

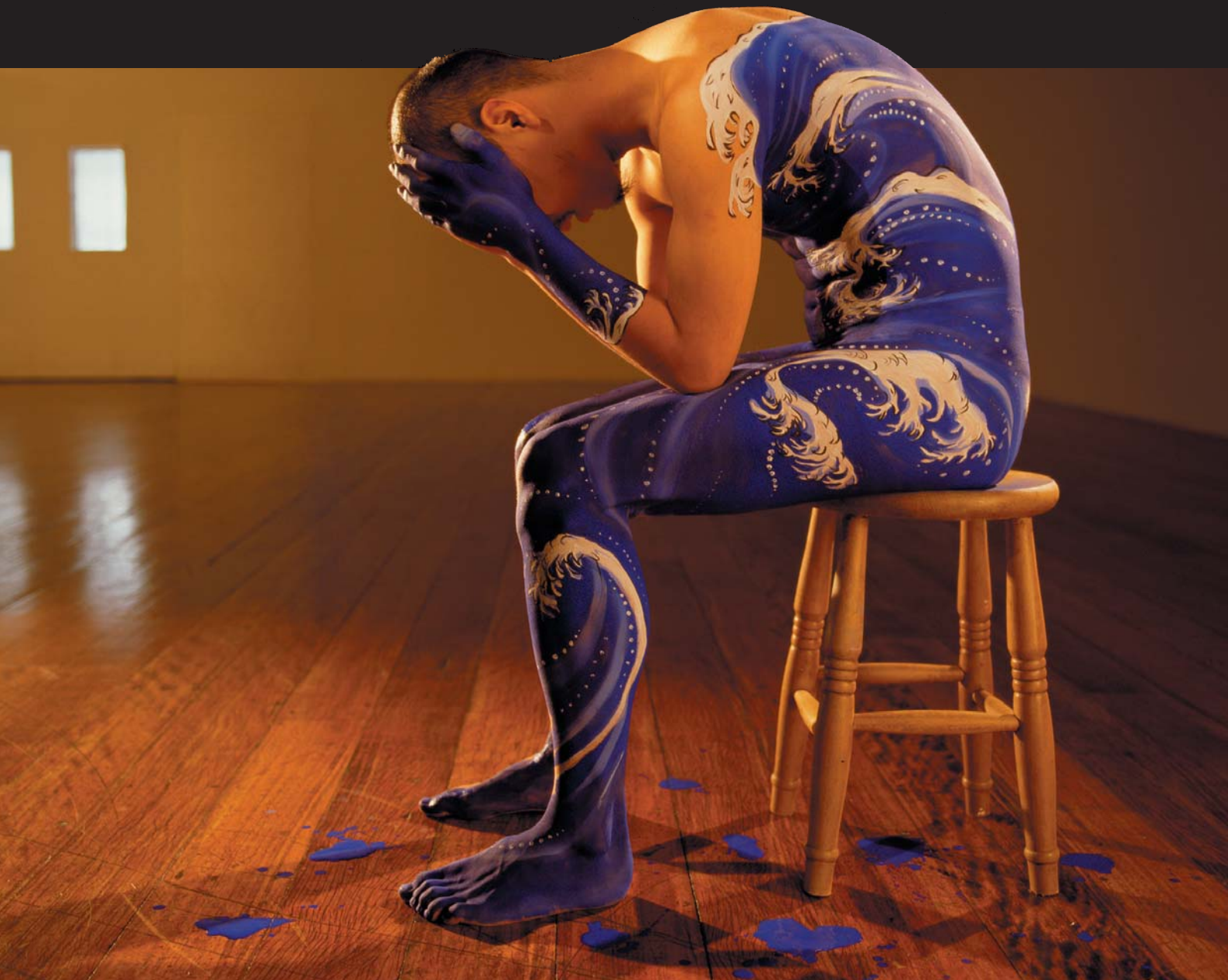


University of
Leicester

Spring 2008

Graduates'

review



Education that Inspires
Research that Changes the World



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Professor Robert Burgess

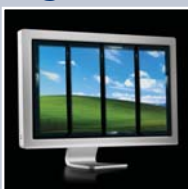
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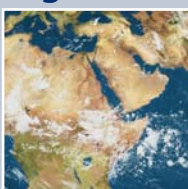
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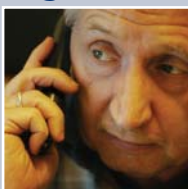
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COVER IMAGE: *Folding Stars* was designed by Leicester graduate Storm Thorgerson, for a song inspired by grief in Biffy Clyro's album *Puzzle* (2007).

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The Alumni Relations Website: For the latest alumni news, entries for the 2008 Personalia and obituary notices please visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/alumni

'Leicester is a giant on the move'

Introduction by Professor Robert Burgess, Vice-Chancellor



Professor Robert Burgess

As we reach the end of a year of celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the University it is useful to reflect on many significant achievements.

At the start of our celebrations in September, *The Times* published a four-page feature on the University of Leicester, declaring us an "award winning institution attracting top academics". Leicester, it said, is "a giant on the move". Naturally, we would agree and recent months have demonstrated our continual development as we have seen the University rank top for student satisfaction in England amongst full-time students at mainstream universities. Our score of 4.4 out of 5 in the National Student Survey is matched only by Oxford on this measure. Our research also has, according to a study by Evidence published in *The Guardian*, the greatest impact of any Midlands university and we have the strongest record for teaching quality amongst Midlands' universities.

In this magazine you can read about some of the work that has led to these achievements. For example, Professor Helen Atkinson, Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and one of only two women elected to the Academy last year, talks about her work leading Leicester's Mechanics of Materials Engineering Group. Professor Yvonne Jukes, newly arrived in our Department of Criminology, discusses her ground breaking work looking at how prisoners watch and consume television. In this issue of the *Review* you can also read of our leading edge work with schoolchildren from disadvantaged areas. Of the top 20 research universities in England only one, Leicester, meets its Government benchmarks for admissions from lower socio-economic groups. Staff and student ambassadors work with young people from many areas to ensure that those with talent are inspired to aim high and receive support to progress to university.

If you haven't visited the University in a while you will be pleased to see how our

ambitious £300m development plan is transforming our campus. Our new David Wilson Library is open fully later this year and our state-of-the-art John Foster Hall of Residence, on the site of the old Villiers Hall, represents a new standard in student and conference accommodation. However, the achievements we have made in transforming our estate would not have been possible without the generous support of our alumni. Over 1,420 have given a gift to support this work, many of whom are listed on pages 29-30. I have written to thank donors personally but I would also like to take this public opportunity to thank them for their support which is invaluable and truly appreciated.

You will also be interested to know that on Saturday April 26 2008 we are holding *Celebrate Leicester Day*. This is a very important date and aims to provide an insight into the work of the University through a day of fun, academic stimulation and entertainment for all the family. From an invasion of Vikings to exploding chemicals, from the search for extra terrestrial life to the state of English professional football, my colleagues will lead over 150 different activities open to alumni and the public. There will be opportunities to take a look at our new library, tour the campus, receive a *Body MOT* and pick up a bestseller in our new bookshop. Supervised children are welcome and there are rides and activities especially for them so do please come along and tell all your friends and family about this special day in our celebratory year.

As you read this magazine I hope you feel great pride in your University. A University of 19,500 students with a turnover of £185m may be very different to the Leicester you knew but our values and commitment to excellence remain. I am very confident that after 85 years of academic activity, 50 of which have now been as a University, we are poised for further success and will grow ever stronger.



Celebrate Leicester Day aims to provide an insight into the work of the University through a day of fun, academic stimulation and entertainment for all the family.

Fair Access for All



Of the UK's top 20 research universities, only one, Leicester, meets Government benchmarks for supporting participation from lower socio-economic groups.

Recent visitors to the University's campus may have noticed some strange goings-on.

From sixth formers lying on the carpet in the foyer of the Fielding Johnson Building to primary students 'hiding' in the sculptures and statues around the grounds.

The University has been playing host to the next generation of HE (Higher Education) students in its goal of raising awareness of and aspirations to a university education.

In a typical year the University will welcome over 20,000 young people from primary and secondary schools to a whole range of activities led by staff from Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs), Departments, School and College Services and the Botanic Garden. Activities include Summer Schools, University Experience Days, Dynamic DNA, Masterclasses, and a range of curriculum-related activities at the University's Botanic Garden.

The widening participation agenda and HEFCE targeted guidelines have encouraged universities to question what barriers able students from under-represented groups face in getting a university education. Leicester has

developed activities that dispel some of the commonly held myths and attitudes to university. Building on this success should ensure healthy recruitment of able students from all backgrounds in future years.

In addition to raising a general awareness of higher education, many of the activities focus on subject specific attainment and interest raising. Research shows that attendance at a summer school or masterclass can have a positive effect on a young person's future choices. The University has undergraduate Student Ambassadors who have personally experienced at least one on-campus outreach event before applying to study here and the evidence suggests that this is a growing trend.

The most successful on-campus visits always include a tour of the campus and meeting Student Ambassadors to hear about university life first-hand. Students attending University Experience days also get the chance to 'graduate' and experience what it feels like to wear the University of Leicester graduation outfit – it's encouraging to see them take home graduation pictures on their mobile phones as a reminder of this special day.

Although the University aims to work with as wide a range of schools as possible, a focus on some key local schools has also reaped rewards, such as the links developed with the new Samworth Enterprise Academy. Student Ambassadors and staff have created opportunities to meet parents and pupils at a series of roadshows, as well as a visit by the whole of Year 6 to the campus in February to experience subject-related activities in Physics and Archaeology.

In addition to its general outreach work the University has also engaged with a number of other key widening participation agendas including 'Looked After Children', supporting local activities, co-hosting an annual non-residential summer school for young people in care, and assisting the



University to gain the *Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark for Care Leavers* in HE. Staff from the University also work with other local HEIs in providing information, advice and guidance for students with disabilities including a very successful 'Supporting Students with Dyslexia in HE' event which runs every year.

Leicester is also engaging the parents of students from under-represented groups arranging to visit the campus and providing opportunities to meet university students themselves in the hope that this will encourage a greater dialogue about university as a viable and affordable option.

The University takes its involvement with learners seriously, particularly those from disadvantaged and low participation backgrounds. It is committed to providing positive opportunities for widening participation students to visit the campus, meet university students and staff, and develop an interest in subjects offered at degree level. So next time you see a face appearing from behind 'Souls' on the Fielding Johnson lawn or a group posing around 'The Eye of Time' sundial there might just be more to it than meets the eye.

For information about the University's Widening Participation activity, contact Jean Baxter, Head of School and College Services at jb74@le.ac.uk

Student attending 'Dynamic DNA' activities at the University

University Experience Days

- Aimed at Year 10 students in Leicester City and Leicestershire
- Students spend the day on campus supervised by a Student Ambassador
- Based on the theme 'Work, Rest and Play' school students find out about the lives of a range of undergraduate and postgraduate students
- In 2006-7 over 1,000 students attended University of Leicester UE days and over 96% felt they had learnt what university is like

Student Ambassadors

- Work on Open Days
- Support Widening Participation work on and off campus
- Receive training in: widening participation; child protection and safeguarding; group work; communication skills
- Feedback forms at events help Ambassadors to reflect on their work
- Increasingly Ambassadors represent the University at school/college parents' evenings and at HE events



The Botanic Garden

- This year over 2,400 students (from reception to Year 13) from 40 schools and colleges have taken part in activities at the Botanic Garden
- Over 800 students (Year 1-6) attended the 'Journeys to Christmas' event in December 2007, following three different 'star' trails around the garden
- Over 600 attended the 'Whole World Cake' which supports the Key Stages 1 and 2 Citizenship curriculum

GENIE - Genetics Education Networking for Innovation and Excellence

- The GENIE CETL's 'Dynamic DNA' programme is an annual event
- In 2007 over 600 students took part in a host of 'Dynamic DNA' activities over two days including 'Go Bananas' extracting DNA from a banana, and 'One in a Million' looking at various genetic traits and their occurrence in Leicestershire



Summer Schools

- Since 2000, Summer Schools have involved over 1,000 students from the East Midlands region
- Students have access to a full programme of sports and entertainment – including ten-pin bowling, access to the University's sports facilities, Sambawamba drum and dance and carnival costume workshops, a celebration dinner and disco
- University mentors provide an invaluable link between the social and academic sides of university life as well as programme support
- Residential Summer Schools have included: 'Chemistry: The Next Generation'; 'Awesome Engineering'; 'Media, Society and You'; 'Science - It's Big and It's Clever'; 'Science Rocks'; 'Amazing Space'; 'Chemistry: The Next Generation'; 'Engineer your Future'; 'GENIE – All about DNA and Genetics'



A Window



to the
World

TV and the internet are bringing the outside in. It is a revolution that is changing the way prisoners see themselves – and view the world outside.

For University of Leicester Professor Yvonne Jewkes, of the renowned Department of Criminology, watching TV won't be quite the same again.

She has studied the way prisoners watch TV – or 'consume the media' to use academic parlance – and it is not quite the same as you and I.

She said: "Although many would regard television as a medium of transparency and openness, and the prison as an archetypal example of closure and secrecy, I found the relationship between the two to be much more subtle and complex than

this – certainly the popular press's view that in-cell TV is a perk that encourages prisoners to while away their time in purposeless inactivity is pretty wide of the mark.

"While it was not particularly surprising to find that prisoners' use of media is shaped by the coercive requirements of the institution, it was interesting to discover how some individuals used media texts and technologies as a source of empowerment and as a resource to help them adapt to life in prison, adopt an acceptable identity, and enhance their sense of self.

"The very personal meanings and memories that individual prisoners attached to particular TV shows, radio programmes or songs left a lasting impression on me."

The paradox of prisons is central to the work of Yvonne as she juxtaposes the role of the media as advocates of freedom and transparency with that of prisons as archetypal examples of closure and secrecy.

Yvonne's research has been concerned with the relationship between media consumption and power relations in prison. The research was conducted over a period when in-cell television was being debated, piloted, rejected (when Michael Howard was Home Secretary) and then, eventually, introduced as an earned privilege across most of the prison estate.

Now she is developing and broadening this area of interest to the study of Internet access in prisons.

She said: "Currently only seven prisons allow inmates access to the Internet, and it is heavily restricted and regulated. It is not difficult to imagine how great the impact of 'new' media technologies such as the Internet could be on the experience of imprisonment. In their ability to liberate users from physical time and place, and to bring the outside inside, the potential benefits of computer-mediated communications to prisoners are incalculable.

"In practical terms, access to computers, email and the Internet would allow users in prison to interact with potential employers, public sector organisations that might help with particular issues such as housing prior to release, and increased contact with lawyers. The Internet could be an immensely valuable tool for the Prison Service in handling fragmented and fragile relationships, would enable prisoners to keep in contact with their children and other family members, and could also provide prisons with a wider range of resources for delivering effective courses.

"The Internet has changed the lives of all of us for the better; certainly, as an academic, it is hard to envisage how much more difficult and time-consuming it used to be to access books, find obscure journal articles, or do collaborative research with colleagues elsewhere in the world before its arrival."

"This has become an especially pressing problem since the biggest provider of degree courses in prisons moved to online delivery a couple of years ago. Not only does the lack of Internet access preclude degree level study, but many prisoners are not allowed to possess CD-ROMs or DVDs because the discs are considered potential weapons for assault or self-harm. Consequently, they have to make do with simulated tutorials that are loaded onto their computers rather than the real thing."

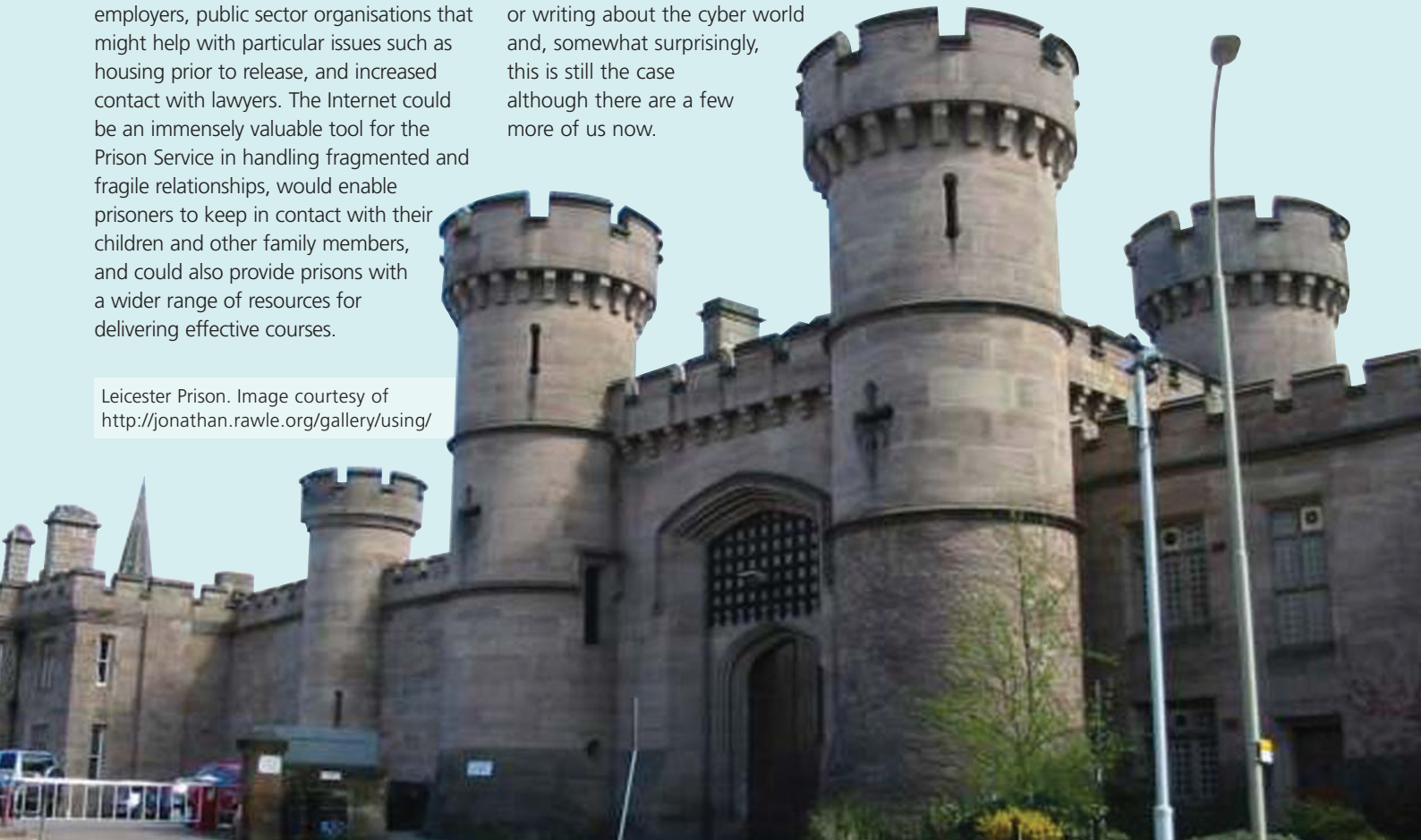
Yvonne became interested in the Internet and cyber crime simply as an extension of her work in the area of media and crime.

She said: "Ten years ago there were very few criminologists who were researching or writing about the cyber world and, somewhat surprisingly, this is still the case although there are a few more of us now.

"But online crime is still absent from most major criminology textbooks which I believe is an omission given the increasing number of high-profile, salaciously-reported Internet offences that have come to public attention via the pages of the popular press.

"I can't claim to be an expert when it comes to the technology I'm more interested in the social impacts of the Internet. I've also written quite extensively about the policing of cyber crimes and the particular problems associated with the regulation and policing of abusive images of children on the Internet.

Leicester Prison. Image courtesy of <http://jonathan.rawle.org/gallery/using/>



"In general though, I'm an optimist when it comes to computer-mediated communications. The constant drip of frankly astonishing stories about the Internet's potential to corrupt, fed to us by a popular media baying for tougher laws to deal with cyber-offenders, has to be put into perspective."

It is now fairly well established that media are integral to how we make sense of the world, and that misrepresentations concerning the extent of certain types of crime and the effectiveness of the criminal justice system can create a skewed picture of crime and punishment. In her book *Media and Crime* (2004, Sage) Yvonne attempted to bring together the literatures and key theoretical approaches from the two fields, and aims to reflect the symbiotic relationship between media and crime which, after all, are two of the most pervasive features of contemporary life.

Her combined research interests also led to her founding a new academic journal in 2006 with colleagues in London (Dr Chris Greer, City University) and the United States (Professor Jeff Ferrell, Texas Christian University). *Crime, Media, Culture: An International Journal* is published by Sage (<http://cmc.sagepub.com>) and is intended for those researchers who work at the intersections of criminological and cultural inquiry. It promotes a broad cross-disciplinary

understanding of the relationship between crime, criminal justice, media and culture, and "the journal strongly encourages graduate students to submit their work – not only full-length articles but also shorter research notes which can be more along the lines of 'work in progress'." Yvonne was delighted that in 2006 CMC received the prestigious Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers/ Charlesworth Award for 'Best New Journal.'

She has recently published three books on imprisonment – *Handbook on Prisons* (2007, Willan), *Dictionary of Prisons and Punishment*, with Jamie Bennett (Willan, 2008) and *Prison Readings*, with Helen Johnston (Willan, 2006). Yvonne is currently working on a revised second edition of *Media and Crime* (Sage) and is also producing for Sage two major three-volume works on *Prisons and Punishment and Crime and Media*. This year she also hopes to bid for research funding to carry out a study of prison architecture and design, and the impact they have on the lives of prisoners and prison staff.

She said: "The theme that brings all my research interests together and gives it some kind of coherence is an interest in identity: how masculinity is 'performed' in men's prisons; how lifers manage their identity through a disrupted life course; the possibilities that prisoners could nurture their identities as parents, partners, skilled workers, students, etc, if they were allowed access to the Internet; how new communication technologies permit individuals to create, transform, play with, or steal identities; the extent to which prison design influences the lives of prisoners, prison staff, and those in the community in which the prison is located. I have a sociological imagination which underpins and informs all my academic output."



Yvonne Jewkes joined the Department of Criminology in November 2007. Prior to this she was Reader in Criminology at the Open University.

She said: "Being appointed Professor of Criminology at the University of Leicester is a huge honour for me and a particular thrill as it was here that I started my academic career. I studied for my Masters degree in Mass Communications Research at the University of Leicester in 1989. I hadn't thought about becoming an academic but I saw a research post advertised at the Centre for the Study of Public Order (now the Department of Criminology) so I went for it and it was here that my interest in criminology started to develop. It was rather a baptism of fire for a recent graduate – my first experience of teaching was on the MA programmes in Policing and Public Order and the vast majority of our students were from the criminal justice professions, including many fairly senior police officers. I was also the designated 'media' specialist within the department which entailed everything from teaching about media constructions of public disorder, to producing a satellite TV programme about policing as part of a pan-European distance learning initiative."

Yvonne has also taught Media Studies at the former Leicester Polytechnic (now De Montfort University) and gained her PhD from the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge.



GOING GREEN

does not cost the **Earth**



The University of Leicester staged a huge environmental festival from 15-19 October. 'Big Green Week' engaged staff and students and raised awareness of environmental issues at the University campus. It demonstrated how to 'green' personal lifestyles. Before and during the week, staff and students made 1,286 pledges, committing themselves to a small lifestyle change that will benefit the environment. Staff member, Kerry Glover pledged to "continue to use public transport to get to work and try to remember to take reuseable carrier bags with me when I go shopping." Current student, Ali Craft, aimed to "try and eat only local meat and buy more ethical clothes".

Thanks to the University's Environment Team, who spearheaded the Big Green Week, the University has pledged to reduce its annual waste by 600 tonnes this year, employ a dedicated Travel Co-ordinator to support green methods of transport and to achieve fair-trade status.



Messing Around with **Reality**

Storm Thorgerson's World of Music Graphic Design



Tree of Half Life – Pink Floyd (2003)



If you don't think you know Leicester graduate Storm Thorgerson, then think again. If you've ever looked at an album cover of Pink Floyd, or Led Zeppelin, Muse, 10cc, The Mars Volta, Peter Dinklage, The Cranberries, Deepest Blue, Alan Parsons or The Catherine Wheel, among many others, then the chances are you're at least familiar with Storm Thorgerson's work.

"I hang around musicians is what I do," he writes in his book *Taken by Storm – The album art of Storm Thorgerson* (Omnibus Press). Clearly that is an important part of what he does, but equally clearly, there is a great deal more to designing album covers than that.

Now a photographer, graphic designer and artist associated with some of the biggest names from the popular music culture from the 1970s onwards, back in 1963 Storm was an English and Philosophy undergraduate at the University of Leicester.

"I had a great time at Leicester," he said. "I made three friends whom I still have and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The English course was excellent, especially the American Studies part. There was an active film club and social calendar. I have excellent memories of Leicester.

"I was delighted to go there, but scared too, because of leaving my home town, which was also a good place to be. That was Cambridge, and it was a great town to grow up in. I was reluctant to leave all my friends, but I knew it was the right and proper way to move on. So I was relieved to have a good time in Leicester, too. Not everyone does have a great time during their student years."

Tearing himself away from Leicester in 1966, Storm took an MA in Film and TV at the Royal College of Art in London, which he also enjoyed, before founding Hipgnosis with Aubrey Powell.

The graphic design studio specialised in creative photography associated with the music business and he very soon found himself designing album covers for artists like Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Genesis, Black Sabbath and Paul McCartney.

"My career came about by accident," he said, surprisingly. "Pink Floyd had gone to the same school in Cambridge as me. They asked a mutual friend to do a cover for them and he declined. I happened to be listening at the door and said, 'I'll do that'. Pink Floyd didn't want to use a record company designer. They wanted to be more independent, in control. They thought they might as well let me do it as anyone else. Fools."

Not such fools, it seems, since the partnership has weathered forty years and is highly successful.

Then, he says, he got lucky. "Luck has an awful lot to do with this. Work

begets work. Sometimes when you work for one musician you get to work for another if you're seen to be good enough at doing it."

Work for Pink Floyd led to work for a record company and via Wishbone Ash's manager to an album called *Argos*, which Led Zeppelin saw and liked. Working with musicians rapidly became Storm Thorgerson's speciality.

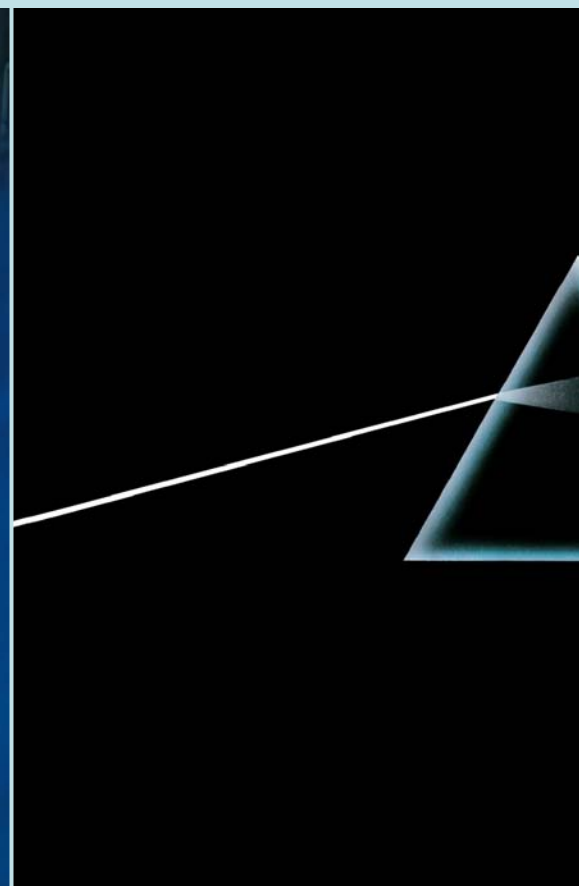
"The music is the starting point for all design ideas and we played it over and over again in varying circumstances," he writes in *Taken by Storm*, in relation to the CD front for Catherine Wheel's *Chrome*. "We read and re-read the lyrics. And we talked, scribbled, thought hard, and gradually accumulated snippets, doodles and phrases which evolved by further discussion and thinking into more concrete ideas and recognisable sketches."



Eye to Eye – Pink Floyd (2003)



Chrome – Catherine Wheel (1993)



It doesn't matter, he insists, whether he likes the music or not. Much of it he does like, but that's simply not relevant. "Liking doesn't have anything to do with your ability to interpret it. What we had to do was express a band's philosophy. Their outlook, preoccupations, obsession, the subject matter, how they would describe themselves. We had to capture their spirit in a visual. Sometimes it worked and sometimes not – mostly it worked, of course, or we wouldn't still be in business."

Much of his work questions reality, makes the viewer look twice, either because an apparently ordinary scene turns out to be quite extraordinary, or because of the bizarre juxtaposition of images. This is very much what he aims to do, to "get the viewer to look again, as they might listen to the music again, trying to persuade, invite, seduce, beguile a person into looking again."

"A painter might do it through the way he paints rather than what he paints," he explained. "A photographer can't do that, it has to be what you do rather than how you do it. Photography is a 'cold' medium, quite mechanical."

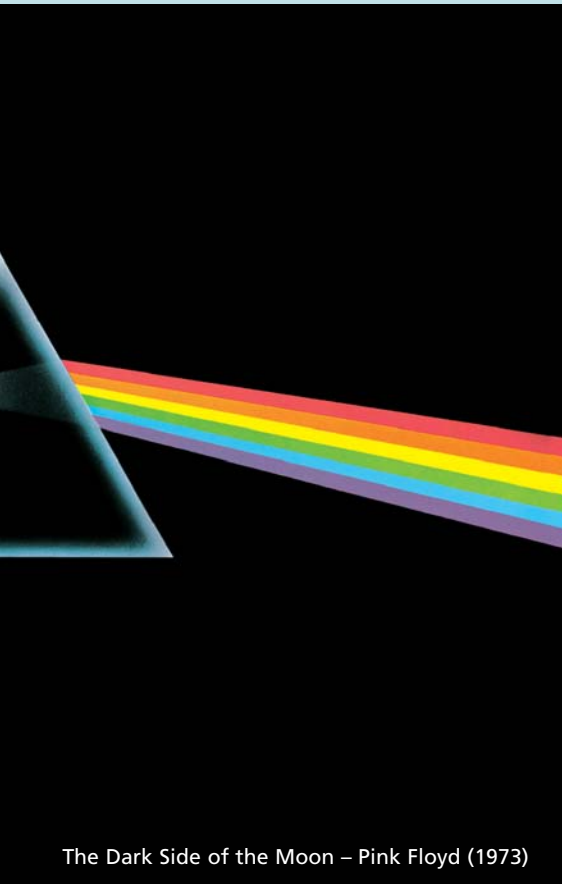
"We use photography completely differently from most photographers. We always contrive events, usually set in some strange place. I'm sometimes called surrealist, but I don't think of myself that way. Some images are just funny, others are sculptures and some are so amazing to make that I couldn't bear to leave them there or no one would ever see them. Some are like land art, some like actual events, others involve actors or models."

Generally they are photographed *in situ*, not the result of a computer mock-up. This is true, whether they are of 700 beds on a sea shore (Pink Floyd, *A Momentary Lapse of Reason*); 20 wooden telegraph poles incongruously spanning across a farmer's field, each

with a person on the top (Gentlemen without Weapons, *Transmissions*); or an ice sculpture of a swan in Death Valley, the hottest place on Earth (Blinker the Star, *August Everywhere*).

This doesn't make for easy assignments, as demonstrated by the ice swan incident described in *Taken by Storm*. "We found Gus, an ice-sculptor, over 60 but ever charming and resourceful, but even he couldn't prevent the ice truck from leaking, and couldn't prevent punctures, and couldn't envisage how rapidly the swan would melt, especially above its neck. The virtue of doing it for real was that the incandescent quality of the light bouncing around inside the ice swan was sustained, and would not have been nearly as good if we'd done it as a comp in the computer."

In the 1980s Storm tried his hand at directing music videos, but he found it a very different world and feels he wasn't very good at it, though the Pink Floyd



The Dark Side of the Moon – Pink Floyd (1973)

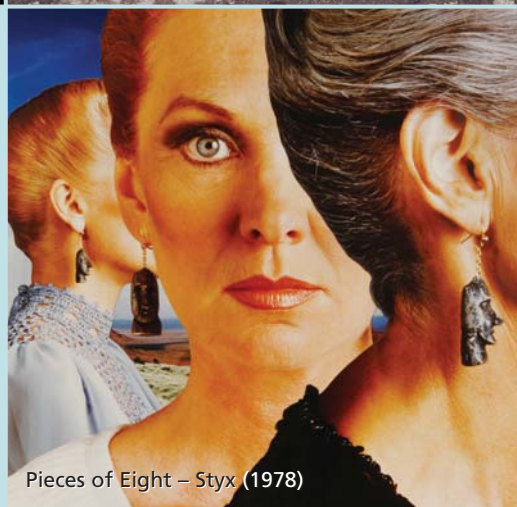
video, *Learning to Fly* won Best Director Award at the American Billboard Awards. He also directed commercials, including one for Tennants lager, *One Great Thing*, which won The Golden Rose in Scotland.

Two television documentaries followed in the early 1990s, the *Art of Tripping* for Channel 4, on artists and drugs, and the science documentary *Rubber Universe* for Equinox. He has also designed logos for bands, including Dream Theater, book covers, including Douglas Adams, and T-shirts, including for Bruce Dickinson.

But his heart lies, it seems, in designing album covers. Perhaps we should give the last word to Storm himself, again from *Taken by Storm* "Everyone likes music of some kind or another, from grannies to guardsmen, from pubescents to politicians. Music is intrinsically a good thing like trees...one of the wondrous things on this planet. Working for music feels relatively clean and wholesome, if not spiritually satisfying."



Stomp 442 – Anthrax (1995)



Pieces of Eight – Styx (1978)



Sentient Stardust – Marsha Swanson (2007)

Storm Thorgerson's work can be seen at: www.stormthorgerson.com/

Album Covers

- The Dark Side of the Moon – Pink Floyd (1973)
- Stomp 442 – Anthrax (1995)
- Folding Stars – song from the album Puzzle by Biffy Clyro (2007) (Front Cover)
- Tree of Half Life – Pink Floyd (2003)
- Eye to Eye – Pink Floyd (2003)
- Chrome – Catherine Wheel (1993)
- Pieces of Eight – Styx (1978)
- Sentient Stardust – Marsha Swanson (2007)

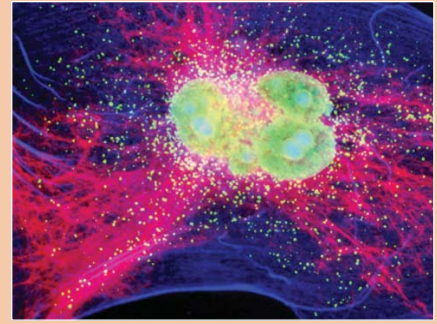
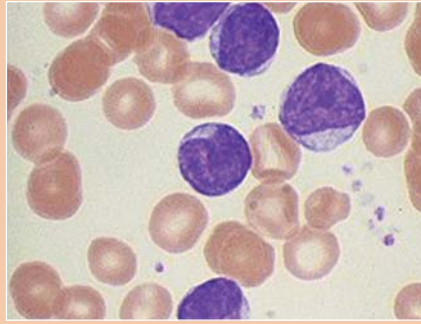
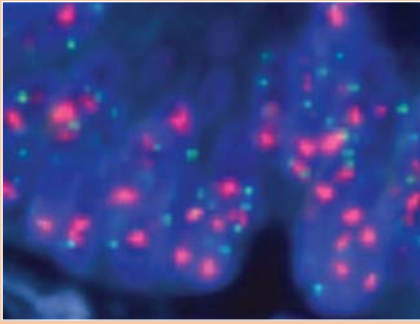
Leading Research in cancer prevention and food derivatives

A white bowl filled with brown rice sits next to a single blueberry. To the right of the blueberry is a large, bold, red letter 'd'. The background is a solid light orange color with a large, stylized DNA double helix structure in a lighter shade of orange winding across the right side and bottom of the page.

If only we were all to eat enough of the right sort of fruit and vegetables every day we would almost certainly be less likely to suffer from certain cancers.

Simple as this sounds, it is difficult to persuade people to change to a healthier lifestyle, and researchers into cancer prevention at the University of Leicester are investigating pills derived from foods that are believed to prevent cancer. Work they have already done with laboratory models suggests the pills, too, could be effective.

Over the past decade, the University of Leicester Department of Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine has become a world leader in research into chemoprevention (stopping cells becoming malignant), using substances derived from food to prevent or slow down breast, colon and prostate cancer.



Cancer cells: (l) Fluorescent labelling of DNA markers from the bowel wall; (r) cell stained with fluorescent antibodies to show different cell components

Research led by Professors Andy Gescher and Will Steward (head of the University's Department of Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine) looks at how food-derived substances interfere with developing cancer cells, how they get into the circulation and reach the cancer tissue that is targeted, and how long they remain in the human organism. Their research results have been widely reported around the world.

Chemoprevention studies into diet-derived substances at Leicester began in 2000 with the study of the curry constituent curcumin. Since then, the research has attracted international interest and a succession of prestigious grants. Most recently, early in 2007, the University of Leicester and Leicester's hospitals were awarded funding from Cancer Research UK and the Department of Health to set up the Leicester Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre. The Centre, the only group in the East Midlands to be awarded this funding, will receive approximately £1m over five

years, which has given its research a significant boost.

Speaking of this award, Professor Steward said: "Our main aim will be to develop cancer preventative drugs. We will be recruiting normal healthy volunteers to a series of studies and take a variety of specimens to help find new ways to detect cancer early and follow its progress during treatment.

"This funding is vital to help us develop new approaches to preventing cancer and may help us to find new treatments for cancer once it has become established. We can bring together laboratory and clinical research and share knowledge and resources with other experimental cancer centres in the UK."

Since their initial research into curcumin, Professors Will Steward and Andy Gescher have led research into resveratrol (from red berries and red wine), tricin (from brown rice), and polyphenols from tea. Their laboratory findings indicate that these food-derived substances not only appear to be effective on pre-cancerous

cells, but also cancerous cells. Safe to use, they do not have the potential side effects of traditional anti-cancer drugs. The next challenge is to establish that they work effectively for humans.

If so, then derivatives from these foods could reduce the risk of some cancer in some people, and could offer alternatives to drugs currently used to treat advanced malignancy.

Speaking recently on Leicester's research into chemoprevention at a National Cancer Research Institute Conference, Professor Steward said: "The compounds seem to work through a wide variety of mechanisms, including altering signals which reduce blood vessel formation, and by reducing DNA changes which can cause the cells to become malignant.

"We believe that this approach is a logical way to tackle the huge problem that societies face with the increasing incidence of cancer. It has to be much better to prevent or delay cancer than to treat it once it has occurred.

"If the research is successful we could prevent a huge amount of distress caused to patients and families – not just from the cancer itself, but also from the side effects of treatment."

"Left to right Mohammad [Al-Fayez] with Professor Gescher, Dr Hong Cai and Professor Steward"



Bilberries

In one of several related research projects part-funded by Hope Against Cancer, Professor Andy Gescher is currently leading an investigation to carry out clinical trials with the commercially produced substance Mirtoselect (extracted from bilberries). The hope is to use these agents as drugs to stop colorectal and liver cancer from developing in apparently healthy people, and to prevent it recurring in patients who have been successfully treated. Ideally, there would be very few, or no, side effects, and so the substances could be taken daily for many years.



Tea

A research project involving Leicester Professor Kilian Mellon and Dr Bruno Morgan is investigating tea polyphenols as prostate cancer preventive agents, and has already progressed to clinical trials. In the laboratory, both green and black tea polyphenols have been shown to slow the growth of human prostate cancer cells and have inhibited prostate cancer in laboratory models.



Rice Bran

Early in 2007, new laboratory research revealed for the first time that rice bran could reduce the risk of intestinal cancer. Published in the *British Journal of Cancer*, results from a controlled

laboratory study in a pre-clinical model of gastrointestinal adenoma indicated that consumption of a high daily dose of stabilised rice bran caused an average 51% reduction in the number of pre-cancerous adenomas in the intestinal tract.

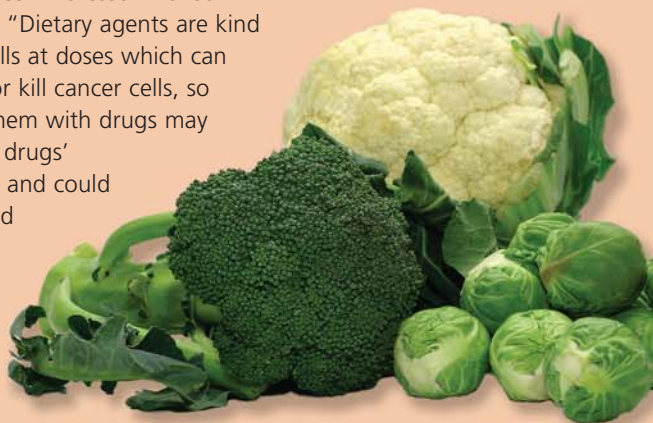


Red Wine

This project tests the hypothesis that resveratrol (a polyphenol found in red wine and many fruits), when taken in large doses, generates agent levels in the human body which have been shown to engage cancer chemopreventive mechanisms in experiments in cells in test tubes. The research, carried out in collaboration with the University of Michigan, USA, received funding from the US National Cancer Institute (NCI), the major US government body to fund and co-ordinate cancer research, the first time that a group outside the US had been funded by the NCI for the early clinical development of a drug that may prevent cancer.

Greens

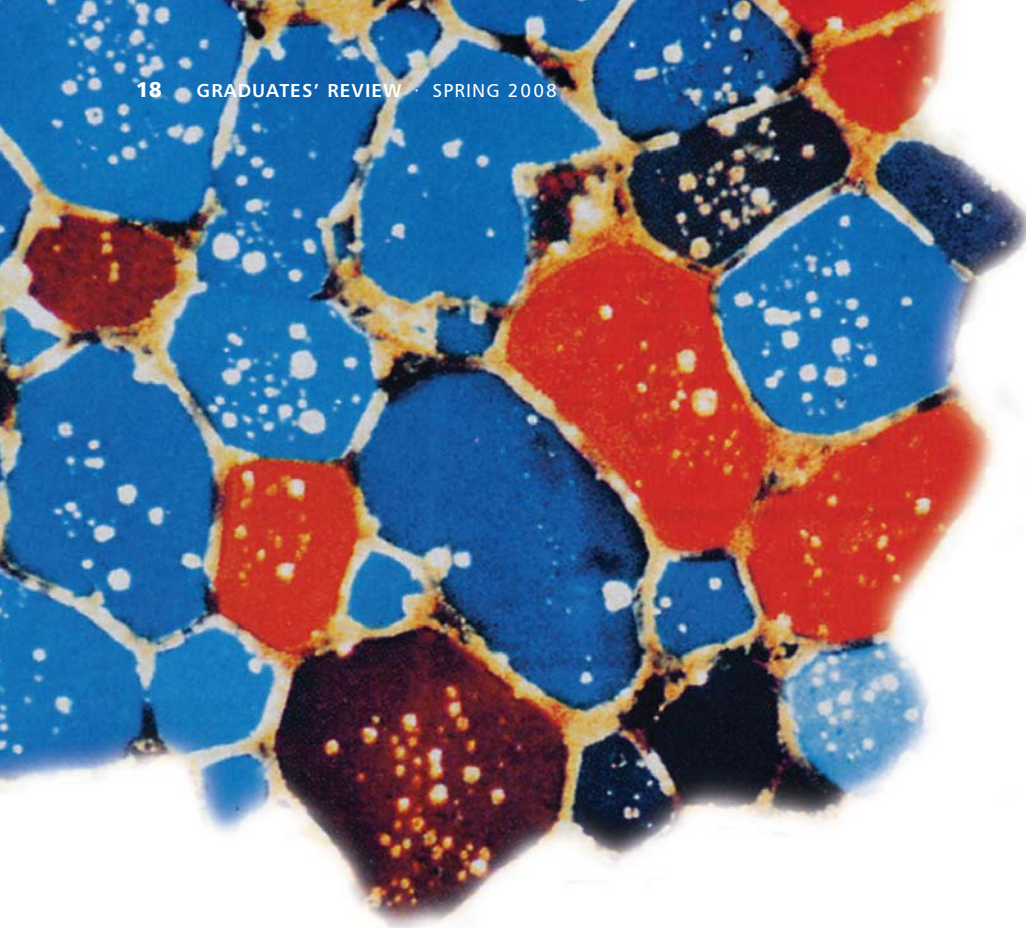
Leicester scientists led by Professor Margaret Manson have found that a molecule in vegetables such as broccoli and cabbage (Indole-3-carbinol) can inhibit the growth of breast cancer cells and could be used in conjunction with drugs to help fight the cancer. Professor Manson commented: "Dietary agents are kind to normal cells at doses which can slow down or kill cancer cells, so combining them with drugs may enhance the drugs' effectiveness and could allow reduced doses to be given to patients."



Commitment and Clear Thinking *Lead to* **Highest Honour**

In July 2007, Professor Helen Atkinson, Head of the Mechanics of Materials Group at the University of Leicester, was awarded the highest accolade an engineer can receive in the UK.





Micro-structure of an aluminium alloy; in this state the gold regions represent what is liquid at high temperature and the red and blue regions what is solid.

Professor Atkinson, described as among the 'cream of the UK's engineering talent', was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, one of only two women elected last year. The Royal Academy has 1,407 Fellows. Only 27 are women.

She is, of course, thrilled at her election to the Royal Academy of Engineering. "I feel incredibly honoured, but I also see it as a recognition of the teams of people I've worked with over the years. I've been very fortunate in that respect and I see this as a tribute to them as well as to what I've achieved."

Professor Atkinson joined the University of Leicester in 2002. Her research interests are on semi-solid processing (thixoforming) of metallic alloys and on the application of statistics to materials research problems.

"My work is all about how you shape metal alloys when they are part liquid and part solid – like ice cream," she explained. "You can then make car components, for example, which are lighter and stronger than conventional

ones. I am also involved with the steel industry, improving the quality of steel, and the power generation industry, helping to predict whether it's safe for components to continue in operation over long periods of time."

Helen Atkinson graduated from Cambridge with a first class degree in Metallurgy and Materials Science. "It's all about how the micro-structure of materials influences their properties and their strengths," she said. "One of the things that is so fascinating is that the microstructures are incredibly beautiful. It's a marriage of the aesthetic and the utilitarian."

She had come from an all-girls' grammar school, which had only begun to take in boys in the year below hers. "I think hardly any of the girls at the school had gone on to study engineering or physical sciences, so I was unusual in that respect. I was just terribly determined to do it."

She was, as it happens, breaking another stereotype. She was the granddaughter of a miner and her family had no history of university entrance.

"Cambridge was an absolutely fantastic experience, both academic and otherwise," she said. "The important thing for students is to develop self confidence in their abilities within a disciplined academic environment. Cambridge enabled me to do that. As women students, we gradually developed confidence in how to learn and take responsibility for learning."

"I think it is important to be confident enough to say you don't understand something and to be in an environment where you are not 'put down' for admitting it. The environment at Cambridge enabled us to flourish and I believe it is the atmosphere we encourage in our Engineering teaching at Leicester."

She sees her student years as pivotal in the acceptance of women in degrees such as hers. "It was 1981, and I think we were one of the first years in which there had been significant numbers of women. As the 80s progressed female intake in Metallurgy and Material Sciences grew to become between a quarter and a third. In other areas of engineering numbers of women have remained smaller and even today they are only between 15-18 per cent overall at undergraduate level."

After Cambridge, Helen gained a PhD on the transmission electron microscopy of grain growth in oxide scales from Imperial College of Science and Technology. She had graduated as a metallurgist, but one of the things she appreciates about engineering is its flexibility, and as her career progressed she moved into mechanical engineering.

She worked first for the UK Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell, including a period as assistant to the Director for Nuclear Power working on strategic business planning. Then, in 1989, she moved to Sheffield City Polytechnic and a year later joined the University of Sheffield as Lecturer in Engineering Materials.

"Engineering makes an enormous impact on everyday life. Transport, energy, healthcare and communications all depend on the skills and expertise of engineers. We shape the future, and I am privileged at the University of Leicester to be teaching some of the best engineers."

The breadth of her career and her achievements are all the more remarkable since, for 14 years, she worked part-time in order to bring up her three children, now in their mid teens. When they were very young she worked half-time and has built up her hours as they have grown older, now working full-time once more.

"I am hugely grateful for all the team-working and the people who worked with me, who really contributed to my being able to combine family and work. I wanted to spend time with the children when they were small," she said. "Part-time working enabled me to do that."

The arrangement succeeded for her, she believes, because she understood from the start that while hours could be part-time, commitment should not be. "I've always been very careful to understand what is important to the department. To be a good teacher, get good feedback, get research money, run my research well, nurture PhD

students – really to make a full contribution to what the departments at Sheffield and Leicester needed.

"I'm also very grateful that in both universities I have had very clear-eyed Heads of Department who were flexible and thought carefully about how we could set up the job so that it was capable of being done in a part-time capacity. It shows that if employers can take a long-term view in the early days of someone's career, they may end up with someone with a FREng or the equivalent."

Professor Atkinson runs the highly successful Undergraduate Ambassador Scheme in Engineering at Leicester, for which students go into local schools for half a day each week for one term.

"Role models are important," she said. "The more contact pupils have with real engineers the better. They learn it's about team-working and it's people-orientated, not at all the 'spanner in the workshop' sort of job they might imagine."

She is optimistic that more women will be attracted into the profession in time. "Many young women are pragmatic and we need to get across the fact that there is a huge demand for capable engineers. Starting salaries are generally higher than the average for a graduate and career prospects are good."

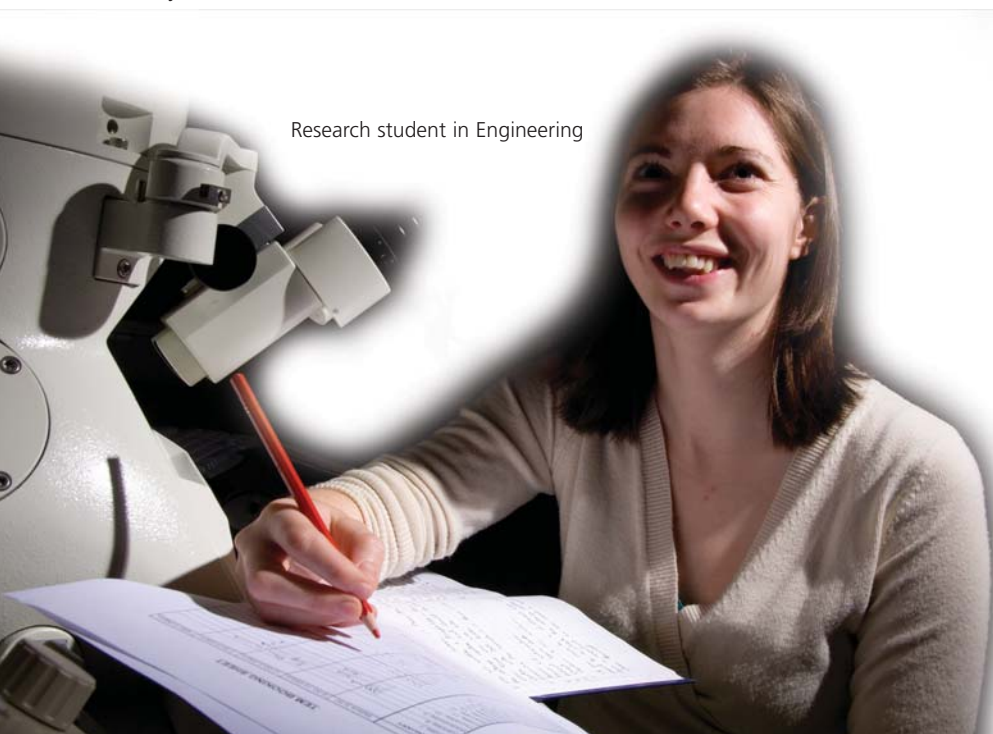
She is, she admits, proud to belong to the Engineering Department at Leicester. "It's an excellent department, with a lot of internationally acclaimed research, and teaching of a high standard from staff who really do care about their undergraduates and postgraduates.

"Engineering makes an enormous impact on everyday life. Transport, energy, healthcare and communications all depend on the skills and expertise of engineers. We shape the future, and I am privileged at the University of Leicester to be teaching some of the best engineers."

As part of Professor Atkinson's 'part-time' career, she has served on a number of official bodies, including government panels; Institute of Materials and Institute of Metals Councils; HEFCE Teaching Quality Assessment in Materials; British Transport Police Committee; and the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee for the Appointment of magistrates in Rotherham.

Professor Atkinson is a member of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Structural Materials College and has served on and chaired panels prioritising proposals for funding. She was a member of the EPSRC Panel evaluating the Materials Portfolio (~800 projects) (1998-2000). She is a member of the Engineering Professors Council Committee and is leading, on their behalf, a national study of the costs of teaching engineering in universities.

Research student in Engineering



The University



1957-58

Registered students 953

Undergraduate full-time students by Faculty

Arts	306
Science	290
Social Science	120

Full-time students 953

Gender

Male	58%
Female	42%

Cup of coffee 4d

(27p in today's money according to the Retail Price Index)

Since gaining university status in 1957 the University has gone from strength to strength to become a leading international university.

In 1957, when the University College of Leicester officially became the University of Leicester, it was one of the smallest universities in England, bigger only than the University College of North Stafford (now known as Keele University). The University had only 120 staff and 800 students, rising to 953 students by the end of the 1957/58 academic year.

The University's first year was very different to its 50th year: women lived in separate Halls and housing; students were expected to wear academic gowns to lectures and there were only two teaching buildings on campus – Astley Clarke and Fielding Johnson. The Percy Gee Building, now home to the Students' Union, was opened in 1958 and was described by the *Leicester Evening Mail* as "one of the most magnificent buildings in Leicester."

The feeling within the new University was that it should maintain its 'small' scale. The Secretary of the Students' Union predicted in the *Leicester Mercury* "Leicester will never have a really big University... there would never be a student population of 3,000 as at some universities." If only he had known...

The University campus has grown massively in the past 50 years to accommodate student growth. Most of today's recognisable landmarks have been added since 1957; including the Charles Wilson Building, the Engineering Building, and the Attenborough Tower – which still houses the UK's tallest functioning paternoster lift. The campus now contains 23 main buildings and the University owns a whopping 216 properties in total.

Whilst the campus may have become home to architecturally diverse buildings

of Leicester



over the years, graduates recall their time here by the sculptures decorating the lawn in front of the Fielding Johnson Building – beginning with Henry Moore's *Draped Seated Woman* in 1970, replaced a year later by his *Oval With Points*. Since 1990 Helaine Blumenfeld's stunning *Souls* has pride of place and remains on site to this day. More recently, the University's Harold Martin Botanic Garden in Oadby, has become synonymous with international art, having been the venue for the annual 'Sculpture in the Garden' exhibition every year since 2002.

Today, records show that the University has in excess of 19,000 registered students, made up primarily of 10,000 full-time and over 7,000 distance learning students. With this in mind, it is not hard to believe that more than 90,000 students have graduated from the University. Ms Wendy Baldwin (now known as Mrs Wendy Hickling) has the historical honour of being the University's very first graduate in 1958.

The University has enjoyed many firsts; such as being the first UK university to own and run its own Bookshop, the first university to win University Challenge in 1963 and our students were among the

first to stage a sit-in in 1968. Although the protest was in those days unusual, Leicester students were previously involved in at least one other demonstration in 1958 when they had boycotted the student refectory as a protest to the increase in the price of a cup of coffee from 3d to 4d.

Graduates are not alone in spreading Leicester's standing world wide. The University today has an international reputation for its work; its research impact is top in the Midlands, 10th in the UK and the University itself is ranked in the world's top 200 universities. In the National Student Survey Leicester recorded the highest student satisfaction rate in England for three successive years among mainstream universities and in 2007 was nominated for 'University of the Year' by *The Sunday Times*.

From humble beginnings the University of Leicester has flourished and become a world-class academic institution with its sights set firmly on the future. With a £300m investment plan over the next 30 years, building space will increase by 30 per cent and student numbers will rise from 19,000 to 25,000, paving the way towards another triumphant stage in its continuing evolution.

2007-08

Registered students 19,375

Undergraduate full-time students by Faculty

Arts	1,679
Science	1,442
Social Science	1,642
Law	888
Medicine & Biological Sciences	2,266

Full-time students 10,045

Gender

Male	46.5%
Female	53.5%

Cup of coffee 94p

University News

To find out more about the University or the stories listed here, log on to www.le.ac.uk

Opening of John Foster Hall



A state-of-the-art residential and catering facility was formally named John Foster Hall in December 2007, in honour of the former Chairman of Council Mr John Foster OBE.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess said that the accommodation had hugely impressed students, parents, and other universities. He added:

"We are very happy to name the hall after John Foster who has been associated with the University since the mid-90s



and been Chairman of Council since 1998. He has helped and guided the University through a whole range of activities, for example developing graduate work and the Graduate School and establishing a fundraising campaign from a standing start with Nicholas Corah as Chairman of a small fundraising group."

Mr Foster thanked the University, which he said had been part of his life: "The University is in my blood – and will be for the rest of my life."

Minister Praises Research in Physics and Astronomy



Science and Innovation Minister Ian Pearson was in Leicester for the opening of the *Space Now* gallery at the National Space Centre – created with the involvement of University staff – and to visit the facilities at the University's Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Mr Pearson praised the research at Leicester as 'world-class science' and added: "It was great to hear of some of the work you are doing on the future space missions but also on some of the missions with ESA, NASA, in India, China and Russia as well. It is good that the University is plugged into working in space programmes right around the world."

Timing of the Minister's visit was important as the government was expected to issue a new space policy by the year-end. Mr Pearson was confident about the future of the UK space industry and saw space as one of the key ways of interesting young people into taking science at university.

New Research into Presidential DNA

DNA testing carried out by University of Leicester geneticists and funded by The Wellcome Trust has thrown new light on the ancestry of the USA's third President, Thomas Jefferson.

Ten years ago, University of Leicester geneticists led by Professor Mark Jobling and international collaborators showed that Thomas Jefferson had fathered at least one of the sons of Sally Hemings, a slave of Jefferson's. The work was done using the Y chromosome – a male-specific part of our DNA that passes down from father to son. Jefferson carried a very unusual Y chromosome type, which helped to strengthen the evidence in the historical paternity case.

Now, new techniques applied to Jefferson's Y chromosome, have revealed that the presidential chromosome belongs to a rare class called 'K2', most frequently found in the Middle East and Eastern Africa. A few K2 chromosomes have been traced in France, Spain and England. Research in the UK revealed that two out of 85 randomly recruited men named



Jefferson (from Yorkshire and the West Midlands) shared exactly the same Y chromosome as the President. Professor Jobling said: "The two men...knew of no historical connection to the USA. They were amazed and fascinated by the link, which connects them into Thomas Jefferson's family tree, probably about 11 generations ago."

Earth Enters New Era



In the journal *GSA Today*, Leicester geologists Dr Jan Zalasiewicz and Dr Mark Williams presented research that proposed a change from one epoch in the Earth's history (the Holocene era) to another (the Anthropocene era).

The scientists suggested these changes occurred as a result of the global environmental effects of increased human population and economic development, and cited the human impact on phenomena such as:

- Transformed patterns of sediment erosion and deposition worldwide
- Major disturbances to the carbon cycle and global temperature
- Wholesale changes to the world's plants and animals
- Ocean acidification.

Picasso Ceramics: The Attenborough Collection



(l – r) Vice-Chancellor Professor Burgess with Lord Attenborough

A major exhibition of unique Picasso ceramics collected by Lord and Lady Attenborough was on display for the first time between June and September 2007 at Leicester's New Walk Museum and Art Gallery.

Lord and Lady Attenborough plan to donate the entire collection to the city of Leicester to commemorate the lives of their daughter, Jane Mary, and their granddaughter, Lucy Elizabeth, who perished in the Asian Tsunami in 2004.

The exhibition of more than 100 pieces explored Picasso's developing relationship with ceramics between 1947-1973 and traced the artist's development during his years at the Madoura pottery factory in Vallauris, France.

Lord Attenborough said: "My family and I have experienced untold joy assembling our ceramic collection over the last fifty years. We are so happy to be able to share our delight with those visiting the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery".

Archaeology at Leicester Celebrates 50 Years of Success



A special day of events was planned for graduates on 15 March 2008 to celebrate 50 years of teaching and research in the internationally acclaimed School of Archaeology, as well as forty years of teaching Classics and Ancient History.

This special occasion marked the successes and landmarks that Leicester archaeologists have achieved over the years and the

launch of an anniversary book, *Digging up our Past* by Dr Alan McWhirr, on the history of the School and its students since 1957.

A series of presentations gave graduates a chance to catch up with fresh research developments. Former head of Archaeology at Leicester, Professor Graeme Barker, (now Disney Professor of Archaeology at Cambridge) gave his view of the School in the 1990s; Charlotte Roberts (now Professor of Archaeology at Durham) proffered a former student's view; and Professor of Roman Archaeology David Mattingly discussed past and current fieldwork projects.

The School gained its international standing from the reputation of its archaeologists world wide and the results of its fieldwork and research in six continents.

Head of School, Colin Haselgrove, commented: "From its modest beginnings in the History Department in 1957, the grouping of archaeologists and ancient historians that makes up the School today is one of the largest and most distinctive of its kind anywhere, with a reputation that is truly worldwide."

Link between Fish Diet and Evolution

Stickleback tooth chips and scratches formed 10 million years ago as part of normal tooth wear in living fish from a lake in Nevada have revealed how changes in the way an animal feeds control its evolution over thousands of years. The evidence that feeding and diet is an important control on evolution is the first time that this aspect of Darwin's theory has been directly testable.

Leicester geologist Dr Mark Purnell explained: "Like footprints in sand, the wear on teeth preserves a trail of evidence of how a fish feeds and what it feeds on. The difficult bit was learning how to read that trail."

The research team from Leicester and Stony Brook in the US captured living stickleback, fed them

different kinds of food in different conditions and then examined their teeth using a powerful electron microscope. The team also looked at the teeth of wild stickleback, which had been feeding naturally from Alaskan lakes.

Leicester's Professor Paul Hart explained that stickleback that feed from lake bottoms have different tooth wear from those that eat water fleas and the like which swim around in open water and that the fossil teeth have almost exactly the same wear patterns as living stickleback but they have changed through time.



© Dr Mark Purnell, University of Leicester

Rugby: University of Leicester vs De Montfort University

The Welford Road pitch, home of the *Leicester Tigers*, was the venue for the Men's and Women's rugby varsity matches against De Montfort University in March 2008. Weeks of training paid off in a 15-0 win for the Leicester Women's team who retained their undefeated title for the 5th consecutive year before a crowd of more than 4,000 enthusiastic supporters.



90 minutes later, the men's teams squared up. At the close of play, the Leicester Men's team led by 15-9 and regained the varsity trophy for the first time since 2004.

Alumni News

To find out more about the University or the stories listed here, log on to www.le.ac.uk/alumni

Reception at the Palace of Westminster



"My husband and I travelled more than 3,000 miles to attend this unforgettable event" said Elaine Latour (MSc Security and Risk Management 2005).

The occasion was the first alumni event during the University's 50th Anniversary year and was held at the House of Lords. Sponsored by the Rt Revd Tim Stevens, Bishop of Leicester (Honorary Doctor of Letters 2003), this evening reception took place in the Cholmondeley Room and adjoining Terrace overlooking the Thames, Westminster Bridge and the London Eye.

Close to two hundred graduates and guests mingled with university staff, fellow graduates and a sprinkling of Lords. They came from all areas of the UK and further afield, including the USA and Norway. After the reception most graduates took advantage of special guided tours around the Palace of Westminster.

Recent Graduates Meet in London and Leicester



In May, recent graduates (of the last 10 years), who live or work in the city of London, received a special invitation to meet with fellow graduates at the *Pitcher and Piano Bar* in Trafalgar Square (which was grassed over for two days last summer). Graduates took advantage of the occasion to drop in after work and catch up on news from Leicester.

A similar 'drop in' event was held in Leicester in October at the Redfearn Bar in the Students' Union. It was a lively evening as students arrived to watch the Euro 2008 qualifying match where Scotland was victorious against the Ukraine in a 3-1 victory. There were cheers all round when Scotland's James McFadden secured the final goal in the 68th minute.



Students' Union Trustees

University of Leicester
Students' Union



The Students' Union will become a registered charity within the next 2 to 3 years under the Charities Act 2006. For this reason, we are seeking four external Trustees with a range of skills to oversee Students' Union activities and ensure that they comply with all the legal requirements of a registered charity. If you would be interested in applying for one of these posts please see the website for further information at: <http://www.leicesterstudent.org/trustees>



Celebrity Speakers Mark the University's 50th Year



Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, was the first of three high-profile speakers to lecture at the University in November. Speaking on "Climate Change and the God Delusion", the Bishop offered a Christian perspective on climate change, one of the important issues of the day, in a city of many diverse cultures and faiths. The lecture was sponsored by The Very Reverend Derek Hole (Honorary Doctor of Laws 2005).



Honorary Doctor of Science 2006, Professor Dame Carol Black, DBE, MD, FRCP, MACP, FMedSci gave the 2007 Frank May lecture on "Fibrosis – a major unsolved medical problem". Internationally acclaimed for her research in rheumatology and connective tissue disorders, Dame Carol holds many distinguished positions in Medical Sciences, including being the first National Director of Health and Work and current Chairman of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.



Writer, broadcaster, Leicester graduate and Honorary Doctor of Letters 2006, Professor Laurie Taylor gave the inside story of fictional Poppleton University, in a public lecture entitled "Articulated Laurie". The talk consisted of recollections and hilarious anecdotes from Laurie's past. In addition to being Professor of Sociology at the University of York he has enjoyed a successful career in broadcasting – as a regular contributor on *Stop the Week* and as presenter on Radio 4's *Thinking Allowed*.

Former SU President Advocates Lifelong Learning

Stan Miller, graduate and former President of the Students' Union (1956-1957) returned to the University in October, this time as President of IAUTA (International Association of Universities of the Third Age). Stan has been involved in learning all his life – as a teacher, working for the LEA, and President of IAUTA – and credits his good health and active lifestyle to his involvement in Life Long Learning.

His return to Leicester was to attend a meeting of IAUTA's Governing Board, hosted by the University's Institute of Lifelong Learning. Stan's memories of the University of Leicester in the 1950s gave us a wonderful insight into the changing student experience at the University.



Highest University Honour for Leicester's First Graduate

Mrs Wendy Hickling (née Baldwin) was literally the first graduate to receive a University of Leicester degree; she earned a BA in English in 1958.

After graduation, she embarked on a demanding career in public service for over forty years. Her accomplishments were recognised by the award of an honorary Doctor of Laws from Leicester in 1998, and two years later by an OBE from HM the Queen.

As a volunteer she served on many University committees: from Convocation for 16 years and on the University's Court and Council for 20 years. In January 2008, she was awarded a Distinguished Honorary Fellowship, the University's highest honour.



Upcoming Events

Alumni Association Annual Lecture

Date and Time: 6pm, Wednesday 7 May 2008

Place: University of Leicester (Lecture Theatre TBA)

Title: Fifty Years as a Space Scientist –
Studying the Hot and Violent Universe

The 2008 Lecture will be given by Ken Pounds, Emeritus Professor of Space Physics at the University and Fellow of the Royal Society since 1981. Professor Pounds played a leading role in the development of X-ray Astronomy in the UK and Europe and was an early pioneer in using rockets and satellites for research in the area of active galaxies. One of his many discoveries was proof that black holes are common in the universe. His lecture will describe the highlights of the last four decades of space exploration from small national projects to global observatories.



Reception at the Bank of England

Date and Time: 6pm, Thursday 27 November 2008

Place: Bank of England, Museum

Graduates of the University will receive an invitation in September 2008 to a reception at the Bank of England Museum in the heart of London. Hosted by a fellow alumnus, graduates will be able to enjoy a special visit to the premises in the company of former colleagues and friends. Registration for the event will be on a "first come, first served" basis.

To receive full details, please make sure we have your latest email address at: alumni.relations@le.ac.uk or and visit the website at: www.le.ac.uk/alumni/



Celebrate Leicester Day in 2008

Date: Saturday 26 April 2008

Place: University of Leicester

The *Celebrate Leicester Day* is one of many highlights during our 50th Anniversary Year. On this occasion the University will be wide open to welcome graduates, friends and the wider community and you will be able to make up your own programme from the activities on offer - explore every department, attend mini-lectures, films, hands-on displays and visit the newly opened David Wilson Library – at your leisure or on one of the scheduled guided tours.

For this year only, the *Celebrate Leicester Day* will take the place of the 2008 *Homecoming*. However, there are a number of activities **exclusively for graduates and guests**, to enable you to meet up with fellow graduates.

Join us for a free drinks reception at midday, a Review of the University by Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess and a special alumni lunch. For these activities, advance registration is required by completing the tear-off portion on the enclosed flyer.

Information: 0116 252 2153 / 2915 / 2354

CALLING MEMBERS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the granting of its Royal Charter, the University of Leicester is an established university with a proud past and an exciting future. Currently it features in the Top 20 in three major British university league tables and in the top 200 in both international world tables. For 3 years it has ranked top for student satisfaction amongst mainstream English universities.

We are currently seeking keen and enthusiastic professionals to join the Association's Standing Committee of Convocation to help formulate and steer our developing relationship with our alumni. The role is only open to members of the University. Time and commitment is required which will be rewarded by a fulfilling role as part of a team taking the Association forward. For further information please contact: alumni.relations@le.ac.uk or tel. 0116 252 2153 before 18 April 2008.



**University of
Leicester**

Annual Fund

Recruiting supporters one by one

A team of 30 student callers raised more than £70,000 for the University last year and they did it one call at a time.

The team places calls to about 15,000 graduates. Annual Fund Officer Helen Richardson, who oversees the annual telephone campaign, says their

approach to raising money has nothing to do with a hard sell. Graduates are informed in advance to expect a telephone call. "Our students are acting as ambassadors and are genuinely interested in what graduates are doing. When a graduate makes a gift, it benefits the donor, the University and it gives our student callers a real sense of achievement."

Helen believes that student callers pick up invaluable skills from the experience of calling and learn to deal with almost any situation. "They develop their communication skills and learn how to troubleshoot." Last year there were more than 70,000 reasons to assume they are on the right track.

PS There is still time for graduates to join in this year's appeal (on page 29).



Welcome to the new David Wilson Library

Graduates will be among the first to visit the new David Wilson Library at the *Celebrate Leicester Day* on Saturday 26 April 2008 – you will be able to wander around at your own pace, or take one of the staff-guided tours, planned throughout the day.

The building, in a contemporary design, combines state-of-the-art technology with the strengths of the traditional research library. Light and spacious, the new construction provides 162,653 square feet of space over five floors and is conducive to study with its choice of study environments.

The Library has been designed to meet the highest standards of energy efficiency, including solar louvres that produce clean, green electricity and underscore the University's future commitment to clean energy and sustainable development.

Outstanding Library features:

- A Café and Bookshop at the entrance
- A 'one stop shop' for student support – a Student Development Zone, the AccessAbility Centre and a combined Library and IT Service Help Zone
- A variety of different study spaces from formal to informal, individual to group study, for a total of 1,500 students
- A Graduate School Reading Room, exclusive to postgraduates and University staff

- Improved IT facilities including Wi-Fi (internet access) and IT training rooms
- A new Special Collections Suite designed to meet the British Standard for housing rare collections
- 38 kilometres of shelving (to house 20 years' growth in the collections)
- A 500 seat lecture theatre

The David Wilson Library is the centrepiece of the University's £300 million Development Plan.



ROLL OF BENEFACTORS 2007-2008

Thank you for your generous support

Thank you to all those benefactors listed below, and to our 77 anonymous givers, who made a contribution to our Annual Fund between 1 April 2007 – 20 February 2008.

Mrs Jacqui Adams (née Wharf)
Mrs Marion P Adams
Mrs Valerie L Adamson MBE (née Peek)
Ms Deborah J Adcock (née Cliffe)
Mr John B M & Mrs Caroline M Adlen
Mr Derek F Akohene
Dr Mary S Albury
Dr GR & Mrs Elizabeth Allan
Mrs Sheila L Allcock (née Wood)
Mr James A Ambrose
Mrs Maureen Ambrose (née Oliver)
Mrs Susan M E Ambrose (née Porter)
Mrs Andrea J Ames
Mr Paul T Anderson
Mr Richard E Anderson
Mrs Sarah L Anderson (née Harburn)
Dr Anthony W Andrews
Mr David T Arden
Mr John E & Mrs Jean L Aslett
Mr Emmanuel Atta-Boaky
Mr Charles R M Bagot
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University Keepsakes



To view or purchase please visit our website
www.le.ac.uk/alumni/memorabilia.html



During this, our 50th Anniversary Year, the University has launched a new range of university memorabilia for graduates. Along with the traditional favourites such as ties and scarves, we have introduced a selection of Dartington crystal glassware for special occasions.

How your generosity can help the students of today



Ways to contribute

► If you would like to make a contribution, please fill in and return the form to the address below.

• **Regular Gifts** – By setting up a Banker's Order, you can make a regular gift to the University – on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis – over a fixed period of time (we recommend 3 years). Alternatively, you may prefer to set up a Banker's Order without an end-date and advise your bank to stop payments whenever you wish. Please complete section 1 and 2.

• **Single Gifts** – You may make a donation of any amount by cheque, credit, debit, or charge card. Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) vouchers or CAF card are also accepted. Please complete sections 1 and 3.

• **Gift Aid Declaration** – Since April 6 2000, if you are paying UK income or capital gains tax the University is able to reclaim the tax you have paid on any gift, boosting the value of your gift by 22% at no cost to you. To enable us to do this, please complete section 4 Gift Aid Declaration.

• **Higher Rate Taxpayers** – Higher rate taxpayers can claim the difference between the higher rate of 40% and the basic rate of 22%. This means a Banker's Order of £25 a month would only cost £19.23 a month and a £500 donation would cost you just £386.

• **Directing Your Gift** – Please indicate which area you prefer to support in section 5.

Annual Giving

Creating Opportunities for Students



University of
Leicester

1. Details of Supporter

Name

Address

2. Regular Gift - Banker's Order

Name and address of Bank/Building Society

Post Code

Acct No

Sort Code

Please transfer the sum of £ ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually
to the account of the University of Leicester (92642689) at HSBC Bank plc. 31 Granby Street Leicester LE1 6EP
(sort code 40 28 06)

Beginning on 20 ☐ for years (we recommend 3)
☐ or until further notice

Signed Date

3. Single Gift I wish to make a gift of:

☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ £250 ☐ £500 ☐ Other £

☐ I enclose a cheque or CAF voucher made payable to the 'University of Leicester'.

☐ I would like to make my gift by credit/debit card Visa/Mastercard/Delta/Maestro/Solo

Card Number

Start Date Expiry Date Issue No Signed

4. Gift Aid declaration - UK taxpayers only

Name of Charity: University of Leicester (Inland Revenue Reference X 23305/3)

If you pay income tax or capital gains tax, the Charity can reclaim the standard rate tax you paid on your gift.

You simply need to sign below.

☐ I would like the Charity to reclaim the tax I have paid on all donations made since 6 April 2000 and on all future donations until I notify you otherwise.

Signed Date

5. What your gift will achieve I would like my gift to be directed towards:

☐ Student Opportunities ☐ Students' Union Facilities ☐ Library Resources

☐ Please indicate if you wish to be omitted from the published list of benefactors.

Thank you for your support

Please return your completed form to: Alumni Relations, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH.



Did you Know?

10 Facts About Your University

1

The Sunday Times named the University as one of the top six performing universities of the year as it nominated Leicester for 'University of the Year 2007'.

2

Leicester is ranked top in the Midlands and 10th in England for research impact in a study by Evidence for *The Guardian*.

3

Leicester has recorded the highest student satisfaction rate in England for the third successive year amongst mainstream universities in the National Student Survey (4.4 out of 5 – joint top with Oxford).

4

Leicester has broken into the world's top 200 universities according to the *Times Higher Education Supplement*.

5

Leicester is ranked in the top 20 out of 120 UK universities by three major guides: *Sunday Times University Guide*, *Guardian University Guide* and the *UK Good University Guide*.

6

The Students' Union was shortlisted for the award of 'Student Union of the Year 2007'. Winners in 2005, it was the third consecutive year they made the shortlist.

7

In our 50th anniversary year *The Times* Newspaper described the University as "a Giant on the Move" in a special supplement.

8

Leicester picked up the prestigious award at the *Times Higher Education Supplement* awards for 'Marketing Initiative of the Year'.

9

The University is the UK's second largest provider of distance learning education. Why not study for a masters or other qualification in this way? Visit www.le.ac.uk/distancelearning

10

Saturday 26th April 2008 is *Celebrate Leicester Day* – a day of fun, entertainment and academic stimulation for all the family. Alumni are especially welcome.