

New Blood *at the* University

► Twenty one 'new blood lecturers' have now been appointed to the University of Leicester. The posts, advertised in December 2005, were designed to further increase the calibre of research active staff within the university. Nearly 1000 applications were received for the 21 posts, illustrating the fantastic opportunity on offer for talented junior or new staff.

The new lecturers will benefit from a combination of guaranteed study leave, reduced teaching loads and resources for research travel.

Over the next pages we briefly introduce the New Blood Lecturers. You can find out more about them by visiting <http://www2.le.ac.uk/ebulletin/people/appointments>.



Dr Andrew Hopper

► Dr Andrew Hopper has been appointed as New Blood Lecturer in the Centre for English Local History, Department of History. He was previously AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) Postdoctoral Research Fellow, in the Department of Modern History, University of Birmingham.

His research interests include Religion, politics and society in early modern England.

Dr Hopper said "I am looking forward to joining Leicester to re-establish, in the Centre for English Local History, the study of the impact

of the c17th civil wars upon English regions and localities, an influential approach first pioneered at Leicester by Alan Everitt during the 1960s."



Dr Stefano Berteza

► Dr Stefano Berteza joins us from his Alexander von Humboldt research fellow post at the Christian-Albrechts Universität zu Kiel, Germany to take up the position of New Blood Lecturer in Law at the Faculty of Law.

His research and teaching interests include issues in jurisprudence, political theory, legal reasoning, logic, theory of argumentation, constitutional theory, criminal law, and European Community law.

Dr Berteza's significant achievements include:

- 24-month Marie Curie Individual Fellowship
- 12-month Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship
- Co-founded (with Dr. Aileen Kavanagh) the Interdisciplinary Leicester Legal Theory Discussion Group
- Appointed director of the working group on "Law and Argumentation" at the 22nd IVR Congress in Granada
- Acts as a reviewer for Springer (formerly Kluwer) and Cavendish
- A member of The Forum for Law

and Philosophy at the Queen's University of Belfast

- A referee for the Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly and Ratio Juris - An International Journal of Jurisprudence and Philosophy of Law



Dr Ed Hollox

► Dr Hollox has been appointed as a 'New Blood' Lecturer in the Department of Genetics.

His research and teaching interests include the evolution and genetic variation of human antimicrobial genes, and the relationship of this variation with susceptibility to infectious and inflammatory disease.



Dr Sergei Petrovskii

► Dr Sergei Petrovskii has been appointed to the university as a

Lecturer in Applied Mathematics, Department of Mathematics. He previously worked for the Russian Academy of Science as a Senior Scientist.

Dr Petrovskii's teaching and research interests are mathematical biology, mathematical population dynamics, nonlinear dynamics and chaos.

Dr Petrovskii added "The University of Leicester is one of the leading UK research universities with very dynamic and vibrant research and teaching environment; working here is very stimulating and challenging."



Maciej Tomaszewski, MD, FAHA

► Maciej Tomaszewski, MD, FAHA has been appointed as a Lecturer in Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences. He previously held the posts of Clinical Lecturer at the University of Silesia and Visiting Clinical Research Fellow at the BHF Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Centre, University of Glasgow.

His research interests surround the genetics of cardiovascular disorders and bio-markers of cardiovascular risk. Dr Tomaszewski's major accomplishments and awards include most recently:

- The Wellcome Trust - International Research Development Award (2002-2005)
- US National Institutes of Health -



- Fogarty International Center - Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award (2005-2006)
- British Endocrine Societies Research Grant Award (2005-2006)
- Scottish Executive Chief Scientist Office Senior Visiting Fellowship (2005-2006)
- American Heart Association New Investigator Award for European Fellows (2005)
- International Fellow of American Heart Association, Council for High Blood Pressure Research (2005)

He said "One of the appealing features of the post is the strong clinical emphasis of the research being undertaken in Leicester. As a clinician I would like to contribute to the further development of cardiovascular translational research within the Department."



Dr Martha Clokie

► Dr Martha Clokie has been appointed as a Lecturer in Microbiology in the Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation. Previously Dr Clokie worked as a Post Doctoral Research Assistant in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Warwick.

Dr Clokie is interested in the ecology and molecular biology of bacteriophages (viruses that infect bacteria) and their relationship with bacterial hosts. She is also interested in exploiting bacteriophages and phage-derived products as an alternative to treating antibiotic resistant bacterial infections.

Dr Clokie has been commissioned by Humana Scientific Press to co-edit a book entitled Bacteriophages: methods and protocols which will be published shortly. She has collaborated in medical phage research with pioneers in the field at the Sanger Centre, UK, the non-profit PhageBiotics Foundation, USA, and the Eliava Institute in Tbilisi, Georgia and has also been invited to join the advisory council of the PhageBiotics Foundation.

Dr Clokie said about joining the

University of Leicester, "I'm excited to be joining the excellent team of microbiologists at University of Leicester where I will be able to pursue my interests in both environmental and medical microbiology. Ecological approaches to medical environments may provide the key to future treatments of bacterial diseases."



Dr Ludovic Renou

► Dr Ludovic Renou, joins us as a Lecturer in Economics, from the University of Adelaide where he was a Lecturer in Economics and Game Theory. His research and teaching interests include Game, Contract and Implementation theory and Mathematical Economics.

You can find details of Dr Renou's publications at <http://www.le.ac.uk/ec/staff/lr78.html>

Dr Renou was awarded the Louis-Andre Gerard-Varet Prize in 2005. He is also a Board member of the Economic Design Network, Australia, which fosters and disseminates research in economic and mechanism design to the community, practitioners and decision makers.

He added "It is with excitement that I look forward to coming to Leicester. Leicester is a new and exciting challenge in my young career, and I am convinced that the environment offered by the university in general, and the department of Economics in particular, will prove determinant for my research."



Dr David M Uniwin

► Dr David M. Uniwin has joined the

University as a Lecturer in Palaeobiology, Department of Museum Studies, from the Museum für Naturkunde, Humbolt University in Berlin where he was Curator of Fossil Reptiles and Birds. During his time there he was responsible for the renovation of the Dinosaur Hall world famous exhibit which will reopen to the public in summer 2007.

Dr Unwin has taught diverse aspects of Zoology and Geology, although his primary expertise lies in palaeontology, especially fossil vertebrates: how they are preserved, how they functioned, their interrelationships and their evolutionary history.

His research is primarily focused on pterosaurs, the extinct flying reptiles (often referred to as pterodactyls), but also covers fossil birds, including Archaeopteryx, the oldest known bird, and other groups of fossil reptiles such as dinosaurs and ichthyosaurs. His main achievement has been helping to solve the 200 year old problem: 'what exactly is a pterosaur?' Dr Unwin has been involved in numerous research projects on extinct reptiles and birds from North and South America, Europe, the Former Soviet Union, Asia and Africa. Most recently he has been taking part in projects in China and conducting joint work with Spanish colleagues on a giant pterosaur which, at 12 metres in wingspan (the size of a small aeroplane), might be the largest flying creature ever.

Dr Unwin is also principle scientific advisor to 'The Pterosaurs' (provisional title), a major new exhibition on pterosaurs that will open in the summer of 2007 at the Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History and Human History in Japan.

He added "The New Blood Lectureship will provide me with an excellent opportunity to build a research group whose interests are focused on the palaeobiology of extinct reptiles and birds, and that will further enhance Leicester Universities' reputation as a world class centre for palaeontology."

Dr Celia May

► Dr Celia May, former Post-doctoral Research Fellow, has now taken up the position of Lecturer in Genetics in the Department of Genetics.

Dr May has held a long term interest in understanding the dynamics of DNA diversity. In recent years she has focussed on PAR1, the



largest single region shared by the human X and Y chromosomes, and has been examining the process of meiotic recombination by detecting and characterizing de novo events in sperm DNA.



Dr Victoria Stewart

► Dr Victoria Stewart has joined us as a lecturer in English Literature from the University of the West of England.

Her research and teaching interests are in twentieth century and contemporary writing, especially war writing, Holocaust writing and autobiography. Her monograph "Women's Autobiography: War and Trauma" was published by Palgrave in 2003, and a new book, "Narratives of Memory: British Writing of the 1940s" has recently been published.

Dr Stewart has recently completed a period of Research Leave funded by the AHRC. She is looking forward to new challenges at the University of Leicester.



Dr Christine E Pullar

► Dr. Christine E Pullar has joined the Department of Cell Physiology and Pharmacology from her position as



Assistant Researcher (Professor) III, at the University of California.

Her present work implicates the β 2-AR, the classical GPCR, as an important novel modulator of many of the processes required for efficient wound repair in stratified epithelium. It appears that β -AR antagonists could be a future treatment for improving healing in chronic wounds. She has also delineated the role of PKA and β 4 integrin in keratinocyte galvanotaxis.

Her current research aims to determine the roles that the β -AR and electric fields play in angiogenesis and wound healing by using a variety of in vitro, ex-vivo and in vivo approaches, investigate the interaction between them and delineate the corresponding signaling mechanisms.

Dr Pullar was principal investigator on a 5 year NIH grant to study the role of the β 2-adrenergic receptor in keratinocyte migration. She was also co-investigator on a Shriner's Hospital grant to study the role of the β 2-AR in burn wound healing.

Dr Pullar is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Aberdeen and also a reviewer for a number of Electromagnetic, Cell Biology and Dermatology Journals and a council member for the Society for the Physical Regulation of biology in Medicine.

She added "I am very excited about moving back to the UK to continue my research career, particularly within the highly ranked Department of Cell Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Leicester. The compatibility between my present and future planned work and ongoing research within the Department is truly extraordinary and I hope to fully integrate my work within the Department and the School as a whole."



Dr Penelope Allison

► Dr Penelope Allison has joined the School of Archaeology as a Lecturer in Ancient History from her position as Australian Research Council QEII

Fellow at the Australian National University.

Dr Allison's teaching and research interests are in the Roman world, particularly Italy during the early Empire, and the areas of Pompeii, household archaeology, relationships between material culture and text, painting, artefact studies, and gender and space. Recently her research has concerned rural colonial Australia and women and children early imperial military communities in the Roman provinces of Upper and Lower Germany.

Dr Allison has received the following awards and distinctions:

- Visiting Fellow, St John's College, Univ. of Durham (Sept-Dec 2005).
- Australian Bicentennial Fellow, Faculty of Classics, Univ. of Cambridge (Sept-Dec 2000).
- U2000 Research Fellow, School of Archaeology, Classics and Ancient History, Univ. of Sydney (1997-2001).
- Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Archaeology, Classics and Ancient History, University of Sydney (1993-1996).

She added "I am looking forward to joining the staff of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at Leicester and to working with a large team of distinguished scholars in archaeology and ancient history, in a school whose research and teaching embraces relationships between the archaeological and textual evidence in the ancient and modern worlds."



Dr Peter Reinholt Nielsen

► Dr. Peter Reinholt Nielsen joins us from the University of Cambridge where he held the post of Research Associate in the Department of Biochemistry.

Dr Nielsen's research is mainly about understanding the relationship between protein structure and function. The work has focused on a group of domains involved in the structure of chromatin - the complex of

proteins and DNA that is in the nuclei of eukaryotic cells.

Dr Nielsen added "I am looking forward to joining the Department of Biochemistry. It is well equipped to do structural biology with an excellent NMR suite. I am also looking forward to being part of the strong research environment centred around these facilities."



Dr Kerry Franklin

► Dr Kerry Franklin, former Postdoctoral research associate has now taken up the post of Lecturer in the Department of Biology. Her research interests include light signalling and ambient temperature sensing in plant development.

Dr Franklin was awarded the Human Frontier Science Program short term research fellowship in 2003 and a 5 year Royal Society University Research fellowship from October 2006.

Dr Franklin says that she is looking forward to joining the university as "it is a world-recognised centre of excellence in plant photobiology. It is a great privilege to be able to pursue my research career in a department with such a long-established and esteemed reputation in this area."



Dr Andrea Lecchini Visintini

► Dr Andrea Lecchini Visintini has joined the University as an Engineering lecturer from his Research Associate (EPSRC) post at the University of Cambridge.

Dr Lecchini's current research addresses the problem of controlling complex stochastic systems. The objective is to develop efficient strategies to make decision and control actions in complex and uncertain scenarios. The approach that I am pursuing belongs to the area of simulation based Monte Carlo techniques. The main application is currently Air Traffic Control. Air traffic is an uncertain complex system. The effect of the wind on aircraft trajectories and imprecise knowledge of the behaviour of pilots in response to Air Traffic Control instructions are examples of the uncertainty that affect air traffic. Increasing levels of traffic are pushing the current system towards its limits, so that there is a strong need for more sophisticated, innovative, Air Traffic Control strategies.

Dr Lecchini said "The Control & Instrumentation group in Leicester is one of the best Control groups in the UK. The group has long standing experience in aerospace applications. My current work on the development of models and control strategies for Air Traffic Control will complement very well the research of the group."



Dr Holly Furneaux

► Dr Furneaux has been appointed as a New Blood lecturer in Victorian Studies, Department of English.

Dr Furneaux completed her PhD entitled 'Homoeroticism in the Novels of Charles Dickens' (Birkbeck College, University of London) in 2005. She is now finishing a book project, *Queer Dickens*, and embarking on a new interdisciplinary book-length exploration of the cultural history of male nursing in the long nineteenth century.

Holly has published various pieces of her research in article form, and has co-edited a collection called 'Dickens and Sex', which developed from a successful international conference held in 2004.



She added "I am delighted to join a department which has such a strong tradition of pioneering Victorian Studies, and I value the research opportunity afforded by the New Blood scheme. An effort to while away time on interview day, turned into an academic's dream, as I dusted my suit browsing through the library's incredible selection of Victorian Periodicals. Commendably, far from being shut away from our students in archives, these wonderful resources are available for all on the open shelves. This is a very exciting moment to become involved as the Centre for Victorian Studies and the MA in Victorian Studies celebrate their 40th birthdays. The centre looks forward to further developing its contribution to Nineteenth Century scholarship with several high profile conferences, which will soon be able to make use of the University's snazzy new conference and library facilities. From a newcomer's perspective, it seems to me that Victorian Studies at Leicester has entered the 21st Century with style!"



Dr. Audrey J. Horning

► Dr Audrey Horning was previously Assistant Professor of Anthropology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg VA. In 2005 she came to Leicester on a 3 year contract as a Lecturer in Historical Archaeology, she has now taken up the post of 'New Blood' Lecturer in Archaeology.

Her teaching and research interests include historical archaeology and anthropology, comparative colonialism. Her research is centred on the comparative archaeology of British expansion, with a specific focus on Ireland and North America. She has directed major research excavations in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and the United States, most notably at Jamestown

(first permanent English New World settlement) between 1993 -1998.

Dr Horning has published over 40 articles and book chapters, one single authored book, is currently editing three other books, and has a second single authored book underway.

Dr Horning has received numerous awards and her distinctions include being a founder member and Secretary for the Irish Post-Medieval Archaeology Group, established in 2001. In 2006 she was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and she is an Associate Editor of the journal 'Historical Archaeology'.

Dr Horning added "I am delighted to be staying at Leicester, as I have found the School of Archaeology and Ancient History to be an exceptionally congenial, collegial, and intellectually stimulating place to work. I am impressed by the depth and breadth of scholarship being produced, as well as the very strong commitment to teaching at all levels. More broadly, I am very pleased to be part of a university that demonstrates such commitment to research and to teaching."



Dr Darren Wright

► Dr Wright has taken up the post of New Blood Lecturer in the area of Solar-Planetary Physics, Dept of Physics and Astronomy. He was previously PPARC (Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council) Advanced Research Fellow, in the same department.

He is particularly interested in making use of my experimental expertise in the development of the departmental teaching laboratories. Dr Wright's research interests focus on the interaction between the environments of the Sun with the Solar System planets. The work he undertake works towards a better understanding of the

Sun-Earth system. A primary tool of his research at present is the new high power radar facility, SPEAR, located at uniquely high latitudes and designed to observe the dynamic interactions in this system, the best known example of which are the Aurora or Northern Lights.

Dr Wright added "The Radio and Space Plasma Physics Group and Department of Physics and Astronomy as a whole at the University of Leicester has a very high international profile in the area of Space Physics. So, this is an ideal place to follow my research interests. I am extremely pleased to be able to continue my involvement in developing the hardware projects, such as SPEAR, in which the group excels. My work also offers the opportunity to travel to many unusual locations, particularly the high Arctic, in pursuit of the study of the Northern Lights."



Dr Mark Williams

► Dr Mark Williams has joined the University as New Blood Lecturer in Palaeobiology in the Geology Department. He was previously a Lecturer in Geoscience at the University of Portsmouth.

His research and teaching interests include; Palaeobiology of exceptionally preserved fossil faunas from Britain and China, Palaeoclimate elucidated from fossils, Antarctic Palaeobiology and climate tracking Pacific tsunami, Geoarchaeology.

Dr Williams's significant achievements include; Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, Chartered Geologist and Fellow of the Geological Society.

He added "Leicester is a world class university with a first rate Geology Department (and its where I did my PhD)!"



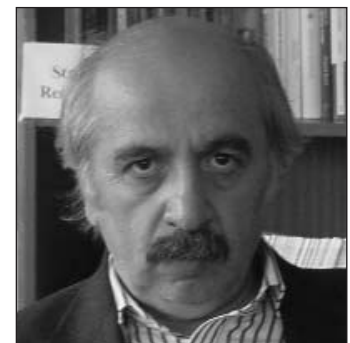
Dr. Ralf A. Wilke

► Dr Ralf Wilke has joined the Department of Economics as 'New Blood' lecturer in Econometrics from the, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim, Germany.

His research and teaching interests surround Micro econometrics.

In 2001 he was awarded the Marie Curie Fellowship of the European Union.

Dr Wilke added that he was looking forward to helping the department achieve top rankings.



Dr Teimuraz Pirashvili

► Dr Teimuraz Pirashvili joined the University as a Lecturer in Pure Mathematics from his previous post as leading research fellow of the Razmadze Mathematical Institute of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.

Dr Pirashvili was awarded the Humboldt Prize in 1999. His research interests include homological algebra and homotopy theory. He added "I am working in algebra and topology and in the University of Leicester there are strong groups in both subjects so I am looking forward to working with them."