

Reporter



Imperial's Prince Albert crew rowing to victory at last week's Henley Royal Regatta

Imperial rowers bring home Henley's newest trophy

Abigail Smith Communications

AN Imperial Boat Club crew has become the first to win Henley Royal Regatta's newest trophy.

The team rowed to victory in the Prince Albert event for Men's Student Coxed Fours, beating the University of London crew by a convincing four and a quarter lengths in the final on Sunday 2 July. They were rewarded with the stylish Prince Albert Challenge Cup—donated to Henley this year by Imperial.

Imperial's victorious crew was made up of Jonty McNuff, Ed Johnson, Simon Hislop, Ole Teitz (stroke), Alison Williams (cox) and Simon Cox (chief coach). The team won out over Queen's University Belfast, Bristol and Durham on their way to the final, setting new course records in the process.

The new cup was presented to the Regatta in June by Rector Sir Richard Sykes at Buckingham Palace in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen. It was named in honour of the Regatta's first Royal Patron, Prince Albert, who also has strong connections with Imperial's origins as part of the South Kensington science and technology quarter known as Albertopolis.

It was an Imperial crew that won the Men's Student Coxed Fours when it was raced for the first time in 2004, and it is Imperial's strong rowing tradition that sparked the decision to donate the cup, according to Professor Bob Schroter, Chairman of Rowing at the College.

"It's a sport we are traditionally very strong in—in fact, we've won pretty much every event at Henley [that] we are eligible to row in," he said. "Being allowed to donate and name a cup is an honour no other university has so far received. It's a tribute to the dedication of all Imperial rowers, past and present."

The Prince Albert Challenge Cup was created by London-based silversmith Hector



The Rector (right) presents the new cup

Miller, who designed it to emphasise the strengths of Imperial. It incorporates the College's crest and involved novel silversmithing technologies, reflecting Imperial's reputation for cutting edge science.

As well as reflecting Imperial as a whole, Professor Schroter points out that the cup is also clearly focused on rowing. Its five arms are designed to replicate the slender shape of boats, while the recurring motif of five, forming the body of the cup, represents the number of people in a coxed four team and recalls the shape of a boat driving through the water. He adds:

"It's a rowing cup through and through, with clean, elegant, powerful lines clearly typifying the essence of the sport. Hector has done a marvellous job of creating a trophy that will be striking for the future, not just today."

Double success at Women's Henley

Imperial also made a strong showing at Women's Henley Regatta in June, rowing to victory in both the elite lightweight single and senior club eights events. The women's rowing team at Imperial includes under 23 world champion Mathilda Pauls, who won all her races in the single event. The eight team faced stiff competition in the senior club event, finally triumphing over the Amsterdam Student Rowing club Nereus by over a length.

Queen's birthday honours for Imperial scientists

Tony Stephenson Communications

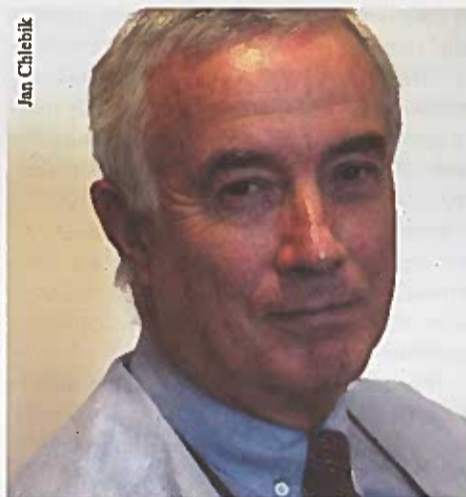
TWO of Imperial's scientists were honoured last month in the Queen's birthday honours list.

Professor Roy Anderson, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, currently seconded as Chief Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence, was made a Knight Bachelor (Kt) and Professor David Nethercot, Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, received an OBE.

Sir Roy was awarded his knighthood for epidemiological research, studying the spread of diseases such as AIDS, BSE, foot and mouth and SARS, and providing the government with advice on how to tackle their transmission.

Commenting on his knighthood, Professor Anderson said: "This is a great honour, and shows the increasing importance of epidemiology, not just as a science, but also in helping to solve real world problems. The honour also very much reflects the excellence of the staff in the Department... who have created a world leading research environment."

Jan Chlebik



Professor Sir Roy Anderson has been knighted for his research on the spread of infectious diseases

Professor Nethercot received his OBE for services to structural engineering. He joined Imperial in 2000 and became Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2001. Under his leadership, the Department has been rated the best in the country in the recent *Times Good University Guide*. He was also President of the Institution of Structural Engineers between 2001 and 2002, and was elected to the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1993. Describing his surprise at being told of the award, he said:

"It's said that the unexpected brings most pleasure. Receipt of the OBE notification was just such an event—a complete surprise."

Professor Nethercot added that the award is a positive sign of appreciation for his profession in general. "Structural engineering has enjoyed a period of great visibility lately, with eye-catching and technically superb projects worldwide and especially in the UK—the London Eye, Gateshead footbridge, [Heathrow] Terminal 5, and so on," he said. "It's encouraging that less visible contributions from academics also receive public recognition."

IN BRIEF

New head for GSEPS

Professor Richard I. Kitney, Professor of Biomedical Systems Engineering and Dean for the Faculty of Engineering, will take up the post of Director of the Graduate School of Engineering and Physical Sciences (GSEPS) in September. He will continue in the role of Senior Dean until the expiry of his term of office in 2007. Professor Kitney will succeed Professor Dame Julia Higgins.

Engineering a new Deputy Principal

Professor Christopher Hankin, at present the Pro Rector for Research, will take up the post of Deputy Principal for the Faculty of Engineering in September. Among other duties, he will share responsibility for strategy and development with the new Principal, Professor Dame Julia Higgins. The College will not be appointing a new Pro Rector for Research and the responsibilities of this role will transfer to the Deputy Rector whom Professor Hankin will continue to support.

Anaesthetics acknowledgement

Professor of Biophysics and Anaesthetics, Nick Franks, has been honoured by the American Society of Anesthesiologists with the Excellence in Research Award. This award is given for outstanding contributions to the understanding of the science of anaesthesia.

New AOC Chair

After many years chairing the Academic Opportunities Committee (AOC) Professor Julia Higgins has resigned and Dot Griffiths, Deputy Principal of Tanaka Business School, has become the new Chair.

① Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/hr/hr_Info/equality/gender/index.htm more information on the AOC.

Nuclear collaboration

The College is drawing together its long established nuclear power research capability with a new forum, the Nuclear Power Research Group. The group, still in its infancy, aims to act as a focal point for relevant research.

① If you would like to become a member please email Dr Mark Levy at mark.levy@imperial.ac.uk stating your research scope.

Make your vote count

In accordance with the College's statutes, non-academic staff may elect to the Court four members from their number. More nominations were received than the number of vacancies for each constituency this time, so a ballot will be held which will operate on a single transferable vote system.

① For more information on the nominees and your chance to vote visit: <https://evoting.ict.imperial.ac.uk/>. Voting closes 12 July.

Strategy for success

The new *College Strategy* is available to download from Spectrum homepage at www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum now. The document explains the College's overarching strategic direction and includes the College's mission and strategic objectives for the next three years.



Last month saw the annual Exhibition Road Music Day giving people's ears a treat with a full programme of free musical events in the area. With over 70 performances taking place along and around Exhibition Road, there was something to suit everyone's taste. Imperial students were responsible for five events this year, including an afternoon performance of Haydn's Opus 76 no.3 in C major, known as the Emperor or Kaiser, by the Imperial Quartet, which includes cellist Gabriel Kan (pictured)



One of the guests at last month's summer ball enjoying a ride on the carousel, just one of the attractions on offer throughout the evening at South Kensington Campus



Student voice

Rivka Isaacson, a post doc in Professor Steve Matthews' group in the Division of Molecular Biosciences, is studying protein recycling using biophysical techniques. She has a keen interest in interdisciplinary research, science communication and particularly the interplay between science and the arts. In this edition of *Student Voice* she writes of her recent experiences at the Voice of Young Science 2006 event.

"TIM Radford, recently retired science editor of *The Guardian*, likened the writing of a good science news story to extracting a strand of spaghetti, sauce and all, from the tangled mass. Scientific research might well be described in the same way. Though their paces are radically different, there are notable similarities between academics and journalists as I found out last month when I joined nineteen other post docs and PhD students, in colourful Camden, for Voice of Young Science 2006.

Run by Sense about Science, a charity set up to promote good science and evidence in public debates, the day covered the respective goals, concerns and practicalities of scientists and journalists in disseminating scientific information through the media.

In the morning, Shereen El-Feki of *Al Jazeera International*, no stranger to controversy, chaired a panel on the media experiences of three leading research scientists who are well-acquainted with the spotlight. Professor David McAlpine kicked off the session, explaining how some stray remarks in an interview for the World Service inadvertently transformed him into a mouthpiece for vivisection in the UK. Dr Azra Ghani reported more favourable experiences in the attention she received for her epidemiological work predicting disease trajectories for CJD, SARS and, most recently, bird flu. Finally, Dr Stephen Minger, a pioneer of stem cell research, related how his 'big mouth' has turned him into a journalist's dream. He also extolled the virtues of the Science Media

Centre about which we were to hear more later on.

After lunch we were treated to a multifaceted picture of media life by a panel of four journalists with scientific briefs. Alok Jha of *The Guardian* outlined the makings of a good newspaper story and Tom Feilden of Radio 4's Today programme expanded this to include the broadcast media. We were led through a frantic day in the life of a science correspondent by the *Daily Mail*'s Fiona MacRae and Mark Henderson of *The Times* described the range of consequences when things go wrong. We were given an opportunity to voice our gripes with the way science is reported and learned a lot from the journalists' responses.

The final session saw Adrian Mulligan of *Elsevier* give a helpful summary of how best to get research published and explain how the peer review process is changing in response to the profusion of scientific journals. An alternative way to publicise our scientific findings came out of Dr Claire Bithell's exposition of the Science Media Centre, an umbrella resource for journalists when science hits the headlines.

In addition to assuaging our latent suspicions of the media, the day armed us all with useful contacts, new friends and the enthusiasm and tools necessary to transmit our research discoveries to as wide an audience as possible. Having gained important insights into each others' worlds, the journalists and scientists adjourned to the pub to explore yet another area of common interest."



Neville Miles

Last month's Research Fest at Tanaka Business School gave researchers the chance to exchange ideas

Research fest at TBS

Eoin Bedford Tanaka Business School

TANAKA Business School held its annual Research Fest last month. With the enormous output of top quality research from the School, this event was designed to bring together faculty and staff of the School, giving them the opportunity to exchange ideas and experience each other's research and highlighting the essential role of research in the continued excellence of the institution.

On the first day, a range of research workshops were held, which offered advice and training on securing research funding and publishing in top journals. The second day consisted of presentations by some of the School's leading researchers, a poster session attended by colleagues from throughout the College, followed by a lively conclusion party.

Archive corner

Catherine Harpham Archives and Corporate Records

In the last edition of the term *Archive Corner* takes a look at the Nobel Prize-winning achievements of Imperial's scientists.

IMPERIAL College is the proud caretaker of the legacy of 14 Nobel Laureates amongst its staff and researchers. The variety of the awards illustrates not only the high professional standards they achieved, but also the College's position at the forefront of developments in many scientific disciplines. As well as receiving Nobel Prizes, many of these scientists saw recognition from other spheres too; their achievements earning them knighthoods and fellowships of learned professional societies.

The first award for someone from the College came in 1929, in the category of physiology and medicine, and recognised Frederick Gowland Hopkins (RSM student 1881-1883) for his work discovering growth-stimulating vitamins. In 1937, there were two more Nobel Prizes, in chemistry for Walter Norman Howarth (Senior Demonstrator in Chemistry 1911-12) in light of his work into the composition of carbohydrates and vitamin C, and in physics for George Paget Thomson (Professor of Physics 1930-52), who assisted in the discovery of diffraction of electrons by crystals.

In 1945, the prize for physiology and medicine was shared between Ernst Chain (Professor of Biochemistry 1961-73) and Alexander Fleming (Professor of Bacteriology at St Mary's Hospital Medical School 1928-48), in honour of their discovery of penicillin. In 1948, Patrick Blackett (Professor of Physics 1930-65) won the physics prize for his work on nuclear physics and cosmic radiation, and 1956 brought the award for chemistry to Cyril Hinshelwood (Senior Research Fellow

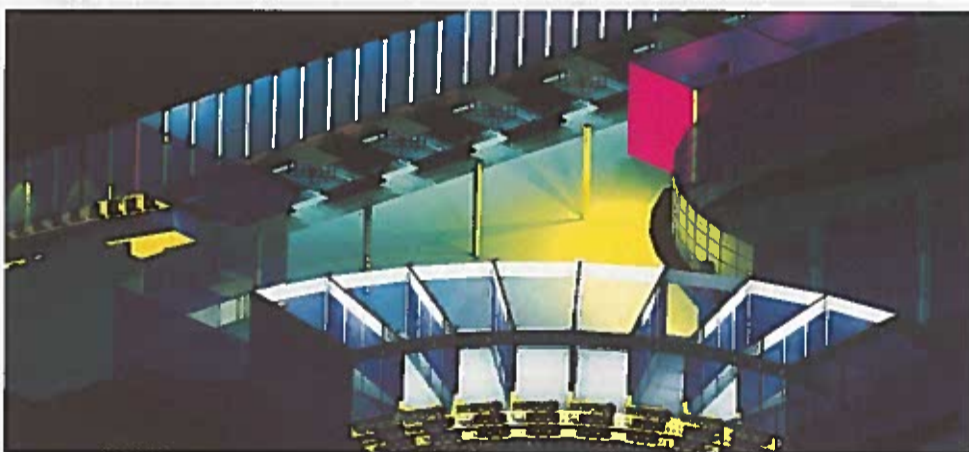


Sir Alexander Fleming, one of Imperial's many Nobel Prize winners

1964-67), in recognition of his work on the mechanisms of chemical reactions.

The 1960s saw three Imperial winners. Andrew Huxley (Fellow of Imperial College 1980) received the award for physiology and medicine in 1963 for his work on ionic mechanisms of nerve cell membranes, George Porter (Visiting Professor in the Department of Chemistry from 1978) won the chemistry award in 1967 for his work with very fast chemical reactions, and the chemistry award in 1969 went to Derek Barton (Professor of Organic Chemistry 1957-78) for his work on conformation.

The prizes continued to come thick and fast, with Denis Gabor (Professor of Electron Physics 1958-67) winning the physics prize in 1971 for his invention of holography, and Rodney Porter (Pfizer Professor of Immunology at St Mary's Hospital Medical School 1960-67) winning the physiology and medicine prize in 1972 for his work on the structure of antibodies. Geoffrey Wilkinson (Professor of Inorganic Chemistry 1956-96) won the chemistry prize in 1973 for his work on organometallic compounds, and to round off the 1970s Abdus Salam (Professor of Theoretical Physics 1957-96) won the physics prize in 1979 for research relating to the theory of interaction between elementary particles.



EnVision judges were impressed by the quarter circle shaped design studio in Chris Jackson's second-placed design

A grand design

Laura Gallagher Communications

A plan for an engineering building with a study area that feels like a tranquil forest has won the *EnVision 2010* competition to design a purpose-built engineering learning space.

Paul Lee and Harriet Tennent impressed the judges with the holistic design of their 'Lyceum' building, a low energy interactive building where students are involved in running the building's services as an accredited part of their course.

'Lyceum' has flexible spaces that could be used by different engineering disciplines. The design includes project spaces for team-based learning; a drawing room for technical drawing and geological mapping classes; and a student-run café. It also incorporates a quiet study area with tree-like columns to create a 'tranquil forest environment'.

Paul and Harriet, fourth year students in

the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, will share the £1,000 prize.

Dr Ruth Graham, Director of *EnVision 2010*, said: "*EnVision 2010* is all about enriching engineering students' learning experiences and Paul and Harriet's building would be a really dynamic learning environment. They have obviously given a lot of thought to the way the building could be used by different disciplines and it's filled with practical, adaptable spaces. There are also some great spaces for team projects and interdisciplinary working."

In second place, winning £500, was Paul and Harriet's course-mate Chris Jackson, who completely redesigned level 2 of the Skempton Building for his entry. His innovative design included a design studio shaped like a quarter circle, with the corner area for presentations, seating around it and then bays at the back for group work.

For more information about *EnVision 2010* visit www.imperial.ac.uk/engineering/envision2010.

A word with...

Reporter's Alex Platt went to meet Fotis Kafatos, Professor of Immunogenomics who joined Imperial at the end of last year, to talk mosquitoes, philanthropy and grandchildren.

What's your background?

I completed my PhD at Harvard and became a full Professor of Biology there at the age of 29. I kept that chair for 25 years. In parallel I held a part-time professorship in Athens, which I used to introduce molecular biology and train a generation of young scientists in Greece. I founded a new institute in Crete, where I am from, and finally took the plunge to come back to Europe full-time, to lead the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), serving as Director General for twelve years. After my term at EMBL ended, it was a decision to head back to the lab and work with world class colleagues that led me to Imperial. It turns out to have been a very good move.

How are you settling in at the College?

I have found the community at the College and in particular my department, to be excellent. It's taken my group a while to get fully

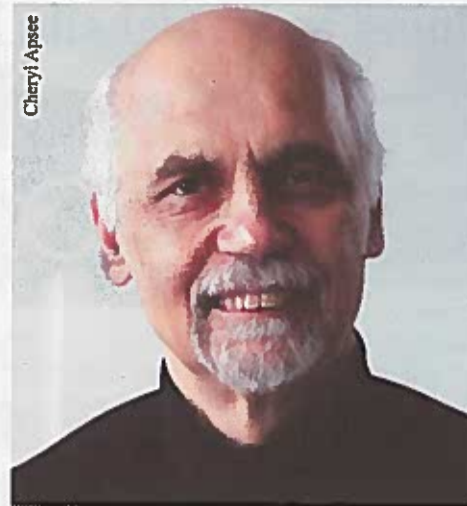
established as things can move quite slowly, but finally we are making good headway.

What area of study are you and your team working on now?

Our research is focusing on one half of the malaria life cycle, the part that takes place in the mosquito. Malaria is caused by a parasite that must switch between the human host and the mosquito vector. Experience shows that the best way to control the disease is by preventing its transmission by the mosquito. We are studying the development of the parasite in the mosquito to develop new ways of blocking it.

One of the reasons you chose to come to Imperial was for the chance of collaboration with other researchers. Has this worked as well as you hoped it would?

The very architecture of the SAF building where I am based translates to open working and communication. It's no fun working alone and losing the benefits of collaboration. One of the most attractive features here is the chance to work with those studying your area of research but from other angles.



Professor Fotis Kafatos' team is making good headway studying the malaria life cycle

For example, my team works regularly with different teams studying mosquitoes in the field, attacking malaria as a disease. We can get solutions when attacking a problem from all sides.

What issues do you feel are affecting higher education at the moment?

I see the poor funding of universities in the UK as a serious problem. I have been used to working in the US where the multiple sources of funding provide remarkable opportunities. The UK does have excellent funding

structures in place in its research councils and the Wellcome Trust, but the level of funding is not adequate. An area that needs to be addressed most desperately is investment in infrastructure. There is a huge demand throughout the UK for core facilities, and this is also true here at Imperial.

How did you feel upon being asked to chair the newly formed European Research Council?

It was quite an honour to be asked to chair the ERC, but it is also quite a task! I've always enjoyed institution building as well as the research side of my career. It is very exciting to have the chance to change European science policy with this new organisation. The whole ethos of the ERC is to strengthen the position of new scientists, something that is done reasonably well in the UK, but less so in many other parts of Europe. We really must stop the loss of brilliant minds that often occurs when young scientists can no longer afford their career.

How do you relax?

I don't get much time off as I said before, but when I do have a chance to relax I spend time enjoying London. I love visiting galleries, museums and the theatre so this is the perfect city for me. I also spend a lot of time travelling to visit my daughters and three, soon to be four, grandchildren, who live in America.



Prince Philip speaks to Imperial students during last month's Constructionarium

A hard hat fit for a prince

Laura Gallagher Communications

HIS Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh put on a hard hat and boots last month to watch Imperial students building their own versions of engineering landmarks.

The engineering students were taking part in *Constructionarium*, an annual event in which groups have just five days to tackle a challenging project, such as creating a

seven-metre high version of the world's tallest vehicular bridge, the Millau viaduct in southern France.

The event is designed to give students hands-on experience of engineering in a realistic environment. The projects take place on a two-hectare section of a Norfolk site, which is used to train specialist construction trade workers, such as scaffolders and steeplejacks.

Prince Philip visited on the students' last

day and saw the projects in their final stages. He was given a tour of the different projects underway, and watched as students pulled a replica oil rig to the middle of a lake and stabilised it.

Gemma Rees, a third-year undergraduate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, said of meeting the Prince: "He was genuinely interested and really seemed to want to see how we'd got on and what we had achieved. It's important to us that he came because it shows the significance of what we are doing here."

Professor Rees Rawlings, Pro Rector for Educational Quality, who attended the event, added "Everyone had a fantastic day and I'm really pleased that the students have had this opportunity to show the amazing things they've managed to achieve in just five days. Prince Philip seemed very impressed with all their projects, which is a credit to all the hard work they have put in."

"It's really important that student engineers have an opportunity to see what real life engineering is all about and this is a great way to stimulate their enthusiasm and put knowledge into practice. Imperial has been part of the *Constructionarium* since the beginning, which demonstrates our commitment to this kind of hands-on learning," he added.

Call for most excellent nominees

Alex Platt Editor

NOMINATIONS for the Rector's Awards for Excellence are now open.

As highlighted in *Reporter 163*, the three new awards have been designed to recognise and honour individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the College in the following categories: Mentor of the Year; Equality Excellence; and Management and Leadership Excellence.

Christine Yates, Diversity and Equalities Consultant, emphasised that the awards are open to all and should identify a diverse range of staff from all grades and job families to serve as role models for their departments and to College as a whole.

Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/sdunews/award_add.htm and follow the individual links to each award to make nominations. All nominations must be received by 31 July.



Media mentions

Tony Stephenson Communications

Tackling hospital boredom

"The arrival of a wayward fly would constitute the epitome of excitement," said Daniel Sokol, a medical ethicist at Imperial and volunteer hospital magician, when describing to *BBC Online* (15.06.06) how he found many hospital wards before he began his 'rounds'. Once a week, Daniel wanders from bed to bed, entertaining patients for five to ten minutes making a large silk scarf vanish and reappear, making a £10 note change into a £50 note, and other minor miracles. "My aim was to tackle this epidemic of chronic boredom, ward by ward, patient by patient", he explained. "For a few brief minutes, I

strive to pull off my greatest trick of all: to make them forget they are ill."

It's a game of two halves

With the World Cup in full swing, it would seem that football has become a truly global industry, with a competitive global labour market. However, speaking to the *Financial Times* (11.06.06) Professor Stefan Szymanski, Tanaka Business School, believes the globalisation of football remains incomplete. Most European leagues are dominated by a handful of elite clubs he points out, whose success becomes self-reinforcing from higher gate receipts and greater sponsorship, which ultimately allows them to attract the very best talent. Although this won't concern many diehard football fans who will always follow their team, the millions of casual football fans around the world will not want to watch a series of one-sided games nor to have to

follow three or four national leagues to watch the world's best players. Professor Szymanski said: "It benefits neither Manchester United nor Real Madrid trying to sell [football] shirts in Asia when they play in different leagues. The value of the product is enhanced by putting the very best teams together."

Harry Potter magic meets world of science

Scientists have come up with theoretical research that could make Harry Potter's invisibility cloak a serious possibility. Professor Sir John Pendry, Physics, who carried out the research behind the idea, said: "Just as in Harry Potter, nobody would be able to see an object if it was cloaked. Our cloaking system would render anything inside it invisible." The work was based on close analysis of how photons, the basic particles of light, behave when hitting the surface of an object. Professor Pendry and his colleagues have identified a new class of

materials which grab these photons without absorbing them or allowing them to pass through. Speaking to *The Sunday Times* (28.06.06) Professor Pendry described one potential use as coating tanks and warships to make them invisible. However, he did point out that their tracks and wakes would still be seen.

'Chelsea tractors' are more dangerous

A new study by Imperial researchers suggests that owners of four-wheel drive cars are more likely than others to break traffic laws, reports *The Times* (23.06.06). The study found that owners of these vehicles were four times as likely to use a handheld mobile phone while on the move, and significantly less likely to use their seat belts than other car drivers. The researchers conclude: "Although four-wheel drive vehicles are safer in a crash, their owners may be placing themselves and other road users at increased risk of injury."

Centenary update, a winner and a website

Abigail Smith Communications

WHEN Imperial launches its centenary celebrations in January 2007, it will be under the banner *100 years of living science*.

This slogan, neatly encapsulating Imperial's mission, is the brainwave of New Media Manager Peter Gillings, who responded to the call for suggestions posted in *Reporter*, *Felix* and on *Spectrum* in October 2005. He explains that he was searching for a phrase that sums up a century of life at the College, although he hastened to add that he hasn't actually worked here quite that long.

"You only have to glance at the list of discoveries and advances led by Imperial academics over the years to realise that science is the centre of everything we do here," he said. "And it has never been static—it is a living thing that changes and moves forward as new knowledge and tools become available."

Get involved

① For more information about Imperial's 100th birthday plans, visit the new Centenary website at www.imperial.ac.uk/centenary, which is launched today.

Carol Marsh, Centenary Communications Coordinator, is keen to stress that everyone can get involved with the celebration. She said: "In everything we produce for 2007, we want to showcase the Imperial ideas and inventions that have changed society, and which make the College the exciting and vibrant place it is."

① Email your examples and stories of staff, students and alumni, whose work has made a real impact on society to centenary@imperial.ac.uk.



BIG tick for INSPIRE

Alex Platt Editor

IMPERIAL'S *INSPIRE* scheme places post-doctoral research scientists with an interest in a teaching career in London secondary schools for 50 per cent of their time, leaving the other 50 per cent for their research at the College.

The scheme is funded by GSK as part of their Science Education Programme, which has recently been awarded a prestigious 'Big Tick', which recognises a high standard of excellence in education. Melanie Thody, Director of Access and Head of Imperial Outreach, is delighted that *INSPIRE* has played a part in achieving the award. She said:

"I think the *INSPIRE* scheme has been such a success as it has brought into schools highly qualified research scientists, who not only contribute to the teaching and extra-curricular activities, but who can challenge orthodoxies surrounding the teaching of science, a subject that can often intimidate people."

Naheed Alizadeh, Director of the *INSPIRE* project, said: "Not only do postdocs bring enthusiasm and cutting edge research to the classroom, but also make teachers think afresh about the way they actually teach. The pilot programme has been successful in encouraging an interest in science in school children, as well as resulting in 50 per cent of the postdocs going on to achieve their PGCEs and become school teachers themselves."

Sign of The Times

Laura Gallagher Communications

IMPERIAL is still a top choice for wise students, according to *The Times* newspaper,



Ethos sports centre awarded five stars in last month's *Times* Good University Guide

which published its annual *Good University Guide* in June.

The guide ranks Imperial the third best university in the country overall and rates all subjects highly, placing the College number one for civil engineering and mechanical engineering. The guide also gives the new *Ethos* sports centre very high rankings in its 'Sport at University' section, with five stars awarded to the Centre's indoor dry sports, pools, pitches and courts.

Congratulating all departments on their strong showing, the Rector said: "We've long been proud of the experience we offer students, but of course it's always good to have our opinions confirmed. The guide shows that we are top academically but clearly there is more to student life than learning. We also offer a great all-round experience and the excellent ratings given to *Ethos* reflect that. These results pay tribute to the talented and dedicated staff at Imperial, both academic and non-academic."

The big 30 for Pimlico

Abigail Smith Communications

GENERATING an appreciation for science among school pupils can sometimes be an uphill struggle, according to the founder of one of the UK's oldest and most successful peer tutoring schemes.

Looking back over the Pimlico Connection's 30 years in London schools, Professor Sinclair Goodlad's most vivid recollection was the time he was told: "Whoever invented physics must be drowned in a vat of peanut butter."

Despite such minor setbacks, the Pimlico Connection has gone from strength to strength since it began at Imperial as a small student project in 1975. It now places over 100 Imperial students each year in London state schools, where they give one-to-one support in subjects such as science, maths and IT. Last month, tutors past and present joined together at a party on the Queen's Lawn to celebrate three decades of raising aspiration and achievement.

Among them was Alastair Kendall, one of the original group of 14 electrical engineering students who, with Professor Goodlad, came up with the idea for their third year associated studies project.

Thirty years on, 23 primary and secondary schools in London are calling on the services of Imperial students from all disciplines. They bring specialist knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject that is equally valuable for advanced pupils, who want to move faster than the pace of lessons allows, and slower learners who need individual attention to help them grasp more complex ideas. Dr Annalisa Alexander of Imperial's Outreach Office, which runs the scheme, believes the attitude of the volunteers is the key to its success. She said:

"I've never met a more enthusiastic group of students. Some come back year after year, they really do love it, and the schools tell us constantly how much of an asset it is to have them as role models. They are only a few years older than the kids they are teaching so it really encourages the sense that 'if they can do it, so can I'."

Looking back over 30 years and seeing the evidence of how the scheme has grown and flourished, Professor Goodlad found much to celebrate. His first impression of the party, however, was perhaps a less welcome one. "I thought I was invited here as the representative ancient monument," he commented. "Until I saw the tutors."



Celebrating 30 years: (left to right) Imperial's Senior Science Ambassador Professor David Phillips, Deputy Rector Sir Leszek Borysiewicz and Professor Sinclair Goodlad, founder of the Pimlico Connection

FAQ time saver

Caroline Gaultier Communications

A PRESENTATION demonstrating the time saving benefits of a new automated 'FAQ' system will be held next week.

Tanaka Business School and Registry have been using the *RightNow* system to deal with routine enquiries. This system enables enquiries to be steered electronically to a set of FAQ answers. If the question cannot be answered via this route, staff can respond directly and, where appropriate, then include their answer in the automated FAQ answer

set for the future.

Between January and April 2006, 37,454 answers were viewed and only 222 additional questions were submitted, dramatically reducing the pressure to answer queries by email.

① To attend the demo on Wednesday 12 July at 15.00 in the Upper Ground Lecture Theatre of Tanaka Business School, please email e.chesterman@imperial.ac.uk.

① To view *RightNow* in action, follow this path: www.imperial.ac.uk, click on Prospective Students link in the left-hand menu, then click the Ask a Question link in middle of the page, followed by the ASK A QUESTION link on the next page.



Lectures and seminars

Friday 7 July 18.00

The Late Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti Lecture
Who Cares? Human Resources for Family Health in Africa. Innovative approaches to meet the needs of family health care in Africa
Professor Adetokunbo Lucas, Harvard University
Kennedy Lecture Theatre, Institute of Child Health, Great Ormond Street Hospital, University of London

① Email cajayib@doctors.org.uk to attend

Wednesday 12 July 12.00

Geoff Scopes, Affymetrix
New Developments in Genome-Wide Studies using Microarrays
Lecture theatre 3, Wolfson Conference Centre, Hammersmith Hospital Campus. Open to all
① Email microarray@imperial.ac.uk for more information

Wednesday 19 July 14.30

GSEPS Research Students' Research Symposium 2006
Includes keynote speech by Professor Richard A.L. Jones, University of Sheffield, and poster competition
Great Hall, Sheffield Building
① Email graduate.schools@imperial.ac.uk or visit www.imperial.ac.uk/gseps for more information

① Events are at South Kensington Campus unless otherwise stated. Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/events for a full listing of events at Imperial. Email events@imperial.ac.uk to subscribe to the Events E-Bulletin.

Art and music

7-27 August 10.00-17.00

PRICELESS—An Exhibition Road Cultural Group collaboration
Exhibitions, guided walks, audio-visual installations
Launch event Friday 11 August, 21.00

① Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/P7915.htm for more information

Until Sunday 3 September

The Ship: The Art of Climate Change
Contemporary art exhibition designed to deepen our understanding of climate change
① Natural History Museum. Visit www.nhm.ac.uk for more information

Noticeboard

Reporter takes a summer holiday!

This is the last edition of *Reporter* this term as it takes its usual summer holiday, but never fear, it will be back for the autumn term! In the meantime, there are still plenty of ways that you can get your Imperial news.

Staff and students interested in daily updates on Imperial in the media can subscribe to *News Digest* at www.imperial.ac.uk/p1946.htm.

Or why not set yourself up an RSS feed direct to your computer? RSS is a way of viewing your own selection of the latest news, features and other website content, updated in real time, and in a single window.

① Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/P6755.htm to find out more.

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution this term. Please keep your ideas, news and views coming over the summer.

Reporter is published every three weeks during term time and will be back in the autumn term. 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.

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