



As new students join the College, find out how Imperial is enriching their experience

... CENTRE PAGES

Great expectations



MOVING UP THE LADDER

83 Imperial staff receive academic promotions

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MUMS AND DADS BUDDY SCHEME

Medics help new students feel at home

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CLASS OF 1945

Boston reunion sparks happy memories for Imperial alumni

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Fear factor

Forget the picturesque curling and colourful leaves, October for me is all about Halloween. Although I'm not a fan of horror films, as a child I used to love my annual opportunity to **dress up as a pumpkin** and harass our obliging neighbours for Woolworth's finest confectionery. Things changed however after doing a terror module as part of my English Literature degree – **understanding what makes people scared** has since become something of a fascination. This year Imperial is embracing this theme to consider the science behind our fears in the first of its fringe events, which aim to engage public audiences with our research and explore topical themes in the run up to the Imperial Festival in 2013. Find out whether we can physically **die from fright** with Professor Sian Harding (NHLI) or join Dr Deirdre Hollingsworth (Public Health) and her team investigating whether an outbreak of zombies is more threatening than a **vampire invasion**, by heading to the Main Entrance at 18.00 on the 25 October. It might change the way you see Halloween...forever!

EMILY ROSS-JOANNOU, EDITOR

Reporter is published every three weeks during term time in print and online. The next publication day is 3 November.

Contact Emily Ross-Joannou: reporter@imperial.ac.uk



Wood Lane Studios welcomes first residents

The first cohort of postgraduate students has moved into the newly opened Wood Lane Studios, on the site of the new Imperial West campus in Hammersmith and Fulham.

The 19,500 m² building with 606 self-contained studios includes facilities such as a residents' multi-gym, 30 mbps broadband, secure bike storage, quiet study rooms, a large communal lounge and landscaped communal courtyards.

Accommodation for staff is available nearby on Shinfield Street as part of the new development. There are a number of family flats and rooms in shared apartments to rent for Imperial and NHS Trust staff. The fully furnished family flats comprise of three double bedrooms, two bathrooms and a large living and kitchen area.

Further information available here: www3.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation/staffaccommodation

Blood test could detect breast cancer early

A simple blood test could one day be a more accurate way to test for the early signs of breast cancer than using mammograms to spot a lump, say Imperial researchers during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



They also hope the blood test could improve treatment by detecting whether breast cancer patients are likely to relapse and what drugs their particular type of tumour will respond to.

This pioneering new clinical study – funded by Cancer Research UK in collaboration with Imperial and the University of Leicester – is about to start in the UK's largest breast screening clinic at Charing Cross Hospital.

Researchers will take blood samples from women attending the clinic and compare the DNA in the blood of women who are diagnosed with breast cancer with those who do not have cancer, to see what DNA markers are consistent.

Professor Charles Coombes (Surgery and Cancer), co-investigator and Cancer Research UK's breast cancer expert, said: "This type of translational science is extremely promising and the international scientific community is collaborating on its development. When a woman has breast cancer we can tell by the DNA in their blood. But what we're trying to find out in our study is how early the signs of breast cancer show up in a blood test. So, by looking at blood samples of women who have breast cancer diagnosed through screening, we can see if the cancer is already showing in their blood."

—ADAPTED FROM A NEWS RELEASE ISSUED BY CANCER RESEARCH UK

* IMPERIAL *

FRINGE

The science behind our fears

• FREE + OPEN TO ALL •

From brains to pandemics, via the science of sleep and a zombie apocalypse. Discover the Science Behind your Fears at the first Imperial Fringe, a new series of monthly events exploring the unexpected side of science. A pay bar will be open throughout.

THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER / 18.00–21.00

➔ Main Entrance, South Kensington Campus ◀➔

www.imperial.ac.uk/festival/fringe

Promotions celebrated across Imperial

A total of 83 academics at Imperial will begin the autumn term with a promotion.

Among the 2012 academic promotions are 25 new professorships. The title acknowledges researchers with an international standing in their work and leadership.

One of the academics recognised is Charlotte Williams, pictured right, who has been promoted to the position of Professor of Chemistry. Her research into high-tech polymers is helping to design sustainable and degradable plastics, from natural materials, which will replace plastics currently made with fossil fuels. Another strand of her work looks for ways to transform waste carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas into polymer materials that could be used, for example, as a building insulation foam. Her research group is also developing new materials that conduct electricity and can be used to form the basis of solar panels and other energy generating technologies.

Asked about her inspiration, she said: "I am continually inspired by the scientists I worked directly with during my training, and by my competitors and friends in the scientific community. If I were to pick one who was a great inspiration to me it would be the late Charles Rees FRS, who was an



outstanding scientist. A professor of organic chemistry, he also served as our Head of Department and President of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

"Professor Rees inspired me by the depth and breadth of his subject knowledge and by his ability, even after retirement, to suggest new experimental methods and protocols – he never lost touch with the central importance of careful laboratory experimentation.

As a student I always enjoyed his questions at departmental seminars, which combined razor sharp scientific insights with good humour and the very best of English good manners."

The full list of academic promotions can be found at: <http://bit.ly/academicproms2012>

"I am continually inspired by the scientists I worked directly with during my training"

Imperial students have their say in National Student Survey

The release of the 2012 National Student Survey (NSS) results on 27 September reveals an overall satisfaction rating of 86 per cent for Imperial, one per cent higher than the sector average and Imperial's results in 2011.



Across all the categories in the survey, the College achieved a higher or equal percentage satisfaction compared to previous years, with the largest climb being in assessment and feedback, which saw an improvement of eight per cent since last year.

The College scored most highly in the learning resources category, with students' satisfaction increasing compared to 2011 with access to library services, IT support and specialised equipment, achieving an overall rate of 92 per cent against the sector average of 79. Following a campaign led by Imperial College Union to engage students with the survey, the participation rate at the College also increased from 64 per cent to 71, the highest in England and Wales.

NSS data is based on the opinions of participating final year undergraduates at most UK universities and colleges, on a number of issues from personal development support to how intellectually stimulating students find their courses. With other universities also seeing improved results, Imperial fell from 53rd to 67th in the rankings for overall satisfaction.

Welcoming the NSS results Imperial's President & Rector, Sir Keith O'Nions, said: "Today's results indicate the progress that continues to be made in enhancing what we offer to students at Imperial. We cannot however be complacent. We know that there's more we need to do to make our performance consistently high across the College."

—JOHN-PAUL JONES, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

See centre pages to find out how departments have been enhancing the student experience

in brief

Election of Deans



Professor Myra McClure, Professor of Retrovirology (Medicine), has been elected non-clinical Dean for the Faculty of Medicine and Professor Richard Jardine, Professor of Geomechanics (Civil and Environmental Engineering), has been elected one of the Deans for the Faculty of Engineering and the Business School. Both will serve until 31 August 2015.



Professor Nigel Gooderham, Professor of Molecular Toxicology (Surgery and Cancer) and former non-clinical Dean in the Faculty of Medicine, has been elected Senior Dean until 31 August 2013.

Commemoration Day

The College's annual Commemoration Day graduation will take place in the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday 24 October. For the first time, three ceremonies will be held, with some 7,000 guests witnessing the procession of almost 2,500 graduates. An honorary award will be conferred upon Lord Kerr of Kinlochard, former Chairman of the Court and Council, while alumnus Jonathan Spatz, who graduated with an MSc in Electrical Engineering in 1970, will receive the Imperial College Medal.

Times Higher Education World rankings published

Imperial has been ranked in eighth place in the THE World University Rankings 2012–13, published on 4 October. Maintaining the same position as in last year's table, Imperial also continues as third in the UK, behind Oxford and Cambridge (second and seventh in the world respectively). Caltech topped the rankings, while 31 UK institutions made it into the top 200.

New courses to stretch students

This year's freshers have been given the chance to broaden their skills and experience beyond their degree disciplines with a new package of courses called Imperial Horizons. At Welcome Week undergraduates were given the option to choose courses in four main areas: business, global challenges, languages and global citizenship, and science, culture and society. The aim of Imperial Horizons is to broaden students' education, inspire creativity and enhance their professional prospects. www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons

Imperial signs new partnership to explore sustainable retirement

Experts will be looking for the best way to fund an 'ethical retirement', following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Imperial and the UK's Pensions Management Institute (PMI) last month.

In a ceremony attended by the Minister for Pensions, Steve Webb MP, the two organisations agreed to work together to prioritise sustainability-related research and training for the pension management industry. They will also investigate the concept of sustainable retirement in the hope of developing the first specialised Master's degree in the pensions field – an MSc covering sustainable retirement.

The partnership has been established alongside the government's new auto-enrolment policy which will see more than £8 million staff who are currently not saving into pensions through their employee, being automatically signed up to schemes.

The partnership's first step will be to design a curriculum and develop mentoring and internship programmes in major pension management institutions.



PMI President, Susan Andrews with Minister for Pensions, Steve Webb MP and former Pro Rector (Education and Academic Affairs) Professor Julia Buckingham.

The memorandum was signed by the former Pro Rector (Education and Academic Affairs), Professor Julia Buckingham, and by the PMI's president, Susan Andrews.

Dr Zen Makuch, Director of Imperial's Centre for Environmental Policy, who leads the partnership for the College, said: "Environmental and social sustainability deliverables are the basis for a growing share of a £1 trillion investment market. Imperial is well-placed to determine how best to address the technical basis for sustainability in this field."

At the ceremony, Mr Webb said: "Sustainable pensions and ethical

investments can only go up the agenda, but we need to understand more about what these look like and find out how to meet the demand, as people start to ask for them even more. Pensions planning cannot be looked at in isolation. By studying pensions, you have to study the effect of just about everything: genetics, the science of ageing, labour market trends, family formation and, of course, the global economy. Academic and industry partnerships, such as this one, can only improve our knowledge in this area."

—SIMON LEVEY, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT



Documentary on Imperial drug research

Research on MDMA, the pure form of the drug ecstasy, was the focus of a two-part programme called *Drugs Live: The Ecstasy Trial*, which aired on Channel 4 at the end of September.

The study examined how the brain responds to MDMA and was led by David Nutt, Edmond J. Safra Professor of Neuropsychopharmacology (Medicine), and Professor Val Curran from UCL.

The research uses functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to examine the effects of MDMA in healthy volunteers under laboratory conditions. The volunteers carried out a series of cognitive tests to examine the drug's effects on empathy, trust and memory. In addition to providing fundamental information on how MDMA affects the resting brain, results from the study might also inform future research into whether the drug could be of use as a clinical treatment.

The programmes showed recorded footage of the research alongside a live studio debate to explore issues linked with MDMA.

To catch up on the programmes see: <http://bit.ly/drugslive>

To watch a series of interviews about the trial with Imperial academics see: <http://bit.ly/MDMAstudy>

FoNS Awards for Excellence in Teaching

Over the summer, 34 staff members were recognised by the Faculty of Natural Sciences at a reception held in the Department of Physics' Senior Common Room. The awards were presented by the Deputy Rector, Professor Stephen Richardson, the Principal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Professor Maggie Dallman, and the Chair of the FoNS Teaching Committee, Professor Alan Spivey.

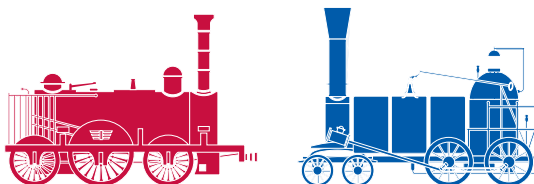
The awards recognise people, nominated by academics and students, who have made a major contribution to learning and teaching in the Faculty. Academics, graduate teaching assistants, postdocs, technical staff, teaching support staff and others are all eligible for nomination.

For the full list of award recipients see: <http://bit.ly/FONSawards>



media mentions

—JOHN-PAUL JONES, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT



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for regular news alerts: www.imperial.ac.uk/media/jointsignup

Flu fail BBC ONLINE ▶ 5.10.12



During the H1N1 pandemic in 2009 British people were less likely to take protective measures than people in Argentina, Japan, Mexico and the US, *BBC Online*

reported. Among the findings, published in the *Lancet Infectious Diseases* medical journal, 46 per cent of people interviewed in Mexico, and 21 per cent in the US, said they avoided hugging or kissing family or friends, compared to two per cent of British people. Professor Alison Holmes (Medicine) said: "This research is a good starting point but it begs the question, what next? It is vital that we reflect on how best to communicate public health messages. We need to be more scientific and understand how people make sense of recommendations."

Train blame THE GUARDIAN ▶ 3.10.12

After reversing its decision to award a train operating contract to the company First, the UK's Department for Transport says it has exposed a flaw in the way it appoints companies to run its railways, *The Guardian* reported. Professor Stephen Glaister (Civil and Environmental Engineering) said more should have been done to avoid errors: "The west coast mainline decision was always going to be subject to fierce scrutiny. Officials knew the stakes were high and any weakness would expose the decision to judicial review. Equally, they must know that we all make mistakes, so a rigorous system of internal scrutiny and audit ought to have been in place to weed out the errors."

Divine statue is from the heavens

NEW SCIENTIST ▶ 27.09.12

Analysis has shown that a Buddhist statue acquired by Nazis is made from a meteorite fragment which fell to earth 10,000 to 20,000 years ago, according to *New Scientist*. The finding follows chemical analysis on the eleventh-century carving from Mongolia, depicting the god Vaiśravaṇa. Dr Matthew Genge (Earth Science and Engineering) said that meteoritic metal has associations with a number of ancient cultures, adding: "There are reports of Egyptian necklaces including meteoritic metal. But there is no evidence that the Egyptians were aware of their extra-terrestrial provenance."

Bad balloons

BBC ONLINE ▶ 21.09.12



Imperial's Professor Tom Welton (Chemistry) has said that a global shortage of helium means its use should

be considered more carefully in future, and not wasted in balloons, according to *BBC Online*. One of its key uses currently is in cooling the magnets inside MRI scanners. Professor Welton said: "We're not going to run out of helium tomorrow, but on the 30 to 50 year timescale we will have serious problems of having to shut things down, if we don't do something in the meantime. This is important stuff. When you see that we're literally just letting it float into the air, and then out into space inside those helium balloons, it's just hugely frustrating."

awards and honours

NATURAL SCIENCES

New materials award for Pendry



Professor Sir John Pendry, Chair in Theoretical Solid State Physics (Physics), has

been awarded the 2013 James C. McGroddy Prize for New Materials for his discovery of metamaterials. The prize was established by the American Physical Society to recognise and encourage outstanding achievement in the science and application of new materials.

NATURAL SCIENCES

Tate wins Wain Award

Dr Ed Tate, Reader in Chemical Biology Department (Chemistry), has been awarded the 2012 Wain Medal Lecture, a prize given to an outstanding young scientist in the Biochemistry area. The prize consists of a silver medal and £1,000. The Wain Award is provided by the Wain family in memory of the late Professor Louis Wain CBE, FRS, an outstanding scientist in the agrochemical area. Dr Tate's Wain Medal Lecture, entitled *Using chemistry to target protein modification in disease*, will take place on 22 October at the University of Kent.



NATURAL SCIENCES

Institute of Physics awards 2012

Two Imperial academics have been recognised by the Institute of Physics this year. Steven Cowley, Professor of Plasma Physics (Physics), has been awarded the Glazebrook Medal of the Institute of Physics for his leadership of the UK's magnetic fusion programme and of Culham Laboratory, and for his contributions to plasma and fusion science. Emeritus Professor Howard Morris,

Senior Research Investigator (Life Sciences), has been awarded the Franklin Medal and Prize for his contributions to mass spectrometer design, which revolutionised peptide sequencing. He is pictured with Professor Sir Peter Knight, former Deputy Rector (Research).

SUPPORT SERVICES

Excellent design recognised

Communications and Development have won an Award for Excellence in the 42nd UCDA (University and College Designers Association) Design Competition. The entry – *Behind the Scenes: Biting Back* – about mosquito research in Life Sciences, appeared in issue 37 of Imperial magazine.



Research finds funding for malaria control is still inadequate

A study published in *Malaria Journal* on 17 September has concluded that, despite huge increases in funding for malaria control, the total amount spent remains much lower than estimated needs. When available, funding is not effectively targeted at those at most risk of malaria, a disease which kills an estimated 1.2 million people each year.

This was the first study to look comprehensively at global malaria funding. While annual funding has increased nearly threefold over the last five years, the \$2.55 billion spent in 2010 is still less than half the estimated \$6 billion required to effectively control the disease globally. Researchers found that this shortfall is exacerbated in many places because the limited global financing is not distributed according to the risk of malaria. In many countries the funding from donors still followed colonial ties.

Research was conducted by the Malaria Atlas Project, a multinational team of researchers funded mainly by the Wellcome Trust and including researchers from Imperial. The research team looked at all sources of funding for malaria control – from national governments to international donors – and compared resources available for each country with the size of their population at risk of malaria.

Leading the research from Imperial was Rifat Atun, Professor of International Health Management at the Business School and the Faculty of Medicine. He said: “It is quite remarkable that funding from many donors is still linked to colonial legacies. The climate of financial uncertainty and misallocation of funds poses real risk to global malaria control.”

—TANYA GUBBAY, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Foraging baboons are picky punters



Baboons choose who to eat with depending on their position in the troop pecking order, according to a new study from Imperial and Zoological Society of London (ZSL) published at the end of September in *The American Naturalist*.

A research team from ZSL and Imperial observed troops of

baboons foraging for food over a six-month period and analysed their behaviour using a technique developed to study human consumer choices.

Unsurprisingly they saw that the monkeys preferred to eat from the most well-stocked trees, but they chose their dining partners based on their position in the troop's social hierarchy. Baboons who were high up in the hierarchy preferred to forage with baboons from lower down in the order. But the baboons from lower down in the hierarchy tried to avoid contact with higher-ranked baboons, instead preferring those with whom they shared good social bonds.

“These strategies seem complicated, but we think they give the baboons a greater chance of getting enough to eat,” said

Harry Marshall (Life Sciences), who carried out his PhD at Imperial and ZSL.

“For dominant baboons it's easier to get food by stealing it from inferior troop members than it is to collect it themselves. Less dominant baboons prefer to avoid this, instead choosing to stick close to ‘friends’ who tolerate their presence whilst searching for food,” he continued.

Scientists at ZSL will use the findings from this study to help them investigate how baboons' foraging behaviour is affected by changes in the environment, and the impact this will have on socially foraging species in the future.

—SIMON LEVEY, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

See a video of the baboons sleeping and grooming at: <http://bit.ly/baboon1>

Mollusc missing link revealed in 3D

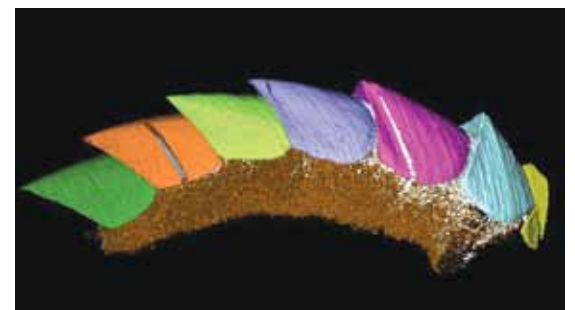
Scientists have discovered a rare fossil called *Kulindroplax*, the missing link between two mollusc groups, which is revealed in a 3D computer model, in research published on 3 October in the journal *Nature*.

The researchers have unearthed the worm-like partly shelled *Kulindroplax*, which they have modelled in a 3D computer animation. *Kulindroplax* lived in the sea during the Silurian Period, approximately 425 million years ago, when most life lived in the oceans and the first plants were beginning to grow on land. The team found the *Kulindroplax* fossil, the only one of its kind in the world, in the Welsh borderland, and it is providing the evolutionary missing link between two groups of molluscs and shedding more light on their early origins.

The study was led by Dr Mark Sutton (Earth Science and Engineering), in conjunction with researchers from the Universities of Oxford, Leicester, Yale and Queen's University Belfast.

Dr Sutton says: “Most people don't realise that molluscs, which have been around for hundreds of millions of years, are an extremely rich and diverse branch of life on Earth.

“Unearthing [the] *Kulindroplax* fossil is helping us to understand...how molluscs have evolved”



See the *Kulindroplax* in full 3D: <http://bit.ly/mollusc1>

Just as tracing a long lost uncle is important for developing a more complete family tree, unearthing this extremely rare and ancient *Kulindroplax* fossil is helping us to understand the relationship between two mollusc groups, which is also helping us to understand how molluscs have evolved.”

In order to develop 3D animation, the team cut the *Kulindroplax* fossil into 1,300 slices, taking digital images of each one, which were fed into a computer. The researchers in the study say this method provides unprecedented

detail from the fossils.

—COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Inequalities in HPV vaccine uptake

New research shows that delivery of the national human papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation programme differs vastly across the UK, revealing local health inequalities with regard to cervical cancer risk. Some areas are achieving a high vaccination rate due to the excellent work of school nurses to target all key audiences, but coverage in other areas is less comprehensive.

The research, published in the journal *PLOS ONE* on 13 September, explores the reasons why some young women haven't received the routine HPV vaccination, challenging previously held conceptions about the importance of ethnicity and religion in uptake rates.

Routine HPV immunisation of girls aged 12–13 years started in September 2008 in the UK, with the aim of preventing cervical cancer.

According to a survey of school nurses, young women's social class and educational status were the most important factors in whether vaccination would be missed, rather than religious beliefs or ethnicity which previous research identified. The authors highlighted the need for health professionals and their managers to closely monitor HPV vaccine uptake in order to understand and eradicate inequalities in the programme.

The study was authored by Dr Tammy Boyce and Professor Alison Holmes (Medicine). "There's no question that the UK national HPV immunisation programme is one of the most successful in the world, but this research has highlighted thousands of young women who have either not been offered the vaccine or where more could have been done to increase uptake," Dr Boyce said. "What's more, there is a group of young women in certain social classes or who do not regularly attend school that could be vulnerable in terms of HPV risk."

—ADAPTED FROM A NEWS RELEASE ISSUED BY SANOFI PASTEUR MSD



Free bus passes have health benefit

Free bus passes for over-60s may be encouraging older people to be more physically active, say the authors of a study published on 20 September in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Imperial researchers reached their conclusion by analysing four years of data from the UK National Travel Survey. They found that people with a bus pass are more likely to walk frequently and undertake more 'active travel' – defined as walking, cycling or using public transport.

Keeping physically active helps to maintain mental well-being, mobility and muscle strength in older people and reduces their risk of cardiovascular disease, falls and fractures. Previous research has shown that 15 minutes of moderate daily exercise is associated with a 12 per cent lower risk of death in people over 60.

"Given the need to encourage older people to be physically active, it's good news that the provision of free bus passes seems to be having a positive impact," said Honorary Research Fellow Sophie Coronini-Cronberg (Public Health), who led the study.

Free bus passes were made available for everyone aged 60 or over in England in 2006 entitling holders to free local bus travel after 09.30 on weekdays and all day on weekends and public holidays. Pressure on public spending has led to proposals for the scheme, which costs £1.1 billion a year, to be scrapped or for bus passes to be means tested.

"Before the government looks at reforming the scheme, they should make sure we understand its value to society. We would welcome more research in this area, such as a detailed cost analysis to establish whether the scheme represents good value for money."

—SAM WONG, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

How to prevent chronic diseases



Non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and heart disease, can be prevented on a large scale through a range of policy measures, conclude Imperial researchers in a review published in the journal *Science* on 21 September.

The paper brings together evidence from studies of populations and individuals of actions that can be taken to modify disease risk factors. The approaches identified include tobacco and alcohol control through taxes and regulation; reducing dietary risk factors such as high salt and unhealthy fats through pricing, regulation and education; improving availability of fresh fruit and vegetables; and implementing a universal and equitable primary healthcare system.

"We can have large impacts on mortality from a number of non-communicable diseases"

The major chronic diseases – cancer, heart disease, lung disease and diabetes – account for around two thirds of deaths globally – around 35 million deaths per year. Over 80 per cent of these deaths are in developing countries.

"There are treatments for some of these diseases but there are some for which we don't have good treatments," said lead author Professor Majid Ezzati (Public Health). "Even when we have good treatments, for the majority of the world's population, they're unaffordable. So the

only way to reduce their burden is to focus on prevention.

"When we take everything we've learned in the past few decades about the role of specific risk factors and how they have affected disease patterns in populations over time, we can say quite confidently that with a number of doable steps, we can have really large impacts on mortality from a number of non-communicable diseases. We have taken these in some places but there is a lot more to be done."

—SAM WONG, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Hear an interview with Professor Ezzati: <http://bit.ly/Ezzati>



Great expectations

As the new term kicks off, a fresh cohort of undergraduates joins Imperial; the first students to begin their degree courses in an era of higher fees. With student experience consequently high on the education sector's agenda, and the media giving added emphasis to the results of the National Student Survey (NSS), *Reporter* finds out how departments across the College are listening to student views and enhancing their learning experience.

Setting the agenda in Aeronautics

In this year's NSS, the Department of Aeronautics gained an increase in overall satisfaction of 18 per cent, which is being seen as the outcome of a number of specific measures.

Departmental student representative for Aeronautics, Sam Lishak, who is in his fourth year, explains that the Department started reassessing the service it provided after discussing its performance in the 2011 NSS results at the Student-Staff Committee (SSC) meeting held at the start of the last academic year.

"Student satisfaction is a measure of how much students are enjoying their time at Imperial," says Sam. "If students feel like their needs aren't being catered for, they won't be as

enthusiastic as they'd otherwise be, and therefore they won't be motivated to learn."

The main issues highlighted during the meeting mostly related to coursework and feedback. "A lot of students weren't happy about just receiving a percentage mark for a piece of work that they put a lot of effort into, and felt that it should be outlined more clearly where they went wrong and how they could improve," explains Sam.

Dr Colin Cotter, Senior Tutor in the Department, reveals that one of the key issues to tackle was clearly communicating expectations to students. "Some of the issues students have raised include not always being sure of what they are expected to know, and how well they're doing. As well as ensuring feedback is timely and of a good quality, we have implemented a number of steps to ensure things are clear."

These include setting progress tests so that students have a better sense of how they are doing, together with giving them experience of sitting exams. Lecturers are also encouraged to share a list of learning outcomes at the end of lectures, so that students are clear about the essential points.

Sam says: "As averse as students are towards doing work, we mostly understand that

being forced to revise in detail the previous lectures midway through the year means that the following lectures will be easier to understand. Progress tests are a good reason to revise what you might not have understood, as nobody likes to receive bad marks!"

Representation of student opinion has also featured heavily among the initiatives the Department of Aeronautics has put in place. Departmental student representatives now have the opportunity to chair the Staff-Student Committee – allowing them to set the agenda.

"This means that the ensuing discussion will address the exact issues that the student has raised, leading to solutions more appropriate to the problem in hand," explains Sam. Representatives now also attend the departmental teaching committee, where issues relating to the curriculum and teaching are raised and, as an added benefit, they gain valuable experience and confidence of chairing meetings.

The Department is also introducing sections into staff meetings where lecturers present on their courses. "Taking this approach ensures that we can share experience and best practice," says Colin. "Colleagues are exploring quite a few innovative approaches; one in particular has taken to using a tablet to



draw out his equations. His lectures and his scribbles are all recorded simultaneously, so that students can play back both elements together after the lessons end.”

Reflecting on the NSS results, Colin adds: “Student satisfaction is a really important aim in our Department and we should always be driven by the need to improve for this sake alone, rather than being too focused on the NSS. It’s definitely useful, but it’s one of a number of measures we should be considering that include internal surveys and more direct student feedback from departmental representatives, personal tutors and lecturers.”

Building a community of physicists

The Department of Physics has also been working closely with its students to understand how to better the student experience. The Department saw increases across most NSS categories this year, including a 12 per cent improvement in assessment and

feedback. As well as improving student feedback processes, it is introducing a number of initiatives for the future.

Professor Danny Segal, Senior Tutor, says “We are a very big department and increasing a sense of community both between students and between undergraduates and academic staff is a priority for us.”

One of the schemes under development to tackle this is a restructuring of student year groups into classes of 20 students, each having specific teaching staff assigned for one to two years. The Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Angus MacKinnon, who has been leading this change, explains: “As things stand, students are grouped as a whole year or as a small tutorial group. We are hoping that the changes will engender a more effective sense of both community and continuity for students.”

Jonathan London, the student representative for the Department of Physics, is positive that these changes will really help students to feel a greater sense of belonging. “Students will now stay with the same group and with the tutor for a number of years. We hope to build on this and organise social events around the new class system to encourage students to hang around after class too.”

As well as the new class structure, the Department is also collaborating with the Physics Society on ‘Research Frontiers’ talks, in which undergraduate students can hear directly from the Department’s leading researchers about what they are working on. The idea is that this will encourage more participation and there will be refreshments afterwards, so that students can mingle with the academics and their research teams.

Incoming freshers will benefit from this new teaching system from January – allowing time to draw up timetables and for the new system to be bedded in.

In addition to the bigger project, Jonathan explains that he was really supportive of the College-wide initiative to bring in video equipment set up in the lecture theatres, so that students can use videos as revision tools during exam time. Jonathan pushed for the Department to get the equipment installed as early as possible and as a result lecture theatre one is now equipped with video recording equipment and more lecture theatres are set to follow in the coming year.

Jonathan hopes that new students will benefit from the changes, big and small. “At the moment the system can feel very much ‘sink or swim’ for students, but I really hope the structured learning and teaching system will mean there is more support and guidance for them, as they

will have one point of contact. I hope, as a result, their time at Imperial will be more enjoyable, less stressful and, essentially, that they become better physicists when they graduate.”

While there is clearly an appetite for change across the College and improvements have been made in terms of student satisfaction, there is more work to be done as President & Rector, Sir Keith O’Nions, says: “Some of the brightest and best students in the

world entrust their education and career possibilities to us, and deserve the very best we can offer. The mark of a truly world class institution is measured by what our graduates do after they leave and Imperial’s reputation lies in the hands of these future alumni and ambassadors for the College.”

—JOHN-PAUL JONES AND EMILY ROSS-JOANNOU, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

If your department has been implementing some innovative changes to enhance the student experience which you would like to share with the community please contact: reporter@imperial.ac.uk

“ We are a very big department and increasing a sense of community...is a priority for us”



Family dynamics

The red, blue and yellow branded room is bustling with movement as over 230 children hunt tirelessly for their parents in the crowded space. But these aren't toddlers who have lost their way in a supermarket – it is the annual 'mums and dads' night for Imperial medics, where freshers are allocated buddies from the older years to help them feel at home.

The buddy scheme was set up five years ago by Imperial College School of Medicine Union (ICSMU), formalising a tradition within Imperial clubs and societies where members in the older years take younger students under their wing.

"Students find it easy to build relationships with their peers," notes Student Services Manager Janette Shiel. "They can socialise with them and ask questions they wouldn't feel comfortable asking academic staff."

ICSMU President Shiv Vohra agrees: "Starting university can be a really daunting experience," he says. "It can feel like you are just another

face, so it is nice to know someone is looking out for you – even if you aren't officially related," he adds. Shiv was 'adopted' by his 'granddad' Andrew Peetamsingh. "Andrew has given me so much advice over the years and, if he ever saw me at an event, he'd always come over and buy me a drink. Now the whole of his medics family is really proud of him as he has become a doctor."

Unlike many universities where freshers are automatically allocated buddies, at Imperial the student-led scheme is completely voluntary. What started as an icebreaking activity for freshers is now fully embedded in medical school tradition and, this year, 75 per cent of new medics signed up to get a mum or dad.

Pastoral support

Mums and dads are allocated both by their course and their interests. ICSMU organises three separate schemes for undergraduates, postgraduates and those studying biomedical science. "The scheme works because our students are welcomed and supported in a more relaxed and informal way by their peers, which can be more effective than a formal approach," says Dr Mike Emerson, Senior

Tutor for years one and two in the Faculty of Medicine. "They also provide reassurance and answers to questions that academic and administrative staff don't always know, simply because they are going through or have gone through the same course."

ICSMU welfare officer Steve Tran highlights the pastoral benefits of the scheme during times of stress: "Having someone to tell you it is ok or provide you with a shoulder to cry on is incredibly important."

Shiv tells prospective students about the scheme at Open Day. "I think it is a unique selling point of our medical school, as freshers often struggle to interact with older years unless they have lectures together. As the mums and dads night is one of our first Welcome Week events in the Charing Cross Campus's Reynolds Bar, this culture is ingrained from the start," he adds.

At the event, all new mums, dads and 'children' get labels with their names on and they have to seek out their family members. As students progress in their medical degree they continue in the scheme and go onto adopt grandchildren and even great grandchildren. Often

entire families come down to the event to welcome their new children.

Although the scheme tends to appeal most to first years, the aim is to retain contact throughout medical school and beyond. "I started at Imperial in 2008," says Shiv, "and I am

“The scheme works because our students are welcomed and supported in a relaxed and informal way by their peers”

about to become a great granddad – I already have a few sons and a grandson and granddaughter!" Shiv explains that these connections can prove to be very useful as families often help each other to get research projects

over the summer

or jobs when they graduate. In addition to the initial welcome event, a lot of families take it upon themselves to organise barbeques, pub quizzes or banquets where the whole family gathers from years one to six. "How often you see each other really depends on the family dynamic," says Steve.

Inevitably not all pairings are successful but the scheme is flexible and students can change families or be 'adopted'. Steve was originally allocated a dad from the scuba diving club who wasn't as passionate as he was, so he didn't often attend. As a result, Steve was 'adopted' by another medic in the club called Jack Roberts, who is now in his final year. "Jack has always been there to answer any questions – from advice about coursework and where to live, to where I should get my hair cut!"

Back in the Reynolds Bar the newly united families are chatting away happily and, hopefully, starting to form what Shiv pinpoints as the ultimate aim of the scheme; relationships that last long after they leave the College.

—EMILY ROSS-JOANNOU,
COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

inside*

story

mini profile

Sir Tom Hughes-Hallett

Reporter speaks to Sir Tom Hughes-Hallett – the new Executive Chair of Imperial’s Institute of Global Health Innovation about receiving a knighthood, teaching hockey and tackling non-communicable diseases



these issues and that forming collaborations with clear action points is the way forward.

Can you describe your role?

My job is to support my colleagues in the Institute by building partnerships and raising awareness both internally and outside the College, and increasing our external funding. All of this will allow us to address key inequalities in healthcare globally through innovation. I will work closely with the Institute Chairman Lord Darzi and Deputy Chairman Professor Guang-Zhong Yang.

You’ve been involved in the health sector for a number of years now, most recently as CEO of Marie Curie Cancer Care. What are the major challenges for global health?

So many persist despite all the advances that have been made. I am particularly concerned about non-communicable diseases and the need to educate everyone to play a more active part in the management of their own well-being. I also believe that no single organisation can solve

How did you feel when you found out that you were going to receive a knighthood?

Humbled, honoured and excited but just so sad that my mother had died the previous year – she would have been unbearably proud!

Is this the first time you’ve worked at an academic institution?

I taught hockey, music and maths in a school in Zimbabwe when I was 21, but the real answer is yes – it is the first time. However, I have worked in partnership with many academic institutions and had ultimate responsibility for the Marie Curie Scientific Research Institute.

What are your impressions of Imperial so far?

I’ve had a wonderful welcome and feel excited, as there are endless opportunities to harness Imperial’s excellence for the benefit of healthcare inequalities globally.

—NEHA OKHANDIAR, INSTITUTE OF GLOBAL HEALTH INNOVATION

Open access in science

With Open Access Week 2012 taking place from 22–28 October across the world, Henry Rzepa, Professor of Computational Chemistry, discusses the importance of open access journals in science.

“Science journals have been with us a long time – one I’ve seen dates back to 1665 – and for most of that period they have served the community exceedingly well. But after almost 20 years of the internet, we are entitled to ask: is this 350-year-old model still fit for purpose? Is the (closed) subscription journal – almost 10,000 are related to chemistry alone – serving us well?

Indeed, can any individual scientist hope to spot the critical developments by simply scanning the tables of contents of a small number of journals relevant to their field and thus risk failing to spot pertinent events beyond that horizon? An alternative twenty-first century model sees the scientific article as part of a semantic web of interlinked data, information and

knowledge. Clever querying or mining of this web – by machines working 24/7, if need be – is the future.

Currently, there are no closed access journals that allow an individual anything remotely resembling such activity. Indeed, if the publisher detects attempts to do so, the culprit or their institute will be disbarred from further access. So to learn how to construct, query and use the body of the world’s scientific information in this

way, we must have open access to its containers, the journals. We also have to recast ‘the article’ to render it fit for this purpose. One route is via semantically and data-rich ‘datuments’ [hyperdocuments for transmitting and preserving the complete content of a piece of scientific

work]; another is increasing use of the open data repository. There are many other interesting ways of rethinking the entire process of communicating our science – visit <http://bit.ly/whitesides> to hear George Whitesides, Professor of Chemistry at Harvard, talk about his thoughts on this process.”

“There are many other interesting ways of rethinking the entire process of communicating our science”



Pegasus party

On 2 October, staff graduating from the Pegasus programme gathered at 170 Queen’s Gate to celebrate. Pegasus is a nine-month development course for level 3 staff run by the Talent Development team. Eighty staff members have participated in the programme since May 2011. For more on the scheme visit: www.imperial.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/talentdevelopment/pegasus

Imperial ironman



On 16 September, PhD student Ned Yoxall (Physics) completed the Ironman Wales event, which took place in Tenby, Pembrokeshire. An Ironman is a long distance triathlon in which participants start with a 2.4-mile sea swim, followed by a 112-mile cycle, before finishing off with a marathon – a 26.2-mile run – all of which have to be completed within 17 hours. Ned took on the challenge to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. He reports on his experience:

“I was galvanised into doing some fundraising when my cousin, who has Cystic Fibrosis, was put on the lung transplant list last autumn. An Ironman is one of those things that just seems completely ludicrous – surely it wasn’t possible, all in one day? But I wanted to do something big enough to attract sponsorship and, the more I looked into the practicalities of training for the event, the more I realised that you didn’t have to be a super athlete to finish. The key was in the training. For nearly eight months I’ve been swimming, cycling and running for anywhere between 10–20 hours a week, so by the time the big day came around, it felt like the tip of the iceberg. If anything, I was just glad that I wouldn’t have to be up at 06.00 on the weekend ever again! Things passed off mostly without a hitch, barring a trio of punctures and some stomach problems on the run, and I was delighted to finish in 13 hours 45 minutes.”

To support Ned visit:
www.justgiving.com/nedsironman



A battle of hands

On 5 October, a group of animated freshers gathered under the Queen’s Tower at South Kensington Campus to join serious competition in the playground game Rock, Paper, Scissors, organised by Sport Imperial.

“It’s not the sort of thing I expected to take part in,” admits fresher Prashanth Sundar Kalaiselvan (Chemical Engineering), pictured right. “But, despite being quite random, it’s actually been great fun and I’ve been able to meet a good few new people through taking them on,” he adds. The activity took place on Friday of Welcome Week, during which the College greeted 5,000 new undergraduate and postgraduates.

Alumni memories

From the married couple who studied at Imperial during the Second World War to the former student leading the way for female engineers in the Texan oil industry, alumni of the last seven decades gathered in cities across the United States last month to attend receptions hosted by President & Rector Sir Keith O’Nions.

Before the events organised by the Communications and Development Division took place, alumni were invited to send in photographs from their time at the College.

Drs Edna and Terrence Dancy (BSc Chemistry 1945)

The Dancys (pictured right), who attended the College in the mid 1940s, made arrangements to stay with family so that they could attend the second reception of the trip, which was held at the British Consulate in Boston on 14 September. During the reception Terrence

shared some of his memories of the College:

“We were at the College in the wartime years but it was surprising what normal lives we could live. In spring 1945, when we took our final exams, it was the first day of the flying bombs. We started off in a glass-windowed conference room and had to keep moving to safer places, eventually ending up sitting the exams in the basement! My diary from the period had one entry which read: ‘Forty-five flying bombs in the night. Got up early and went rowing!’ I was also in the Home Guard, so spent some time on the roof of Harrods keeping an eye out for flying bombs.”

Edna added: “With all this going on we still had fun, it was our parents that did the worrying. Given the circumstances it was amazing we learnt anything. But we did, and we also made a real strong community of friends, and of course we got married and have been for 65 years!”

To see pictures from the receptions visit:
www.bit.ly/Bostonphotos





INVENTOR'S CORNER

Earth detection

Nikhil Shah (Earth Science and Engineering) is a final year PhD student leading significant research as part of the Full Waveform Inversion (FWI) group. FWI is a mathematical procedure that, when applied to seismic data, produces a precise model of a section of the Earth's subsurface several kilometres deep; a valuable technique for oil companies identifying drilling targets.

What is the aim of your research?

We want to validate the FWI model and have specifically targeted the problem of reliability. FWI is a complicated mathematical procedure that, when applied in a variable, real world context, can be compromised and lead the model in a spurious direction. So we came up with a solution and have proved its effectiveness on the Tommeliten oil field in the North Sea. Our results show a much higher resolution model of the field, revealing geological structures that were previously unidentified.

“We can better pinpoint structures for oil extraction and drill fewer dry wells”

What are the benefits?

Improved accuracy and robustness means we can better pinpoint structures for oil extraction and drill fewer dry wells. This results in less damage to the Earth while still making the most of its resources. Individual wells can cost tens of millions of dollars so we are making a substantial saving.

How do you intend to develop this?

FWI builds from a previous, best-available model of the Earth or a 'starting model'. The challenge

for companies wanting to find more oil in less well-explored basins is that these areas lack an accurate starting model so FWI is led astray. We have incorporated

a data-processing step into FWI, which reduces the need for such accuracy, thus widening FWI applicability. Our group is sponsored by several major oil companies want to use our findings to gain a competitive edge within their business.

—KAILEY NOLAN, IMPERIAL INNOVATIONS



Final hurrah

On 6 September the Centre for Integrative Mammalian Physiology and Pharmacology (CIMPP) held its final seminar. PhD student Eleanor Browne (Medicine) reports:

“The Centre for Integrative Mammalian Physiology and Pharmacology is closing so we had our final seminar last week. The CIMPP was a fantastic flagship centre which successfully trained a new generation of *in vivo* scientists. Excellent speakers left us full of determination to succeed and progress with our crucial research, and the feeling that, though it marked the end of the Centre, it is only the beginning for its members.

The seminar was attended by Tom Holder, co-founder of the Pro-Test movement that began in 2006 to counterbalance the arguments of animal rights extremists and catalysed the PR revolution occurring in animal research. He inspired and encouraged us all join him and speak openly about the vital role of our research in medical advances. Dr Evan Harris, the Liberal Democrat politician, gave us an amusing introduction to navigating Westminster corridors through the murk of the media, and highlighted the importance of understanding policy making to support scientific progress.

A fantastic cake baked by PhD student, Katherine Banks, was much enjoyed by all to celebrate the achievements of CIMPP, and also to wish Professor Julia Buckingham, former Pro Rector (Education and Academic Affairs) and Research Administrator Elaine Snell every success in their new posts.”

“Though it marked the end of the Centre, it is only the beginning for its members”

VOX POP

What are your impressions of Welcome Week?



“I’ve have hardly been in my new room at all since I arrived – it feels like I’ve been here much longer than two days. It has been crazy busy with all the fun activities planned by the Union. I’ve signed up for loads of clubs and societies. I’m not sure I’ll have time to actually do everything once my classes start but I’ll definitely be sticking

with the music and sports clubs.”
RIJUL BOHRA, FIRST YEAR MBBS (MEDICINE)



“It’s the first time I’ve been to England and I’m determined to make the most of every minute. Everything seems really cool here and there is so much to get involved with. I’ve signed up for scuba diving, as I’ve never done it before, as well as a society called Target Jobs that helps you to get in touch with potential

employers, which I think will be really useful.”
POOJA GULABANI, MSC MANAGEMENT (BUSINESS SCHOOL)



“The Department of Life Sciences put us in touch through their Facebook group before we’d even started – it’s been really nice knowing someone from the beginning! There are so many societies to choose from but so far we’ve signed up for cheerleading, the cheese society and pole dancing!”

L-R: GRACE CHARLESWORTH AND LAURA PALMER, BOTH BSC BIOLOGY (LIFE SCIENCES)

obituaries



WENDY SURRIDGE

Wendy Surridge, who died of cancer on 1 July, was one of the founding members of the College's planning department. Dr Rodney Eastwood, a President & Rector's Envoy, pays tribute:

"Wendy was an admirable colleague and friend to many. She brought common sense and warmth to many an occasion.

Wendy joined the Planning Unit from Surrey County Council in April 1986 to provide statistical expertise. At a time when data about the College was not employed to inform many decisions and performance indicators were unknown, she and Barry Gooch, her manager, began to organise and publish a wide range of statistical information in a series which continues to this day. Wendy became the source of information for a variety of queries from across the College. Data interpretation was only one of her strengths and after being promoted to Planning Officer in October 1990, she was appointed as Deputy Secretary of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) in September 1992, becoming its Secretary in 1996. She maintained links with Imperial by commissioning finance, HR and student computing services from the College for LSHTM.

At LSHTM she was responsible for overseeing the expansion of its estate in Keppel Street and the purchase of property in Tavistock Place. She served as chair of the London Universities Purchasing Consortium from 2008–11 and was active in the University of London's Bloomsbury group of colleges. Wendy is survived by her husband."



ALLAN LARSON

Allan Larson, former bartender at the College, died on 22 July 2012. Roger Pownall (Catering) pays tribute to his former colleague:

"Allan was born in New York and after national service in Germany, he came to Imperial in October 1971 and began working under Brendan Clements in the Union Bar. In those days the Union Bar was part of Refectory Services under Victor Mooney's overall management. Allan took over the running of College Block (Sherfield) Bar in 1972 – a job which also entailed running bars for dinners, conferences and exhibitions. At this time, College Block Bar was very popular and was the focal point for admin staff to meet at lunch-time. During the late 1970s and 1980s the Holland Club was redeveloped and, as a result, Sherfield Bar was closed and Allan became based in Southside Bar until his retirement in September 2005.

Allan was a well-known figure around campus during his time at Imperial. He employed hundreds of students to work for him on a part-time basis and many of these would return to College in later life to see him. Indeed, there were many ex-students and staff at his bedside during the weeks of his final illness. Allan was larger than life in many ways and will be sadly missed.

There will be an evening to share memories of Allan's life in the Holland Club on Tuesday 16 October from around 18.00 and anyone who wishes to attend is invited to do so. We are also encouraging people to email memories and photos for display on the night: these can be submitted via r.pownall@imperial.ac.uk."

"Allan was larger than life in many ways and will be sadly missed"



All aboard!

On 5 September, seven members of the Department of Physics – Stephen Cussell, Martin Pettifer, Jon Dyne, Dr Joseph Cotter, Martin Kehoe, Giovanni Marinaro and Stephen Maine set sail on the Solent to compete in an annual regatta on a J109 sailing boat. The crew, which was made up of novices, apart from Stephen Maine who owns the boat, came ninth out of 60 yachts. The event was held by manufacturer PolyPipe.

long service

Staff featured in this column have given many years of service to the College. Staff listed below celebrate anniversaries during the period 1 August–2 October. The data is supplied by HR and is correct at the time of going to press.

20 years

- Professor Andrew Parry, Head of AMMP Section, Mathematics
- Professor Henrik Jensen, Professor of Mathematical Physics, Research in Complex Systems, Mathematics
- Dr Richard Harbottle, Research Fellow, NHLI
- Professor Arkady Tseytlin, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Physics

30 years

- Professor Tejinder Virdee, Professor of Physics, Physics
- Professor Angus MacKinnon, Professor of Physics, Physics
- Professor Stephen Franks, Clinical Professor of Reproductive Biology, Surgery and Cancer
- Professor Dimitri Vvedensky, Professor of Physics, Physics
- Emeritus Professor Bruce Joyce, Senior Research Investigator, Physics
- Emeritus Professor Keith Barnham, Senior Research Investigator, Physics

40 years

- Mr David Clark, Technician, Physics
- Professor Jeff Cash, Professor of Numerical Analysis, Mathematics

The art of performance

Director of Safety and photography enthusiast Ian Gillett (Health and Safety Services) is often to be seen armed with a digital camera at College events. Ian's recent photography exhibition in the Blyth Gallery, *Art of performance*, featured musical performances from staff and students around the College. Ian speaks to Caroline Prew (Communications and Development), about a few of his favourite photos from the exhibition:



1 "I had to time this shot just right to get the moment of eye contact between Lord Winston (Humanities), who was reading an excerpt from *Peter and the Wolf*, and Director of Music Richard Dickens, who was ready to cue the orchestra."

2 "This shot of a member of the Coldstream Guards playing alongside a student musician from Imperial College Symphony Orchestra was challenging because I wanted to get both players in sharp focus to give them equal balance in the photo. This required exactly the right depth of field, and a very good quality lens."

3 "Here is the Imperial College Choir in full flow. In a concert situation, I try to be as unobtrusive as possible and stay at the back with a long lens, so that I don't interrupt the performance with clicks from my camera."

Welcome new starters

Dr Paolo Actis, Medicine
 Dr Nasir Adeli, Physics
 Mr Kobir Ahmed, Occupational Health
 Dr Alexandra Alves Duarte, Chemistry
 Mr Nabil Asif, ICT
 Miss Oluyomi Awofeso, Life Sciences
 Mrs Alexandra Baines, Faculty of Medicine
 Miss Maria Barletta, Clinical Sciences
 Dr Daniel Bedingham, Physics
 Mr Tom Bernert, Human Resources
 Dr Andrew Bradley, Life Sciences
 Miss Rosaline Breen, Catering
 Dr Diana Brickute, Surgery and Cancer
 Dr John Britnell, Mathematics
 Ms Alice Burrell, NHLI
 Mrs Meriel Cartwright, Faculty of Medicine
 Mrs Anabela Carvalho Afonso Pocas, Catering
 Miss Nastassya Chandra, Public Health
 Mrs Valentina Cimaroli, Environmental Policy
 Dr Edward Cohen, Mathematics
 Dr Anna Collinson, Surgery and Cancer
 Miss Nicola Combe, Faculty of Engineering
 Dr Shahrzad Connolly, Faculty of Medicine
 Dr Carlos Correia Braga, Chemical Engineering
 Dr Paula Cunnea, Surgery and Cancer
 Miss Sydney Cunningham, Faculty of Natural Sciences
 Dr Lefteris Danos, Materials
 Mrs Gurvinder Daul, Catering
 Ms Lien De Cuyper, Business School
 Mrs Senem Dinc Aldemir, Catering
 Mrs Margarita Dzhurova-Koleva, Catering
 Mr Frank Eagles, Faculty of Medicine
 Mrs Julia Easton, Faculty of Natural Sciences
 Dr Sophie Eastwood, NHLI
 Dr Aaron Elkins, Computing
 Mr Christopher Ente, Faculty of Medicine
 Dr John Estes, Physics
 Mr Robert Ferguson, Bioengineering
 Mr Joseph Fryer, Public Health
 Dr Raffaella Gadaleta, Surgery and Cancer
 Dr Deniz Gunduz, EEE
 Miss Ishwori Gurung, Medicine
 Dr Leticia Gutierrez Galve, Medicine
 Mrs Elizabeth Hansford, Life Sciences
 Mr Amos How, Research Office
 Miss Amy Hylands, EYEC
 Ms Hannah Isherwood, Medicine
 Mr Aasim Jilani, Catering
 Dr Shiva Keihaninejad, Business School
 Miss Ioanna Ketsopoulou, Faculty of Engineering
 Dr Sarah Knowles, Public Health
 Mr James Knox, Graduate Schools
 Dr Mirko Kovac, Aeronautics
 Mr Karl Lawrence, NHLI
 Ms Eleanor Lee, Business School

Dr Benjamin Lehne, Public Health
 Dr Claire Lentaigne, Medicine
 Miss Raluca Leonte, Chemical Engineering
 Dr Xinjie Liu, Mechanical Engineering
 Dr Maria Martinez Herves, Medicine
 Mr Cephas Masaba, Catering
 Mr Richard Mathie, Chemical Engineering
 Ms Maria Mazon Moya, Medicine
 Mr Brendan McAtarsney, Medicine
 Miss Britannia McLeod, Sport and Leisure
 Ms Orla McMahon, NHLI
 Mr Graham Miles, Reactor Centre
 Mr Marco Mol, Life Sciences
 Miss Natalie Molyneaux, Catering
 Mr Keshava Murthy, EEE
 Dr Nikola Djikic, Life Sciences
 Mrs Ingrida Orinciene, Catering
 Miss Ausra Orvidaite, Catering
 Miss Laura O'Sullivan, Business School
 Miss Lydia Paniccia, NHLI
 Mr Francesco Pesce, NHLI
 Mr Robin Peters, Library
 Miss Carolina Picarra Cassona, Medicine
 Miss Kamila Polak, Catering
 Mrs Remya Prasannan, Medicine
 Dr Pramod Puthumanapully, Mechanical Engineering
 Ms Dace Radzina, Catering
 Ms Diane Rescigno, Surgery and Cancer
 Dr Milagros Ruiz Nishiky, Public Health
 Dr Caroline Sands, Surgery and Cancer
 Mr Marcelo Segura Lepe, Surgery and Cancer
 Dr Sudhakar Selvaraj, Clinical Sciences
 Ms Shaivali Shah, Public Health
 Dr Zara Shubber, Public Health
 Miss Helen Soedling, Medicine
 Ms Manveer Sroya, Surgery and Cancer
 Mr Benjamin Stanier, Surgery and Cancer
 Dr Mike Streule, ESE
 Miss Natasha Suri, Library
 Miss Amy Switzer, NHLI
 Dr Mattia Terenghi, Chemistry
 Mr Joel Thomas, Human Resources
 Mr Philip Tulip, Faculty of Medicine
 Mr Santanu Vasant, Human Resources
 Miss Suzanne Venables, NHLI
 Ms Anne-Laure Vieille, Humanities
 Ms Inkeri Voutilainen, Mathematics
 Dr Thanh Vu, Chemistry
 Dr Yuliya Vueva, Materials
 Ms Angela Whitehead, Humanities
 Dr Clare Wilson, Medicine
 Dr Yohannes Woldeamanuel, Surgery and Cancer
 Mr Keith Wolstenholme, Aeronautics
 Mrs Xian Yang, Computing
 Dr Angela Yulia, Surgery and Cancer

Farewell moving on

Mr David Abbott, Registry
 Mrs Shirley Adeyefa, Faculty of Natural Sciences
 Miss Janice Anastasia Layhadi, NHLI
 Dr Paul Booton, Public Health (7 years)
 Mr Andrew Bosman, Sport and Leisure
 Miss Lucy Brown, Surgery and Cancer
 Dr Qiong Cai, ESE (5 years)
 Dr Edmond Chan, Public Health
 Dr Ka Chan, Chemical Engineering (7 years)
 Mr Peter Collingbourne, Computing
 Dr Alexander Cowan, Chemistry
 Mr Frederick Diacon, Business School
 Dr Maria Dominguez Barrera, Medicine
 Dr Lydia Durant, NHLI
 Mr Xiuyi Fan, Computing
 Dr Robin Fortt, Surgery and Cancer
 Mr Matthew Fox, Clinical Sciences
 Dr Timothy Gatheral, NHLI
 Dr Ioannis Gousias, Clinical Sciences
 Dr Sofia Gueorgieva, Business School
 Miss Sally Hancock, Graduate School
 Miss Salma Haque, Surgery and Cancer
 Mrs Maria Healy, Business School
 Mr Mark Hession, Life Sciences
 Miss Sophie Hughes, Medicine
 Mrs Jennifer Jones, NHLI
 Dr Nachiket Kapre, EEE
 Dr Stefan Kneip, Physics (6 years)
 Dr Ching-Hsin Ku, NHLI
 Dr Simon Leather, Life Sciences (20 years)
 Dr Danguan Lei, Physics
 Miss Elizabeth Lemm, NHLI
 Miss Heather Lewtas, Physics
 Ms Laura Maher, Surgery and Cancer
 Dr Angels Mayordomo Aranda, Medicine
 Dr Eva McGuire, Materials
 Miss Carly Morris, Faculty of Medicine
 Dr Bao Nguyen, NHLI
 Miss Sandra Nwokeoha, Mechanical Engineering
 Dr Shireen Quli Khan, NHLI
 Mr James Robinson, Faculty of Medicine
 Miss Priscilla Ryder, Medicine
 Dr Juan Serrano Perez, Chemistry
 Mr Peter Stilwell, Medicine
 Dr Yukie Tanino, ESE
 Dr Anna Thompson, NHLI
 Mr Luis Urena Gonzalez, Medicine
 Mr Rui Vieira, Public Health (5 years)
 Dr Rosemary Wall, Humanities
 Dr Nan Wang, Public Health
 Mr Mark Weller, Catering
 Miss Jane Whitton, Public Health
 Miss Karen Wild, Occupational Health Service
 Mr Adrian Wong, ICT (9 years)
 Dr Zahida Zahoor, Surgery and Cancer

This data is supplied by HR and covers the period 3–25 September. This data was correct at the time of going to press.



19 OCTOBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

ESPRIT annual conference

The ESPRIT programme is an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and UK Sport-funded research programme aimed at developing and applying novel pervasive sensing technologies to improve the understanding of physiology and dynamics of

athletic performance in training and competitions, and to further extend the advances in sport towards technological transformation in healthcare, wellbeing and chronic disease management. Led by the Director of the Hamlyn Centre, Programme Professor Guang-Zhong Yang, the ESPRIT consortium organises the conference each year and this year's conference will be held at the Natural History Museum.



31 OCTOBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

The fuel of life

Each of us makes and uses 60 kg of fuel a day through biological processes such as eating and breathing, with the mitochondria inside our cells serve as biological 'power stations' and the energy for this process derived from

sunlight. In this lecture marking the naming of the Sir Ernst Chain Building – Wolfson Laboratory, Nobel laureate Professor Sir John Walker FRS discusses how defects in the fuel supply process are increasingly being recognised as important components in illnesses such as cancer and neuromuscular diseases, as well as the process of ageing.

take note

St Mary's Campus library refurbishment

St Mary's library is undergoing a complete refurbishment in order to improve services for users. The project is due to be completed in spring 2013. In the meantime, a temporary library service is located at the back of the Medical School building, open Monday to Friday 09.00–21.00, Saturday 13.30–17.00.

For further information and FAQs visit the library website www.imperial.ac.uk/library

12 OCTOBER ► SEMINAR

Spin caloritronics

Professor Gerrit Bauer, Tohoku University, Japan



22 OCTOBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

The changing shape of UK energy supply

Charles Hendry, Minister of State, DECC

24 OCTOBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

Heart regeneration – new research in gene and stem cell therapy

Café Scientifique

25 OCTOBER ► CONFERENCE

BHF Centre annual symposium

Presentations and talks



25 OCTOBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

Harmony in the universe: between science and music

Professor Jean-Philippe Uzan, Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris

25 OCTOBER ► SEMINAR

Robustness of the atmospheric circulation response to climate change

Professor Ted Shepherd, University of Reading

31 OCTOBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

Cyber safety in Europe's transport system

Professor Chris Johnson, University of Glasgow



31 OCTOBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

Imperial Business Insights

Martin Gilbert, Founder, Aberdeen Asset Management

1 NOVEMBER ► SEMINAR

Infection and immunity

Second Crick symposium



6 NOVEMBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

Metamaterials: new horizons in electromagnetism

Professor Sir John Pendry FRS (Physics)

6 NOVEMBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

Fair society, healthy lives

Professor Sir Michael Marmot, UCL

17 OCTOBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

Defining the legal and ethical boundaries of the cyber frontier

The Hon. Michael Chertoff, Ex-Secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security

18 OCTOBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

Now is our time to inspire a generation

Vincent de Rivaz, Chief Executive, EDF Energy

19 OCTOBER ► PUBLIC LECTURE

Imperial business insights

Dinesh Dhamija, former CEO of Ebooks.com



MEET THE READER



Gosia Gayer, Institute Administrator (Grantham Institute)

What are you doing in the picture?

I'm standing outside the Polish Club, *Ognisko Polskie*, opposite the Main Entrance on Exhibition Road, which has just been saved from sale. The club provides a social space for the local Polish community and this will continue alongside the plans of the Jagiellonian University, who aim to turn it into a Polish cultural, educational and research centre, and increase academic links with their closest neighbour – Imperial.

What would you do if you were editor of Reporter for a day?

I'd take Imperial researchers and students for a visit to the club for one of its literary lunches featuring guest speakers and I'd report on their experiences.

Who would be your cover star?

I'd gather all the Polish researchers at the College for a photoshoot.

The Club is holding a conference called 'Knights of freedom: Polish researchers in Great Britain' on 14 October. If you are interested in attending, contact: g.gayer@imperial.ac.uk

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