

## Centenary countdown begins

By Saskia Daniel

AS Imperial prepares to celebrate its centenary in 2007, College staff, students and alumni are being asked for their ideas and suggestions to help shape the programme of events, which will run throughout that year.

The centenary commemorates the drawing together of three nineteenth-century institutions, the Royal School of Mines, the Royal College of Science and the City and Guilds College, to form the constituent colleges of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, a new school of the University of London.

Whilst the events programme will celebrate the College's distinguished past, it will also focus on the impact of our current and more recent academic activities on the future.

Staff, students and alumni are invited to suggest ways in which activities and events could be themed or targeted throughout the year, within the overall theme of bringing science to life. Audiences for the events are young people, existing students, alumni, current and former staff, investors in R&D, as well as potential and current philanthropic supporters.

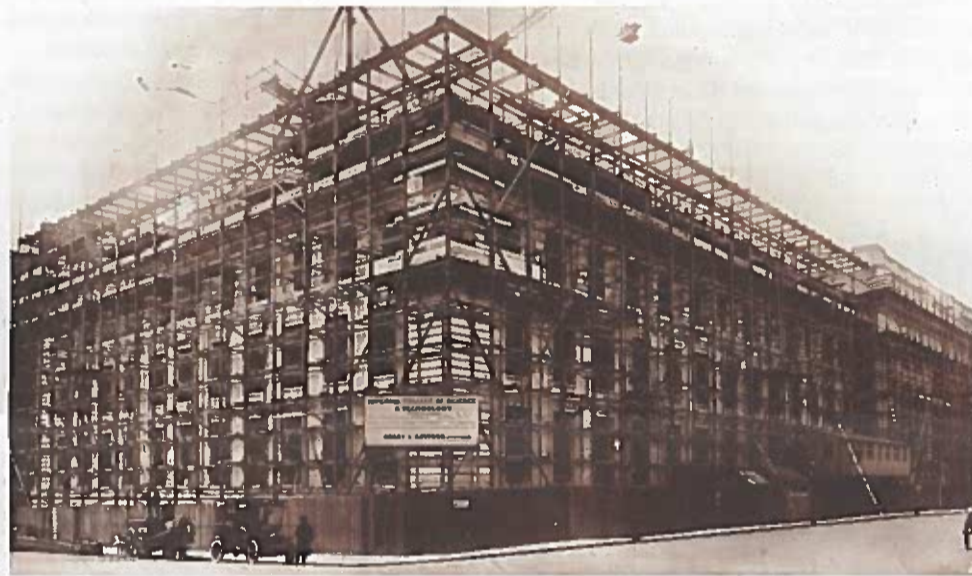
Anne Barrett, College archivist and corporate records manager, explained the background: "Imperial College owes its foundation to the need for an improved system of scientific education to support industry and so the economy. Germany was held to have the exemplary system in its Charlottenburg University. Imperial was to be London's Charlottenburg, a scientific university; it already had the basis in its constituent colleges, according to Lord Rosebury, who with (Lord) Richard Burdon Haldane, lobbied for the setting up of a committee to consider the matter."

The committee took two years to report and in 1906 concluded that the constituent colleges should become one and that new buildings were necessary to accommodate the new institution. This echoed what Lyon Playfair, first chemist of the Royal School of Mines and statesman, had wanted to achieve with Prince Albert, when they discussed the disposal of the profits from the Great Exhibition of 1851 and began developing the South Kensington site.

Anne added: "This is the brief view; Hannah Gay, of the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, will complete her history of Imperial College in time for the centenary year, bringing us up to date with developments in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries."

Please email your ideas, including suggestions for a centenary logo and strapline, to [centenary@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:centenary@imperial.ac.uk) by Friday 25 November 2005.

For full information about the centenary project visit [www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/centenary.htm](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/centenary.htm).



Sepia print of the construction of the Royal School of Mines and the Goldsmith's extension c.1911. Image kindly donated by their builders, Kilby and Gayford.

## Successful QAA audit for Imperial

By Tom Miller

THE College has received a 'clean bill of health' for its undergraduate degrees from the Quality Assurance Agency.

The QAA's formal audit of Imperial has now been published stating in conclusion that they have "broad confidence" in the College's degrees.

In an email letter to academic and support staff, rector Sir Richard Sykes thanked colleagues for their dedication and innovation in teaching students at Imperial.

"Together with our last audit in 2002, the 2005 report supports what we all as teachers know about Imperial degrees—that they are rigorous and excellent and underpinned by great support systems."

The detail of the QAA's audit reveals some strong endorsements of the work and practices in teaching students at Imperial, said the rector.

The agency highlighted a number of our practices including: the use of international peers on internal subject review panels; the recognition now awarded to teaching and its use as a criterion in promotions; the student online evaluation system; novel approaches to outreach including the *Inspire* project; specific recognition of teaching innovations in the computing and physics departments.

Recognising minor criticisms, the rector said that where they had been made, the College will seek to address them quickly, "just as we did in 2002."

The full report will soon be published on the QAA website at [www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk).

## Archive corner

THE graduation ceremonies, which take place each year on Commemoration Day, recall the visit made to the College by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1945, on the centenary of the foundation of the Royal College of Chemistry, Imperial College's oldest forerunner.

On this day, 60 years ago, celebrations took place at the Royal Albert Hall and there was also an exhibition, with the College buildings open to visitors for the following two days.

Some extracts from the running order for the ceremony include:

"As His Majesty turns to the left to leave the platform the president of the Imperial

College Archivist and Corporate Records Manager

College Union will call for 'Three cheers for Their Majesties'.

"Dancing will follow and (it is hoped) Light Refreshments, the dancing continuing until 4.30 am. During the earlier part of the evening (i.e. from the time that Their Majesties leave the Albert Hall until, say 1.00 am). All members of the College should regard themselves as hosts entertaining their guests."

In his speech, the King referred to the contributions Imperial College war work had made to "total victory". Queen Elizabeth's farewell word to Sir Richard Southwell, the rector at the time, was "inspiring".



King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at Commemoration Day in 1945. (Every endeavour has been made to trace copyright ownership of the images on this page.)

## IN BRIEF

### New head for materials

Professor William (Bill) Lee, currently professor of ceramic science and engineering at the University of Sheffield, will take up the post at Imperial on 1 January 2006. Professor Lee will succeed Professor John Kilner, who has been head of department since September 2000 and will remain an active member.

### Quantitative financial risk management centre to open at Imperial

Professors David Hand (Imperial), Lyn Thomas (Southampton) and Jonathan Crook (Edinburgh) have been awarded funds to establish the centre, which will be based in the institute for mathematical sciences at South Kensington campus. The research project, which begins in January 2006, aims to stimulate the development of tools to model risk in the personal financial services sector. Collaborative partners include Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, Fair Isaac & Company Incorporated and other financial bodies.

### Energy futures lab launch

All staff are welcome to attend the official launch of the energy futures lab on Wednesday 2 November between 14.00–16.00. This new Imperial network aims to meet broader energy challenges and facilitate the transition to a sustainable energy economy. Chaired by former rector, Lord Oxburgh, the launch event will include an overview of the project, a panel session on urban energy systems and presentations on recent developments in energy technologies. For more information, visit [www.imperial.ac.uk/energyfutureslab](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/energyfutureslab).

### Call for volunteer 'patients'

Individuals willing to volunteer as 'patients' to help first year medical students practise patient interviewing skills, are needed. Volunteers pretending to be patients will be interviewed for approximately five minutes, then asked to provide brief feedback in the form of a written rating. Sessions will run 10.00–13.00 and 13.30–16.00. Please contact [d.nestel@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:d.nestel@imperial.ac.uk) for more information.

### Plant scientists at Wye

Around 40 plant scientists gathered at Wye campus this month to discuss research ranging from light and life to hormones and signalling. The scientists were attending the annual meeting of LAMPS (London Area Molecular Plant Sciences). Imperial was well represented with Jim Barber FRS, Ernst Chain professor of biochemistry, giving the keynote speech on energy. Other attendees included University College London, Royal Holloway, Queen Mary and Rothamsted Research. Organiser John Mansfield, professor of plant pathology at Imperial, said: "It was a very positive meeting and there are a number of potential collaborations to follow up as a result." The next LAMPS meeting will take place at Rothamsted in September 2006.

## In the next edition...

- 50, Not Out
- Professor So Iwata's award from ERATO
- New assistant directors in estates

## The business message shot straight from millionaire's hip

By Susie Haywood

ARE entrepreneurs born with that magic spark, or can they be taught? Do all successful businessmen make enemies? How do you judge pitches for investment funding?

These were just a few of the questions posed to self-made millionaire, Sir Alan Sugar, who launched Tanaka Business School's distinguished speaker series this month. The series will showcase some of the country's most interesting and prominent business people, politicians and community figures, and provide students with a unique opportunity to get real insights into how these dynamic people have made their mark.



Sir Alan Sugar at the launch of Tanaka Business School's distinguished speaker series

Sir Alan went into business selling products such as cigarette lighters, intercoms and TV aerials, and in 1968 founded the home electronics group, Amstrad. He was twenty-fifth in *The Times* rich list in 2004, and this year he entered the world of reality TV with the BBC's version of Donald Trump's *The Apprentice*.

An enthralled audience of 140 students, alumni, faculty and senior Imperial staff listened to the man who left school at 16 talk about what motivates him, in an hour-long question and answer session. Sir Alan is notorious for being a straight talker and he didn't disappoint.

He made it clear that he was a great fan of engineers and people working in research and development, saying:

"Institutions like Imperial that produce great engineers and great R&D mean that we have some of the greatest inventors and innovators—yet engineers are under-recognised, underpaid."

Unsurprisingly, Sir Alan wasn't as supportive of business education: "You may learn the XYZ of good managerial practice, but it can't give you that bit of radar that recognises things that makes you different from everyone else."

## A fund of opportunities

By Liz Gregson

A RECEPTION to thank donors to the College's student opportunities fund (SOF) was hosted by the Rector at 170 Queen's Gate this month. Around 55 alumni and friends of the College listened to SOF scholar, Sarah Morris, deliver a poignant speech about the difference that her scholarship has made.

Sarah, who has just begun the second year of her undergraduate course in biochemistry, explained how the fund had helped her to realise her dream of coming to Imperial, after realising she would not be able to afford to live away from home without additional funding.

The fund was established in February

2003 to provide scholarships to exceptionally talented students who might otherwise be prevented from coming to Imperial because of financial need. Since that time over 1,300 alumni, staff members and friends have contributed to the fund and 22 scholarships have been awarded to undergraduate and postgraduate students for the duration of their courses.

This academic year, the SOF is supporting 10 undergraduates, four MSc students and three PhD students. In addition, there are now five SOF graduates who have completed one-year MSc courses.

This was the second annual donor event organised by the Office of Alumni and Development. For further information visit [www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni/supporting/sof](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni/supporting/sof).

Sarah Morris, right, talks to a donor to the student opportunities fund



## Engineered for success

By Saskia Daniel

LAST week saw the first engineering fair at Imperial, jointly arranged by the careers advisory service, the City and Guilds College union and the faculty of engineering. Well over 1,500 students attended and the feedback organisers received was wholly positive.

Following on the success of last year's internship fair, this collaboration led to the first careers event specifically for engineering students and Imperial graduates.

Twenty-nine engineering companies and organisations took part, offering the

opportunity for students to encounter potential recruiters from a variety of engineering disciplines.

Students were able to discuss possible summer internships, longer industrial placements and graduate careers with companies such as Arup, Network Rail, Rolls Royce, Shell and BP, who in many cases had sent representatives who were Imperial alumni themselves.

Feedback from employers who attended was very positive. Procter & Gamble noted: "This is the first time that we have attended and it was excellent. We will be back next year!"

Further careers events are planned throughout the year, find out more at [www.imperial.ac.uk/careers](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/careers).

## A TV on your T-shirt?

By Abigail Smith

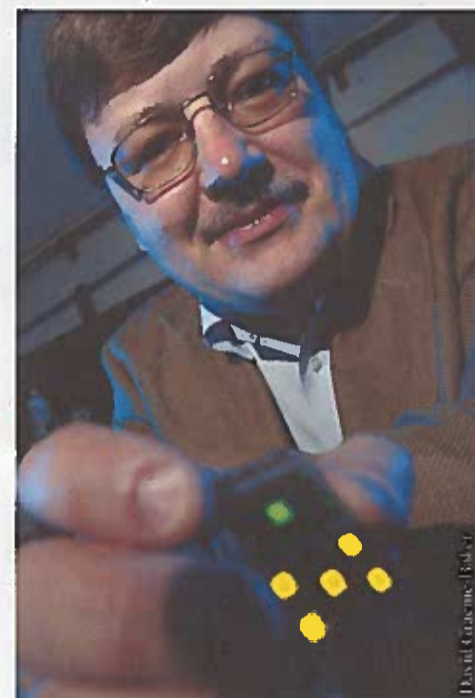
THE way we watch TV and interact with consumer electronics devices could be affected by basic research recognised by the award of this year's Jan Rajchman Prize for outstanding research on flat panel displays to Imperial physicist Donal Bradley, alongside colleagues Jeremy Burroughes and Richard Friend of Cambridge.

Professor Bradley is head of the experimental solid state physics group.

The prize is awarded by the Society for Information Display and recognises the team's groundbreaking discovery that certain plastics can efficiently emit light when positive and negative charges are simultaneously injected into them from suitable electrodes. This finding enabled the development of polymer light emitting diodes (PLEDs) that are now playing a key role in next generation display technology.

Because PLEDs are emissive, they offer significant advantages over traditional display technology. They use less power and can be used to create vibrant displays that have high levels of brightness and contrast and a wide viewing angle. Their plastic nature also allows manufacture of flexible full-colour displays from solution, using approaches such as ink jet printing rather than conventional vacuum deposition.

These properties mean the new technology has the potential to radically change how and where we can use a computer or watch



Professor Bradley demonstrates PLED technology

television, according to Professor Bradley. He said: "As this technology develops, it will have all sorts of possibilities for new products, such as flexible displays that can be worn as accessories or even clothing. PLEDs are ideal for portable devices, since they are light, durable and battery-friendly, and at the same time there is absolutely no compromise on the quality of the display characteristics."

## New academic reward scheme recognises outstanding performance

By Tom Miller

A NEW scheme to recognise and reward outstanding performance from academic staff at Imperial was introduced this month.

Exceptional academic staff across the College—from lecturers to professors—have recently received letters from the rector congratulating them on their outstanding contributions and underlining their importance with the award of a special bonus payment.

Both established academics and newer 'rising stars', nominated by their head of department and faculty principal, have been identified for reward from a fund worth over £1.1 million.

The first year of the College's academic bonus scheme has recognised 94 staff. The funds for the scheme are drawn from the College's strategic investment fund (SIF), a source usually associated with new buildings and equipment or academic initiatives. According to the rector, SIF should also be used to reward the College's highest achieving staff.

"When I came to the College I wanted

to do something that underlined our commitment to keeping our best staff here. That means rewarding them for their excellent contributions and this is one of the manifestations of that thinking," said Sir Richard Sykes. "I intend this scheme to be a permanent element in our reward strategy."

The criteria for outstanding academic performance in the last year include research excellence, funding won from external sponsors and teaching quality.

"As well as setting out to recruit the best new staff it is right that we should acknowledge the contribution of serving staff who have made an outstanding contribution," said Chris Gosling, director of HR. "This new scheme stands on top of the normal bonus scheme that operates within departments. Truly outstanding academic staff, judged against the toughest standards, have been chosen and we now wish to applaud and thank them."

The College's SIF committee consists of the rector, deputy rector Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, chief financial officer Dr Martin Knight and director of strategy and planning, Dr Rodney Eastwood.



Imperial students at the engineering fair



## Imperial's library invests in its people

By Alex Platt

THE library has made an ongoing commitment to investing in its most valuable resource—its staff.

The library has achieved recognition as an Investor in People, only the second department after catering, to do so at Imperial.

For the award, organisations are given a framework to adapt to their own needs and are regularly externally assessed against a rigorous national standard.

Becoming an Investor in People depends partly on an organisation having suitable policies in place, but more importantly, on evidence that its staff believe that these policies work.

Clare Jenkins, director of library services, said: "We decided that in order to achieve what we needed to achieve, we needed the people that work here to help us. If you invest in your staff the rest will follow. Investors in People highlights the importance of offering personal development to each and every member of staff and maintaining a consistency in this approach, detailing the goals of the organisation and showing how each individual fits into the bigger picture. Before we restructured the staff three years ago, the library, through a series of mergers, had grown in a largely unplanned way, and had an accretion of different cultures. With the new structure came a feeling of cohesion and shared sense of purpose. We wanted this feeling to continue within the staff working here."

Dr Janet Smith, the library's staff development officer, added: "Undertaking assessment, and meeting the criteria of an external standard, helped focus and integrate good practice during a period of fundamental organisational change. At ground level, strategic alignment of the library service's objectives with those of the College translated into targeted staff development, and more consistent management and communication

practice among the 150 staff of the eight campuses. For example, implementation of PRDP through all job levels greatly helped staff appreciate the contribution of their roles and plan future development."

The investment appears to be paying off as regular feedback from library users shows: "Can I say how remarkably helpful and friendly your library reception staff are?" and: "My last university library was nowhere near as good."

### 'Mystery shopper'

Further evidence that investing in its staff is working, is an article that appeared in *Update*, the monthly journal for UK library professionals, over the summer. The journal sent a 'mystery shopper' to a range of higher education libraries in London. Imperial's library came out well, praised, amongst other things, for its admission process, which "couldn't have been easier" and "visible staff" who offered a friendly and helpful welcome.

Clare said: "The article was a complete surprise. I knew nothing about it until it landed on my desk. I saw the piece and then spotted that we had been featured. I was delighted when I read about the positive experiences that the 'mystery shopper' had had here. All our staff, especially those in customer service roles, are immensely proud of how we fared in the article, but I firmly believe it is a true representation of how well the team works together."

### News just in

THIS month saw the launch of *Metalib*, a new library information portal enabling access to all the library's electronic journals and databases through a single web interface. The portal enhances research and allow users to make the most their use of the electronic environment. It offers cross searching of many resources at one time and direct linking to the full text of electronic journals. *Metalib* can be accessed at [www.imperial.ac.uk/library/metalib](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/library/metalib)

that more recent films occasionally provide a subtler image. "In *Contact*, Jodie Foster even gets to portray a sympathetic female physicist who is not barny," Dr Turney comments, "although still a tad unworlly."

**Nobel prize win for human guinea pigs**  
The award of the Nobel prize for medicine to two researchers who induced and then cured ulcers in themselves has been welcomed by Brian Spratt of the department of infectious disease epidemiology. The two Australian winners, Robin Warren and Barry Marshall, are recognised for their discovery that bacteria, rather than stress or poor diet, cause peptic ulcers, a theory they proved by consuming a culture of *H pylori* bacteria then clearing up

## Worldwide technophiles make beautiful music

By Abigail Smith

MUSIC lovers around the world were brought together by the magic of technology this month when the Philharmonia Orchestra held their thrice-yearly *Composer Resource* session at Imperial's TV studio.

*Composer Resource* aims to develop the music writing skills of composers of any age and ability by using live webcasts to let them work on their compositions with members of the orchestra.

Participants gain new insights into works in progress as they find out what they sound like when played by a five-piece orchestra. Rachel Selvidge, the Philharmonia's head of community and education, said:

"Composers can get an idea if their material is working and use feedback from the players and other participants to take it in directions they may never have thought of before. It's a very supportive and interactive way of learning."

The live online broadcast means the musicians can talk directly to composers through the camera, backed up by a livechat facility for discussion of the pieces, which they can see on a screen in the studio. Feedback from the session, such as advice on how different instruments work together

and the technicalities of music notation, allow composers to find solutions to difficulties that may have eluded them when working alone.

The session was run by Colin Grimshaw and Martin Sayers of Imperial's media services team. Colin said: "It's quite daunting when you realise that these webcasts are being watched in countries round the world but it went off without a hitch. It was a lot of fun to watch the ideas bouncing back and forth."

The media services division offers a variety of video production, conferencing and web streaming services for internal and external audiences, with recent clients including Nikki Gavron, the Deputy Mayor of London, who conducted a conference from the studio linked to 120 other locations.



## Imperial As One mentors



Some of Imperial As One's mentors and mentees.

By Christine Yates, Equalities and Diversity Consultant, HR

THIS month saw the launch of *Imperial As One's* mentoring programme. This programme is one of the race advisory group's three key priorities alongside career progression and professional development, and improved social and cultural relations.

The mentoring programme is initially open to selected black and minority ethnic staff and students who have a clear goal to work towards, and who will be fully supported in reaching their ambitions. *Imperial As One* then hope to share the success by expanding the programme year by year, whilst continuing to build up our base of mentors. First year mentees are Althea

Hartley-Forbes, Chinyere Ireogbu, Jacqueline De Montague and Paulette Shelley.

The College is fortunate to have secured the services of mentors, both internal and external to the College, from different and interesting backgrounds. Amongst the external mentors are David Michael, who served in the Metropolitan Police Service for 30 years and is a respected public speaker and special advisor to the mayor of Lewisham and Lewisham council; Jan Oliver, Angela Eden, and Rudi Page—who also facilitates the race advisory and review groups within the College.

Internal mentors for staff are Jagmel Bharj of ICT and Caroline Treacey, administrator for physics, while Dr Subo Shanmuganathan, Dr Gwen Nneji, and Dr Mark Richards will be providing careers advice to BME students.

## MEDIA MENTIONS

with Abigail Smith

### Creating a monster

Scientists are getting a raw deal on the silver screen, according to Jon Turney, leader of Imperial's creative non-fiction writing MSc course now beginning its first year. Writing in *The Independent* (18.10.05), Dr Turney looks back at the cinematic history of the mad scientist from Dr Frankenstein to Dr Strangelove, observing: "For years, even when the scientist was some kind of hero, he (almost always a he) was an obsessive, unworlly misfit." However he concedes

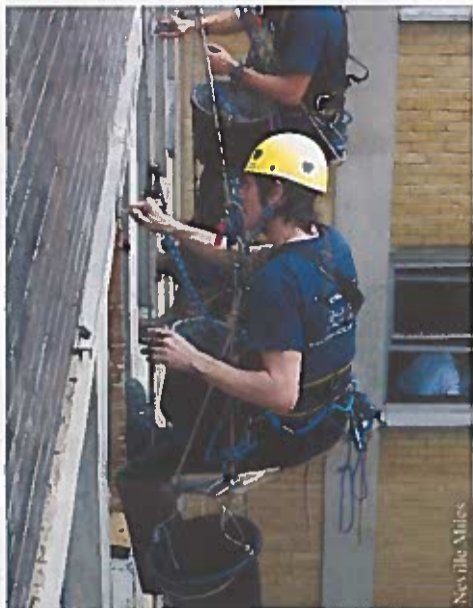
the resultant ulcer with antibiotics. Professor Spratt tells *The Financial Times* (04.10.05): "They had a hell of a job convincing everyone that ulcers are not physiological but are in fact an infectious disease."

**Cheating birds fall for flashy feathers**  
Looks count if you want to stop your partner straying—at least if you are a male barn swallow. This is the conclusion of a study led by Cornell University which found that, since the birds attract mates by the colour intensity of their feathers, an improvement in appearance means females are less likely to cheat. Olivia Judson, of the faculty of life sciences, commiserates with the males suffering "such constant evaluation". She

explains in *National Geographic* (29.09.05): "Female promiscuity creates a problem for the male. Biologists thought that a male should try to seduce as many females as he could. But that may not be beneficial if his primary mate cuckolds him as soon as he starts to look seedy and worn out."

**Imperial flies high in world rankings**  
Imperial's international standing is confirmed this month by *The Times Higher Education Supplement's* world university rankings. The rankings place the College first in Europe and fifth in the world for technology, third in Europe and tenth in the world for science and fourth in Europe and sixth in the world for biomedicine.

## Estates maintenance update



Abseilers repairing concrete on the Huxley building

By Allyson Andrews

ABSEILERS scaled the heights of the Huxley building this month to repair deteriorating concrete. This is just one aspect of the long-term maintenance works carried out by Imperial's estates division including all non-routine building sub-system maintenance and replacement activities.

A fund of about £2 million per annum is set aside to cover these expenses. Activities include the replacement of the chillers that maintain low temperatures for lasers, lab equipment and buildings on a 20-year cycle, transformers on a 15-year cycle, and five-yearly statutory electrical testing.

The College is also obliged to comply with certain legislations and this fund has had to make allocations towards the funding of health and safety works, including new fire alarm systems and safety railings.

### Time capsule

WITH the demolition of Southside under way, now is the time to consider what should go in a time capsule to be buried beneath the new building. We would like your suggestions about what items we could put in the capsule for discovery in the future. The winner, to be chosen by the rector, with the most ingenious or original

suggestion, will get either a magnum of champagne or a £25 book token to spend in Waterstone's. The winner will be announced in the December issue of *Reporter* and take part in the placing of the capsule in the ground sometime in January. Please visit [www.imperial.ac.uk/princesgardens/capsule.htm](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/princesgardens/capsule.htm) to enter.

## Lord Brabourne

By Wendy Raeside

WYE staff and students were saddened recently to learn of the death of a long-term supporter of the campus.

Lord Brabourne, who died aged 80 in September, was a governor of Wye College for a remarkable 45 years (1955–2000). He was chairman of Wye's governing body in the months leading up to merger with Imperial in 2000.

Lord Brabourne enjoyed an international reputation as a film and television producer, with credits including Lewis Gilbert's *Sink the Bismarck!*, Sidney Lumet's *Murder on the Orient Express* and David Lean's *A Passage to India*. He was a director and chairman of Thames Television, director of Thorn EMI and a founder of Satellite Television Ltd (later BSKyB).

Lord Brabourne lived with his wife, Countess Mountbatten of Burma, on his family estate near Ashford, Kent. He played an important role in a number of local organisations and, besides his governorship at Wye, was pro-chancellor of the University of Kent

and president of the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation.

Professor John Prescott, principal of Wye College until 2000, remembers Lord Brabourne as someone who "dedicated an extraordinary amount of his time in service to others. Wye College was one of the many



Lord Brabourne

beneficiaries and his enormous commitment is reflected in benefits enjoyed by successive generations of both students and staff."

He added: "Lord Brabourne could be depended upon for wise counsel and showed great

concern and kindness to others. He was always held in the highest regard and affection by members of the College."

A memorial service for Lord Brabourne is due to take place at the Guards Chapel, London, on 15 November.

## Working towards good health

By Dr Alan Swann and Claire O'Brien, Occupational Health Service

THE avian flu pandemic that everyone is talking about might happen or it might not, nothing is certain yet.

What is certain is that the usual winter influenza season will be with us soon. If you have a health problem that might make you more vulnerable, then you should be doing something about it—now!

A flu jab won't provide protection against pandemic influenza if it breaks out: as yet there is no effective vaccine. But it will protect against the usual seasonal flu we know will appear sometime over winter.

Influenza is a much more unpleasant illness than the usual winter coughs and colds people often refer to as 'flu' and, for people suffering from common health problems, catching influenza can be dangerous.

Vaccination is the most effective means of protecting yourself. The Department of Health recommends that anyone with one of

the following conditions should be vaccinated every autumn before the flu season begins:

- a chronic heart or chest complaint including asthma
- chronic kidney disease
- diabetes
- lowered immunity due to disease or treatment such as steroid medication or cancer treatment or
- any other serious medical condition (check with your doctor, if you are unsure)

Vaccination is also recommended for anyone over 65.

If you fall into any of these categories you should arrange to see your doctor for vaccination, available free of charge. Side effects of the vaccine are uncommon, although some people can feel a bit achy or feverish for a day or so. Most have no reaction and can face the winter confident that, whatever other bugs might be going around, at least they are protected from seasonal influenza.

If you want to know more about influenza see [www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics\\_az/influenza/flufaq.htm](http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/flufaq.htm).

## A journey to stillness



The Labyrinth at Fresher's Fair

WALKING a labyrinth is an ancient way of meditating, praying and finding stillness.

Imperial's chaplaincy has its own and is inviting staff and students to walk *A Journey to Stillness*, leaving the busyness of their lives behind for a few minutes.

Kat Spall, chaplaincy assistant, said: "What we are offering is a chance to be still in the middle of a busy day—we offer the meditation so that people can let go of the rushing around ... and then invite them to continue by walking into the labyrinth. A lot of people find the action of walking calming and easier than sitting still!"

Kat added: "Labyrinths are a great resource in a varied community like Imperial's. They arose at different times and in different cultures around the world and are open to anyone, rather than being linked to just one religious tradition."

The next session is Monday 28 November, 13.10–13.45 in the union dining hall, Beit Quad, South Kensington campus. The event is free and there is no need to book. The labyrinth is also available as a resource for group development or reflection. Please email [k.spall@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:k.spall@imperial.ac.uk) if you would like more information.

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

**Tuesday 1 November 17.30**  
Clare Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building, South Kensington campus  
*The Challenges and Opportunities of Maximising PPP Investment in London Underground*  
Second Imperial College London/Lloyd's Register Annual Lecture in Transport Risk Management.  
David Waboso, Director of Engineering, London Underground Ltd.  
Contact [a.eldon@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.eldon@imperial.ac.uk) to attend.

**Wednesday 2 November 17.30**  
Blackett Lecture Theatre 1, South Kensington campus  
Inaugural lecture *Strings, branes, black holes and quantum field theory*.  
Professor Jerome Gauntlett.  
Contact [a.eldon@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.eldon@imperial.ac.uk) to attend.

**Wednesday 2 November 17.30**  
Paul Wood Lecture Theatre, Guy Scadding Building, Royal Brompton campus  
Inaugural lecture *Syncope*.  
Professor Richard Sutton. Contact [a.eldon@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.eldon@imperial.ac.uk) to attend.

**Thursday 3 November 18.00**  
G16 Sir Alexander Fleming Building, South Kensington campus  
*Global Health Advances in a Troubled World: 2005 A Turning Point?*  
Professor Emeritus Sir Gustav Nossal, University of Melbourne. Contact [events@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:events@imperial.ac.uk) to attend.

**Tuesday 8 November 12.30**  
Blyth Gallery, Level 5 Sheffield Building, South Kensington campus. *A quick introduction to charcoal drawing*.  
Lunchtime workshop by Mindy Lee. Contact [a.rutledge@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.rutledge@imperial.ac.uk).

**1-11 November**  
Blyth Gallery  
*Just Beyond the Visible—the art of being and becoming*  
Andrew Machon (photography).  
Reception and book launch: Tuesday 8 November 18.00.

**Thursdays 13.00**  
Read Lecture Theatre  
Lunchtime concerts  
3 November Imperial College/Royal College of Music joint degree students, programme to be confirmed.  
10 November Bronte Quartet. *Haydn String Quartet in D minor Op.76 No.2 ('Fifths')*. *Schubert String Quartet in E flat D.87*  
17 November Gary Ryan (guitar). Programme will include pieces by Dowland, Bach, Giuliani, Yocoh and Ryan.

## Noticeboard

**Health and Safety Awards**  
A top prize of £2,000 is again available for award to all staff below professorial level.

To be eligible, candidates must demonstrate that they have made a major contribution to the management, development or practice of health and safety in the College during the 2004–05 academic year.

The closing date for nominations to be received by the director of human resources is 17.30 on Friday 11 November 2005.

Full details are at [www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/hr/hr\\_Info/procedures/rectoraward.htm](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/hr/hr_Info/procedures/rectoraward.htm).

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*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](mailto:a.platt@imperial.ac.uk) [www.imperial.ac.uk/reporter](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/reporter)