

ICCET receives Queen's Anniversary Prize

The Centre for Environmental Technology (ICCET) is one of the first recipients of a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education.

It was awarded for 'a comprehensive educational, research and consultancy programme covering the environmental sciences. It is addressing an international need.'

On Thursday 9 February, the Rector received the Prize from HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on behalf of the College. A small group of ICCET representatives also attended the ceremony, amongst them Professor John Beddington, Director of the Centre, and former Rector, Lord Flowers.

The Royal Anniversary Trust was set up to commemorate the 40th anniversary of The Queen's accession to the throne and the Prizes aim to recognise and reward significant contributions and benefits made by UK educational institutions to the social, economic, cultural and intellectual life of the nation.



The scheme is designed to make the best use of charitable funds donated by private and public companies and organisations, and

the prizes will be given biennially until 2002.

The 1994 Prizes were presented to 21 universities and colleges throughout the UK.

New CVCP admissions system?

The CVCP is investigating the possible introduction of a 'post results' admission system.

Offers of places would not be made until the results of A-level examinations were known. There are problems that would need to be solved before such a scheme could be put in place. Admission tutors would want to retain the option of interviewing applicants. How this would be achieved within the framework of a post result system is unclear.

If the proposals were to go ahead a new admission system could be in place for the academic year 1997/98.

At the moment the number of undergraduate applications to the College continues to rise. The College has received 7,601 applications, an increase of 4.7 per cent over the same time last year. This compares very favourably with the 2.2% increase received nationally by UCAS, so the competition for places on our undergraduate courses remains healthy.

IN BRIEF

Campus Masterplan

The drilling taking place around the campus is not a search for oil but ground investigation as part of the Masterplan development. The investigation is primarily concerned with the Basic Medical Sciences and Biology Building and a proposed extension to the Library.

The Masterplan includes a project for the Queen's Lawn which aims to create an environment of some quality at the heart of the South Kensington campus.

Fellowships

Honorary fellowships of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy have been awarded to Emeritus Professors Jim Jeffes (Materials) and Richard Burkin (MRE).

Alumnus honoured

Last summer Dr Don Williams was awarded the Order of Australia. Dr Williams obtained his PhD in the Department of Civil Engineering in 1969 and went on to become Chairman of Australian National Railways. As Chief Executive of the Australian Submarine Corporation he was responsible for the construction of the first submarine to be built in Australia.

Linstead Hall warden wanted

A new warden is needed for Linstead Hall from Easter. The closing date for applications is 1 March. Contact the Personnel Services Manager, Room 575 Sherfield Building, extension 45517 for further information.

Open University

The Library will record Open University programmes at the request of members of the teaching staff. Further information, including the 1995 Broadcast Calendar, is available from Dr Janet Smith, extension 48812 (email j.m.smith).

Albertopolis lives!

The consortium of South Kensington institutions has now formally made its bid for the 'Albertopolis project' to the Millennium Commission.

The consortium includes the three Museums, the three Colleges (including IC), the Royal Geographical Society, the 1851 Commission and is supported by the two local authorities.

This exciting project seeks to increase the collaboration between the institutions, culturally, scientifically and educationally, and provide the physical infrastructure for a regeneration of the South Kensington area by the year 2001, which will be the 150th anniversary of the 1851 Exhibition.

The physical manifestation will be focused above, below and alongside Exhibition Road and will include a new entrance for the College and a car parking area which will enable the Queen's Lawn to be cleared of cars and transformed.

IC is also considering its own Millennium Bid for a leading-edge centre for science and technology to be located adjacent to our main entrance. You can play a part in development of the College proposal by emailing ideas to i.caldwell (Ian Caldwell, Director of Estates).

SuperJANET and the Clore Lecture Theatre

Professor Bob Hynds explains the development of the UK Internet and Imperial College's involvement

It is difficult not to read about data superhighways these days, so much so that there is a danger that the reality will be lost in all the hype.

That reality is that digital data communication networks able to operate at a 100 Mbytes per second, or more, are going to have profound social and economic effects on our society.

What does not seem to be realised in the UK is that we are well along the way to developing a national data superhighway of our own, and that in some aspects of its development we are currently ahead of the USA.

SuperJANET is the data network which links UK universities. It is being developed from the original JANET network, and currently runs at speeds from 34 down to 10 Mbps. By the middle of the year the so called Peg sites (of which there are 14, Imperial College being one of them) will be running at 155 Mbps.

UKERNA (UK Education and Research Network Association) is a not-for-profit association set up by the funding councils, to develop SuperJANET. One of the tasks of UKERNA is to propagate the role and achievements of SuperJANET to the public at large.

PITCOM

It was in this role that on Wednesday 15 February, UKERNA held two half-day briefings in the Clore lecture theatre for PITCOM (Parliamentary Information Technology Committee) and the Foundation for Science and Technology (an association of learned societies).

The subject of the briefing was the development of the Internet and how it relates to the data superhighways evolving in the USA, UK, Europe and Japan. Also, most importantly, the possible political, social and economic effects that such systems may have on our society. A major part of the briefing was seven live demonstrations illustrating the uses of SuperJANET, and these proved most successful.

The briefings were held in the Clore lecture theatre because Imperial College is one of the only two SuperJANET Peg sites in London (University College is the other one). The Centre for Computing Services (CCS) has put considerable effort into cabling the Clore lecture theatre to provide fibre optic connections to SuperJANET and to the TV

Centre so that it can act as a centre for events such as the PITCOM meeting.

CCS was responsible for installing the seven demonstrations (two were from Imperial College, Dr Joanna Haigh - satellite imaging - from the Blackett Laboratory, and Dr Henry Rzepa - molecular modelling - from the Department of Chemistry). Working with UKERNA and academic colleagues from other universities, CCS ensured all the demonstrations were up and fully functional in time.

Thanks

Mr Gluck was project manager for CCS, and his colleagues from the Network Services and Network Support groups worked very hard over a week to install and rehearse the demonstrations. The Centre would like to thank Mr Reason and Mr Perera from the Department of Mathematics for all their help with the Clore lecture theatre facilities, and Mr Grimshaw for his assistance with the interactive video demonstration.

Professor Bob Hynds is Head of the Centre for Computing Services

Media mentions

Advances in smear testing

On 17 February BBC TV's *Tomorrow's World* featured Professor Dulcie Coleman. She explained a new system of automated cervical smear testing, PAPNET, that St Mary's Hospital have been developing in collaboration with NSI from the Netherlands. It is hoped that the new system will eventually replace manual testing once its accuracy has been verified.

From IC to Cambridge

The Times and *The Financial Times* reported on 4 February that Professor Sandra Dawson will move after 25 years from Imperial College's Management School to Cambridge University. She will be the director of the new £13 million Judge Institute of Management Studies from October.

Researching Alzheimer's disease

St Mary's Hospital Medical School involvement in the search for an animal version of Alzheimer's disease to be used for research was covered by *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Financial Times* on 11 February. The human gene incorporated in the 'transgenic' mouse was discovered at St Mary's and licensed to a US company, Athena Neurosciences.

Internet authors identified

Professor Laurence Turner received a mention in the *New Scientist* (18 February) in an article about digital piracy on the Internet. Professor Turner developed the Universal Data Identifier (UDID), a method of stamping digital codes into a piece of data, similar to putting an ISBN number on a book. This technique could help to ensure that whatever happens to material, its origins will always be known.

Tomorrow's World

The Press Office is trying to find any research groups from Imperial College that are working in India or Nepal. A film crew from *Tomorrow's World* is planning a trip there in mid-March, and would like to make contact with British research groups. If you know of anyone, please contact the Press Office ASAP on 46701/4, or by email: marketing@ic.ac.uk.

The Mathematics Advice Centre

The Centre, started in 1984, has received over 2,000 enquiries from staff and postgraduate students needing help with mathematical aspects of research problems. The Centre's key function is to identify the appropriate member of the Department who can help.

Common problem areas include differential equations, linear algebra, probability and statistics. Some enquiries have led to valuable initiatives in inter-departmental research collaboration. Contact Dr Geoff Stephenson, extension 48533.

STAFF PROFILES

New Sport and Leisure Manager joins IC

The new sport and leisure manager, Frank Murray, joined the College on 4 January.

Frank taught physical education at the Bootle Education Committee; then worked at the University of Liverpool, developing the recreation programmes, sports coaching and teaching.

He moved on to Bradford University to become Director of Physical Recreation. While he was there he studied for an MBA. For the past eight years Frank has been responsible for the management and development of facilities and the development of community activities at the London Borough of Merton.

Frank's interest in his new post lies in the "College's commitment to developing its facilities and sports service, which is linked, in part, to the arrival of the new medical school". Two major projects are in process. Developing a brief for the Boat House to determine what refurbishments and improvements are necessary is one. Frank explained, "It's an interesting scheme, which concentrates on developing the standards of excellence which already exist there".

The other major project is the provision of a sports hall at South Kensington. Frank describes it as the "key facility for campus sport, in that it provides accommodation for a whole range of sports at different levels. It would also cater for most of the ICU clubs, in one way, or another".

Frank, pictured below, has yet to use the College's sports facilities himself. "I'm hoping one day I'll find five minutes to get down and have a game of squash, but so far setting up the office has taken up all my time!"



Neville Miles, College Photographer

Governors' Lecturer for Department of Materials



Neville Miles, College Photographer

Dr Robin Grimes has been teaching in the Department of Materials since October last year, although he did not officially take up his Governors' Lectureship until January.

Robin graduated from the University of Nottingham in 1982 with a degree in Mathematical Physics, and went on to study materials science at the Case Western Reserve University in USA, where he gained an M.S. His PhD was obtained at the University of Keele where he was a research fellow, on attachment to

AERE Harwell Laboratory, from 1985-1989.

For the past four years Robin held the position of Assistant Director of the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory, at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, where he is now a visiting research fellow.

His principal area of research concerns the use of computers to predict the behaviour of inorganic materials at the atomic level.

Robin is one of three Governors' Lecturers now working in the Department of Materials.

The view from the tower

by Don

"Talking of irritations, does anyone at IC actually measure the length of time it takes for internal mail to go from sender to recipient? Sometimes snail mail from Brazil seems to take less time. It is not beyond the reach of modern measurement to carry out a check. I sometimes hear that the total chain is not entirely Estates' responsibility; parts of it are held up by departmental ways of doing things. But it's the total delay that counts - a nice challenge for Ian Caldwell. Of course, sometimes things end up in the wrong place or go via strange routes; are such errors logged?"

By comparison, isn't email wonderful? I wonder how many in the college actually use it? About 80 per cent I would guess, which creates a problem for the other 20 per cent. It is rumoured that the Registrar finds it 'inelegant'.

Email brings out other interesting reactions. Some Profs take elegance so seriously that they leave it entirely to their secretaries. This is the 'aloo' style, which seems to miss the point, the immediacy, somehow. I suppose that a difficulty arises for those who can't type. Perhaps among the courses given to new lecturers, typing ought to be included.

Then there is the 'I never read my email and am proud of it' personality. That is closely related to the 'I never answer letters' trait.

Still, the sheer joy of switching on in the morning, getting a cheerful 'there are 36 new messages in your mailbox' and looking forward to typing an answer to them all, is enough to send you straight to the coffee room for some real human contact.

Apropos of human contact, it might be interesting to see how much practices vary between departments and individuals concerning contact with PhD students and related activities?

Following the Rector's suggestion in the *Reporter* (14 February) that Board of Studies papers should be perused, I noticed in paper F of the BoS (8 February) that the Graduate Studies Committee, stimulated by the Pro Rector (Educational Quality), suggests tightening up the timing of the MPhil to PhD transfer examination. It 'should be held as soon as possible after the end of the first year of research'.

Many departments prefer to do the transfer at the end of the first year when the PhD thesis is in sight. This may not be 'irresponsible'; it may, indeed, be beneficial to the student who can make a proper plan for finishing the thesis on time and in style. The many issues surrounding good practice in PhD supervision should receive an extensive airing; not be enclosed within the four walls of the Graduate Studies Committee room."

FEATURE

Cricket, Italian style

Dr Gareth Jones describes the unexpected fruits of ERASMUS

Last summer Robert Jones, an IC physics undergraduate, became a minor celebrity in Trento, Italy by founding a cricket team.

Robert was working on a research project in low temperature physics at the University of Trento. He had the idea after trying to describe the strange English game of cricket to his Italian student friends.

Robert was involved with the football and tennis clubs at Trento and found himself being quizzed about other sports played by the English. He mentioned cricket, but words were not enough - a demonstration was called for.

Soon the Italian students were trying their hand at late cuts and cover drives - well not quite, "Their natural inclination was to swing at everything", said Robert.

Equipment

With the help of an Italian friend Robert approached the local council office in charge of sports facilities to gain the financial backing he needed to provide kit.

The University of Trento is proud of its students' sporting achievements in rowing, football, skiing etc., as is the local community. They are used to supporting sporting proposals and Robert found that not only did they buy the bats, balls and stumps but also

pads and 'whites' as well. They clearly believe in doing things properly.

The training and coaching sessions were a little strange - only one other member of the squad had held a bat before. The idea of defending a wicket and bowling without throwing did not come naturally. Once these basic skills were imparted they were put to the test.

Competition

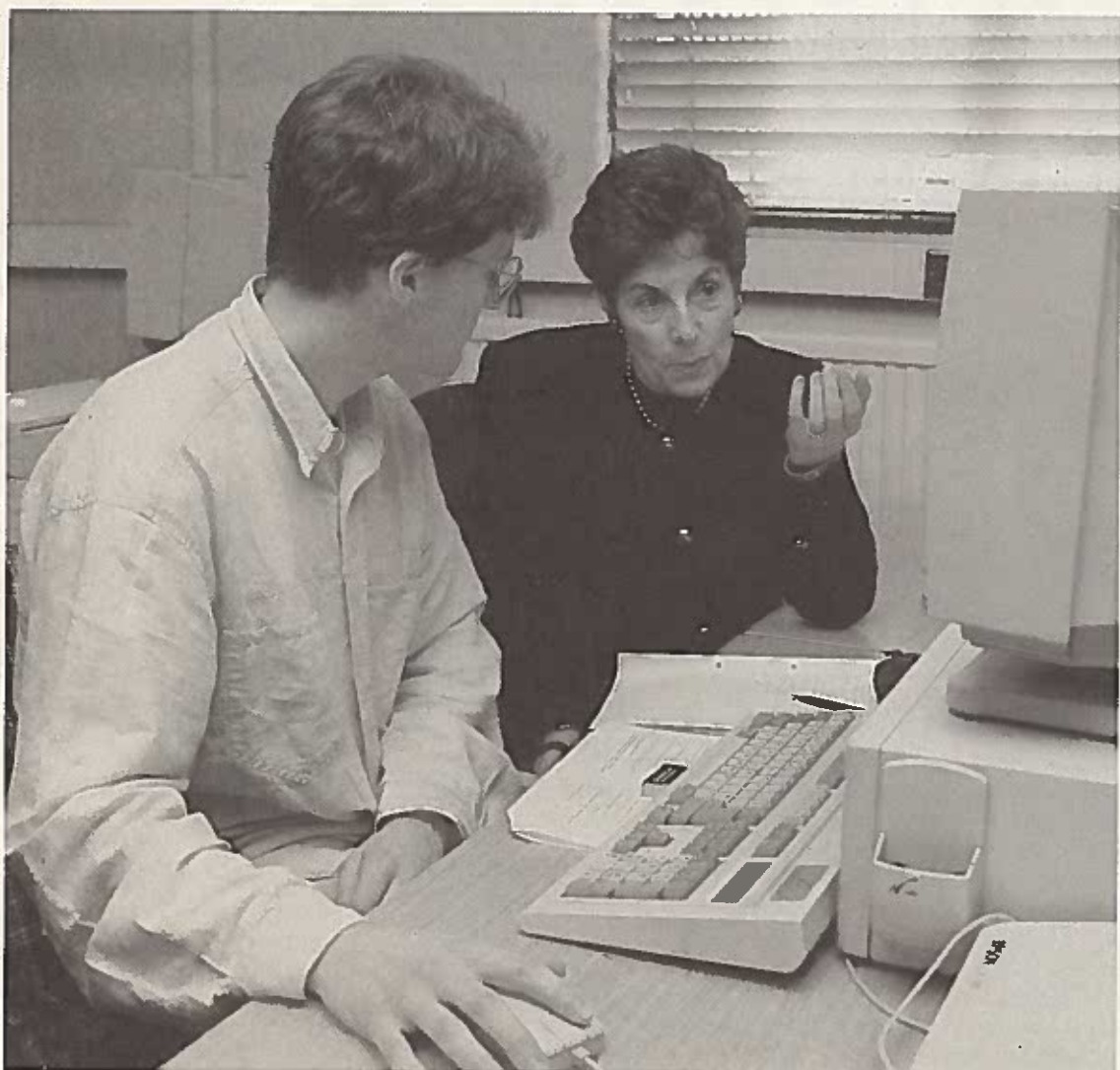
A search revealed the existence of a cricket team in Milano. A match was arranged. Robert's team were beaten by Milano who turned out to be mainly Indian and Pakistani cricket enthusiasts for whom the game was second nature.

The other team that Robert found was in Rome and had a similar make-up. The local community paid for the train fares to Rome for the Trento team and put them up at a four star hotel near the beach. The result was predictable, but even though they lost the game, they had a great time and returned to Trento happy.

All this brought Robert quite a bit of publicity in the local Trento newspapers and television. They called him 'Il Maestro Inglese'!

Although the cricket team did not do so well Robert also played

Continued on back page



Neville Miles, College Photographer

The Rt Hon Gillian Shephard MP, Secretary of State for Education, made a briefing visit to the College on Monday 13 February to see the work of the Transitional Mathematics Project (TMP) and the Medeva Laboratories in the Department of Biochemistry. She also heard about the Pimlico Connection from John Hughes, BP Fellow in Peer Tutoring and Kelda Bratley, Chair of the Pimlico Society. Mrs Shephard said in a letter to the Rector that she had been impressed by the good practice she had seen at Imperial. Mrs Shephard is seen with Per Henrik Valvatne, a first year Petroleum Engineering student in the TMP laboratory.

NEWS

Hong Kong lecture series

The College sent a team of three lecturers and support staff to Hong Kong on 24 February to give a week long series of demonstration lectures and teachers' workshops, called 'Science Alive' at the Science Museum in Kowloon.

The lecturers this year are Dr Robin Grimes of the Department of Materials [see profile on page two], Professor David Pye from QMW and Dr Frank Palmer, Honorary Vice-President of the London International Youth Science Forum.

Their audiences will total about 3000 students and 150 teachers during the week. Additionally, they will give extra lectures at the universities, participate in radio interviews and meet our alumni.

The event is run at no cost to the College, and we receive a lot of high profile interest and media attention.

Science Alive is organised by Timothy Sellar of the International Office and is sponsored by The British Council, Hong Kong Telecom, Longman Asia Ltd., Hong Kong Urban Council and the Hong Kong Science Museum.

College goes green?

"Imperial College is excellent at waste management on a national and international level, in the capacity of teaching and consultancy, but not very good on the domestic front," said Bob Birrell, Waste Management Officer.

"In fact, we are some way behind places like the University of Northumbria. The former polytechnics are leagues ahead of us when it comes to applying the theories to their own infrastructure."

Bob has been involved in the management of the College's waste since the post was created eighteen months ago. He spent the first three months learning about the subject and finding out what needed to be done.

The Toyne Report, sponsored by the Department for Education to assess the impact of higher education on the environment, recommends the development of an environmental policy statement and an action plan, which Bob hopes to see in place by the end of this session.

Paper

He went on, "The statement should include recycling litter bin waste. We throw a lot of stuff away - approximately 30 tonnes of waste a week. Paper forms a significant part of this figure. I'm still not sure exactly how much paper we use but approximately 25 000 000

sheets are purchased centrally each year. Laid end to end those sheets would stretch from here to Bombay".

Recycling scheme

A recycling scheme is to be introduced in about two weeks which will include all types of paper. This will replace the existing scheme which only collects white paper for recycling. It will begin on level 3 in the Sherfield Building. Bob has spoken to the staff working on that floor and says, "they are very keen to see this scheme in place".

"We will put two or three bins in each office for the different types of waste to be collected," Bob continued. "The system will be checked for bugs; once it is working smoothly in Sherfield we will gradually introduce it around College. We have spoken to the cleaners in Sherfield and they have been very helpful".

Mrs Stow-Tucker, Assistant Cleaning Supervisor, is enthusiastic about the scheme. "Mrs Doe [Cleaning Supervisor] and myself are all for recycling and are happy to help."

Recycling waste should also save money as it will help to avoid the landfill tax to be introduced by the Government. "There is speculation about the amount but the figure I have heard from one or two sources is £8 per tonne," explained Bob. "This would add

Continued on back page

REVIEWS

Josh Kirby presentation

Review by Dr Janet Smith

Josh Kirby, artist and illustrator, presented and discussed slides and other exhibits of his work on Wednesday 15 February.

Part of the Haldane Library cultural events series, his presentation attracted an audience of over 45 staff and students who packed into the Library Conference Room. Many were science fiction buffs, while the others were interested in book illustration or art in general.

Josh Kirby is best known for his illustrations for the Discworld novels of Terry Pratchett and other science fiction of a humorous nature. Earlier examples of his science fiction illustration were also shown (the World Convention on Science Fiction voted him Best Professional Artist in 1979). Other work included fantasy inspired by Bosch and Bruegel.

The first slides were something of a surprise. Josh Kirby, whose 'patrons' are predominantly science fiction publishers, has felt keenly the lack of broader artistic patronage in the modern age, particularly from the Church, once a major instigator of artistic production. Kirby's portfolio *The Voyage of the Aye-guy* is a witty attempt to rectify this - a series of science fiction 'altarpieces', including *The Adoration of the Image* and *Death of a Spaceman*.

Kirby's book and magazine illustration originals are done to actual size, predominantly in oils, occa-

sionally watercolour or in acrylic. The earliest of these was of a Brian Aldiss story for the cover of *The Authentic*, much more naturalistic in style than recent work, though almost as colourful. An illustrator need not always enjoy or admire an author for his work to be fun to illustrate (as a recent example for an American author showed). Kirby's great enjoyment of Terry Pratchett's work, however, emerges clearly in his intricately constructed and highly mobile, brightly coloured illustration of the fantasy world of elf-like creatures and witches.

Kirby's tour de force of comic fantasy is perhaps the film poster commissioned for Monty Python's *Life of Brian*, a spoof on Bruegel's *Tower of Babel* (which, although reproduced in books, was sadly not used for the film, as many of the scenes illustrated were cut out at the last minute).

In contrast to all this work shown were some heads of Hitchcock, cover illustrations for collections of his stories. These orange-toned portraits on a dark background are busy with Hitchcock's thoughts, the macabre subjects of his stories, surrealistically blended into his features.

This was a fascinating and enjoyable occasion with much interest expressed throughout and afterwards.

Dr Janet Smith is the Haldane Librarian

The De La Beche Club Annual Symposium

Despina Georgiou reviews the Symposium and provides details of the Club's history

The De La Beche Club is one of the largest and oldest societies at Imperial College.

It has remained an active society over its 81 years of existence and organises varied lectures, geological excursions and social events which are well attended by both students and staff.

The Club aims to promote the interests of geology, academically and socially. It was formed in 1914 by a group of students and staff in honour of Sir Henry Thomas De la Beche (1796-1855) founder of the Royal School of Mines and the British Geological Survey. Founder members included Herbert Read and Vincent Illing, with the backing of Professor William Watts.

Last week IC student Peter Carlton was elected as the new Club President for the academic year 1995-96. He commented, "Despite this being a potentially difficult job I am pleased to be supported by a committee with an infectious overdose of enthusiasm, who will hopefully ease the burden of work I could be facing".

'Bubbling Seas, Gas Hydrates and the Bermuda Triangle'

The Symposium, which took place on Friday 3 February, was attended by distinguished speakers and guests from the UK and abroad.

An interesting range of lectures, demonstrations and video clips was presented to keep the audience enthralled throughout the day.

Gas hydrates, a mixture of solid gas and water similar to dry ice, are implicated in the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle and in global warming. Yachtsman Frank Mulville told of near shipwreck in the Bermuda Triangle. An explanation for the Triangle's mysteries was given by Alan Williams of World Geoscience UK. The implication of gas hydrates in oil exploration and production was also considered.

Following the symposium, staff, students and guests attended the annual club dinner and dance, held at the Jury Hotel, Kensington. The after dinner speaker was Sir John Knill.

Despina Georgiou is an administrative assistant in the Department of Geology

D I A R Y

March

COLLEGE EVENTS

Friday 10 March

St Mary's Gazette

Deadline for copy. Please send your contributions to Patricia Dymond at the Medical School.

Friday 17 March

The launch of *National Science Week 1995* will be held in Prince's Gardens. Further information from Melanie Thody, Schools Liaison Office, extension 58042/3.

17 - 18 March

BAYSDAY

Further information from Melanie Thody, Schools Liaison Office, extension 58042/3.

28 - 29 March

GETSET

This two-day event is aimed at encouraging 13-year old girls to study science and engineering. Further information from Melanie Thody, Schools Liaison Office, extension 58042/3.

COURSES

7 - 9 March

Continuing professional development

'Low-noise BiCMOS Analog Integrated Circuit Design' Professor Willy Sansen, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. Further information from Sally Verkaik, Continuing Education Centre, extension 46881/2.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

Thursday 2 March

Department of Chemistry seminar 'Some Chemistry of Fullerenes:

Tales of the Unexpected' Dr R. Taylor. To be held in Lecture Theatre C, Department of Chemistry at 16.15.

Wednesday 8 March

South Kensington Institute for the History of Technology seminar 'The Bigger Picture! How Might Historical Analysis of STM Better Include "Museums" and "the Public"?'

John Pickstone. To be held in the Collections Division Seminar Room, The Science Museum at 16.00. Tea served at 15.45.

Tuesday 14 March

Management School Alumni Association AGM

To be held in Room 202, Management School at 18.30. Further details from Helen Frewer, extension 49135.

Wednesday 15 March

Book launch

'The Physics of Immortality' Professor Frank Tipler. To be held in the Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building at 13.00.

Thursday 16 March

Department of Chemistry seminar

'The Synthesis and Structure of Polysilanes (Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue)' Dr R. Jones. To be held in Lecture Theatre C, Department of Chemistry at 16.15.

Wednesday 22 March

South Kensington Institute for the History of Technology seminar

'Successful Deindustrialisation, The Ultimate Achievement of Technological Progress?' Ulrich Wengenroth. To be held in the Collections Division Seminar Room, The Science Museum at 16.00. Tea served at 15.45.

Wednesday 22 March

Wellcome Research Centre Symposium - 'From Epidemiology to Molecular Biology, Five Years of the Wellcome Research Centre for Parasitic Infections'. The symposium will take place in the Clore Lecture Theatre from 10.30 to 17.45.

Thursday 23 March

Book launch

'The Fate of Schrodinger's Kittens' Dr John Gribbin. To be held in Lecture Theatre 1, Blackett Laboratory at 12.30.

27 - 29 March

Interdisciplinary meeting

'Structural Geology in Reservoir Characterisation and Field Development'. Further information available from Professor Coward, extension 46460.

29 - 31 March

Biology 2000 - a special series of lectures, demonstrations and visits designed for first year A level biology students.

Organised by the Department of Biology with support from ZENECA PLC. Further information from Dr Ava Yeo, extension 45375.

LECTURES

Thursday 9 March

The Croonian Lecture (Royal Society Lecture)

'Natural Communities: Structure and Dynamics' Sir Richard Southwood. To be held in the Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building at 17.30. Tea to be served at 17.00.

Tuesday 14 March

Inaugural lecture

'Mud, Matrices and Megabytes' David Potts, Professor of Analytical Soil Mechanics. To be held in the Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building at 17.30.

Thursday 16 March

Eighth Schrödinger Lecture

'Should Science Studies be X-rated? Revisiting the Pasteur Case on the Centenary of his Death'. Professor Bruno Latour. To be held in the Great Hall, Sheffield Building at 17.30.

MEETINGS

Monday 6 March

ICAUT open meeting

With Adrienne Aziz from AUT National Executive to discuss the introduction of new terms and conditions for contract staff at IC. Non-members are welcome to attend. To be held in Room 340, Huxley Building at 13.00. Further information from Julian Borrill extension 47840.

MUSIC & HUMANITIES

Thursday 2 March

Lunch-time concert

Imperial College Performers. Programme will include works by Vivaldi, Chopin, Janacek, Debussy, Fauré and Vieuxtemps. To be held in the Read Theatre at 12.45.

Thursday 9 March

Lunch-time concert

John Barstow (piano). Works by Galuppi, Haydn, Schumann and Prokofiev. To be held in the Read Theatre at 12.45.

Friday 10 March

Imperial College Symphony Orchestra

Elgar's Violin Concerto. Britten Sinfonia da Requiem. Ravel Daphnis and Chloe Suite No.2. Conductor: Richard Dickins. Soloist: Madeleine Mitchell. To be held in the Great Hall at 20.00. Ticket price: £2 (in advance) or £2.50 (at the door) for students; £5 for non-students. Available from members of the Orchestra or Room 440 Mechanical Engineering.

Friday 17 March

Imperial College Choir

Bach Mass in B Minor. Conductor: Eric Brown. To be held in the Great Hall at 20.00. Ticket price: £2.50 for students; £5 for non-students. Available from members of the Choir or at the door.

April

CONFERENCES

20 - 21 April

'T.H. Huxley: Victorian Science and Culture'. To be held in the Huxley Building. Booking forms available from Dr David Edgerton extension 49351.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

Wednesday 5 April

South Kensington Institute for the History of Technology seminar 'X-Rays in and on Physics' John Heilbron. To be held in the Collections Division Seminar Room, The Science Museum at 16.00. Tea served at 15.45.

Continued from page two

Italian cricket

for the football team made up from visiting ERASMUS students from various countries. This had an excellent record and won most of its matches by large margins.

It has always been clear that the academic benefits of ERASMUS exchanges are only part of the picture. The non-academic benefits are often just as important.

If cricket ever becomes a spectator sport in Italy (as rugby has) we know who to thank - or blame - when the Italians beat us. After all, football was introduced to Brazil by English engineers working on contracts there. How long before Italy wins the Cricket World Cup?

Dr Gareth Jones was recently awarded the 1994 Nuclear Electric Prize for Education in Physics by the Partnership Trust.

The Partnership Awards recognise innovative educational developments across the entire higher education sector. Gareth's prize is a tribute to his commitment to the ERASMUS scheme, which enables IC students to study in other European countries.

Continued from page three

College goes green?

£12 000 per annum to the College's waste bill, which is already about £30 000."

Recycling solvents

Bob would also like to see the concept of recycling extended to some of the solvents used in the departments' labs. "At the moment we only discriminate between chlorinated and non-chlorinated solvents. Each year between 17 000 and 20 000 litres of solvents have to be packed, transported and, usually, incinerated which is quite a costly process. Not all solvents can be recycled but it would be a step forward if we could keep something like acetone separate. We could then send this out to an external contractor to be recycled, rather than buying hundreds of litres each year."

Mr Eric Matthews, Technical Services Manager in the Department of Chemistry, was hesitant about the workability of recycling solvents in a lab. "Managing such an operation might be very difficult. You could end up with about ten bins, so supervising accurate segregation of substances would be a problem."

Letters to the Editor

Hard to hear Don

Dear Don

I enjoyed your article (14 February 1995) and refer to your comments about your daily lecturing chore.

Are you aware that statistics show that 17 per cent of people in this country have some form of hearing loss! Maybe in future lectures those six students who found you inaudible should sit at the front!

With best wishes
Loretto O'Callaghan
Disabilities Officer (from, dare I say it, Sheffield Building!)

Hazards of the BMS building

Dear Editor

I was very impressed with the artist's impression of the new BMS building in your first issue (14 February 1995).

Bearing in mind the height of the proposed, open-access flat roof, the equivalent height of the Department of Chemistry's fume-

extraction towers and the prevailing westerlies, it was inspired not only to show a small number of people on the roof, but a significantly larger number of corpses on the ground.

Long may you continue to bring to the notice of your readers such hazards.
Yours sincerely
Ken Young
Department of Chemistry

The picture did not claim to show a replica of the new building, but its proposed site, as the accompanying caption suggested. Of course, IC Reporter will endeavour to bring any such hazards to its readers' notice, should they occur.

Board of Studies

Dear Editor

As secretary of the Board of Studies, I was amused to see Dr Chris Phillips' request to see a summary of decisions taken by the Board. For as long as I can remember we have been at pains to include a brief digest in your

rival organ - the Gazette. I think that he should be told!
Best wishes
Vernon McClure
Academic Registrar

Letters to the Editor, or Don, should preferably be sent via email (v.browning), or internal post, to room 546b Sheffield Building.

IC Reporter

IC Reporter will be published fortnightly during term time. Contributions for the next issue should be received by Tuesday 7 March.

These can be sent to Victoria Browning via email (v.browning) or internal post (Rm 546b, Sheffield Building). Extension 46697. Fax 0171-594 6700. Please note the editor reserves the right to cut or amend the articles as necessary. Information correct at time of going to press.