

Tackling global warming

Running the Royal Navy

Working for the Prime Minister

Teaching in Outer Mongolia



Contents

Sunday Times league table; National Student Survey; Cornwall Campus	3
Physics' mirror research; Developing world leaders; the Dubai office	4
Who met the Chancellor	5
Global warming warning	6-7
Coming home to Cornwall; Success in Film Studies	8
Ted Wragg awards	9
Running the Royal Navy	10-11
Who's won what grant (staff edition)	12-13
Crossmead reunion; Alumni network news (alumni edition)	12-13
More grants; University as economic powerhouse (staff edition)	14
Convocation news; Farming bequest (alumni edition)	14
Alumni advising the Prime Minister; the future of St Luke's	15
How the Annual Fund is being spent	16-17
Growing the University	18
Devonshire House revamp	19
Transatlantic tales	20-22
Helping Mongolian teachers	23

Back page: Diary

Cover picture: High summer on the beach at Dawlish Warren. After another year of record-breaking summer temperatures, most experts now believe global warming to be reality rather than theory. With the help of funding from the Met Office, the University is building a formidable team of experts to help tackle this vitally important issue. See pages 6 and 7 for the full story.

Contact details

For information on the alumni programme please contact:
Development and Alumni Relations Office,
Northcote House, The Queen's Drive,
Exeter EX4 4QJ
Tel: 01392 263141
Email: alumni@exeter.ac.uk

Please send **address changes** to the above address.

For information about supporting the Annual Fund and current University projects call 01392 263360 or email: annualfund@exeter.ac.uk

For contributions and comments on the magazine contact the Alumni Relations team on 01392 263141 or alumni@exeter.ac.uk

UNIVERSITYNEWS is edited by Stuart Franklin with contributions from Sarah Hoyle, Abigail Dixon, Stephen Brown and Bernie Sluman.

Design and production by the Design and Publications Office.

Copy deadline for the next edition: 2 May 2007.



The University's Golden Jubilee

underlined how important alumni are to the growth and development of the University. Many alumni have given up countless hours to act as members of Council, as pro-chancellors and other lay roles: or as donors, advocates and supporters.

It is very important that we engage with alumni and the expansion of the Development and Alumni Relations Office is helping us to do this. We have organised events in Exeter and London and later this year will be going to Turkey, China, Hong Kong and Dubai.

Universities receive direct public funding, but we also have the ability to generate income of our own through research, consultancy, philanthropy, hospitality services, recruiting international and postgraduate students and so on. A total of 62% of our income comes from non-government sources and it is our ambition to increase that still further. It's not because we want to make money for its own sake, but because a greater degree of financial independence gives us more control over our own destiny.

The University is now higher in the league tables than it has ever been before; 18th place in the *Sunday Times* is a real fillip for all the staff who have worked tremendously hard

to keep on raising standards. Research income has risen by 21% over the last two years. Coming in the top ten in the National Student Survey two years running demonstrates we are meeting student expectations. We have one of the lowest student dropout rates in the country and one of the highest proportions of students receiving first class and upper second class degrees.

The University now directly employs 2,900 staff but its activities create a further 2,220 jobs in UK as a whole. It has a major beneficial impact on UK plc, generating an economic output of £334 million a year. The benefits are social as well as economic. Exeter students devote 86,000 hours to voluntary service a year – the equivalent of 50 full-time voluntary sector workers.

No organisation is ever perfect and we will be attempting to move forward this year in a number of important areas. This University has the potential to go higher than 18th place in the UK, but to do so we will continue to need the help, support, advice and advocacy of our alumni. When you look around the world today it is very obvious that the most successful universities are those with the most friends.

Professor Steve Smith
Vice-Chancellor



In 1920 Donald Barber won a scholarship to study Physics at Exeter

After a varied career combining his interests in biology, astronomy and photography in Britain and the United States, Donald Barber returned to Devon and took charge of the Norman Lockyer Observatory. He remembered the University in his Will and his legacy of £11,000 provided an undergraduate teaching telescope in an automated dome on the Physics building. This picture of the Whirlpool Galaxy, 23 million light-years away from Earth, was taken using the Donald Barber telescope.

We're still seeing the benefits

Bequests from many benefactors have helped the University of Exeter to maintain a tradition of excellence and to ensure that students can fulfil their potential. A legacy from you will help it continue to do so. Your Will allows you to decide the future of your assets. It can also help influence the future of Exeter and a new generation of students.

Send for our information leaflet

Development and Alumni Relations Office,
Northcote House, The Queen's Drive,
Exeter EX4 4QJ

Telephone 01392 269015

Email Shirley.Lovegrove@exeter.ac.uk

Email s.m.lovegrove@exeter.ac.uk



Top 20 for quality

The latest league table of universities published by *The Sunday Times* puts Exeter in 18th place in the UK out of 120 listed institutions – its highest ever position.

The University was also shortlisted for University of the year for a record third time in five years.

The Sunday Times says: 'Exeter's excellent record merits special recognition...Students here are some of the most satisfied in the country...High entry standards and low dropout rates further entrench its standing.'

The newspaper adds: 'Exeter is a partner in two hugely successful initiatives in the region, establishing the Peninsula Medical School in 2002 and then the Combined Universities in Cornwall project, which has brought university education to Cornwall for the first time at a new campus in Tremough, near Falmouth. About £1m has been set aside annually to be spent on scholarships and bursaries to attract the cream of A-level candidates.'

Exeter was shortlisted for University of the Year in 2001, 2003 and, now, in 2006.

Top 10 for satisfaction

For the second year running, the University of Exeter is among the top ten universities in the UK for student satisfaction.

Students at 128 universities and higher education colleges in the UK were polled for the National Student Survey. *The Times Higher Education Supplement* ranks Exeter in joint 10th place out of 95 universities. Exeter retains its crown as the University with the most satisfied students in the South West.

More than 157,000 final year students across the UK were surveyed in the spring of 2006. At Exeter a total of 1,540 students gave their views, 65% of those invited to take part. Students were asked for their views on teaching, assessment and feedback, academic support, organisation and management, learning resources, personal development and overall satisfaction. Responses rated satisfaction as higher or the same as last year in 20 out of 22 questions. Exeter has the 'most satisfied' Management and Finance & Accounting students in the UK.

Cornwall Campus soars in popularity stakes

The third year of operation for the University's Cornwall Campus near Falmouth has seen a large rise in demand for courses. The number of students studying Renewable Energy increased by 157% this year, Mining Engineering by 114% and Biosciences by 35%. The campus, which is shared with University College Falmouth, has also attracted very high quality academic staff.

The first phase of the campus was opened in 2004 and represented an

investment of £68 million of European, UK government and university/university college money. Building work on Phase 2 of the project, worth a further £24.5 million, is currently underway and Exeter will be launching new courses in Law, Politics, History and Cornish Studies in 2007. The University is currently bidding for a Phase 3 of development that could be bigger than phases 1 and 2 combined. The result of the bid is expected in the autumn of 2007. *Daughter of Cornwall leads new Law degree – see page 8.*



Leadership courses attract worldwide attention

Unique courses in leadership run by the University of Exeter are attracting a growing international fan club amongst some of the worlds leading companies.

The Centre for Leadership Studies has seen groups of top executives from both the USA and Luxembourg pass through its doors this autumn. Doug Throckmorton, Robert Bishop and Richard Anspacher from US finance company Penson have been studying for Certificates in Leadership at the Centre. Penson, which has offices in California and Texas, chose Exeter after evaluating different leadership programmes from around the world.

Similarly, senior managers from Luxembourg telecommunications company L'enterprise Postes et Telecommunications (P&T) have

also been studying for a Certificate in Leadership Studies. A recent graduation ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of Luxembourg, His Excellency Jean-Louis Wolzfeld, and the Directeur General of P&T Marcel Gross. Speaking about the effect of the programme on his company, M. Gross said that the difference in the actions of his managers was noticeable very quickly and that phrases such as 'company mentality' were being used for the first time. His colleagues at P&T were obviously pleased with the results and CLS is delighted that a further cohort of six P&T managers enrolled on the programme in October 2006.



A Middle East and North Africa Office has been opened by the University in Dubai. The office will be looking to create new business opportunities in the region and forge closer links with the University's alumni and other friends. Exeter has a strong reputation in the Middle East through the work of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies and staff often travel to the region. There will be an alumni reunion in Dubai in May.

The Centre's international clients also include the European Central Bank in Frankfurt (coaching of senior staff) and Assicurianza Generali, Trieste (design of 'international masters degree in practising leadership' for middle managers).

See: www.leadership-studies.com

Through the looking glass

Everyone knows that light reflects from a silvered mirror, but researchers in the School of physics have shown that this need not be the case.

A mirror, in 'Harry Potteresque' fashion may be made almost transparent by coating with thin films. Dr Ian Hooper and Professor Roy Sambles, of the School of Physics, sandwiched the mirror layer (a silver film only 40-nanometers thick – a nanometer being a millionth of a millimetre – and which reflects over 95% of light) between two thin films of zinc sulphide (a transparent insulator). When light was shone on this structure far less light was reflected than by the mirror alone. It became partially invisible.

'The light reflections from the various interfaces in the system cancel each other out to give no overall reflection,' say the researchers. 'This also means that far more light is able to pass right through the silver than would normally be the case. Interestingly, using simply light and a mirror we have established a new general principle for any quantum mechanical system. This means that the quite remarkable effect known as quantum tunneling (where particles can pass through a classical 'brick wall') can now be strongly enhanced using the same ideas.'

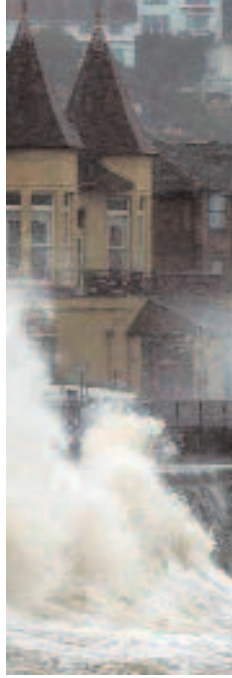
The technique could be used to improve the efficiency of a new generation of light-emitting diodes and semiconductor devices, which could have major implications for the future development of electronic equipment. It may even have implications for the generation of electricity from nuclear fusion.

Meet the CHANCELLOR



Nearly 400 alumni and other friends of the University attended receptions in London and Exeter to meet the new Chancellor, Floella Benjamin. The events were held on 16 October in the Xfi building on the Streatham Campus and on 2 November at the Jerwood Space in Southwark, London. Dr Benjamin told guests at both events that they were part of an 'extended family' and she drew attention to the University's recent rise up the University league tables.





Climate change in the undergrowth



Pictures show storms lashing Dawlish and Sidmouth. Global warming could mean there is much worse to come.

If we want to predict climate change, we need to look at what's going on in nature, according to a University Mathematician.

Professor Peter Cox, the newly-appointed University and Met Office research Chair in Climate System Dynamics, is leading the way in studying how natural processes at ground-level will accelerate global warming and how plant-growth is linked to mass drought. Professor Cox has worked with collaborators at the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, part of the Met Office, to research the effect of soil decomposition on climate over the last ten years, a process known as 'the compost effect'. About half the carbon emissions created by human activity, such as the burning of fossil fuels, are currently absorbed by the land and ocean. But soils decompose at warmer temperatures, so as the Earth heats up soils will decompose more rapidly and release more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Professor Cox recently presented this research at the Royal Geographical Society's annual conference in London. He warned that if we do not understand the response of soil to temperature, we will not be able to accurately predict the rate of future climate change.

'Global warming, caused by carbon emissions, is causing a process that is resulting in yet more emissions. We call this process 'positive feedback,' said Professor Cox. 'It's a vicious circle that could accelerate the rate of carbon dioxide increase over the next 100 years by up to 50%. We need to understand this process now if we're to have any chance at intervention.'

Professor Cox is Director of the Climate and Land Surface Interactions Centre (CLASSIC). Along with other scientists from CLASSIC, he has recently published research which reveals that the quantity of green vegetation has a major influence on rainfall in the Sahel region of Africa. This area, south of the Sahara desert, suffered catastrophic droughts during the 1970s and 80s.

'Rains at the start of the growing season cause vegetation growth, which encourages more rainfall by making the land surface darker and recycling water by evaporating it back to the atmosphere. Again, we're seeing 'positive feedback' at work, says Professor Cox. 'In this case, we want to harness the feedback to avoid the terrible events of the past and help to regenerate the region.'

Professor Cox is just one Exeter academic whose research focuses on climate change.

Researchers across many schools, including Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics, Biosciences, and Geography, Archaeology and Earth Resources are looking at aspects of climate change and global warming. For Professor

Cox there is no question that a University like Exeter, which brings together key thinkers across a range of scientific subjects, should be channelling a large portion of its research on climate change. 'Climate change is an incredibly complex issue and it is only by bringing together researchers from a range of disciplines that we can hope to understand what is going on and work out what we need to do about it. The future of our children and grandchildren depends on an unprecedented global effort to deal with climate change, and institutes like ours have a critical part to play in this endeavour.'



Exeter joins forces with Met Office to tackle global warming

The University of Exeter and the Met Office have joined forces to tackle global warming by creating and jointly funding three major new research posts.

The two institutions have appointed three of the UK's leading climate change experts in a move that will concentrate expertise and encourage the transfer of information. The three Chairs are focused on improving climate prediction and weather forecasting, using advanced mathematics to refine model equations and to make better use of observational data. Professor Peter Cox, formerly Science Director for Climate Change at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology has just taken up his position as Chair in Climate System Dynamics and Dr David Stephenson, Reader in Statistical Climatology at the University of Reading, will join as Chair in Statistical Analysis of Weather and Climate in April 2007. Professor John Thurn joined the University last year.

Daughter of Cornwall leads new Law degree

The granddaughter of a Cornish tin miner is returning to Cornwall to head up Exeter's new law degree in the county.

Law is one of four new subjects to be offered at the Cornwall Campus near Falmouth from September 2007. This is part of the £24.5 million Phase 2 of the campus which is currently under construction.

Professor Williams has Cornish roots in a tin mining family. Her grandfather Isaac Hosking worked the winding engine at South Crofty for 40 years. Her father Ernest Hosking grew up in Pool and scored the top marks in the County in the school

examinations before joining the Navy at 15. He then taught himself sufficient law to become Probate Registrar for Devon and Cornwall.

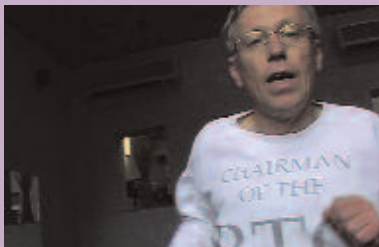
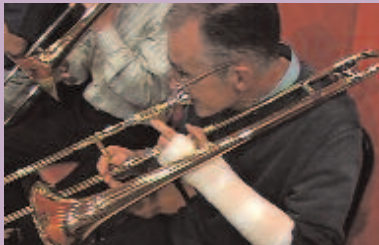
She has been Professor of Law at the University of Swansea since 2005 and previously worked at the University of Aberystwyth. She studied law at Cambridge, having passed the open entrance exam aged 27 with two young children.

Said Professor Williams: 'I came into law as I have a great interest in moral questions and what makes people decide what is right and wrong.'

The University will offer degrees in Law at its Cornwall campus from September 2007.



Screen success for Film Studies



The work of Exeter Film Studies students is getting exposure in film festivals across Europe.

Undergraduate and postgraduate courses place an emphasis on film practice as well as the academic study of cinema.

Recent graduate Edward Brooke-Hitching's final year dissertation film *The Really Terrible Orchestra* scooped top prize in this year's Short Scottish Documentary Award at the Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Four students' films were selected to be shown at Rennes University in October to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the twinning of the town with Exeter. Jonnie Williams' *Son of Salmon*, James Farmer's *The Nature of All Things*, Josh Gaunt's *The Gatsby Syndrome* and Ben Sherriff's *The Nightless Nights of Jerry Hart* were all screened. This followed success for Ben Sherriff and Josh Gaunt in the annual Two Short Nights festival in Exeter.

Filmmaker in residence John Sealey, who is due to complete his PhD in Film by Practice at Exeter this year, was commissioned by the Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol to make a short documentary for their Blaxploitation Event in 2006.



Ted Wragg Awards

for outstanding teacher trainees

Nineteen newly-qualified teachers from the School of Education and Lifelong Learning had cause for celebration as they received awards of £500 each. The awards, for outstanding achievement, were set up in memory of the legendary Professor Ted Wragg, who died in November 2005.

Professor Debra Myhill, Head of Initial Teacher Training, said: 'Ted was nationally recognised as an advocate of the teaching profession and a man who inspired a great many of today's best teachers and teaching practices. It is fitting that these awards have been developed in his name to recognise, encourage and financially reward our best PGCE students.'

Recipients were judged on their year as a trainee, with the input of school mentors, tutors and course leaders. Competition was strong as there are 160 primary trainees and 400 secondary trainees studying this year. They work in more than 300 schools across the South West region and a small number in London.

Gemma Harries was "shocked" to get the award as she thought that so many people on the course were very good. However, award-winning teaching runs in her family. Her mother is a past Teacher of the Year.

'My mother loves her job and has never been jaded,' said Ms Harries, who has a job at Newquay Treviglas School. 'She told me it is the best job in the world.'

Richard Parker, from Okehampton, has wanted to teach for years but was busy running his own entertainments company. However, he often found himself working with children in a training capacity and running summer schools and youth groups, so he decided to follow his destiny and do the PGCE course. He found the course demanding, particularly as his third child was born while studying, but was encouraged by positive feedback from course leaders and teachers and the rapport he developed with pupils.

'During the year I had such positive feedback, telling me to keep doing what I was doing, so I thought I was on the right track. But winning an award was unexpected.'

Mr Parker is now working at Great Torrington School, North Devon where he trained. There are plans to run the awards scheme annually. Profiles of more of the winners can be found online at www.exeter.ac.uk/education





With increasing demands on the Royal Navy, is it now too small to do its job? First Sea Lord and Exeter economics graduate Jonathon Band has the job of ensuring it remains fit for purpose.

Navy days

The peace dividend enjoyed by the UK at the end of the Cold War has resulted in a much smaller Royal Navy. The Navy now has half the personnel and three fifths of the number of ships compared to when Admiral Sir Jonathon Band joined up in 1967. Whilst it's not expecting to fight another world war any day soon, naval units are constantly deployed around the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan, putting a great deal of pressure on Britain's senior service.

'There is no doubt the Navy is very busy,' said Sir Jonathon. 'A high operational tempo is a good thing because navies that don't go to sea aren't very good navies. However, I have to guard against our people becoming over-stretched. I would say that today we have a navy that does the essentials, but there isn't a bit of spare anywhere.'

Sir Jonathon was appointed First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff in February 2006. This is the Navy's top job and puts him in charge of the UK's ships, submarines, Fleet Air Arm and Royal Marines. In a 40-year career he served as Flag Lieutenant in the Falklands campaign and in the

Balkans as captain of the aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious*. Promoted Rear Admiral in 1997, he was involved in the Kosovo Campaign and then in 2002, as Commander-in-Chief Fleet, the Iraq Campaign.

Sir Jonathon has seen a great deal of change in the operational environment, having joined a Navy dedicated to fighting the Soviet Bloc. Today's Royal Navy is mostly engaged in joint operations in the world's trouble spots, keeping the high seas safe for maritime trade, promoting UK plc, and tackling drug running and illegal immigration. Sir Jonathon also says that 'good old fashioned piracy' is alive and well and advises against sailing holidays around the Horn of Africa or West Africa!

Although the Navy is much smaller than in the past it does retain political support with a new class of destroyers and a new class of submarines in prospect. Plans have also been laid for new carriers. The question of whether to replace Britain's submarine-borne nuclear deterrent Trident is likely to be more controversial.



Said Sir Jonathon: 'I don't make the decision on Trident, that's up to the politicians. My personal view is that for the type of country we want to be, and with a very uncertain strategic future, this is not the right time to be getting out of this business.'

Sir Jonathon remembers his time as a student at Exeter (1969-72) as a happy time and retains a close involvement with the University. He was made an honorary graduate in 2005, has been a *Shaping the Future* guest lecturer, and is an Exeter University Foundation donor.

'I have thoroughly enjoyed my dealings with the University and remain very happy to do my bit and speak up on Exeter's behalf', he said.

Jentlemen gather for 'last' Crossmead reunion

A total of 49 'Jentlemen' (former residents of Crossmead hall of residence) gathered in May for their final reunion at their former home.

Crossmead has been used in recent years as a conference centre by the University, but is now being sold. Sadly, the old hall is surplus to requirements as more modern (and bigger) facilities are available on campus. Located on the other side of the city, Crossmead has always been inconveniently placed, a fact reflected

in the Crossmead Anthem: 'Crossmead, way up on Dunsford Hill, where social life is nil, an ever rising bill, way up on Duns...ford Hill.'

The 'Jentlemen' were so called because they travelled to and from the campus on the J bus. The reunion was organised by Paul Sandy (Geography, 1976) and attracted Jents from the years 1955 to 1981, along with the families they have since acquired. The main activity during the reunion was, of course, reminiscing about old times. But the Jents and their families also took part in croquet, listened to live music from musicians who played at Crossmead social events in the 1970s, fine dining and one final rendition (somewhat age-impaired, according to Mr Sandy) of the Crossmead Anthem.

Although Crossmead has ceased to be a part of the University, the Jentlemen live on and future reunions are planned. Jentlemen who wish to make contact with others and be kept informed of developments should bookmark www.jentlemen.co.uk

There are links from the site to order items such as the last few remaining commemorative booklets from the Reunion (featuring photographs, press cuttings, hall photos and articles from the archives). Plans are also being drawn up for a final batch of Crossmead ties! There is also a discussion board which all Jentlemen are encouraged to join for news of Crossmead and Crossmeadians.



Paddon Award Competition

Write up to 1,000 words of prose using the theme of travel, entitled "The Journey"

Win a **cash prize**, read your work to an invited audience and be published in a University of Exeter publication

Open to all current or former students and staff of the University of Exeter.

Closing date for entries: **9 February 2007**

Final Judging Date: **10 March 2007**, Parker Moot Room

See Alumni Website for entry forms and rules: www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni

For enquiries phone: 01392 263141





News from Alumni Relations

Greetings from Exeter!

After a busy Golden Jubilee year I am pleased to let you know that we're expanding the programme of alumni services, to make sure it's easy and enjoyable for you to stay involved. With a new on-campus reunion programme, all alumni are invited back to Exeter at 5 year intervals, starting with the class celebrating their 15th anniversary. We're offering an expanded range of business networking events in different professional sectors. 2007 will see us build strong links across Exeter's international alumni network with events in Malaysia, Turkey, China, Hong Kong, and the United Arab Emirates. In addition to the biannual magazine, we'll provide alumni with regular email updates.

To make sure we can keep you posted on news, events and ways to get involved, please fill in the Alumni Record Form or update your details online at www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni. We'd love to hear from you.

All the best for 2007,

Karen Lippoldt, Alumni Relations Officer

Alumni Reunions 2007

Classes of 1957, 1962 and 1967: 21 – 22 July 2007

Classes of 1987 and 1992: 28 – 29 July 2007

Classes of 1972, 1977 and 1982: 15 – 16 September 2007

For further information see our website, telephone +44 (0)1392 263141, or email alumni@exeter.ac.uk.

Alumni golf day

The inaugural Exeter University Alumni Golf Day was held at Wimbledon Park Golf Club on 5 October 2006. Eight teams of three took part. The first winners of the event were: John Wakely (graduated 1978), Ian Shelden (1988), and Tom Earl (1993).

Runners-up: John Gilbert (1972), Steve Perkins (1983), Danny Smith (1986).

In third place: Sue Flavin (née Wheatley) (1972), Jo Goldworthy (née Wheatley) (1978), Evelyn Summerville (née Stewart) (1972).

The day was a great success both on course and off course with a successful start made in raising funds to sponsor a golf scholarship. Plans are already being made to host next year's events. Any golfers interested in playing please contact John Gilbert via John_Gilbert@blueyonder.co.uk or Rod Alexander via Rod.Alexander@sbi.co.uk



Alumni all around the world

- University of Exeter is in contact with more than 50,000 former students in 150 countries
- Investing heavily in international student recruitment – International alumni can help
- We are expanding our activities for international graduates, and in recent months have hosted events in Thailand and Singapore
- In Singapore 40 alumni and business partners gathered to meet the Vice Chancellor Steve Smith, catch up with one another, and learn about the latest University news
- Recent graduates can find help with social and professional networking
- Contact us if you'd like to act as a country contact

We may be able to help put you in touch with an Exeter graduate in your country. Being an alumnus of Exeter University makes you part of a special group. Don't forget to make the most of it, and most importantly do stay in touch!

Contact us on +44 (0)1392 262016 or alumni@exeter.ac.uk



January – Malaysia, alumni event in Kuala Lumpur

March – alumni events in Turkey – plans for Istanbul and Ankara

April – alumni events in China and Hong Kong

May – Dubai

Goodbye and hello

The Students' Guild and Convocation have developed a five-year plan to make the annual Graduation Ball bigger and better than ever before.

The Ball, which takes place at the end of graduation week in July, enjoys something of an identity crisis. It is both the last big student night out and also the first night out as a graduate. It is jointly hosted by Exeter University Convocation and the Students' Guild and last year attracted 1,200 people. Last summer new Guild/Convocation banners were displayed at Powderham Castle. A new website is

planned with online photos and message boards. There will also be new look menus and facilities and work to raise Convocation's profile from host to full and active participant.

For recent graduates the largest annual reunion is the London Lemmy each December. Over 1,000 alumni meet in London for a big party and all proceeds go to a project in Africa at the Kip Keino school and orphanage.

To all new graduates our message is keep in touch! Email us your news and pictures to alumni@exeter.ac.uk



Griff's bequest

A former member of University staff has left £98,000 in his will to fund research of benefit to South West farmers. Griff Davies worked as a farm business economist and the money will be used to fund a research programme in the Centre for Rural Research. Much of his teaching and research concerned the welfare of farmers in the South West, and he requested that this research must benefit the agricultural community in the region. The research programme will include a study of the issues, both personal and financial, faced by families making the transition from farming, and the impacts of CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) reform. It will examine the process of leaving farming and explore its effect on families as well as looking at examples of alternative business strategies for family farms. The final stage will look at the attitudes and aspirations of new farmers making the transition to farming. As a conclusion participants will be invited to a conference hosted by the Centre for Rural Research. The research will make a valuable contribution to our understanding of the current economic pressures on farmers.

Influence in the University

The University's Council (its board of governors) has been reduced in size to 25 as part of a move to recruit members with the right mix of skills. It means that automatic nominations will no longer take place, including that of Convocation, the University's original alumni body. However, Convocation will continue to get an automatic seat on Council nominations committee, which recommends new members for consideration.

Convocation President Melody Dougan would like to hear from any alumni interested in becoming a member of Council. Email: dougan@slw56.idps.co.uk

Meanwhile, a new code of practice which defines the relationship between Convocation and the University has been produced. It can be found at: www.exeter.ac.uk/daro/documents/code_of_practice.pdf

Pictured are members of Council at the first meeting of the new academic year held in October. More than a third of Council members are alumni, including **Telegraph** Chairman John Allwood (Economics and Statistics 1973), Lady Lucy Studholme (English and American Arts 1985) and Hugh Stubbs (History 1968).



Weddings etc

Details of alumni weddings and other public announcements can now be found on the alumni website: www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni

Yes, Prime Minister!

Working for the Prime Minister is exhilarating, but it comes with the burden of great pressure and heavy responsibility.



Will Perrin and Nick Rowley met whilst working at No 10 Downing Street and were surprised to find they had something else in common – an Exeter degree. Mr Perrin (Economics, 1993) has spent ten years in the civil service doing things as varied as media regulation through to energy policy and then worked as the PM's advisor on technology, media regulation and a wide range of other issues. Mr Rowley (Politics, 1989) worked for the Premier of New South Wales and then came back to the UK to work as the PM's adviser on the environment and other issues.

So what's it like to work in 10 Downing Street?

→ Said Mr Perrin: 'There is a pronounced Tardis effect when you walk into Downing Street. Interestingly, the White House has exactly the opposite effect – it looks very large on the TV, but in fact is much smaller than it appears. At the rear of Number 10 is a late seventeenth century urban villa, which contains all the State rooms. However, you can find yourself working in a garret in the roof, which isn't all that glamorous. It is an extraordinary place to work – the seat of power, a world heritage site, that sort of thing.'

→ Said Mr Rowley: 'Finding a fellow Exeter alumnus beavering away in the office we shared above the black door was a terrific discovery. Little did the *Newsnight* editor know when the camera panned up to our window that we were

discussing Devonshire House doughnuts and the Double Locks and not the future of David Blunkett!'

And Tony Blair?

→ 'Very charismatic. Strong sense of humour. Extraordinary grasp of strategy,' said Mr Perrin. 'Working for Mr Blair was an incredible experience. People often say that politics is a cutthroat business, but I think that's wrong. I would say, however, that the pressure and burden of responsibility is enormous.'

→ Said Mr Rowley: 'Having travelled halfway around the world with a young family, I had a very high opinion of Tony Blair when I started at Number 10. When I left after two years I had a higher one. Not only does he have a quite awesome ability to master a brief, ask the most challenging questions and set a course, he is also one of the most thoroughly decent and generous people I have met.'

Now back in Sydney, Mr Rowley works with governments and corporates on tackling climate change, is on the Advisory Board of the Climate Group and a member of the Faculty of the Prince of Wales' Business and the Environment Programme.

Mr Perrin is leading the implementation of a new strategy designed to get the public sector to emulate private sector standards of customer service.

The University has commissioned a feasibility study to look at the options for

the future of the St Luke's Campus. The Campus is occupied by three very successful academic schools, namely the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, Sport and Health Sciences and Education and Lifelong Learning. The University faces a problem caused by the success of these three schools. If they achieve their planned expansion over the next ten years then they will run out of space and thus damage their prospects. Possible future options include

The future of St Luke's

moving one or more Schools from St Luke's to the Streatham Campus and selling all or part of the site to raise capital to fund the moves. No decisions have been made pending receipt of the feasibility study, which should be available in February. The University will then embark upon a lengthy period of discussion and consultation before reaching decisions hopefully by the end of the current academic year. Email your feedback to alumni@exeter.ac.uk



The Vice-Chancellor, Steve Smith, with Felicity Mordin, Foundation Trustee. Photo courtesy of Express and Echo.

Your donations put to good use

A total of £377,000 raised from alumni and other donors has been allocated to 25 University projects by the Exeter University Foundation.

The money was donated through the Annual Fund campaign and donors were invited to choose from a number of different investment areas: Scholarships and Student Hardship funds, Student Life, Library and IT, the Graduate School and International Students. Others chose to leave it to the discretion of the Foundation trustees to direct the money 'wherever the need is greatest'. In all cases the money is being spent on projects that directly enhance the student experience and support the University's mission to be a top 20 institution.

Elizabeth Smith, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, said: 'The generosity of our alumni and other donors means that we now have funding available on an annual basis to enable lots of small and medium-sized projects to go ahead. We have carefully selected projects that benefit students, that serve the University's strategic aims, and that could not be funded through other sources. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed and I hope you can now see that your donations are making a direct impact on the quality of the student experience.'

A full list of projects funded is given on the opposite page. Some of the bigger projects include:

- £31,000 for two new minibuses for the Students' Guild. The minibuses are vital to the work carried out by Community Action, which contributes 86,000 hours of volunteering work to the local community each year.

They are used to transport vulnerable children and elderly people to and from activities run by student volunteers.

- £20,000 for two beach volleyball courts. Beach volleyball is an Olympic sport and the courts will encourage both serious sporting development and greater physical activity by casual users.
- £20,000 to help fund a student field trip to study coral reefs in the Bahamas. The effect of global warming on coral reefs is a major research area for the School of Biosciences and this funding will enable students to get involved in world leading work.
- £6,500 for a grand piano. This is part of the University's programme to give students opportunities to develop their musical skills.
- £20,000 for the Archaeology Exploration Fund. This money will be used to enable more students to take part in digs and expeditions.
- £34,000 for new laptops and storage lockers for the Library. The aim is to encourage greater access to the Library's wireless network by loaning laptops to students and providing secure storage space for students who wish to bring their own laptops. A further £10,175 will be spent on enhancing digital media and wireless network facilities in the Alexander Building, which is home to the Department of Drama.

More than 70 applications were received by the Foundation trustees of which 25 were selected for funding.

If you would like to contribute to the Annual Fund 2006/07, please complete the form opposite. If you have any questions please contact the Annual Giving Officer, Lisa Williams, on 01392 263360 or l.c.williams@exeter.ac.uk.

Where your money has been invested

Guild Piano
Creation of a laptop lending and storage facility for Library users
Employability Seminars and Newsletter
Vacation Research Scholarships
Archaeology Exploration Fund
SoGAER Employability initiative
Supporting Integration of International Students
SHSS Careers Day 2008-10
Postgraduate study and widening participation;
Aiming (even) higher
Improvements to the facilities in the communal area/foyer
of Richards Building, St Luke's Campus
Digital media and wireless network enhancements in
the Alexander Building
Enhancement of audio-visual and IT resources in the Foreign
Language Centre and Department of Modern Languages

PG Travel bursaries: Students in Cornwall accessing
the Cornish Literary Archives
Community Action Minibus
Summer Adventures, Community Action
High Performance Equipment
Rowing Training Room
Beach Volleyball Court
My Exeter – University Portal Expansion
Postgraduate Social Space, St Luke's Campus
Café Society – Talking Shop
SoBE Competition Year 2007
Widening access to field trips
IS Provision for students
Exhibition of Lucien Freud Works

Donation Form

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Subject of study _____ Year of graduation _____

Which fund would you like your donation to support

Please use my gift to support 'Wherever the need is greatest'

or I would like my gift to support

- Graduate School Student Life
 International Students Library and IT
 Scholarships / Student Hardship Other (please state)

Gift Aid Declaration – making the most of your gift

giftaid it

For UK tax-payers only

Every £20 you give is worth £25.65 to Exeter University Foundation. The difference is reclaimed from the Inland Revenue at no additional cost to you. All you have to do is sign and date this Gift Aid declaration.

Please reclaim tax on my donation(s) referred to in this form. (I am a UK tax-payer and have paid income tax or capital gains tax on this donation.) Please also reclaim tax on all future donations until I notify you otherwise. (delete if not required)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Exeter University Foundation is a registered charity (no 287738)

I wish my gift to remain anonymous

Please post your reply to: Exeter University Foundation,
Freepost EX472, Exeter EX4 4ZZ

Regular Gift

I would like to make a regular gift of £ _____
per _____ month/quarter/year (please specify)
to the **Exeter University Foundation** Account No 80235980,
National Westminster Bank, Stocker Road, Exeter. Sort Code 60-08-06
starting on (date) ____ / ____ / ____ (allow at least 2 weeks)
for _____ years or until I notify you otherwise.

To: Name and address of my bank (please state) _____

Please deduct the above payments from my/our account:-

Account number

Bank Sort Code - -

Account name _____

Reference to be quoted (office use only) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

You may cancel this Banker's Order at any time you wish

Single Gift:

I would like to make a gift to the **Exeter University Foundation** of:

- £50 £100 £250
 £500 £1000 Other: _____

I would like to pay by:

- Cheque Visa Mastercard
 Maestro CAF Charity Vouchers

Cheques and vouchers payable to **The Exeter University Foundation**

Card Number

Start Date ____ / ____ Expiry Date ____ / ____ Issue No. _____

(if applicable)

Security No. (last 3 digits of number on signature strip)

Signature _____



Growing the University

Where the Physics tower now stands used to be rows of cabbages. Raspberries ripened where cars now park in Stocker Road. And where children play in the family centre, apples and pears were picked each autumn.

Things have changed a lot since Gordon Newton joined the Streatham Campus grounds staff 47 years ago. In those days the University grew much of its own fruit and vegetables, a practice that had taken off during the 'dig for victory' campaign of WWII. But as the University got larger, buildings gradually filled the original farmland and the practice of growing fruit and veg slowly died. Most foodstuffs are now bought in.

However, plant cultivation remains alive and well on the campus today under Mr Newton's expert eye. Tucked away near Clydesdale can be found greenhouses and polytunnels where thousands of plants are grown each year. Some are used to replenish shrubs and trees on the University's campuses and others to create displays for conferences and other events. In the 'cold house' can be found conifers, azaleas and hypoestes. Schizanthus, celosia and bulbiferum crowd the 'warm house' and palms, selaginella and nephrolepsis can be found in the 'hot house.'

Said Mr Newton: 'There were a lot of old gardeners here when I arrived who had been here years. The depth of their knowledge was amazing and I learnt a lot from them. After work I would go to a florists in Heavitree and spend hours watching how they did it. Today I still do all the arrangements for University functions.'

Those flower arrangements have included posies for the Queen and the Princess Royal and orchids for Prince Philip when he opened the Harrison Building. More routinely, arrangements are required for weddings, conferences and University functions like the Golden Jubilee events. Each May the University exhibits at the Devon County Show (where Mr Newton is Chief Steward) and has a proud record of winning medals and prizes for its work.

Said Mr Newton: 'Parts of the campus are better than you would find on a National Trust property and we have may rare and unusual plants, including the national Azara collection. I think the old gardeners would think that we had looked after the campus if they could see it today.'





It's Devonshire House, Jim, but not as we know it

Devonshire House has been given a makeover as part of an £8 million campus refurbishment programme carried out at great speed over the summer.



The Long Lounge has been turned into a new wine and coffee bar supplying a range of healthy organic and ethical foods sourced locally. As well as a refit, the terrace area has been refurbished. The Junior Common Room has been similarly smartened up with new furniture, new flooring and new lighting.

Downstairs on the ground floor, the coffee bar has received the same treatment, but will continue to serve the famous all-day breakfast so beloved of students through the years. The terrace has also been revamped with new seating and awnings for use on sunny days. The refurbishment includes a new seating area at the far end, where students can consume their own food. The music and drama room has been given a new floor and paint job and improved disabled access.

Moving upstairs, the refectory has been re-painted and 're-lighted' and the always very gloomy entrance to the Great Hall has been given a much lighter and airier feel.

Opening the Long Lounge the Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith said: 'As well as providing a better service to students this will provide a boost to Guild finances. This in turn will enable the Guild to carry on providing support and welfare services. That sounds to me like a win-win situation.'

Very little had previously been done to update large parts of Devonshire House since it was opened in 1960 and some of the student social areas had become dated and rather tatty. The improvements to Devonshire House are the second phase of a major investment in student facilities. They follow the improvements made to Cornwall House last summer and the revamping of the Lemon Grove.

Parts of the Amory and Harrison buildings were also refurbished over the summer.

Transatlantic tales

A meeting with Agatha Christie, echoes of the American Deep South, fun and games in high society, and naming your own Spitfire. A 37-year transatlantic correspondence between mother and daughter has been brought vividly to life in a new book.



In 1991 Angela Potter Brassley (English and American and Commonwealth Arts 1995) and her sister Jenny were sorting through their mother's effects when they came upon thousands of letters, photographs, press cuttings and diaries stuffed into old suitcases. Closer inspection revealed the bulk of them to be a long-running and highly detailed correspondence between their mother Virginia Potter (known as Ginnie) and grandmother Virginia Dickinson Reynolds (a cousin of the poet Emily Dickinson and known as Bougie). The material covers the period from 1929 until Bougie's death in 1966.

Separated by the Atlantic for nearly forty years, their correspondence represents a fascinating account of turbulent times and is a wonderful record of an intensely close relationship. Both women were born and raised in Richmond, Virginia and shared the same outlook on life, which was both conservative and Confederate. The family had suffered in the American Civil War and this personal memory helped to fuel Confederate attitudes in succeeding generations. So Bougie, born in 1883, remained firmly entrenched in Southern views



Partying at Monte Carlo in the 1920s.

and Ginnie, born in 1908, saw no reason to differ. Said Angela: 'I remember once as a child that I was playing *'John Brown's body lies a mouldering in his grave'* on the piano. My mother came storming into the room and told me in no uncertain terms that she would not have that tune played in her house. The Unionist battle hymn still had the power of raising her hackles nearly a hundred years after the war.'

Bougie, daughter of a Confederate Army officer, employed African-American maids yet had an ambiguous view of them, being touched by the loyalty and devotion of 'dear old Carrie', but having a Southerner's condescension towards her. She was 'horrified' by the civil rights movement of the 50s and 60s and was a segregationist at heart.

In September 1957 she wrote to Ginnie: *'Personally I like all the negroes who work for me – and nine tenths of the poor things don't know what it is all about and don't want to go to school with the white children. The real issue is much deeper than that. It is the States Rights to manage their own affairs – We are conservative and the Yankees are growing pinker by the day – We find the whole business loathsome and are angry.'*

Many weeks each year were spent staying with Ginnie's wealthy uncle, Huntly Drummond, in Canada. Huntly owned a large home in Montreal, an estate in the Laurentian Mountains and a summer house on the St. Lawrence River. The family spent time each winter skiing and each summer swimming and sailing.

Huntly Drummond was an avid art collector whose house was furnished with paintings by Renoir and Monet. During the war he put up the money to buy the RAF two Spitfires, one of which was named after Angela's sister, Jennifer, and the other Bougie. Bougie wrote in July 1941:

'Don't you love "Jennifer" and "Bougie" swooping over Germany and blowing up a few Nasties.'

Both women shared a love of travel and visited Europe each summer. They crossed the Atlantic in ocean liners. According to Ginnie's unpublished memoir, on one occasion in 1930 Bougie and Ginnie travelled on the *Empress of Australia* on which Prince Henry, the Duke of Gloucester was also a passenger. Ginnie was commanded to dine with him and went, as instructed by his aide, to his private salon on the ship, where after a good dinner they played gramophone records and danced. When she got back to her cabin and was asked by

Bougie if she'd conducted herself properly, Ginnie replied:
"Oh, I had a lovely time. I've been teaching the Duke to shag!"

It should be explained that this was a dance of the day. Ginnie was a Bright Young Thing and a good time girl but she always behaved within the bounds of good taste and morals expected of her.

Her mother, Bougie, also enjoyed social occasions and had many friends, but was less hedonistic than her daughter. Her world was influenced by a political and cultural agenda. She was a self-confessed feminist and had been a suffragette. Whilst enjoying the company of men, she wrote in 1947 that it was her experience that *'most men are selfish'* and that *'matrimony is difficult under almost any circumstances.'*

Bougie's development over the years was not one of great change, but of continued cultural and intellectual activity, punctuated by visits to Canada and later to her daughter when she moved to England.

The life of Ginnie, on the other hand, changed considerably. She travelled to London in 1935 to join the celebrations for George V and Queen Mary's silver jubilee and shared a flat with two friends for the season. She was introduced to a Guards officer called Gerald Potter, who was so taken with her that he proposed the very night they met. They married the following year, and their wedding featured in the Gaumont newsreels of the time.

Gerald and Ginnie lived in London and Hampshire, socialised enthusiastically, went to the theatre, sailed on the South coast, and dined out in fashionable London restaurants. Ginnie adjusted to married life happily and was pleased to have a large staff to run their two households. Gerald and Ginnie continued to enjoy themselves, but soon the increasing threat of war hung over them. Gerald's experiences as an Army officer, including the evacuation of Dunkirk and the Italian landings, are relayed through the letters. For the duration of the war Ginnie and her daughter and a small staff moved to a house near Windsor, which they rented from Eton College. Here Ginnie, the flapper, the one used to first class travel and the finest food, dug for victory and joined in the war effort. The garden was turned over to rearing ducks, geese, chickens and rabbits and to growing a wide variety of vegetables and fruit. Surplus produce was sold or given away.

Ginnie cheerfully launched into her new role, writing in September 1941:

'I know it must make you laugh when you think of me in the animal world! If I'm not trying to chase a rabbit which has got loose in the wrong pen, I am bathing a duck's eye! I keep track of

all the rats caught and the eggs produced. I went to clean out the shed and uncovered a nest of baby mice! My poor sick duck has died. Sometimes I half expect to wake up in the morning with an asses head on my shoulders like Bottom the weaver.'

Ginnie also worked for the WVS as a waitress in the British Restaurant in Windsor, where she helped to serve over 300 meals a day to local workers. This was a true volte-face when the waited upon became the waiting.

Throughout the war Ginnie and Gerald had been good friends with their neighbours Bill and Anne. When their marriage went through a shaky period, Gerald rather over-comforted Anne by having a fling with her in 1945. Ginnie consequently underwent a period of great uncertainty and was anxious to go to the States, to visit her mother whom she had not seen for five years. In 1946 she managed to secure a passage to Canada, where she not only met up with her family, but had an affair with an old French Canadian boyfriend, Pothier

"We are passing the Devonshire coast, it is needless to say, raining, which makes me think of cold and seagulls, and more rain"

Doucet. Ginnie was subsequently torn between staying with a man who loved her deeply but lived in Canada and was, by all accounts, a less erratic character than her husband, and her husband, by whom she now had two daughters and a life in England. It was not an easy decision, but she was nothing if not dutiful and, after four months, and many discussions with her mother, came back to her English family. She writes of her return journey by liner across the Atlantic where she projects her mood onto the passing English landscape:

'I have a slight sinking feeling in my stomach, it is strange to be going back to England to no home – We are passing the Devonshire coast, it is needless to say, raining, which makes me think of cold and seagulls, and more rain – and boiled turbot with photographic paste sauce, and then I try and switch my mind back to Canada, to that glorious sunshine, Nellie's cooking, martinis at the Ritz, filet mignon at Café Martin, the hot baths!, the loons and the bullfrogs at Ivry, the silver birches, Huntly's trees – and all the glorious times I have had on my wonderful holiday – It was far, far more wonderful even than I had expected, because I expected a lot!'

Once Ginnie had made up her mind to stay in England, she set out with a determination to enjoy life and, in spite of the shortages of postwar Britain, the harsh winter of 1947, and an unpredictable husband, she succeeded. After Gerald was



Angela Potter Brassley

de-mobbed he had invested in the fishing business in Brixham, owning and running two trawlers.

Ginnie consequently made much play out of her new status:

'So now I am a fishwife!! In a few years time I may be seen walking through the streets of Brixham wearing clogs with a basket of fish on my head. Do you suppose I'll have to mend the nets?'

After four years the Potters moved to a house Ginnie loved in Churston Ferrers, where she was to remain until 1984. Sailing played a large part in their life, and Gerald became a well-respected yachtsman, skippering Britain's boat to victory in the 1959 Admiral's Cup race. They were highly sociable, entertaining friends with excellent food and drink. Among the characters they met was Agatha Christie, who lived nearby at Greenway on the banks of the River Dart.

Ginnie wrote in September 1952:

'We went to the Cathcarts to a small cocktail party on the Saturday night. Agatha Christie was there and slipped on the slippery stone floor on her way out and came down with a crash. As she has a [somewhat cumbersome] figure and legs like a piano it was quite a thump.'

These letters offer not just detailed personal narratives, but a vivid, contemporaneous account of life in the mid 20th century in the USA and in Britain, and reflect an era of enormous cultural and political change. The correspondence is so much more than just family letters, and draws its audience into the era with humour, and the language and attitudes of the day, an era that one reader has described as "just beyond memory".

Bougie would undoubtedly be pleased that the correspondence has been published. She wrote to Ginnie in February 1942:

'I keep all your letters. Someday you might want to do something with them.'

Shared Histories: Transatlantic Letters between Virginia Dickinson Reynolds and Her Daughter, Virginia Potter, 1929-1966, edited by Angela Potter, is published by University of Georgia Press. ISBN 0-8203-2802-2.

Gardens, giraffes and jelly

Exeter alumni, staff and former staff have been busily publishing new works of fact and fiction.

The Older Woman in Recent Fiction, by Dr Zoe Brennan (English 1993, Women's Studies 1994). A literary critical study of contemporary novels that possess an older woman as a central character. Published by McFarland Publishers (Jefferson).

Jimmy the Giraffe, by Mary-Louisa Glynn (Politics 1983). A children's book set in Namibia. It involves a giraffe, Jimmy, and his friend Eric the elephant who get lost in the jungle. Published by AH Stockwell.

Falmouth For Instructions, the Story of Falmouth in the Great War 1914-191, by John Pollock (MA Naval History 2001). In the glorious summer

of 1914, no one in Falmouth had any idea that this ancient seaport and developing tourist resort was about to be transformed by the greatest war the world had then known, for four momentous years, into one of the most strategically important places in the country. Published by the author: pollock@penray.freeserve.co.uk

The Art of the Vodka Jelly, by Tom Tuke-Hastings (Archaeology 1999). His second cookery book seeks to reinvent the genre. Published by CBN Books.

Edinburgh New Town Gardens; Blessings as well as beauties, by Connie Byrom (née Dawson, MA

Sociology 1965). An examination of the gardens attached to this important World Heritage site, Published by Birlinn.

The Ecology of Learning: Sustainability, Lifelong Learning and Everyday Life, by John Blewitt, of the School of Education and Lifelong Learning. A groundbreaking examination of how learning in everyday environments – business, work, home, community life – is key to improving society and achieving sustainability. See: <http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/productID/595/groupID/7/categ>



Minus 36 degrees – but a warm welcome

If you were to ask a group of Mongolian academics or teachers for the names of top universities in the UK, it is highly likely that Exeter would rank at the top of their list.

Since 1995 the University has run three highly successful European-funded projects in Mongolia, forging links in the education sector through sharing expertise and exchanging cultures. The first project helped reform Mongolia's libraries, with work from Martin Myhill, head librarian at the University and others from the History Department. A second project helped reform the country's education curriculum.

Following an enthusiastic response of Mongolian participants to this work, in September 2005 the European TEMPUS programme provided 300,000 Euros to train teachers in rural schools in Outer Mongolia.

Exeter's School of Education and Lifelong Learning is working with teacher educators at the University of Ulaanbaatar (UB) in Mongolia's capital to set up a new Masters programme for teachers that fits with new government-driven educational policy. Professor Bob Burden explains: 'Mongolian education under the Soviet system was extremely didactic and largely based on an information transmission model where children sat in rows all working from the same textbook page. The new Mongolian standards introduced in 2002 set schools and teachers the responsibility of introducing interactive teaching based upon Vygotskian socio-cultural theory. This shows that learning is not carried out in isolation, but is a social and cultural experience. The problem that the schools are currently facing, therefore, is the translation of new theoretical perspectives into classroom practice.'

Bob and the Exeter team of Dr Phil Bayliss, Dr Janet Draper, Dr Angela Horton and Project Co-ordinator, Will Taylor, have hosted two cohorts of Mongolian teacher trainers. Visits were made to local primary, secondary and special schools and, as well as being somewhat the centre of attention themselves, the visitors were encouraged to take part in classroom sessions.

The team made a return visit to Ulaanbaatar in February 2006. They found the temperature of minus 36° C quite a shock, but were overwhelmed with interest in their expertise, and led workshops and carried out useful classroom observation to ensure that the new Masters is relevant.

The team, along with academics from Copenhagen International Centre for Educational Development, supported the development of the Masters course, and in particular a conference to kick-start it, which was held in August. 90 teachers attended from all corners of Mongolia, some of whom drove up to nine hours over terrain without roads to take part.

Each of the teachers has now returned to their own schools to gather data on current teaching practice with the aim of beginning a range of action research studies, again supported by Exeter and UB tutors. Special needs, the nature of residential schools, and the training needs of teachers are among the research projects underway.

The Exeter tutors will be returning to Mongolia on a twice-yearly basis for the next two years to help maintain the impetus of this work, but also to establish joint cross-cultural research into various aspects of the education process.

9 February

Paddon Award Competition 2007

Calling all creative minds – The Paddon Award is an annual arts competition organised by Convocation, the Students' Guild and the University's Alumni Relations team. This year's theme is travel writing. Closing date for entries is 9 February 2007.

For more information and to enter, visit www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni or contact the Alumni Relations team on +44 (0) 1392 263141.

20 February

Exeter Finance Network Event

Venue: Fidelity International, London

An opportunity for alumni in Finance and Business Management to meet with fellow alumni, the Vice-Chancellor and other senior University staff, and catch up with the latest developments in Exeter.

For more information and to book a place, contact the Alumni Relations team at alumni@exeter.ac.uk or on +44 (0) 1392 263148.

10 March, 2pm

Paddon Award Competition 2007 – Finals

Venue: Parker Moot Room, Amory Building, University of Exeter

Come and join fellow alumni, students and staff for the finale of the competition. All guests are welcome. The programme includes the final reading from the works of this year's best entries, musical entertainment by the World Choir, and the award ceremony.

For more information, visit www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni or contact the Alumni Relations team on +44 (0) 1392 263141.

15 and 19 March

Alumni Receptions in Turkey

Venue: TBC

The Vice-Chancellor will be visiting Turkey to meet up with Exeter alumni in the region. All alumni are invited to evening receptions in Ankara (15 March) and Istanbul (19 March). This is a great opportunity to see old friends, catch up with the latest University news and revive friendships.

For more information, contact the Alumni Relations team on alumni@exeter.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1392 262016.

23-27 March

Convocation Spring Reunion

Venue: Hope Hall, University of Exeter

Organiser: Exeter University Convocation Club

This is the highlight of Convocation's social year with a full programme of outings and other entertainment planned for the Reunion. Includes the 52nd AGM of Convocation on 24 March at 10am. Hope Hall has been booked for four nights' accommodation from Friday 23 March to Monday 26 March inclusive. Attendance for part of the weekend or as a non-resident are options.

For more information, please contact Bob and Jennifer Evans on 02392 550640 or email r.evans@ntworld.com.

April

Alumni Receptions in China

Date and venues: TBC

Exeter alumni in China will have the opportunity to get together in Beijing and Shanghai. The Vice-Chancellor and a delegation of senior University staff will visit the region to meet with alumni and enjoy an evening of celebrating achievements and looking to the future.

For more information, contact the Alumni Relations team on alumni@exeter.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1392 262016.

April

Alumni Reception in Hong Kong

Date and venue: TBC

Calling all alumni in Hong Kong. In addition to the visits to Shanghai and Beijing, the Vice-Chancellor and other senior University staff will be visiting Hong Kong during April, and would enjoy the opportunity to meet all alumni.

For more information, contact the Alumni Relations team on alumni@exeter.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1392 262016.

May

Alumni Reception in Dubai

Date and venue: TBC

The Vice-Chancellor and other senior staff will be visiting Dubai and Sharjah in May. All alumni in the Middle East are warmly invited to attend a reception, meet friends and discuss future alumni relations activities in the region.

For more information, contact the Alumni Relations team on alumni@exeter.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1392 262016.

Alumni Reunions

21 – 22 July

Alumni Reunion – Classes of 1957, 1962 and 1967

Venue: University of Exeter

If you are celebrating your 40th, 45th or 50th anniversary, this is your reunion weekend! Note the date in your diary to revisit the campus and meet up with old friends, and see the changes and developments that have taken place since you were a student at Exeter. Alumni of other years are also welcome.

For more information and to book a place, visit www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni or contact the Alumni Relations team on +44 (0) 1392 263141.

28 – 29 July

Alumni Reunion – Classes of 1987 and 1992

Venue: University of Exeter

If you belong to the classes of 1987 or 1992, you are invited back to campus to celebrate your 15th and 20th anniversary. Please note the date in your diary, help us spread the word and come back to meet up with your friends to celebrate your reunion.

For more information and to book a place, visit www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni or contact the Alumni Relations team on +44 (0) 1392 263141.

15 – 16 September

Alumni Reunion – Classes of 1972, 1977 and 1982

Venue: University of Exeter

If you left the University 25, 30 or 35 years ago, then September is the month of your reunion. Note the date in your diary, help us spread the word and come back to the University, meet up with old friends, and see the changes and developments that have taken place since the 70's and 80's.

For more information and to book a place, visit www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni or contact the Alumni Relations team on +44 (0) 1392 263141.

For details about public events on campus see:

www.exeter.ac.uk/news/whatson.shtml