

Visitor
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

OFFICERS 1998-99

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(from 1 October 1999)

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COVER PICTURES

Front cover: (left to right) Archaeology students engaged in a new training course; Cosmonaut Helen Sharman with a space artefact presented to the National Space Science Centre of which the University of Leicester is a co-founder and principal participant; the technique of DNA genetic fingerprinting, which was discovered at the University of Leicester, was used to unravel a two centuries old mystery surrounding former US President Thomas Jefferson.

Back Cover: (left to right) XMM - the world's most powerful space telescope - is among the many space projects developed with University expertise; scientists at Leicester used DNA fingerprinting techniques to tackle a plant invader, the Japanese Knotweed; Mrs Rachel Sullivan (MA), former Associate Director and Organising Tutor for Art at the University's Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts, was one of 12 people to receive an honorary degree from the University of Leicester.

There are three companion volumes to this report:

OFFICIAL RECORD, Volume I: Contains the Vice-Chancellor's Report and departmental reports for the year August 1 1998 - July 31 1999.

OFFICIAL RECORD, Volume II: Contains details of research grants and contracts, publications, personalia, degrees and prizes for the period August 1 1998 - July 31 1999.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. Contains Treasurer's Report and detailed accounts for the year ended July 31 1999.

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CREDITS

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Mission Statement

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.



University of Leicester

- A University College was established in Leicester in 1921 and the independent University of Leicester was created by Royal Charter in 1957.
- 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 principal participant in, the National Space Science Centre – the Millennium Commission’s £46 million Landmark Project.
- The University was awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 1994 for ‘world-class teaching, research and consultancy programme in astronomy, space and planetary science; practical results from advanced thinking.’
- An extensive programme of continuing education and professional development is offered. There are over 120 undergraduate degree programmes and more than 140 postgraduate programmes.
- Leicester is among the largest providers of postgraduate distance learning courses in the country, offering many vocationally relevant courses and, in particular, a wide range of management courses. Over 5,000 students read for their degrees by this method.
- The University is a prominent member of the international academic community and has world-wide links in teaching and research. Students from more than 100 countries study courses run by the University.
- The University has a very strong research base. In the last national Research Assessment Exercise, all but one unit of assessment recorded a rating of 3 or above. The value of new grants and contracts announced during the year 1998-9 was £27million.
- Leicester houses a number of specialist centres studying, *inter alia*, sport and society issues, crime and public order, the labour market, ethnicity, pluralism, the Holocaust and community care.
- Leicester is home to the unique Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts, and the pioneering departments of English Local History and Museum Studies are the only postgraduate departments of their kind in the world. The Centre for Mass Communication Research is one of the oldest centres in the field.
- The University works closely with business and industry and, particularly in the fields of Medicine, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, has many established links with company research and development programmes.
- Leicester graduates have succeeded in many walks of life across the world. Among those who have studied here, or have been associated with the University, are the Attenborough family, poet Philip Larkin, Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health Professor Liam Donaldson, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police John Stevens, British High Commissioner to India Sir Rob Young, authors CP Snow and Malcolm Bradbury, ITN war correspondent Michael Nicholson, television personalities Sue Cook, Bob Mortimer and Pete McCarthy, astronomer Heather Couper, NASA astronaut Dr Jeff Hoffman, City businesswoman Carol Galley, Gulf War hero John Peters, landmines campaigner Chris Moon, and a number of MPs including Michael Jack, Bruce Grocott, Michael Foster, Philip Sawford, Keith Hill and Linda Perham.

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Vice-Chancellor's Report

As this is the last report I shall introduce, I would like to reflect on the changes of the past twelve years and assess the University as it enters the 21st century.

The most significant change has been the increase in the University's population. In 1987-88 it had 4,789 full-time and 427 part-time students; there are now 8,475 full-time and 1,311 part-time students, plus more than 5,000 students on distance learning programmes. Twelve years ago less than 20% of our students were pursuing postgraduate degrees; now more than 50% are doing so. This expansion is part of a tremendous growth in British higher education which has raised the participation rate for 18 – 21 year olds from less than 15% to over 30%. It is a far cry from the concerns of the mid-1980s that the demographic downturn might put the existence of some universities at risk!

Cynics might suggest that government encouraged expansion to reduce unemployment; others have expressed concern that 'more means worse'. Leicester's reaction has been positive. University education has been extended, contributing to the creation of a well educated and better skilled population – encapsulated in the phrase 'life-long learning'. Our postgraduate distance learning courses have made an exceptional contribution here.

In 1987 the university system was relatively small and homogeneous. The University Grants Committee was a planning body, which still saw its role as determining the pattern of provision across the UK.

The growth in student numbers, the transformation of the polytechnics into universities, and the implementation of internal markets in the public sector, caused the replacement of UGC by the present funding councils. These regard themselves primarily as funding agencies and not as planning bodies.

The market had its heyday in 1989–94, but financial concerns asserted themselves. More

controls were introduced, and to a complex system of financial monitoring was added what can only be described as micro-management on a national scale.

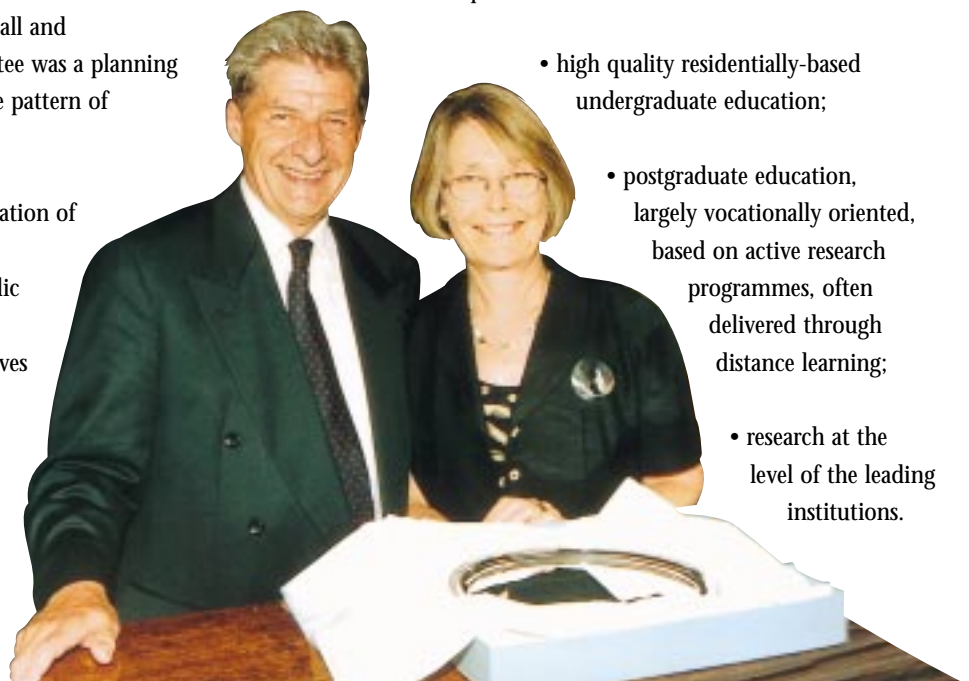
Quality assessment of teaching was established alongside the existing Research Assessment Exercises. The latter are now accepted as a valid method of assessing research achievement, but ironically they bring imperceptible financial returns.

We now have neither a planned system nor a genuine market one. Student fee contributions have not changed this, and the present framework seriously inhibits the development of a diverse system, in which each institution can adapt to achieve the best match between its strengths and the market opportunities.

The present arrangements are unstable and could collapse under their own weight, as more and more competitive initiatives are introduced in an attempt to steer the system. Some of these are valuable, but many involve great effort for small reward. They distract the system from natural evolution in which universities would be free to innovate.

So where does the University of Leicester stand, and what of its future? Two years ago the University's Strategic Review identified three main strands of provision:

- high quality residentially-based undergraduate education;
- postgraduate education, largely vocationally oriented, based on active research programmes, often delivered through distance learning;
- research at the level of the leading institutions.



The implementation of these obviously requires a thorough analysis of the strengths of the University and its market opportunities.

There may be a move towards either greater national planning or a freer market. This

constraints should be greatly outweighed by the benefits.

The Leicester Warwick Medical School therefore has a symbolic significance beyond the immediate benefits of creating a larger,

Dr Kenneth Edwards reflects on the changes of the past twelve years and assesses the University as it enters the 21st century.

might not be identical for all aspects of university activity; even now postgraduate education enjoys a much freer market than the first degree sector. But the UK framework may be affected by the development of an international market.

New communications technology may have limited impact on the undergraduate market. Students still wish to experience a campus-based education, though the availability of programmes electronically is likely to influence the nature of the curriculum. Postgraduate education, on the other hand, is already global: about half the distance learning students at this University are overseas. And much research sponsorship is also international. If higher education becomes increasingly global, the competition will obviously become greater. The future therefore is more uncertain; the opportunities are wider.

For Leicester, size will become an issue. Despite its recent growth, it is small by international standards. Strategic alliances with other universities and organisations will be increasingly important, and such partnerships will call for long-term commitment. They may constrain the freedom of both parties, but the

stronger medical school. The long-term commitment which both universities have made will be a model for more such strategic partnerships.

It has been a great privilege to be associated with the University of Leicester during the past 12 years. I have been greatly impressed by its positive approach to change and its resilience. The University remains cohesive and collegial. It nurtures the fundamental university values – respect for intellectual truth and the search for it; willingness to subject ideas to rigorous scrutiny; and a desire to communicate knowledge and the love of learning.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the support I have received from so many, both within the University and associated with it, and also for the friendship which is characteristic of the place. These years have been, for both Janet and myself, not only a very satisfying experience, but also very enjoyable.

KJL Edwards

• *The full text of the Vice-Chancellor's Report is in Official Record I.*

PICTURES

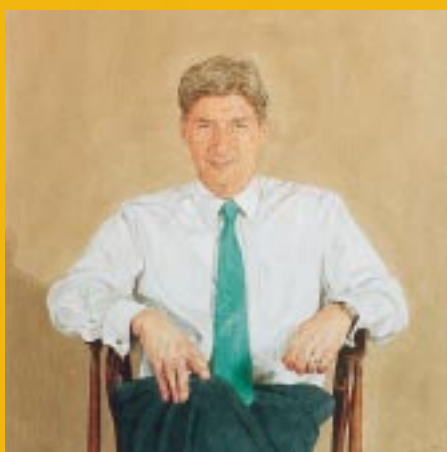
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TRIBUTE: Dr and Mrs Edwards were given a warm farewell by people from the University and beyond.

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BELOW: A portrait of Dr Edwards by artist Bryan Organ which now hangs in the University's Council Chamber.

RIGHT: Dr Edwards with Professor Robert Burgess who succeeded him as Vice-Chancellor on October 1.



Progress

The University of Leicester paved the way for progress in the new Millennium with a new sense of purpose and conviction.

- The University announced the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Burgess, to succeed Dr Kenneth Edwards. Professor Burgess was Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Warwick. Dr Edwards was appointed to chair the Association of European Universities – an international body of 500 European universities in 40 countries. He is the first British Vice-Chancellor in 24 years to hold the post.

The University of Leicester received recognition at the highest levels through a series of high profile visits to the campus.

- His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh saw for himself the University of Leicester's world-class achievements in space science and astronomy when he toured the University's Space Research Centre. He heard about the wide range of space missions in which the University is involved and was presented with a table model of the European Space Agency's XMM spacecraft. He toured laboratories and design areas, met staff and students, and showed particular interest in how the University had played a pivotal role in the creation of the National Space Science Centre.
- The Government's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Liam Donaldson, described a new Centre he opened at the University as being of national importance. Professor Donaldson, himself a Leicester postgraduate and former member of staff, recalled his eight happy years at the University when he officially opened the

Clinical Governance Research and Development Unit, an integral part of the Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care.

- Mr Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, visited the University to deliver the Richard Attenborough Centre's first Annual Lecture and open the Sensory Garden in the presence of the Centre's Patron, Lord Attenborough. The occasion included the presentation of the two Category Awards that the Centre won in the 1998 RIBA Stirling Prize.

The University of Leicester continues to invest in improving facilities for students, staff and visitors. During the year, the University completed the largest programme of maintenance work for nearly 30 years amounting to a total of £16 million – creating a better environment for work, study and sport.

- A new £750,000 sports pavilion and sports ground was completed, adding significantly to the University's provision of sports and fitness facilities. Improvements estimated at £3 million were carried out at University halls of residence. A further £550,000 was allocated for improvements to laboratories to create state-of-the-art research facilities.
- A widespread programme of works to improve buildings and provide better access for people with disabilities was completed. Security was improved with the provision of CCTV, introduction of traffic barriers and the creation of a 24-hour security control room on campus. The first phase of the University Energy Awareness Campaign was completed with a network of 'energy co-ordinators' established to identify saving measures across the University.



New initiatives at the University of Leicester aimed at enhancing the educational advantage students enjoy.

- The successful bid for the Leicester Warwick Medical School allowed for an expansion of the University's Medical School, with intakes of 175 at Leicester

high score in the Quality Assurance Agency's Teaching Quality Assessments. A Centre for Museum and Gallery Education was also established – an international first at Leicester. This will provide evidence of the value of museums to government learning strategies, and will train professionals to improve delivery for the public.

A Royal visit was the highlight of a year of major advances, innovation and achievement at the University of Leicester.



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GIFT: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh with a model of the XMM Satellite presented to him during his visit to the Space Research Centre.

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STATE-OF-THE-ART: Considerable investment in University facilities improved the environment for staff and students.

and 128 at Warwick being taught the Leicester MBChB degrees. A new four-year graduate-entry curriculum has been developed for those at Warwick from the existing five-year Leicester course.

- The University became the first institution to provide a computer service based on Microsoft's Windows 2000 Operating system. It put the University ahead of the field in making the latest software available to both staff and students. In addition, the University continued with a string of successful educational projects, particularly in making effective use of the World Wide Web in teaching and learning.
- New centres were launched at the University, including the Centre for American Studies which achieved a very

Another new research initiative, in association with the Universities of Barcelona, Tasmania and Edinburgh, was the International Centre for Convict Studies, an international interdisciplinary project that is designed to promote research and teaching into convict studies in a global context. In Psychiatry, a new Division of Forensic Mental Health was established.

- Students benefited from a new Student Development Area in the Union. This aims to enhance the skills of students by co-ordinating the activities of clubs, societies and associations. The Union's own radio station, LUSH, commenced broadcasting – focusing on listener requirements as well as providing entertainment and information.

Relationships

The University of Leicester's partnership with the NHS and ongoing commitment to enhancing medical knowledge led to real improvements for people in Leicestershire.

- A review, involving the University, of how maternity services are provided within the Leicester Royal Infirmary has led to the development of specialist clinics which will provide settings for continuous health improvements as well as research. A University study of the pioneering and innovative Prince Philip House, with which the University is closely involved, explored how this multi-agency initiative has addressed the inter-related problems of economic deprivation and poor health.
- Evaluative work was carried out for children with behavioural and other mental health problems, and their families. In addition, projects into student psychological health and the use of parent-held records for families of children with disability were completed. A separate study evaluated how services support disabled adults who are parents.
- A nationwide initiative to reduce the isolation felt by families of children with cancer was spearheaded by the University-based UK Children's Cancer Study Group. The group launched *Contact*, the first national magazine for childhood cancer families.



cared for when they are ill. The review and survey of NHS trusts has explored 'alternative' models of care for older people after illness. A further study aims to assess the potential of screening for depression in older people, using a population survey of 65-74 year olds in the county.

- A new report authored by researchers from the Parenthood Research Group at the University revealed that children born to older mothers develop larger vocabularies than those of younger mothers. This was one of the findings that emerged from the Leicester Mother and Child Project, which was designed to examine the effects of raised maternal age on women's experience of motherhood and on outcomes for their children aged four years.
- A project at Leicester is examining the growth of local currencies, or barter exchanges, of which there are over 270 types in Britain. The study is examining their potential as tools for tackling social exclusion and rejuvenating local economies. A further study is evaluating whether helping people to help themselves and others can be developed as an additional tool for tackling social exclusion to complement job creation. Local partnerships are also being used to increase the awareness of school students from ethnic minorities of museums as a possible career.

Research carried out at the University of Leicester paved the way for improvements in areas as diverse as health and social welfare.

- Medical research sought to find new clues for why thousands of people suffer strokes each year by establishing how important infection is as a risk factor for the first stroke. The University is also engaged in a systematic review of how older people are best

Educational programmes, services for the community and projects involving the public meant that the University of Leicester fostered ever-closer links with the region.

- A course that looked at migration from the Caribbean to Britain – The Windrush Years – was offered by the University. Links also extended to schools where 600 primary schoolchildren enjoyed *Electric Paper*, an innovative dance performance set to newly

The provision of high quality education and research excellence delivered benefits directly to the region and beyond.

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WATCH THIS SPACE: The University was involved in a Millennium Time Trail project to encourage an understanding of science, engineering and technology in the community. An Egyptian waterclock, made and decorated by members of the University, is one of the pieces of the trail.

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UNEARTHING THE PAST: University of Leicester Archaeological Services handled over 150 separate projects. This fish-eye aerial view shows one of the digs, a collaborative project with Leicester City Council, investigating medieval and Roman structures below St Nicholas Place car park, Leicester.

commissioned poems. *Electric Paper* explored and demonstrated the links between teaching and learning techniques in science, technology and the arts, and was designed and created by an integrated team of disabled and non-disabled dancers. It will now go on tour as part of a new training initiative for teachers.

- A wide-ranging programme of lectures saw distinguished speakers at the University including Chris Patten and David Hempleman-Adams. The tenth consecutive series of six concerts by The Lindsays also attracted large audiences as did other musical stars through the year. There were science and other events linking the University with Leicester, and the University's Botanic Garden education programme celebrated its 10,000th visitor. Members of the public were also called upon to compile a unique People's History in association with the Centre for Urban History at the University.
- An enigmatic saint and his cult were uncovered in Hallaton by research carried out in English Local History. The Department celebrated its 50th anniversary and published a departmental bibliography and history to mark the occasion. Elsewhere in the University, a new book, *Let's Talk Leicester*, was printed, providing an accessible guide to the local 'patois', and *Portrait of a Community*, a history of the Leicester Hebrew Congregation, was published. Leicester also provided one of the locations for an innovative study sponsored by the Broadcasting Standards Commission on ethnic minority audiences and their media habits and preferences.
- Public generosity towards the University manifested itself in many ways, not least through contributions to the University through legacies and appeals. A portrait of Lord Attenborough by Bryan Organ was presented to the University's Richard Attenborough Centre by Dr Frank May MBE, providing a permanent reminder of the Centre's Patron.
- A timely contribution to Millennium celebrations is the time trail being developed with University expertise. The trail, from the city centre to the astronomical clock at the University, will demonstrate methods of timekeeping throughout the centuries, and will include an Egyptian waterclock, a 'Roman' sundial, and a working replica of the automaton clock once on All Saints' Church, Highcross Street, Leicester.

Enterprise

Scientific expertise at the University of Leicester was instrumental in the delivery of material benefits.

- A joint venture between the University and Genacys Limited is leading to the creation of a joint company, Scionix. This looks to establish new technologies arising from patented discoveries in the Department of Chemistry which have considerable industrial importance. Links with industry in this Department and others also provided significant funding to support postgraduate studentships, or to contribute to undergraduate courses.
- Medical scientists from Leicester were among those who joined with a consortium of 11 international pharmaceutical companies in a £2.7 million research programme designed to speed up the process of bringing safe new drugs on to the market. Links with a major pharmaceutical company enabled University scientists to study a protein recently identified at Leicester which may be a target for therapy of Alzheimer's disease.
- A UK ban on the importation, supply and use of white asbestos was recommended by the Health and Safety Commission after a review was undertaken by staff at the MRC's Institute for Environment and Health and the MRC Toxicology Unit at the University.

There have been far-reaching implications for industry from technological advances at the University of Leicester.

- Space scientists at Leicester are using sophisticated techniques for studying distant galaxies to help advance work in areas as diverse as forensic science and the food industry. They plan to develop a novel instrument – an imaging x-ray fluorescence spectrometer – for use in non-destructive testing and semi-conductor processing, with funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

- Leicester was represented in a meeting of world experts on a novel chemistry and chemical technology, Fluorous Biphasic Catalysis. This new technology could save industry from losing precious metals used in industrial processes and provide a cost-effective solution for their needs.
- A unique facility for the calibration of porosity-measuring well logging tools was formally opened during the year. Based in East Leake, Leicestershire, it offers open industry access to a test pit facility that is the most modern of its type in the world.

A significant feature of the University of Leicester's activity is its commitment to work alongside business and industry.

- The University became a leading member of the Great East Midlands Campaign, a regional campaign that aims to give the East Midlands a stronger identity. Through the University, Lord Attenborough agreed to act as a patron of the GEM campaign.
- The University pledged its support for student achievers by backing Young Enterprise, the national education charity based at the Leicester Education Business Partnership. Further support from the Zeneca Science Teaching Trust allowed the University to develop primary science education in the city and the Education Business Partnership supported the project by providing links with industry and access to resources.
- An innovative trade fair that brought scientists and suppliers together was held at the University. The first University of



A spirit of enterprise at the University of Leicester was demonstrated by a year of wide-ranging involvement in entrepreneurial activities.

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ACHIEVERS: The University remained a leading provider of quality management education for professionals in a variety of fields.

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TECHNOLOGY: Scientists at the University of Leicester used space technology for wide-ranging industrial applications.

Leicester Trade Exhibition featured 22 suppliers of scientific equipment. The University's conference office was also successful in attracting major conferences to the University, including nearly 2,000 delegates attending events in January.

- The Management Centre, in association with the Department of Trade and Industry, has held a number of regional seminars focusing on the topic Learning to Compete for the Next Millennium. During the year the East Midlands Quality Club moved to the University. It promotes business excellence and quality improvements throughout the region. The club has over 100 members. It provides a forum for discussing all aspects of business practice and, by attending evening seminars, to learn new techniques and assimilate examples of best practice and business excellence.

Research carried out by experts at the University of Leicester provided new insights relevant to business and industry.

- Psychologists at Leicester discovered that people using the telephone prefer on-hold

music to voice messages – and will hold 20 per cent longer. Callers were kept on hold and listened to Beatles songs, pan-pipe music and voice messages. The Beatles music was the most successful.

- Crime research experts at Leicester embarked on a project that aims to have a major impact on safety at petrol stations across the country – and to cut down on the forecourt crime bill of £47.2 million. Researchers will look at the ways in which individual oil companies collect crime statistics, and will recommend a standardised industry reporting system of the figures.
- A new study co-authored by a Leicester academic discovered a startling link between mental illness in Britain and perceptions of status. The findings were particularly relevant to business and industry as up to 30 per cent of absence from work due to sickness may be as a result of depression – linked to not owning a car or a home.
- A project looking at people who work at home began at the University. It will involve an examination of existing labour market data sets, discussions with organisations which allow white-collar staff to work at home, and interviews of white-collar workers and their families.
- Studies at Leicester looked at ethnicity and the labour market. They dealt with a range of issues including race and sex discrimination in the NHS nursing profession, the relative difficulty faced by white and non-white foreign-born immigrants in gaining entry to the labour market, the incentive effects for employers of different forms of anti-discrimination policy and differences in access to employer-provided training among ethnic groups.



Universal

Studies led by Leicester experts contributed new understanding about different aspects of the world around us.

- At an international conference in Kenya, University biologists presented new research findings on one of Africa's most majestic inhabitants – the fish eagle – following their 15-year research programme funded by the Earthwatch Institute. Although Lake Naivasha, Kenya, hosts the greatest density of fish eagles on the

whole continent, the population has declined by 50 per cent. The scientists discovered that the population decline is not the result of pesticide use, as had been believed, but is due to the loss of the eagles' food source. The El Niño rains boosted water supplies and provided an upsurge in food and habitat for fish – turning round the fortunes of the fish eagle.



- Two international collaborative research programmes involving the University aim to investigate various aspects of tropical peatlands. One will investigate the sustainability, biodiversity and natural resource functions of tropical peatlands, and the other will study the impact of land use change and fire on the biodiversity of peat swamp forest.
- Biologists at Leicester highlighted the damage being caused by the search lights of submersible craft to the eyes of deep-sea shrimps living around hydrothermal vents. The vents are found at great depths and so the only bright lights to which the shrimps have

ever been exposed are those of submersibles used by scientists exploring the vents. As a result of this, every vent shrimp that has ever been seen is now permanently blind.

The University of Leicester's academic links around the world led to exciting collaborative ventures and new initiatives.

- A Government mission from Jordan led by HH Sharif bint Hassan attended an international geography conference at the University, which is playing an important role in the Badia Research and Development programme. The University is involved in research to develop the desert regions of eastern Jordan using satellite imagery from European and US sensing satellites.
- Work on the changing boundaries of the southern Amazonian rainforest during the past 100,000 years and the impact of biodiversity led to three new research grants for geographers at the University. Funds were also awarded to examine the impacts of changing government policies on biodiversity conservation in the eastern Andes.
- The University was invited to join several leading European universities in offering a European Master's degree in Sports Management, a course which is targeted at senior sports administrators in the participating countries.
- Among the many University conferences were those focusing on sports issues, including Football 2000 which attracted major speakers from the football world and received widespread media coverage. Sociologists from Leicester were involved in organising the official FIFA World Cup Conference hosted at the International Media Centre in Paris and engaged in research during the World Cup. The prestigious Singer and Friedlander review of the football season produced at the University examined various aspects of the sport and warned of a split in football ranks if new technology were to be introduced as an aid to football referees.

The University of Leicester's research and study programmes have far-reaching implications.

PICTURES

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INTERNATIONAL FIRST: A CD-ROM publication of the original manuscript of Captain Cook's journal of the *Endeavour* voyage was presented to the University.

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FLYING HIGH: The El Niño rains turned round the fortunes of the fish eagle.

Picture: Louis Rumis.

Learning is a partnership process as the University of Leicester's expanding international links demonstrate.

- University expertise is helping in the development of an innovative children's therapeutic community in Russia. The project is designed to provide a positive alternative to institutional care for abused and traumatised children who have been abandoned by their families. It is hoped that the research findings will inform practice in the UK.
- Public Order specialists are engaged in a three-year programme of collaboration with Russian academics in the country's law institutes, examining human rights and policing. Human rights education was also on the agenda of four eminent academics visiting the University from India. The Scarman Centre's links with Gong An University were singled out for special praise by Baroness Helena Kennedy, Chair of the British Council, and it was subsequently announced that the link would be funded by the Council for a further three years. The Centre's partnership with the Police Staff College at Bramshill led to the Postgraduate Certificate in Criminal Justice and Police Management being offered in the United Arab Emirates. The Centre also signed a letter of intent to collaborate with the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, adding to the array of agreements the Centre has with institutions worldwide.
- Postgraduate programmes are a feature of the University's activities around the world, and a link was established with Stamford College in Malaysia which will allow Malaysian teachers to study for the MA in Professional Studies in Education. The School of Education's new BA for certified teachers proved very successful in Israel and the distance learning courses and the Ed.D. programme attracted strong international interest.
- The University received a copy of the first ever international CD-ROM publication of the original manuscript of Captain Cook's journal of the *Endeavour* voyage – one of the world's most precious documents. Professor Terry Birtles, of the University of Canberra, on sabbatical leave in the Geography Department, donated a copy of the CD-ROM which was presented by the Earl of Limerick, president of the Britain-Australia Society.



Frontiers

The Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Leicester consolidated its position as one of the leading departments in the UK.

- The quality and innovation of the Department's undergraduate teaching was acknowledged by the Quality Assurance Agency's subject review. The report drew particular attention to the high added value of the Leicester degrees for students of a range of abilities. Recent Higher Education Funding Council funding of 75 additional undergraduate places over three years will allow Leicester to consolidate its position as one of the leading Physics departments in the country.
- HRH The Duke of Edinburgh saw for himself how the University played a pivotal role in the creation of the National Space Science Centre when he visited its first phase, the Space Research Centre, at the University.

Exploration and discoveries by University of Leicester scientists probed age-old mysteries of space.

- Astronomers discovered a type of extremely old, ultra-cool star which could be an important component of the mysterious 'dark matter' in the Galaxy. Exploration of the planet Mars will be advanced following the announcement by the Minister for Science, Lord Sainsbury, of funding for the Beagle 2 rover to land on the red planet in 2004. The University has a key role in Beagle 2, to design and assemble the scientific instrument package on the lander which has the primary purpose of searching for evidence of extinct or extant life at, or beneath, the surface of Mars.
- Scientists from Leicester joined an international quest to solve one of the great mysteries of astronomy. They were selected by NASA to investigate the most energetic event in space – the powerful Gamma ray flashes that originate deep in the Universe. A tri-

national team of scientists aims to develop a platform in space – SWIFT, an orbiting observatory – to observe one of Nature's most enigmatic and elusive spectacles.

- The most successful X-ray satellite ever, ROSAT, completed its very last observations before being switched off in February having provided astronomers with a wealth of knowledge on previously unquantified X-ray sources for almost 10 years. ROSAT achieved more than 9000 observations of objects including comets, quasars, black holes, clusters of galaxies, protostars and supernovae. The University led the British team that constructed the Wide Field Camera (extreme ultraviolet telescope) on ROSAT.

Space science at the University of Leicester aims to deliver research and teaching benefits.

- A world-leading 'survey' telescope capable of mapping huge areas of the sky to great depth will be built as a national facility by an 18-strong University consortium, including Leicester. The four-metre telescope known as VISTA, Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy, will produce 'atlases' of the sky in the optical and infrared wavelength using instruments a hundred times more sensitive than anything currently available.



The University of Leicester is widening the frontiers of knowledge through world-renowned studies into astronomy and planetary science.

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HIGHLIGHT: Cosmonaut Helen Sharman welcomes the National Space Science Centre's first space artefact – a space suit identical to the one she wore on her mission.

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MARS MISSION: University scientists are playing a key role in a 2004 mission to Mars.

- Plans for the world's biggest educational telescope were unveiled, with the University involved in the management and development of the project. The £2 million Faulkes telescope, planned for the Hawaiian island of Maui, will allow schoolchildren to gather pictures and data from the telescope via the internet.

- The Chandra Observatory, the X-ray equivalent of the Hubble Telescope, observed its first X-ray sources with unprecedented spatial resolutions. Leicester has been a major partner in the development of the High Resolution Camera for Chandra. In parallel with their Chandra success, Space Centre scientists succeeded in adapting the same detector technology to biomedical and industrial applications.

- The on-going study at Leicester of the Earth's ionosphere and magnetosphere, and the interaction with the solar wind, was boosted by £2 million funding to build a new active radar system, SPEAR. This will send powerful radiowaves into the upper atmosphere at high latitudes, thereby studying the complex interactions that occur naturally as a result of changes in solar activity.

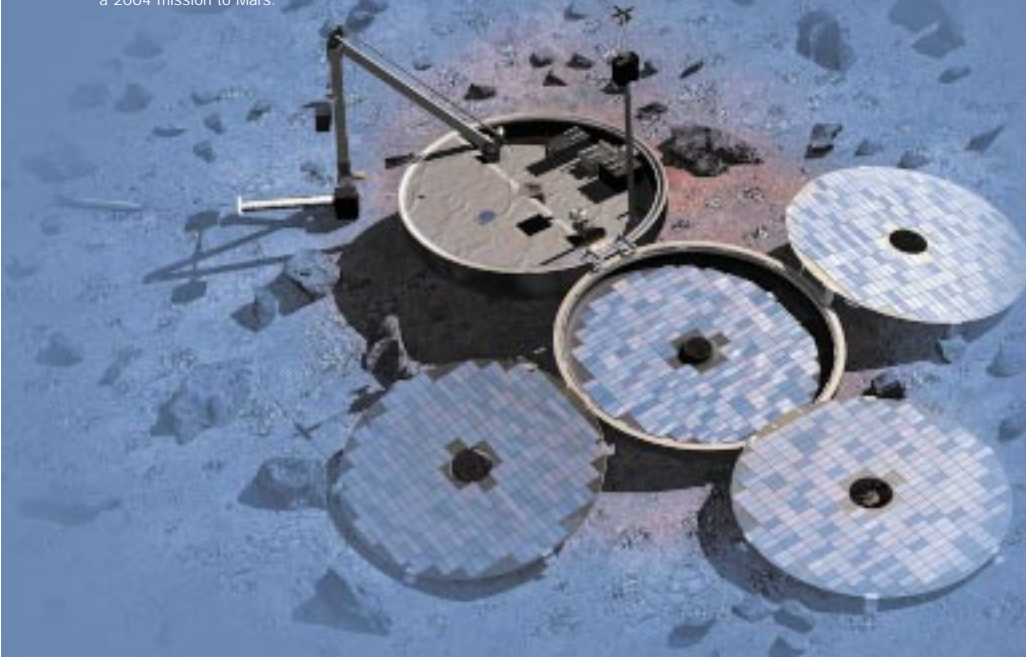
The potential for space to excite and educate young people, and raise important issues about the future of mankind, is being exploited fully by the National Space Science Centre working with the University.

- The National Space Science Centre, the Millennium Commission's £46 million Landmark Project, announced that one of its core features will open 18 months ahead of schedule. The first Challenger Learning Centre to be built outside North America will provide children with opportunities to take part in simulations of space missions using innovative 'space-themed' lessons designed to fit in with the National Curriculum.

- The National Space Science Centre took the night sky out on the road with a brand new inflatable – a transportable Starlab Planetarium. Starlab is an integral part of the Centre's educational programmes and will be used to teach children about the stars and about myths and legends behind the constellations.

- Artefacts that will go on display at the National Space Science Centre are being collected. Helen Sharman, the first Briton in space and trustee of the Centre, received a selection of Russian space artefacts, including a space suit like the one she wore on her mission.

- A conference at the University's adult education centre, Vaughan College, examined the social, political and ethical aspects of colonising space. The conference, the first of its kind in Britain, was organised by the City Council's Peace Action Group.



Discoveries

Studies led by the University of Leicester found answers to a wide range of complex questions.

- Fifteen years ago, Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys pioneered the revolutionary technique of DNA genetic fingerprinting at the University of Leicester. Now the technique has been used to prove the authenticity of Dolly the Sheep, the first mammal ever to be cloned. The technique was also applied to investigate a 200-year old mystery surrounding Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, and his alleged relationship with one of his slaves, Sally Hemings. Tests confirmed he fathered at least one of Sally's five children – and similar methods are likely to be generally applicable to genealogical studies.
- University economists discovered that the relationship between illicit drug use and success in the labour market could be more complex than simple media stereotypes might suggest. Using data from the British Crime Survey, they observed that compared to the sample proportions, those in the managerial/professional class were over-represented in the group reporting drug use.
- A probe into pub violence is being spearheaded by the University, analysing the ways in which licensees explain violence. Research is beginning to show that people's explanations of others' actions during a conflict are of paramount importance in determining their likely behavioural responses. Licensees who have dealt with conflicts peacefully are likely to differ from those who have not in terms of the explanations they give for aggressive situations. It is hoped the results of this study will lead to a larger-scale study looking at other aspects of work-related violence.

University of Leicester studies led to significant findings which were of social and political relevance.

- A review of primary education was called for by a University study which found evidence that performance

levels have fallen. Children in three-year groups were compared at the end of their school years in the seventies and nineties. Scores in maths, language and reading declined significantly.

- There are significant differences in mentoring and support systems available in primary schools, a Leicester study showed. The study sought to understand perceptions of what primary teachers feel they are required to do in relation to formal support structures and to balance this against the reality of what happens for the people involved.
- Sociologists at Leicester continued their work with the Government Task Force on Football and acted as the convener of the local Football Task Force in Leicester. Studies include ticket pricing, football business and 'excluded' football fans, profiling of crowds at football matches, gender and football, football and racism, the relationship between professional football clubs and local authorities and football and families.
- An investigation into emerging European governance structures in the area of internal security, focusing on measures against organised crime and illegal immigration began at Leicester.





Research grants totalling more than £27 million were awarded to the University of Leicester, helping to advance knowledge and understanding of the human condition as well as the world around us.

PICTURES

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INGENUITY: DNA fingerprinting was used to investigate a two centuries old mystery surrounding Thomas Jefferson.

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PLANT INVADER: DNA fingerprinting techniques are being used to root out the facts behind the Japanese Knotweed.

Forensic work by Leicester psychologists continued to receive the attention of policymakers. Presentations were made to a number of influential bodies in areas relating to children's video evidence and expert evidence.

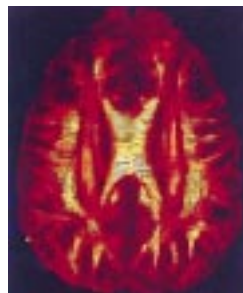
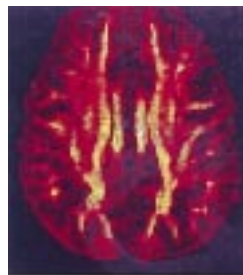
Research by Leicester scientists sought to bring benefits to human, animal and plant life.

- A team of scientists, including one from Leicester, has determined through DNA evidence that wild ponies in Exmoor are truly prehistoric. The study provides hope for saving this rare breed, whose origins date back 130,000 years, but whose population at one point in this century fell to 50.
- The commonest cause of preterm birth and its consequences, infant death and childhood disability, is being investigated by University scientists. They identified a population of special cells in the fetal membranes which is implicated in the genesis of an area of fetal membrane which undergoes 'programmed' degradation prior to rupture. Identifying ways of controlling these cells will potentially lead to methods of preventing preterm rupture of the fetal membranes.
- A potential breakthrough in childcare has been achieved by scientists developing an innovative new blood pressure monitor. They hope their device will revolutionise the way in which vital care is administered to premature babies. The monitor, which links with a computer, will provide a safe, non-invasive way of monitoring babies continuously.
- DNA fingerprinting techniques are being used to root out the facts behind a plant invader, the Japanese Knotweed – known as the most pernicious weed in British flora. The plant, introduced in Britain in the 1840s, has now spread – with every plant in Britain of this type being a clone of the same female plant. Scientists at Leicester are using molecular techniques to pinpoint the origins of the clone thereby paving the way for biological control of the species.
- A new and potentially important chemical responsible for pain in human patients has been identified for the first time by scientists at Leicester. The doctors have also collaborated with a range of pharmaceutical firms to develop new drugs related to pain management.
- The University conducted research into residential child care. This explored children's and social workers' perspectives on secure accommodation, and the effectiveness of this provision in meeting children's needs and improving their life chances.
- Leicester chemists were among an international team investigating pollution at a research station in Tasmania. Their work will provide greater understanding of how to tackle pollution in Europe.
- In the Toxicology Unit at the University, the Medical Research Council reviewed the scientific programmes, and all received a high rating.

Living

Medical studies and discoveries at Leicester have had a huge impact, increasing knowledge about health problems, and how to tackle them.

- Startling results from a Leicester study revealed that asthma levels in under fives have doubled within a decade. There is some evidence that the rise is due to increased awareness and reporting of the condition. Leicester is also engaged in an international study, involving 1,000 families, of the genetic basis of asthma.
- One of the world's biggest studies into the causes of heart disease, spearheaded by the University, was launched in the East Midlands by television personality Bill Maynard. The British Heart Foundation-funded study will examine the crucial hereditary factors which contribute to coronary heart disease. In addition, a strategy for managing heart attack victims who have failed thrombolysis is being devised by Leicester scientists. It is likely to have a significant impact on current cardiological practice.
- Pioneering research, which could help save the lives of premature babies, is testing whether the treatment of women in preterm labour, or with ruptured membranes, with broad spectrum antibiotics improves the survival and development of children born prematurely. The results will be published in the year 2000. In another Leicester project, work is being conducted, with an international network of laboratories, on the materno-fetal interaction. This is yielding promising leads for development of fetal medicines and new contraceptives.
- Leicester scientists are spearheading an international health project that aims to protect patients against the risks of stroke and heart disease. The trial of 18,000 patients with high blood pressure is taking place in the UK and Scandinavia.



Progress was made by University researchers in tackling a range of medical conditions.

- A link between dental caries and multiple sclerosis, which may offer a clue to the cause of MS, has been identified by University researchers. An organism involved in dental caries may, when it causes infection, trigger an immune cross-reaction, which damages nerve tissue. A preventive programme is being developed for dental health among MS patients.
- Cancer research conducted at Leicester has led to patients being treated with curcumin, a derivative of turmeric, in the hope that this will reduce tumour volume in those with established disease. The potential of curcumin to prevent cancer is also being investigated. The University was also among the first in the world to instigate a clinical trial of an agent which is given orally to patients with a variety of cancers and blocks blood vessel formation. The agent appears to reduce tumour blood flow which may lead to cancer shrinkage. In another project, Leicester is developing sensitive and highly specific methods for measuring chemical damage to DNA which may lead to mutations and cancer.
- An investigation into a rare genetic disorder could lead to new insights into the way fat is absorbed by the body, and into heart disease. The study is into the condition, partial lipodystrophy, which prevents people from being able to store fat under their skin, leading to abnormally high levels in their blood stream.
- Leicester is one of three centres world-wide investigating the genetic basis of psoriasis, a condition that affects more than one million people in the UK. The aim of the Leicester study is to localise and eventually characterise the genes underlying this common skin condition.

Teaching and research advances brought the benefits of medicine from the laboratory and lecture rooms to the public.

- Molecular techniques are being used to find out why chronic rejection occurs in transplanted kidneys. Leicester is among the leaders in research into non heart beating donors.

Improving medical provision for people of all ages remains a priority for Leicester scientists.

- A method of identifying elderly women at high risk of sustaining a hip fracture has been discovered at the University. This involves several simple measurements and questions which can be carried out in a local clinic. This methodology will ultimately enable GPs to select appropriate individuals for preventive treatment and may form the foundation for a national screening programme. A separate study into osteoporosis aims to see if simple medication will help to reduce the risk of people having further fractures due to the condition.
- One aspect of research into child health at Leicester is the examination of how the developing lung responds to the external environment. The Leicester study aims to develop new, safe and miniaturised techniques to measure the response of the infant lung.

- Doctors from the University were among those to develop a breath test – for stomach ulcers. This replaces more invasive and less accurate tests.
- An exciting new Leicester initiative aims to demonstrate links between the environment in which infants are reared, the way in which their brain functions develop and, using MRI scanning techniques, the structural development of the brain.
- University experts in community care spent much of the year focusing on the Royal Commission on Long Term Care. They presented oral evidence, heard by the whole Commission, and later written evidence on attitudes and behaviour towards paying for care. The Commission also requested research on alternative models of care and a briefing paper on informal carers. All three elements were published in the Commission's volumes of evidence.
- Work began at Leicester on interventions for bulimia nervosa and a longitudinal study of pupillary function in Alzheimer's disease and ageing. Leicester is also involved in a collaborative evaluation of mental health service provision for homeless children and families, and psychiatrists are also evaluating a new home-based service for children with learning disabilities and their families.

PICTURES

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BRAINWAVE: A new magnetic resonance imaging technique reveals the internal wiring of the brain.

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HEART OF THE MATTER: University scientists are spearheading one of the world's biggest studies into the causes of heart disease.

Picture: Neville Chadwick Photography.



- A paper on the pharmacology and potential therapeutic uses of cannabis was published by Leicester scientists and used as the basis for a submission to the House of Lords Select Committee which is considering the medical and scientific evidence to support the reintroduction of cannabis for medical use.

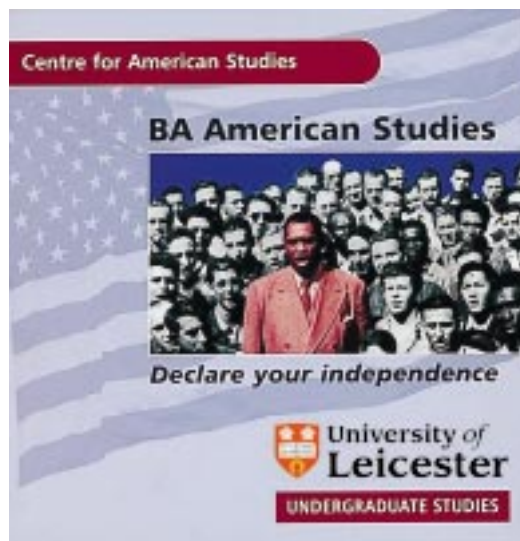
Teaching

The University gained recognition for the quality of its teaching across a broad spectrum of subjects.

- The Medical School achieved a total score of 23 out of a maximum of 24 in the Quality Assurance Agency subject reviews. This added to the two other scores of 23 received for Physics and Astronomy and for American Studies. The review visit for Medicine was the largest and most complex yet organised at Leicester, involving a team of eight QAA subject reviewers and a parallel visit from a team of four assessors from the General Medical Council.
- The University continued to deliver preparatory English for Academic Purposes courses for international students and also expanded its provision of short courses. A further group of French primary school teachers received training in English language and teaching methodology, and a course in English for Law was delivered to a group of professors from police universities in Russia. The English Language Teaching Unit also reached an agreement to provide language courses to junior officers from the Jordanian Royal Air Force.
- In Medical Education, the first cohort of students completed the new medical curriculum and moved to jobs as Pre-registration House Officers. The curriculum continues to be refined, particularly with the introduction of a new community-based hospital attachment designed to ensure that students understand the role of all professionals involved in patient care.
- Courses provided by the School of Education received good grades from OFSTED, and distance learning courses were very

successful. A new postgraduate certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education was initiated, and staff were involved in the development of the Challenger Learning Centre, part of the National Space Science Centre.

The University of Leicester continues to expand the range of courses it delivers to students by part-time, full-time and flexible distance learning programmes.



- A new Certificate in Social Security Law by distance learning was launched. This stems from the Master's degree in Welfare Law and is intended for people interested in social security law in the UK. A new post-qualifying Certificate in Community Care Contracting was commissioned by Midlands' local authorities.
- A Master's degree in Training and Performance Management and a Certificate in Training Practice were launched by the Centre for Labour Market Studies. The use of the internet for group conferences enabled course members across three continents to participate simultaneously in group tutorials and conferences, and the Centre delivered its first lecture to students across the world via the internet. A 'tutor on-line service' was introduced for course members which guarantees access to a tutor on-line every working day.
- Another innovative teaching method using the internet was the launch of a virtual autopsy web site. This allows medical students, and other visitors to the University web site, to conduct a 'virtual post-mortem' – a breakthrough in computer-assisted learning for medical students.

Traditional and innovative teaching methods combined to provide students at the University of Leicester with excellent learning opportunities.

- The University added to its portfolio of courses with a new distance learning Diploma/Master's course in Museum Studies, an MSc in Political Research and Spanish was successfully introduced as a degree-level subject.

In addition to introducing new courses, the University reshaped existing programmes and departmental structures for the benefit of staff and students.

- The merger of the Faculty of Medicine with Biological Sciences and Psychology formed a new Faculty of Medicine and Biological Sciences, and new management structures were put in place. A new multi-disciplinary MSc in Pain Management for health care workers started, attracting doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and psychologists from around the world.

- Strong emphasis on research methods in the MA Mass Communications course, now in its 21st year, attracted a Research Training award from the ESRC. High standards of teaching in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science led to accreditation of the Computer Science degree by the British Computer Society. In Geology, a major achievement was the accreditation of all undergraduate courses by the Geological Society, with the accreditation panel particularly praising the amount of fieldwork undertaken. In Archaeology, complete restructuring of all undergraduate courses has been undertaken in order to create clearer pathways of progression within each degree.
- In Law, curriculum development continued and changes were approved to the LLB and LLM degrees. European ties continued to strengthen with universities from a number of European states involved in the establishment of Legal Master's Degree Programmes.

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QUALITY: American Studies at Leicester is among a growing number of highly rated subject areas.

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FIELDWORK: The School of Archaeological Studies has initiated a new training course for its undergraduate students, based at Brooksby College. Students receive instruction in a wide range of practical techniques used in archaeological fieldwork.



Learning



The University of Leicester engaged in a range of initiatives aimed at offering opportunities for school and college students, current students, graduates and staff to enhance their skills.

- A Career Development Day was organised for contract research staff working in the University. Former contract research staff spoke about their current careers both in and outside research and their routes to success.
- The Careers Service collaborated with its counterparts at East Midlands' universities to pool graduate destination data and improve understanding of graduate employment in the region.
- The Graduate Action Group in the Careers Service developed a new range of workshops. The group aims to enable unemployed and underemployed recent graduates to market themselves more effectively to employers and feel more confident at each stage of the recruitment process.
- A conference at the University explored the complex nature of the challenge of developing student writing and recent shifts in social perspectives of language and literacy.
- The University's Student Psychological Health Project continued its work to improve the understanding of, and the provision for, students who experience psychological or mental health difficulties. Building on the results of a major survey of Leicester students, a programme of staff training on mental health awareness has been developed which is being offered to all categories of staff.
- The University Chaplaincy worked closely with Welfare Services to provide complementary pastoral care, especially to those in hospital. The Chaplaincy has continued to provide a place of relaxation and counsel for students and staff.

- Departments from the University ran taster courses for county sixth-form students. These gave prospective higher education applicants a feel for university life in general and, more specifically, an insight into subjects offered at Leicester. The University also ran an induction course for students who had firmly accepted offers of a place at the University. The target group was students who have no family history of participating in higher education.
- The University made two successful funding bids for a project which will open higher education to new groups of people. The project, with Loughborough and De Montfort universities, will develop effective ways of encouraging and supporting the participation of students in higher education from disadvantaged groups and socio-economic groups 4 and 5 in Leicestershire and Rutland.

New initiatives brought better learning opportunities for students.

- The University made preparations for the first intake of students into the new School of Historical Studies. This collaborative venture offers much scope for the development of innovative courses and, as part of this development, an Historical Skills module was developed. The Centre for American Studies added four new exchange partners to its year abroad scheme for undergraduates.

The provision of high quality student-centred learning remains a priority at the University of Leicester and is achieved through staff and students working together for optimum benefits.

- The study skills components of the curriculum in English were redesigned. A grant-aided website for learning grammar proved beneficial. Another example of the synergy between research and teaching is a new Medium of Writing course offered in the department.
- The Teaching and Learning Committee of the University continued to support a range of initiatives, from the authoring of resource packs for the teaching of seminars to the exploration of 'virtual' tutorials. Since its launch in 1995, the Fund for New Teaching Initiatives has provided support for over 40 teaching projects in all Faculties of the University. Some projects have an institution-wide focus. These have included a survey of student opinion on modularisation and the launch of a new service to support the development of students' mathematics and statistics skills.

There were many successes for staff and students throughout the year.

- Students from the University's Law Faculty recorded a national triumph by winning the Berwin Leighton Boardroom Blitz competition. This involves teams running their own

fictional companies, manufacturing an imaginary product. In Adult Education, the BA part-time Humanities degree produced three first-class degrees, including one student who had started as a Combined Studies Certificate student.

- Contact, the student community action group, was awarded a grant from the Millennium Fund. This is being used to employ a full time member of staff with the aim of increasing the numbers of student volunteers and improving relations with the local community. Students also helped local good causes through the University of Leicester Charities Appeal which raised £55,000.
- A survey of students' views of Leicester revealed that the city had many hidden strengths and that, by the end of their studies, students have developed a strong loyalty for Leicester. Nearly half the students surveyed did not know anything about the city before coming to the University – but more than 80 per cent enjoyed living here and would recommend it to others.

- Among the many accolades and distinctions received by University of Leicester staff was the election of Professor Graeme Barker, of the School of Archaeological Studies, as a Fellow of the British Academy. Dr Angela Lennox, Director of the Centre for Studies in Community Health Care and a senior lecturer in Medical Education, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to medicine and the community. Emeritus Professor Jack Simmons, a founding Professor of the History Department, was awarded an OBE for services to railway and local history. The Medical Director at the Leicester Royal Infirmary and Clinical Teacher in the University's Faculty of Medicine and Biological Sciences, Mr Nicholas Naftalin, received an OBE for services to education and patient care.

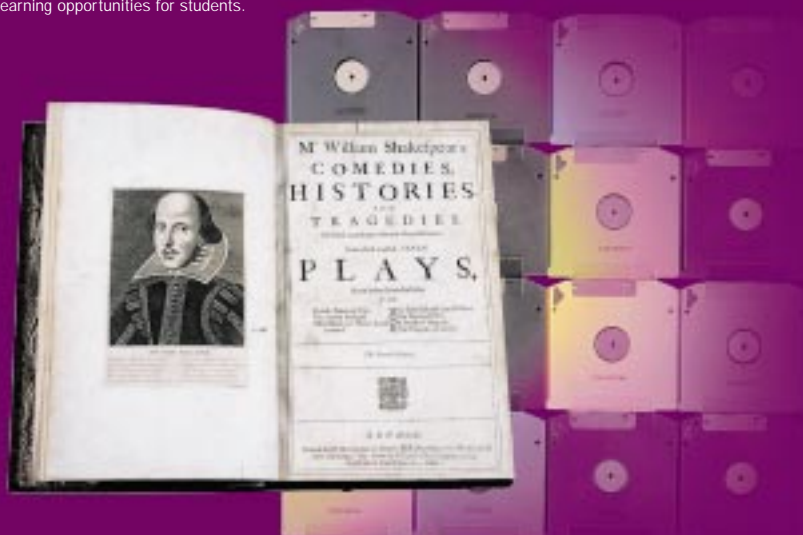
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KNOWLEDGE: The University continually seeks ways of providing high quality student-centred learning.

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CREATIVE: Departments introduced initiatives to enhance learning opportunities for students.



Honours

In six ceremonies held during the final year of the millennium, the University of Leicester awarded twelve honorary degrees to people prominent in the fields of industry, science, the arts, education and public service. Dr Kenneth Edwards, the University's Vice-Chancellor for twelve years, was among those honoured shortly before his retirement. He said: "I saw the University grow extremely rapidly and also adapt very considerably in response to the huge changes which have occurred in the framework within which Higher Education exists. The University achieved these changes while retaining a very firm hold on the fundamental and eternal values of universities. Furthermore the University of Leicester has managed to remain a co-operative, collegial and friendly place."

Spring Ceremony

In February, honorary degrees were conferred on two people, one a former member of staff at the University.

Mrs Rachel Sullivan (MA), former Associate Director and Organising Tutor for Art at the Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts, University of Leicester.



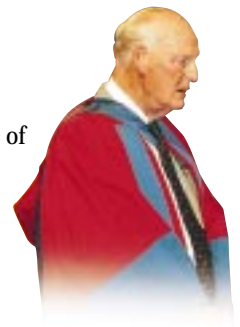
Dr Philip Campbell (DSc), Editor of *Nature*.



Dr Kenneth Edwards (LLD), Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, 1987-1999.



Professor Frederick Leckie (DSc), Professor of Engineering at the University of California, Santa Barbara, USA.



Professor Barry Supple, FBA (DLitt), Director of the Leverhulme Trust.



Mr Christopher Moon (LLM), Former Captain in the Royal Anglian Regiment and campaigner against land mines.

Summer Ceremonies

Ten honorary degrees were awarded to people recognised nationally for the contributions they had made through their public lives.

Mr Tim Appleton (MSc), Manager of Rutland Water Nature Reserve.



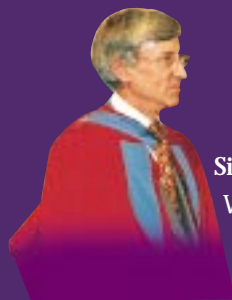
Professor Sir Keith Peters, FRS (DSc), Regius Professor of Physic at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge.



Professor Dame Gillian Beer, FBA (DLitt), King Edward VII Professor of English Literature at the University of Cambridge and President of Clare Hall, Cambridge.



The Honorable Raymond Seitz (LLD), US Ambassador to the UK between 1991 and 1994. Vice-Chairman of Lehman Brothers.



Sir Richard Sykes, FRS (DSc), Chairman and Chief Executive of Glaxo Wellcome.

Professor Sir Anthony Wrigley, FBA (DLitt), Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.



The University of Leicester honoured distinguished people from different walks of life at degree ceremonies held during the year.

Tributes to Leicester

Rachel Sullivan *"In receiving an Honorary Degree from the University of Leicester I am aware not only of my personal pleasure and pride, but of the enormous debt I owe to everyone who has worked to bring the Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts to fruition. Not least in this endeavour were the disabled students."*

Professor Barry Supple, FBA. *"In recent years British universities have suffered much from scarce resources and super-abundant regulation. But those like Leicester which have strong educational and research roots and shown a willingness to innovate still have an enormous amount to offer our society."*

Tim Appleton. *"It is to their credit that the University of Leicester has chosen to confer this degree in honour of creative nature conservation."*

Professor Dame Gillian Beer, FBA. *"I am delighted to be honoured by this distinguished university."*

Dr Philip Campbell. *"Given that across the sciences University of Leicester researchers have achieved great international distinction, it is a great honour to be awarded this honorary degree by their institution."*

Dr Kenneth Edwards. *"The honorary degree confirms the feeling of warmth that Leicester has given me. It has been a friendly University and I have enjoyed my time here enormously. In a sense I feel it has been an honour to be Vice-Chancellor here for 12 years, so this doubles the sense of appreciation."*

The Honourable Raymond Seitz. *"I am doubly honoured by Leicester's decision to grant me a degree of Doctor of Laws: first, I begin an association with one of Britain's most outstanding academic institutions; and, second, I join an exceptionally distinguished roll of fellow honorary graduands."*

Professor Sir Anthony Wrigley, FBA. *"The bestowal of an honorary degree conveys a particular pleasure both as a personal honour and as a recognition of the importance of economic history and historical demography as subjects which further our understanding of the immense changes which have taken place in British society in recent centuries."*

Success

The number of students receiving postgraduate degrees continued to increase, this year by 38 per cent, as 960 received their degrees in February.

In July a further 1,200 postgraduate students and 2,140 undergraduate students celebrated success with their friends and families as they joined the distinguished ranks of Leicester's graduates. This, too, represented an increase on the year before.



degree will be valuable when I do start teaching," she said. "I do not think any work experience is wasted."

Real triumph

Susan Forrest, who is profoundly deaf, was among the first two students to complete a new four-year course in Archaeology, which

included a year in Australia. Susan planned to continue at Leicester with an MA in Urban Studies, before returning to Australia to follow her Christian vocation in the priesthood. She found the help from Study Support and the Chaplaincy invaluable during her time at Leicester.

Master of Communications

For two years Sue Beardsmore, presenter with BBC TV's Midlands Today, used all her free time to study for an MA in Mass Communications and in February her hard work was rewarded.

The University of Leicester is among the UK's foremost providers of postgraduate distance learning and Sue had chosen this method of studying for her degree. "I enjoyed the course very much," said Sue, who based her dissertation on aspects of sports coverage in the regions.

Success on a plate

Jill Poole, who gained a first-class degree in English, has had a varied career. A mother and former dinner lady, she supplemented her income while studying for her degree by working in the University's Careers Service. Following her degree success she is taking a Postgraduate Certificate in Education and plans to teach secondary pupils. "I am sure all the jobs I have done before this

History of Success

Combined Sciences graduate, Suzanne Paylor, was winner of the Darwin Trust of Edinburgh's Scholarship in the History and Philosophy of Science. Suzanne, who gained a first class honours degree specialising in the History of Science, in the Department of History, has moved on to study for a doctorate at York University.



Family Connection

Caroline Wessel (née Gee), whose great uncles were Percy Gee and Astley Clarke, founders and substantial benefactors of the University in the 1920s, graduated with a first class honours degree in Humanities. She achieved the highest set of marks ever in the ten years the course has been running, achieving a first for every assessed assignment.

Statistics 1998/99

Increasing numbers of students celebrated success at the University of Leicester as they were awarded degrees at ceremonies held in February and July.

Total Registered Students

-  undergraduate 7,269 (7,228)
-  postgraduate 7,601 (7,971)

Mature Students

(full-time undergraduates over 21 on admission)

-  245

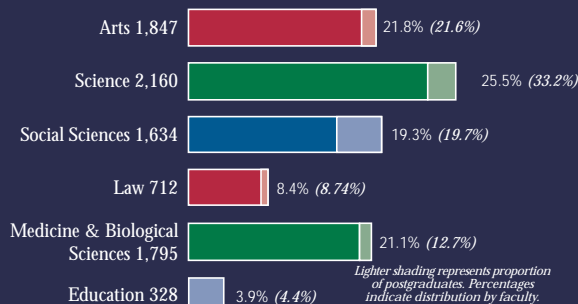
Total registered distance learning students

-  5,083

Distribution of Full-time Students

-  Home/EU 7,655
-  Overseas 821

Full-time Student Numbers

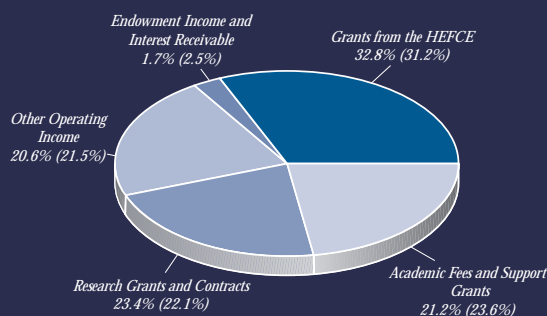


Total Full-time 8,476 (8,657)

Staff Numbers

- 529 Full-time Academic Staff
- 605 Full-time Academic-Related Staff
- 737 Full-time Non-Teaching Staff
- 683 Part-time Non-Teaching Staff

Income



Total Income: £116,756m

All figures in brackets relate to 1997/98