Game for it

Imperial sports teams get stuck in and rise up the league tables

CENTRE PAGES

ART BEAT
Researchers create award-winning heart images
PAGE 3

HEALTHY AGEING
Introducing Imperial’s Lifelong Health Project
PAGE 8

POSITIVE LIVING
Telling the stories of teachers living with HIV in Africa
PAGE 9
Exhibition Road building postponed

Plans to develop a new building for the South Kensington Campus on Exhibition Road (covered in Reporter issue 202) have been postponed, the Rector announced to staff last week. The new Exhibition Road Building, designed by top architects Foster and Partners and a key element of the programme to transform the “South East Quadrant” (SEQ) of the campus, would have offered new facilities to the Faculty of Engineering and the Business School as well as offering an exhibition space.

Commenting on the decision, Rector Sir Keith O’Nions said: “Acknowledging the potential for Imperial to expand its activities into its new site at Wood Lane, and taking a necessarily sombre perspective on the risks the future holds for university funding sources, the executive board of the SEQ project has recommended that the next phase of the project should be postponed.”

He added: “We have done much valuable work that underpins an exciting vision for what we want teaching, research and the general environment at Imperial to look like in the future. I hope that not one good idea that has come forward will be wasted.”

The current work on the Skempton (Civil and Environmental Engineering) and Mechanical Engineering buildings will be completed on budget and on schedule by November 2010. The SEQ project team will explore alternative, cheaper routes that will contribute to satisfying the space requirements of the College’s core academic mission.

Microsoft chooses Business School as partner for innovation club

On 21 February, the Prime Minister announced an agreement that made Imperial’s expertise in innovation management, technology transfer and engineering available to the Microsoft-hosted Innovation Outreach Programme (IOP), a cross-industry community of multinational companies. The Innovation Outreach Programme aims to develop innovative business ideas and test how these ideas might profitably be turned into new products and services.

Established in 2009, the IOP enables an elite group of companies, and their chief innovation executives, to regularly discuss the opportunities and challenges they face in developing new products and services or improving existing ones, in order to maintain their competitive edge.

The Business School will provide the business-focused research, and will also work with other departments within Imperial to draw together engineering expertise for technical proof of concept and new technology development. Members of the IOP will also be able to work with Imperial Innovations, one of the UK’s leading technology commercialisation and investment companies, which is partly owned by the College, to test and launch successful ventures.

Professor David Gann, head of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship research group at the Business School, said: “We are very pleased to be a central part of this strong network.”

“...satisfying the space requirements of the College’s core academic mission.”

---

Imperial College London

shape our vision

The Rector invites staff to give their views on the College strategy.

To contribute:
- Complete the online consultation by 12 March 2010
- Attend the open panel discussion on 24 March 2010 at 12.30 in the Read lecture theatre

For further details, visit: www.imperial.ac.uk/strategy development
Art beat
Cardiovascular researchers create award-winning movie footage and images of the heart

Researchers from Imperial’s BHF Centre of Research Excellence have won the movie category of a competition called Reflections of Research, which invited scientists funded by the British Heart Foundation across the UK to submit images and videos representing their field of research. Imperial researchers were also runners up in the image category.

The winning movie, Blood Streams of the Heart, was created by Dr Michael Markl from the University of Freiburg and Imperial’s Dr Philip Kilner (NHLI) and shows blood streaming through both sides of a healthy human heart. In the future, doctors may be able to use this, and other types of imaging, to help simulate the movements and flow of an individual patient’s heart.

The image that scooped the runner-up prize, Growing new heart muscle cells, shows heart muscle cells grown from stem cells in the laboratory. This image was created by a number of academics working at the NHLI – Dr Gábor Földes, Professor Sian Harding, Professor Michael Schneider and Dr Nadire Ali – and was exhibited on London’s South Bank over the Valentine’s Day weekend last month.

The winning images and videos were chosen by a panel of experts including the scientist and broadcaster Dr Alice Roberts; Andrew Cohen, editor of BBC Horizon; and Virgin’s associate editor of The Guardian, Gabor Markl.

Growing new heart muscle cells: Judge Professor Sir Christopher Edwards, Chairman of BHF Council.

Judge Dr Alice Roberts described the movie as: “Wonderful dynamic imaging showcasing interesting new diagnostic technology. Fascinating to be able to visualise flow through heart. Split-screen for left and right sides of the heart makes for an uncluttered and visually appealing image.”

—LAURA GALLAGHER AND COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

To watch videos featuring Dr Kilner and Dr Földes talking about their art work and how it relates to research in the BHF Centre of Research Excellence, visit: www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/artbeat

Celebrating the Finnis-Sinclair potentials

On 10 February, an event was held at the College to mark the publication of a special issue of Philosophical Magazine which commemorated a landmark paper, published 25 years ago by Professor Mike Finnis (Materials) and Dr Jim Sinclair, who formerly worked at The Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell.

The paper, A Simple Empirical N-Body Potential for Transition Metals, provided a simple mathematical model of the forces acting between the atoms in metals such as molybdenum, tungsten and iron, with which the movements and arrangements of atoms could be simulated and visualised. It helped scientists understand the processes that occur in a metal in normal use, when it is deformed, or in a nuclear reactor when it is damaged by irradiation. Until then, such models had been inadequate to represent even the simplest properties of these metals. With over 1,500 citations, it is the most highly cited paper of Philosophical Magazine.

To mark the silver anniversary of the paper’s publication, the journal’s editors had invited Professors Adrian Sutton (Physics), Graeme Ackland (University of Edinburgh) and Vasek Vitek (University of Pennsylvania) to edit a special issue containing a set of articles that have used the so-called Finnis-Sinclair potentials as the basis of their research. At the event, Paul Bristowe, the journal’s Associate Editor, presented the authors with leather-bound copies of the special issue.

Getting creative for ArtsFest
Last week Imperial College Union hosted ArtsFest, an annual event designed to highlight the wealth of talent to be found on the College’s campuses. Throughout the week there were free demonstrations and workshops across the South Kensington Campus, covering activities from drama to belly dancing. Thursday’s Showcase event brought together all of the arts-based societies to give a series of short performances incorporating different styles of music, drama and dance. Organiser Mohammad Aboljadayel, a Department of Computing student, said: “ArtsFest tries to bring art to the people instead of waiting for them to come to it.”

Governance review
The College Council has instituted a review of the effectiveness of the governance of the College, in line with Committee of University Chairs guidance which recommends periodic review. The review group will take into account the best practice of other leading universities and will seek views from staff. The Council will receive a final report with recommendations by July 2010.

New clinical trials unit launched
On 4 February the College launched the Imperial Clinical Trials Unit (ICTU). The aim of the Unit is to build on the existing trials being carried out to support the work of the Academic Health Science Centre. It will create a centre of excellence for clinical trials of treatments for conditions including cardiovascular disease, cancer and mental health problems.

To watch a video about the ICTU visit: www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/clinicaltrials

“ If you’re experienced in chip design you can see this has been designed by a human, whereas most of today’s phone processors are designed by computers, and therefore look totally uninteresting.”

Climate change report “robust”, says researcher

A 2007 report on the effects of global warming by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, criticised for containing some inaccurate details, is “robust and rigorous”, says Professor Martin Parry (Grantham Institute for Climate Change), co-chair of the working group that produced it. Commenting that he is “perplexed” by the way the media has focused on minor points, including the claim that the Himalayan glaciers would melt by 2035, he says: “What began with a single unfortunate error over Himalayan glaciers has become a clamour without substance.” Professor Parry adds that the IPCC had become a clamour without substance.

Weather unlikely to have caused Belgian rail crash

Despite snowy conditions, blame for the collision of two commuter trains in Belgium is unlikely to lie with the weather, Professor Andrew Evans (Civil and Environmental Engineering) tells the US Metro. Instead, he says, human error or signal faults are the most feasible reasons for the accident, which killed 18 people. “Only extremely rarely is the weather a factor in train accidents,” Professor Evans comments, adding: “For the past three decades, rail safety in industrialised countries has been improving steadily. The improvements are measures to protect against human errors.”

Why cooking on gas may be bad for your health

Frying steak on a gas hob rather than an electric one could raise your risk of developing cancer due to the fumes and tiny particles given off, according to the results of a Norwegian study reported in the Daily Telegraph. Explaining that previous studies into a connection between gas cooking and poor health have been inconclusive, Dr Deborah Jarvis (NHLI) comments: “This new study may help us understand why these inconsistencies occur. The public health message to the general public remains the same – keep your kitchen well-ventilated when cooking, and make sure all your gas appliances are well maintained.”

Sweet news for the environment

A sugar-based form of plastic being developed by researchers at Imperial could biodegrade in months rather than the hundreds of years taken by traditional oil-based plastics, according to the Daily Telegraph. The researchers are turning sugars found in fast growing trees and grasses into polymers, in a much less energy intensive way of producing plastic. The new discovery would not only cut down the use of oil, but also potentially enable people to compost plastic at home according to Dr Charlotte Williams (Chemistry), who says: “The development of the material is very promising and I’m optimistic that the technology could be in use within two to five years.”

---

awards and honours

SUPPORT SERVICES
Facilities Management recognised

The Facilities Management Division has been named a runner up in the category of Client of the Year at the Low Carbon Performance Awards which were held by the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers on 2 February. The award relates to an initiative on the South Kensington Campus where the College’s Building Management Team, together with members of the Health and Safety Department and external contractors, and consultants worked in partnership with the academic community to reduce carbon production in the Flowers Building.

NATURAL SCIENCES
Chemistry awards

Research Associate Dr Giuseppe Mallia (Chemistry), pictured left, has received the Department of Chemistry’s new, annual Early Career Researcher Award for his exceptional contributions to the department. The award of £1,000, which recognises the vital role played by postdocs, above and beyond their direct research activities, was presented at the departmental Postdoc Symposium on 4 February. The Symposium included talks from postdocs and speakers from the Royal Society of Chemistry, Elsevier, BBSRC and Imperial’s Postdoc Development Centre. Dr Shane Bergin (Chemistry) was also awarded a prize for the best presentation.

SUPPORT SERVICES
ICT’s accreditation

ICT has become the first university IT department to be awarded the National Computing Centre’s (NCC) IT Department Accreditation. To gain accreditation ICT had to demonstrate that it follows best practice in over 100 different areas of its work related to its systems, processes and practices. The results of a survey of users conducted in November 2009 were also submitted to the NCC moderator board which confirmed on 4 January that ICT has achieved the standard required for accreditation.
Analysing the ancient oceans

Scientists have developed a new technique that enables them to determine what the chemical composition of the ocean was like millions of years ago, which could provide them with a new tool for understanding early Earth. In research published in the journal Science on 5 February, researchers from the Department of Earth Science and Engineering describe a novel method for reconstructing past ocean chemistry using calcium carbonate veins, which were formed millions of years ago under the sea floor.

The researchers say understanding changes in the chemistry of oceans could help them to improve their knowledge about past climate, movements in the Earth's crust and the evolution of life in the oceans.

The scientists studied core samples of calcium carbonate veins, which were recovered by scientific deep-ocean drilling teams as part of the Integrated Deep Ocean Drilling Program. These calcium carbonate veins were formed when warm seawater flowed through the ocean's crust and reacted with basalt rock.

— COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

Effects of badger culling prove short-lived

Badger culling is unlikely to be a cost-effective way of helping control cattle TB in Britain, according to research published in PloS ONE on 10 February. The authors of the study, from the MRC Centre for Outbreak Analysis and Modelling at Imperial and the Zoological Society of London, say their findings suggest that the benefits of repeated widespread badger culling disappear within four years after the culling has ended.

Professor Christl Donnelly (Public Health), senior author of the study, said: “The Randomised Badger Culling Trial was set up to find out if culling badgers would help control the spread of the disease. Although badger culling reduced bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in cattle during the trial and immediately thereafter, our new study shows that the beneficial effects are not sustained, disappearing four years post-cull.

“Our new research also suggests that the savings that farmers and the government would make by reducing bTB infections in cattle are two or three times less than the cost of repeated badger culls as undertaken in the trial, so this is not a cost effective contribution to preventing bTB infections in cattle.”

— LUCY GOODCHILD, COMMUNICATIONS

Big bang from CERN

Physicists are celebrating the publication of the first set of data from the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) particle detector, just two months after the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) was switched on late last year at CERN in Geneva.

The results are published in the Journal of High Energy Physics, and provide the first information about some of the particles produced from the collisions in the LHC, which has accelerated protons to the highest energies achieved in an accelerator so far, 1.18 TeV (Tera electron Volts).

“The new data show that the CMS is analysing and reconstructing particle energies in accordance with our expectations”, says Imperial physicist, Professor Tejinder Virdee, who for several years led the team of international scientists that designed and built the CMS experiment. “It is hugely reassuring, after so much work, that our equipment is now up and running, and that we’re already publishing first results.”

“The new collision events we’re looking for are very rare, so we need a good understanding of the ordinary ones, so that we can recognise the unusual ones when they happen,” says Professor Geoff Hall (Physics), who has also played a key role in the CMS experiment.

— NATASHA MARTINEAU, COMMUNICATIONS

Cars of the future

Parts of a car’s bodywork could one day double up as its battery, according to the scientists behind a new €3.4 million project announced on 5 February. Imperial researchers and partners, including Volvo Car Corporation, are developing a prototype material which can store and discharge electrical energy and which is also strong and lightweight enough to be used for car parts. Ultimately, they expect that this material could be used in hybrid petrol or electric vehicles to make them lighter, more compact and more energy efficient, enabling drivers to travel for longer distances before needing to recharge their cars.

The project co-ordinator, Dr Emile Greenhalgh (Aeronautics), said: “We are really excited about the potential of this new technology. We think the car of the future could be drawing power from its roof, its bonnet or even the door, thanks to our new composite material. Even the sat nav could be powered by its own casing. The future applications for this material don’t stop there – you might have a mobile phone that is as thin as a credit card because it no longer needs a bulky battery, or a laptop that can draw energy from its casing so it can run for a longer time without recharging. We’re at the first stage of this project and there is a long way to go, but we think our composite material shows real promise.”

Researchers from the Departments of Chemistry, Aeronautics, and Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology are involved in the three-year project funded by the European Union.

— COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS
With over 100 sports clubs ranging from the more traditional sports of rowing, rugby and netball to newer ones such as Gaelic football, archery and fencing, there is more activity going on at the College than ever before. Indeed Imperial’s student participation rate (proportionately per student) was recognised as the highest of any university in the UK according to the National Active Student Survey in 2007–08. The College is also gaining a reputation in British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS), in particular for rowing, fencing, squash, volleyball, judo and rugby, and its ranking in the BUCS league has steadily improved since 2004–05 when the College ranked 47th to its most recent ranking for 2008–09 when it came 22nd.

Sport Imperial is in charge of providing sports facilities for staff and students, as well as promoting sporting excellence and actively encouraging participation in physical activity across all levels. It also has an alliance with Imperial College Union – called Sports Partnership Scheme, TOPSport and the rowing scholarships have provided over 40 students with funds to aid their sporting development and careers this academic year,” she adds. At present a number of the College’s sports clubs such as waterpolo and fencing are divided into two teams – Imperial College and Imperial Medics. “To acquire more BUCS points, it would be excellent to see more clubs working together,” says Sam.

Moving up the BUCS rankings

Imperial has traditionally been known for its excellence in rowing and rugby but in the BUCS championships for 2008–09 it was the fencing club that amassed the highest number of points and began to make a name for itself. Emily Bottle, a fourth year medical student, is the fencing club president. She explains that...
the club has 66 members, who range from complete novices to international athletes. As fencing is an expensive and relatively rare sport, Emily is proud that the College's support has enabled the club to offer all students the chance to give it a try.

Hannah Bryars is a fourth year medic and one of the club's elite players. Having fenced from the age of seven in Cornwall where she grew up, she is now on the Great Britain fencing squad and is aiming for gold when she represents Scotland in the Commonwealth Championships this autumn. And when that is over, her sights are firmly set on the 2012 Olympics. On top of her medical degree, training up to three hours every day and spending her weekends competing abroad, Hannah still finds time to be the social secretary of the fencing club and enjoys implementing 'Pink Fridays', where both the men's and the women's fencing teams have to wear one item of pink to a night out at the Union.

Hannah has been financially supported by Sport Imperial via the Developing Excellence Scheme (DES) and the TOP-Sports scholarship since she started at the College. The schemes have meant she can afford to train alongside her medical degree and they have provided competition kit, such fencing masks, while also contributing to the costs of personal coaching, physiotherapy, mentoring and competitions.

Hannah's eyes light up as she talks about the nature of fencing: “It’s all about toughing it out both mentally and physically. You have to assert your dominance and make sure your opponent thinks you are going to win. When you are fighting the whole room disappears and all you can see is the person’s torso which is your target.” And has encouraged more club members to enter competitions. Hannah says the atmosphere and the friends she has made are the best things about the club. “It’s like a little family and if one person isn’t on form on the day of a match everyone steps up to help. Fencing can feel incredibly cruel when you lose, as you are competing one on one, but knowing you have that level of support is fantastic.”

Letting off steam

Imperial can be a high pressured environment for students and having a sport where they can let off steam can be both therapeutic and fun. Ed Lobb, in the second year of his PhD in the Department of Aeronautics, has been involved with the football team since 2005 and is captain of the men's football club. “Monday and Tuesday always seem to drag but Wednesday afternoon is a welcome break from the intensity of research, and a chance to get some fresh air and leave your work behind.”

Ed has been a football fan since he first got involved with the under-11s football team in his home town in Plymouth. “I love everything about football – it’s a British institution and boys bond over their favourite teams in the playground at school, and at university it isn’t any different. Particularly in a science-orientated college like Imperial, I’ve found my most like-minded friends in the club, as we are all so passionate about the game!”

But while the dream of becoming a professional footballer may be out of reach, Ed says there is always something to play for whether it’s cups, avoiding relegation or triumphing over an unbeaten rival. The appeal of playing football only seems to be increasing, as the club’s membership has gone up by 20 per cent since last year and it now has 120 members.

The football club has benefited from a strategic partnership between Sport Imperial and Queen’s Park Rangers (QPR) football club, which sees the teams being coached by QPR coaches and using their training ground near Heathrow. The most talented UK footballers are unlikely to have a university career, as they’ll be playing in professional leagues by the age of 18 or 19, but talented footballers at Imperial can still get spotted by semi-professional clubs – as happened to last year’s first team captain, Michael Donovan, who signed for Bromley FC last summer.

While the age-old ‘participation for all versus elite sports’ debate continues to bubble, Sam Bell is emphatic that the two can coexist happily and Sport Imperial ensures both are supported: “It is a myth that the two have to be mutually exclusive – they actually feed into each other,” she says. “The more people who play, the bigger the pool you are drawing from for elite players. We are really proud to support the wins of our athletes but are equally proud of people who have found friends or gained confidence through the clubs.”

— EMILY ROSS, COMMUNICATIONS

Sports clubs in action

The annual Varsity event held on 17 March is a showcase for sport at the College. Staff and students are invited to watch Imperial College and Imperial Medicals battle it out in 20 sports. The day culminates with the JPR Williams rugby match at Old Deer Park in Richmond. For information visit: www3.imperial.ac.uk/sports/varisty
It was Abraham Lincoln who commented that it’s not the years in your life that count, but the life in your years – an observation that is reflected in Imperial’s recently launched Lifelong Health Project, which aims to encourage research that helps us stay healthier for longer.

From providing adequate social care to developing a better understanding of age-related conditions, the challenges posed by an expanding ageing population are rarely out of the headlines.

In order to tackle the unmet need for research to help reduce the gap between our lifespan and health span, Imperial has set up the Lifelong Health Project, which aims to create a community where Imperial research on ageing is reflected in Imperial’s anticipated benefits will be all focused on ageing, but some are highly interdisciplinary. It’s not all focused on ageing, but some of the anticipated benefits will be especially useful for older people,” he says.

Patrick’s main aim is to develop retinal prostheses, more commonly known as bionic eyes, to help improve people’s vision and help them lead more independent lives. “By necessity, my research is highly interdisciplinary. It’s not co-evolve and feed into crucial social and economic areas such as health services, transport and employment.”

Peter is a health economist who has worked as an advisor to the World Health Organisation. His research is on the economics and effectiveness of health systems. He is looking at ways of making sure that emerging technologies, such as remote monitoring and personalised healthcare, get properly incorporated into health services.

“Some of these new technologies will provide radical new ways for us to live our lives,” says Peter. “Coming from a social sciences background, I am particularly enjoying the new perspectives that Imperial science and medicine bring to the whole spectrum of helping people lead healthier lives for longer.”

Research by biomedical engineer Dr Patrick Degenaar is representative of the technological part of that spectrum. Patrick is jointly employed by the Institute of Biomedical Engineering and the Department of Medicine. He is looking into new ways for people with neurodegenerative visual problems to process and enhance images to amplify what’s left of their vision. Some of these problems are caused by purely genetic factors; others, such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), are directly linked with growing older. AMD is found in one in four people over the age of 75 and causes peripheral vision, which can quickly lead to loss of mobility. This has obvious links to quality of life, especially in older people.

Patrick’s main aim is to develop retinal prostheses, more commonly known as bionic eyes, to help improve people’s vision and help them lead more independent lives. “By necessity, my research is highly interdisciplinary. It’s not all focused on ageing, but some of the anticipated benefits will be especially useful for older people,” he says.

— NATASHA MARTINEAU, COMMUNICATIONS

For further information see www.imperial.ac.uk/ageing or contact Rebecca Nadal r.nadal@imperial.ac.uk
Challenging perceptions of living with HIV

Last year Mrs Alice Woolnough, Dr Lesley Drake and Dr Michael Beasley from the Partnership for Child Development in the School of Public Health made a film – Courage and Hope – which tells the remarkable stories of teachers from Kenya living with HIV. The researchers recognised that by speaking about their experiences, HIV positive teachers could help dispel the myths and tackle discrimination associated with the condition, educating others and helping to reduce the spread of infection.

Over the last 18 months the film has been screened in five countries. Francis Peel, Website and Communications Officer for the Partnership for Child Development (Public Health), describes his experience of presenting the film at the Fourth African Conference on Sexual Health and Rights in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which he attended last month.

“On the first day of the conference I was sitting in the shiny conference room of Africa’s Economic Commission, impatiently waiting until we screened our film Courage and Hope and feeling somewhat worried. So far the conference hadn’t gone as smoothly as I’d planned, my boxes of DVDs intended for all the delegates were stuck in customs and now the projector wasn’t working. But I needn’t have worried because sitting next to me were two of the stars of the film, teachers Martin Ptoch and Beldina Atieno, whose powerful stories of challenging discrimination by disclosing their status to their colleagues and forming a network of HIV positive teachers to offer advice and support to those in similar positions could have carried the conference on their own.

Luckily a new working projector was found and the teachers held the conference in rapture as they related their stories and answered delegates’ numerous questions. Hearing Beldina’s and Martin’s first-hand accounts of facing up to the realities of discovering they were HIV positive and the courage that they have shown to support other teachers in the fight against discrimination was truly inspirational and received possibly the biggest applause of the conference.

“Hearing Beldina’s and Martin’s first-hand accounts was truly inspirational!”

Watch the film at www.schoolsandhealth.org
course review

By course attendee Laura Stannard,
Hall Supervisor at Eastside
(Accommodation Services)

Emergency first aid at work

Why did you go on the course?
The course is compulsory for all hall supervisors. We supervise a building in which 453 students live, so there are a lot of people who could need our help at any given time.

What did you learn?
We learnt initial first aid procedures that can be administered on the scene of an accident or emergency, for example, how to treat a burn before medical help arrives, how to deal with someone who is choking, or has major cuts, how to give CPR and how to deal with heart attack and stroke victims. It’s a hands-on course and we got to know ‘CPR Annie’ very well!

Would you recommend the course?
If you soak it all up, there is a lot to be learnt during the day. The incidents that we were dealing with were a little scary to think of but they are things that could happen at any time, and the action that you initially take could have a hugely positive effect. Basically, if you have a chance to learn the skills that could save someone’s life, then you should do it!

For more information on the course visit: www3.imperial.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/safety/index/firstaidlifesavers

Hard Rain runs until 12 March on the Queen’s Lawn, South Kensington Campus.

What do you think of the Hard Rain exhibition?

I think putting these photos up is very important for everyone. Usually you see very nice and glamorous images and maybe some of us don’t really know what’s happening in the world. It’s good to get people thinking about their behaviour and what we take for granted.”

Dalia Kaskiraveva, MSc Maths and Finance (Mathematics)

“I was just on my lunch break and spotted the photos. It’s really interesting to see how they’re linked to the lyrics underneath them. They’re all thought-provoking and the whole exhibition is a bit of a rollercoaster, with some very beautiful photos and some very sad ones.”

Dr Jorg Schumacher, Research Associate (Life Sciences)

“I don’t find these images disturbing, just honest. They’re showing what’s really going on. It’s good for people to see the sorts of things that are happening in places they’ve never been.”

Stylianos Souzou, Second Year Student (Electrical and Electronic Engineering)
Welcome new starters

Dr Ola Abeg, Surgery and Cancer
Miss Dona Addu, Computing
Miss Helen Alsheik, Surgery and Cancer
Dr Marta Aarchanz, Medicine
Dr Creisti Antyro, NHLI
Dr Pierre-Arnaud Artois, Chemical Engineering
Helene Autele, Materials
Miss Aimee Ayton, Medicine
Mr Sivakumar Balasubmaran, Bioengineering
Mr Thomas Barbanneau, Humanities
Mr Alexander Barron, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Mr Darren Barrow, Security
Ms Olya Benisiosse, Catering
Miss Agnessa Benjamij, NHLI
Mr James Blake, Library
Dr Julia Blanchard, Biology
Dr Marianne Bolestad, Medicine
Dr Marco Braya, Bioengineering
Miss Mary Brown, Library
Dr Nils Bumefield, Biology
Dr Suzanne Carrera, Medicine
Mr James Chan, Kennedy Institute
Mr Anastasios Chalanakis, Kennedy Institute
Mr Dustin Connor, Computing
Ms Ide Cremin, Public Health
Miss Anna Daut, Cell and Molecular Biology
Mr Kevin Dawson, Surgery and Cancer
Mr Meiron Davies, NHLI
Mr Qin Ding, Kennedy Institute
Dr Fernando Elustondo, Medicine
Miss Amya Fannika, Library
Ms Luiza Fernandes de Lemos, Catering
Dr Valentina Ferretti, Cell and Molecular Biology
Dr Lin Fou, Centre for Environmental Policy
Miss Laia Garcia Sanchez, Catering
Mr Aulo Gelli, Public Health
Dr Fatima Goyani, NHLI
Dr Rosemary Greaves, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Miss Bianca Hartley-Mitchell, Reactor Centre
Dr Pau Herreo Viras, Biomedical Engineering
Mr Ivan Ho, EEE
Mr Sebhan Husain, Materials
Professor Roman Indest, Business School
Dr Isaac Jamieson, Public Health
Miss Monika Kapuscinska, Catering
Miss Natalia Klimowski, NHLI
Ms Lena Kohler, Surgery and Cancer
Dr Svyatoslav Kondrat, Clinical Sciences
Mr Mark Thomas, EEE
Dr Hilda Tsang, Medicine
Dr Corina Tudor, NHLI
Miss Sahamzak Vakhshouri, NHLI
Miss Reva Vaz, Bioengineering
Dr Peter Woodward, Surgery and Cancer
Dr Hui Fei Wu, NHLI
Ms Dong Zhang, Computing
Mr Patricio Macedo, NHLI
Mr Kailer Magnusson, Cell and Molecular Biology
Dr Tottam Mahmoodi, EEE
Ms Maria Marquez Daza, Catering
Mr Andrea Maurano, Chemistry
Dr Rachel McMullan, Cell and Molecular Biology
Dr Alex Morris, Medicine
Dr Aisha Newth, Public Health
Professor Peter O’Hare, Medicine
Ms Noor Fakhriwali, NHLI
Mr Tapoj Paljarvi, Public Health
Miss Benediktke Pedersen, NHLI
Ms Iviela Piastra, Catering
Mr Christopher Pinder, Medicine
Miss Elana Pires Barreinho, Business School
Miss Olga Prithouda, Catering
Mr Sanjay Pratipadashri, Medicine
Ms Katherine Rogers, Surgery and Cancer
Dr Nathalie Ropkin, Medicine
Miss Carolina Rolf Pilars Lantos, Catering
Mr Christos Rossellis, NHLI
Dr Anthony Rowe, Computing
Dr Dominika Rudnicka, Cell and Molecular Biology
Mr Gerhard Russ, Kennedy Institute
Dr Holger Schmidt, Physics
Dr Dzongmin Shao, NHLI
Ms Elaine Snell, Medicine
Mr Guilherme Soares, Catering
Miss Victoria Spain, NHLI
Mr Brendon Stubb, Medicine
Dr Daniel Stuckey, NHLI
Dr Elizabeth Sukovich, Clinical Sciences
Mr Mark Thomas, EEE
Mr Hilda Tsang, Medicine
Dr Corina Tudor, NHLI
Miss Sahamzak Vakhshouri, NHLI
Miss Reva Vaz, Bioengineering
Dr Peter Woodward, Surgery and Cancer
Dr Hui Fei Wu, NHLI
Ms Dong Zhang, Computing
Farewell moving on

Ms Nicole Ackermann, Library
Dr Alexander Baki, EEE
Dr Nigel Beckett, Medicine (7 years)
Mr Andy Beier, Department of Computing
Dr Dale Bickham, NHLI
Professor Donna Blackmond, Chemistry (6 years)
Mr Terry Bull, Medicine (14 years)
Mrs Maria Catley, Surgery and Cancer
Dr Alain Chan Kew Chin, Medicine (6 years)
Mr Cora Cheung, Physics
Ms Pamela Clarke, Computing
Dr Stuart Coleman, Aeronautics
Dr Ian Don, Medicine (9 years)
Miss Samantha Duffy, Surgery and Cancer
Miss Marina Economouid, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Dr Philipp Eissmann, Cell and Molecular Biology
Dr Bahamas Francis, Medicine
Dr Torsten Froch, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology
Mr Alexander Fulbrook, Cell and Molecular Biology
Dr Sabeem Haj Yahia, NHLI
Mr Andrew Harrington, ICT
Miss Clara Hill, Catering
Dr Claire Horlock, Surgery and Cancer
Miss Louise Humphreys, College Headquarters
Dr Agnes Jones, Surgery and Cancer
Mrs Samina Kashefi, Medicine
Dr Nick Kassouf, Medicine
Mr Steve Kassouf, ICT
Mr Sui Mak, EEE
Mr Miles Marshall, Civil and Environmental Engineering (5 years)
Dr Fiona Mead, NHLI (56 years)
Miss Eco Mengtuk, Human Resources
Ms Chloe Morris, Public Health
Dr Jonathan Myers, Public Health
Ms Olay OÕbado, NHLI
Mr Simon Passey, Finance (2 years)
Dr Marco Porrata, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Dr Mark Purcell, EEE
Dr Sergey Sapojnko, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology
Dr Markus Schulte, Physics (5 years)
Dr Judith Schweitzer, Clinical Sciences
Dr Serrena Scudd, NHLI
Mrs Shahnaz Sehail, Medicine
Mr Thomas Thorpe, Medicine
Ms Guadaluppe Trigo Rossetti, Medicine
Dr Tsu Tsang, Surgery and Cancer (7 years)
Dr Quang Yang, EEE
Miss Zhengyi Yi, Surgery and Cancer

Student blogger Chris on silence in the library:

I decided to join a friend in the silent room. This is the part of the library which requires strict, Buddhist-monk-like silence. Whenever I talk to people about it, they are all quite positive and say it is a great place to concentrate, but now that I have experienced it for myself, I really can’t agree. I don’t think I’ve ever felt so awkward in the library; the sound of me turning the pages of my book became a huge roar which echoed through the room. I spent more time struggling to minimise the sound of my eyelids blinking than actually at work. Needless to say, I shall remain in the general mumble that resides outside of that room.

www.imperial.ac.uk/campus_life/studentblogs

Water good idea

Ever noticed the unique design of the water jugs in the SCR, which pour in four different directions? It was dreamed up by Neil Barron, visiting lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, a London based industrial designer and part-time senior tutor at the Royal College of Art. Neil’s design triumphed over 115 other entries in a 2008 competition to promote London tap water under the slogan, London on Tap.

www.imperial.ac.uk/reporter
24 MARCH • FIRST ANNUAL KOHN LECTURE
Cell cycle control
Sir Paul Nurse is a British geneticist and cell biologist whose work focuses on how cell shape and cell dimensions are determined. He shared the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering key regulators of the cell cycle. Sir Paul has also received the Albert Lasker Award and the Royal Society's Royal and Copley Medals. He is President of Rockefeller University, New York, and previously served as Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK. In the first annual Kohn Lecture, Sir Paul will explain how the growth and reproduction of all living organisms are dependent on the cell cycle, the process which leads to cell division. Uncontrolled division of cells is important for disease, particularly cancer.

20 APRIL • THEMED DAY
Education Day
Education Day aims to provide a forum for sharing good practice across departments and faculties. The day will focus on the role of teaching in the College, in particular e-learning and engagement, and will conclude with the Rector’s presentation of College Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Pastoral Care and Research Supervision. Staff are invited to drop into sessions on podcasting, plagiarism detection, peer assessment tools and how to involve industry in undergraduate teaching, amongst other topics. Speakers include Professor Diana Laurillard, Chair of Learning with Digital Technologies, Institute of Education, and Mr Anthony McClaran, Chief Executive of the QAA.

20 MARCH • INAGURAL LECTURE
Implausible opportunities: how entrepreneurs design firms that achieve the unexpected
Professor Gerard George, Chair in Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Director, Rajiv Gandhi Centre

23 MARCH • LUNCHTIME CONCERT
Majestic brass
Lecture Theatre 1, Wolfson Education Centre

24 MARCH • INAGURAL LECTURE
Creativity, innovation and design
Professor Peter Childs, Chair and Leader in Engineering Design

24 MARCH • FIRST ANNUAL KOHN LECTURE
Cell cycle control
Sir Paul Nurse, British geneticist and cell biologist

25 MARCH • FRIENDS OF IMPERIAL LECTURE
The genii in our cells: how cells change and remember what they are
Professor Richard Festenstein, Clinical Professor of Molecular Medicine

31 MARCH • INAGURAL LECTURE
Understanding the origin of biodiversity to help preserve its future
Professor Vincent Savolainen, Professor of Organismic Biology

20 APRIL • THEMED DAY
Education Day
Workshops and talks focusing on e-learning and engagement

21 APRIL • LECTURE
Making molecules – from new method developments to applications: cancer and asthma
Professor Alan Spey, Professor of Synthetic Chemistry

Launch of online payslips
All monthly paid staff are now able to view their payslips online via the ‘Employee Self Service’ application of the College’s HR and Finance system, ICIS. Paper payslips will continue to be distributed in March, with the roll-out of online payslips due to be complete by April. By eliminating paper payslips, the new process will contribute to the College’s commitment to reduce its carbon footprint. For staff, benefits will include easy access to a full record of their pay.

Further details are available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/finance/sections/payroll/onlinepayslips

Volunteer Police Cadets
Project ID: 2298
Organisation: Kensington and Chelsea Volunteer Police Cadets
Dates: Ongoing
Times: Thursday evenings 17.30–21.00
Location: SW7 (nearest tube Kensington High Street)

Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) is a project that aims to enhance relationships between police and local communities. Kensington and Chelsea VPC is looking for volunteers to deliver a range of activities with a policing theme for 14–19 year olds. Volunteers will be expected to attend weekly meetings and help deliver sports and other activities. They will also be invited to accompany other staff on weekends or weeks away which can involve staying in different types of accommodation, including tents.

For more information
To take part in a scheme or to hear more about volunteering in general, contact Petronela Sasurova:
020 7594 8141
volunteering@imperial.ac.uk

For full details of over 250 volunteering opportunities please visit: www.imperial.ac.uk/volunteering

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by emailing volunteering@imperial.ac.uk