

Unbeaten Run Seals Win for Office Academicals

A team of Academic Office staff have retained their unbeaten record (won 8 drew 1) to win the Intra-Mural Sports (IMS) 6-a-side football Division 4 competition. The IMS leagues pit a mixture of staff and student teams against each other at lunchtimes through the autumn and winter terms.

The Office Academicals (pictured right) were formed 18 months ago when the Academic Office co-located to the Aston Webb Building, helping to bring the various sections of the Academic Office together. The team had the full support of the Academic Registrar, Dave Hall, who said: *'I am very proud of the team's achievement against often younger and fitter student teams. We now have a reputation to maintain and I shall be keeping a close eye on the progress of the team!'*

For the final game many colleagues from the Academic Office came out to watch and offer vocal support which was much appreciated by the players. The team's success has led to a women's team being formed, coached by the men's team, and they hope to enter into the IMS women's 6-a-side league next academic session.



IMS Summer Sports Festival

7 - 11 June

A fun-packed week of one-day sports tournaments including 6-a-side football, mixed hockey, cricket, rugby and the all-time favourite ultimate frisbee!

The IMS Summer Sports Festival is a great way to take part in a competitive tournament in your favourite sport whilst enjoying the summer sun.

For more information please contact Mark Sellwood tel: 0121 414 2259 or download an application form from www.sport.bham.ac.uk/programmes/ims

Sports Scholars

James Austin

Gold Sports Scholar James competed at the World University Games, held last summer in Daegu, Korea, in the sport of Judo. Prior to this he competed in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, on the World University stage. James is also part of the Great Britain senior squad in the Under 81kg weight category and recently won the BUSA competition (U81kg) which was his goal for the season. He is currently embarking on the final stage of his Psychology degree.



John Cheetham

John benefits from one of our 4 Royal and Ancient golf bursaries and is in his 2nd year of studying Applied Golf Management Studies at the Selly Oak campus and Belfry. John has a handicap of 0.6 and plays for the Lancashire County senior team. He shot two over at the Royal and Ancient bursary tournament held at St. Andrews and hopes to turn professional, when he graduates next year.



Paula Hendriks

Paula is in her final year of Sport and Exercise Science and is a Silver Sports Scholar. She is a heptathlete, specialising in shot putt and javelin and her talent shone when she received silver and bronze at the British Universities Sports Association competition in these events respectively. Most recently on the Ivy League tour she won the shot putt event at the Brown Invitational meet with a throw of 13.95m. Paula has represented Great Britain at Under 23 level and is part of the Birchfield Harriers club.



Football First for University Team

Members of the University Men's Football Team are celebrating after having stormed to the top of the third division of the Midlands Football Combination League, in their first year of competing in a national league.

The team, made up of both current and previous Birmingham students, clinched the trophy to gain promotion after beating their nearest rivals Feckenham Reserves by 2 goals to 1, to the delight of coach Nick Mole.

Club Secretary Adrian Scriven commented, *'We are absolutely delighted to have won the league in our*

first year of entering, which is down to the hard work of the entire squad.'

'Universities tend not to consider Saturday football as an option, but last year we took a conscious decision to enter a national league in order to raise our game.'

'We have experienced tougher games and have had to learn quickly, but competing in the Midland Combination League has made a huge impact on the University Football Club. As Division Two beckons, we eagerly look forward to next season!'

Ivy League Tour



The Ivy League tour provides an incredible opportunity for the University's athletes. As well as providing an inspiring insight into life at some of America's top universities, this year's tour saw a number of impressive performances from Birmingham athletes. Coach Bud Baldaro hopes that the promising performances and fantastic team spirit demonstrated on this tour will continue into a strong outdoor season.

The athletes competed in two matches on the tour against Ivy League Universities Penn and Brown. In both competitions Birmingham proved that they were strong competition for the American students. Frank Tickner was twice victorious in the 3000m steeplechase, with Luke Gunn 2nd at Brown after fighting off a strong final lap challenge. The women's 4 x 100m was in winning form at Penn with a sub-48 second run, and in the 200m Birmingham's Danielle

Fawkes gained 2nd and Lucy Evans 3rd place.

In the field, James Heptonstall achieved his personal best in the long jump and Silver Sports Scholar Paula Hendriks won the shot-put competition at Brown.

As the men's 4 x 400m relay set off in the Brown University Stadium, the tour team united in the stands to generate an atmosphere that reflected the remarkable team spirit that had developed over the tour and cheered the quartet of James Marshall, John Merrett, Richard Gwyn (Alumnus and staff member) and Dave Clifford home to victory in their race.

The tour is open to all students and alumni that wish to attend and compete. It is a very unique experience of which the Club are proud to be involved in.



Tiny Science Thinks Big

Professor Richard Palmer (left) welcomed prize-winning physicist Professor Michael Pepper FRS (right) to officially launch the new Nanoscale Science Facility within the School of Physics and Astronomy this month, marking the next phase in the development of nanoscale science at the University following 10 years of success in the field.

Taking Nanoscale Science to Another Dimension

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The University revealed its potential to stretch the extreme limits of surface science nanotechnology when it launched the new £2.5 million Nanoscale Science Facility within the School of Physics and Astronomy this month.

The Nanoscale Science Facility (NSF) will enable the University's team of scientists to explore in greater depth the manipulation of single atoms and molecules – 10,000 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair – in order to significantly enhance a number of fields from materials to chemicals, biomedical analysis to information technology. The new facility marks the next phase in the University's development of nanoscale science following 10 years of success in the field.

Professor Richard Palmer, Director of the NSF explains: 'The creation of the Nanoscale Science Facility comes at a very exciting stage in the development of nanoscience. For the first time, we will be able to 'see below the surface' when we are

manipulating nanostructures, working at the extreme limits of this emergent technology.

'One of the new research projects we are currently running involves exploring the behaviour of individual protein molecules, including cytokines, which carry signals between cells to fight disease. We have now developed nanoscale structures to harness, immobilize and orient these individual protein molecules, so further research in this area may impact on our understanding of diseases such as cancer. We are working with the atomic construction kits of the future.'

The NSF provides the University with three new capabilities: the ability to 'see below the surface' of pre-fabricated nanoscale structures with a novel electron microscope; an enhanced ability to manipulate single atoms and molecules; and new tools for electron

beam writing on the nanometer scale to develop novel methods of nano-fabrication.

Nanotechnology is a key priority for both the region and for the government, who recently announced that, through the Department for Trade and Industry, it will establish a national micro and nano technology network to support the uptake of nanotechnology by UK industry.

Professor Richard Palmer continues: 'We look forward to strengthening existing links and forging new partnerships with industry, both internationally and closer to home. I envisage the Nanoscale Science Facility making an important contribution to the development of the West Midlands' Central Technology Belt, and also to government initiatives in the field of nanotechnology.'



A Quick Word...



It's an exciting time on campus with many staff and students bracing themselves for the imminent start of summer examinations. Often this is one of the times that campus can seem at its busiest and with so much going on it's not surprising. Although a busy and nervous time for some, this is one of my favourite times of year.

Nanoscale is certainly a buzz word (no pun intended) these days and the University is hoping to strengthen its position as a key centre for Nanoscale physics research with the launch of the new £2.5 million Nanoscale Science Facility within the School of Physics and Astronomy. Nanotechnology is a key priority for both the region and for the government and the new centre will enable scientists at the University to make an important contribution to the development of the West Midlands' Central Technology Belt, and to government initiatives. See the front page for more details.

Celebrations were in order for the University's Men's Football Team after they secured promotion to the second division of the Midlands Football Combination League in their first year of competing in a national league. Full details are on the back page. For the footballers out there or even just those who fancy a kickabout, check out the back page for details of how to get involved in the Staff and Postgrad Football League. The recent Intra-Mural Sports 6-a-side competition has proved extremely popular, especially with staff team, the Office Academicals. See page 12 for details of their unbeaten run and league success.

Don't forget to keep your eyes out for the special extra edition of **Buzz** this month, devoted purely to summing up just how much investment there's been on campus of late and please don't forget to keep letting us know about what you are up to over the hectic exam period as we head towards the Summer.

Sam

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Stroke Survivors Step To It

Birmingham Researchers are investigating how to improve the quality of life for stroke survivors in nursing and residential homes, by helping them to become more active.

Professor Cath Sackley of the School of Health Sciences, has been awarded £740,000 by The Health Foundation and Department of Health to investigate the effects of physiotherapy and occupational therapy on people with stroke in a care home setting.

More than 400 people from nursing and residential homes in Birmingham and the West Midlands will take part in the three-year study, which aims to assess the benefits of a targeted occupational therapy and physiotherapy intervention for people in care homes, following a stroke. In particular, it will evaluate the ability of therapy to improve mobility, improve independence and reduce immobility related complications and falls hazards.

The study will also be accompanied by an economic evaluation, which will document costs of providing therapeutic services in care-homes. The economic consequences of rehabilitation provision are especially important in influencing change once the study is finished. If the study demonstrates any benefits for stroke survivors, Professor Sackley and her team will use the results of the study to influence change to policy of access to rehabilitation services for residents of care-homes in the UK.

Findings show that stroke is the most common cause of admission to long-term care and many others have strokes

once they are resident. The exact proportion of people living in care-homes with a stroke is unknown, but it is thought to be around 50% of all residents.

Professor Sackley said: *'Our research has shown that people living in a care-home often experience the adverse consequences of stroke-related immobility, such as dependency in self-care ability, falls, reduced bone density, pain, pressure sores and emotional distress. Quality of life can be poor and residents are commonly disadvantaged in their access to NHS healthcare. Our recent work has shown that despite the potential for recovery in this group, few residents have any access to rehabilitation.'*

'The scope and benefits of rehabilitation are poorly understood by many care home staff who do not receive the training to know when or with which problems to refer residents for rehabilitation. There has been very little research into the value of rehabilitation services delivered to care-home residents in the UK. By contrast in North America, services are much more readily available and research has provided evidence that rehabilitation is valuable in improving residents' standard of life.'

The current research follows Professor Sackley's pilot work in Nottingham and Oxford, which was funded by The Stroke Association (UK) and the Department of Health.

City Awards for Lifelong Learning

Birmingham City Council's Lifelong Learning awards were a glittering occasion at the International Convention Centre, and the University and its partners were there to celebrate the acknowledgment of a variety of projects.

Community Play and Youth Studies in the School of Education have been working with Birmingham Youth Service in Sparkbrook and Small Heath on a scholarship programme for part-time youth and community workers. This led to the largest cohort of students ever from a single project moving onto the Diploma on Youth, Community and Play. This won the 'young people' award for developments and activities which have been successful in using innovative methods to motivate and engage young people.

The Centre for Lifelong Learning was runner-up in the 'achieving in partnership' award for the Black

and Minority Ethnic management development programme for managers in the voluntary and community sector. The partners involved are Birmingham and Solihull Learning and Skills Council, Birmingham Voluntary Service Council and Handsworth Area Regeneration Trust.

Two further projects were entered for awards – the 'café scientifique' project run on the first Friday of each month at the Midlands Arts Centre by the Medical School's Dr Emil Toescu, and the School of Health Sciences' project to use computer-based materials to develop students' physiotherapy skills.

Cancer Research in Action

The CRUK Institute for Cancer Studies threw open laboratory doors for a public open day at the end of April. More than 50 visitors toured laboratories and talked to our leading cancer researchers.

The Birmingham open morning was part of a nationwide week of activity organised by the National Translational Cancer Research Network (NTRAC). NTRAC is dedicated to speeding up the translation of laboratory research into new and better treatments for cancer.

Director of NTRAC, Professor David Kerr, said: *'Translational cancer research critically depends on partnerships and understanding between scientists, clinicians, patients and the public. The NTRAC day events aimed to bring these groups together to gain a better understanding of how we can deliver improved cancer treatments more quickly.'*

CLL Open Day

The Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL) will hold an open day on Saturday June 19, between 10.00 am – 3.00 pm, with interactive workshops, campus tours and a chance to meet the academics.

The CLL was set up to fulfil the requirements of adult learners who wish to pursue their education to a higher level or to enter education for the first time, but who also have to work or family commitments. It offers programmes designed to fit in with busy lives on a part-time basis, usually during the evenings or weekends.

Courses are offered in a wide range of subject areas including:

- African and Caribbean Studies - BA (Honours)
- Garden History – BA (Honours)
- History of Art – BA (Honours)
- Shakespeare Studies – BA (Honours)
- Psychological Studies – Certificate of Higher Education
- Creative Writing – BA (Honours)
- Sexual Health Studies (University run in conjunction with Brook in Birmingham)

Alongside a variety of counselling and counselling skills programmes the Centre also offers Computing and IT courses of interest to IT professionals (such as Java, SQL, HTML, CSS, C++, and BVA), together with a more general Cert HE in Computing.

For further details and a full list of courses offered contact Heather Down
tel: 0121-414 3413
email: H.Down@bham.ac.uk
or see www.cl.bham.ac.uk





Alumni Law Network

Over 100 alumni joined Professor Michael Clarke and staff from the Development and Alumni Office for the first Law Alumni Network to be held in London. The sell-out event offered graduates an opportunity to meet socially and network with fellow Birmingham alumni working in the legal professions.

Graduates from 2003 were joined by alumni, from as far back as 1942, who were able to offer valuable advice to those

starting out in the legal professions. The event, held at the chambers of David Farrar QC and of alumnus Richard Latham QC, proved so popular that another is planned for next year.

The next Law Alumni Network will be held at Pinsents in Birmingham on May 20. Details of all events are available at www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/reunions.htm or contact Claire O'Sullivan email: C.F.Osullivan@bham.ac.uk



Vice Principal Professor Michael Clarke is pictured with some of the alumni who attended the first meeting of the Law Alumni Network in London.



Undisciplined Spaces



From the Vice-Chancellor's Suite to the Senate Chamber, from the Private Dining Rooms to Avanti and from Capital to Second City – the meanings of space, spatial relationships, and boundaries structure all of our lives. Have these meanings always been the same and how do they come about? Can a spatial perspective on early texts, material culture, and documents shed new light on culture and society, past and present? Members of the Hilton Shepherd Postgraduate Centre for Medieval Studies have been taking a multi-disciplinary approach to these questions.

In a recent symposium on Space and Culture in the Middle Ages, hosted by the Centre at Westmere, participants approached the subject from a wide variety of perspectives. Dr Cyril Hershon, Associate Fellow of the Centre and specialist in Occitan, presented research on the southern French town of Béziers, a location of anti-Semitic ritual and violence in the Middle Ages. The impact of the medieval Church on the meanings of medieval French space was treated also by Sarah Halton. She described the impact of the Abbey of Cluny on land exchanges and sales in neighbouring territories. Allan McKinley's study of some Anglo-Saxon charters shed new light on the organisation of territory closer to home, in the early medieval West Midlands.

Research on material culture and literary texts added to the picture. Olga Magoula spoke of early medieval textile production and Lucy Reeve's paper

'Monsters on the Edge' showed how the Anglo-Saxon poem *Beowulf* imagines landscape and liminality. Associate Fellow Dr Brenda Carter explored ways in which the work of the cultural theorist Michel Foucault may help us to understand the meanings of inner and outer spaces in *The House of Fame* by Geoffrey Chaucer.

The Symposium was one of a programme of research events organised by the Centre, which serves all postgraduate students with an interest in pre-modern subjects. Forthcoming events include Centre-sponsored sessions at the International Medieval Studies conference, Europe's largest medieval studies conference.

Further information about the research of members of the Centre and about future events is available on the Centre's website: www.medieval.bham.ac.uk

Have Your Say on Contract Research

The University has joined over 50 Universities taking part in the Contract Research Online Survey (CROS) project for 2004. CROS is an annual UK-wide survey aiming to capture the views of contract research staff on their employment experience and career aspirations. The survey is implemented by the University of Bristol, with funding from the Higher Education Funding Council in England and the Office for Science and Technology.

CROS presents a real opportunity for the views of Contract Researchers to be heard collectively, inspiring developments that will benefit all stakeholders. All the questions in this survey are common to surveys being run in Universities and Research Institutions throughout the UK. Participating institutions will share survey results and have agreed to

learn from each other in the area of good employment practice. The University is committed to addressing issues for Contract Research Staff and hopes that participating in the survey will help to identify areas of both concern and good practice.

Contract research staff are strongly encouraged to take part – your

opinions will make a difference, nationally as well as locally. The survey is anonymous, and can be completed any time until 28 May at www.cros.ac.uk/survey/bham. A summary of the survey results will be published later in the year.

For more information about CROS see www.cros.ac.uk

Citizen's Advice Bureau Update

From May 2004 the CAB at the University is available to offer alternative advice sessions. These sessions are open to all staff during the first week in every month from 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday.

1 and 5 June	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
3 and 6 June	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
2 July	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
3 September	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
5 and 8 October	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
2 and 5 November	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
3 December	9.00 am – 12.00 pm

Please note

Outside these dates advice sessions will run as usual on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11.00 am – 2.00 pm

Call 0121-414 5117 to make an appointment



Spin Cycle

The Centre for Lifelong Learning's **Gary Wood** has been extremely busy again this month appearing on BBC South and South East's *Evening Show* (also broadcast by BBC Radio Berkshire, BBC Radio Kent, BBC Radio Oxford, BBC Radio Solent and BBC Southern Counties Radio) talking about conformity, social scripts and cultural expectations and BBC Radio WM's *Late Show* in his regular 'tame psychologist' slot, talking about stress. He was also quoted in the May issue of *Top Sante* on the topic of toxic friends and how to deal with them; A familiarisation visit about neuroscience research for a *Nature* journalist was led by **Karen Morrison**, involving **Ann Logan, Stuart Cumella, Corrine Lendon, Nick Barnes, Carl Clarke, Szysza Nagy, Martin Vreugdenhil** and **Margaret West** at the Medical School; The Centre for Lifelong Learning's **Cherry Nixon** was interviewed about her e-Bay summer school by *the Independent*, *the Times*, Radio 4, *the Birmingham Post*, and SAGA radio; **Lawrence Young** from Cancer Studies guested with Ed Doolan on Radio WM to talk about research; **Gezim Alpion** from Social Sciences discussed political correctness on SAGA radio; **Tim Barratt** from the Medical School was interviewed on Sky about obesity in children; Medical Historian **Bob Arnott** made sure Wall to Wall television got their scurvy facts right; **Willie Paterson** from social sciences commented on Radio WM about the European constitution referendum; **Paul Moss** from Cancer Studies advised *Metro* in London about an inorganic blood substitute; the School of Engineering's **Claire Davis** spoke to Radio WM about the role of technology on the limits of human performance in preparation for the engineering in the Olympics debate; American and Canadian Studies' **Scott Lucas** spoke the *Today Programme*; Education's **John Hull** appeared several times on Radio 4's *Blind Man's Beauty*; **Pat Hanlon** from the Business School spoke to Central TV, Radio WM and *the Birmingham Post* about the collapse of the Duo airline; **Jeremy Jennings** from POLSIS advised BBC Midlands Today regarding the visit of Jean Marie le Pen to the Midlands last month; **Mark Crampton** from Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences gave interviews to Saga 105.7FM and *the Birmingham Evening Mail* regarding an asthma study that he is running; **John Bryson** from Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences gave expert comment to BBC Radio WM on the regional multipliers that accrued from the ITMA (International Textile Machinery Association) exhibition held at the NEC last year, **Chris Game** from Local Government Studies did a phone-in on on Radio 5 Live on the launch of the Labour and Conservative local election manifestos and gave an interview with BBC Hereford and Worcester on council tax capping. Keep up the good work everyone.

Bite Sized Web Training for Dentists

The University's School of Dentistry has developed a website that allows dentists to log on to their high quality teaching materials.

The company behind the website, CPD-HQ Ltd, aims to build on the School's excellent reputation in the creation and distribution of dental e-learning material. The site will allow dentists to acquire verifiable CPD by completing modules on the website at their own pace. The modules are designed using an interactive format, presenting case studies and teaching materials within a dynamic and challenging context. An annual subscription provides access to the entire site, allowing dentists to access all the learning materials. The site is updated monthly with additional case studies, technology updates and training on all aspects of managing a dental practice, for example: health and safety consideration and relevant changes in employment law.

CPD-HQ Ltd is partly owned by the University and staff from the School of Dentistry. The Mercia fund, also a shareholder, have invested in the business providing essential funds to complete the commercialisation of the website.

For more information see www.cpd-hq.com



Head of Dentistry, Professor Peter Marquis

A Supercritical Success

Over 100 guests including distinguished speakers from China, France, Portugal, Russia, the Republic of Ireland, USA and the UK visited the University's supercritical research group in chemical engineering for their symposium *Supercritical Fluids and the Future*.



The symposium highlighted awareness of supercritical fluid technologies and introduced supercritical fluid applications to industry as a major contributor to green technology as well as bringing together the supercritical research community.

Dr Regina Santos, the Research Leader has worked in the field for 10 years and explained the attraction of supercritical fluids as a means for extracting valuable drug and food compounds without using harmful solvents: 'It is possible to use supercritical fluids as a method to isolate target compounds quickly and efficiently without any solvent residue. In particular this technique is extremely valuable in the fields of drug delivery and processing, polymer synthesis and processing and extraction of natural products to name just a few. We have come a long way since

supercritical fluid technology was first used commercially in the early 1970's to decaffeinate coffee'

Group Leader for Academic Aspects Dr Bushra Al Duri remarked that this was the largest conference of its kind held recently in the UK, and he was pleased to see more integration between the UK and Europe. 'We were very happy to collaborate with the main industrial companies in the field; Messser, Chematur and Thar. These companies were able to provide an extra dimension to the research capability of the group working at the University, by illustrating some of the important industrial applications undertaken in the field.'

The supercritical research group aims to make this symposium a bi-annual event, to be held again in 2006



Masterclass Attracts Record Numbers

Antimatter and the Big Bang were just two of the hot scientific topics under the microscope when sixth formers across the Midlands attended a Particle Physics Masterclass at the University.



The free event was supported by PPARC and the Institute of Physics and proved to be extremely popular, filling up within days of being advertised.

Over 130 students and teachers from eleven schools took the opportunity to learn from a leading Particle Physics Group working at the forefront of international research. The students attended short lectures and took part in computing workshops designed to study the techniques used in our current experiments around the world.

Professor Peter Watkins, Head of the University's Particle Physics research group, said: 'Particle Physics is an important part of the A Level syllabus and this is a great opportunity to receive additional insights into some of that material.'

The Masterclass has been running successfully since the late 90s alongside the Masterclasses in Astrophysics and Theoretical Physics also run by the School of Physics and Astronomy.



International Theatre Set-Up present William Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

With rich renaissance costumes and lute music

Thursday June 17
The Fountain Garden, Westmere
50 Edgbaston Park Road

Tickets £9 (£6 concessions)
Box office tel: 0121-693 0907

Tickets also available on performance night. Please bring own rugs, folding chairs and refreshments. Performance continues regardless of weather

University Centre houses several retail outlets and service providers including:

- A bookshop, catering for both academic and non-academic needs
- A computer supplies outlet
- A card shop (also offers dry cleaning and postal services)
- A convenience store with off-licence
- A stationery store
- A hairdresser
- An optician
- A travel agent and bureau de change
- Several high street banks and an insurance company

During term-time many outlets are open six or seven days a week (reduced service during vacation periods)

The centre's three catering outlets provide takeaway sandwiches, speciality coffees and a 160-seat fast food restaurant offering a wide range of food including pizza, pasta and a deli bar.

The centre also houses the Conference Office, the Careers Centre and Housing Services.

For further information on any of these facilities please contact Julie Zacaroli.

Tel: 0121-415 8400
Email J.D.Zacaroli@bham.ac.uk

Chair of the Graduate School

Following the agreement at Senate (17.3.04) to implement proposals for the revitalisation of the Graduate School, members of the Academic Staff are invited to express an interest in the position of Chair of the Graduate School for the academic year 2004/5.

The position will be filled by assigning duties to the successful member of staff by agreement with the School in which the colleague's substantive appointment is held.

It is envisaged that the duties will account for 50% of a full time equivalent for one year: there is no commitment to year two funding. The appointee will be an existing senior academic member of the University staff. Arrangements are subject to review in March 2005

The appointee will be expected to further the revitalisation of the Graduate School, co-ordinating the launch of the revitalised School and engaging the Graduate School Council as appropriate as follows:

- encourage the development of graduate schools at School level
- establish effective working practices for the Graduate School Council in providing a source of disseminating good practice, communication, co-ordination and consultation
- utilising the facilities of the student portal and other means, work with the Academic Registrar to ensure that the support services are easily accessible by postgraduates addressing problems of actual and perceived barriers to access
- working with the Academic Registrar, extend the use of the Graduate School

label, to present as a whole the various facilities and offices, including parts of the Academic Office, which serve the Graduate School and its actual and potential students as a whole

- work with Marketing Services to establish a marketing policy for the Graduate School giving attention to the prospectus, scholarships and bursaries, publicity and advertising; specifically create an effective web presence, and ensure appropriate hard-copy materials are available using the Graduate School label

- organise and publicise the provision of induction, training and development of postgraduate students and supervisors, working with the Staff Development Unit and other central services and Schools; in particular, manage arrangements within the structures to be established for the operation of the co-ordinated programme of generic training for research students including those fulfilling the requirements of the Roberts report, evolving the use of personal training and development portfolios

- fulfill the functions of the Academic Adviser to Postgraduate Students, advising on how this role should be taken forward

- identify and realise opportunities for training of postgraduate supervisors

- help in promoting the University in its contact with Research Councils and other external bodies in relation to postgraduates

The Graduate Council will report to Academic Board and since the Chair of the Graduate School will be expected to respond to relevant strategies and regulations generated by the Research Committee and Postgraduate Committee, the Chair of the Graduate School will attend meetings of all three of these bodies. In carrying out this work, secretarial and administrative support, committed to the work of the Graduate School, will be provided by the Academic Office. The Marketing Services Division will provide additional support to the Graduate School as part of their activities.

Those interested in applying for this post should write to Professor Colin Rickwood, Pro Vice Chancellor for Academic Quality and Students, setting out the basis of their interest in the appointment and their suitability for the role. Further enquiries can be made by contacting either Colin Rickwood (45940) or David Hall, the Academic Registrar (43808).

The closing date for expressions of interest is 21 May 2004.

Harmonious Partnership Showcases New Music Makers

Budding composers from the University were recently given the opportunity to hear their work performed by the internationally renowned Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) when they took part in the University and BCMG's joint Annual Student Composer Workshops at the CBSO Centre.



The event, now in its sixth year, saw final year undergraduate and postgraduate composition students write for a full ensemble of BCMG players, who will perform and record the resultant compositions.

Vic Hoyland, Reader in Composition at the University, who manages and oversees the collaboration with BCMG, said: 'We're delighted that this successful event is now in its sixth year.'

Once again, this represents the strong partnership between the University and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

'Birmingham has some excellent contemporary composers and events like this help support and nurture this talent. Not only did the students get to meet world-class composers, but it was a great opportunity for them to work alongside professional musicians, who really bring to life the compositions of these gifted and talented students.'



In Loving Memory

Psychological research into altruism has been boosted by a gift of approaching £0.4 million to support PhD studentships, short-term fellowships, lectures or conferences.

Mr Grenville Green has kindly given this money in memory of his late wife Hilary, to support of the scientific study of empathy and co-operative activities wherever they occur and the gathering of evidence on ways to promote such altruism in human life.

The founding principal investigator for this indefinitely lasting research grant is the School of Psychology's David Booth.

Professor Booth explains: 'Mr Green is keen on tough-minded investigation of the love for others as much as ourselves that was taught by Jesus but without a Christian bias'.

'Empathic understanding of others is a hot topic in psychology. We aim to find out what people can do that best helps those in their circumstances, and then to put this objective evidence on what works to members of the public and to service professionals.'

The Fund kicks off with a Research Studentship on the empathy and co-operativeness of people who volunteer research data that show what works for others like them in keeping healthy.

Issues surrounding this subject will be tackled in the open lecture *The Twilight of Atheism* (5.15 pm, 13 May – Physics). For more details contact David Booth tel: 0121-414 4938 email: D.A.Booth@Bham.ac.uk



Got a Question? The ARC Can Help



The Advice and Representation Centre (ARC) was created in 1996 to bring together the Guild's student advice and representation services in one location. It has proved to be a successful formula, drawing on the expertise and commitment of both staff and student volunteers. Over the last two years the Centre has undergone changes in staff and service structure and a recent refurbishment, to make it a more open plan and welcoming space for students and visitors.

ARC is situated on the ground floor of the Guild, next to the Job Zone, and offers free advice, information and representation (all impartial and confidential) on a wide range of student issues – from academic issues, financial matters, to housing queries and immigration problems.

During term time the help desk is staffed by Student Advice volunteers who provide an information and referral service. All volunteers receive comprehensive training from the ARC Advisors and produce awareness campaigns on issues such as plagiarism and mitigating circumstances.

Students can make an appointment to talk in confidence with a professional advisor who can help with welfare and education issues. Advisors also monitor the service's resources, researching and generating new information in line with developments in Higher Education. The Guild's Vice-Presidents of Welfare and Education can represent students on a range of issues including accompanying a student to an appeal or complaint hearing.

Advice Direct, the ARC's written information service, provides free and up to date leaflets on all the areas of advice we give. Each leaflet is packed with useful information, tips and contacts. All current leaflets are also downloadable at www.bugs.bham.ac.uk/support/arc/home.asp

For further information contact the ARC Tel: 0121-251 2400 email: thearc@bugs.bham.ac.uk

The Advice and Representation Centre is supported by KPMG

Cert HELL Sets the Benchmark

The first students to complete the School of Law's innovative distance-learning Certificate in Licensing Law celebrated at a special ceremony last month. The School of Law introduced the Cert HELL course, as it has affectionately become known, as a part-time programme in April 2002 and the first students who began the course completed their studies last month.

The Certificate, as a course aimed at people already in full-time employment, has been a venture in a new direction for the School. Most of the students on the course are licensing officers working in local government, for whom the qualification was primarily designed, but it was always intended that the course should have a broader appeal. This is reflected in the course intake for 2003 and for 2004, which has also included other local government employees (e.g. lawyers, licensing administrators), local authority councillors, police licensing officers and private sector licensing consultants.

The Certificate is developing into an important benchmark qualification in the licensing field. It is helping to promote an increasing recognition of the professionalism of those involved in licensing, along with other initiatives such as the recently formed Institute of Licensing, and is the only university-based qualification in the country to concentrate exclusively on local government licensing.

Imminent changes to alcohol and entertainment licensing, gambling, taxis and charity collection laws make licensing the fastest-growing profession within local authorities, with responsibilities at the heart of many community safety initiatives. Not only does the Certificate equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to face these challenges, but also grants them Full Member status of the Institute of Licensing, rather than having to demonstrate their work-based experience.

Speaking at the Awards Ceremony, Professor Manchester said: 'The first group of students have done extremely well, with most of those who commenced the course successfully completing it. The course has been a demanding and challenging one and for many the return to study has been after a long period away from formal education. Students can feel justifiably proud of having obtained the Certificate'.



Programme Director Professor Colin Manchester and Head of the School of Law, Professor John Baldwin (both in academic dress) are pictured with the first students to complete the School of Law's Cert HELL course.



Alexander Opens University Medical Centre

The new University Medical Centre GP surgery and University Dental and Implant Centre is now established, and following an official opening ceremony is benefiting thousands of students, staff and local residents. The new centre, which is sited on Pritchatts Road, provides better access, improved parking and a wider range of services.

BBC Midlands Today presenter Kay Alexander, a Birmingham Alumna, officially opened the £3 million medical centre after eight years of planning and construction.

The GP surgery takes up most of the building and is big enough for 11 doctors, giving the current 8 GP's practice room to expand. The sick bay has been named after Robert Bolton who founded health provision at the University in 1962. There is also a minor operations theatre for sterile removal of lumps and bumps, and an emphasis on patient care with more privacy alongside pleasant open spaces.

Alternative therapies are increasingly popular, with services including osteopathy, reflexology and massage.

The first floor dental practice has three full-time dentists and a hygienist, and is now able to offer extra services, including dental

implants, cosmetic whitening of teeth and botox therapy, and is also carrying out research into new materials.

Patient numbers for both practices have increased since the new centre opened.

Dr Vijay Raichura, Senior Partner at the University Medical Centre said the new unit had exceeded all expectations: *'We have probably the best facility for primary care in the whole of Birmingham'*.

Dr Abhi Pal, Principal Dentist at the University Dental and Implant Centre adds: *'I feel particularly proud of what we can now provide for patients, and the calibre of staff, and the feedback has all been positive'*

The centre was developed by Harborne-based specialist medical developers and investors Matrix Medical, in partnership with the University and the City Council.



(L-R) Doctor Abhi Pal and Doctor Vijay Raichura with broadcaster and alumna Kay Alexander at the opening of the new University Medical Centre.

Mitigations and Appeals

Mitigations

- Mitigations is the process by which students should bring to the attention of Boards of Examiners circumstances which they think may have affected their performance in examinations and/or other forms of assessed work. Handling of mitigations at this stage may obviate the need for appeals.
- Information on mitigations is available in a range of formats: posters have been circulated to Schools and Departments for display on student notice boards; details have been sent to Examinations Officers, Welfare Tutors and others, a notice has appeared in the International Students' Newsletter, reference is made to mitigations on students' PETTS and a mitigations pack is available from Student Services, C Block, Aston Webb Building.
- Guidelines for Staff and Students, together with information about medical certificates, can be found at: www.studserv.bham.ac.uk

Appeals

- A range of progress decisions is available for School Boards of Examiners to make for each student for consideration by the University's Progress Boards. The decisions include: a student should withdraw from their programme of study, repeat as an internal student or award a qualification different from the one for which the student was registered.
- In these instances the Academic Office writes to the students concerned, advising them of their progress decision and their right of appeal. However, they may appeal only if they have valid and genuine grounds upon which to appeal. They may not appeal against the academic judgement of the examiners.

The schedule for appeals is:

- 12 noon Tuesday 6 July: deadline for the receipt of appeals from students to the Academic Office
- 12 noon Monday 12 July: deadline for the receipt of Schools' or Departments' responses to students' appeals to the Academic Office
- 22, 23 26, 27, 28, 29 July, 21 September: Appeals Committees

Further details will shortly be available at: www.studserv.bham.ac.uk

Targeting Disability Access Issues

To assist Universities meeting their obligations under The Disabled Discrimination Act (1995), HEFCE have, since April 2002, targeted some of the project capital allowances offered to institutions at 'Access to Higher Education for Students with Disabilities'.

To this end, the University received £968,754 in the first funding period (April 2002 - March 2004), and £2,070,072 for the period April 2004 - March 2006.

The capital allocations from HEFCE are targeted at projects that offer specific assistance to students with disabilities in gaining both physical access into buildings and classrooms and access to specific services once inside.

Project capital grants have been allocated to provide new lift facilities such as those in the Munrow Centre and the Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering buildings that ensure access throughout the buildings to non-ambulant students and staff and the new lift in the Law Building to allow specific access to the large lecture theatre. A number of future lift installations and replacements are also planned in several areas around the University.

New automatic doors have been installed in the Arts Building, the rear of the Learning Centre and in the Aston Webb West corridor and there are plans in place for future installations in the Watson Building, 52 Pritchatts Road, the Gisbert Kapp Building, Biosciences and the Haworth.

A programme of toilet installations has begun and will continue in an attempt to ensure that each building has access

to suitable facilities, an assisted hearing system has been installed in the Great Hall and a programme of works initiated to install systems in larger lecture theatres.

There has also been general investment in the installation of ramped access to buildings, tactile paving, dropped kerbs, white lining of steps etc. to improve access around and across both campuses.





Building up Asthma

5,500 Russian school children were studied to assess the effect of housing conditions and respiratory health. It was found that the risks of asthma, wheezing and allergic diseases are linked to the installation of new surface materials, furniture and recent painting in the children's homes. These new materials have higher potential chemical emissions.

In addition, factors associated with poor ventilation and environmental tobacco smoke increase rates of respiratory problems. A large percentage of the population live in

Scientists from the University have worked with the Harvard School of Public Health and universities in Russia to look for the first time at environmental factors causing breathing problems in Russian children. New synthetic floorings and furnishings are blamed for asthma and wheezing, along with dampness, traffic pollution and tobacco smoke.

concrete apartment buildings where heating and hot water are supplied by a central system and gas is used for cooking which can be a further irritant. Mould can also be a problem.

Lead Researcher Professor Jouni Jaakkola, from the Institute of Occupational Health, explains: 'Our study provides important insights to the role of indoor air pollutants in children's respiratory problems. Exposure to tobacco smoke, moulds related to damp housing and chemical emissions from synthetic surface materials and furniture are likely to increase respiratory illness in children.'

These findings are applicable to millions of children living in similar housing worldwide. Some of the remedies are well known. Smoking indoors, especially in the presence of children, should be banned. Dampness in building structures need fast attention. We need more studies to identify the safest and the most hazardous surface materials.'

However, figures for asthma symptoms in other studies put Russian rates at 2%, while the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australian figures

are between 12% and 20%. The authors of these studies suggest that this is inaccurate as differences in access to health care, diagnostic practice and environmental and dietary factors are plausible explanations for the large variation. Rates for wheezing and allergic conditions are similar in all these countries.

Two papers on the work are published in the April edition of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Alta Bioscience Update

Birmingham's Alta Bioscience core laboratory specialises in various analytical and synthetic techniques and was initially established to meet the needs of members of the scientific community within the University.

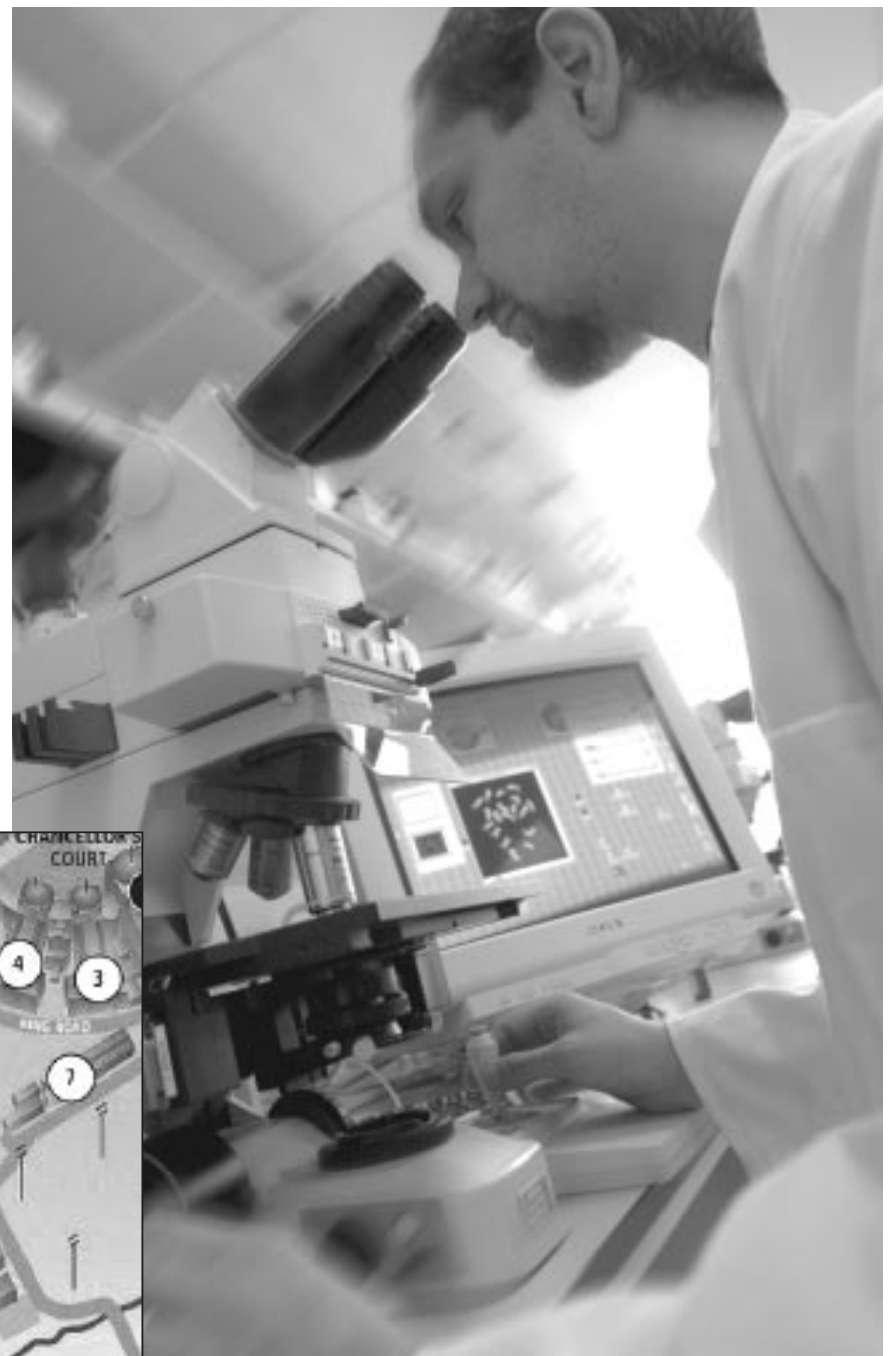
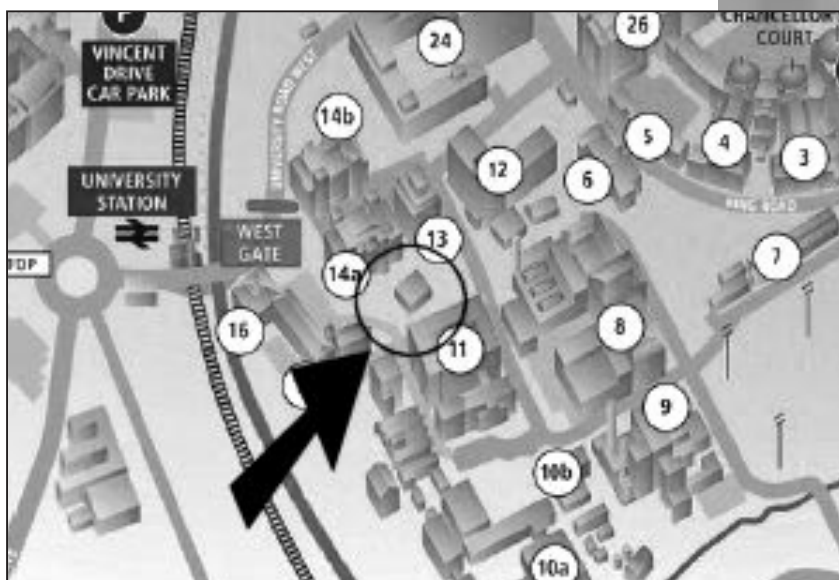
Celebrating its 31st Anniversary this year, the lab attributes its continued success to the ability to evolve to meet the needs of its ever-increasing customer base which has grown to include not only the University but other academic institutions and commercial companies worldwide.

The unit has been based in the refurbished Alta Bioscience Building (see map) since its relocation in February 2002. It is run by Director, Dr John Fox and a further eight staff, who between them have decades of technical expertise and experience.

The latest exciting innovation in the area of peptide synthesis is a new automatic peptide machine designed and built in-house. The instrument is capable of making up to 192 peptides simultaneously and is ideal for use in epitope scanning. The inspiration for the machine came from the requests from researchers for large numbers of peptides at very low cost. At a starting price per peptide of only £15, Alta Bioscience are confident that this new technique will fulfil this requirement. It must be noted that the peptides are for screening

use only and if purity is essential, a range of other options of syntheses and purification is available to meet your needs.

Alta Bioscience offer a range of services including custom peptide and oligonucleotide synthesis as well as the analytical services of protein sequencing and amino acid analysis. The full range of services including details of methods used and several FAQ pages, may be found at www.altabioscience.bham.ac.uk



EU Funding for TB Research

Professor Del Besra from the University's School of Biosciences has won EU funding of 180,000 Euros to identify and develop new vaccines against Tuberculosis.

Professor Del Besra will be looking particularly into the development of improved vaccines for the young adult population as the vast majority of TB cases seen in developing countries are in younger people. Antibiotics will be useless in 10 or 15 years time and multi-resistant TB is becoming more prevalent in developing countries. Courses of treatment are currently very long leading to a lack of compliance, resulting in patients who do not complete their course remaining highly infectious so vaccination remains the most effective option.

Tuberculosis kills 3 million people every year with 30 million affected at any one time. Areas most affected include Africa, South East Asia and South America, and outbreaks have even occurred in Britain recently.

Professor Del Besra says: 'Our investigations will look into the use of lipids, which may prove to be invaluable for boosting the immune response to candidate vaccines in the fight against tuberculosis.'

Thirty institutions world-wide will also be working on this project including two vaccine producers and small and medium sized enterprises across Europe.



Planning to Make History

Following their success in the West Midlands heat of the National Planning quiz (see Buzz 41), the four School of Public Policy third-year students, under their team name Workers of the World Unite, are the first undergraduates in the competition's six-year history to go on to win the National Planning Student Quiz. The finals of the competition were held in London and sponsored by consultants RPS Planning, Transport and Environment.

Dan Carins, Catherine Huggins, Oonagh McClean and Honey Taiwo beat off both undergraduate and postgraduate opposition from seven other universities including Reading, Oxford Brookes, Manchester,

Liverpool, West of England, Cardiff and Central England to win the £1,500 prize money. The School of Public Policy is thrilled that they have done so well and is extremely proud of their history-making achievement.



Photo: Planning Magazine

The team are pictured receiving their prize from RPS Director Huw Williams (left).

Fun Jog to Raise Awareness of Colon Cancer

Wednesday 30 June 5.00 pm Cannon Hill Park

A 5km route has been organised, with funds going to Colon Cancer Concern and The Colon and Rectal Disease Research Foundation.

This is one of the more unusual elements of the annual meeting of the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland that Birmingham

will be hosting at the end of June (28 June – 1 July) at the ICC – bringing together up to 3000 surgeons, nurses and other related disciplines from the public and private sectors.

For more information or to enter telephone Colon Cancer Concern on 020 7381 9711.

Online Home for Cutting-edge Research

Finance is a critical issue for municipal governments around the world, and a major constraint on the delivery of pro-poor services at the local level. It is an issue that has been brought into sharp focus by the trend of decentralising powers and responsibilities to sub-national governments, and the consequent expectation that municipal governments will contribute to poverty reduction.

The International Development Department, School of Public Policy and GHK Consulting worked on the DFID-funded study, 'Building Municipal Capacity for Finance and Budgeting' which aimed to develop municipal capacity in order to generate and allocate revenues in innovative ways for urban infrastructures and services that meet the needs of the poor.

The findings of this cutting-edge research project are now available on a public access website at www.municipal-finance.org. The website contains everything from downloadable country case reports on Kenya, Brazil, India and Uganda to a brief background of local government finance and poverty.

Business and Academia Working Hand in Hand

The TCS programme linking Redcliffe Ltd and the department of Materials and Metallurgy has come to an end, but the University's collaboration with the company will continue due to the success of the project.

The main focus of the project was the development of a 3D co-ordinate measuring machine (CMM) to characterise the performance of soft and hard magnetic materials and devices, based on the company's 'Magscan' device. The programme gave Redcliffe Ltd capabilities in a number of related disciplines, which led them into the lucrative markets of security and point of sale deactivators. Of particular importance is the work that has been carried out with Allied Domecq on an anti tamper device for drink container closures.

The collaboration has been particularly valuable in the field of

medical applications, where the University has secured EPSRC funding (with support from Redcliffe) for the Medmag network (magnets in medicine). The programme has also led to improved knowledge of the inhomogeneity of the magnetisation / demagnetisation process which could not have been investigated otherwise.

The programme has so far yielded one undergraduate project, two postgraduate projects, teaching material and case studies, one Mphil and two papers. The results have also been presented at a number of conferences. The final report has received the highest grade possible



Doctor Andy Williams and Professor Rex Harris with the Magscan

which qualifies the project to be submitted to the annual TCS awards held in London in November.

The relationship between the University and the company has developed significantly during the project and Professor Harris has been made a non-executive Director of Redcliffe Ltd. There are already plans

underway for future collaboration projects to commercially exploit other university-developed technologies.

For advice from the initial stages of finding a company to work with through proposal preparation to running the project please contact Catherine Mansell Tel: 0121-414 8246 email: C.Mansell@bham.ac.uk.



Commit to Get Fit is Back

Join in this Summer at the **Munrow Sports Centre – Starts 21 June**

Commit to Get Fit has more to offer this year than ever before. Beginning on 21 June, you can join for a 6 or 12-week period over the Summer vacation and completely tailor your package to suit your interests. Choose 3 options from Peak Gym, Peak Swim, Unlimited Fitness classes and Squash club membership... whatever takes your fancy.

Included in the price of the membership is a high quality rucksack, a Commit To Get Fit T-shirt, *Active Health* magazine, pocket personal trainer, water bottle, a free induction, (if you choose the Peak Gym option), and your personal membership package.

There is no obligation to take out any further membership; it's just a great way of getting fit this Summer.

For more information please call Amy Cleeton on 0121-414 3781, or email A.E.Cleeton@bham.ac.uk.

Commit To Get Fit 2004 – A step in the right direction



May Diary

MONDAY 17– WEDNESDAY 19

10.00 am – 6.30 pm Final year recitals from students of the University Department of Music in the Barber Concert Hall. For further details please contact the Events Administrator on 0121-414 5791

4.15 pm Hispanics Seminar – *Minnesota talks on Eduardo Mendoza* – Tony Dorca, Macalaster College. Muirhead Tower, Room 21

TUESDAY 18

Just Sloggi sale – Staff House

12.30 pm International Development Department research seminar. Paula Kantor, Padmaja Nair and Kanchan Sinha (University of Wisconsin–Madison) will be speaking on '*Characteristics of Income Vulnerable Households in Urban India: Implications for Policy.*' Seminar Room C, J.G.Smith Building

2.00 pm *Drawing from Art and Life*. Life-drawing workshop led by artist Terry Mullett, using poses inspired by works in the permanent collection. Tickets cost £10 (£7.50 for Friends and the over 60's, £5 students) Barber Institute

4.00pm Psychology Seminar – *Deconstructing the attention deficits in neurodevelopmental disorders: from genes to behavior* – Kim Cornish (McGill, Montreal). Training Room 120, Psychology Hills Building

4.00 pm Structural and Chemical Biology Joint Seminar – *The Chemical Mechanism of Oxygen sensing in Animals* – Professor Chris Schofield (Oxford). Host: Professor Ruedi Allemann.UG04, Learning Centre

5.15 pm Inaugural lecture – *Caves, Climate, CO2 and Civilisation* – Professor Ian Fairchild, Professor of Physical Geography. Haworth Large Lecture Theatre, School of Chemical Sciences

6.30 pm Organ recital in the University Great Hall as part of the final year recitals. Admission Free

WEDNESDAY 19

1.00 pm Department of Primary Care and General Practice Divisional Seminar Room UG04, The Learning Centre building, Dept of Primary Care and General Practice

1.00 pm Cancer Research UK External Seminar – *Regulation of neural stem and precursor cell development by extracellular matrix* – Dr Charles Ffrench-Constant, Department of Pathology, Cambridge. Host: Dr Peter Searle. Seminar Room S104, Cancer Studies

1.10 pm Lecture – *Murillo: The Late Style and its Aftermath*. Barber Institute Director Richard Verdi discusses the work of Murillo, to coincide with the restoration of his painting *The Marriage at Cana*. Barber Institute. Admission Free

4.15 pm Hispanics Seminar – *The 1960's Revisited: Art, Race and Revolution at the Cuban Crossroad* – Lourdes Martínez Echazábal, University of California, Santa Cruz. Muirhead Tower, Room 21

THURSDAY 20

One-day school organised by the Centre for Lifelong Learning – *Harvington Hall and Catholic Recusants*: Morning talk and afternoon coach visit to Harvington. £32. Details 0121-414 8065

10.00 am Final year recitals from students of the University Department of Music in the Barber Concert Hall. For further details please contact the Events Administrator on 0121-414 5791

1.00 pm Molecular Cell Biology and Molecular Pathobiology Joint Seminar – *The role of AK7 aldo-keto reductases in detoxication and metabolism* – Dr Elizabeth Ellis, Strathclyde Institute of Biomedical Sciences, University of Strathclyde. Host: Dr Chris Bunce. UG04 – Learning Resource Centre

5.15 pm Inaugural lecture – *The biological mechanisms behind the price that we pay for too little exercise* – Professor Anton Wagenmakers, Professor of Exercise Biochemistry. Hills Lecture Theatre (WG05), Aston Webb. Followed by a reception in the Rotunda.

SATURDAY 22

One-day school organised by the Centre for Lifelong Learning – *Meeting a New Light: Europe, Britain and Birmingham*. Day School at Al-Mahdi Institute. £15. Details 0121-414 8065

TUESDAY 25

5.15 pm Inaugural lecture – *Engineering in the Human Body* – Professor D Hukins, Professor of Biomedical Engineering. G31, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering. Followed by a reception in the Shell Lounge

WEDNESDAY 26

1.00pm Department of Primary Care and General Practice Divisional Seminar – *Health impacts of urban regeneration schemes: qualitative research and New Deal for Communities in the West Midlands* – Ms Kate Laburn-Peart Hiaru, Dept of Public Health and Epidemiology. Room SF223-4; Dept of Primary Care and General Practice, The Learning Centre Building

1.00 pm Cancer Research UK External Seminar – *Gene Expression Cassettes with a Dominant Chromatin Opening Capability* – Dr Michael Antoniou, Nuclear Biology Group, Kings College. Host: Dr Peter Searle. Seminar Room S104, Cancer Studies.

1.10 pm, repeated 1.45 pm Gallery Talk: *Conservation in Progress*. Picture conservator Stewart Meese talks about the current restoration of Murillo's *The Marriage at Cana*. In the Reserve Gallery at the Barber Institute. Admission Free

6.00 pm University 'Quit Smoking' group. First of 7 weekly meetings of nortriptyline trial to assist giving up. Public Health building, rooms 4 and 5. Contact Sally on 46759 or S.C.Fillingham@bham.ac.uk . Further groups planned

THURSDAY 27

Crystal Occasions sale – Staff House

12.30 pm School of Health Sciences Seminar – *Exploring children's views, particularly those of children with learning disabilities* – Professor Ann Lewis. Lecture Theatre 1, School of Health Sciences. All welcome

5.15 pm Inaugural lecture – *State and Religious Diversity: Reflections on post 1947 India* – Professor Gurharpal Singh, Nadir Dinshaw Professor of Inter-religious Relations. Arts Main Lecture Theatre, Arts Building. Followed by a reception in the Senior Common Room

FRIDAY 28

Scent To Go sale – Staff House

SUNDAY 30

2.30 pm Sunday Tour: Join a guide for a valuable insight into the collection and the history of the Barber Institute. Admission Free

University 'Quit Smoking' group

Wednesday 26

6.00 pm



First of 7 weekly meetings of nortriptyline trial to assist giving up.

Public Health building, rooms 4 and 5.

Contact Sally on 46759 or S.C.Fillingham@bham.ac.uk

Further groups planned



Staff and Postgrad Football League

Grab your office buddies, the boss and other budding footballers in your department and enter yourselves into the 2004 Staff Post-grad 11-a-side Football league!

It all kicks off at 5.00 pm on Friday 28 May. For entry forms and other information please contact Mark Sellwood tel: 0121-414 2259 or see www.sport.bham.ac.uk/programmes/ims

Alumni Sports Re-union and Golf Day

Any sporting alumni out there who haven't as yet become part of a team for this years Sports Re-Union?

It's not too late... call Nick Latham on 0121-415 8212 or find out what's going on and how to join in at www.sport.bham.ac.uk/alumni

Munrow Charity Week Total

The Munrow Sports Centre raised a massive £5,220 for the ABC Group based at the Women's Hospital, Selly Oak. Hundreds of staff and students took part to help raise the money and the week was a great success.

Liz Hopkins, co-coordinator of the Group came to collect the cheque and thank everyone for their efforts. The money is going towards a mobile mammogram unit and will contribute nearly 10% of the total cost. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.

Staff News

Congratulations to **Professor John Dowell** who has been elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society for his work and 'contribution to the development of the Quark model of Hadrons, discovery of the W and Z bosons, probing of nucleon structure and QCD, and preparations for experimentation at the LHC.'

Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering's **Professor Bob Stone** is the first non-American to be elected to join the Training Subcommittee of the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) held annually in the USA.

Professor Stone says, 'This is an important opportunity, especially coming at a time when we at Birmingham are actively involved in training technology studies as part of the Human Factors Integration Defence Technology Centre. The I/ITSEC event is second to none in the global defence community and gives us an excellent forum to expose our research to an influential international simulation and training community.'

The **Vice Chancellor** has been appointed to the Council of Science and Technology and will chair the Energy Subcommittee. The Council will advise the Prime Minister and the First Ministers for Scotland and Wales on cross-cutting issues of strategic importance in science, engineering and technology.

The Prime Minister said: 'Science and technology are a foundation stone for future UK competitiveness and a better quality of life throughout the world ... I have today appointed an outstanding team from a wide range of backgrounds in science, social science, engineering and technology ... I am confident that they will provide the necessary strategic advice to help us build a society that is confident about science and can gain from all that it offers for the future.'

VC'S New PA

After 31 years at the University Barbara Kent has retired. Stepping into her shoes as the new PA to the Vice Chancellor is Linda Wilden (pictured), who joins us from Midlands Electricity where she was PA to the Chief Executive.

Name:

Linda Wilden

Job title:

PA to Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Where are you?

In the Vice Chancellor's Suite (Aston Webb)

A typical day...

At the moment, most of my time is spent trying to get to grips with everything that goes on at the University, in terms of the people, processes and all the structures in place, as well as finding my way around the campus. It's certainly a steep learning curve, but it's enjoyable and definitely a challenge. Most of my day is spent organising the VC's diary and trying to make sure he is where he should be, at the right time, and with the necessary briefing papers.

Hobbies and Interests:

Fitness classes (aerobics and body combat), theatre, reading, travel, and of course I'm a season ticket holder at Aston Villa!



How to get in touch with Linda

tel: 0121-414 4536

E-mail: L.Wilden@bham.ac.uk

Small Ads

ACCOMMODATION

Scottish Highlands, Boat of Garten, nr Aviemore. Super holiday house on Speyside, middle of village, sleeps 5-6, Mod.cons.£250 pw. 0121-449 7986 or E-mail: A.Fielding@bham.ac.uk

Relax in the Quantocks - cosy, self contained, period accommodation in village centre. Choice of 3; sleep 2 / 3 / 4. Private parking. Tel 01278 732 392.

www.theoldhouse.ision.co.uk

Alicante: Spacious two-bedroomed apartment, 60 yards from sea, in small unspoiled town of El Campello. Large sitting/dining room, fully-fitted kitchen, bathroom, cloakroom. Balconies with outstanding sea and mountain views. Laundry/cleaning provided. Motorway access to Alicante airport. 12 miles away. £200-£300 per week. Tel: 0121-414 7316 or 0121-426 4317

MISCELLANEOUS

Specialist advisers to academics; Colin Coates and Partners offer tax and accounting services including Professorial salary review and retirement covering The Universities Superannuation Scheme

Old oval gate leg table for sale. Darkish wood (oak), 41 x 60 inches, 28 inches high. £175.00. Jan Davis 0121-427 7179

Tax return back in the in-tray? Mynette and Co (est 1976) offer a local, personalised accountancy/tax advisory service. Call 0121-449 7322 or email: ajm@kinvara.fsnet.co.uk

Thought of joining the Birmingham Bach Choir? Lively rehearsals Wednesday evenings. Contact Nick Fisher on 0121-455 9901 or nick@5fishers.freemove.co.uk

Piano tuition. Edgbaston. Mikael Pettersson B Mus (Hons), concert pianist with competition prize-winners amongst students. 0121-456 3421; Mobile 07970 734 905

Clarinet: Buffet B12, suit beginner to grade VI, £150. Tel: 0121-414 7582 or C.Packer@bham.ac.uk

Secretarial Services. Trying to do it all yourself? Urgent deadline? Then help is at hand. Word processing of all types of documents including: CVs, Letters, Reports, Business Plans, Theses, Essays, Assignments, Desk Top Publishing and more. Efficient and reliable service by experienced personnel. Competitive rates. Call: 07944 588814 or email: copycat_enquiry@hotmail.com

Buzz on the Streets

We're constantly cleansing our data and updating our records. Please let Sam (below) know if you want extra copies of Buzz or if you think we need to amend your distribution details.

Printed Version

Publication Date: 1 June 2004

Deadline: 17 May 2004 Mid day

Please send all your items for the web or print versions to the Public Relations Office (1st floor Aston Webb, by the rotunda) by email, post or why not in person? We'd enjoy meeting you!

Please note: Submissions received after mid day on copy deadline cannot be guaranteed to be included

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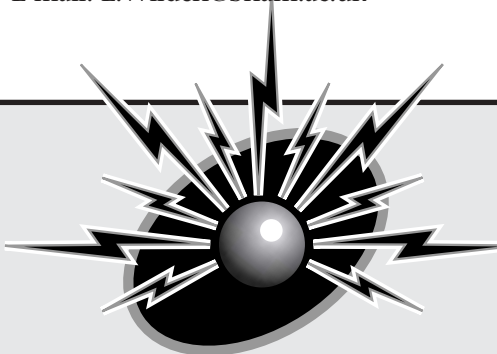
Non members:

£10 per twenty words

Payment in advance required.

Display Ads

Ratecard available on request.



Clangers



It was in fact Biosciences PhD student Sarah Powell who was awarded the runner-up prize in the prestigious SET for Britain competition (BUZZ 43) and not Sarah Jones as was reported.