

# Reporter

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## Energy Futures Lab launched

Laura Gallagher

A NEW lab dedicated to tackling the scientific challenges posed by the world's demand for energy was launched at Imperial this month.

The Energy Futures Lab, a focal point for energy research across the College, aims to play a leading role in setting the energy agenda over the next 20 to 50 years. Its goal is to develop new multidisciplinary, cross-faculty research programmes, which will meet the broad energy challenges that we face, and facilitate the transition to a sustainable energy future.

The lab will focus its research at the intersection of diverse technologies, in order to find ways of meeting fundamental energy needs, such as heating, lighting, power and transportation, without contributing to climate change.

The lab, under the direction of Professor Nigel Brandon, will enable Imperial to bring together its existing strengths in developing technologies, such as carbon capture, fossil fuel engineering, renewable energy resources and fuel cells, and its proven track record in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks, speaking at the launch, said: "The major energy issues we face extend far beyond just technical challenges, and social scientists, engineers, business, economists and, dare I say, even



Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks at the launch

politicians, have a key role to play in addressing these. I am happy that Imperial College London is dedicating its considerable technological expertise and its know-how in areas like carbon capture, fuel cells and renewable energy to addressing these problems."

### Urban energy use

At the launch of the lab, Imperial and BP announced a £4.5 million project to research the

use of energy in cities.

The BP Urban Energy Systems project at Imperial, co-directed by Professor David Fisk, will explore how money and energy could be saved in the future if cities integrated the systems that supply them with resources. It is the first to try to document and understand, in detail, how energy, people and materials flow through a city.

### Keeping the nuclear option open

Increasing the safety and reliability of nuclear power, as a solution for satisfying energy needs, is the challenge addressed by a new initiative announced at the launch of the lab. The £6.1 million Keeping the Nuclear Option Open programme, funded by the research council's Towards a Sustainable Energy Economy initiative, will investigate how nuclear power can become a more appealing option for future energy production. This represents the single largest research council commitment to fission reactor research for more than thirty years. The researchers, led by Professor Robin Grimes, hope that the four-year project will help increase the acceptability of nuclear power as an alternative source of energy and maintain the UK's expertise in nuclear technology.

For further information on these energy announcements go to [www.imperial.ac.uk/news](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/news).

## New faculty of natural sciences

Abigail Smith

A FACULTY of natural sciences has been created at Imperial, by combining the existing faculties of life sciences and physical sciences, and will become fully operational on 1 August 2006.

The faculty creates a new academic grouping of the College's internationally recognised scientific researchers in natural sciences, allowing them to take greater advantage of the increasingly close alignment of scientific disciplines.

The rector, Sir Richard Sykes, has asked Professor Sir Peter Knight to lead the new faculty, with immediate effect. Sir Peter is currently head of the department of physics.

The new combined faculty will employ over 1,100 staff, teach over 2,700 undergraduates, train over 680 PhD students, and have a research income totalling £56.5 million (2004-05 figures), bringing it close in size to the College's other faculties, of engineering and medicine.

Professor Michael Duff, principal of the

faculty of physical sciences, and Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, who has been acting principal of the faculty of life sciences as well as deputy rector, will step down from their faculty roles on 31 December 2005. In the interim, they will work with the new faculty principal to ensure a smooth transition.

Professor Borysiewicz will remain deputy rector, an appointment he has held since August 2004.

Professor Duff will take up the Abdus Salam chair of theoretical physics, becoming leader of a strengthened theoretical physics grouping at the College.

Announcing the news to staff internally, Sir Richard Sykes thanked Professors Borysiewicz and Duff for their service, support and leadership of the faculties, and said:

"Science doesn't stand still and our academic structures need to change too, to reflect new opportunities and understanding, and help us move our interdisciplinary thinking further forward. When we announced the faculty structure in 2001, we kept life and physical sciences apart, but today it is increasingly ap-



Professor Sir Peter Knight will lead the new faculty

parent that discipline areas within these two faculties are becoming more closely aligned. The scientific case for bringing the two together is compelling and exciting."

## EnVision 2010

Laura Gallagher

EVOLVING the way the faculty of engineering teaches its undergraduates and prepares them for their future careers is the focus of a major new Imperial initiative, the second phase of which was launched on 14 November.

*EnVision 2010* aims to build on engineering's already excellent international reputation to ensure that by 2010, Imperial will be in a sustainable and recognised position within the top five institutions for engineering education in the world.

The project is looking at how the fac-

ulty can improve its educational ethos, its facilities and infrastructure, and its level of educational innovation. For example, it aims to find ways to increase students' understanding of the practical application of engineering knowledge, develop their personal and professional skills, and celebrate exciting approaches to teaching.

Heads of department, academic staff, representatives from industry and over 1,500 undergraduate and alumni engineers have had input into the phase one scoping study, looking at the long-term international reputation of engineering education at Imperial.

Many recognised that internationally, undergraduate engineering education has seen a

strong trend of innovation and radical reform over the past decade. *EnVision 2010* aims to make the faculty of engineering a leader in such innovation, enhancing its international standing and ensuring that it continues to draw the best staff, students and employers.

Professor David Nethercot, chair of both the faculty teaching committee and the *EnVision 2010* steering group, said: "This project is important for the faculty, the College, and the UK as a whole. We are ambitious about the education we deliver. We need to keep on attracting the finest and brightest students and staff and we want our students to be grabbed by the best international companies when they graduate."

## IN BRIEF

### New Fellows

Distinguished graduates of Imperial were admitted to the Fellowship of Imperial College London on Commemoration Day last month. They are: Dr Amit Chatterjee, Chief Technology Officer of Tata Steel, Dr Susan Ion, British Nuclear Fuel Limited's Executive Director of Technology, Professor Melvyn Myers, a leading medical imaging expert, and Air Marshal Sir Colin Terry, a renowned aeronautical engineer.

### Imperial flies higher

Imperial's international standing was reaffirmed by the latest *Times Higher Education Supplement* world university rankings, placing Imperial fifth in Europe and thirteenth overall in the 2005 global rankings. The rankings, which are largely based on a poll of academics, students and recruiters, place Imperial 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.

### Boys medal

Professor Karl Krushelnick (department of physics) has been awarded the Boys medal in the Institute of Physics Awards 2006 in recognition of his contribution to plasma physics through his wide-ranging investigations on the interaction of ultra-intense lasers with matter.

### Honorary degree

Emeritus professor and senior research investigator Howard R. Morris FRS, division of molecular biosciences, has been awarded the *Laurea Federiciana* in biotechnology by the University of Naples. Professor Morris has been honoured for his outstanding contribution to the development of mass spectrometry.

### It's a wonderful world

*Imperial As One* members organised an informal lunch last month in celebration of Black History Month, held at 170 Queen's Gate. Approximately 40 participants from across the College attended, but the stars of the event were the children from Imperial's early years education centre, who gave a rendition of Louis Armstrong's version of *What a Wonderful World*.

### Tanaka Business School leads UK technology transfer research

The commercialisation of research and the promotion of innovation by large companies is the focus of a new professorship in Tanaka Business School. The £1 million chair in technology transfer in the physical sciences is the first of its kind in the UK and is funded jointly by QinetiQ, the hi-tech defence and security firm, and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

## In the next edition...

- Archive corner
- Estates' time capsule competition winner announced



## £8.1 million grant win

Alex Platt

SO Iwata, professor of membrane protein crystallography in the division of molecular biosciences has been awarded an £8.1 million Exploratory Research for Advanced Technology (ERATO) grant, from the Japan Science and Technology Agency. The agency assigns four grants each year to eminent Japanese scientists based on their work to date and recommendations from other senior scientists.



Professor So Iwata

The grant has been awarded to continue Professor Iwata's research in developing general methodologies to determine cell receptor structures in humans. Receptors are proteins on the cell surface that interact with chemicals from outside the cells. There are more than a thousand of these in our bodies, but the chemical structures of almost all of them are yet to be established. To do so, his team uses X-ray crystallography, allowing the details of each receptor to be visualised.

Professor Iwata said: "This is a hugely prestigious award. Science can be a very competitive field and it's often difficult to get grants of this size. To be awarded this much money is great, more funding hopefully means more results, which is very exciting."

One of the conditions of the grant is that 50 per cent of the money is spent in Japan. Professor Iwata explained: "There will be three teams working on the project. Two in Japan, based at the Yakohama Riken Institute, and one at the site associated with Diamond-MPL, based in the UK. Spreading the teams like this works perfectly, as the Japanese site will be using nuclear magnetic resonance technology and the UK, X-ray. Both techniques are essential to the project."

If the team are successful in establishing the methods to determine these structures, drugs of the future could be tailor-made for an individual, meaning greater success in treatment and avoidance of side effects.



Doug Murdoch is a third year maths student at Imperial. In this edition, Doug considers whether maths really is an endangered species and how he feels A level teachers have the chance to breathe new life into it...

"MATHS throughout the country is in decline. Or so everyone says. Teaching, learning and implementing it are on a slippery slope to extinction.

Maths is an engaging frontline subject that is constantly being pushed beyond its boundaries. You may think this an obvious statement. Most degrees at Imperial rely entirely on highly advanced mathematical skills. Most engineering boils down to solving differential equations, chemistry on awkward integrals and physics is basically applied maths. Considering how much research is done in these areas, how can anyone say maths isn't booming? In a sense, in many subjects it is the only way forward in modern scientific investigation.

And yet undergraduates are increasingly unprepared for the mathematical challenges presented to them. Even those with further maths A level struggle to appreciate the basics of university calculations, and topics covered in a maths degree are so far removed from A levels that many feel they weren't worth taking. So where do we go wrong?"

## Award for innovative TB test

DR David Moore, division of investigative science, has had his development of an inexpensive and rapid test for tuberculosis (TB) recognised with the top prize at the Medical Futures Innovation Awards. It also scooped first place in the Best Innovation to Improve Global Healthcare category. Professor John Friedland, of the same division, helped to develop the test, which is able to confirm the presence of TB from sputum samples in

one week on average, one third of the time a standard test takes. The new test is also able to spot if the TB is drug resistant. The test costs \$2 to perform compared with around \$30 to \$40 for a standard test.



## Archive corner

Anne Barrett College Archivist and Corporate Records Manager

AN armillary sphere, or spherical astrolabe, is a skeletal representation of a celestial globe that was first used in the teaching of astronomy by the early Greeks and the Chinese. They often appear in Renaissance portraits, indicating wisdom and knowledge on the part of the sitter.

This particular armillary sphere has found its way into the College archives as an example of the electroliers, or light fittings, that were part of the carefully thought-out construction and decoration of the Royal College of Science building, designed by the architect Sir Aston Webb and built between 1900 and 1906.

With an astrophysical lab forming part of the building, the theme was picked up in the decorative artwork of the light fittings. Of the many crafts suppliers who produced fixtures and fittings for the building, the Bromsgrove Guild made the stylised spheres. The guild was part of the art and crafts movement,



Armillary sphere light fittings decorated the entrance hall to the old RCS building

which began in the nineteenth century and continued producing into the 1960s, using materials as varied as metal, wood, plaster, bronze, tapestry and glass.

The electrolier spheres are metal and held glass lampshades. The corporate records unit and archives adopted an image of this object as its logo some time ago and you may be familiar with it on the ReMAS (records management and archive storage) stationery and website at [www.imperial.ac.uk/record-sandarchives](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/record-sandarchives)

The object itself stands in a block of concrete outside our offices, do come up and see it—and us! Room 445 Sherfield Building, South Kensington campus.



In the second of this series, Reporter's Alex Platt went to meet Felix Weinberg, emeritus professor of combustion physics, who started work at Imperial in 1951. He refers to the College as: "The centre of the known universe in terms of research".

PROFESSOR Weinberg arrived in the UK after spending several of his teenage years in Auschwitz, a concentration camp in Poland, during the Second World War. He explained: "During my time in the camp, I lost the majority of my family. I was of the only age you could really survive in the camps, as I was old enough to work. I eventually arrived in Britain to be reunited with my father, in a stripped out Lancaster bomber on VJ Day. I hadn't had any schooling since I was 12, couldn't speak English and had effectively forgotten how to write. Normally school children don't want to learn, but I was desperately keen to make up for lost years. I don't advocate sending children to concentration camps now for motivation, but maybe a lumberjack camp?"

Taking inspiration from his industrial chemist father, Professor Weinberg completed an external general science degree at London University and fell in love with physics. He explained: "My father wanted me to take chemistry as this was his love, but you need a memory that I seem to have lost during the war. With physics you could advance by understanding and this inspired me to go on to a second degree in the subject. I arrived at Imperial to complete my PhD on the structure of flames, and was employed as a research assistant in 1951."

Professor Weinberg has now been in continuous employment by Imperial for the last 54 years and describes it as: "A wonderful place and quite simply the hub of my universe ever since."

When recalling his first day, he said: "I was told to register at the Science Museum Library by crossing the lawn and descending through a manhole into the central heating pipe system. And I did, but realised that I must have taken the wrong turn as I ended up crawling on all fours! The estate looked very different than it does today too, there had

been much bomb damage during the war."

Throughout his time here, Professor Weinberg has taken various sabbaticals and visiting professorships, but has always returned. He said: "Imperial always called me back. Usually through the dedication of the many PhD students I have had the privilege of teaching over the years. Communication has certainly improved too, I used to receive telegrams from them telling me that my latest suggestion did not work, now it's just an email!"

Professor Weinberg, who was elected FRS in 1983, has written, co-written and edited several books during his time here, written over 220 papers and seen half a dozen heads of department in chemical engineering. The current head, Professor Stephen Richardson, was an undergraduate who used to attend his lectures. Professor Weinberg said: "He must have forgiven me as he is yet to throw me out!"

When asked what it is that has kept him here all these years, Professor Weinberg said: "I've spent 80 per cent of my life doing this, when I'm not here I work from home. Having spent this much time doing research, it's hard to find anything of comparable interest. I don't think people like me can ever really stop."



Emeritus Professor Felix Weinberg



## New assistant directors of estates

September saw two new assistant directors of estates take up their posts at Imperial. Steve Howe with responsibility for projects, following John Walsh's departure, and Nick Roalfe for property services, following on from Andrew Rabeneck. Reporter's Alex Platt went to meet them.

### What is your background?

SH "I have spent 28 years in the property business, including working on the development of the Tate Modern. This has offered a real cross section of experience, involving working in both the contracting and consultancy fields. I'm in this role because I really enjoy bringing these aspects together, seeing through the delivery of services. A tangible end result is incredibly satisfying."

NR "I spent 16 years working at M&S in the property group. During that time I was involved with facilities management, planning and budgeting, quantity surveying and strategic programme management. Prior to that I was involved in the relocation of Asso-

ciated Newspapers to Kensington, so I knew the area before moving to Imperial."

### What does your new role entail?

SH "Projects at Imperial has a huge range. I oversee everything from the £30,000 revamp of a single room to the £50 million Southside redevelopment. I manage the teams allocated to each project. With £125 million annual capital expenditure on projects, this is definitely a full time job!"

NR "The facilities management portfolio I am responsible for at Imperial includes maintenance, campus services management for portage, post, grounds, cleaning and waste disposal, security, fire, the help desk, faculty liaison link managers, building managers, and energy and environmental management. These services run on each campus. This is obviously a large remit and one which costs around £28 million annually to maintain."

### What particular challenges do you face?

SH "We are always working hard at keeping



Nick Roalfe and Steve Howe new to Estates

disruption to a minimum, balancing the work we're doing for people's benefit and the difficulties it can cause is a tricky one. The actual estate is a challenge too. We have a limited budget, so I need to ensure it's channelled in the right direction.

NR "I agree with Steve that funding is one of the biggest challenges. I hope to bring my experience of having worked for a company such as Marks and Spencer to Imperial.

Similarities include having to get the best value within set budget constraints, and ensuring the activities are customer focused. We need to channel funding into strategic, business critical areas bringing the best service we can to the end user."

### What does the future hold?

SH "We're already looking towards the next round of SRIF funding and deciding how we allocate this money. I am hugely committed to getting closer to researchers, students and academics to ensure that we fully understand their needs. We are also working hard to standardise components used in our work, meaning a more cost effective and smooth-running system for the future."

NR "I hope I'll be able to make my mark here. I want to bring a better quality of service for the areas I am responsible for and I hope people will appreciate what I'm trying to achieve. I am currently trying to turn every stone to see how we can do things more efficiently, but we can't just do this overnight. I am also looking forward to working closely with Steve as we have the chance to see processes through right from the beginning, offering a cohesive approach."

## Countdown to Commemoration

Wendy Raeside

MORE than 1,500 Imperial College students graduated in style at the Royal Albert Hall on Commemoration Day last month.

The ceremonies went smoothly from start to finish and everyone involved seemed to enjoy the special occasion. However, the outward picture of calm belies a huge amount of behind-the-scenes planning that starts before the graduands have even completed their studies.

First on the 20-page action list, overseen each year by events manager Pamela Michael and her team, is booking the venue. The Royal Albert Hall is reserved by Imperial up to the year 2012, giving some idea of the hall's enduring popularity.

Planning begins in earnest in May with room bookings for receptions and robing. As soon as the degree results are announced in July, events officer Carol Marsh devotes herself full-time to arrangements. The reception marquee is ordered, student invitations are designed, and robers and photographers are booked.

On the catering front too, early summer is a busy time as reception menus are planned—

no mean feat when you're providing more than 42,000 sweet and savoury canapés, 1,800 bottles of sparkling wine and 1,008 cartons of orange juice. According to Paul Keeling, catering's events duty manager, the favourite canapé this time was the mini bagel with cream cheese and smoked salmon.



Some of the 42,000 canapés served on the day

In August, while many are enjoying annual holidays, invitations are sent out to up to 2,000 students. Staff are asked to act as stewards and marshals, and the orchestra and choir are booked. In early September, flowers are ordered and the big screen and lighting for the hall are organised. Towards the end of the month, issuing the tickets is a major event in itself—this year, more than 9,000 were sent out over three days.

Into October, a detailed running order for the ceremony is agreed, from procession lists to seating plans.

On the day, photographers start setting up at 05.00 and the events team arrives at the Hall before 08.00—this year to find the floor still being repainted to cover traces of a lively National Television Awards party the night before. A help desk is set up to deal with any last-minute queries—from advising one participant which colour shoes to wear with her robe to dealing with an LSE student trying to join Imperial's ceremony.

Pamela Michael and her team are able to relax slightly as the first ceremony, this year for faculty of engineering and life sciences graduands, gets underway, with a two-hour interval before the second ceremony for the faculties of physical sciences and medicine.

Afterwards, graduates and guests continue their celebrations with a reception on



Carol Marsh liaising with Albert Hall staff

the Queen's Lawn.

Carol Marsh said: "Commemoration is always a frantic time for us, with endless planning and organisation to ensure everything goes smoothly on the day. This wouldn't be possible without the vast support from staff and volunteers across the College."

She added: "We were very happy with how it went this year and have received lots of positive feedback that makes it all worthwhile."

There's no rest for the events team though as, following debriefing on October's ceremonies, they start planning later this month for the postgraduate ceremonies next May.



Sydney Garvey and his daughter Helen

## A graduation day worth waiting for

Zoë Perkins, Office of Alumni and Development

SIXTY-FOUR years after originally being awarded his first class honours degree in mathematics, alumnus Sydney Garvey finally returned to Imperial College to receive his certificate on Commemoration Day. Sydney, 85, was presented with his certificate by Professor Christopher Isham, dean of the faculty of physical sciences, at the

departmental reception.

Although the campus has changed beyond recognition since Sydney was last here, he has fond memories of Imperial, not least because he met his wife here.

A prominent memory for Sydney took place just before one of his examinations in 1940, when one of his lecturers advised him not to be distracted by the day's news. It was

not until after the exam that he actually heard that France had fallen to Germany. It was also WWII that prevented Sydney from collecting his degree certificate, as degree ceremonies could not be held during the war.

Sydney's daughter, Helen, and friend, Margaret, accompanied him to the reception. They had managed to keep his visit to Imperial a secret until a few days before, only arousing his suspicions when he was informed that he would need to bring his suit along with him on his trip to London.

## MEDIA MENTIONS

Abigail Smith

### Why male brains fall apart more easily

The gender divide that makes men more prone to Parkinson's disease is all down to brain structure, according to researchers at the Netherlands Institute for Brain Research, who hope their findings could lead to more gender specific treatments for a range of conditions. Parkinson's expert Glenda Gillies, neurosciences and mental health, comments to *BBC News Online* (23.10.05): "Increasingly, I think we are realising that drugs have

to be personalised and that one drug is not necessarily going to be the same for each individual."

### Living on the edge

Kerb-crawling pedestrians should take a step back if they want to avoid the worst of London's air pollution, says Surbjit Kaur of Imperial's DAPPLE project, which aims to tackle urban contamination hotspots. The group's latest research tested air quality along Marylebone Road and found that volunteers walking near the kerb were exposed to 10 per cent more polluting particles than those closer to buildings. "It is something that susceptible

people like asthmatics and those suffering cardiovascular disease should be made aware of," she tells *New Scientist* (05.11.05).

### Natural home for the gifted and talented

The success of Imperial's programme of summer schools, aimed at giving bright young people the opportunity to try out hands-on science, is highlighted by a report in *The Guardian* on gifted and talented education in the UK (08.11.05). Describing her time at the College learning about robotics, 14 year-old Lucy Costelloe of St Marylebone School says: "Both my sisters were amazed. They go to fee-paying schools and they've never had

the chance to do anything like that."

### Don't go quackers over bird flu

The UK is well-prepared to deal with an outbreak of avian flu, thanks to backing from the "very strong" scientific community, according to Professor Roy Anderson, epidemiology, public health and primary care. Telling *Reuters* (29.10.05) that the most likely place for a human strain of the virus to develop is China rather than Britain, he says: "The density of ducks and geese and chickens per human is very high there, and the social environment is such that humans have great intimacy with their poultry livestock."



## A day in the life of...

Subo Shanmuganathan has been at Imperial College for just over a year and is the staff development advisor for research staff, based at South Kensington. She explained: "I came from a research background where I had worked as a post-doctoral scientist in immunology and then a lecturer for several years. Then I changed career direction, becoming involved in education and training more broadly and decided to return to Imperial, 10 years after completing my PhD here. It's been interesting to see how the College has changed and progressed in that time." Reporter's Alex Platt went to meet her to find out about a typical day in her working life.

**9.00** If Subo doesn't have to run a training course, she starts the day by checking her emails. She said: "I find most researchers communicate initially by email and have questions or concerns that they want to follow up in a meeting. It is important to deal with emails regularly, so that researchers feel more confident about sharing their concerns and we can tailor our provision accordingly."

**9.30** Meeting with Mary Ritter (pro-rector for postgraduate and international affairs) to update and discuss the strategic direction of the College's work carried out under funding from the Roberts review. The review highlighted at national level the importance of transferable skills training. This aims to give both postdoctoral scientists and PhD students the ability, not only to use the knowledge gained in an academic context, but also to make a successful transition to future careers in academia, industry and elsewhere. Subo explained: "Since this initiative began in 2004, more and more researchers have become aware that there is a programme of development opportunities tailored especially for them, published in our booklet *Think Ahead, Get Ahead*. The 10 days that are available for them to attend training and development courses is now more widely publicised and PIs (principal investigators) are equally starting to recognise the importance of this initiative."

**10.30** Meeting with Christine Yates, HR's diversity and equalities consultant, about *Imperial as One* and her role as a mentor to black and minority ethnic (BME) students. She said: "One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is the different opportunities it presents to act as a mentor to other BME staff and students. The obstacles



Subo speaks at the *Imperial as One* launch, earlier in the year

that exist for this group to progress in their careers are numerous and varied, and it is nice to be in a position to advise others on how they might be able to overcome them. It is satisfying to see them succeed and realise their potential too."

**11.30** Subo starts the planning process for the College-wide induction event for new staff.

**12.30** Departmental representatives meeting with post-docs over lunch to discuss their training and development needs. She spends time highlighting the launch of *Techforum*, a new virtual common room for researchers to communicate with each other.

**13.30** Subo acts as co-facilitator for a recruitment and selection workshop for researchers. Part of this role is to offer advice and training on College policies and compliance with equal opportunities legislation.

**16.30** Meeting with Professor Stephen Richardson, head of the department of chemical engineering and chemical technology, to discuss supporting PIs in their role as research project managers. She said: "An important part of the Roberts initiative is the support provided to PIs in their role as managers of research staff. We are trying to find out what the needs of this group are by piloting a survey of PIs in departments and using the responses to design effective opportunities for professional development and support."

**17.00** Subo checks her emails and heads home via tube and train, usually with someone from the College. She explained: "It's a nice time to catch up with people. If South Western Trains has managed to do something wildly out of character like run the trains on time and I get home feeling energetic, then I might go for a run or a swim. I collapse after that!"

## Working towards good health

Dr Alan Swann, Occupational Health Service

IT'S getting more and more difficult to smoke at work, with smoking now banned on all medical campuses, and the rest of College set to follow. At South Kensington, the walkway has been decreed a smoke free zone and a College-wide ban, at least during the working day, is under consideration. BUT, for smokers who would like to quit, there is more support than ever available.

Most of our local hospital trusts are running smoking cessation classes, which members of the College can join. Check [www.imperial.ac.uk/occhealth](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/occhealth) for details.

There is also free help available via the NHS Quitline, 0800 169 0 169, or their website [www.givingupsmoking.co.uk](http://www.givingupsmoking.co.uk), which offers ideas about why you smoke and helps you plan how and when you're going to quit.

In conjunction, your GP can prescribe a range of nicotine replacement products or medicines to help reduce craving.

It still requires some willpower to be successful, you have to want to give up to do it and for most smokers, it takes more than one attempt to be successful. But for your health, it is definitely worth it, however long you've smoked for. Within hours, you'll smell nicer. Your blood pressure and circulation will improve within weeks, and risks of lung cancer and heart disease start to fall within months. After 10 years your risk of a heart attack is the same as someone who has never smoked and the cancer risk has fallen by 50 per cent. If you're a 10 a day smoker, you'll also have saved yourself over £7,000.

If these are not the right reasons for you to quit, have another look at the NHS website. There are loads more. Good luck!

## It's good to talk

Liz Gregson, Office of Alumni and Development

THE 2005 autumn telethon for the Student Opportunities Fund began last month, aiming to make contact with over 5,000 alumni of the College. The campaign will raise funds to provide scholarships for students at Imperial, based on academic excellence and financial need.

Until early December, from Monday to Thursday, around 12 students per evening will be manning the phones of ICT's daytime help desk. As in previous years, callers have been recruited from a variety of departments,

and are this year occasionally having to use a foreign language, as for the first time around 750 alumni from mainland Europe have been targeted.

Caller Katie Blackmar, a third year PhD student in aeronautics, feels it is an important exercise for the College. She said: "Alumni are being given the chance to reinvest in their own university experience and in the future reputation of Imperial. Speaking to former students makes me feel like we are all part of one big family, working to make Imperial the best it can possibly be."

Further details about the fund, and the 22 students who have received scholarships to date, are at [www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni/supporting/sof](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni/supporting/sof).

## Spotlight on Spectrum

Peter Gillings, New Media Manager

IF you are new to Imperial and haven't already explored the College's information web pages, or just haven't looked lately, it's well worth taking the time to explore *Spectrum's* huge range of topics. It's full of information for staff and students, including internal and external events, key College notices and up-to-date Imperial news.

With the introduction of the College web content management system (CMS), the dedicated *Spectrum* web pages will gradually disappear. In this occasional series I shall focus on different information each time or

point you towards an section's new home on the CMS.

To begin the series, the recently revised human resources section at [www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/hr/internal/updateslist.htm](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/hr/internal/updateslist.htm), is bursting with information. Handy if you want to see where you sit in the salary scales or would like to be considered for a season ticket loan. Or why not find out about courses you can take to increase your transferable skills or confidence at work?

Please contact me at [p.gillings@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:p.gillings@imperial.ac.uk), if you have any questions about *Spectrum's* move to the CMS.

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

**Tuesday 22 November 17.30**  
Winter Guest Lecture *Is Evolution Predictable?*  
Professor Richard Dawkins FRS, University of Oxford  
G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, South Kensington campus  
Contact [graduate.schools@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.schools@imperial.ac.uk) for more information.

**Wednesday 23 November 17.30**  
Denis Gabor lecture *Respectable Beliefs for Scientists*  
Sir Eric Ash  
Main Lecture Theatre, Room 408, Electrical Engineering Building, South Kensington campus  
Contact [j.horrell@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:j.horrell@imperial.ac.uk) to attend.

**Friday 25 November 10.00**  
*Proteomics Day*  
Chaired by Dr Judit Nagy, Division of Cell and Molecular Biology  
G47, Flowers Building, South Kensington campus  
Contact [events@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:events@imperial.ac.uk) to attend.

**Wednesday 30 November 19.00**  
*The Future of Surgery*  
Dr Richard Ashcroft, Professor Sir Ara Darzi and Professor Brian Davies  
The Royal Institution  
Visit [www.rigb.org](http://www.rigb.org) to attend.

**Thursday 1 December 19.00**  
*Fuel Cells - Powering the Future?*  
Professor Nigel Brandon

G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, South Kensington campus  
Contact [events@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:events@imperial.ac.uk) to attend.

**Thursdays 13.00**  
Lunchtime concerts  
Read Lecture Theatre

**24 November** Natalie Clein (cello) and Charles Owen (piano).  
Beethoven *Sonata for Cello and Piano in G minor Op.5 No.2*

**1 December** Doric Quartet. Schubert *String Quartet No.15 in G D.887*

**8 December** Belcea Quartet with Lisa Milne (soprano). Mozart *Quartet in E flat K.428 Phibbs Commission for Soprano and Quartet*

## Noticeboard

While on campus, staff, students and visitors must wear their College identity cards or visitor's cards in a visible manner at all times and not wear clothing which covers their face.

The new dress code has been instituted as part of the College's continuing commitment to the health, safety and security of all members of the Imperial community. The College has a duty of care to everyone on its premises and it cannot fulfil this if unwelcome visitors are able to move around campuses unchallenged. Security within the College is not based solely on the ability of the Security staff to match a photograph with a face, but also on other members of the College recognising who is present on site.

The code has not been designed to dictate how people dress, but to ensure that no individual has their face obscured, thus making them unrecognisable.

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