



Chinooks Away!

Yes, those distinctive sounds were Chinooks hovering over Edgbaston. The 'big birds' were transporting participants from two government-funded seminars to visit military bases in Chigwell and Wittering. Pictured are (l-r) Lt General Nishat Ahmed, Former Commandant of the National Defence College, Pakistan; Sir David Logan Director of the University's, Centre for Studies in Security and Diplomacy and General Jehangir Karamat, National Defence College, Pakistan.

Government Announcement: Birmingham Tops the Region's *Research* Ratings

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The University this month announced its reaction to the official announcement of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) latest round of funding.

The high standing of the University's research is underlined by the fact that another three of our departments have been awarded the highest 6* rating, making a total of seven such departments. The three departments are:

- Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Chemical Engineering
- Sport and Exercise Sciences

The 6* departments announced in last year's round of funding were Anatomy, Metallurgy and Materials, the Centre

for West African Studies and the Centre for Russian and Eastern European Studies.

Speaking shortly after he received details of the settlement, Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Sterling said: 'I am pleased that the University has received an increase above the rate of inflation for research. The increase of £1.230M (+3.7%) in our research grant once again confirms that Birmingham is a world-class centre of research, with the University now having the highest number of departments in the region with a top score of 6*.'

'We are also delighted to have been awarded additional student numbers and welcome the extra funding for widening participation initiatives, but we are concerned that high quality three-year undergraduate programmes continue to be financially squeezed. While we and the Government's Bill on higher education are clear about the need to improve student retention and to widen participation, universities will have difficulty in supporting undergraduate education to the highest quality for all students with an insufficient resource for teaching.'

A Quick Word...



Congratulations are in order as three more departments (Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Chemical Engineering and Sports and Exercise Sciences) have been officially awarded 6* ratings bringing the total number of top rated departments in the University to seven, reinforcing the already high standing of the University's research status. For the full story see the front page.

The campus has seen more than its usual contingent of bicycles, cars and motorbikes over the last few weeks. Eagle-eyed early risers may have spotted (or indeed heard) Chinook helicopters hovering above the Edgbaston campus as they transported participants from two government-funded seminars to military bases in Chigwell and Wittering. And the usual Saturday morning quiet in Chancellor's Courts was disturbed by the sound of revving engines as the University's Motor Club celebrated 100 years of motoring with a selection of cars from each of the ten decades of the last century embarking on a 38 mile 'centennial tour'. See page 3 for details.

Birmingham will be hosting the indoor sports BUSA finals weekend (19 - 21 March) this month at the Munrow centre. Last year Birmingham was the best-represented and most successful University in the finals and the teams are hoping to repeat that success this year. Why not come along to the Munrow Sports Centre and cheer our teams on to success? Full details on the back page.

Proving it's not all champagne and canapés in PR, myself and colleagues from the Public Relations office, alongside a group from Estate Services, ventured up to the Lake District to spend a thoroughly enjoyable few days at the University's Priestley Centre on the shores of Lake Coniston. Mobile phones and PC's were swapped for hard hats and canoe paddles for a series of thoroughly enjoyable outdoor activities. Highly recommended to anyone looking to put that bit extra into the team.

Sam

Sam Smith
Content Editor

S.Smith@bham.ac.uk
0121-414 6948

Researchers Race to Develop Fuel of the Future

Birmingham Engineers are urgently working towards a sustainable alternative to the fossil-based fuels we use to heat our houses and drive our cars – and the answer is most likely to be hydrogen.

Hydrogen is considered a zero emission fuel and would have a minimum impact on the environment nearly eliminating the dangerous levels of carbon dioxide emissions from fossil-based fuels. It can be produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen (H²O) and when formed from clean energy sources such as wave, solar, hydro, nuclear, geothermal and wind it provides an effective means of storing and transporting zero emission energy. When needed, the hydrogen can then be converted into electricity by means of a fuel cell with water as the only by-product.

Metallurgy and Materials' Professor Rex Harris says: 'Two major time bombs are ticking away at the present time – the inexorable rise in global temperatures due to the build-up of atmospheric CO² and the eventual exhaustion of the oil reserves. Both of these could be defused by the progressive introduction of a hydrogen-based economy.'

'This will only occur if there is a very substantial investment in a hydrogen based infrastructure and should happen sooner rather than later in order to ensure a seamless transition to a hydrogen society. We should not wait until either or both the time bombs explode.'

Chemical Engineering's Professor Kevin Kendall says: 'Hydrogen is reliable, flexible and efficient and could be used to generate electricity for our homes and office buildings as well as in combustion engines to power cars and buses. The development of new materials for hydrogen stores represents a very important aspect of the work being carried out at Birmingham. Storage is one of the key stepping stones in the path towards a fully developed hydrogen infrastructure.'

Questioning Privatisation, Power and Poverty

Human rights and anti-privatisation campaigners from across the world this month visited the University to speak at an event about Privatisation in the Developing World.

The Centre for the Study of Global Ethics and the International Development Department took part in the War on Want Speaker Tour by hosting a discussion forum entitled: Privatisation, Power and Poverty – Down the Pan?

Guest speakers included: Bernice Celeyta, Director of the human rights department of the Columbian trade union, SINTRAEMCALI (The Municipal Workers' Union of EMCALI); John Appollis, Chair of the Anti-Privatisation forum in South Africa and Christien Van Den Anker from the Centre for the Study of Global Ethics. They argued the pros and cons of the privatisation of public services in developing countries.

John Coventry, Media Officer for War on Want, said: 'Basic services like water, healthcare, electricity and education are essential to delivering sustainable development to the world's poor. They are a core element of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, and as such are receiving considerable attention from institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, US AID, the Department for International Development and the United Nations.'

'War on Want is concerned that public services are under threat from this attention and, in particular, the free market policies that lie at the heart of these institutions. Privatisation has become a condition of aid, loans and debt relief. Water, healthcare, electricity and education have become frontiers in the march of corporate globalisation.'

Bach Players Tell the Easter Story

Baroque group The Bach Players visited the Barber Institute earlier this month to perform three of Bach's early cantatas for Lent and Easter followed by a short concert by the University's Baroque String Orchestra, featuring music by Purcell, Vivaldi and Corelli.

The Bach Players performed the dramatic *Widerstehe doch der Sünde* (Hold firm against all evil), a work that uses dissonances to depict the fight against temptation from the devil. They also evoked the crucifixion in *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (Christ lay in the bonds of death) and the joy of Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven in *Himmelskönig sei willkommen* (Welcome to the King of Heaven). The cantatas were complemented by Bach's *The Art of Fugue*.

Aspiring Black Journalists Learn the Secrets of the Media

Minority ethnic journalists wanting to make a move into the industry will have the chance to rub shoulders with established broadcast and print journalists at *A Way In to Stay In: Finding and Keeping a Job in the Media*, a support network for black media professionals.

The free event will be held at BBC Birmingham and guest speakers from both broadcast and print journalism will cover subjects including race and the media, selling yourself at interviews and how to keep your job in the ever-evolving world of office politics. There will also be the opportunity for delegates to have one-to-one discussions with BBC Recruitment about their CVs.

The event will take place at the BBC's Pebble Mill site from 11.00am on March 20 2004.

For further details please contact Mutale Nkonde Tel: 07931 402 826, Rani Randhawa Tel: 0121-432 8929 or Iona Jones Tel: 0121-432 9097

To book a 10-minute slot with a representative from BBC recruitment to discuss your CV or to register a place please email aspireuk@hotmail.com

Bibliography of a City



A new book contributing to the democratisation of Birmingham's history and published by the University Press was launched last month at the prestigious Shakespeare Memorial Library in the city centre.

Edited by broadcaster, journalist and leading historian of the city, Carl Chinn, *Birmingham, Bibliography of a City* brings together the knowledge and expertise of nineteen historians and other experts and gives an overview of topics including the People of Birmingham, Work and Employment, Built Environment and Schooling and Education.

Professor Chinn said: 'This is an important work that will allow more people to become actively involved in the history of Birmingham. I am excited at the possibilities it opens up to make Birmingham's past more accessible and democratic and the potential it has to bring to the fore all the peoples who have played their part in the making of Birmingham.'

As well as editing the book, Carl contributed the People of Birmingham section. A number of University staff also contributed including Christine Penney, Ian Grosvenor, Ruth Watts, Peter Leather, Peter Marsh, T R Salter and J M Bourne.

For more information on the book see www.is.bham.ac.uk/uobpress/index.asp

Buzz deadlines

April

Copy deadline:
16.03.04 – mid day

Publication date: 01.04.04

May

Copy deadline:
19.04.04 – mid day

Publication date: 04.05.04



Get Your Motor Running

The University's Motor Club celebrated 100 years of motoring at the end of last month when a selection of cars from each of the ten decades of the last century were driven on a 38-mile 'centennial tour'.

The participating cars, driven by graduates of the University, included a Vernon Derby, a 1928 two-seater sports car and one of only six cars made originally in Paris; a MG TC from 1947; an Austin Cooper 'S'; an Aston Martin DB6 from 1974; a Lotus Elan Sprint from 1973 and a 1990 Porsche 944 S2 which was driven by Cameron Ross who gained a degree in Engineering and Business Studies. Since his degree he has worked at Cosworth Racing in Northampton as a Manufacturing Performance Engineer and has worked on projects from performance road engines for Aston Martin, to Formula One for Jaguar, Jordan and Minardi.

President, Roger Wisdom, who graduated in Chemistry in 1967, says, 'We will be following in the footsteps of the original members of the Club who drove through Stratford and up Sun-Rising Hill nearly 100 years ago.'

'Birmingham has always been heavily associated with the motor industry and it is fitting that the University, as a seat of academic learning and engineering expertise in this field, should also be home to one of Britain's oldest motor club.'

'Club members are looking forward to tackling Sun Rising Hill which has a 1:6 gradient – although the event is not competitive, the drivers are relishing the challenge!'



Students Play Their Own Jazz

Earlier this month the University's Jazz Orchestra gave its debut performance at Birmingham's CBSO Centre when they joined the University's New Music Ensemble for an innovative concert of music ranging from Bach to contemporary jazz.

The Jazz Orchestra gave an exciting programme of world premieres by three young local composers: Birmingham Jazz-commissioned Sid Peacock, the Jazz Orchestra's pianist and Director Euan Stevenson, and Ben Palmer, whose work was recently performed in Birmingham Contemporary Music Group's *The Series*. The New Music Ensemble played Stravinsky's *Septet*, Oliver Knussen's *Notre Dame des Jouets* and the *Fuga (Ricercata) a 6 voci* by Bach/Webern.

University Choir and Philharmonic Orchestra

Bach St John Passion
(sung in English)

Huw Rhys-Evans *Evangelist*
Gavin Carr *Christus*

Colin Timms conductor

Sunday 21 March
7.30 pm

The University Music Society marks Bach's birthday with a performance of one of his settings of the story of Christ's Passion.

Gavin Carr sang in *The Dream of Gerontius* with the University Choir and Orchestra last year; Huw Rhys-Evans has appeared at the BBC Proms and with Opera North.

Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Tickets: £15, £10 concessions,
£7 students, £5 UMS, available from
Symphony Hall Tel: 0121-780 3333

New Spin-Out Company Helps Plan Winter Maintenance

The University has launched a spin-out company that could help prevent the chaos that hit Britain's streets in January this year, when rush hour traffic came to a standstill as snow and ice froze to the roads.

Entice Technology Ltd, a winter maintenance consultancy that offers a 21st century solution to road ice prediction, was launched at the University earlier this month.

The Birmingham team that produced the first generation of ice prediction methods back in the 1980s has developed a new system of techniques called Ice-Miser, combining thermal mapping with sky-view factor mapping to provide accurate forecasts for every 20 metres of road.

Birmingham has 1116 kilometres of road but currently uses only one road forecast site to make its decisions on road salting for the whole city. The team at Entice can dynamically identify areas of the road network most at risk from freezing on a nightly basis, which could make icy roads a thing of the past.

Dr John Thornes, Reader in Applied Meteorology and Director of Entice comments: 'It is time to update the decision making process as to when to salt roads – the current systems belong to the last century.'



Spin Cycle

Rounding up the media coverage this month: Social Sciences' **Derek Averre** spoke to *Metro* about President Putin; **Peter Watt** gave a third interview on Council Tax to Radio 5 Live; Pharmacology's **Norman Bowery** spoke to Radio WM about Dwain Chambers' 2-year athletics ban for taking the steroid THG; Social Science's **Mike Nellis** was quoted in the *Pasadena Weekly* in a piece on images of capital punishment in movies, following an email interview; Political Science and International Studies' **Thomas Diez** was interviewed by the BBC World Service on the prospect of a resolution of the Cyprus conflict; Biosciences' **Charles Penn** spoke to Radio 4 about bacteria; Political Science and International Studies' **Jeremy Jennings** appeared on Radio 3's *Night waves*, with Sir Bernard Crick discussing the new citizenship ceremonies and the Government's programme on citizenship; **Femi Oyeboode**, Head of Psychiatry, was interviewed twice for Sky News about Munchausen Syndrome and suicide; Registrar and Secretary, **Jonathan Nicholls**, appeared on Central News about pay conditions for staff; **Peter Marquis**, Head of Dentistry, discussed NHS dental places with the *Evening Mail*; **John Bryson** from the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences provided a live expert opinion to BBC Radio WM on the impact of M6 Toll on land prices; **Chris Game** from the Institute of Local Government Studies gave expert comment to BBC Midlands Today and BBC Radio Hereford and Worcester regarding Council Tax issues; **Simon Fitch** and **Vince Gaffney** from the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, and **Bob Stone** from Engineering gave various media interviews regarding the North Sea Visualisation project, featured in the last issue of BUZZ. Subsequent coverage appeared in the *Guardian*, the *Scottish Daily Record*, the *Birmingham Post*, the *Daily Mirror*, the *Northern Echo*, the *Birmingham Evening Mail*, the *Dundee Courier* and *Advertiser*, the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, the *Express and Star*, *The Scotsman*, *The Times* and *Isle of Man Newspapers*; **Pat Hanlon** of the Business School provided expert comment to *Metro* on the anniversary of the first year of congestion charging in London; **Jon Glasby** from the Health Services Management Centre spoke to *Community Care* magazine regarding hospital discharge and reimbursement policies; **John Thornes**, Applied Meteorologist from the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, gave interviews to BBC Radio WM, BBC Radio Hereford and Worcester, BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire, the *Birmingham Post*, BBC Midlands Today and Saga Radio regarding the launch of Entice Technologies Limited; The VC spoke to the Nikkei about HE funding; **Rex Harris** of Met and Mat, spoke to Saga Radio and Radio WM about hydrogen fuel cells; **Graham Davies**, Head of the School of Engineering, spoke to *Professional Engineer* about Top Up Fees in relation to Engineering students; Electrical Engineering's **Bob Stone** spoke to the *Guardian* about the North Sea simulation; Psychology's **Tony Beech** spoke to the *Guardian* about sex offender characteristics; **Kevin Browne** was interviewed by Midlands Today about paedophiles.

Shakespeare in Performance



A group of international postgraduate students based at the University's Shakespeare Institute, are offering workshops to help school students gain a better understanding of Shakespeare in performance.

The Shakespeare Institute Players offer three types of workshop, aimed at guiding students through a reading of the text that they are studying.

Jessica Foster, President of the Players said: 'I remember acting out a role in *Romeo and Juliet*, and understanding for the first time the importance of stage directions, speech nuances, and theatrical space. All these particulars enabled me to have a better grasp of the text, and increased my interest for further studies.'

The workshops offered are: The Director's Approach, The Actors Approach and Action and Verse and run from the end of April to the beginning of May.

Cost: £80 per group of 15-30 students/£100 per group of 30-40 students (sessions last approximately two hours).

For further information please contact Jessica Foster Tel: 07775 625 514 Email: fo104@hotmail.com

Snapshots of Days Gone By



Sir Robert Aitken, Vice-Chancellor, with Mrs Daisy Drinkwater at the 1963 exhibition in the Library which marked the 25th anniversary of the death of her husband, John Drinkwater, the poet and dramatist.

Robust Reporting

The annual reports of an institution are not often one's first choice for bedtime reading. Those written by university vice-chancellors, however, are by definition likely to be literate, informative and, on occasion, entertaining. It is timely, during the current debate over university funding and expansion, to look back at the magisterial reports written here forty years ago by Sir Robert Aitken (1901-1997), who became Vice-Chancellor in 1953.

He presided over a period of great change, embracing the move to the Edgbaston campus in 1960, the publication of the Robbins Report in 1963 and the rumblings of student unrest in 1968 (although he had the good fortune to retire just before these erupted into physical occupation of the corridors of power.) Eric Ives drew heavily on his reports in his writing of our official history (*The first civic university: Birmingham 1880-1980*. Birmingham, University Press, 2000).

Sir Robert's reports constantly take issue with government policy towards higher education. In 1961 he comments on the implications of an 'invitation' to universities to increase student numbers. 'Now a faster rate of growth is proposed... At the same time the country is in financial difficulties.' Should universities, he pondered, admit students regardless of the lack of facilities or limit the numbers and 'educate well those they accept?' In 1962 he listed three principles underpinning the high quality of university work: 'partnership in the relations between universities and government; personal relations between teacher and taught, unimpaired by mass teaching methods; and the engagement of the academic staff ... in research as much as in teaching'.

The axiom of Robbins was that higher education should be available for all who wanted it, provided they were qualified by ability and attainment. 'The attitudes of students ... claiming their places as of right' wrote Sir Robert in 1963 'will be different from those of students coming to enjoy ... a hard-won privilege. The latter could accept austerity as the price of university education. The new generation will expect the amenities of university life to match the rising amenities of prosperous society outside - accommodation, social facilities, motor cars and parking space'.

In later reports he castigated the Government for taking measures affecting universities without consultation (reserving particular venom for the decision in 1966 to force universities to raise their fees for overseas students to three times those payable by UK applicants) but the thoughts he expressed in 1963 are among his most prescient. 'What is 'news' about universities is more often their failings than their accomplishments' he said. 'There is more interest in the numbers of student places than in the struggle for excellence in academic performance; what cannot be compressed into a few lines... is seldom read or listened to... In so far as there were ivory towers they are being replaced by modern glass boxes... Universities must ... give and take all the time with society ... yet not lose their special responsibility for intellectual honesty and thoroughness'.

The expression 'You read it first here' was unknown in 1963.

Provided by Christine Penney, Head of Special Collections and University Archivist



Dr Jonathan Nicholls' high-ceilinged, capacious office offers a close-up view of the University's clock tower, which rises confidently into a crisp blue sky that heralds the onset of spring.

A New Champion for Birmingham

By Ros Dodd



The aspirations of the new Registrar and Secretary are correspondingly sanguine and upward looking. He has been in the job barely two months, but already is clear about what he wants to achieve - and how he intends to achieve it.

His main focus is to raise the profile and reputation of Birmingham still higher - to where he feels it ought to be, within the highest echelons of academia. Although he chooses his words carefully, his view is that the University hasn't shouted about its achievements quite as loudly as it might have done.

'Until coming here, I was working in a university (Warwick) that has been highly successful in punching above its weight; now I'm working in a university that has been highly successful in punching below its weight,' he says.

Dr Nicholls is determined to change that. He is eager for all the various strands that make up the University, as well as the city, to work together more closely to enable Birmingham to realise its huge potential.

'I like to see myself as a pragmatic enthusiast,' he continues. 'I'm a natural improver. I don't believe that things can't be better - because they always can be.'

'The big challenges are to play my part in helping Birmingham to take advantage of the opportunities it has, particularly the potential for top-up fees, and to ensure that it takes a proper place as one of the leading institutions in the country.'

'Before I arrived, a lot of hard work had been done to prepare a platform for Birmingham to take off. I see my job as being one that ensures we are able to take that great leap forward.'

His appointment puts him in one of the University's management hot seats: As Registrar, he is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for all the University's operations outside the academic Schools and is a member of the Vice-Chancellor's Senior Management Group.

The Corporate Services, for which Dr Nicholls is responsible, employ more than 2,000 staff and has a combined budget of £75 million.

He is also Secretary to the University's Court, Council and Senate and is either a member of or attends all the major policy-making committees.

'It's a pretty huge job,' he admits cheerfully. 'Corporate Services has a huge budget and a very large number of staff, and it's actually that part of the University which makes it function, we hope successfully, like a small town.'

As former Registrar of the University of Warwick, and with an impressive academic background, Dr Nicholls is well prepared for his new role.

So what are his plans for Birmingham?

'I think we have to do a number of things,' he says. 'We have to make sure that we are able to take advantage of what's likely to be the top-up fee. We have to put energy and investment into how the University promotes itself, so that students want to come here instead of to similar institutions that will be making a similar pitch. I don't see why it can't do that. We are located in a city that is full of excitement; we have a fantastic campus that can be improved further and we offer a range of relevant degrees.'

'We need to take advantage of marketing the capacity we have. We do need to ensure all our efforts are joined up between all the Schools and Corporate Services.'

'We also know that the fees, if they come, are themselves insufficient to bridge the gap which is generally acknowledged to exist in universities for the provision of education that can compete in world terms.'

Birmingham has to find ways, stresses Dr Nicholls, to broaden its economic base.

'I'm interested in taking forward opportunities the University might have in extending its international student base and looking at ways in which we can maximise activities such as conferences and commercial activities, as well as the services we provide on campus for our community. I came from a university that was very successful in that regard. I think we need to have an element of self-help in terms of actually widening the scope of the income that's coming into the University. From that, a number of things will emerge: we'll gain greater independence and the services themselves will improve as a result.'

Dr Nicholls is excited, rather than daunted, to be taking up such a role at time of potential great change within the higher education sector.

'I think it's a time of great excitement and of some considerable risk as well. But we shouldn't be frightened of the risk. There is opportunity as well as danger and we must ensure we seize the opportunity and avoid the danger.'

If Birmingham has been 'punching below its weight', at least until recently, Dr Nicholls believes one



reason is that it may have absorbed some of the traditional defensiveness of the city.

'I've lived in this region for 20 years and I think there is a kind of Birmingham city mentality. We are not very good at promoting ourselves and being proud of what we do well. There are world-class activities here and we don't always say that enough.'

Sue Primmer, for instance, has done a fantastic job (as Director of Public Relations), but that doesn't happen overnight.

'The city is changing and a lot has been achieved here. When you walk through Brindleyplace you feel, for the first time, that you're in a capital city. The University has a role to play there. We are sucking in a considerable international presence for the city and I would like to see more cooperation between the city and the University.'

So where would Dr Nicholls like the University to be in, say, ten years' time?

'I'd like Birmingham to be recognised as, without doubt, the first choice university outside Oxbridge and London, without doubt a top ten university in UK terms, but with considerable international recognition and with real recognition for its world class attributes.'

The Huxley Lecture

Thursday 25 March
5.15 pm

*Genome Sequences,
Structural Biology
and Drug Discovery:
Opportunities and
Challenges*

Professor Sir Tom Blundell,
Sir William Dunn Professor
of Biochemistry

Large Haworth Lecture Theatre,
The School of Chemistry

Water cooler Donations Set to Top £1,000

Charity donations through one of the University's preferred water suppliers look set to exceed £1,000 this year. AquAid donates forty pence for every bottle of water sold to Christian Aid to fund Third World water and humanitarian projects.

Geoff Pringle, Director of Hospitality and Accommodation Services comments: 'Our suppliers are an important aspect of our status as a Fair Trade University, and so using AquAid coolers to raise charity funds is an excellent arrangement'.

Peter Hansen manager of AquAid said, 'To make these donations we do not increase our prices but reduce our profit margin. As a result of our donations to Christian Aid, the University will be providing over £1,000 per annum to the charity which is fantastic'.

Parking Notice

South Car Park

There will be limited parking available in the south car park on the following dates:

23 April
24 April

This is to accommodate visitors who will be attending open days.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

National Planning Quiz Victory



The team are pictured with Richard Mould of RPS (left) and quizmaster and Consultant Editor of Planning, Bryan Johnson, (right).

Undergraduate students from the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) in the School of Public Policy last month took victory in the West Midlands heat of the 2004 National Planning Student Quiz, sponsored by RPS Planning, Transport and the Environment.

The team of third-year students (Dan Carins, Catherine Huggins and Onagh McLean) under the name Workers of the World Unite won the £300 prize with one of the highest scores in the heats to date. Two other CURS teams came within three points of picking the runner-up slot but were pipped at the post by a team from UCE.

The victorious CURS team will travel to central London this month for the England and Wales final where they will compete for the grand prize of £1,500 with the winners and runners up of the other regional heats.

The School of Public Policy's Mike Beazley said: 'CURS is very proud of their achievement and wish them every success in the final.'

Prestigious Prize for Birmingham Medical Student

3rd year medical student Liz Haydon was recently awarded the Brigadier Haywood Prize – a prestigious prize competed for by medical students from all across the country. Liz, who is based at Queen Elizabeth Hospital this year, was awarded the prize on the strength of her presentation on a case of Hepatic Epithelioid Haemangioendothelioma, concentrating on the potential for curing the condition by orthotopic liver transplantation.

The Brigadier Haywood Prize is awarded annually at the Brigadier Haywood Prize Meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine. The prize was set up by Surgeon Brigadier Haywood's wife set up the award after he died. The meeting is an opportunity for medical students to present case studies about unusual patients, or unusual treatments.

Liz said: 'I submitted my abstract for consideration just after the OSCE exams – my results had given me a bit of a confidence boost. It was so much more work than I realised but I guess now it was worth it!'

A First for Post-graduates

Last month the University opened its doors to the public for its first Postgraduate Open Day. The day provided an excellent opportunity for Schools and Departments to talk to prospective postgraduate students about the broad range of taught and research programmes available at the University.

Over six hundred potential postgraduate students attended the event – a figure that compares favourably with similar events held at other higher education institutions this year. Approximately 40% of visitors came from universities across the UK to find out about the extensive portfolio of courses available at Birmingham. The event also attracted European and International representation with visitors from more than eighteen countries including Japan, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, China, the US, Russia, Malaysia, India, Italy, Germany and Norway.

The Great Hall was the focal point of the open day with Schools and Departments available to talk to students about the opportunities for postgraduate study in their areas. Representatives from the different Student Support services were also on hand to answer questions and dealt with a high volume of enquiries during the day.

A programme of talks which ran throughout the day, proved very popular with visitors, with some talks repeated to accommodate high levels of demand. The talks covered a wide range of issues including funding and scholarships, the application process, the value of postgraduate study, opportunities for international students, the research skills programme and more.

Feedback from the visitors suggests that the day provided an enjoyable and worthwhile opportunity to find out more about the University and the extensive range of taught and research programmes available here. Many visitors reported that the day helped them to confirm Birmingham as their choice for postgraduate study.

Thank you to everybody who participated in the event – your hard work is greatly appreciated.

If you have any further queries about the Postgraduate Open Day, contact Caroline Loughnane on Ext 58558.

Educated Perspectives



An exhibition of photographs of Birmingham schools, organised in partnership between the School of Education and Birmingham Central Archives, opens this month at the Midlands Arts Centre (MAC).

Educated Perspectives: photographs of Birmingham schools invites the viewer to look again at scenes so commonplace that they have become invisible. Paulo Catrica's photographs show school spaces without teachers or pupils but it is not the architecture or the formal building of spaces that interests him. His attention is focussed on 'the appropriation and transformation of space; the signs on the walls, a door that is blocked, a laboratory filled with papers'. For him, a classroom or a laboratory is 'a place where people have lived and that is why we cannot avoid inserting teachers and pupils into the space'.

Educated Perspectives: photographs of Birmingham schools runs from 13 March till 2 May in the Public Spaces gallery (corridor) of the MAC. Admission Free. Open daily 9.00 am – 11.00 pm

Special Guest Lecture and Debate

Thursday 25 March

The Brazillian anti-poverty programme: reducing inequalities, integrating development and democracy

His Excellency Jose Mauricio Bustani, Brazillian Ambassador
(Venue TBC)

This lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information or to confirm your attendance please contact Carol Solley Tel: 0121-414 5038 Email: C.Solley@bham.ac.uk

Going abroad this summer? Feel you need to brush up those language skills?

Why not join one of the Centre for Modern Languages' 8-week summer courses in:

French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Spanish and Turkish

Courses are available in a range of levels

- ! Absolute beginners
- ! Near beginners
- ! Intermediate
- ! Advanced

Learn with highly qualified tutors, most of them native speakers, in a friendly and fun atmosphere. The courses run for 2 hours per week from 27 April – 17 June. Places are limited and you will need to enrol by Wednesday 21st April.

Fee: £40

For further details and an enrolment form contact Beverley Picariello Ext: 43324 Email: B.A.Picariello@bham.ac.uk

Electronic Tagging: Support or Surveillance?

Respected journalist, novelist and publisher Tom Stacey last month visited the University to talk at an ESRC seminar series about his often-controversial area of expertise.

Tom, who founded the Offender's Tag Association to promote electronic monitoring in Britain and who was the first journalist to promote the electronic monitoring of offenders, gave a talk entitled 'Electronically Monitoring Offenders: Control, Commerce and Technology' to a range of experts in electronic monitoring including criminal justice practitioners, civil servants, monitoring technology manufacturers, private sector service providers, sociologists and criminologists.

The seminar was designed to enable delegates to better understand the lobbying that went on in the 1980s and 1990s, the state of technology at the time and the reasons why criminologists and penal reformers underestimated and neglected the significance of these developments. It addressed the question 'What was the process of innovation?' and considered where the next wave of technological innovation in criminal justice might come from.

Mike Nellis, Event Organiser and Senior Lecturer in Criminal Justices said: 'The electronic monitoring of offenders is a very topical issue, yet it has been under-discussed as an aspect of public policy and arguably under-theorised by academics. We were delighted to welcome Tom to the University and greatly enjoyed hearing his thoughts on EM developments so far, and how it might develop in the future'



National Blood Service SCI team: (left to right) Derwood Pamphilon, Prof Marcela Contreras, Dr Dorothy Macdonald and Dr Suzanne Watt

New Lab boosts Stem Cell and Immunotherapy Research

The National Blood Service site on Vincent Drive has opened a Stem Cell and Immunotherapy laboratory (SCI), the first of three new centres in the UK to push forward advances. The new facility will support 20 hospitals in the region in areas of immunotherapies and transplantation of blood and bone marrow stem cells, as well as the treatment of leukaemia and related blood diseases.

The facility is a collaboration between the University, the National Blood Service, University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust, and Cancer Research UK.

The new facilities include three 'clean rooms', and it is hoped that these will enable further trials which will see stem cell technology being harnessed in the treatment of other cancers. Professor Lawrence Young, head of Cancer Studies explains: 'We cannot just make something we have produced in the lab and give it to patients. This facility will allow us to trial it'.

Professor William Doe, Dean of the Medical School adds: 'This is a very important part of research because it links translational research and discovery and provides us with access to the expertise handling blood and producing cells for treatment'.

Statistical Advisory Service

Help and advice are offered to staff and postgraduates from any part of the University who make use of mathematical statistics as part of their research. Queries can be accepted by email or a consultation can be arranged by appointment. Appointments can be made by phone on 44750 or by email to A.P.White@bham.ac.uk.

For small queries, this service is provided free. However, for more substantial queries, an element of cost recovery is expected. Dr White is particularly keen to be involved at a collaborative level in the planning and execution of major research projects involving a statistical component, including the preparation of research proposals.

Making the Leap to Financial Independence

The largest repertory theatre in North America, the Stratford Festival of Stratford Ontario, Canada last year celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The festival has grown from its original, three-week run in a tent in 1953 to this year's month-long run in four theatres and attracts over 600,000 patrons each season.

Like all artistic ventures the Festival has experienced many challenges; none more serious than during Mrs. Julia Foster's 1993-1994 tenure as the new Chair of the Board. Since the late eighties, the Festival faced accumulated deficits from predecessors and an impending reduction in federal and provincial financial support of over one million Canadian dollars a year. Today's Artistic Director, Richard Monette, and Julia Foster formed a unique partnership that resulted in completely turning around the Festival's fortunes.

Julia Foster will visit the Shakespeare Institute on April 2 (7.30 pm) to talk about this amazing turnaround. For more details contact 01789 293138

WellChild Abseil @ The Mailbox



Saturday 27 March

Experience the thrill and exhilaration of abseiling down the Mailbox in aid of the Why My Child? Appeal and help save the lives of sick children.

For further information and an application form contact Teri Collett, Regional Appeals Manager Tel: 0845 458 8170 Email: whymychild@wellchild.org

WellChild is the UK's leading research charity for sick children (Registered Charity No: 289600)

Vacancies

E31418

Lecturer in History in Education
School of Education CCS
Academic: Research and Teaching
Closing date: 26/3/2004

A31417

Lecturer in Music
Department of Music
Academic: Research and Teaching
Closing date: 19/3/2004

H32881

Research Associate/ Fellow
School of Biosciences
Academic: Research and Teaching
Closing date: 19/3/2004

H32877

Research Associate/Fellow in the Centre for Forensic and Family Psychology
School of Psychology
Academic: Research and Teaching
Closing date: 23/3/2004

C31415

Research Associate/Fellow
School of Social Sciences
Academic: Research and Teaching
Closing date: 24/3/2004

S35957

Research Fellow
Geography and Environmental Sciences
Academic: Research and Teaching
Closing date: 31/3/2004

S36710

Research Fellow
School of Computer Science
Academic: Research and Teaching
Closing date: 25/3/2004

S13402

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer
School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences
Academic: Research and Teaching
Closing date: 19/3/2004

C31394

The Brit Insurance Lectureship/Senior Lectureship in Insurance and Risk Management
School of Business
Academic: Research and Teaching
Closing date: 19/3/2004

G36689

Experimental Officer
School of Engineering (Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering)
Administrative and Other Academic Related
Closing date: 22/3/2004

A31421

Language Tutor in Japanese
Centre for Modern Languages
Administrative and Other Academic Related
Closing date: 22/3/2004

M32878 INTERNAL

Project Officer (User and Carer Focus)
Primary Care and General Practice
Administrative and Other Academic Related
Closing date: 24/3/2004

Y36062

Document Management Assistant
Office of the Director of Personnel Services
Support: Technical, Clerical, and Manual
Closing date: 24/3/2004

F34369

Part Time Administration Assistant
Information Services
Support: Technical, Clerical, and Manual
Closing date: 25/3/2004

M32894

Technician
Division of Cancer Studies – Cancer Studies
Support: Technical, Clerical, and Manual
Closing date: 22/3/2004

Y16867

Assistant to Director of the Induction Course
International Office
Temporary, Casual, and Vacation Work
Closing date: 8/4/2004

Y16911

Induction Course Assistant
Co-ordinators
International Office
Temporary, Casual, and Vacation Work
Closing date: 23/3/2004

Y16910

Induction Course Senior Co-ordinator
International Office
Temporary, Casual, and Vacation Work
Closing date: 23/3/2004

Y16912

Welcome Team Member
International Office
Temporary, Casual, and Vacation Work
Closing date: 29/3/2004

Teenagers Get Insight into NHS Careers

Sandwell schoolchildren were given the chance to learn about career options within the NHS at a special event organised by the University in partnership with Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

Twenty teenagers from four local schools spent the day at Sandwell Hospital finding out about the different choices available to them if they continue with science-related subjects.

The youngsters, from year 12 (aged 15-16), were encouraged to consider a medical or science degree and heard about a range of different medical jobs that demonstrated the diversity of the NHS such as specialist consultant, nurse consultant, microbiologist, radiographer, occupational therapist and physiotherapist. They also met a Junior Doctor and took part in basic life support training with A&E consultant Mr Rizkalla.

Recruitment Coordinator Linda Randall who took part in the day said; *'These students are already thinking about a career in medicine, although they might not be sure of exactly what they want to do.'*

'The aim of the session is to encourage them to see the broader picture – to show them how many options are available to them within the NHS.'

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell General Hospital, is working with the Widening Participation Unit at the University to promote NHS careers to young people in the region.

The Widening Participation Unit's Sandra Cooke said: *'We want to ensure that those pupils who have the potential to succeed in becoming doctors and other health care professionals are encouraged to feel that they can do so.'*

'These students all have the potential to succeed in higher education and we want to show them that it is very possible to get into medical school.'

This is the second year that the hospital has held the programme. A series of similar events is also taking place for year nine school children about to make their GCSE subject choices. The schools involved were: Dartmouth High School, Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School, Menzies High School and Wood Green High School.

Shout About Research

Dr Martyn Cornick



Currents, was initiated by the Franco-British Council as an international and interdisciplinary effort to celebrate the Entente.

Dr Cornick's research focuses on the vast Franco-British Exhibition, held on a reclaimed site at Shepherd's Bush in West London. The Exhibition at the 140-acre 'White City' was held between May and October 1908 and yet, no doubt because of the Great War, has largely disappeared from national memory. In 1908 it was considered stupendous, *The Times* describing it as *'the most remarkable exhibition ever held in the British Empire'*. According to the Exhibition's Commissioner, a complete modern city had to be improvised. Exhibits were housed in 20 palaces and 8 halls—among them Education, Science, the Fine Arts, Engineering, Transportation, Textiles, Women's Work, Sports, and French and British Colonies. The 'Franco' was also conceived as a 'City of Pleasure', with gardens, restaurants, waterways, cascades and rides, including the 'Flip-Flap', the London Eye of its day. The Exhibition and the official speeches made by Edward VII and President Fallières were seized upon as symbolising the best hopes for international peace in Europe.

Cross Channel Currents (ed. by Richard Mayne et al.), prefaced by Dominique de Villepin and Jack Straw, is published by Routledge at £20.99 paperback (ISBN 0 415 34662 2).

See also the website of the Franco-British Council www.francobritishcouncil.org.uk

Professor Colin Timms



Schönborn) and a librettist and 'fixer' in Dresden (Stefano Benedetto Pallavicini).

The correspondence sheds light on opera in early 18th-century London, the recruitment of Italian singers to work there and in Germany, the Academy of Vocal (later 'Ancient') Music, the genesis of Steffani's last three compositions, and such everyday topics as the state of roads in Lombardy in winter, the cost of accommodation in Würzburg, and the duration of a channel-crossing.

The study (*Royal Musical Association Research Chronicle, vol. 36*) also presents documents used in Professor Timms's book on the composer, Polymath of the Baroque. Why this title? Because Steffani was not only a composer but also an active diplomat, bishop and Apostolic Vicar of North Germany. Published by OUP in autumn 2003, this book is the first to deal with all aspects of Steffani's career or to discuss every piece of music that he wrote. It should whet the appetite for editions and performances of his works. Those who saw Steffani's opera *La Liberta Contentà* at the Barber Institute in 2000 will surely agree that they deserve to be heard.

Professor Timms will be in action in Symphony Hall on Sunday 21 March, at 7.30 pm, conducting the University Choir and Philharmonic Orchestra in Bach's St John Passion Box office: 0121-780 3333

Mike McLinden, Steve McCall, Danielle Hinton and Graeme Douglas



Mike McLinden, Steve McCall and Graeme Douglas (all members of the Visual Impairment Centre for Teaching and Research at the School of Education) are working alongside Educational Technology Manager Danielle Hinton to use Problem Based Learning (PBL) to develop on-line resources for use in the professional development of specialist teachers of the visually impaired.

PBL is an educational technique which draws upon situations designed to reflect the real 'problems' that professionals are asked to solve in their current or future role. Students are presented with the problem before the material has necessarily been 'learned' – the learning about the material comes about through actually engaging with the problem in small groups, to help develop knowledge and understanding, as well as reinforce the development of an effective 'reasoning' process.

There is to date little evidence to demonstrate how PBL can be adapted to meet the needs of teachers enrolled on continuing professional development courses offered at a distance. With a grant from the Learning and Development Unit online PBL teaching resources are currently being developed and evaluated as part of a research project for use within a distance education programme for specialist teachers of the visually impaired. Depending on the outcome of the evaluation, it is planned that some of the online materials will be embedded into the programme of study in Visual Impairment from September 2004.

For more information contact:

Mike McLinden: M.T.McLinden@bham.ac.uk
Steve McCall: S.McCall@bham.ac.uk
Graeme Douglas: G.A.Douglas@bham.ac.uk
Danielle Hinton: D.M.Hinton@bham.ac.uk

www.education.bham.ac.uk/research/victar

Department of Theology

Cadbury Lectures 2004

Religion, Politics and Conflict in the Contemporary World

MONDAY 15 MARCH

The enduring presence of religion and politics in American history

Professor Mark Knoll
(Wheaton College, Illinois)

TUESDAY 16 MARCH

Does the Bush era represent an 'Evangelical Movement' in American history and politics?

Professor Mark Knoll
(Wheaton College, Illinois)

WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH

'For the Land and the Lord'? The religion and ideology of West Bank settlers

Dr Lisa Kaul-Seidman
(Birmingham)

THURSDAY 18 MARCH

Israel's Religious and Secular divide: is there space for dialogue?

Dr Emanuele Ottolenghi
(St Anthony's College, Oxford)

MONDAY 22 MARCH

Religious Foundations of the Iranian Revolution

Syed Amir Akrami
(Organisation for Islamic Culture and Communication, Tehran)

TUESDAY 23 MARCH

Post-Revolution Iran from a Religious Point of View

Syed Amir Akrami
(Organisation for Islamic Culture and Communication, Tehran)

WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH

Protestantism and Political Violence

Professor Steve Bruce
(Aberdeen)

THURSDAY 25 MARCH

Anti-Pygmalion: religion as a cause of politics

Professor Steve Bruce
(Aberdeen)

All lectures will take place between 5.30 and 7.00 pm in Lecture Theatre 3 of the Arts Building



Spotlight on Scholars



Simon Ramsden

Simon is this year's Mens Hockey 1st team captain, and he has represented England at Under 21 level. Now in his final year of a Biochemistry degree he was part of last year's University team that finished as runners up to Loughborough in the BUSA final. He hopes to lead this year's team to victory.



Simon Shepherd

Simon is in his first year of a degree in Applied Golf Management Studies at the Selly Oak campus and Belfry. His handicap of 1 qualifies him for a Royal & Ancient golf bursary. Simon has represented Kent County 2nd team and is aiming to take part in the British Amateur championship.



James Tweddle

James graduated from Environmental Science last year and has now embarked on a Masters in Marketing. He has represented England B at hockey and was part of the University team that finished as runners up in last year's BUSA hockey final. James is also part of the successful Cannock hockey team, playing alongside last year's Athletic Union Sports Man of the year, Andrew West.

www.bham.ac.uk/sport

Diary

TUESDAY 16

12.30pm International Development Department Seminar – Localise West Midlands Karent Leach. G22, J G Smith Building.

3.30pm Psychology Seminar – starting with HapticsMASTER demo and cakes/tea in the foyer. Followed by *Using Haptic interfaces for the rehabilitation of the upper limb post stroke* – William Harwin (Reading). Training Room 120 Psychology Hills Building.

4.00pm Chemical Biology Seminar – *Selective Palladium Catalysts for the Stille Reaction – Exploitation of a Serendipitous Discovery* – Dr Ian Fairlamb (York). Host: Dr Liam Cox. Room G26, Mechanical Engineering.

4.30pm Environmental Biology Seminar – *Putting the hey! back in behaviour: how we find out about fish movements and behaviour in the open sea* – Dr Julian Metcalfe, Head of Fish Populations and Behaviour Research, CEFAS. Host: Professor Pat Butler. Room 301 – School of Biosciences.

5.00pm Department of Sociology visiting speaker seminar – *Globalisation and Britain* – Luke Martell, Head of Sociology (Sussex). Ground floor lecture room, School of Social Sciences Building, 31 Pritchatts Road. All welcome.

5.30pm Department of Theology Cadbury Lecture – *Does the Bush era represent an 'Evangelical Movement' in American history and politics?* – Professor Mark Knoll (Wheaton College, Illinois). Lecture Theatre 3 of the Arts Building.

WEDNESDAY 17

University of Birmingham Women's Club – Coffee in the home of Eileen Mellor. Tel: 0121-472 2001.

1.00pm Molecular Pathobiology Joint Seminar – *Metabolic profiling and explanatory machine learning for the rapid characterisation of biological systems* – Dr Roy Goodacre (UMIST). Host: Dr Mark Viant. LG32 – Learning Resource Centre.

1.00pm Cancer Research UK Institute for Cancer Studies external seminar – *EBV and the cell cycle* – Professor Martin Allday (Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, London). Host: Professor Lawrence Young. S104, Cancer Studies.

4.15pm Department of Hispanic Studies Cultures in Dialogue research seminar – *La inquisición por dentro: pervivencias ilustradas en la literatura anti-inquisitorial del siglo diecinueve* – Daniel Muñoz (Birmingham). Room 214, 2nd Floor Muirhead Tower.

5.30pm Department of Theology Cadbury Lecture – *For the Land and the Lord? The religion and ideology of West Bank settlers* – Dr Lisa Kaul-Seidman (Birmingham). Lecture Theatre 3 of the Arts Building.

THURSDAY 18

5.15pm Inaugural lecture – *Researching Private Lives and Public Policies* – Professor M Barnes, Professor of Social Research. Barber Lecture Theatre. Followed by a reception in the Foyer.

5.30pm Department of Theology Cadbury Lecture – *Israel's Religious and Secular divide: is there space for dialogue?* – Dr Emanuele Ottolenghi (St Anthony's College, Oxford). Lecture Theatre 3 of the Arts Building.

FRIDAY 19

BUSA Indoor Finals and Knockout stages – Munrow Centre

SATURDAY 20

BUSA Indoor Finals and Knockout stages – Munrow Centre

SUNDAY 21

BUSA Indoor Finals and Knockout stages – Munrow Centre

MONDAY 22

5.30pm Department of Theology Cadbury Lecture – *Religious Foundations of the Iranian Revolution* – Syed Amir Akrami (Organisation for Islamic Culture and Communication, Tehran). Lecture Theatre 3 of the Arts Building.

TUESDAY 23

4.00pm Psychology Seminar – *East-West differences: Systematic-heuristic processing versus holistic-analytic thoughts* – Ramadhar Singh (Rochester, New York). Training Room 120 Psychology Hills Building.

4.30pm Environmental Biology Seminar – *Food and breeding performance of the Florida Scrub-Jay: the advantages and disadvantages of exploiting novel food sources* – Dr Jim Reynolds (Birmingham). Host: Environmental Biology Theme. Room NG08, Ground Floor – School of Biosciences.

5.00pm Department of Sociology visiting speaker seminar – *Growing Old Disgracefully? Popular Music and Older Generations of Fans* – Andy Bennett, Lecturer in Sociology (Surrey). Ground floor lecture room, School of Social Sciences Building, 31 Pritchatts Road. All welcome.

5.20pm Professorial Lecture on Local History – *Many Peoples, One Birmingham* – Professor Carl Chinn, MBE. Great Hall, Aston Webb. Please note this event is ticket only and all tickets have now been allocated.

5.30pm Department of Theology Cadbury Lecture – *Post-Revolution Iran from a Religious Point of View* – Syed Amir Akrami (Organisation for Islamic Culture and Communication, Tehran). Lecture Theatre 3 of the Arts Building.

WEDNESDAY 24

University of Birmingham Women's Club – Coffee in the home of Mary Hallam. Tel: 0121-440 2184.

1.00pm Cancer Research UK Institute for Cancer Studies external seminar – *Regulation of human papillomavirus transcription and replication by DNA damaging and response proteins* – Dr Iain Morgan (Glasgow). Host: Dr Sally Roberts. S104, Cancer Studies.

4.15pm Department of Hispanic Studies Cultures in Dialogue research seminar – *Travel Writing* – Isabel Mateus (Birmingham). Room 214, 2nd Floor Muirhead Tower.

4.30pm Molecular Microbiology seminar – *Visualising chromosome segregation in vivo and in vitro* – David Sherratt (Oxford). Host: Professor Chris Thomas. E102 – School of Biosciences.

5.15pm Department of German Studies Cultures in Dialogue research seminar – Provisional title: *Foreign language acquisition and teaching styles: Some research findings* – Professor John Klapper, (Birmingham). Room 334, 3rd floor Muirhead Tower.

5.30pm Department of Theology Cadbury Lecture – *Protestantism and Political Violence* – Professor Steve Bruce (Aberdeen). Lecture Theatre 3 of the Arts Building.

6.00pm University of Birmingham Women's Club – Evening meal for members only, Selly Park Tavern.

THURSDAY 25

1.00pm Clinical Genetics Seminar – BMed.Sci Project Presentations. Seminar room, Regional Genetic Laboratory.

5.15pm The Huxley Lecture – *Genome Sequences, Structural Biology and Drug Discovery: Opportunities and Challenges* – Professor Sir Tom Blundell, Sir William Dunn Professor of Biochemistry. Large Haworth Lecture Theatre, School of Chemistry.

5.30pm Department of Theology Cadbury Lecture – *Anti-Pygmalion: religion as a cause of politics* – Professor Steve Bruce (Aberdeen). Lecture Theatre 3 of the Arts Building.

SUNDAY 28

2.30pm Guided tour of the Barber Institute's permanent collection. Free. Meet in the Barber foyer underneath the portrait of Lady Barber.

TUESDAY 30

4.00pm Chemical Biology Seminar – *Building the Building Blocks for Supramolecular Chemistry* – Dr Andy Cammidge (UEA). Host: Dr Jon Preece. Room G26, Mechanical Engineering.

WEDNESDAY 31

University of Birmingham Women's Club – Coffee in the home of Bridget Wallace. Tel: 0121-472 6345.

1.00pm Cancer Research UK Institute for Cancer Studies external seminar – TBA – Dr Martin Noble (Oxford). Host: Dr Ben willcox. S104, Cancer Studies.

4.00pm Cancer Research UK Institute for Cancer Studies external seminar – *Structural Biology of RNA Interference* – Professor Dinshaw Patel (Sloan-Kettering Institute, New York) Host: Professor Michael overduin. S104, Cancer Studies.

Staff News

The School of Dentistry's **Professor Anthony Smith** and **Dr Garry Fleming** were honoured at the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) in Honolulu, Hawaii. Professor Smith was selected as the 2004 recipient of the Pulp Biology Research Award and Dr Fleming was awarded the 2004 Young Investigator Award. Two of 15 Distinguished Scientist Awards conferred annually by the IADR, representing the highest honour the Association can bestow.

Professor Smith was acknowledged as 'the international authority in [pulp biology] as attested by the large group of successful postgraduate, post-doctoral, and technical staff who have benefited from his scholastic leadership and his caring, enthusiastic approach.'

Dr Fleming received his award in recognition of his research on dental biomaterials for which he has obtained funding from industrial and charitable sources and on the subject of which has published in excess of thirty papers in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr Fleming was also commended on his work with students: 'A particular strength, even at this early stage in his career, is his encouragement of young researchers. His students have been successful in obtaining Divisional IADR awards on five separate occasions. This is a reflection of his scientific and mentoring skills, emphasizing his desire to develop clinicians as researchers in dental materials science.'

Effective April 1, 2004, Professor Smith will become Editor of the *Journal of Dental Research*, the IADR's flagship publication.

Dr Christopher Kent has been asked to join the Teaching of Engineering Ethics Group (TEEG), which is being set up under the auspices of the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE) and the Engineering Professors' Committee (EPC). The group will contain members drawn from academia, industry and professional engineering bodies.

Dr Kent is Module Leader for the Level 2 Engineering module, 'Ethics, Technology and Policy', which he pioneered with the help of John Coffey of the Visiting Engineering Professors' group.

Alumnus, prestigious immunologist and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Dendreon Corporation (based in Seattle, USA) **Dr Christopher S Henney** will return to the University this year to take up his seat as this year's Arthur Thomson Visiting Professor in the School of Medicine. Dr. Henney graduated with a BSc in Biochemistry from Birmingham in 1962 and received his PhD in Experimental Pathology from the Medical School in 1965. In 1973 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science for his research contributions to Immunology.

In addition to his role at Dendreon, Dr Henney currently serves on the board of numerous companies in the US and other countries and was a co-founder of ICOS Corporation and Immunex Corporation. Before founding Immunex, Dr Henney worked in academic biomedical research, holding posts in the prestigious Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, the University of Washington Medical School, where he was Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, where he was Head of the Programme in Basic Immunology. He will bring to the Professorship a wealth of experience both in the field of biomedical research and technology transfer.

Dr Henney will deliver the Arthur Thomson Lecture on The evolution of biotechnology and its impact on drug development at 5.30 pm on Thursday April 1 in the Arthur Thomson Hall of the Medical School. All are welcome to attend.

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 April 2004
Deadline: 16 March 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!

News, Views, Pictures

Sue Primmer, Editor
S.J.Primmer@bham.ac.uk
0121-414 6680

Sam Smith, Content Editor
S.Smith@bham.ac.uk
0121-414 6948

Diary, Notices and Adverts

Sam Smith
University-Buzz@bham.ac.uk
0121-414 6948

Bespoke Experimental Equipment

- I Pre-Commercial Visualisation Models
- I Pre-Prototype Equipment
- I Modifications to Existing Equipment

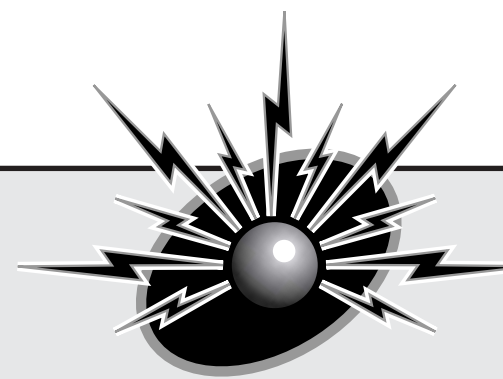
The Wolfson Applied Technology Laboratory in the Department of Medicine has facilities for producing specialised equipment to your requirements. From microscope accessories, to timers and temperature controlled cabinets, to tailor made stands and tables:

For further details contact John Gibbons Tel: 0121-627 2573

Email: J.E.C.Gibbons@bham.ac.uk

Thank you!

To all of the companies who kindly donated prizes for the Munrow Centre charity week raffle: Jan Webster UniSport, Waterstones, Arthur Brett, Guilbert, Newey & Eyre, Hospitality and Accommodation Services, DCS and Cybex. There were some fantastic prizes and a lot of happy prizewinners.



Small Ads

University members:
£5.00 per twenty words

Non members:
£10 per twenty words
Payment in advance required.

Display Ads

Ratecard available on request.

Small Ads

ACCOMMODATION

House to rent Bull St, Central Harborne. 2 bedrooms, huge bathroom, all mod cons and modern décor. Suit professionals. Available 22 March. Easy walking distance to University. £650 per calendar month. Tel. 07887 882548

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 www.casacampello.com

South Lakes – lovely 2 bedroom holiday cottage in secluded rural location, ideal for couples or families. www.firkin cottage.co.uk Tel: 07787 824462

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

2 Bedroom house to rent in Selly Oak. Double-glazed, central heating, modern kitchen and bathroom, fully furnished. £560 per month Please contact 07814 471892

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Moss Roofing. Built-Up Felt Roofing Specialists – Sprung a leak? Tel: 07739 553574. UPVC Fascias, Soffits. All work guaranteed

The Suite Hospital. Is your suite under the weather, got a saggy bottom? Tel: 07866 973011. Also curtains and soft furnishings

Children's Saturday Morning Swimming Lessons

Sign your child up for swimming lessons over the summer term. All abilities welcome. This 10-week course begins on Saturday 24 April and runs through to Saturday 26 June.

The grande finale is Splash Week on July 3 10.00 –11.00 am

To book a place for more information pop into the Munrow reception or call Richard Gwyn on 0121-414 7678





BUSA Indoor Finals and Knockout Stages

Of the 40 Birmingham Athletic Union teams competing in the BUSA competitions, 35 qualified from their groups to go through to the knockout stages.

Having won in the quarter-finals the men's and women's 1st XI Hockey teams are hoping to repeat their success at the semi-finals which are being held at a neutral venue in Wakefield. The men will face Bath and the women are taking on Exeter.

The men's hockey 2nd XI have an away draw against Bath while in the women's Trophy competition there was an upset when our 3rd XI beat our 2nd XI, who were champions last year. The 3rd XI take their place in the semi-finals against Exeter 2nd XI. The finals will be held at Beeston Hockey Club in Nottingham the week after the semis.

The Lacrosse 1st team won their recent Championship semi-final against Cambridge University at Lilleshall and are looking for another win in the final in Manchester.

For the indoor sports teams the BUSA finals weekend is being held at Birmingham. Last year Birmingham was the best represented and most successful university in the finals. We are hoping for a repeat performance from our teams this year. Why not come along to the Munrow Sports Centre and cheer our teams on to success?

The 1st team Netball semi-finals will take place in the Sports Hall on Friday 19 March from 5.00pm. On Saturday 20 there will be Badminton and Squash semi-finals as well as the Fencing finals. The Badminton, Netball, Squash and Table Tennis finals will take place on Sunday 21.

Senior Swim Club

Do you want to shake away those winter blues and shape up for the shorts season?

Well this is the club for you. Each week there are 5 classes including aquafit and yoga. Take part in as many or as few as you like.

£30 for a 10-week membership

Classes begin Monday 19 April and run until Monday 5 July

(except 31 May – 3 June – Half Term and Monday 3 May – Bank Holiday)

Book your place at the Munrow Centre reception

Over 50's only

For more information contact Richard Gwyn on 0121-414 7678 or R.H.Gwyn@bham.ac.uk



Pretty in Pink...

Munrow Charity Week Success

The staff at the Munrow Centre would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along and made their recent charity week such a success. The time and effort put in by the Munrow Centre staff was definitely rewarded with a successful week of events and activities that did, as promised, cater for everyone. The sea of pink that faced visitors to the centre certainly helped to raise smiles and loosen the purse strings.

The concept of charity week was originally conceived by Munrow staff member Pam Vanderstam, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001. Pam fought against the disease and now attends a local support group, the ABC Group, who are currently fundraising to buy a Mobile mammogram Unit for the Birmingham Women's Hospital. Both Pam and the staff at the Munrow Centre wanted to do their bit in helping the group reach their goal.

The original aim was to raise £2500 to help the ABC Group but the week was even more successful than was hoped and at the last count just shy of £3,500 had been raised with more still to come.

Thank you to all who took part in the activities and to those who supported them. Your enthusiasm and commitment really has made a big difference.



Children's Easter Vacation Sports Coaching Course

Monday 5 April to Thursday 8 April

Four fun days jam packed full of sport. All sessions are taken by qualified and experienced coaching and are suitable for any abilities.

8 to 15 year olds only

For further information on courses, prices and how to register, contact Anna Corkill on 0121-414 2274 or see

www.sport.bham.ac.uk/coaching

Everton FC Visit the University pre-Blues Game

The keen-eyed football fans amongst you may have noticed some famous faces training on the University synthetic pitches last month.

Liverpool-based premier league football club Everton had a light 2-hour training session at the University in preparation for their evening clash against Birmingham City. All the Everton stars were out including Wayne Rooney, Duncan Ferguson and Nigel Martyn. Word spread like wildfire that the Premiership club were on campus and a crowd soon gathered to watch. Unfortunately the training didn't pay off as Birmingham beat them 3-0.

Kindly Everton donated a signed Wayne Rooney shirt to the Foundation for Sport, which will be auctioned or raffled off with the proceeds going to the Munrow Centre's fundraising efforts.



Top: Alessandro Pistone keeps the ball away from Kevin Campbell, while Steve Watson, James McFadden and ex-England goalie Chris Woods look on.

Bottom: The Everton coach outside Aston Webb.