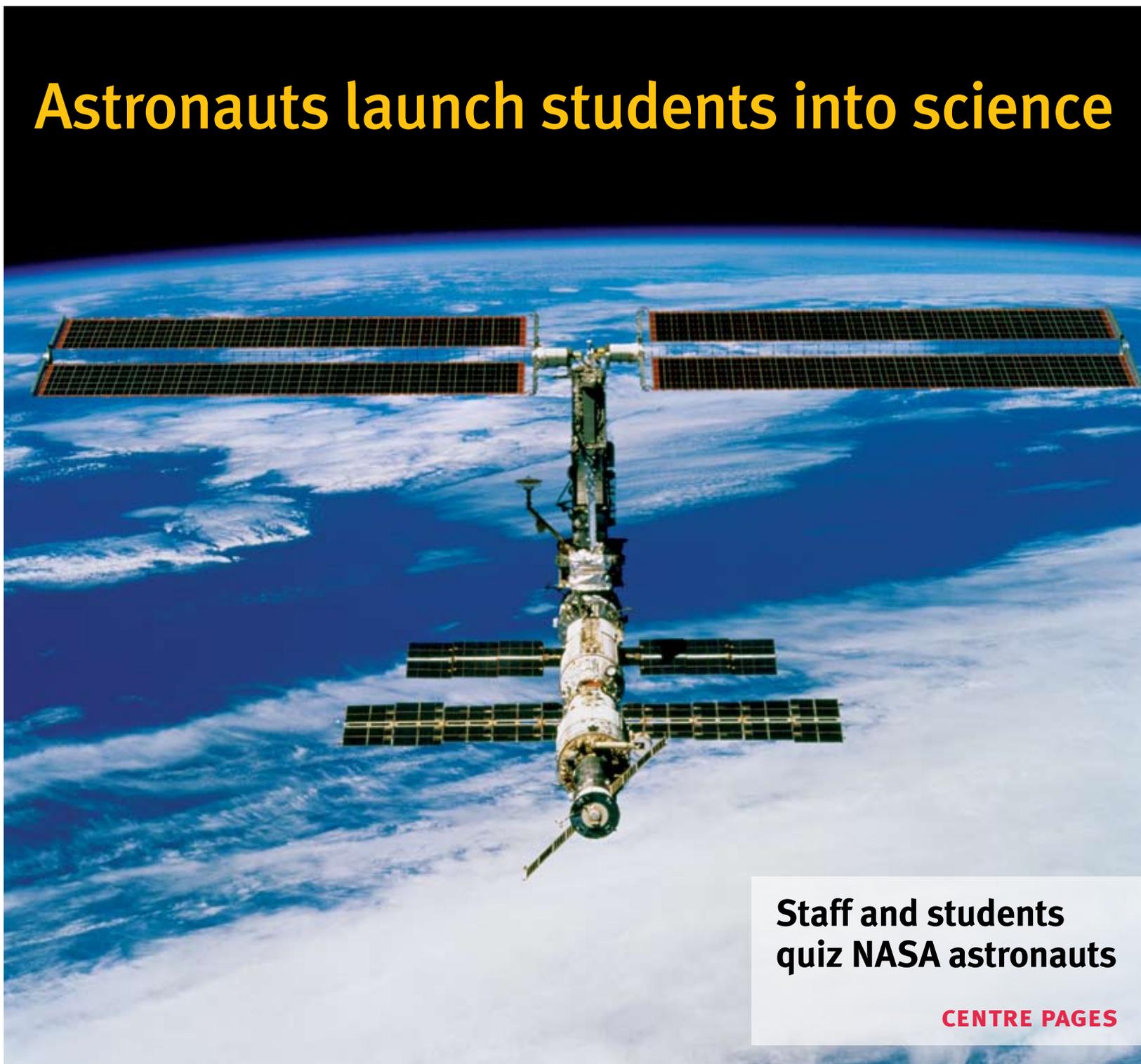


Astronauts launch students into science



**Staff and students
quiz NASA astronauts**

CENTRE PAGES



THE DRUGS DO WORK

New Drug Discovery
Facility for Imperial

PAGE 2



ART AT WORK

Passion for
photography at the
Hammersmith Campus

PAGE 5

100 years of living science

100

in brief

Felix – student newspaper of the year



The two biggest prizes in this year's *Guardian* Student Media Awards have been won by Imperial, with *Felix* named Student Newspaper of the Year, and its previous editor Rupert Neate winning the Student Journalist of the Year award. Rupert, now a journalism student at City University, will spend six weeks working at *The*

Guardian as part of his prize. The College was also recognised in the Magazine of the Year Category with a runners-up spot for *I, Science*.

London Genetics launch

London Genetics Limited, a specialist agency created to facilitate partnerships between industry and academic centres of excellence in genetics and genomics-based research across London, was launched this week. Imperial College is one of London Genetics' partners along with King's College London; University College London; Queen Mary, University of London; St George's, University of London; the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; and the Institute of Cancer Research. The launch also saw the appointment of Professor Nick Lench, previously Director of the Wales Gene Park and Chief Executive of Cardiff Institute of Tissue Engineering and Repair, as its first Chief Executive Officer. Imperial's Professor Stephen Smith, Principal of the Faculty of Medicine, is Chair of the company's board.



Best of British



Imperial has been shortlisted for a Best of British Industry Award. The inaugural awards organised by AMEC, *The Sunday Times* and the WORK Foundation, will be announced on 8 February 2007. Imperial has been nominated in the Supporter of British Industry category which recognises those who have helped transform an industrial company, market or

sector. Others nominated in this category are the Manufacturing Institute and the Institute of the Motor Industry. Visit www.britishindustryawards.co.uk for more information.

The drugs do work



An innovative facility that will offer a novel interdisciplinary model for drug discovery is being established at Imperial.

The Drug Discovery Facility aims to take potential drugs up to pre-clinical or clinical validation at which point partners will be sought to further develop the technology.

Dr Cathy Tralau-Stewart, Project Director, described the frustrations she has encountered when staff know they're doing something useful towards drug discovery, but are unable to take it further themselves. She explained: "There is so much innovative and diverse science taking place at Imperial, much more than within big pharmaceutical companies. We can establish our own targets, find drug leads and candidates and give people the chance to make a real difference with their research."

Imperial already has many of the physical facilities required and those that the College does not have will be accessed by outsourcing to specialist companies including Imperial spin-outs. Small scale drug and medicinal chemistry facilities and space for project management will be made available.

Dr Tralau-Stewart explained how quite often Imperial researchers carrying out research relevant to drug discovery have to licence it to external companies early in development as they don't have either

the funds or the infrastructure for further progress. She said: "We want to retain such research and develop it within Imperial. We are not establishing a pharmaceutical company, but we want to give researchers the opportunity to develop their research within the College."

She is keen to talk to anyone who thinks they may have relevant research, saying: "I've spent the first six months getting to know the College and have already found over 25 projects that are relevant. I'm sure there are many more."

The Rector has in the past commented on how academia is increasingly becoming the source of new concepts for tackling disease, but finds it very difficult to develop therapeutics to a point where they can be taken up by industry and translated into healthcare solutions for global society. "I believe this project aims to bridge that gap and develop a new approach to drug development which is very exciting" he said.

Start-up funding has been agreed by the College and further potential funding is now being sought from government, charities and other partners.

— ALEXANDRA PLATT, COMMUNICATIONS

► For further information email: c.tralau@imperial.ac.uk

Video adds value to Business School website

If a picture is worth a thousand words, what value then does a video have when helping prospective students decide where to study? Moving away from the standard yet staid homepages of many academic institutions, Tanaka Business School has embedded a raft of new multimedia functions into the fabric of its updated website. By providing a range of vignettes, the School aims to illuminate its admissions procedures and give viewers an idea of what it feels like to be part of the Business School community.

Working with a film production crew, Dr Maurice Farmer, Tanaka Business School's Web Manager, has created a series of 36 short films of professional standard. Through clever use of Flash software, the segments are streamed directly to a visitor's screen when they click on them, avoiding the need to download the files and open them in external multimedia applications. The new system works seamlessly, providing a human face and voice to the comprehensive data available on the School's website. In addition to interviews with the admissions teams and firsthand accounts of the programmes from students, staff and alumni, the films also present current research activities in the School.

Dr Farmer explained that the impetus for this major investment in the website was to ensure that Tanaka's first visible contact with prospective students was also the most effective. He explained: "The website's focus has completely changed, from providing useful yet relatively stark facts and figures, to giving prospective students a real taste of what they are going to experience and how the School will change their careers and their futures."

The first batch of videos were launched on 4 December and following batches will be phased in over the coming months, encouraging visitors to keep connecting.

— EOIN BEDFORD, TANAKA BUSINESS SCHOOL

► Visit <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/tanaka/programmes> for more information



BRC success for Imperial, St Mary's and Hammersmith hospitals

An international team of experts has judged the biomedical research conducted at the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust, St Mary's NHS Trust and Imperial to be amongst the very best in the country.

On 8 December, Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt announced the creation of 11 Biomedical Research Centres (BRC) and awarded BRC status to the two hospitals in partnership with the College. BRCs will be leaders in translating scientific research into benefits for patients. Imperial's academic clinicians will work with their NHS colleagues to take research from the bench to the bedside, enabling the adoption of new technologies, techniques and treatments.

The award guarantees the partners research funding of £19.5 million per year for the next five years, and makes the west London BRC the leading centre for the UK.

Trust Chief Executives, Derek Smith and Julian Nettel, and the Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, said: "We are delighted to be recognised for the innovative research which is carried out through our partnership to advance healthcare and medical research around the world. Our research is at the forefront of biomedical invention with the primary goal of improving patient care."

Awarding BRC status to the Trusts in academic partnership with Imperial is an endorsement of their intention to become the UK's first Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC).

AHSC endorsed by new report

As stated in *Reporter 168*, the AHSC will be a healthcare organisation that integrates governance and management for service delivery, teaching and research, based on tried and tested models around the world. This concept represents a future that has captured the imagination and support of clinical leaders and senior management of all organisations and will enable west London to compete on a global stage.

Further endorsement for the project was received in the Chancellor's pre-budget report on 6 December. Gordon Brown announced that the government accepted the findings of a new report into UK Health Research funding, which included a statement of support for the AHSC model. The Cooksey report states: "Universities and Trusts might follow the US Academic Medical Centre model, as Imperial College and St Mary's and Hammersmith NHS Trusts



are doing with their plan to create the UK's first Academic Health Sciences Centre. This proposal, which promises to deliver greater integration of not only research strategies, but vital underpinning human resources and capital assets, should make for a more effective approach to health research and patient care at these institutions."

— TOM MILLER, COMMUNICATIONS

► To read the Cooksey report visit: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/56F/62/pbro6_cooksey_final_report_636.pdf or visit: www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine for a set of FAQs about the AHSC coming soon



► Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/sports to register and for full details of the scheme

Form fit friendships with Club Imperial

As reported in the last issue, membership of the *Ethos* sports centre in South Kensington will be changing in the new year with the introduction of a new sports scheme for staff – Club Imperial – and with it a monthly fee for staff using the gym and pool.

For £18 per month deductible from your salary, or £30 if you wish to join with your partner, Club Imperial gives you a minimum of 12 months' continuous membership from the date of joining. The fee entitles you to use the gym and pool, subject to opening times and availability, and offers new discounted rates for all other *Ethos* facilities. The scheme also allows you to be matched

with like-minded members of staff to take part in sports.

To make the transition as smooth as possible, *Ethos* has introduced an online registration system and staff are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. No deductions will be made until the February payroll.

Alternative schemes are available for staff of Imperial spin-out and associated companies and organisations, details of which are on the Sport Imperial website.

Staff who only use facilities other than the gym and pool, for instance, the climbing wall and squash courts, will not need to pay membership.

— LEENA BHARADIA, SPORT IMPERIAL

media mentions

—ABIGAIL SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

FINANCIAL TIMES 16 NOVEMBER

Office 'Big Brother' finds free-riders

Workplace surveillance must be carefully handled to avoid undermining trust relationships, warns Professor Graham Sewell of Tanaka Business School, who says that employees' attitudes towards office monitoring is often ambivalent. "If you ask them what it is like being subjected to constant monitoring then they invariably complain, but when they realise that the monitoring of others can help to identify those colleagues who are free-riding or not pulling their weight, they usually register their approval," he writes in the *Financial Times*. The key is to make surveillance as transparent as possible, he concludes. "Employers must be open about how and why monitoring is conducted."



BBC NEWS ONLINE 29 NOVEMBER

2,000-year-old computer reveals its secrets

The workings of a complex geared device used by the ancient Greeks to display astronomical cycles have been uncovered by an Anglo-Greek team using advanced imaging techniques. The findings, published in *Nature*, build on work by Michael Wright of the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, who believes that the device may have displayed the motions of all of the five planets known at the time. "There is a feature on the front plate that could have made provision for a bearing with a spindle, that carried motion up to a mechanism used to model the planets of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn as well [as Venus and Mercury]," he tells *BBC News Online*.



THE DAILY MAIL 23 NOVEMBER

Stop the snake oil salesmen, says cancer specialist

Alternative therapies aimed at cancer patients such as shark cartilage and blessed thistle raise hopes falsely and are potentially damaging, according to Professor Jonathan Waxman, Faculty of Medicine. Calling in the *British Medical Journal* for legislation against the "snake oil salesman", he says: "We need to protect our patients from vile and cynical exploitation whose intellectual basis, at best, might be viewed as delusional."

FINANCIAL TIMES 27 NOVEMBER

Calls for road charge cash to solve suburban gridlock

Revenue raised from road charging should be used to build tunnels to channel traffic underground in urban areas, says a report by Professor Stephen Glaister of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, commissioned by the Independent Transport Commission. Explaining that this would help free city suburbs from the gridlock many currently suffer, he adds: "We are not advocating the building of new roads. But our research does show a strong business case for using road charging to cut congestion and build roads—some of them in tunnels."

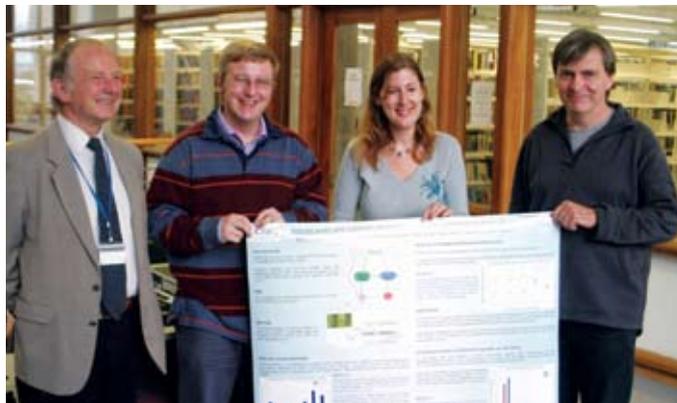


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www.imperial.ac.uk/aboutimperial/news/newsandpremailservices



Campus Dean, Professor Mike Jeger (pictured left) and symposium organiser and Senior Lecturer at Wye, Dr John Rossiter (far right) with Matthew and Naomi.

Focus on research at Wye

Research, ranging from bioremediation of contaminated soils to creating fibre from hop plants, was on show at the College's Wye Campus at the end of last month.

Postgraduate students from the campus presented details of their PhD studies during the day-long Postgraduate Symposium. The day included a poster display of students' latest findings and an oral presentation to academic staff and research students.

Winner of the prize for best talk went to Matthew Hyde, who is studying fatty liver disease in premature piglets. Matthew previously completed a BSc in Animal Science at the Campus and on completion of his PhD in October 2008, he plans to continue a career in clinical/biomedical sciences.

The award for best poster was presented to Naomi Young for her work on *ramosus* branching mutants of the pea. Naomi gained a BSc in Biochemistry at Wye, and hopes to complete her PhD by April 2007.

The prizes were presented by Professor of Molecular Plant Pathology, John Mansfield. The symposium also included a guest lecture by Emeritus Professor of Microbiology, Nick Russell, entitled *Extreme Adaptation: the key to success*.

— WENDY RAESIDE, COMMUNICATIONS

This is the last edition of *Reporter* for 2006. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the paper over the last term.

Reporter would like to wish all its readers a very restful winter break and a happy new year.

As ever, please keep your news, views and story ideas coming in over the break and please share your ideas of what you think *Reporter* should be covering. Email Alexandra Platt, Editor, at a.platt@imperial.ac.uk or call 020 7594 6715.

See you next year!



Photography that adds up

Medical statistician, Dr Richard Szydlo, officially launched his photography exhibition *art at work* on 5 December at the Hammersmith Campus.

The collection of over 40 images adorns the walls of the Department of Haematology in the Division of Investigative Science and is now a permanent fixture for staff and visitors to enjoy.

Dr Szydlo, who has worked at the College for 17 years and been taking pictures for slightly longer, explained that *art at work* has the broad theme of nature and a strong emphasis on detail, something reflected in his role at the College. He said: "Providing statistical support to clinical and laboratory staff and overseeing the collection of data associated with the stem cell transplant programme requires me to be both enquiring and meticulous."



Dr Richard Szydlo has brought his passion for photography to work

Dr Szydlo, who said he was thrilled at being given the go-ahead to exhibit in his department, has previously shown work

at London's Royal Academy and as part of a touring exhibition in Poland. Explaining how his love of photography began, he said: "It all started when I was a nipper watching my brother developing and printing black and white pictures in the bathroom! I haven't looked back since and I hope my work goes some way to brightening up the day for people in the department".



Lionfish, Hawaii is just one of the 40 images exhibited in the Department of Haematology

Over 70 people attended the launch and enjoyed browsing the images which range from a stark flock of cranes against a white sky to a detailed view of the intricate veins of a dewy leaf.

— ALEX PLATT, COMMUNICATIONS

► Visit <http://rsimages.smugmug.com/gallery/2215298/1/115349227> to see more of Dr Szydlo's photography

An ethical first for Imperial

Imperial has launched the UK's first course in Applied Clinical Ethics to help medical staff to deal with the central ethical issues in medicine.

Clinicians on the course will look at issues such as when it is morally acceptable to withdraw life-saving treatment, when doctors should consider 'do not resuscitate' orders, and what to do when patients or relatives disagree with doctors. The course, run by the Centre for Professional Development, will take place on six Saturday sessions between February and June 2007.

Imperial's course has been set up in response to a 2005 report from the Royal College of Physicians which recommended that key medical staff with decision-making authority should have training in clinical ethics. Although every medical school in the UK is now expected to teach the subject to medical students, many practising doctors have never received any training in resolving ethical dilemmas.

Dr Daniel Sokol, Honorary Research Associate at Imperial and the course leader, says that the aim of the course is to turn clinicians into 'budding medical ethicists'.

Dr Sokol, from the Department of Epidemiology, Public Health and Primary Care, said: "When people think of medicine, they think of science and technical miracles, but medicine is a deeply moral enterprise. Questions of value, of good and bad, right and wrong, pervade the practice of medicine.

"In the US, there are professional ethicists that clinicians can call upon for help in resolving moral dilemmas – they can even be bleeped and called onto wards to visit clinicians, patients and relatives. We don't have this in the UK and this means clinicians are on their own. We hope the new course will address this and ensure that clinicians know how to deal with ethical issues as well as the technical side of their work," he added.

— LAURA GALLAGHER, COMMUNICATIONS

Awards and honours

Water prize for Wheater

The second Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water has been awarded to Professor Howard Wheater of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The prize, given for outstanding research connected with the issue of water, recognises Professor Wheater's work on hydrology and water resources management in arid and semi-arid regions.



Okonko wins heartfelt award

Dr Darlington Okonko, Clinical Research Fellow in the National Heart and Lung Institute, is this year's recipient of the Samuel L. Levine Young Clinical Investigator's Award. Presented by the American Heart Association, the award rewards and encourages innovative research in clinical cardiovascular investigation.

Toumaz spin-out success

Toumaz Technology, a spin-out company founded by Professor Chris Toumazou of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering, has been named Start-Up of the Year by the National Microelectronics Institute. The company is based on the application of technology to healthcare, developing, non-intrusive devices that can continually monitor the health of people with chronic illnesses.



A rare chance to quiz NASA astronauts



Imperial's Senior Science Ambassador for Schools Professor David Phillips OBE (Chemistry) and astronaut Piers Sellers

NASA astronauts from this July's Space Shuttle Discovery Mission STS-121, visited the College on 30 November to talk about their latest mission. The crew answered questions from the audience about their nine busy days in space performing essential repair work to the International Space Station.

Organised by the Outreach Office at the College, the visit was part of a UK tour to encourage young people into science and it gave Imperial staff, students, members of the public and school children the opportunity to find out about the astronauts' unique job.

"We're here to inspire the young",

explained space walker, Piers Sellers. He told the audience how he went on to become an astronaut after beginning his career as a scientist, studying the climate on earth.

The other crew members, Lisa Nowak, Stephanie Wilson, pilot Mark Kelly and engineer Tomas Gonzalez-Torres also attended the event.

They showed the audience a video of the mission launch and footage of their work whilst in space, along with a tour of the space shuttle itself. In addition, Tomas Gonzalez-Torres gave a short presentation on the Hubble Space Telescope.

When asked by a member of the audience what psychological preparation they had to do, Lisa Nowak explained that all astronauts go on regular expeditions to prepare for their mission. "We also sit in simulators each week where we are presented with different challenges to prepare us for anything," she added.

The astronauts were also quizzed on how they cope with the risk factors that come along with their profession. "As astronauts we balance the risks to the individual against the benefit for society as a whole,"

Mark Kelly said.

—NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

"we balance the risks to the individual against the benefit to society as a whole"



From left to right: Scott Kelly, Heather Macrae (Venture Thinking), Angela Conway (Ideas Foundation), Stephanie Wilson, Piers Sellers, Lisa Nowak, John Slater (Comino Foundation), Tomas Gonzalez-Torres, Melanie Thody, Director of Access, Chris Barber (ISSET)

Michael Halls-Moore hopes his new website will enable him to achieve his lifelong dream



Buy me to the stars

An entrepreneurial student has come up with a novel idea to launch his dream of becoming one of the first space tourists in 2009 by raising £1 million with a new website.

Imperial Aeronautical Engineering PhD student, Michael Halls-Moore, has launched his new website, www.buymetothestars.com, on which he is selling advertising space in the form of a large galactic star chart. Companies and individuals can purchase the right to display a stellar object on the website's front page which then links to the website of their choice. The bigger the object chosen, the greater the price charged for the advertising space.

"It has been a lifelong dream of mine to visit space but up until now it has been well out of my price range," said Michael whose research has a focus on space and aircrafts that travel at hypersonic speeds in the upper atmospheres. "With space tourism now becoming an affordable reality, I put my skills to good use and built buymetothestars.com through which organisations can advertise on my site and help pay me into space."

Michael is still planning on improving the website to attract more interest. "I am planning on making it into a three-dimensional site so it is more interactive for visitors," he explained.

In 2009 Virgin Galactic will start sub-orbital trips into space. The flight lasts about two hours, includes five minutes of weightlessness, and flies to 400,000ft. Space tourists will journey high above the clouds, see the moon and stars and look down on earth, preceded by three days of pre-flight preparation before they jet off.

"I have to raise around £120,000 if I have any hope of flying to the stars. I believe my challenge has the draw necessary to generate the high traffic needed by advertisers," said Michael. "Only time will tell if I am able to achieve my lifelong dream."

— NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

► For more information visit www.buymetothestars.com or email Michael at buymetothestars@hotmail.co.uk

Energy Futures Lab one year old

A new MSc programme in Sustainable Energy Futures, starting in October 2007, will train the next generation of energy leaders, it was announced at the Energy Futures Lab first annual lecture.

The new course will combine academic and industrial experience from 11 departments across Imperial, to provide a unique multidisciplinary teaching programme, covering a range of topics from clean fossil fuels to sustainable transport and energy storage and transmission. Students will take a number of core modules and there will be a series of two-week intensive modules that will include lectures from specialists in each field.

"The MSc in Sustainable Energy Futures will provide the next generation of energy leaders with the knowledge and understanding to tackle what is a truly global issue," explained Professor Sandro Macchietto, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology, the MSc course director.

To mark the Lab's first year, Dr Paul Golby, Chief Executive of E.ON UK gave a presentation entitled *Changing Energy*. Dr Golby's presentation outlined the issues and opportunities that E.ON and the wider energy sector face in a low carbon future. Dr Golby added to the evening by pledging a donation to the formation of a planned Energy Integration Lab, designed to give state-of-the-art education in the complex dynamics of electricity distribution, along with a fund for undergraduate and post-graduate prizes.

The Energy Futures Lab was established in November 2005, to bring together the multidisciplinary skills and experience of Imperial to tackle the major issues in energy research and seeks to forge stronger links between Imperial and the energy research community across the world.

— NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS



Dr Paul Golby, E.ON UK, with Imperial's Executive Director for the Energy Futures Lab, Nigel Brandon.

► Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/energyfutureslab for more information

Agricola Scholarships

Top new students at Imperial's Wye Campus have been given a financial boost

Agricola Scholarships – worth £750 each – have been presented to the eight most outstanding students starting Bachelor or Master of Science degree programmes in Applied Business Management this autumn. Award winners were chosen on the basis of excellent performance in previous studies, together with practical experience.

Successful students include Chuan Kie Cheng from Malaysia, Katarzyna Gajos and Joanna Skorupa from Poland, Joyce Lim from Singapore, Stella Maerker from Germany, Zhi Ming from China, Matthew Steere from Sidcup and Richard Woolley from the Vale of Glamorgan, Wales.

The annual Agricola Scholarships are funded by the Agricola Club, the association for past students and staff at Wye. The scholarships were presented during a short ceremony by Professor Mike Jeger, Wye Campus Dean, and Professor Paul Webster, Honorary Treasurer of the Agricola Club.

Professor Webster congratulated this year's award winners, saying "I hope that you enjoy your time at Wye as much as the many alumni over the years have done."

Wye's Applied Business Management courses – which this year attracted more than 1,500 applicants – are jointly delivered by Imperial College and the University of Kent. From the 2007 student intake, the courses will become University of Kent degrees taught by Kent and Imperial staff at the Wye Campus.

— WENDY RAESIDE, COMMUNICATIONS



New Agricola Scholars celebrate their success, from left to right: Zhi Ming, Chuan Kie Cheng, Professor Mike Jeger (Campus Dean), Joyce Lim, Joanna Skorupa, Nigel Williams (Undergraduate Admissions Officer), Stella Maerker, Katarzyna Gajos, Professor Paul Webster (Treasurer of Agricola Club) and Matthew Steere.

archive corner



In this edition Archive Corner looks at H.G. Wells – scientist and writer

Herbert George Wells (1866–1946) enrolled as a science teacher in training at the Normal School of Science in 1884, so becoming part of Imperial's history through one of the Victorian institutions that formed one of Imperial's founding colleges, the Royal College of Science.

In his first year, Wells was taught biology and zoology by T.H. Huxley, whom he found inspirational. He gained first class honours and went on to take geology and physics under Professors J.W. Judd and F. Guthrie. Unfortunately, they did not inspire him in the same way and he did not flourish under their tutelage. He was also distracted from his studies by becoming heavily involved in student affairs. Wells was a founder and first editor of the Science Schools Journal, which later became The Phoenix. He wrote for the journal under various names: Walker, Glockenhammer, Septimus Browne, Sothenes Smith and Tyro. It was the story he wrote under his own name, and serialised in 1888, that became well known as a work of science fiction—or a scientific romance—as he preferred his writing in this genre to be described: the *Chronic Argonauts*, published in 1895 as *The Time Machine*.

Wells has been credited as one of the founders of the science fiction genre, but what he really wanted was to be taken seriously as a scientist. Although he left the RCS without a qualification, he obtained a University of London BSc in 1902. It was Wells' greatest wish that he be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society for what he believed was his contribution to science and his lifetime study of human ecology as demonstrated in his writings. This was not to be, no FRS was forthcoming, even when he was awarded a DSc from the University of London in 1943, at the age of 78, for his thesis on *The Quality of illusion in the continuity of the individual life in the higher metazoa, with particular reference to homo sapiens*. He was made a Fellow of Imperial College in 1943.

Throughout his life he promulgated socialist principles, having joined the Fabian Society whilst at the RCS, and became a friend of Sydney and Beatrice Webb, the society's founders. His works predicted many developments of the twentieth century, such as aerial warfare in *The War in the Air*. He also wrote Utopian novels, such as *The Shape of Things to Come* and its adaptation for the 1936 film produced by Alexander Korda, entitled *Things to Come*. Wells became increasingly pessimistic about the state of the world and humanity in later life. However, when he died in 1946, he had written over a 100 books contributing to his consistent themes of science, socialism and social responsibility.

— ANNE BARRETT, ARCHIVES AND CORPORATE RECORDS



H.G. Wells studied at the Normal School of Science before writing his famous 'scientific romance' novels

student voice

The second *student voice* in a two part series about the new faculty and campus students' union sabbatical officers.

Shiv Chopra, President, Faculty of Medicine Students' Union (ICSMSU)

Shiv, who is taking a break from his medical degree at Imperial, is unusual in being the only faculty president on a sabbatical. He says that, "at a time I should be delivering babies, I am looking after fresher 'babies' instead." Shiv was previously Social Secretary and Vice President of the medics' union. In his new role, he is particularly keen to promote Imperial's student-friendly environment through open days and visits. He is also committed to a school outreach programme, encouraging students from underprivileged backgrounds into medicine and university. As the union's Centenary representative, he aims to ensure that students across all campuses feel part of the celebrations.



James Fok, President, Faculty of Engineering Students' Union (City and Guilds College Union)

James graduated this summer with a Mechanical Engineering degree, but his studies are far from over. During his sabbatical year, he will combine his union activities with taking a MSc in Management at Tanaka Business School. He has been involved in union activities for the past three years and represents around 5,000 students in the Faculty of Engineering. He sees his new role as "a way of giving something to the College" and has been keen to ensure a warm welcome for new students. Much of his time will be spent on the *EnVision 2010* project, a Faculty of Engineering initiative to rethink the way students are taught at Imperial.



Michael Garratt, Chairman, Silwood Park Union

Michael Garratt represents one of Imperial's farther-flung campuses. He completed a first degree in natural sciences at Birmingham before taking an Applied Entomology Master's at Silwood. "I liked it so much," he says, "that I decided to stay on and do a PhD." Michael is now in his second year and combines his doctorate studies with his union chair. His union role, he says, is to ensure it runs smoothly and to represent student interests with other groups at Silwood. Michael believes the union has an essential role on a relatively isolated campus and "with so few students, it is a rewarding job where you get to know everyone."



Jayinder Khaneka, President, Wye College Union of Students (WCUS)

Jayinder believes that the Wye College Union of Students benefits from being semi-autonomous from Imperial College Union, but with easy access to HQ for help and support. Jayinder combines his presidential role with his second year studies for an Applied Business Management MSc degree. He sees his union role as having two contrasting aspects – "on the social side, ensuring all union events are legal, safe and well-organised and, on the more serious side, representing Wye students who are in need of help." Jayinder says his major challenge this year will be making Union provision for the University of Kent students who will arrive at Wye next autumn.



Jad Marrouche, President, Faculty of Natural Sciences Students' Union (RCSU)

Jad's Union role is not a sabbatical, so he has to divide his time between his fourth year Physics MSc course and student business. He is hoping that by the end of this year, it will be evident that a full-time officer is needed. He took on the role to help bring two faculty unions – Physical Sciences and Life Sciences – together, and sees it as "a great opportunity to lay down foundations for the future." His main aim this year will be to create a sense of identity and unity among scientists at Imperial – no mean task as they are spread across several campuses.

— WENDY RAESIDE, COMMUNICATIONS

centenary update

Get ready for the Centenary launch

With the beginning of the College's Centenary year a matter of weeks away, it's almost time to note some of the key dates for the year in your 2007 diaries. Look out for the forthcoming events leaflet being sent to all staff, students and alumni before the Christmas break, which highlights some of the major events scheduled for 2007.

The Centenary celebrations will be officially launched on Tuesday 30 January 2007 with a day of special activities marking the beginning of the year-long programme of events. The day will culminate with the first of a number of Centenary Prestigious Lectures with the Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, as the launch speaker.

The lecture, which starts at 18.00 in the Great Hall, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus, is open to all but tickets will be required for admittance.

— EMMA POWELL, COMMUNICATIONS

► For further information and to register your attendance, email events@imperial.ac.uk

Centenary toolkit—ready for use

All staff should now be using the special Centenary logo, letterhead and templates for their stationery. A comprehensive toolkit is available at www.imperial.ac.uk/centenary/ including downloadable logos and templates.

The new Centenary letterhead is now available from Office Depot through iProcurement, item code ICLH100. From the new year, all outgoing post from all campus will be franked with the Centenary logo.

► For questions about how to use the Centenary logo, email centenary@imperial.ac.uk

Obituaries

Dr Olav Beckmann

Imperial learnt with great sadness that Dr Olav Beckmann, a senior postdoc in the Department of Computing, died of liver cancer on 9 November, aged 34. He joined the Department in 1995 and made significant contributions to research in active "self-optimising" numerical libraries. A major application of his work has been in the visualisation of very large data sets generated from computer simulations of the world's oceans. He also explored space-filling curves, a geometric idea



used to model the layout of data in a computer's memory. He taught on both the BEng and MEng degrees in Computing and the MEng degree in Computational Geoscience. He will be remembered for his inspiring and supportive work with students. He leaves his wife, Joanne, and baby son Joshua. A thanksgiving service will take place on 16 December. See <http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~ob3> for details.

Emeritus Professor Graham F. Joplin

Professor Graham Joplin died peacefully on 4 December aged 79. He joined the Hammersmith Hospital in the late 1950s, working in the Endocrine Unit that he later took over as senior partner. He went on to be Emeritus Professor of Endocrinology at the Hammersmith Hospital in the 1980s and early 1990s. Friends are welcome to attend a memorial service at 15.00 on Friday 15 December at St Andrew's Church, Church Road, Ham Common, Richmond.

► The Editor is pleased to accept brief appreciations in remembrance of colleagues, reserving the right to edit these before publication. Please email a.platt@imperial.ac.uk

inventors corner



Bringing ideas to Bloom

Steve Bloom, Professor of Medicine and Head of the Division of Investigative Science is also the first Chief Commercialisation Officer for the Faculty of Medicine. *Reporter* asks him to share his experience of combining two very different roles.

Professor Bloom believes the Faculty has some of the brightest and most innovative biomedical scientists in the world and that they have made enormous advances in fields such as proteomics, genomics and metabolomics which can now be used to treat disease. As Chief Commercialisation Officer, his job is to help encourage the commercial activities of the Faculty, which include the development of new intellectual property (IP), consultancy work, the sale of reagents and materials, and the development of relationships with international organisations. His role helps to link the medical academic community to the activities of Imperial Innovations, Imperial Consultants (ICON) and the College's Business Development team.

Professor Bloom is passionate that commercial activities are the most practical way of helping people in society. He said: "One of Imperial's main goals is to collaborate with industry, which enhances academic effectiveness and gives direction to our research. It is important to mankind to create companies and license technology that will help treat people who are ill or suffering".

His personal academic and commercialisation track record supports this view. In 2004 Professor Bloom founded spin-out company, Thiakis, which has raised \$18 million of finance since its creation. The company is advancing the development of obesity therapies based on his research into the role of gut hormones in the regulation of appetite.

Inventions and intellectual property (IP) can result in commercially valuable new products, manufacturing methods and healthcare treatments, and can bring other benefits to society. Contact Imperial Innovations if you are working on research that may be suitable for commercialisation.

— CHARLOTTE STONE, IMPERIAL INNOVATIONS

► For further information, please visit www.imperialinnovations.co.uk or call 020 7581 4949

welcome

new starters

Mr Asif Akram, Computing
Dr Tomas Alarcon, Mathematics
Dr Leah-Nani Alconcel, Physics
Dr Marta Archanco, Medicine
Miss Alissa Ayling, Sport and Leisure
Mr Robert Barro, SORA
Dr Anthony Bastin, NHLI
Dr Philip Bergin, Investigative Science
Mrs Roberta Bernstein, Registry
Professor Nicholas Bingham, Mathematics
Ms Lyudmyla Brenetska, Catering Services
Mrs Alison Campbell, SORA
Dr Marc Chadeau, EPHPC
Mr Kok Chan, NHLI
Mr David Coe, Medicine
Mr Ben Collinson, ICT
Miss Sophie Corcoran, Development and Corporate Affairs
Mr David Coutts, NHLI
Miss Jennifer Cox, SORA
Mr Wael Dandachli, SORA
Mr Mark Davies, Business School
Dr Antonio De Riso, Kennedy

Mr Alister Hart, SORA
Dr Stephane Hess, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Dr Nick Hopkinson, NHLI
Mrs Sakina Hossany, Neurosciences and Mental Health
Miss Harriet Iles, Catering Services
Mrs Emma Jones, Development and Corporate Affairs
Miss Gaelle Kikonda, NHLI
Dr Ki Kim, Chemical Engineering
Professor Ajit Lalvani, NHLI
Dr Enrique Lara, NHLI
Mr Dafydd Lee, NHLI
Dr Lionel Luron, Kennedy Institute
Ms Daphne Lyonga, Kennedy Institute
Miss Claire Macdonald, Neurosciences and Mental Health
Dr Maria Dolores Mayan Santos, Medicine
Mrs Julie McKinley, Estates
Miss Kerry Millington, NHLI
Dr Cosetta Minelli, NHLI
Dr Dinesh Nair, Chemical

Professor Alex Wolf joined the Department of Computing on 1 December. He was previously a professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder and over the past two years helped to start the new Faculty of Informatics at the University of Lugano, Switzerland. His research looks into ultra large scale distributed systems that involve many people and components over long periods of time, such as the World Wide Web.



Mrs Elaine Croucher, Security Services (7 years)
Ms Shikta Das, Computing
Dr Alison Duncan, NHLI (6 years)
Ms Louise Evans, Faculty of Medicine (11 years)
Dr Klara Farkasfalvi, SORA
Dr Kerry Gallagher*, ESE (11 years)
Dr Vincent Guffens, EEE
Miss Bannin Jansen, NHLI
Dr Sarah Jarmin, Medicine
Dr Sarah Kemp, NHLI
Dr Jong-Hyun Ko, Biology

Mr Michael Larsson, EEE
Miss Barbara Laskowska, NHLI (5 years)
Dr Toby Lawrence, Kennedy Institute
Dr Zushu Li, Materials
Mrs Sibyl Ma, ICT
Dr Sara Marshall, Investigative Science
Miss Marian McGilligan, Medicine (16 years)
Dr Julie Milia, NHLI
Mr Stephen Monk, EPHPC (10 years)
Miss Eva Moravcsik, Investigative Science
Dr Gaurav Mukerji, Neurosciences and Mental Health
Mr Neil Murray, Aeronautics
Dr Ruth Nebauer, Kennedy Institute
Professor James Noble, Computing
Mr Juan Nunez, EEE
Dr Darlington Okonko, NHLI
Dr Carlo Palmieri*, SORA
Dr Albert Phillimore, Biology
Dr David Randell, Computing
Dr Lula Rosso, Chemistry
Mr Panoram Shukla, EEE
Miss Gullu Solak, Neurosciences and Mental Health
Ms Mohsina Somji, Medicine
Dr Robin Soper, Kennedy Institute
Ms Brenda Strohm, Clinical Sciences
Dr Vinod Tek, Mechanical Engineering
Dr William Truman, Biology
Mr Derek Victor, Estates (9 years)
Dr Daowu Zhou, Civil and Environmental Engineering

Dr Randall Perry, ESE
Dr Federica Pisaneschi, Clinical Sciences
Miss Emma Powell, Communications
Professor Steven Rose, Physics
Dr Sophie Rutschmann, Medicine
Mr Tim Scanlon, Physics
Mr Alex Senior, Faculty of Engineering
Dr Sunil Shah, EPHPC
Dr Justin Stebbing, SORA
Miss Fleur Strasser, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Mrs Aleksandra Szymanska, Chemical Engineering
Ms Claire Tibble, Faculty of Engineering
Mr Stuart Wakefield, Physics
Professor Alexander Wolf, Computing
Dr Victoria Wright, Medicine
Ms Woomi Yussuf, Communications
Dr Christopher Zappala, NHLI

farewell

moving on

Mr Piers Adderley, ICT (5 years)
Mr Cyril Aigbede, Faculty of Medicine
Miss Alexandra Anderson, Cell and Molecular Biology
Dr Magali Bebien, Kennedy Institute
Dr Piers Benn, EPHPC (7 years)
Mr David Brooks Wilson, College Headquarters
Dr Jemima Burden, Cell and Molecular Biology
Dr Raghavendra Chandrashekar, Computing
Ms Avril Chang, SORA
Mr Omar Cheema*, Development and Corporate Affairs
Dr Sally Cooper, Investigative Science
Ms Miranda Cowen, Medicine (6 years)
Mr Damian Crawford, Kennedy Institute

retirements

Mrs Christine Wyke, Neurosciences and Mental Health

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This data is supplied by HR and covers the period 12 November to 2 December 2006. It was correct at the time of going to press. Years of service are given where an individual has been a member of College staff for over five years.

Asterisk (*) indicates where an individual will continue to play an active role in College life.



Sophie Corcoran and Emma Jones joined the Office of Alumni and Development last month. Sophie previously organised events for Leukaemia Research and her new role as Communications Executive focuses on communications for the College's fundraising

activities. Emma formerly worked for the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers and, as the new Alumni Relations Manager, is responsible for events and services for alumni.

Institute
Dr Raul Del Coso, Physics
Ms Sonia Dixon-Fairweather, Business School
Dr Andreas Doering, Physics
Miss Heather Dorricott, SORA
Miss Malin Drabik, Finance
Mr Dorian Gaertner, Computing
Dr Tini Garske, Institute for Mathematical Sciences
Dr Graeme Glass, Kennedy Institute
Miss Anna Gray, CEP
Miss Debra Harris, Investigative Science

Engineering
Dr Anand Narasimhan, Business School
Dr Ismael Navarro Fuertes, Chemistry
Dr Aisha Newth, EPHPC
Mr Allan Nyunt, Mechanical Engineering
Mr Bernard O'Hara, Investigative Science
Miss Eliza Paciorek, Sport and Leisure Services
Dr David Parker, SORA
Miss Seema Patel, Kennedy Institute

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Please send your images and/or brief comments about new starters, leavers and retirees to the Editor, a.platt@imperial.ac.uk who reserves the right to edit or amend these as necessary.

moving in. moving on.

what's on

13 DECEMBER 2006 18.00–19.00

Carols by Candlelight

A service of carols and readings for Christmas organised by the Chaplaincy with music by the Imperial College Chamber Choir

» Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road

13 DECEMBER 2006 17.30–18.30

Big Magnets and Big Molecules: seeing through the spin

Professor Steve Matthews, Professor of Chemistry and Structural Biology

INAUGURAL LECTURE

» Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building

14 DECEMBER 2006 17.30–18.30

Architecture in NanoSpace

Professor Sir Harold Kroto, winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry presents the nineteenth Schrodinger Lecture

» Lecture Theatre 220, Mechanical Engineering Building

8 JANUARY 2007 17.30–18.30

Musculoskeletal Surgical Research in Crisis?

Professor Jagdeep Nanchahal, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology

INAUGURAL LECTURE

» Seminar Room, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, 1 Aspenlea Road, Charing Cross Campus, SW6 8LH

10 JANUARY 2007 17.30–18.30

Nanotechnology: challenging chips and crime

Professor Russell Cowburn, Professor of Nanotechnology

INAUGURAL LECTURE

» Blackett Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building

13 JANUARY 2007 08.00–17.00

The i2 Event 2007

One-day Ideas and Innovation Conference

» Tanaka Business School

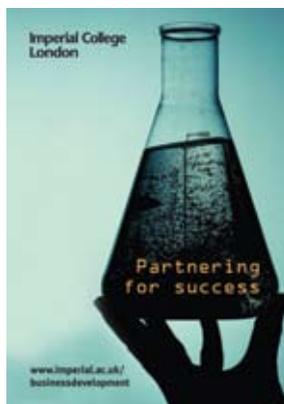
Visit <http://medicalfutures.co.uk/staging/izevent.php?mn=o> to register

» All events are at the South Kensington Campus unless otherwise stated.

take note

If you are advertising for staff, the following additional sentence should now be included in all adverts in recognition of Imperial's new world ranking: *Imperial College is ranked in the top 10 universities in the world, according to the 2006 Times Higher Education Supplement league tables*

Look out for the new Business Development Services (BDS) *Partnering for success* brochure aimed at potential industrial partners for the College, highlighting example collaborations and current partnering opportunities. The booklet was launched by the BDS team at the London Biotechnology Network's annual Genesis Conference on Tuesday 12 December. Please contact bds@imperial.ac.uk for more information.



Reporter is published every three weeks during term time in print and online at www.imperial.ac.uk/reporter.

Reporter will be back in the new year. Contributions are welcome (no more than 300 words). Please note the editor reserves the right to cut or amend articles as necessary. Information correct at time of going to press.

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Caroline Gaultier	Richard Szydlo
Ralph Hodgson	Naomi Weston
NASA	



classifieds

» *Reporter* now includes a regular classifieds section. If you have something for sale, property to let or are looking for someone to share a lift to work with, this is the perfect place to advertise. Please submit no more than 50 words to the Editor, Alexandra Platt, by email at a.platt@imperial.ac.uk for a chance for your advertisement to appear. The Editor reserves the right to edit these as necessary.

Flat to rent Comfortable, large, self-contained one bedroomed flat in north London. Fully furnished. Close to Piccadilly line tube (zone 2). Ideal for couple. Rent £780 pcm inclusive of gas, electricity, etc. Please email a.swann@imperial.ac.uk for more information.

Townhouse to rent Townhouse in Carveiro, Western Algarve, Portugal. Sleeps 4/5. Near beaches and golf course. For full details, availability and prices. Visit www.algarvevilla.org.uk or email j.monhemius@imperial.ac.uk for more information.

volunteering

This week's project...

English Language Support Volunteers

Project ID: 1792
For Imperial College London Humanities Programme
Location: SW7 (nearest tube South Kensington)



Volunteers needed to provide English conversation sessions to overseas students on a one-to-one basis. The purpose of these conversation sessions is not only to increase verbal English skills of non-native speakers, but also to provide an opportunity for cultural interaction between people from different backgrounds. You would need to be a native speaker (or near native) and all sessions will take place in/around the South Kensington Campus.

» To take part in this scheme or to hear more about volunteering in general, contact Minna Ruohonen on 020 7594 8133 or email m.ruohonen@imperial.ac.uk.

» Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/volunteering for full details of over 250 volunteering opportunities. You can also subscribe to the weekly newsletter by emailing volunteering@imperial.ac.uk