

Reporter

Academic promotions 2005

By Abigail Smith

IMPERIAL has announced the promotion of 39 new professors, two professorial research fellows, 31 new readers, one principal research fellow and 23 new senior lecturers.

The complete list of 96 promotions, effective from 1 October, is the result of the College's annual academic promotions exercise. Congratulating those recognised, the rector said:

"Imperial's worldwide reputation for teaching and scholarship depends on the high quality staff we are able to attract. It's vitally important that we recognise and reward the talented people who are nurturing the next generation of scientists, engineers, medics and entrepreneurs. My congratulations go to all those recognised in this round of promotions and I look forward to seeing them go on to even greater successes."

One of the new professors is Tim Green of the department of electrical and electronic engineering, who is promoted to professor of power engineering. He said:

"I'm delighted with this recognition

of my own work but also thrilled that my promotion and the recent appointment of distributed generation expert Professor Goran Strbac will give Imperial two professors working in electrical power systems. The present drive to make greater use of renewable energy means this is just the right time to strengthen the research effort at Imperial."

Another new professor is Yuri Korchev of the division of medicine, whose work involves innovative approaches in microscopy to study the dynamic properties of living cells. Now professor of biophysics, he said:

"Biophysics is becoming increasingly important in medical research, and Imperial is one of the world leaders. I am delighted with this promotion and am looking forward to continuing my research."

One of two new professorial research fellows recognised for 'outstanding contribution to research and scholarship' is Naomi Chayen of the division of biomedical sciences. She said:

"I'm honoured that my work has been recognised in this way. I've had the opportunity to work with many wonderful

people over my 20 years at the College and I'm very grateful for their support."

A full list of academic promotions can be found at www.imperial.ac.uk/P6913.htm.



Richard Thomas, professor of pure mathematics

Imperial students at the 'Oscars'



Ian Pong

TWO Imperial engineering students are celebrating this month after picking up prestigious Science, Engineering and Technology Student of the Year awards in recognition of their academic excellence.

Billed as the most important awards for science and engineering undergraduates, the awards are known as the 'Oscars' of British technology education, with entries from all of Britain's leading universities.

Ian Pong, materials, and Paul Bilokon, computing, received their awards at a gala dinner at the London Guildhall at the end of last month. The dinner was attended by senior figures from industry, government, science and the media, together with hundreds of technology students and academics. The winners received a trophy and a £500 prize.

What you think

EARLIER this year *Reporter* ran a survey to see what readers liked and disliked about their paper. It was great to see that over half of those responding are regular readers and that you feel that the frequency and format are about right.

News items and features were said to be very useful and staff stories extremely interesting. In light of this feedback, *Reporter*

will continue to bring you useful information, including the regular *What's on?* section, and focus on the people who make up Imperial's hugely diverse workforce. In this edition you will find new features including *Student voice* and *Archive corner*. Many thanks once again to everyone who sent in a response.

To continue this evaluation, a series of focus groups are planned for the winter. If you'd like to be involved, or have any news or stories, please contact the editor at a.platt@imperial.ac.uk or call extension 46715.

Imperial quick on the draw

A UNIQUE street festival, *Drawing Together: the Big Draw Meets Carnival*, took over London's Exhibition Road last Sunday, turning it into a huge drawing arena. It was the second joint event led by the Exhibition Road Cultural Working Group, following the success of London Music Day earlier in the year.

Imperial filled its main entrance with workshops led by the Royal British Society of Sculptors, including a balloon workshop allowing children to draw on balloons to create molecular forms. The day culminated in a carnival parade, with visitors wearing masks and other decorations made during the day.



Tine Bech, Royal British Society of Sculptors, arranges some molecular blobs in the College main entrance

IN BRIEF

Imperial professor wins biochemistry medal

Professor Jim Barber, life sciences has been awarded the the Novartis Medal of the Biochemistry Society. The official announcement of the medal's award, "awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions to the development of any branch of biochemistry", appeared in *The Biochemist*.

Emeritus professor to give memorial lecture

Emeritus Professor Igor Aleksander (electrical and electronic engineering) has been invited to give the 54th Bernard Price Memorial Lecture this month in South Africa. This is the premier event of the SA Institute of Electrical Engineering and the University of the Witwatersrand. In 1958 the lecture was given by Professor Colin Cherry of Imperial's department of electrical engineering and then in 1961 by Sir Willis Jackson, head of electrical engineering at the time. In 1958, Igor Aleksander was a final year student at Wits when he heard Colin Cherry's lecture. Professor Aleksander's lecture is entitled: *The Engineer in Search of the Mind: Understanding the Brain by Design* and is based on his recent book *The World in My Mind, My Mind in the World*. Asked how he feels about the five-venue tour he said: "Dead chuffed really. Delighted to re-establish the link between the Bernard Price Lecture and the EEE department at Imperial College after a break of 44 years."

Major boost to UK asthma and allergy research

A new research centre to study asthma and allergy is to be opened later this year at Imperial and King's College London. The MRC-Asthma UK Centre in Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma will facilitate the integration of basic and clinical research to advance the generation of new treatments. Imperial Professor and centre director Tim Williams said: "The Centre will provide a unique opportunity for the Imperial team to combine resources with our colleagues at King's in order to make important insights into the underlying causes of asthma and allergy. The aim will be to develop new approaches to prevention and therapy for the benefit of asthma patients."

Diversity key to our future success

A new initiative to promote equality and diversity was launched at Imperial over the summer. Speaking at the launch event the rector said: "*Imperial as One* is all about talent. It's about making sure that diversity is promoted, strengthened and celebrated throughout the College." The group is made up of representatives drawn from a wide cross section of the College's black and minority ethnic staff and aims to assist the College in setting priorities and raising the profile of equality issues. The group will inform and influence senior level committees such as the equal opportunities and diversity committees. In addition, it will also ensure the experiences and views of staff at all levels are represented.

50, not out

In this occasional series Reporter's Alex Platt will be meeting some of those members of College staff who have spent over 50 years here, finding out about their careers and what it is about Imperial that has kept them here. The series starts with Dr Geoff Stephenson, reader in mathematics and director of the mathematical advice centre, who retired this summer at the age of 78 after 51 years of continuous service in the department of mathematics.

Dr Stephenson's time at Imperial began in 1948 as a new physics PhD student under Professor Sir George Thomson, FRS. His research primarily concerned the quantum theoretical calculation of atomic and molecular transition probabilities. In 1950 he was awarded a postdoctoral Royal Society research fellowship to continue this work and

in 1951 he received an ICI fellowship where, under Professor Sir Harrie Massey, FRS, he extended his research interests to classical field theory and semi-classical quantum theory, a research area to which he has contributed many papers.

In 1954, Dr Stephenson was appointed lecturer in mathematics, with promotion to senior lecturer in 1963 and to reader in 1965. He has taught mathematics in most engineering departments at Imperial and proved to be a very popular lecturer. Professor Peter Cheung, deputy head of electrical and electronic engineering, said of his former lecturer: "Dr Stephenson is without doubt the most remembered lecturer among the alumni. In the numerous alumni events I have attended in the past ten years, almost everyone I've met has asked about him and commented on how much they enjoyed his lectures."

Dr Stephenson explained: "I have always cared deeply for the success and welfare of my students, amongst some of whom I retain strong friendships. Teaching has always been

my big focus. I've been so lucky to have had the chance to help young people achieve success."

In 1984, recognising the increasing mathematical needs of engineering and science postgraduates, Dr Stephenson set up the mathematical advice centre, which dealt with over 4,000 mathematical problems over 21 years. The service has now largely been replaced by the use of powerful computer-based algebraic systems, such as Mathematica, Maple and Matlab, and the centre finally closed at the end of June this year.

During his time at Imperial, Dr Stephenson wrote many mathematical texts for undergraduates, the most successful being *Mathematical Methods for Science Students*, a standard text at Imperial and in many other universities at home and abroad for almost 25 years and still a widely recommended text for scientists and engineers. One of his other books, *Partial Differential Equations for Scientists and Engineers*, is currently published by Imperial College Press.



Dr Geoff Stephenson

Dr Stephenson will be continuing his association with the College as honorary lecturer in mathematics. For more information visit www.ma.imperial.ac.uk/~gs.



In this new series, Reporter invites Imperial's student body to have its say on a range of relevant issues. To kick off the series Ruba Kalaji, postgraduate student in biomedical sciences, ponders where the scientists of tomorrow will come from with the way science is taught in schools today...

"I REMEMBER when I was starting my 12th and final year at school, biology and chemistry were my two favourite subjects. Almost 10 years on, I find myself doing a PhD degree in cell biology. My biology teacher at the time went to great lengths to make the classes interesting. The material she had to work with was pretty appalling; a classic biology textbook with hand-drawn diagrams and images. Our chemistry teacher was also excellent, and we relished the numerous opportunities we had to blow up the school during our lab practicals.

That same biology teacher also taught us physics but not with as much enthusiasm, which brings me to an interesting point. According to a recent BBC report, a survey conducted by the OCR examining board suggests that over 50 per cent of teenagers find science subjects boring. So perhaps it doesn't come as a surprise that there has been quite a substantial decrease in students taking A level physics, chemistry and maths in the past 10 years. There are also fewer students taking up science subjects at university. This will undoubtedly have a negative effect on the scientific and technological skills of Britain's future workforce.

The issue seems to be one of generating enthusiasm for these subjects from an early age. The way science is taught in schools very rarely stimulates a genuine interest in schoolchildren. Various health and safety regulations imposed on schools and teachers restrict practical demonstrations and field days out, and the syllabus does nothing to make science an exciting part of everyday

life. But efforts are being made to improve the quality of science education. Several universities run hands-on activity courses that aim to improve science test results through competition. In addition, recruiting more highly motivated and trained teachers will no doubt improve the situation further.

To be honest, there is very little incentive to choosing science as a career path, especially when looking at it from the point of view of today's cultural trend of making lots of money as quickly as possible. Low wages and lack of job security plague science and engineering jobs in academia. Although job prospects in industry seem slightly better, many PhD students are leaving the labs behind to pursue careers in other more financially rewarding fields. They also see their peers earning better salaries, having chosen easier educational routes. After all, science is hard work. If it weren't for a natural curiosity and genuine passion for the subject, many of us would be doing something else.

But where will the scientists of tomorrow come from? With the steady increase in the levels of debt in the younger generations, many are looking to other more financially rewarding careers, and the situation for science seems rather bleak indeed. I believe a dramatic overhaul of the way science is funded lies at the heart of the matter. The government and other funding bodies must do more to address this issue."

If you're a student who'd like to contribute, or you have an idea for a future column, contact the editor at a.platt@imperial.ac.uk.

Archive corner

By Anne Barrett
College Archivist and Corporate
Records Manager

Beit Quad

THE first of this new series starts alongside a new term. It seems appropriate, then, to discuss the Beit Quad, as it is an integral part of student life.

The original Students Union building in the north of the quad was designed by Sir Aston Webb and built in 1910-11. The east side was designed to house the departments of botany, plant pathology and physiology and was completed in 1914. The west side was constructed for biochemistry, with a hostel at its north end, and the labs were finished in 1923 and the hostel in 1925.

The quad was completed with a south frontage onto Prince Consort Road in 1931 and named the Beit Building after Sir Otto Beit, a generous supporter of the College, who gave over £40,000 to assist with the development of the Union and hostel. A plaque com-

memorating him is situated in the right-hand wall of the entrance to the Beit Building.

The Union has been enlarged, and in common with the other buildings, considerably altered over the years. Recent refurbishments include the bar and disco, and the student accommodation was expanded when the academic departments moved out. Yet more developments are to come.

Outside, the tennis courts took up most of the space in front of the building until a memorial to Sir Roderic Hill, a previous rector, in the form of the quad designed with Portland stone and plantings was laid in 1957.

The original idea for a building came from Sir Arthur Acland, a member of the governing body. He saw the need for a place in which students could meet and develop a collegiate social life. Sir Arthur 'emphasised the value in the life of students of a spirit of good comradeship, without which a student career was of little account' at the opening by the former rector, Sir Thomas Holland, on 3 November 1911.

An article in *Phoenix* on the twenty-first anniversary of the Union describes the accommodation and notes that there was a reading room for women students—they were excluded from the bar for some years!



The Students Union building with tennis courts in front c. 1927

Imperial hosts materials network

IMPERIAL hosted the first annual meeting of the International Advisory Board of the Network of Excellence on Knowledge-based Multicomponent Materials for Durable and Safe Performance (KMM-NOE) over the summer. The EU-funded network is made up of 37 European parties including universities, research establishments and industry.

KMM-NOE aims to promote a comprehensive approach to solving research problems by combining the processing of

multicomponent materials, their characterisation and modelling, and the computation of engineering properties for applications, ranging from aerospace and automotive parts to biomedical devices.

Dr Aldo R. Boccaccini, an expert in engineering ceramic materials and the department of materials' representative on the board, said: "This meeting was fantastic recognition for Imperial. It shows that not only is the College recognised as a good host but also as a

key player within the group. This gives us a real chance to determine future areas of research and development in the field of advanced engineering materials, and to have an input on where new EU funding will be allocated."

The Imperial team in the network also includes Professor Rees Rawlings, pro-rector for educational quality and an expert on structural metallic materials, and Dr Jane Minay, lecturer in the department of materials.

While the eventual goal of the group is to establish a transnational, research-based

virtual institute, much importance is placed on education and training, with programmes for PhD students, researchers and industrial representatives from across Europe.

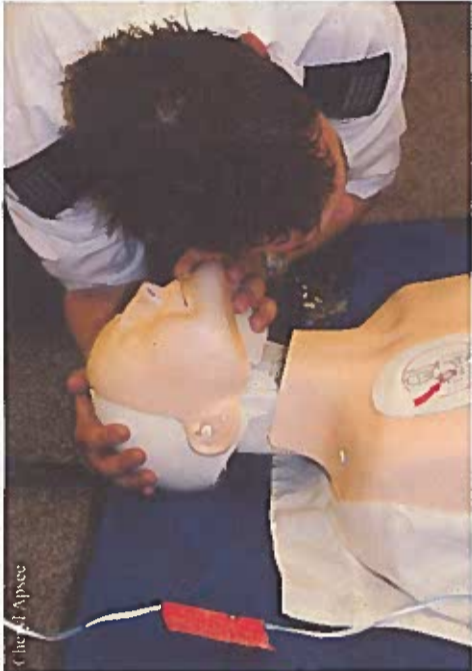
Dr Boccaccini said: "This is a good opportunity for those interested in travelling as part of their studies and research. Not only do we facilitate great European research experience for our staff and students but we also receive top-class individuals here at Imperial too."

For more information visit: www.kmm-noe.org.

As easy as AED

By Alex Platt

SHOCKING the heart, or electrical defibrillation to use its technical name, is well-established as the only effective therapy for cardiac arrest due to ventricular fibrillation (VF) or pulseless ventricular tachycardia



Arron Pizzey

(VT). The scientific evidence to support early defibrillation is overwhelming, the single most important determining factor for survival being the time between collapse to delivery of the first shock. During this period, basic life support helps to sustain a shockable rhythm, but is not a definitive treatment.

Strongly supported by the Resuscitation Council (UK), early implementation of defibrillation has become something that members of the public, with the appropriate training, can perform safely and effectively, due to recent developments in automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

In the summer of 2004, a scheme was implemented to train enough College security staff to maintain a constant cover. Ajay Bhatt, full-time paramedic for the London Ambulance Service and part-time first aid training officer to the College, organises the training.

He said: "I'm really pleased with the progress the guys taking part have made. They have four days a month of ongoing-scenario first aid training to keep their skills fresh and have shown a real commitment to the programme. We added the AED training more recently. Those taking it must requalify every six months, entailing passing both adult CPR and AED assessments. At this point I'd really like to thank Dr Swann of occupational health, Keith Reynolds of security and Dr Fiona Moore of the LAS, who is medical director of the Imperial AED programme. Without them the scheme would never have happened."



Khadim Lo

Reporter's Alex Platt met Khadim Lo and Arron Pizzey, two of the trained security officers, and observed them demonstrate their new skills.

Arron said of his training: "I've used my basic first aid quite a lot, for instance some students can be prone to fainting, especially during the stress of exam time. I haven't been called on to use my defibrillation training yet, but I feel confident that I'll be able to do it

if the need arises. A personal bonus from the training is that Ajay has added a baby resuscitation module as there is a nursery here. I have a young child at home which makes the training hugely relevant."

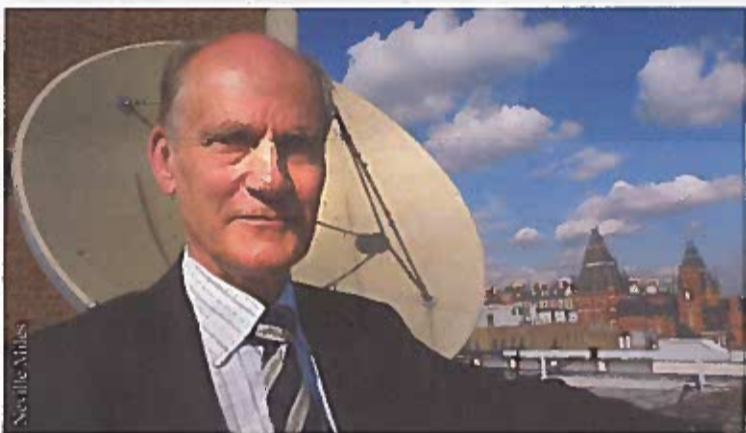
The AED, a portable device about the size of a large book, is brought to the scene from the security control room in Sheffield by two trained officers when required. Electrodes attached to the AED are placed on the casualty's chest in order to register the heart's rhythm, the AED then issues a voice prompt as to whether or not a shock must be administered.

Thirty of the operational security officers at the South Kensington campus have now been trained in the use of AEDs.

What do I do if I find someone who has collapsed?

Contact your nearest first aider. Every department has staff trained in emergency first aid. Look on departmental noticeboards for contact information. If you have trouble getting hold of a local first aider, call the emergency number for your campus. Security will either send over a first aid-trained officer or call an ambulance. At South Kensington, AED-trained officers will automatically attend. On the College medical campuses, the hospital crash team can be called for help.

Imperial professor turns media guide



Professor Hans Michels

still wondering how explosions even have time to become so complicated, but apart from those within government organisations, there are now surprisingly few other people in the UK who work, and can therefore speak publicly, in this area."

During the events of 7 July and the following three weeks, Professor Michels gave over 25 live or recorded interviews in front of the cameras of the BBC, Channel 4, Sky News and ITV. He also wrote eight press releases, spoke to journalists from most UK broadsheets and gave radio interviews over the 'phone to a variety of stations around the world.

Professor Michels said of his experiences: "I had dealt with the media before but these were obviously unique circumstances. For a few weeks it was pretty hectic and I am glad that the College press office managed the arrangements. As for general advice to anyone who might be approached to speak, I would say most important is not professional knowledge, which at Imperial should always be adequate, but to be up to date with

the latest information on transient issues. Don't think about the wider audience or try to impress with knowledge. Concentrate on the interviewer and keep it simple, so that as many people as possible can understand you. Explaining things effectively should always be your greatest satisfaction in teaching. Obviously, these were unusual and extremely sad occasions, but an interesting challenge nonetheless. If that interests you, then go for it. It is good for the public, for you and for the College."

With a situation like this come certain responsibilities for anyone talking to the media as an expert. Professor Michels explained: "I discussed with the press office what my boundaries were in talking to the media and concluded that I must be aware of what police and government would like to be made known, but not to be bound by it as long as I was interpreting their or other reliable information, debunking nonsense and wild speculation, and not saying anything that could generate further trouble."

It would seem that when commenting so

widely on a subject, a certain amount of recognition and notoriety for the individual can be the result, although this may not always be the case as Professor Michels concludes: "Apparently one of my many brothers in my native Holland came home and switched on the TV, crashed out on the settee and complained to his wife that he had to listen to yet another academic giving expert opinion, she replied that she hoped at least he realised that he was listening to his brother!"

For information about talking to the media, or to add your name to the Imperial College *Media Guide*, contact Abigail Smith at abigail.smith@imperial.ac.uk.

Open house at Tanaka



Tanaka hosted the official launch event for London Open House 2005, with Imperial catering providing architecturally themed canapés, each representing a famous building from around the globe. Over the Open House weekend itself, Tanaka opened its doors to 850 members of the public who came to view the building.

MEDIA MENTIONS

with Abigail Smith

The drugs do work

Aldous Huxley's vision in *Brave New World* of a society under the spell of the perfect pleasure drug, Soma, may be closer to reality than we think. A report on the future of recreational drugs by government think tank Foresight suggests that taking mind-altering substances to boost brain performance, unlearn addiction or erase distressing memories could soon be as common as drinking coffee to overcome tiredness. Speaking to *The Guardian* (14.07.05) the report's co-author

Gerry Stimson, epidemiology, public health and primary care, comments: "If there is such a thing as Huxley's Soma, that really does raise crucial questions for governments around the world about how legitimately to regulate a substance like that."

It's raining men

Residents of Colorado were given an opportunity to grab a piece of writer Hunter S. Thompson this summer when the ashes of the late *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* author were fired from a cannon 500 ft over the Rocky Mountains. UK fans, however, were unlikely to be so lucky according to Matt Genge, earth science and engineering. "I've never exploded somebody's ashes," he

tells *The Guardian* (22.08.05). "But I doubt very much whether we'd actually have received any in this country. Meteorites tend to burn up at 40km altitude, and yet you find that the ablation debris is localised over several hundred kilometres."

Who's the daddy?

One man in 25 may be unknowingly bringing up a child he is not biologically the father of, according to researchers from Liverpool John Moores University. However, despite its growing availability, men should carefully consider the consequences of paternity testing, says Ainsley Newson, epidemiology, public health and primary care. "An important aspect of tests is that once this information is

known, it cannot be unlearned," she writes in *The Times* (11.08.05). "Some fathers may be happier to live with the hope of paternity than the certainty that they are not the father."

Hit the sack to reach for the stars

Taking time to sleep and daydream is the key to unlocking your greatest ideas, according to John Pendry, physics. "Some people work terribly hard and produce mountains of stuff but there's that vital spark missing," he tells *The THES* (12.08.05). Advising young researchers to "think the unthinkable and the ridiculous," he adds: "When people are rude about your work, keep calm and answer politely. You can always say 'I told you so' later."

A day in the life of...

ANUSHA Sri-Pathmanathan has been at Imperial College for three years and is the departmental administrator for the department of chemical engineering and chemical technology. She explains: "I came from an industrial background where I had worked as a senior financial analyst for several years and then worked as an operations manager in a small firm close to home while my kids were small. I then decided to try something different and applied for, and got, a post as temporary finance officer here at Imperial. I applied for my current position when it became available a few months later and haven't looked back since."

Reporter's Alex Platt went to meet her to find out about a typical day in her working life.

8.00 Anusha starts the day early. She said: "I find it essential to have some time to myself before everyone gets in. My office can sometimes look like a GP's surgery during the day with a queue of people outside my door, so I do need some quiet time to check my emails and so on! My role is to provide support to academics and students and therefore, my door is very rarely shut. I'm here to make their lives easier, so I need to be available."

9.30 Meeting with research services.

10.00 Anusha heads over to accounts payable to resolve a problem.

11.00 Anusha goes to the common room for a cup of tea. She said: "I try and do this at least three times a week. It's good to have the chance to talk through various work issues in a social environment"

11.30 Whilst getting on with her general day-to-day duties, Anusha can find herself dealing with a whole range of issues. These can range from more mundane things, such as the problem with photocopiers she is sorting out the day this interview takes place, to the more complex issue of assisting with costings for research proposals.

13.00-13.30 Anusha and a group of her colleagues head to the senior common room for lunch.

13.45 Anusha spends time helping a student with a financial problem organise a grant from the hardship fund.



Anusha Sri-Pathmanathan

15.00 Meeting with her line manager, Professor Trusler. Anusha said: "I'm so lucky to have such a great mentor as my line manager. I'm lucky enough to work with a great head of department and excellent immediate work colleagues too."

Professor Denis Dugwell sums up just how the academics feel about Anusha's contribution to the department: "Anusha provides a vital interface between academic staff and College administrators, for all aspects of contract issues. Anusha does most of these negotiations on our behalf, as well as reminding us when things have to be done, and advising us on relevant financial and human resources rules. The very efficient service she provides has taken a major burden off academic staff, allowing them more time to attend to technical issues."

16.00 Anusha spends some time on the departmental accounts with the finance officer. She explained: "I am responsible for the financial management reports that are presented to the executive committee. This is a lot of work in itself, trying to meet targets and right now, I am carving out what we call the F-code budgets to academics"

18.00 Anusha heads home for the day but it doesn't stop here. She explained: "I have to pick my kids up and get them home for dinner, to music lessons, etc., so really my day doesn't end until they've gone to bed. It's a busy life!"

Bringing the benefits of computing home

IMPERIAL and BT Home Computing have launched a home computing programme for all Imperial staff. Under the terms of this government-backed programme, permanent staff are able to make significant savings on home computing packages.

Employees can order a PC from a selection of HP desktop, notebook and pocket PCs,

the cost covered by monthly salary reductions over a three-year period. The reduction in gross monthly salary means staff members pay less income tax and national insurance.

All employees have been sent a communications pack detailing the range on offer. Further information is available at www.bthomecomputing.com/imperial.

Working towards good health

By Dr Alan Swann,
Director of Occupational Health

WELCOME to the new Occupational Health column. Look out for regular contributions from the team and myself, which will be appearing in each edition of *Reporter* over the next term. The College occupational health service provides services to protect health at work, assess and advise on fitness for work and to ensure that health issues in College are effectively managed.

Our mission is to promote and support a culture where the physical and psychological health of staff, students and others involved in the work of the College is respected,

protected and enhanced in and through their work activities.

The service is now based in a refurbished suite of offices on Level 4 of the Sherfield Building at South Kensington, where we provide clinic services for the South Kensington, St Mary's, Royal Brompton and Silwood Park campuses. Clinic services for all other medical campuses and Wye College are provided through agreement with the associated hospital's Occupational Health Services.

If you have an idea for a topic to be covered in a future column, please email the editor at a.platt@imperial.ac.uk.

For more information visit the occupational health pages at www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum.

Wye scientist's fellowship win

By Wendy Raeside

DR Marta de Torres Zabala has been awarded the one-year Wain Fellowship to enable the continuation of her research into the interaction between plants and bacteria, particularly how pathogenic bacteria manipulate plant cells machinery to successfully colonise them. Marta, originally from Madrid, has been a postdoctoral researcher at Wye since 1998.

The fellowship was founded in memory of Louis Wain, professor of agricultural chemistry at Wye for many years. Professor Wain was made a fellow of the Royal Society for

his discovery and development of selective herbicides, widely used today in both agriculture and home gardens. The fellowship, funded by royalties from his discoveries, aims to enhance research into regulating the growth of agricultural plants, as well as boosting the career of a postdoctoral researcher.

Marta says she was delighted to be chosen for the fellowship, which started at the beginning of this month: "While my children were very young, my career was put on hold. This fellowship is a great opportunity to develop my role as an independent researcher."

Marta gained her PhD degree in biochemistry at the Universidad Autonoma, Madrid.



Marta de Torres Zabala (centre) at a ceremony to mark the award of the Wain Fellowship. Also attending were (from left): Dr Michael Wain, Professor Wain's son; Professor Jeff Waage, centre for environmental policy; Professor John Mansfield, plant sciences, Wye campus; Professor Wain's widow, Joan; and Dr Murray Grant.

What's on... What's on... What's on...

Wednesday 12 October 14.00

Removing the myths: talk and tour of the Reactor Centre.

EAS Building, Silwood Park campus
Contact m.i.brown@imperial.ac.uk to attend.

Thursday 13 October 19.00

The Royal Institution Science meets politics

Dr Ian Gibson MP, Michael Grove MP, Baroness Susan Greenfield and Baroness Margaret Sharp
To attend visit www.rgib.org.

Thursday 20 October 13.00

Read Lecture Theatre

Lunchtime Concert. Janet Hilton (clari-

net) and Sarah Beth Briggs (piano)

Brahms Sonata for clarinet and piano Op.120 No.1

Brahms Intermezzo in E flat

Op.117 No.1

Bernstein Sonata for clarinet and piano

Contact a.rutledge@imperial.ac.uk for information.

Thursday 20 October 17.30

G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, South Kensington campus

Energy and Reason: contraries in environmental policy?

Professor Jim Skea, Research Director,

UK Energy Research Centre

Contact a.cldon@imperial.ac.uk to attend.

Wednesday 26 October 11.00

Royal Albert Hall

Commemoration Day

Attendance by invitation only.

www.imperial.ac.uk/graduation.

Thursday 27 October 19.00

The Royal Institution

Headline debate

Sheena McDonald, Elliot Morley MP and Mary Riddell. www.rgib.org.

Wednesday 2 November 14.00

Lecture Theatre 220, Mechanical

Engineering Building, South

Kensington campus

Energy Futures Lab Launch

Contact events@imperial.ac.uk to attend.

Noticeboard

The Careers Advisory Service has introduced *JobsLive*, a web-based searchable database of vacancies aimed specifically at Imperial students and graduates. After registering, students can input a profile of the type of vacancy they are interested in and receive an email each time a new vacancy is added. Opportunities range from graduate jobs to internships and voluntary work. In addition, there is a searchable employer database. Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/careers to find out more.

Reporter is published every three weeks during term time. The copy deadline for issue 157 is Friday 14 October. Publication date is 26 October. Contributions are welcome (no more than 300 words). Please note the editor reserves the right to cut or amend the articles as necessary. Information correct at time of going to press.

Reporter, editor Alexandra Platt, Imperial College London, South Kensington campus, London SW7 2AZ. Tel +44 (0)20 7594 6715 Fax +44 (0)20 7594 6700 Email a.platt@imperial.ac.uk www.imperial.ac.uk/reporter