IC holds position in league tables

imperial College has taken third place in The Times Good University Guide for the second year running. The Times league tables, published on 19 May, ranked Cambridge in first place, with Oxford a close second.

The Planning Division, which handled the application, had warned that Imperial could slip in this year’s rankings. Fortunately this didn’t happen. “We have retained our third position in The Times table, even though this year the method of calculating the ranking excluded two measures in which Imperial had always come top - research income per academic and the proportion of staff with PhDs,” said Rodney Eastwood, Director of Planning, Management, and Information Services.

The Guide also listed the top 20 universities for each subject. In some areas, the College was ranked high, taking third place in Chemistry and first in Civil Engineering. “Since The Times Good University Guide is now weighted, established and prospective students will undoubtedly be aware of it,” said Eastwood.

College funding and estates strategy explained

A s a joint presentation, held in the Clare Lecture Theatre on Wednesday, 1 June, Professor John Archer, Deputy Rector, and Professor Bill Wakeham, Head of the Department of Chemistry, and Shadow Director of Estates, spoke on two topics close to everyone’s heart - money and plans for the College estate.

Professor Archer outlined the complex way IC is funded, and the equally complex way its income is disbursed. He pointed out that the higher education sector has expanded and diversified, and that the College is unique amongst its peers in terms of funding. The College has maintained its own funding procedures, and this is the only way it can be certain that money is spent where it is intended.

After reviewing the current situation and outlining future opportunities, particularly for medical education, Professor Archer handed over to Professor Bill Wakeham.

He underlined the aims and objectives of Imperial’s Estates Strategy, as set out by HECFCE on 29 March. “The general objective is to provide appropriate academic, social and residential facilities to support and enhance the academic performance of the College with a high quality campus life and affordable student accommodation, and to increase the College’s competitiveness with other institutions at home and abroad. This will be achieved by rationalisation, improvement and development.”

The document lays out the College’s proposal for its estate over the next 10 years, with particular emphasis on the impact of the planned Imperial College Medical School.

Professor Wakeham described the main ways of maximising the estate.

- **Basic Medical Sciences Building**

  In September 1998, the pre-clinical departments of St Mary’s Hospital Medical School and Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School will move to the South Kensington campus. These departments, along with the Department of Biological Sciences, will be housed in a new Basic Medical Sciences building (see IC Reporter, issue 2) to make efficient use of space for the building, the College plans to demolish RC23.

  Construction is due to begin in April 1996 and be completed by April 1998.

- **Refurbishment of Sheffield Sherfield**

  “Although heralded as an efficient building,” according to the strategy, which plans to “refurbish (or) to create a modern open working environment”. As Professor Wakeham said, “40 per cent of the building is space, in contrast to modern office buildings which have no more than 25 per cent space.”

  More controversially, the plan calls for two new buildings to be moved from Roat and Quadriga to Shepherd’s Bush to create a social centre at the heart of the campus, although the traditional but may be retained. Existing and retail areas will also be refurbished and enhanced. Work is planned to begin in April 1996, with completion and enhanced by September 1998.

- **Library extension**

  Beginning in April 1996, Level 4 of the library will be extended, and a new Level 5 will be constructed, in order to house a biomedical library. This should be completed by September 1997.

- **Creation and refurbishment of student accommodation**

  The Department of Biology and IC have moved out of Ernst, the central Quad would be used for student accommodation. The plan also calls for new construction in two areas of Mountmary’s Garden - the site above the Sports Centre, and the site where the tennis courts are currently located.

  In addition, current student accommodation will be refurbished. Since the government does not provide funding for student housing, project must be self-financed. For the purpose-built accommodation from the sixteen, this is possible. However, in the case of older, converted properties, some buildings may have to be sold in order to pay for the refurbishment of others.

  • Enhancing social and cultural facilities

  The strategy recognises that the range of student support facilities is inadequate. The plan proposes extensions to the Sports Centre and the Boat House, and possibly a consolidation of the playing fields in Hammersmith and Teddington. It also calls for improved social facilities for staff and students.

Controversial aspects

According to Professor Wakeham, the issues involved in estate planning on this scale should not be underestimated. Imperial is the only university in the UK, with a total of 300,000 square metres - the equivalent of at least 30 big office blocks.

“People must understand the balance of the College priorities in debating issues on a large scale,” said Bill Wakeham. “The College has efficient choices to make. Given finite resources, expenditure in one area penalties another. For example, to fund sports facilities for students, this may be that resources are withdrawn from departments’ budgets.”
New IC CET group sponsored

Denton Hall Burgin and Warren, the interna-
tional business consultants, has
sponsored a new environmental
law and management group at
the Centre for Environmental
Technology (IC CET), launched on 30
October.
The group led by Dr John
Mumford, consists of four permu-
tant academic staff from a variety of
courses. Dr John Szymkien, a
director of research at the
temporary Dowson motortway
construction.
The techniques at Imperial and
the lawyers at Denton Hall will
work closely over the next three
years on a range of initiatives. One
project is to identify gaps in
proficiency on subjects such as
biotechnology and biodiversity, fraud and crime,
commercialisation and patents.
Another possibility is joint consul-
tancy work.

According to Nicola, companies have been
under increasing pressure to reduce their
emission, to improve their environmental per-
formance. “On one side, the UK government
is trying to promote recycling for
derogation encouraging voluntary
environmental initiatives.
The other, a fundamental
policy of both the UK and the EC is
the ‘polluter pays’ - that is, busi-
ness should pay for the pollution
they cause.”

While law firms have been
responding to this new develop-
ment by establishing environmen-
tal law groups, it is often difficult
for them to keep up with the sci-
entific aspects of the field. In
this, the Centre is unique. “A busi-
ness faced with legislation must
change its approach,” Nicola
said. “The business needs to under-
stand the scientific and technical
aspects of the field, as well as the legal
issues. It will expect its solicitors
to set their legal knowledge in a
commercial context. There are inevitably a
variety of ways of achieving a single
goal and the business will
inquire how to get there most cost-
effective.”

For students on the MSc course
at IC CET, the group will offer
a new specialist option in environ-
mental law and material science - one
that is not offered at most
universities.

Continued on back page

Staff profile

At 33, Chris Tournamouz, IC's youngest ever professor?

Chris Tournamouz describes his career and plans for the future.

“I’ve come at this from a very unconventional background,” says Chris Tournamouz of his recent appointment as Professor of Analog Circuit Design.

At 33 he is possibly the youngest ever professor at Imperial College, an achievement which is more made impressive when you discover the route by which he came to it.

“There were no O levels at my comprehensive school and I just about got into a technical college. I did an extended A level type of national diploma course, studying the fundamentals of electronics. At that stage someone said to me, ‘You’re on the wrong course - you should be doing catering’. It just made me even more determined to do well.”

Graduating from Oxford Poly with a first he then studied for his PhD at Oxford University. He joined the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering as a research assistant to work on gallium arsenide communication filters. This project was a big success, producing the fastest filter in the world. He became a lecturer in 1987 and a reader in 1991.

His enthusiasm for circuit design is very apparent as he explains his research and plans for the future. “I am going to get a strong reputation in the medical field for cochlear implants. If we design these in an analog fashion, we can model the physiology of the ear with the basic psyche: that we’ve got a feedback loop. We can make electronic silicon implants, fully integrated. You don’t need to carry any external battery packs or boxes. It’s what I call creating with silicon - we’re not relying upon logic and binary codes. It’s a very attractive subject because it combines creativity with science.”

Chris believes there is currently a tendency for basic electronics to be overlooked as computer science takes over. “At the moment we’re churning out engineers with flat fingers and fingers and nought coming out of their ears. My motivation is to bring back the orderly mind. That’s the best place for engineers. Imperial is the best place in Europe to carry out his research. As he puts it, ‘there’s simply nowhere else to be’.”

If you know who is the youngest professor Imperial College has ever had, please write to IC Reporter.

The view from the tower

“Glib commonword talk among aficionados of ‘surfing the Internet’ may leave none of us feeling that we are missing out on an element of Californian bliss. Recent personal experience, how ever, has made it seem more

...Continued from page one

Estate strategy

When the plan was submitted to Hounslow, the College’s strategy that the strategy was interim, and that a revised version incorporating some of the ideas incorporated of the consultation that the medical barrier would be issued in July in terms of the South Kensington campus. It is not likely to have any substantial differences.

Interested staff or students should send comments to Ian Caldwell, Director of Estates, Sheffied 529.
**BOOK REVIEW**

**Facts of life**

Review by Janet Smith

The Facts of Life: The Creation of Sexual Knowledge in Britain, 1849-1940
Roy Porter and Lesley Hall
Yale U.P. 1995
£19.95 hbk

This scholarly work by prominent historians of medicine is one that will also interest and entertain the general reader. It examines literature on sexual education written from after the Restoration to the middle of the present century, which was aimed at the public at large and was geared for a substantial period of time. There are fascinating illustrations, interwoven with an array of other materials and the writing is witty (the phrase begins: "This book is an instance of gustatory, potatory, and the authors are grateful to [their publisher] for his patience in tolerating a slow corriging.

Modern concerns with psychological and social aspects of sex are strikingly shown from the earlier work discussed. The falsely attributed Aitken's Manner of c.1680 appears to set out to advise the newly married on the efficient preparation of healthy offspring of the desired sex, in an era when family size was of crucial economical importance. Women, far from being a problem, were assumed to be as philodilous as men, and imagery is not generally evident, except in so far as women were held responsible for failure to conceive or for producing monsters.

The picture rapidly becomes more complex with advances in medical knowledge during the Enlightenment, through the religious, moral, social and psychological developments of the eighteenth century. For instance, in 1720, Mary Astor (1718) aimed to give "average, healthy, maritell creatures...the key to happiness."

The authors relate these works to organisations, campaigns, and legislation, while also noting the nature of such currents as erotic and persisting folklore, such as the notion that venereal disease could be cured by pinning it on to someone else.

The works were received and used by their readers as difficult to stem, at times little evident until the time of Marie Stopes, who, among others, received unsolicited letters, some of them very strange. And some of the works themselves may have been written as much for reading between the lines as for their expressed purpose.

This is a very readable account of the complex ways in which British sexual knowledge has taken shape, it challenges much of our current perspective and demonstrates that sexuality is a far from static phenomenon. I recommend it highly.

*Photos are new in the Holdane for recent editions of the Holdane collection.*

Jen Smith is the Holdane Librarian

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**ART REVIEW**

**Annual staff and student exhibition**

The annual staff/students art exhibition, organised by the Leonardo Society, is currently on display in the Sherfield Art-room. The open exhibition includes over a hundred works, some of which are for sale.

The variety of artistic endeavours is impressive. The exhibition includes landscapes, portraits, photography, sculpture, even origami figures. My favourites included landscapes, portraits, photography, sculpture, even origami figures. I enjoyed the development of a watercolour painting from the pencil sketch through to completion.

It is easy to see where some artists got their inspiration. C. Raymond's landscape, titled Impressions, makes quite a clear statement. Jon Jones's Head I and Head II is a study of a boy. Andy Warhol's portrait of Caroline Kennedy is reminiscent of Robert Mother's portrait of Caroline Kennedy.

The show also contains the requisite amount of drug-inspired art, including Richard Nemeth's Pop Art, titled Stop Selling Drugs (pohto to do with drugs, as far as I could surmise).

Unfortunately, some of the art was too much to my taste, such as a bowl turned out of a single piece of wood, made by A.E. Rippon. I left the exhibition with a £30 less in my pocket.

The exhibition was reviewed by C. Raymond, Studio Technician.
June

COLLEGE EVENTS
- 6 - 8 June
Sale of classical album records (orchestral music) To be held in the Haldane Library at 14:00-17:00 hours.

Wednesday 7 June
ICET symposium on the environment and health
To be held in the Clore lecture theatre (Hawley 234), all day.
Further information from Diana Paterson-Fox, extension 49274 or e-mail dpfox

Wednesday 14 June
Imperial College Environment Day
The day will consist of a series of presentations, an exhibition, and the launch of the environment brochure. Further information from the Graduate School of the Environment, extension 47460 or e-mail CSE

Friday 16 June
Department of Physics first year undergraduate projects open day for schools.
The Department will be open to 8th and 6th form students from 13:00-17:00 hours. Any staff member who would like to forward a poster for this event to a school contact ring Bob Siper on extension 47514

Monday 19 June
Town and gown reception, Friends of Imperial College/Keoghbridge Robertson (ACR) Association.
19:00 hours at 170 Queen's Gate

Thursday 22 June
College open day
All departments will be open for 8th and 6th form students. Further information from the Schools Liaison Office, extension 309423.

Saturday 24 June
St Mary's students' Summer Ball
To be held at the Park Lane Hotel. Piccadilly. Further information from Robert Hughes, telephone 0171 725 5196.

26 June - 7 July
WSE courses
A series of two-day residential courses in science and engineering for lower 6th girls. Further information from the Schools Liaison Office, extension 280123.

EXHIBITION
Until 3 September
T.H. Hawley, Esquire, scientist, artist and educator
Organised by the College Archives, Science Museum Picture Gallery

LECTURES
Wednesday 7 June
Inaugural lecture
"The men of the cosmos" Michael Rowan-Robinson, Professor of Astrophysics. To be held in the Blackett Laboratory from 1 at 17.30 hours.

Wednesday 14 June
Inaugural lecture
Virtual reality and Professor John Woods, Department of Mineral Resources Engineering. To be held in the Clore lecture theatre at 17.30 hours.

NOTICE BOARD
UK/Hong Kong joint research scheme
We are invited to submit research proposals under this scheme for 1995/96. The scheme, which has been running since 1991, is designed to promote research collaboration between British universities and seven higher education institutions in Hong Kong. Information about the scheme, the forms available from the International Office, Room 321, Sherfield Building, extension 58040. The closing date for applications is 1 August 1995 and we have to make jointly through the Hong Kong partner institution direct to the British Council in Hong Kong.

AWISE
AWISE (Association for women in science and engineering) is a forum, a professional networking group for women in science, engineering, technology and medicine. The AWISE aim is to promote science for women, beginning with schools and extending to universities and industry. To join, see the website
South Kensington Group e-mail majordomo@doc.ic.ac.uk
Leave the subject line blank and include "subscribe awise" in the text of the e-mail.

Vacancy for Assistant Warden
Applications are currently invited for the post of Assistant Warden of Albury House, the hall of residence for medical students in St. Mary's Gardens, W2. Remuneration: 70% of the rate in a self-contained flat offered in exchange for pastoral duties within the Hall. Any undergraduate member of the College is eligible to apply. Details and application forms available from Personnel, room 511, Sherfield Extension 55513.

RPMs response to short-term contracts
Dear Editor,
I have followed the recent correspondence in the IC Reporter with some interest not least because the RPMs has over 400 staff on short-term contracts and is, of course, scheduled to become part of Imperial College in 1998. I hope, therefore, you will permit comment from an outsider.
In 1978 this School made three key decisions regarding staff on fixed-term contracts:
1) waiver clauses were abolished;
2) all conditions of service for staff on fixed-term contracts were harmonized with conditions for established staff so that the only difference was the inclusion of a termination date; and
3) length of contract was in all instances to be concurrent with the term of the grant for the School.
These principles have remained unaltered for seventeen years. During this time the School has had two redundancy payments and have never had a case of unfair dismissal brought against the School as a consequence of the expiry of funding.
We believed in 1978 and still believe today that it is morally indefensible to treat staff differently simply because of the funding source. We acknowledge there is a great difficulty in providing career security for staff on fixed-term contracts although this is a national not a local problem. However, it is firmly held view that as an employer we should do everything we can to mitigate the disadvantage that staff on fixed-term contracts already suffer, if it is wholly counter-productive to encourage such staff to spend a significant proportion of their time seeking alternative employment.
Yours faithfully,
Neil Grenison, Secretary.
Royal Postgraduate Medical School

Pimlico Connection
Dear Editor,
I see in my daily that IC Reporter has repeated an error from The Times Higher report of the recent IC/RFP conference on student autonomy. The Pimlico Connection is not for the chop, funds have been secured for a 5 FTE post. Nevertheless, (incidentally, the reports in The Times Higher and the TES contained many other errors - but too trivial to correct.) It would be good if this misinformation could be corrected.
With best wishes,
Sinclair Goodlad
Dean

Diploma in Humanities Programme
Apologies for this error. Information in the Media Mention column is compiled by the Press Office from newspaper clippings. Unfortunately the papers don't always get things right! Ed.

Continued from page two
ICET group sponsorship of the first courses in the UK to be offered on this subject. The course is unique in the UK in that it offers a technology-based approach, aiming to prepare students to work in the emerging fields of environmental conservation or environmental management. The students will benefit from the partnership between Imperial and Denton Hall.
Students will have the opportunity to understand the true implications of environmental law for business, as well as to assess the role of law in environmental management.

SuperJANET visit
The president of the South Korean National Computerisation Agency, Dr Chui-Soo Lee, visited the College with two of his colleagues to see SuperJANET in action.
The visit, on Tuesday 16 May, was organized by the Centre for Computing and Telecommunications Agency to help the South Korean agency gather information to launch a project similar to SuperJANET. Professor Bob Hynds and Henry Gluck of the Centre for Computing Services held discussions with the visitors.
The Space and Atmospheric Group in the Blackett Laboratory, represented by Dr Joanna Leigh and Control Winchester, demonstrated the use of SUPERJANET in the scanning of satellite images from the orbiting satellite at DRLAL, and in the inter-university UGAMP atmospheric modelling project.