesis Fund provides venture capital at the seedcorn level to support promising new technologies arising from research at a number of East Midlands universities. The Fund aims to fill the funding gap that exists for early-stage technologies, and enhance their prospects of attracting further venture capital.

Midlands Medici is the name given to a collaborative venture designed to train and support academics wishing to be involved in commercialising their research. The East Midlands Incubation Network (EMIN) was also established this year with the objective of supporting new businesses in the region. At Leicester this has resulted in the formation of a Company Incubation Unit focussed on stimulating and supporting spinout activity at Leicester.

US firm invests in Leicester

▶ A US technology giant has invested in the University of Leicester's Department of Engineering to help create a state-of-the-art laboratory engaged in hi-tech research.

Texas Instruments is supporting a new Master's programme as well as specific research projects in the area of real-time digital signal processing (DSP). The applications of DSP are in real-time monitoring of babies, arterial blood flow measurements and communications.

The department has acquired 25 DSP kits based on the highest performance DSP processor on the market, capable of performing up to 1100 million operations per second. This floating-point processor is capable of dealing with signals of wired or wireless broadband networks and it is an excellent tool for manipulation of digitised images, as well as professional radio.

keeping an eye on crime

▶ The University's Scarman Centre received its biggest research award, a prestigious £1.5m contract, for the evaluation of CCTV initiatives funded under the Home Office Crime Reduction Programme.

An interdisciplinary research team including academics from Geography and Economics, who helped in the design of the research, will play an important role alongside Scarman Centre staff in the management of the project. The three-year evaluation is looking at the various ways in which CCTV initiatives work to reduce crime.

MBA success brings benefits

▶ A three-year agreement between the University of Leicester Management Centre and the Department of Work and Pensions enabling Department managers to study for a Leicester MBA has been so successful that it is

being extended for a further two years.

One hundred and sixty staff from the Department are currently taking the MBA by distance learning. With the reorganisation of government departments, staff from the Benefits Agency and the Employment Services have come under the umbrella of the Department of Work and Pensions and are able to take the Leicester MBA for the first time under the joint scheme.

The aim is to equip managers for the future, increase their confidence and make them feel more valued by the Department.

greener solutions

▶ A research team at the University, part of Leicester Green Chemistry Group, has developed novel solvent systems which are recyclable and environmentally compatible.

The team has developed a wide range of new ionic liquids made from simple precursors. Ionic liquids have been studied extensively in recent years as they offer a potentially clean way to carry out chemical processes. They are non-volatile whilst liquid over a wide range of temperatures and offer a benign alternative to, for example, some strong acids.

In order to commercialise the technology a joint venture company, Scionix Ltd, has been set-up. It brings together the business and marketing skills of Genacys Ltd, a subsidiary of the Whyte Group Ltd, with the cross-disciplinary scientific skills of the team based at the University. These novel liquids can be used for a variety of applications including metal finishing (eg highly efficient chromium plating), catalysis (eg Friedel-Crafts reactions), batteries and metal recovery (eg waste-product reprocessing) among others. Further benefits include limited sensitivity to water, readily available in large quantities and at comparable cost to many volatile organic solvents (VOS).

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enrolment as an advocate, provided that students obtaining the degree have first completed an undergraduate degree in India before joining the LLB degree course at the University of Leicester. The LLB degree is now recognised as part satisfaction

of professional training for qualification as a practising lawyer in Cyprus, India, Israel, Malaysia, and Singapore. ▶ USING A revolutionary new telescope, a team of American and British astronomers has obtained the most detailed Extreme

Ultraviolet spectrum of a celestial body ever – and at a fraction the cost of a large orbiting satellite. Scientists collaborated to build the J-PEX spectrograph, packed full of new technology. It was flown on a NASA sounding rocket from White Sands

Missile Range in New Mexico and was able to observe its target star for 5 minutes before parachuting back down to Earth. Since the flight Leicester researchers have been working on the information returned by J-PEX and presented their findings for

the first time at an international scientific meeting in the US. ▶ THE DEPARTMENT OF Obstetrics and Gynaecology received a £1.4 million MRC Grant for the ORACLE Children's Study. This study will investigate the health and ▶



FOCAL: The University made a vital contribution to matters of local and regional significance.
 (Main) Town Hall Square in Leicester; (inset from top) one of the many occasions when the University interfaces with the public; Museum Studies continued to have an impact through its research; the University provided the backdrop for a Bollywood movie.

*A study examining the future of the
 City of Leicester was among many
 projects with wide-ranging significance
 for local and national communities.*

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◀ development of 9,000 seven-year-old children in the United Kingdom, whose mothers took part in the MRC ORACLE Trial. In a unique collaboration with the Department of Education Research Division, the children's Key Stage 1 educational per-

formance will be used as part of their assessment.
 ▶ A NEW Bollywood movie depicting the hero and heroine meeting and falling in love as students of the University was filmed on campus. *Is Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon?* (What name shall I

call our love?) involved over 100 crew and cast, including model-turned-actor John Abraham and Akanksha Malhotra – the granddaughter of screen legends Premnath and Bina Rai.
 ▶ THE OZONE layer is wearing dangerously thin

all over Britain, say scientists – and Leicester experts have been called in to find out how this will affect us. The Space Research Centre is leading a £1million research project examining the thinning of the ozone layer over northern Europe and the

risk it poses to health. The 1,000km-wide dent in the ozone layer has been discovered over the Arctic and moves down over the UK in the spring.
 ▶ THE UNIVERSITY'S video production unit, AVS – Video, gained prizes at this year's Learning on

Understanding *building communities*

catalysts for change

► Museums should act as catalysts for change within their communities by responding to issues of social exclusion stated a new report from the University.

Museum functions like collecting, preserving and displaying should not be undertaken for their own sake – but as a means to a number of social ends. Including Museums: perspectives on museums, galleries and social inclusion produced by the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries at the Department of Museum Studies in the University said:

“Museums can inspire, educate, inform; they can promote creativity, broaden horizons and expose people to new ways of looking at the world, all of which have a relevance to discussions about the museum’s contribution to social inclusion.

“They also have the potential to deliver social outcomes less commonly assigned to museums – they can enhance individuals’ self-esteem, challenge stereotypes and tackle intolerance. Some of them can utilise their social impact to play a direct role in combating some of the problems that disadvantage many diverse communities and individuals described by some as ‘socially excluded’ – poor health, crime, low educational attainment and unemployment.”

football, families and racism

► Football’s hooligan past is still strongly etched in minds of Britain’s parents but more than half of all parents who attend football matches ‘usually’ take their school age son or daughter to watch a Premier League match.

Today, as well as ‘dads and lads’ it is also mums and daughters, mums and sons, dads and daughters and grandparents and grandchildren who are maintaining the country’s football supporting traditions.

Research by the Sir Norman Chester for Football Research at the University found that football is seen as a powerful tool for parents to address moral, ethical and ‘life lessons’, such as racism, loyalty, fairness, dealing with set backs and the importance of teamwork. It found football creates strong affinities between family members who are fans, though often at the expense of others in the family.

The Centre also investigated progress in combating racism by professional football clubs in England and received mixed messages about progress. A small number of professional football clubs have made great strides in following the Government Task Force recommendations on this issue from 1998. But progress has been slower at some clubs, and also there are signs of a relative lack of progress in opening up clubs to members of minority ethnic communities in particular regions.

At a local level, research suggested that whilst general player and spectator behaviour was considered to be satisfactory by many club secretaries, perceptions of racism differed markedly across a range of social, cultural and geographical distinctions and a large majority of all club secretaries felt there was, at least, a small amount of racism in local football in Leicestershire and Rutland.

future of Leicester study

► The City of Leicester came under the microscope and 2000 Leicester people were sought for research undertaken in the Department of Sociology.

Researchers conducted focus groups and interviews with people from different walks of life who currently live in Leicester. The aim of the study was to find out what life in Leicester is like now and how people would like it to be in the future. One of the key concerns of the research was that of ethnicity and multi-culturalism. The research, funded

jointly by the University of Leicester, the Leicester Mercury and Leicester City Council, gathered details of the present use of the city by different social groups, examined how the city’s population may be made up in the future, what image it will have and what use the different groups will make of it.

archive of oral history recordings

► The East Midlands Oral History Archive project, based at the University’s Centre for Urban History, offers opportunities for community involvement, and provides a valuable academic resource.

This new archive collects, enhances and catalogues existing oral history tapes, making them accessible on a website, and on edited CD-ROMS and cassettes – both for educational purposes and general interest. Wide use of the archive will be encouraged through recordings in libraries and museums, as well as a series of talks, events and other activities. It will also be available in the Record Office itself.

The Archive is a three year Lottery-funded project, in partnership with Leicester City Museums and Library Services, and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

tackling rural racism

► A new research report, entitled ‘Tackling the Invisible Problem’ has identified how experiences of racism in rural areas are compounded by a sense of isolation for many minority ethnic groups.

The University Scarman Centre study, undertaken in Suffolk, discovered that some forms of racism, such as verbal abuse, were commonplace, and also that more serious types of incident, such as physical attacks and damage to property had also been experienced by a substantial number of those included in the research.

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

Screen awards, winning two runner-up Highly Commended certificates and 3 first place awards, including the top Premier Award. The awards – the UK’s education Oscars – are organised by the Society for Screen Based Learning to promote the

‘use of innovative learning design and production creativity’. Leicester won the award for Best Editing and was runner up in the Best Camera category for the Higher Education Summer School video, the training award for Leicester Royal Infirmary Prematurity

Prevention Service and the Premier award for Understanding Domestic Abuse.

► THE GREENWOOD Institute of Child Health has been a partner in a project that has won the Leicestershire Health Authority the NHS Beacon

Award. The award was made earlier this year for a joint strategy on mental health services for children and families in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. This is a partnership of health agencies, local authorities and voluntary agencies across the region.

► THE LEICESTER Children’s Asthma Centre, part of the Department of Child Health, received funding for a project to identify the factors influencing children’s intake of carbonaceous particles from diesel engines. Modelled hourly exposure ►

Distinguished *degrees & accolades*

▶ More than 4,400 students celebrated degree success at the University of Leicester and honorary degrees were awarded to a number of distinguished people in recognition of their sterling contribution to various fields.

Spring ceremony:

▶ **Mr Tim Pigott-Smith**, (DLitt), actor and director, working in theatre, television and film. His television credits include *The Jewel in the Crown* (for which he won a BAFTA best TV actor award). Film credits include Merchant Ivory's *The Remains of the Day* and Shekhar Kapur's *The Four Feathers*.



▶ **Mr Dean Richards**, MBE, (MA), Director of Rugby for Leicester Tigers. He is one of only two men to score 100 tries for the club and has been involved in all of Leicester Tigers' league title wins: as a player, as Captain, as Manager, and as Director of Rugby.



Summer ceremonies:

▶ **Professor Peter Atkins**, (DSc), Professor of Chemistry, University of Oxford, and a member of the University of Leicester's Court. He was an undergraduate and postgraduate student at the University of Leicester.



▶ **Professor Maurice Beresford**, FBA, (DLitt), Emeritus Professor of Economic History, University of Leeds, honoured for his contribution to the study of local history.



▶ **Dr Helaine Blumenfeld**, (DLitt), sculptress, who has exhibited widely in the United Kingdom, Italy and the USA as well as having major public sculptures installed in the USA and France.



▶ **Ms Lynne Brindley**, (DLitt), Chief Executive, British Library, honoured for her contribution to the national and international development of library and information services.



▶ **Mr Tim Brooks**, (LLD), who has been Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire since 1989 and is a former High Sheriff of the county.



▶ **Mr Chris d'Lacey**, (DLitt), author and a member of staff of the University of Leicester, honoured for his contribution to children's literature.



▶ **Mr Stephen Frears**, (DLitt), film director, born in Leicester, internationally renowned for his movies.



▶ **Professor Dame Julia Higgins**, FRS, CBE, (DSc), Professor of Polymer Science, Imperial College, London, honoured for her contribution to science and the promotion of programmes for women in science.



▶ **Professor David King**, FRS, (DSc), Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government and Head of the Office of Science and Technology and Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Cambridge.



▶ **Ms Tasmin Little**, (DMus), one of the world's most accomplished classical violinists, honoured for her contribution to music.



▶ **Mrs Hazel Thornton**, (DSc), Founding Chairman, Consumers' Advisory Group for Clinical Trials, honoured for her contribution to medicine and patient care.



▶ **Professor David Western**, (DSc), Chairman of the African Conservation Centre, Nairobi, and former Head of the Kenya Wildlife Service and an undergraduate student of the University of Leicester, honoured for his contribution to wildlife conservation.



BA Festival ceremony:

▶ **Dr Peter Briggs**, (DSc), Chief Executive (1990-2002), British Association for the Advancement of Science.

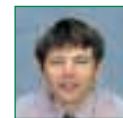


▶ **Professor Sir Howard Newby**, CBE, (DLitt), President (2001-2002), British Association for the Advancement of Science.



Royal honours

▶ **Professor Richard Baker**, Professor of Quality in Health Care and Director of the University's Clinical Research and Development Unit, Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care, received an OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours for services to clinical audit in health care.



▶ **Sir Peter Bell**, Department of Surgery, received his knighthood in the Queen's Jubilee Honours for services to surgery.



▶ **Sir Tom McKillop**, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Leicester and Chief Executive of AstraZeneca plc, received his knighthood for services to the pharmaceutical industry in the Queen's Jubilee Honours.



AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

◀ data to pollutant particles will be generated for the child's home address and school as part of the study. Sputum samples from children will be analysed for particle isolation over two years.

▶ **EYE SPECIALISTS** at the University set their sights

on improving the outlook for people in Leicestershire suffering from the eye defect nystagmus.

Ophthalmologists are conducting a survey of people in the county who suffer from the condition and examining the treatment they receive. The

aim is, ultimately, to know how many people have nystagmus in Leicestershire, and then use the survey to calculate a national percentage of sufferers, and to also understand if people have enough care within the NHS and other health care

provisions.

▶ **WITHIN THE** space of six days, the University's Soccer Club played in front of 12,000 in China and the Rugby Club 4,000 in England! The Men's Association Football Club was invited by Fuzhou-Napier College to send a

touring party to Fuzhou, China – the very first from any men's British University Soccer Club to China. The University 1st XV Men's Rugby Union team beat De Montfort University at Welford Road, home of treble winning Leicester Tigers.

Statistics 2001 • 2002



Total Registered Students18,568

Undergraduate8,241 (7,656) Postgraduate10,327 (9,253)

Distribution of Full-time Students

Home/EU8,005 (7,627) Overseas1,055 (870)

Full-time undergraduates over 21 on admission8.9% (7.9%)

Taught Postgraduate Students3,493 (3,335)

Total postgraduate research students1,172 (1,142)

Total Registered Distance Learning Students5,669 (4,776)

Full-time Student Numbers

Arts **1,776** 20.1% (21.7%)

Science **2,060** 23.3% (23.9%)

Social Sciences **1,898** 21.5% (19.4%)

Law **847** 9.6% (9.2%)

Medicine & Biological Sciences **1,897** 21.4% (21.3%)

Education **361** 4.1% (4.5%)

Staff Numbers

(All sources of funding as of 30/04/02)

Full-time Academic Staff **679**

Part-time Academic Staff **80**

Full-time Academic-Related Staff **729**

Part-time Academic-Related Staff **113**

Full-time support staff **948**

Part-time support staff **1,176**

Total Full-time Students:8,839 (8,279)

(All figures in brackets relate to 2000/2001)

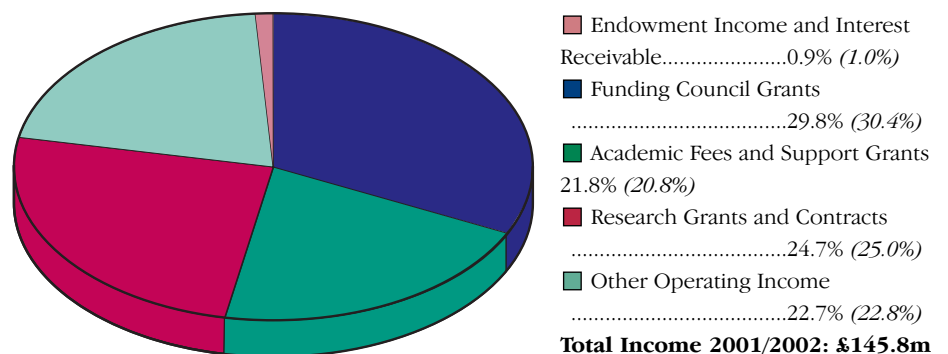
First Degree Graduates entering employment/training/research86%

First Degree Graduates not available for employment8%

Full-time Higher Degree Graduates entering employment/further training92%

Full-time Higher Degree Graduates not available for employment4%

(These figures relate to year 2001)





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