News makers

Felix Editor Kadhim Shubber on the award-winning newspaper and the 135 students who make it happen

--- CENTRE PAGES ---
Duke of York witnesses healthcare innovations

His Royal Highness The Duke of York (pictured far right) visited Imperial on 2 March to learn about the College’s pioneering healthcare innovations in the UK and internationally. He heard about the College’s international partnerships, visited early-stage companies in the Imperial Incubator and learnt about developing robotic technologies to enhance surgery.

Welcoming the Duke of York, Rector Sir Keith O’Nions, explained that the university’s application of its work to industry, commerce and healthcare has been central to its mission since its foundation in 1907.

Speaking at the end of his tour, the Duke said: “Imperial has gripped the problem of being able to deliver its output internationally in a way that many other universities have not been able to achieve. It’s not just about education, it’s about allowing people to innovate, and to expand their minds to do the things that I’ve seen going on here. I would just like to say, as the UK’s Special Representative for International Trade and Investment, that what you do is utterly brilliant.”

The Duke was also given a tour of the Incubator which houses 17 early-stage technology companies spun out of the College. Each receives support from Imperial Innovations, the company that commercialises technologies and discoveries emanating from the College.

— SIMON WATTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Imperial College Union refurbishment

The Rector and senior staff joined trustees and members of the Council and Executive of Imperial College Union (ICU) on 8 March to celebrate the completion of the latest phase of work to refurbish the Union building.

The transformation of the Union’s main facilities in Beit Quad on the South Kensington Campus began in 2008. The work has resulted in more space for student club and society activities, and refurbished gym facilities on the third floor. The area previously used by the Student Activities Centre in the east basement has been converted into meeting rooms and club storage space. And in the refurbishment’s most recent phase, which began in March 2010, the nightclub and bar were renovated and renamed Metric and FiveSixEight respectively.

The cost of the final phase of development was £2.6 million, two-thirds funded by Imperial College Union and a third by a gift from the College to help the Union enhance the student experience at Imperial.

Describing the impact the refurbishment has had on the work of Imperial College Union, Alex Kendall, ICU President, said: “The Union has, after several years, finally got to a stage where we can put ongoing refurbishments aside and see what else needs to be done to improve the services we offer. As for the refurbishments, the changes to the Student Activity Centre were hugely important; Imperial has the highest participation in clubs and societies in the UK and we need to provide the best facilities for students to run their clubs.”

Imperial College London

Expand your horizons

The Department of Humanities is offering summer evening classes in languages including Japanese, Arabic, Russian, Mandarin Chinese and English conversation for non-native speakers. Short arts courses in Creative Writing and Music Technology are also offered. Enrolment starts 28 March 2011.

Visit: www.imperial.ac.uk/humanities/eveningclasses
Imperial ranked in world top three for materials science

Imperial is one of the top three institutions in the world for materials science research, according to a global review of the most prominent researchers in the field.

The review lists the 100 researchers, and their institutions, who achieved the highest citation impact scores for research papers published since January 2000. Scientists from the Centre for Plastic Electronics at Imperial are the first, second, fourth and sixth most prominent materials scientists in the UK, according to the scale.

The list has been compiled by publishing giant Thomson Reuters in celebration of the 2011 International Year of Chemistry and was reported in Times Higher Education on 24 February 2010.

Plastic electronics is a rapidly growing field of research with the potential to bring significant developments in energy, environment and healthcare.

Imperial’s scientists are working across physics, chemistry and materials science on areas including realistic solutions for solar power generation, new low-energy computer displays, solids-state lighting, pervasive electronics, imaging and sensing arrays, and photonics.

The four staff members ranked by Thomson-Reuters were, in list order: Professor Jenny Nelson (Physics); Professor Iain McCulloch (Chemistry); Co-director of the Centre for Plastic Electronics, Professor James Durrant (Chemistry); along with the other Director of the Centre for Plastic Electronics, Professor Donal Bradley (Physics).

“I would like to congratulate our four colleagues whose research has been celebrated in this influential listing,” said Professor Maggie Dallman, Principal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, which hosts the Centre along with partners in the Faculty of Engineering. “Plastic electronics and materials science are areas where Imperial truly excels, and this is an outstanding recognition of some of our interdisciplinary and cross-faculty science.”

--- SIMON LEVEY, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Imperial College Lectureships

The search for the brightest talent to the Imperial College Lectureships scheme is nearing completion, following a recruitment drive launched in November 2010. The scheme, which seeks to appoint a significant number of non-clinical Lecturers across the faculties, and Assistant Professors to the Business School, attracted more than 750 applications of outstanding international quality. Following the interview process, offers have been made for positions across all faculties, and the College hopes the new lecturers will be in post by Autumn 2011.

Rector Sir Keith O’Nions chaired the panel that made the final decisions. Speaking about the rationale behind the scheme, Sir Keith said: “These may be uncertain times for universities on the whole, but at Imperial we’re investing in the brightest and best at this ‘counter-cyclical’ point to gain long term rewards.”

Professor Jeff Magee, Principal of the Faculty of Engineering, was highly impressed with the quality of applications: “We have an astounding set of really excellent candidates. In terms of...”

“...where the Faculty is going in future it depends on the staff we recruit today.” Professor Michele Dougherty (Physics) was appointed under the parent scheme of the new Imperial College Lectureships in 1999. Today she is the Principal Investigator for an international team working on the Cassini spacecraft’s magnetometer, currently orbiting Saturn. Speaking of her experiences on the scheme as a boost earlier in her career, she said: “Besides having the peace of mind, I found having the security of the lectureship was a huge help in attracting funds for my research work.”

Teaching remains an important part of her role: “It accounts for about a third of my activities, and I still very much enjoy it. Fundamentally I think teaching keeps you honest.”

New Earth Science and Engineering head

Professor Jan Cilliers, Chair in Mineral Processing, has accepted appointment as Head of the Department of Earth Science and Engineering, with effect from 1 August 2011, for a period of five years. Professor Cilliers will succeed Professor Martin Blunt, who has held the position since 2006. Prior to joining the College in 2005, Professor Cilliers was a member of staff at the University of Manchester, where he established the Froth and Foam Research Group. Whilst there, he also undertook an MBA at Manchester Business School.

Developing links in clean energy and the life sciences

On 14 March, the Governor of Massachusetts, Deval Patrick and his delegation were welcomed to Imperial by the Energy Futures Lab and Professor Molly Stevens, Research Director for Biomedical Materials (Materials). The visit was part of the Governor’s trade mission to the UK, building links for Massachusetts industries in technology, clean energy and life sciences. Governor Patrick led a discussion on the challenges of becoming a low-carbon economy.

HEFCE grant allocation announced

The College has received notification that it will receive £492.2 million in funding from HEFCE for 2011–12, an increase of £2.2 million compared with 2010–11. Imperial is one of only five universities in the UK to receive an increase in funding in cash terms, bucking the trend when the total HEFCE funding available has been cut by 4.1 per cent. In the constituent parts of the overall funding, Imperial’s teaching grant has fallen by £2.1 million (3.8 per cent) compared to 2010–11, while the research grant has increased by £2.3 million (4.4 per cent).

Students do battle in Varsity 2011

This year’s Varsity sporting challenge was the biggest yet, and saw more than 50 teams compete in 25 matches at venues across London. The day delivered an overall win for Imperial College but, once again, Imperial Medics took home the first team rugby honours. The match finished 25–12. A disappointed Imperial College side received medals from Rector, Sir Keith O’Nions whilst JPR Williams presented the Medicals’ Captains with the JPR Williams Cup trophy.

See Photo Expo on page 15 of this issue for pictures.
Big Science Pub Quiz

Science reporters from 11 national and specialist media outlets were welcomed to the College on 8 March to take part in Imperial’s first Big Science Pub Quiz, staged by the Communications and Development Division. The event was held in the Haemo Globe Inn, a ‘pop-up’ pub created especially for the occasion on the South Kensington Campus.

Journalists from organisations including the BBC, The Guardian, New Scientist and Physics World joined over 60 Imperial researchers to form teams, pit their wits against rivals and make new contacts. A squad of press officers from UK research councils and other partner organisations also came to test their science know-how.

Question rounds included True or False, Science in the Movies, Science in Song and The News Round. At the helm was quiz-master Gareth Mitchell – a lecturer on Imperial’s MSc in Science Communication course and presenter of the Imperial College Podcast and BBC Radio 4’s Digital Planet.

Professor Martin McCall (Physics), who was on the Particle Zoo team, said: “I enjoyed myself enormously. I was amazed how much more knowledgeable our New Scientist partners were than us physicists!”

Following a tie-breaker, the team Large Hadron Collider, led by Professor Wendy Barclay, from the Department of Medicine, with journalists from New Scientist, stormed to victory.

— LAURA GALLAGHER, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Unravelling causes of chronic diseases

A new partnership to study the myriad environmental factors that affect a person’s health held its first meeting at the MRC-HPA Centre for Environment and Health in the School of Public Health on 25 February. The Exposome Alliance, a collaboration between Imperial and the University of California, Berkeley, will investigate the causes of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, cancer and diabetes.

“Genes only represent a small proportion of the factors underlying chronic diseases,” said Professor Paolo Vineis (Public Health), one of the co-founders of the alliance. “It is now widely recognised that the interaction between genes and the wider environment is perhaps the most important factor in determining the health of an individual.”

The concept of the exposome refers to the multitude of external environmental factors which everyone is exposed to in everyday life, from conception onwards.

“The number of factors which make up the exposome is extremely broad, from the products of gut bacteria to exposure, to pollutants or dietary components,” notes Professor Vineis. “Tackling this seemingly overwhelming complexity requires a wide range of methods, including data collection and analysis on a vast scale, and high-throughput technologies.”

The partnership with Berkeley is designed to address these challenges. “We hope the alliance will enable us to make major progress in understanding the causes of major diseases,” he said.

— SAM WONG, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

School pupils NASA-bound after mission success

School pupils will be jetting off to NASA’s Johnson Space Centre in America for the international finals of a space settlement design competition after triumphing in the UK round of the competition, organised by Imperial.

UK school pupils aged 14–18 (pictured above) spent the first weekend of March at Imperial working on a brief to design a space settlement that shuttles between the orbits of Earth and Mars. The pupils were split into four competing companies, appointing presidents and senior managers amongst themselves, before undertaking two days of intense research and design, supported by volunteers from Imperial’s staff and students.

Their efforts culminated in a presentation of their designs to a panel of judges, including academics and representatives from Boeing and the UK Space Agency.

The victorious team’s design featured a ring-shaped, solar powered space station called Cassandras. Team members will visit NASA’s Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas, to represent the UK in the finals of the International Space Settlement Design Competition later this year.

The winning team consisted of pupils from the City of London Academy, Sheringham High School, Pates Grammar School, Lumen Christi College and Chatham Grammar School, amongst others who helped organise or participate in the weekend. He said: “This is a weekend where imaginations run wild and where children mature in front of your very eyes.”

— JOHN-PAUL JONES, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

This is a weekend where imaginations run wild and where children mature in front of your very eyes. Sacrificing the time is a small price to pay to witness that.”

— LAUREN TAYLOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

www.imperial.ac.uk/reporter | reporter | 24 March 2011 • Issue 231
Studies like these should be repeated as evidence of the increased risk of flooding, say scientists in a paper published in The Royal Academy of Engineering. The report warned that society is becoming over-reliant on satellite navigation systems, reported The Engineer. The report focused on the potential for interference such as solar flares and natural phenomena to affect these systems, and their vulnerability to natural and man-made interference. "As part of the process of utilising this technology, we need to better understand the physics of different flooding events and make sure that the models are able to capture this," said Professor Washington Ochieng, one of the report's co-authors. "Studies like these should be repeated as models continue to improve."

Japanese nuclear disaster

Japan’s unfolding nuclear disaster escalated further as three reactors headed for a possible meltdown, reported The Sun. The revelation came as the stricken Fukushima Daiichi plant experienced two more blasts, with radiation levels there rising following an earthquake, measuring nine on the Richter scale, and a tsunami that devastated parts of the country. The first explosion damaged the No.2 reactor, injuring 11 people, followed by an explosion in the No.3 reactor, damaging a suppression pool container. "If the concrete shell that surrounds the reactors is damaged, there will be a risk of harmful radiation exposure and widespread health problems," said Professor Robin Grimes from the Department of Materials.

Issues mapped out

Findings by The Royal Academy of Engineering warn that society is becoming over-reliant on satellite navigation systems, reported The Engineer. The report focused on the potential for interference such as solar flares and natural phenomena to affect these systems, and their vulnerability to natural and man-made interference. "As part of the process of utilising this technology, we need to better understand the physics of different flooding events and make sure that the models are able to capture this," said Professor Washington Ochieng, one of the report’s co-authors. "Studies like these should be repeated as models continue to improve."

Ballooning popularity

Having a balloon inflated in the stomach can lead to significant weight loss with few side-effects, reported the Daily Mail. The new research suggests that implanting a silicone balloon is highly effective at reducing appetite. "It has to be combined with diet and lifestyle advice because once the balloon is removed after six months or so, people need to avoid putting the weight back on," said Professor Nadey Hakim (Surgery and Cancer). "The technique’s popularity has increased because more people are aware of its existence, and recent evidence suggests that it works well for patients with lower BMIs," he added. 

Extreme rain and flooding risks

Greenhouse gas emissions are making extreme rainfall events more common and, in the UK, have increased the risk of flooding, say scientists in a paper published in The Royal Academy of Engineering. The report warned that society is becoming over-reliant on satellite navigation systems, reported The Engineer. The report focused on the potential for interference such as solar flares and natural phenomena to affect these systems, and their vulnerability to natural and man-made interference. "As part of the process of utilising this technology, we need to better understand the physics of different flooding events and make sure that the models are able to capture this," said Professor Washington Ochieng, one of the report’s co-authors. "Studies like these should be repeated as models continue to improve."

Awards and honours

**Medicine**

Penn wins RSM presentation prize

Jack Penn, pictured middle, who completed his intercalated BSc in Surgery and Anaesthesia at Imperial in June 2010, has been awarded this year’s first prize in the annual Royal Society of Medicine Undergraduate Research Presentation competition. Jack’s BSc research project on the potential preventative effect of statins on cognitive decline following surgery, was supervised by Dr Daqing Ma (Surgery and Cancer), pictured left in the image. 

**Life Sciences**

Ganeev’s outstanding achievements

Dr Rashid Ganeev (Physics) was presented with the Khwarizmi International Award for outstanding achievements in research, innovation and invention in fields related to science and technology at a ceremony on 5 February in Tehran. Dr Ganeev researches short-wavelength laser radiation from a variety of plasma sources containing atoms and ions.

**Engineering**

Technology Leadership in Education Award

At the Annual Flexible Electronics and Displays Conference on 9 February, Dr Natalie Stingelin (Materials), pictured below, collected the Technology Leadership in Education Award on behalf of the Doctoral Training Centre in Plastic Electronics. The FlexTech Alliance prize recognises the outstanding work of the Centre, which is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, in educating scientists to design next-generation plastic electronic technology.

**Medicine**

Research paper award shortlisting

Professor Wendy Atkin (pictured) and her group in the Department of Surgery and Cancer have been shortlisted for the British Medical Journal Group’s Research Paper of the Year Award. Their study demonstrated the benefits of flexible sigmoidoscopy as a one-off screening test to prevent colorectal cancer in a 16-year randomised trial. The winner will be announced at a ceremony in May.
Doctors should discuss weight problems with patients

Patients who are told by their doctor that they are overweight or obese are more likely to acknowledge a weight problem and try to do something about it, according to a new study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine on 28 February.

Researchers from Imperial and the Medical University of South Carolina found that getting an honest assessment from a physician appeared to be a key factor in whether or not study participants considered themselves overweight.

Doctors consider people with a body mass index (BMI) above 25 to be overweight, and those with a BMI over 30 to be obese. Among 7,790 of participants in a US interview survey, 37 per cent of people who were overweight, but had not been told this by a doctor, did not think they were overweight. Nineteen per cent of obese people, who had not been advised of their condition by a doctor, did not think they were overweight. Of those whose doctors had given them an honest assessment of their weight, only six per cent of overweight people and three per cent of obese people did not think they were overweight.

"With the whole population getting heavier, obesity is becoming normalised, so many people who are seriously overweight don’t realise that their health is at risk," said Dr Sonia Saxena (Public Health), senior author of the study. "Our study shows that having a doctor tell someone they are overweight is a key factor in the patient’s awareness of the problem."

— SAM WONG, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Battlefield blast injuries need better study

Imperial scientists say more interdisciplinary research is needed to improve the treatment of soldiers and civilians injured by landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Recent conflicts have seen a proliferation of these weapons, which are capable of causing multiple, severely injured casualties in a single blast. Study author, Dr Kate Brown (Life Sciences), said: “IEDs pose the most prevalent single threat to troops operating in war-torn regions such as Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Combined improvements in body armour, pre-hospital care and aero-evacuations mean more people survive conflicts despite multiple injuries, for example, 89 per cent of wounded soldiers survived the conflict in Iraq, compared with 70 per cent in World War II. However, the number of injuries caused by IEDs in the current conflicts show a worrying upward trend.

Writing in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B, researchers from the cross-faculty Blast Biomechanics and Biophysics Group say that if clinicians, natural scientists and engineers worked together, it would be possible to improve the quality of treatment for these combat casualties. Data from field hospitals in war zones could help surgeons make decisions that would improve the quality and speed of treatments. Military surgeon and main author of the article, Arul Ramasamy (Bioengineering), explained: “A comparison between the injuries sustained from IEDs out in the open, versus those in enclosed spaces, such as a vehicle hit by an IED, demonstrates that the environment is significant in determining the underlying patterns and causes of injury. This understanding is fundamental to developing new technology to protect the soldiers on the ground.”

— SIMON LEVEY, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT
From the Asian elephant to the roadrunner

The structures inside animals’ thigh bones that enable them to support huge loads, whilst being relatively lightweight, were revealed in research published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* on 9 March. The researchers say their work could lead to the development of new materials based on thigh bone geometry.

A team from Imperial and the Royal Veterinary College collected thigh bone samples from British museum collections and zoos, analysing specimens of the femur bone from 90 different species, including the Asian elephant, Etruscan shrew, roadrunner, crocodile, emu, turkey, leopard and giraffe. They explored how animal size related to the formation of an interlinking lattice of tiny bone struts inside the femur called trabeculae. The researchers found that trabeculae, typically found near joints, have different geometry depending on the size of the species.

The researchers say their new understanding of how femur bones are structured could be used to advance a class of tough, lightweight structural materials, which could be used to improve bodywork for planes and cars.

Dr Michael Doube, who holds a joint post at Imperial, is also a veterinary surgeon. He explained: “Scientists had not previously known that the structure of trabeculae varied, or scaled up, depending on the size of the animal. We assumed that trabeculae would be important in supporting the weight of larger creatures, such as Asian elephants, which can weigh more than three tonnes. However, we were surprised to find that animals that have comparatively lighter loads, such as the Etruscan shrew, weighing three grams, also have trabeculae supporting its tiny body.”

— COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Genetic studies find five new variants linked to heart disease

Five new genetic variants linked to heart disease have been identified in a metanalysis of four large genome-wide association studies, published in *Nature Genetics* in the first week of March. The findings will guide research into new treatments for coronary heart disease, which kills 88,000 people in Britain each year.

The discoveries add to 11 common variants previously shown to be associated with heart disease, and provide further evidence that many genes have a small but significant effect on heart disease risk.

The Coronary Artery Disease (C4D) Genetics Consortium, co-led by groups at Imperial and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, compared the DNA sequences of thousands of people with heart disease in European and South Asian populations with controls from the same ethnic groups.

All of the variants linked to heart disease in the study appeared to be equally significant in people from European and South Asian ancestry.

Professor Jaspal Kooner (NHLU), Dr John Chambers and Professor Paul Elliott (both Public Health) co-led the research at Imperial, and determined the contribution of these variants to heart disease amongst South Asians living in the UK.

“These findings add weight to the idea that a large number of genes affect your likelihood of developing heart disease, each gene having a relatively small effect,” Professor Kooner said. “This means that genetic tests are unlikely to be useful for predicting heart disease, but each gene we discover tells us about the biological mechanisms underlying heart disease and gives us a new lead to look for new treatment strategies.”

— SAM WONG, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

New land-move theory for early plants

Prior to this time, plants were only able to extract nutrition directly from water. Then, in one of the most influential events in the evolution of our planet, plants developed a special relationship with fungi whereby they exchanged energy made by photosynthesis for nourishment extracted from the soil.

Ancient plants preserved in the fossil record led scientists to believe that fungi related to present-day *Glomus* (Glomeromycota) were the first to provide mineral nutrients to plants. However, the new study, published in *Biology Letters* on 9 March, suggests that the first fungi to assist plants on land were in fact a different type related to today’s *Endogone* (Mucoromycotina).

The so-called ‘mycorrhizas’ (literally fungus roots) are now common in around 90 per cent of all plants, where they grow in and around the plant’s own cells, and spread out into the soil.

Dr Bidartondo explained: “This relationship is so close, maybe we shouldn’t say a plant has roots, we should say it has mycorrhizas.” The fungi are well adapted to absorbing chemicals from the soil, being thinner and longer than the plant’s roots.

“This new data means we should reconsider the process whereby plants evolved the ability to live on dry land,” he added.

— SIMON LEVY, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT
Press gang

It’s an hour before Felix’s press deadline and there is an air of urgency in the basement of the Imperial College Union building as the students near the end of a record week, in which they published five issues in five days. Charged with Red Bull and drumming his fingers to the music of LCD Soundsystem, Felix Editor Kadhim Shubber flits between computers doing last-minute tweaks to layouts and scanning articles over the shoulders of his team-mates, eager to hit the button and send the final Daily Felix to the printers.

Reporter goes behind the scenes to learn about the student team’s passion for their work on Felix and how they found publishing a daily.

The idea for the Daily Felix came from watching the film about the founding of Facebook, The Social Network. In the film the students kept mentioning their daily newspaper the Harvard Crimson. “Somehow this made me think that maybe we could publish every day too, as it had never been done before at Imperial,” explains Kadhim. “No one told me it was a bad idea so we just went ahead,” he adds.

Felix, first published in 1949, is a weekly newspaper dedicated to telling Imperial students about what goes on at the College. The Felix motto, ‘Keep the Cat Free’, refers to the tradition of free speech, and those who write for the newspaper are given a free rein to follow-up articles that interest them.

Kadhim explains that it’s a very hands-on publication and students get experience of the whole production process from commissioning articles to writing, editing, taking photos and laying out their pieces in Adobe InDesign.

Deputy Editor, Gilead Amit (Physics), says that it’s the fast pace nature of creating a newspaper which attracted him to work for Felix in the first place. “It’s the feeling of writing a news story with an hour to go before the paper has to reach the printers that makes it so exciting.”

Kadhim is the only member of the Felix team who is on a paid sabbatical from his Physics degree but you wouldn’t be able to tell from the amount of time and effort the team dedicate to the publication. What is tangible is the sense of community in the office. “We are united by a common enthusiasm and love of the paper; it’s a great team to be part of.”
the paper; it’s a great team to be part of,” says Chief Copy Editor, Lizzy Griffiths (Life Sciences).

Gilead believes it’s particularly important to have a paper like Felix, which welcomes anyone who wants to get involved, at Imperial. “I have always felt that Felix is a blessing for a science university, where students of an artistic disposition might worry about feeling stifled. I don’t know how my written English would have been affected had it not been for the regular practice.”

This year an average issue of Felix has around 48 pages, and features the work of over 100 contributors and 35 editors (including four who work on Felix online). The paper is made up of 15 sections featuring articles on a range of topics from fashion and politics, to film and music.

For the Daily Felix, Kadhim scaled down the publication to 24 pages and used a different company to print it. The issues included themed pull-out supplements on subjects such as music, technology and art. In order to get the first issue out on the Monday, the students worked through the weekend, going to press on Sunday night, and for the rest of the week Felix absorbed all of their time outside of lectures.

Creating the Daily Felix was undoubtedly a team effort. “It involved a lot of time, effort and coordination,” explains Lizzy. “For me it was about making sure everything was finished to a high quality and that mistakes were removed from every issue, which was not always easy! We were really relieved when it was over but there was a real sense of satisfaction that we achieved it together.”

One of the things Kadhim was most concerned about in producing the Daily Felix was how to generate enough stories to fill the pages. Kadhim gets tip-offs about potential stories via emails, phone calls or word of mouth.

“Week in, week out, someone always messes up a little bit and gives us a hook for an article,” he says, gleefully pointing to the stories which helped fill the Daily Felix, such as the hacking of the Department of Computing’s IT system and a number of thefts in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Kadhim is most proud of the reporting of the Life Sciences restructuring, noting that the topic has attracted lots of attention from staff and students. Felix doesn’t just attract local acclaim – this month the publication won the London Student Journalism Support Network’s Prize for Best Publication.

Kadhim will be handing over to the new Editor after the summer term and is looking forward to his final year of his Physics degree, as a step back from Felix. As for taking up journalism as a career, Kadhim isn’t convinced that he is cynical enough and thinks it would harden his heart. “I get really anxious about sticking the boot in and am too amiable with people I’m interviewing – I’m happy to admit that!”

Kadhim confesses to being a bit of a perfectionist and on Wednesdays he works through the night to check the whole layout of the newspaper, taking a few hours’ break to sleep on the sofa. “I know I could work fewer hours if I wanted to but I wouldn’t be as happy with the outcome. I want Felix to be as good as a proper newspaper,” he says.

— EMILY ROSS, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Thursday – press day

Thursday is all about copy editing. There used to be a bit of flexibility in terms of the time we went to press but now the Daily Mail shares our printer, so if we are late then we get bumped off until the next day to ensure the Daily Mail is on the newsstands in time. As a result I’ve had to become stricter – so we normally go to press at 18.00, then I work with the online editors to upload all the content onto the website. I finish around 22.00 and get home just in time to watch Question Time.

Friday

I wake up early and work from bed, publishing all the news stories I uploaded the night before. I then make my way into College and head to the post room to pick up the boxes of Felix and distribute them to the bins all across campus, so students can grab a copy before their 9.00 lectures. It’s great seeing people enjoying it. I spend the rest of the day checking my emails, then head to the Union Bar for the weekly Felix social.

A week in the life...

Kadhim describes a typical week in the Felix offices

Monday

I usually get in at 7.30. Today is pretty relaxed as I have a false sense of security as press day seems far away. At lunch I meet with all the section editors to discuss what is going in the paper that week. News meetings are held straight afterwards and all the stories are allocated. I normally work until 19.00.

Tuesday

Today is all about following up leads, researching, interviewing and writing up stories. I sometimes work from home.

Wednesday

Wednesday is the most stressful day and it’s all hands on deck in the office. At 20.00 I go to Tesco and load up with cans of Red Bull. Then I look at all the pages in the issue and try to fix the layout. I take a kip in a sleeping bag on a sofa in our meeting room for two or three hours, then start again.
Heading in the right direction

From tinkering with radio equipment as a teenager to bringing together multidisciplinary research teams at Imperial, Professor Jeff Magee, recently appointed Principal of the Faculty of Engineering, speaks to Reporter about his career progression and his hopes for his new role.

After five years working as Head of the Department of Computing, Jeff was asked to take on the top role in the Faculty in January when Professor Stephen Richardson became Deputy Rector on a full-time basis. “It is certainly daunting heading up the largest and definitely the best engineering faculty in the UK,” Jeff admits, “but I’m keen to meet the expectations of my colleagues and pass on my passion to the next generation of engineers”.

Jeff’s first introduction to engineering was mending pieces of old radio equipment given to him by his uncle, an electrical engineer with the Northern Ireland Electricity Board, when he was in his early teens. “I’ve always been quite impatient and finding out how to make things work was my way of putting this trait to good use. It also explains why I love computers so much, as they provide instant results,” he adds.

Following in his uncle’s footsteps, Jeff pursued electrical and electronic engineering at Queen’s University Belfast and went to work for Post Office Telecommunications (now BT) after graduating. It was at Post Office Telecoms that Jeff discovered computers – working with a teletype, a form of typewriter that operated at 10 characters per second and communicated with a Burroughs Timesharing Computing System.

Post Office Telecoms funded Jeff’s Master’s in Computing at Imperial which he started in 1979. A year after finishing, he returned to the College to do a PhD in Computing Science, before joining the Department of Computing as a lecturer. He became a professor in 1999.

Jeff made his mark in the Department as one of the originators of the research field known as software architecture, establishing the structures of software elements required to develop technical solutions. A version of one of the software tools developed by Jeff and his colleagues was adopted by Philips – one of the largest electronics companies in the world – for all their audio-visual products, including television sets.

Jeff was promoted to Head of the Department (HoD) of Computing in 2004 and now follows in Stephen Richardson’s footsteps as Faculty Principal. “I think appointing someone to this role who has experience of being a HoD is advantageous, as they really understand the needs of academics,” says Jeff.

**Joined up working**

While Jeff is committed to maintaining excellence in each of the nine departments, one of his priorities for the Faculty is to contribute expertise to teams of academics across the College undertaking multidisciplinary research projects. “The Faculty of Engineering has begun to develop more of a collegiate ethos over the last few years, in the way we work together, but we can do better,” he says.

Jeff points to the Medical Engineering Solutions in Osteoarthritis Centre of Excellence funded by the Wellcome Trust and the EPSRC, as an example of the huge opportunities for applying engineering solutions to healthcare.

Based in the Department of Bioengineering, the Centre aims to improve the quality of life for individuals with osteoarthritis – one of the most common causes of chronic pain in the UK today.

“In the Osteoarthritis Centre everyone’s working towards the same goal,” says Jeff. “They all want to do something to slow or halt the progression of this disease.” At least nine different disciplines come together in the virtual centre: engineers, surgeons, rehabilitation therapists, chemists, imaging scientists, computer scientists, materials scientists and cell biologists.

“Those teams are stronger for having so many different perspectives on the problem. If just one of those people were working on their own, they would never imagine the solutions that the centre is coming up with.”

**Excellence in teaching**

In addition to excellence in research, Jeff is keen for the Faculty to achieve excellence in teaching. Jeff explains that the Faculty has just come to the end of a five-year programme called EnVision, which looked at improving the way engineering education was delivered at Imperial.

One of the outcomes of the programme has been an approach that delivers teaching using a combination of traditional methods, new technologies and practical projects. A particular success to highlight is the Constructionarium, which offers hands-on experience to civil engineering students, with previous projects including the construction of bridges, involving teams of industry experts.

Due to funding cuts, many universities increasingly depend on computer modelling and simulation alone to educate engineers. “I worry that if we embrace this approach, we will lose the connection between engineering education and engineering practice,” says Jeff. “The Faculty is committed to maintaining and providing world class engineering labs and workshops that support both its teaching and research,” he adds, pointing to the newly refurbished and re-equipped labs in the Bessemer and Skempton Buildings on the South Kensington Campus.

Jeff says that getting the teaching right is a massive part of upholding the student experience and ensuring engineering degrees don’t become sterile. “When students leave the College, I’d like them to be as proud of studying at Imperial as we are of them as graduates – that’s how I’ll know we, as a Faculty, have done a good job.”
I applied to work as a student caller as I thought it would be good to put my ‘love of talking’ to use. With the current economic climate, the idea of working for the College to help shape someone’s future felt really worthwhile. At the same time, it was a chance to make new friends from completely different departments.

I chose three shifts a week—Monday, Tuesday and Saturday. It was a fun working environment and I loved being there each night.

The first call was the hardest and a million thoughts ran through my head. All that I was aware of was that I had to talk to a complete stranger and I had no clue how they would respond.

As the days passed, it got much easier and we started having some great conversations with alumni. The best thing was when you were comparing what life was like at Imperial when the alumnus was here, with what it is like now, or hearing about their experiences of working in industry. I personally raised almost £16,000 in four weeks, which was a great feeling! Over the course of the telethon I laughed, shared, cheered, made new friends and gained a mass of experience.”

Students keen to take part in the College’s next telephone fundraising campaign should contact: rosalind.griffin@imperial.ac.uk

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**Carrying capacity**

It may surprise you to learn that the term ‘carrying capacity’ actually has nothing to do with how much shopping you can lug home from Tesco. Instead, it refers to the number of organisms any given ecosystem can support. The carrying capacity of a rainforest, for instance, is considerably greater than that of, say, a desert. Hence, the two per cent of the Earth’s surface that is covered by rainforest is home to over half of all plant and animal species. By contrast, the world’s deserts are relatively sparsely populated. With the human population set to break the seven billion barrier later this year, some scientists and politicians are starting to worry about what the Earth’s ultimate carrying capacity could be. They speculate that maybe there isn’t one; maybe technology can be used to increase the Earth’s carrying capacity indefinitely. Perhaps advancements in GM agriculture, renewable energy or other as yet unforeseen technologies will enable us to support even more people on this planet.

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Student blogger Christopher on getting a bit of culture:
“As students you should really be utilising those Wednesday afternoons: once you enter the real world your employer is highly unlikely to give you an afternoon off a week to kick a ball around a park. Why not get some people together and do something a little cultured like visiting the theatre? For a quiet Wednesday matinée (or even evening) performance, you can buy the worst seats in the house, then simply shuffle forward as the show starts, saving yourself a lot of cash. The ushers don’t really seem to mind or notice. In the unlikely event that this backfires on you for some reason, my condolences.”
www.imperial.ac.uk/campus_life/studentblogs

Dual lives
By day, Andrew Codling works as an ICT service improvement manager, but, out of work hours he patrols London’s streets as a special police inspector. He speaks to Reporter about his different roles.

“My role at Imperial, working in ICT, is to identify ways of improving computers, phones or the general way teams operate. I liaise with external companies and then suggest ways to make things more efficient. Four and a half years ago I began looking for some voluntary work to do my bit in the community. I had some friends who volunteered for the police and they seemed to really enjoy it, so I thought I’d give it a go myself.

“I was assigned a role as a police inspector, which is a great job. Every shift is different – you go out on the street never knowing what’s going to happen. People can approach you asking questions from ‘Where’s Harrods?’ to ‘Can you help me find my child?’ We’re there to help them. We’re also used at major events, such as the London Marathon.

“Every shift is different – you go out on the street never knowing what’s going to happen”

The uniform really helps me to make my transition from my day job – people react in a different way when they see someone in a uniform and you’ve got to be aware of what’s going on around you and be more alert on the street.

“I’ve developed lots of skills that can apply in both worlds, in particular dealing with people, which is much harder on the street as people who approach you for help are usually emotional or distressed. The best thing about my role is that I can do it when it suits me. People ask why I don’t swap careers but I like my job at the College!”

Creative approaches to education
This year’s Education Day, organised by Imperial’s Strategic Education Committee and the Educational Development Unit, will take place on 7 April. The event aims to raise the profile of teaching throughout the College. Dr Philip Kilner, Consultant and Reader in Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (NH)l and teacher in the Science and Patient module of the second year undergraduate medical course, shares his view on the theme of this year’s event – the importance of embedding research in university education.

“I think embedding research in university education is fundamental, although I would choose slightly different words. I believe that processes of inquiry, observation and experimental engagement should be integral to individual and group processes of discovery. Contemplative reflection should also be part of the cycle. University life could be seen as a privileged and hope-fully invaluable part of a lifetime of discovery and engagement.

“I may have a poor memory, but I don’t suppose I’m alone in looking back and finding that what I learned for the sake of passing exams has been all too forgettable compared with what I discovered and placed in context through my own interests, inquiries and practical engagement. But equally important should be the question of how effectively each student is engaged and contributing to their own and their university’s progress. Each individual has original discoveries and contributions to make. If students learned only what their tutors knew, progress would be limited.

Partly through dissatisfaction with what I perceived as constraints, and because I was drawn to artistic work, I took a career ‘break’ after qualifying in medicine. Amongst other things, I studied and worked with the sculptor John Wilkes at Emerson College in Sussex. He specialised in designing shaped surfaces to enhance flowing water’s tendencies to move rhythmically. Creative engagement with form and flow led me back into medical research, which included making models to study fluid dynamics in relation to heart surgery. I later moved to non-invasive imaging of the heart and circulation.

My career detour had introduced me to ways of inquiry more enjoyable and, I think, more fruitful than those I had ever achieved in medical school. My ideal university would be driven by open-minded inquiry and creative, practical engagement, with opportunities for the arts to challenge and enliven the sciences.”

For more information about Education Day visit: www.imperial.ac.uk/edudev/events/educationday2011
Dr Roger Kneebone is Reader in Surgical Education (Surgery and Cancer) and runs the UK’s only Master’s course in Surgical Education. He started his career as a trauma surgeon, spending five years in southern Africa. On returning to the UK he worked as a GP in Wiltshire for 12 years before moving to Imperial in 2001. His research since the 90s has focused on highly realistic medical simulations.

What have you developed?
A simulated surgical environment used to train surgeons.

How have you achieved this?
With the help of Studiohead, a creative engineering design consultancy, we have developed an inflatable operating theatre by recreating key elements of the surgical environment. The inflatable theatre includes pop-up furniture and an overhead LED operating lamp. There are also built-in cameras and microphones, allowing surgeons to look back on recorded footage and consider how they could have done things differently.

How does it work?
The pop-up surgery unit is designed to be entirely controlled from a laptop and allows a trainer to control elements, such as realistic background noise or the heart rate of the patient. This, alongside using professional actors in the roles of patients with highly realistic prosthetics, can train surgeons how to deal with realistic stressful situations such as challenging patients or surgical teams.

Why does your research stand out?
Currently there are few simulation centres in the UK, all of which are very costly. The portable operating theatre, which inflates in three minutes, is designed as a lower cost version which, when packed away, is small enough to fit in the boot of a car.

---ANOUSHKA WARDEN, IMPERIAL INNOVATIONS

www.imperialinnovations.co.uk

Consultancy matters

Professor David Nethercot, Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is an active Imperial consultant. Professor Nethercot consults on the structural framework of commercial buildings, often acting as an expert witness in high profile trials where the design of a structure has been brought into question. He speaks to Reporter about the benefits of consultancy to industry and academia.

“It seems to me that there are a number of benefits in doing this. Firstly I think that industrial relevance is vital for academics working in a practical subject like engineering. While incidental conversations with people engaged in engineering are helpful, there is nothing like being involved in a real piece of work. Also when giving lectures or tutorials, you can illustrate a point with an anecdote from your experience, which reinforces what you are teaching. Secondly consultancy may lead to collaborations in the future. For example where academics in fluid dynamics have established their credentials with the oil industry through consultancy projects, funding or research can follow.

Finally there is the financial benefit— if you’ve got a PhD student who needs a few extra months of funding or you want to go to a conference, you’ve got the money from your consultancy work to use at your discretion. The so-called Imperial Consultants’ dividend gives us the opportunity to spend in constructive and imaginative ways.”

www.imperial-consultants.co.uk/consultants

Decision-Making

By course attendee Dr Maurice Farmer, IT Programme Manager (Business School)

What did the course cover?
As a project manager I have to make decisions all the time, for example, I have to work out which IT projects in the Business School should be prioritised, as we have limited resources. Sometimes these decisions are very rational but sometimes they’re intuitive and based on previous experience of similar situations. I hoped the course would guide me on the best approach to take.

What did you learn from the course?
I learned a framework for making decisions and about some common failures, like jumping in at the deep end, taking shortcuts and group thinking.

How has it been helpful to you in your role?
For me, one of the most useful parts of the decision framework that we discussed has been implementing the first step – define the decision to be taken. This asks you to think about what you need to decide, take a broad view of the issue and decide what criteria you’ll use to choose between options. It also helps you to understand the context within which you’re making the decision and the different drivers for the decision. For example, is this a reaction to something and is the original problem clearly understood?

For more information about the course, visit: http://bit.ly/98uj2x
An evening with the Royal Institution

On 26 January, the Royal Institution of Great Britain (RI) held a fundraising event. Instead of its usual Friday Evening Discourses on controversial areas of science or its Christmas Lecture series, for one evening only, the RI concentrated on the work the organisation itself does to connect people with the world of science. Pippa Goldenberg, who is studying for an MSc in Science Communication, describes her experience of volunteering at the event:

“[He focused] on four of the main players, looking at them not only as scientists but also as men who made mistakes.”

focusing on four of the main players: Humphry Davy, Michael Faraday, John Tyndall and James Dewar. He talked about their inventions, their personalities and their contributions to the RI, looking at them not only as scientists but also as men who made mistakes.

The best parts of the evening for me, however, were the demonstrations that interspersed Quentin Cooper's talk on the RI's history. For example, one of them showed Faraday's work with hydrogen; dry ice was added to water and indicator solution, showing how oceans become more acidic as more CO₂ is absorbed.

We had to leave early to prepare the refreshments for the guests during the interval. After some thorough taste testing, the guests arrived and seemed to really enjoy watching us make the ice cream, as well as eating it!”

Long servers’ party

On 28 February, Professor Terry Tetley, Professor of Lung Cell Biology (NHIL), who has worked at Imperial for 30 years, attended a celebration for staff marking 25 or 30 years of service to the College in 2010. She describes her experience:

“When I received my invitation it was quite shocking to realise how long I have been here! But when I arrived at the event it was good to see other members of staff I know and to reminisce about how we got where we are now. It is very rewarding and gratifying to have one's contribution to the College recognised. It has not all been easy and there have been many changes along the way, as the Rector noted in his speech.

Apparently, 'long servers' account for over 25 per cent of what goes on in the College; it was good to discover that we are still a significant force! Having said that, one of the best things about being at Imperial is its diversity, and working with people of all ages and backgrounds. The evening made me reflect on how much I have enjoyed doing research and teaching medical students for all these years.”

obituaries

**AIDEN DONNELLY**

Aiden Donnelly, Car Park Security Officer (Security Services), died on 7 January 2011. Nick Roalfe, Director of Facilities Management, pays tribute to his colleague: “Aiden was a long-serving member of the Security Car Parking Team, having worked on the South Kensington Campus for 18 years. He was a very loyal and hard-working member of the team, who made many friends and was very dedicated to his work. Aiden was well-known to staff, visitors and contractors, and was one of the first members of the College anyone would see when visiting the main campus. Outside of work, Aiden was a keen fisherman until his health failed him.

“Aiden retired from Imperial due to ill health in September 2009. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues for his unique sense of humour. He is survived by his wife Bernadette, daughter Sinead, and son David.”
Welcome
New Starters

Mr Gebreselassie Asea, Life Sciences
Dr Mark Bannister, NHLI
Ms Sara Barnett, Medicine
Dr Konstantinos Bourdakos, Life Sciences
Mr Tim Burnett, Business School
Dr Jochem Caris, Surgery and Cancer
Dr Desmond Chow, NHLI
Mr Rupert Clark, Library
Mrs Katherine Dominy, Medicine
Miss Arminder Deol, Public Health and Leisure
Miss Sophie Clarke-Hackston, Sport
Mrs Terezia Clarke, Engineering
Dr Carol Fitzgerald, Medicine
Mr Attila Gajdacsi, Mechanical Engineering
Dr Joachim Hamm, Physics
Mr Tobias Hannes, NHLI
Mr Torsten Hartwig, Medicine
Ms Raunaque Hasnat, Public Health
Ms Melanie Ikeh, Medicine
Mr Griffin Ryder, Medicine
Dr Michael Petersen, Physics
Miss Stephanie Plant, Medicine
Ms Sian Polley, Medicine
Dr Mei-Li Fang, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology
Dr Katherine Scott, Medicine
Mr Tassanai Parittotokkaporn, Mechanical Engineering
Mr Tim Watts, Physics
Dr Valerie Borel-Vannier, NHLI
Ms Michele Brunton, Biomedical Engineering
Dr Charlotte Combs, Medicine
Miss Paige Daniel, Medicine
Miss Emily Dixon, Medicine
Mr Richard Ritchie, Business School
Mr Rodolphe Bernard, Life Sciences
Mr Kieran Thompson, Natural Sciences
Dr Jennifer Tolman, Life Sciences
Dr Yvonne Pinto, Environmental Policy
Mr Fabrizio Bonci, Medicine
Dr Jan Gebauer, Life Sciences
Mr Richard Starkey, Surgery and Cancer
Mr Daniel Maskell, Medicine
Miss Aliki Mavromoustaki, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology
Dr Christopher McDermott-Roe, Clinical Sciences
Mr David Mooney, Educational Quality Office
Ms Deborah Navarro Rosenblatt, Public Health
Dr Alistair Nunn, Medicine
Dr Giuseppina Ortu, Public Health
Dr Georgios Papageorgiou, Public Health
Mr James Patterson, Computing
Dr Michael Petersen, Physics
Miss Stephanie Plant, Medicine
Ms Sian Polley, Medicine
Dr Paul Rutter, Public Health
Dr Vanessa Raymont, Medicine
Dr Paul Rutter, Public Health
Mr Griffin Ryder, Medicine
Dr Katherine Scott, Medicine
Dr Way Way Sim, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Ms Antonia Solomon, NHLI
Dr Raynald Stock, Medicine
Dr Joseph Parker, Life Sciences
Ms Michelle Bratton, Biomedical Engineering
Dr Karen Chu, Medicine
Mr John Tovey, Physics
Dr Ivan Way, Chemistry
Mr Robert Saunders, Environmental Policy
Mr Jonathan Duckworth, Biomedical Engineering
Dr Charles Keeling, Medicine
Miss Karina Chang, Chemistry
Dr Lynsey Flowerdew, Surgery and Cancer
Dr Iain Ireland, Medicine
Dr James Uprichard, Humanities
Mr Richard Armitage, ESE
Dr Hazim Alkhalaf, Life Sciences
Mr Joseph Wright, Medicine
Dr Philip Webster, Clinical Sciences
Dr Ruth Martinez Casado, Chemistry
Mr Joseph Wright, Medicine
Dr Philip Webster, Clinical Sciences
Mr Joseph Wright, Medicine
Dr Philip Webster, Clinical Sciences

Farewell Moving On

Dr Erlend Aasheim, Medicine
Dr David Albesa-Jove, Life Sciences
Dr John Armitage, ESE
Ms Mandana Baghai, Humanities
Ms Michaela Beatson, Biomedical Engineering
Mr Rodolphe Bernard, Life Sciences
Mr Fabrizio Bonci, Medicine
Dr Valerie Borel-Vannier, NHLI
Ms Michele Brunton, Biomedical Engineering
Dr Suzanne Carreira, Medicine
Dr Wai Chan, EEE
Mr Amir Chasson, Communications and Development
Dr Navpreet Chhina, Institute of Clinical Sciences
Dr Karen Chu, Medicine
Dr Charlotte Combs, Medicine
Miss Paige Daniel, Medicine
Miss Emily Dixon, Medicine
Dr Le-Mi Fang, Humanities
Mrs Rachel Flatt, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Dr Lynsey Flowerdew, Surgery and Cancer
Dr Ian Gebauer, Life Sciences
Mr Bjorn Gerlach, Medicine
Dr Valibhov Gowadia, Computing
Mr Ian Hansen, Humanities
Miss Susan Hines, Medicine
Dr Stefan Iglauser, ESE
Dr Marc Ingram, Mechanical Engineering
Miss Rui Li, Bioengineering
Mr Bruce Machan, Catering
Mr Jan Marchant, Life Sciences
Miss Kay McNamee, Kennedy Institute
Mr Steven Michael, Security Services
Mr James Milsome, Estates
Ms Hajime Niwa, Life Sciences
Mr Tawanda Nyabango, Estates
Mr Kieran O’Donnell, Surgery and Cancer
Dr Julien Pansiot, Computing
Mr Tassani Parittotokkaporn, Mechanical Engineering
Dr Joseph Parker, Life Sciences
Dr Matthew Parsons, Bioengineering
Dr Wonne Pinto, Environmental Policy
Mrs Alexandra Potier, Humanities
Miss Dovile Rickeviciute, Catering
Mr Richard Ritchie, Business School
Mr Robert Saunders, Environmental Policy
Dr Vikas Sharma, Clinical Sciences
Miss Harriet Smith, Accommodation
Mr John Tovey, Physics
Dr Jon Turney, Humanities (5 years)
Mr James Milsome, Estates (8 years)
Mr Steven Michael, Security Services (8 years)
Ms Hajime Niwa, Life Sciences (8 years)
Mr Kieran O’Donnell, Surgery and Cancer (5 years)
Mr Jan Marchant, Life Sciences

Varsity 2011 finished on the rugby pitch as the two 1st XV teams competed for the JPR Williams Cup at the Stoop Stadium in Twickenham, home to Harlequins RFC. A crowd of approximately 1,400 students, staff and guests witnessed some of the best rugby seen in Varsity history.

For the full story: http://bit.ly/1stLEo

PHOTO EXPO

This data is supplied by HR and covers the period 15 February – 6 March. This data was correct at the time of going to press.

Speak Out

Story Ideas?

We welcome contributions from across the College. The next publication day is 1 April. Reporter is published every three weeks during term time in print and online at www.imperial.ac.uk/reporter.

Contact Emily Ross:
reporter@imperial.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 7594 6715
29 MARCH • TALK
Global trends in clean energy investment

In 2010, global investment in clean energy shrugged off the recession and soared 30 per cent to a record $243 billion. This is nearly five times the level of 2004 and halfway to the volume of activity that is needed if the world is to see greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector peak by 2020. In the Energy Futures Lab Annual Lecture, Michael Liebreich, Chief Executive of Bloomberg New Energy Finance, looks at the flow of money into the sector.

Read an interview with Michael on page 10 of this issue.

30 MARCH • SEMINAR
Immune memory to viral infections
Professor Rafi Ahmed, Director, Emory Vaccine Centre, Atlanta, USA

31 MARCH • SEMINAR
Extreme weather events
Workshop hosted by the Business School

31 MARCH • TALK
Public engagement with science
Dr Alice Bell (Graduate Schools)

5 APRIL • TALK
Images of tribology
Inaugural lecture by Professor Andrew Olver (Mechanical Engineering)

5 APRIL • WORKSHOP
The future of automated container terminals
Hosted by the Port Operations Research and Technology Centre at Imperial

7 APRIL • COURSE
Education Day 2011

Education Day aims to raise the profile of teaching throughout the College, bringing together staff to discuss ideas and practice, and to honour outstanding teachers from across the College. This year’s theme is “Embedding research in university education” and Professor David Radcliffe, Kaymar Haghighi Head of the School of Engineering Education at Purdue University, Indiana, USA, will be opening the day. Dr Jonathan Leape, Director of the LSEExpo course at the London School of Economics, will also be a keynote speaker. The day will conclude with the presentation of the College Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Pastoral Care and Research Supervision.

7 APRIL • TALK
Surgical innovator and educator
Inaugural lecture by Professor Nigel Standfield (Surgery and Cancer)

12 APRIL • TALK
High velocity incubation
Panelists include Dr Nick Leon, Director of Design London

13 APRIL • TALK
Hammersmith campus meeting
Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor, Principal of the Faculty of Medicine

16 JUNE • SEMINAR
Integrating infection prevention into healthcare delivery
Annual Scientific Meeting of the National Centre for Infection Prevention and Management

24 MARCH • MUSIC
Lunchtime concert
Schubert Ensemble of London

24 MARCH • TALK
How I learned to love laminin
Inaugural lecture by Professor Erhard Hohenester (Cell and Molecular Biology)

29 MARCH • TALK
St Mary’s campus meeting
Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor, Principal of the Faculty of Medicine

29 MARCH • WORKSHOP
Chemical Engineering PhD Symposium
Professor Sir Bill Wakeham, former Deputy Rector of Imperial

29 MARCH • TALK
Public engagement with science
Dr Alice Bell (Graduate Schools)

5 APRIL • TALK
Images of tribology
Inaugural lecture by Professor Andrew Olver (Mechanical Engineering)

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24 March 2011

FOR COMPLETE DETAILS: www.imperial.ac.uk/events