DEGREES OF SUCCESS
a look behind the scenes at graduation

inside this issue...
Where old meets new
The redevelopment of Central Park, p8

It's all in the planning
How the University’s degree ceremonies happen, p12

The price of education
Reactions to cuts in higher education funding and planned tuition fees increases, p17
Thumbs up for Loughborough

In the 2010 National Student Survey, published in August, 89% of Loughborough’s undergraduate students, compared with a national average of 82%, said they were satisfied overall with their course. Students are asked to rate their satisfaction with a range of aspects of their degree programme, including the teaching, assessment and feedback from lecturers, the support provided and the learning resources available, as well as their overall satisfaction.

Loughborough achieved a response rate of 76% to the survey, considerably higher than the national average of 63.1%.

Sunday Times Guide

Loughborough is unquestionably one of the leading universities in Britain, according to The Sunday Times University Guide 2011, which was published in September.

In this year’s overall league table, Loughborough was placed 16th in the UK and ranked behind only Oxford for student satisfaction. Loughborough was also highlighted as having just a 4% dropout rate compared with the benchmark of 12%.

The Sunday Times University Guide provides profiles of all the UK’s higher education institutions, as well as the league table, which is compiled using eight criteria – student satisfaction, research quality, academic peer review, entrance qualifications, degree results achieved, student/staff ratios, graduate employment levels and university dropout rates.

Energy savings

Between May and July, the University used 4% less energy than during the same period the previous year. This equates to a saving of 124 tonnes of carbon and a financial saving £1,806 in running costs.

And over the August Bank Holiday, the campus used almost 7.5% less energy, saving £1,806 in just four days.

There are now over 250 environmental champions in departments and sections right across the campus, but there are still areas that don’t have a champion. If you’d like to spread the word about environmental issues and help to make the It’s Better OFF campaign even bigger and better, contact the sustainability team at environment@lboro.ac.uk

Picture this

As part of National Science and Engineering Week, the Faculty of Engineering organised a photography competition for both primary and secondary school children. Their challenge was to produce a photo that captures the impact engineering has on the world.

George Lamb won first place in the 7 to 11 age group and was named overall competition winner.

The other award winners were:
- James Siddel and Ewan McDonald (7-11 years)
- Hannah Greenwood-Brown, Hannah Bristow and Fay Cross (12-14 years)
- Steven Brailthwaite and Richard Cuddington (15+ years)

The top three entries in each age category were displayed at the University during the East Midlands Regional Big Bang event in July, which aims to ignite young people’s interest in science, technology, engineering and maths.

Structure of the University

Management Board, chaired by the Vice Chancellor, to manage the implementation process, with a number of working groups set up to look at the following specific areas - teaching and learning, research, enterprise, infrastructural support, academic governance, human resources, and communication.

The move to Schools will help the University to establish a structure that is as robust as possible to the significant reductions in income that it must expect as a consequence of the Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review, which was announced on 20 October.

The move will also ensure that as much resource as possible is kept at the centre of the University’s teaching, research and enterprise.

A website has now been established to ensure staff have access to the most up-to-date information – go to www.lboro.ac.uk/universitystructure.

Information will also be provided via the Vice Chancellor’s e-newsletter, staff briefings and future copies of newsletters.

Universities That Count

Loughborough was one of the five most improved universities in the latest Universities That Count (UTC) survey, which assesses the extent to which environmental and social issues are integrated into the University’s culture.

Loughborough rose 14 percentage points in the UTC survey and was awarded a Bronze UTC Standard.

It also scored more than 75%, and therefore achieved an ‘Excellent’ rating, in two areas of its activity – Biodiversity, and Public and Community Engagement.

The Biodiversity indicator takes into account the management and enhancement of habitat, wildlife, flora and fauna on the campus, including the two ancient woodland areas.

The Public and Community Engagement measure considers how the University and the community share knowledge, expertise and skills to build trust, understanding and collaboration.

Jo Hasbury, the University’s sustainability manager, said: “To have shown such improvement is tremendous and reflects the University’s commitment right across the board to sustainability and social responsibility. We are particularly pleased to have rated so highly in the Community Engagement and Biodiversity indicators.

“We achieved 100% in three of the five criteria for the Biodiversity indicator, which is a good indication that our Biodiversity action plan is starting to show real results.

“For instance, staff, students and local residents are all involved in managing the two areas of woodland the University has on its campus – a perfect example of the community working together for the sake of Loughborough’s biodiversity.”

Materials moves

The Department of Materials has moved from the Faculty of Science to the Faculty of Engineering for 2010-11. The move has been made for operational reasons to assist the transition to the School structure, which will take place in August next year.

Planes, trains and automobiles (well, almost!)

During the spring the University asked staff and students to take part in a travel survey, to find out how they get to the campus and whether they would consider alternative means.

Just over 61% of staff and almost 7% of students responded.

Of the staff who took part 67% travel to the University by car, 14% walk, 11% cycle and 6% use public transport. Fifty one percent of them live within five miles of the campus.

Over 20% said they would consider cycling to work and 10% would consider walking. Sixty three percent knew about the University’s Lithosphere scheme, but disappointingly only 8% are members.

Eighty three percent of students who responded either walked or cycled to campus; 24% have cars and 40% of them admitted to parking on campus without a permit.

“The survey showed that there’s generally strong support for better cycle facilities on campus,” said Jenny Turner from Facilities Management’s Sustainability team.

“There is a lack of effective feedback we received the frequency of the cross-campus bus service was increased during summer, which has been a success.

“We want to encourage as many people as possible to ditch their cars whenever they can and to walk, cycle or get the bus!”

The full report from the survey is available at www.lboro.ac.uk/sustainability/travelplan.html.

The results will feed into the University’s Travel Plan which is currently being updated.

Elliot Brown, a new member of staff in the Sustainability team, will be helping to develop this.
Record breaker!
Loughborough Students’ Union Rag raised over £1 million for local and national charities in 2009-10, cementing their status as the best student fundraising organisation in the country.

As part of their campaign, the students raised over £50,000 for charities that support the British Armed Forces, for which they received the Community Group award for the Midlands region in the Royal British Legion’s inaugural Friends of the Forces Awards. They were also shortlisted for the national Community Group Award.

Their phenomenal achievements even drew praise during Prime Minister’s Questions in the House of Commons, with the Prime Minister, David Cameron, commenting: “Sometimes students can get a bad press for what they do, but we can see from the example in Loughborough that they have been focused on doing things for other people and raising money for charity. They should be congratulated.”

Sick of the new envelope – the technical name for the balloon’s inflatable bag – has been donated to the Union by the University. Its purchase was supported by Loughborough University Development Trust, which raises funds from former students and other friends of the University.

Current and former Loughborough students, along with a number of University staff, enjoyed the balloon’s maiden flight over the town and surrounding Leicestershire countryside.

The new ‘envelope’ – the technical name for the balloon’s inflatable bag – has been donated to the Union by the University. Its purchase was supported by Loughborough University Development Trust, which raises funds from former students and other friends of the University.

Loughborough’s club is one of just four university hot air ballooning clubs in the UK and has been flying for over twenty years.

Over that period its previous envelope had deteriorated, meaning the club wasn’t able to fly for over twenty years.

Led by Loughborough graduate and former 5,000m world record holder David Moorcroft, OBE, the 13-strong team of staff, research students and alumni undertook the challenge in support of Loughborough’s Dean of Engineering, Steve Rothberg, who is undergoing treatment for leukaemia.

Their charity run followed a highly successful donor drive for Anthony Nolan at the University in May, which attracted the greatest number of recruits from any UK university to date. Thankfully a bone marrow donor was found for Steve and he has now had his transplant. However, there are still 1,400 adults and children in the UK and 16,000 people worldwide in need of a bone marrow transplant.

Vice Chancellor Professor Shirley Pearce said: “This is such a worthy cause that has a personal meaning to so many of us at Loughborough, as a consequence of Steve Rothberg’s engagement with the Trust, and it is great to see such support from across the University, including our alumni network.”

The Round Leicester Relay takes in some of the county’s landmarks such as the Iron Age fort at Burleigh Hill, Bosworth Battlefield, Bradgate Park and Beacon Hill.

The Sweat for Steve campaign raised around £5,500.

Sickness absence procedure
The University’s Sickness Absence Policy and Procedure has recently been reviewed.

It applies to all employees of the University, regardless of contact type or duration, other than those employed on an irregular short-term basis, and has been developed to ensure that sickness absence is dealt with fairly, sympathetically and effectively.

Copies can be downloaded from the Human Resources web pages.

Staff business travel
If you’re planning a business trip, it’s quickest and easiest to use the appointed travel management companies to make all the arrangements.

Booking through a travel management company brings benefits, such as up to a day’s free hotel stay, and you book direct with airlines, train operators or hotels.

Full details of all the benefits are available in the online purchasing catalogue link at www.lboro.ac.uk/service/purchasing/
New Postgrad Prospectus

Keep your eyes peeled for the new 2011 Postgraduate Prospectus, which is now being distributed to departments across campus.

This edition features 139 postgraduate taught programmes and a wide variety of research options. In total 23,000 copies have been printed, on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources, for distribution on request to over 100 countries worldwide.

The Prospectus took over four months to produce and involved over 30 members of staff from both academic and service departments. The Marketing and Communications team would like to thank all the staff and students who contributed to the publication.

This year’s online Prospectus is also bigger and better than ever, featuring interactive content for the first time, as well as additional information to that in the print edition.

The online version of the Prospectus can be viewed at www.lboro.ac.uk/prospectus/pg and additional hard copies are available by contacting Karen Roxborough, T: 222186, E: K.R.Roxborough@lboro.ac.uk.

As part of ongoing developments with the University brand, a new template for department brochures has also been developed to reflect the latest Undergraduate and Postgraduate Prospectus designs. The template has been designed to help make the Loughborough brand identity and is available to all departments for their programme and department brochures.

If you go down to the woods today...

Well, on 1 December actually, when there will be a conservation event between 12 noon and 4 pm in the University’s ancient woodlands as part of National Tree Planting week. Volunteers are needed so if you fancy getting involved email environment@lboro.ac.uk.

Another campus-led walk in the woods is also planned. Further details will be made available on the online staff noticeboard but if you can’t wait that long you can book your place by emailing environment@lboro.ac.uk.

On Yer Bike!

If you fancy using pedal power to get to work, why not apply for the On Yer Bike scheme? You can hire a bike from the on-campus cycle shop CoGz for a period of 18 months via instalments deducted from your salary each month. At the end you have the option to purchase the bike for a small fee.

On yer bike scheme can now be submitted throughout the year. More information is available at www.lboro.ac.uk/sustainability/travel/cycling/cycle2work.html.

Stonewall report

Loughborough is one of the most gay-friendly universities in the UK, according to a new guide published by Stonewall – the lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) charity.

Gay By Degree is aimed at lesbian, gay and bisexual 18- and 19-years-olds who are choosing which university to study at. It provides a ten point checklist that Stonewall recommends every university should meet to recruit and retain the very best gay students and staff.

Loughborough University currently meets nine of the ten criteria, which include having an LGB staff network and compulsory staff training on LGB issues, and is working hard towards meeting the tenth criteria – becoming a Stonewall Diversity Champion – in time for the publication of the next guide.

Jo’s ‘other life’

Many people on campus will know Jo Hasbury as the University’s Sustainability Manager. But few perhaps will realise that she has another role – as Loughborough Data Link Institute University College in Ghana!

Data Link Institute University College was founded in 1993 out of the Data Link Company Ltd, a charitable education enterprise that sourced educational resources from all over the world to help develop education in Ghana.

Jo’s association with the charity began back in 1999 when she worked at the University of Derby.

“I was approached by the founder of the charity, Emerit Amah,” Jo explains. “I decided to get involved because I was so touched by their mission to improve people’s access to education and welcomed the opportunity to turn our waste into their education.”

Jo’s quest began when she coordinated a donation drive.

“I rounded up surplus IT equipment, books and sport kit from the University of Derby and other UK universities, which we then put into 40-foot containers and shipped across to Ghana.”

And basically I’ve been supporting the organisation ever since. Now the University is looking to resource its library and build a new campus, so the challenge goes on!”

Jo is on the Board of Trustees and her contribution to the University is mentioned repeatedly on its website. “Through her resourcefulness and dedication,” it says on one page, “Data Link has been able to distribute and install more than 8,000 computers in over 120 second cycle schools in Ghana, free of charge, between 1993 and 2003.”

In fact her continued involvement is held in such high esteem by the University that in 2007 she was invited to become a Life Patron, and back in July Jo travelled to Ghana to be formally presented with the prestigious honour at the University’s first ever graduation ceremony.

“It was absolutely amazing. The Vice President of Ghana was there and it was wonderful to see all the students graduating. I felt so proud to be associated with the University.”

“I was nervous about receiving the award of Life Patron as I had to make a speech, but everyone was so supportive.”

“So it was great to be able to see first hand how we in the UK can make a big difference to people’s lives overseas. Education and knowledge are crucial in helping people move away from poverty in Ghana. I feel so privileged to be part of that!”

A popular choice

Loughborough received almost seven applications for every first year place it had available for the 2010-11 academic year. Almost 23,000 UK, EU and international students applied to study at the University, representing a 3% rise in 10-11, on top of an 18% increase the previous year.

Introducing the ‘10 - ‘11 Students’ Union Executive (L-R): Adam-Lucas Pettit (Acting Chair), Kate Hallock (Societies Federation President), Richard Smith (Vice President: Finance and Commercial), Ben Coucher (Multimedia Editor in Chief), Amy James (Ethical and Environment Officer), Dominic Basher (Audit Officer), Lucy Hopkins (President), James Carrill (Postgraduate Officer), Alice Swinscoe (Vice President: Education), Emma Cowley (Vice President: Democracy and Communications), Madeleine Dudley (Vice President: Sports), Amy James (Ethical and Environment Officer), Emily Heilman (President), James Carrill (Postgraduate Officer), Alice Swinscoe (Vice President: Education), Emma Cowley (Vice President: Democracy and Communications), Madeleine Dudley (Vice President: Sports).

Pension changes – have your say

As part of the review of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), a formal consultation with members over the changes to the scheme began in October and will end on 22 December. This is your opportunity to give your view to USS on the proposed changes.

To have your say and to see details of the proposed changes, which have been agreed by the USS Board of Trustees, go to www.employeropinions.co.uk.

Last month the Government also announced its plans to reduce the annual allowance for tax relief on pensions from £255,000 to £50,000.

This means that if your total pension savings for the year – including any you and the University may contribute, plus any Additional Voluntary Contributions and any payments into private pension schemes – are over £50,000, they will now be subject to tax.

This change is subject to the final legislation being passed by Parliament, but it is scheduled to come into effect from April 2011 onwards.

HM Revenue and Customs will evaluate your pension benefits on an annual basis and you would then be responsible for submitting the details via the tax Self Assessment process.

Further information on the changes is available via www.gov.uk/pensionschemes/ Click on Annual Allowance Guidance.
Central Park – the bigger picture

The refurbishment of Hazlerigg is just one part of a substantial project to redevelop the Central Park area of campus.

At its heart is the enhancement of the Student Experience. The refurbishment of the ground floor of the Haslegrave building is now complete, providing 24 hour access to computer labs, an informal learning area and a PC clinic during the day. The redevelopment of the upper three floors of the building – which will allow Computer Science staff currently located in Holywell Park to join colleagues in Haslegrave – is waiting for University approval.

Refurbishment work on the Rutland building is also proposed to begin shortly, once final University approval has been granted, providing open plan working space and facilities along the lines of those in Hazlerigg. This work is due to be completed by the end of 2011, with Academic Registry, the Enterprise Office, the Research Office and some parts of Facilities Management (FM) eventually relocating into the building. The relocation of these offices in Rutland, alongside those in Hazlerigg, will allow that part of campus to become an administrative hub for the University.

Where old meets new

Work on the refurbishment of Hazlerigg Building is now complete and the first members of staff have moved in.

While the building’s extensive traditional features have been retained, the interior has been totally transformed. All the office space is open plan to allow more efficient and effective collaborative working between the services sited there. The University’s Council Chamber (right) and committee rooms have been relocated from Admin 2 and there is plenty of meeting space located throughout the building, which is bookable by University staff.

Having open plan office space also maximises natural ventilation and light, which has enabled the development team to install a state-of-the-art, energy efficient heating system, helping to improve the building’s environmental performance and reduce running costs. This was a key factor in achieving a ‘very good’ rating under the industry standard BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method).

Provision for cyclists has been improved, with sheltered and secure storage for 24 bikes and outdoor and indoor lockers for clothing and kit. The building also has six showers for any University staff to use.

Within the building, on the ground floor there’s a new reception area, a Heritage Room, two committee rooms and offices for Marketing and Communications, Development and Alumni Relations (who manage the Alumni Association) and some Finance Office staff.

One floor up there’s the Council Chamber. Also located on this level are Human Resources staff, the Design, Multimedia and Web teams (all part of Marketing and Communications), and Finance Office staff. The Vice Chancellor’s offices, including the Planning Office, are on the top floor, along with a video conferencing suite.

Pipe work replacement

The first part of the work to replace the University’s fragile underground heating pipes has been completed, and attention will now turn to the next two phases - through the student village and University Road (Central Park) - which are scheduled to begin in November 2010 and July 2011 respectively.

With the colder weather now upon us, the FM team is working hard to complete the project as swiftly as possible to minimise the impact on the campus in October and ensure emergency supplies to the pipe work.

In the pipeline...

Projects, developments and maintenance activities that are underway or in the planning process.

- The piazza and steps on James France Walk are to be enhanced, allowing improved access into the Brookington and James France buildings. Work will continue in that area over the next two years, as part of the University’s overall Landscape Strategy, to enable the provision of outdoor learning areas with 6F and enhanced cycle storage.
- The Innovation Centre, which provides accommodation and support for start-up companies from across Leicestershire and further afield, is to move from its present location near the James France building to the Holywell Park area of campus.
- Designs have now been prepared for University approval for the refurbishment and enhancement of the dining area in Towers Hall, which is set to become a catering and food service hub.
- A new cricket pavilion and changing rooms with shower facilities for staff are to be provided for the second 11 cricket pitch opposite the Brookington Building.
- Plans are underway for the refurbishment of the School of the Arts buildings.

The north wind may blow...

The building’s weathervane, which depicts students waving farewell to Herbert Smithfield (Principal of the Technical Institute) as he embarks on a transatlantic liner, has been repaired and restored. Originally erected when the building was constructed in the late 1930s, the weathervane has been renovated twice before – the first time in the ’60s and again in ’80s. The second restorer left a note with his work, specifying the value of goods at that time:

I = £1.30390 = FT Index = 87.9 = Price of beer = 60p - Ford Escort = £3.50

Just in time

Thanks to a generous donation from a former member of staff, the University was able to launch a competition for students from the School of the Arts to design a clock for the new Council Chamber. The calibre of the entries was so high that two designs were awarded joint first prize. Both clocks are now being manufactured, with one to be housed in the first floor Council Chamber and the other in one of the ground floor committee rooms.

Rich heritage

To the left of the main entrance is the Billiard Room, which provides a space for the University to showcase its illustrious past and its present day achievements.

The room’s traditional features, including wooden bench seating around the outside of the room, have been mixed with contemporary furnishings and modern technology to create a welcoming, relaxing space for staff and visitors. The room also has a large scale model of the University campus.

Second Floor

- Vice-Chancellor’s Office
- Director of Capability Enhancement
- Director of Change Projects
- Director of External Affairs
- Director of Planning
- Director of Facilities Management
- Meeting Rooms 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

First Floor

- Marketing and Communications
- Design and Print Services
- Multimedia
- Well Design and Development
- Finance
- Agreseed Support, Financial Accounts and Management Accounts
- Human Resources
- Council Chamber
- Hazlerigg Lounge
- Meeting Room 3

Ground Floor

- Marketing and Communications
- Marketing and PR Office
- Finance
- Income, Payments, Purchasing, Tax and Salaries
- Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO)
- Billiard Room
- Meeting Rooms 1, 2
When the students head home at the end of the academic year, just what happens on campus over the summer? As we all know, it certainly doesn’t become a ghost town, and contrary to what some outside the sector may believe, staff don’t get a three-month rest! In fact for many the pace of work remains as demanding as ever, as the conference, events and wedding season begins.

From the beginning of July to the end of September, Loughborough hosts on average around 100 external events, from small meetings of just a handful of people to huge international festivals involving hundreds. This summer over 6,500 people used the University’s facilities in some way.

The World Rope Skipping Championships were by far the largest booking this year, with 1,100 competitors from 18 countries as far away as Australia, Japan and America taking part in the nine-day event. It was the first time the championships had been held in Britain.

Almost 200 people took part in a summer school run by the National Opera and Dramatic Association, the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association holds the event here every year, offering keen enthusiasts the chance to learn more about directing, lighting and other aspects of theatre production. The school culminated in a production staged by all the course participants.

In August, 21 women, many aged over 80, attended a Patchworkers’ Course, which has been held at the University for the last 20 years or so. During the week they create their designs and then display them at the course.

In September the University hosted this year’s National Bat Conference - the biggest event in the bat calendar! Organised by the Bat Conservation Trust, around 300 attendees took part in a variety of workshops, ranging from how to identify UK bat species to the latest in bat detection technology. The conference culminated in a night-time bat walk around campus.

In August, 90 members of the English Bridge Union gathered on campus to hone their game skills.

Hundreds of children from across the region took part in the University’s multi-sport camps this summer. Split into four age groups - Team Nike (5-7 year olds), Team Apollo (8-9 years), Team Hercules (10-11 year olds) and Team Zeus (12-14 years) – the camps allow the children to hone their skills in a wide range of sports, from trampolining and table tennis to rounders and rock it ball.

The Royal Academy of Engineering’s BEST programme – ‘Better Engineering Student Today, Building Enterprise Success Tomorrow’. The week-long courses aim to give school students experience of university life, helping them to make better informed decisions about whether to study engineering.

Almost 200 people took part in a summer school run by the National Opera and Dramatic Association, the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association holds the event here every year, offering keen enthusiasts the chance to learn more about directing, lighting and other aspects of theatre production. The school culminated in a production staged by all the course participants.

Teenagers from across the country flocked to the University in July to take part in two engineering summer schools, organised by Headstart, part of the Royal Academy of Engineering’s BEST programme – ‘Better Engineering Student Today, Building Enterprise Success Tomorrow’. The week-long courses aim to give school students experience of university life, helping them to make better informed decisions about whether to study engineering.

At the end of August, 90 members of the English Bridge Union gathered on campus to hone their game skills.

Loughborough was the jewel in the crown in September, when the National Association of Goldsmiths held their annual conference on campus, as they have done now for over 25 years! Almost 200 people took part in a summer school run by the National Opera and Dramatic Association, the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association holds the event here every year, offering keen enthusiasts the chance to learn more about directing, lighting and other aspects of theatre production. The school culminated in a production staged by all the course participants.

Meet the team
So just who’s responsible for looking after the thousands of visitors to the University each summer? Meet the team from imago who’re at the centre of it all: Nick Rose, Jess Lloyd, Jo Goddard and Rachel Clegg.

Hundreds of children from across the region took part in the University’s multi-sport camps this summer. Split into four age groups - Team Nike (5-7 year olds), Team Apollo (8-9 years), Team Hercules (10-11 year olds) and Team Zeus (12-14 years) – the camps allow the children to hone their skills in a wide range of sports, from trampolining and table tennis to rounders and rock it ball.

As part of the University’s partnership with the Japanese Olympic Committee, the Japanese Judo Federation, the Triathlon National Team and a delegation from the National team Training Camp all came to Loughborough over the summer.
BEHIND THE SCENES AT GRADUATION

Each summer around 3,000 students graduate from Loughborough, watched by thousands of friends and family on campus, and countless more who watch the live webcasts run by Design and Print Services.

The ceremonies take many months to organise and involve nearly every academic and support department within the University.

This year newsatlboro took a look behind the scenes to see just what it all entails.

3 days to go
Staff from Facilities Management begin to set up the hall, laying down carpet, putting up the stage and setting out hundreds of chairs.

6am on the day
Work starts early for the Facilities Management teams, as they make their final preparations to ensure everything is spot on.

8.30am
Students begin to arrive at the Clyde Williams Building, where they register and receive their official academic dress from Ede and Ravenscroft.

9am
Staff and VIPs taking part in the ceremonial procession collect their robes from the Sir John Beedworth Building in preparation for the ceremony.

10am
The Sir David Wallace Hall opens and the students, together with their friends and family, take their seats in preparation for the start of the ceremony.

10.30am
The ceremony begins with the ceremonial procession. The Vice Chancellor or Deputy Vice Chancellor then addresses the audience and the Chancellor begins to award the degrees.

12.30pm
With the ceremony over, the new graduates have their official photographs taken in Victory Hall. Then, after the formalities, the celebrations begin - some departments hold celebrations for their graduates within their departments, while other graduates celebrate at special Imago functions. The staff and VIP guests who have taken part in the ceremony also have a special celebration lunch.

12.45pm
The whole process starts all over again for the afternoon ceremony!

A total of 18 different qualifications are awarded...

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

RESEARCH DEGREES

POSTGRADUATE DEGREES

HONORARY DEGREES

NEW CHANCELLOR WELcomed

This summer the University said thank you and goodbye to Sir John Jennings, who had been Loughborough’s Chancellor since 2003, and welcomed Sir Nigel Rudd, who was inaugurated as the University’s fifth Chancellor at the degree ceremony on 15 July.

Sir Nigel is the Chief Ambassador of the University, who presides over ceremonial functions and confers degrees on graduates of the University.

The Chancellor is also responsible for the coordination of the honorary graduates at the ceremonies.

How far in advance do you start preparing for the ceremonies?
Sir Nigel was educated at Bemrose Grammar School in Derby and after leaving school at 16 he went into accountancy, qualifying five years later as Britain’s youngest chartered accountant.

In 1982 he founded Williams Holdings plc, where he was Chairman until 2000, establishing it as one of the largest industrial holding companies in the UK. He was knighted in 1996 for services to the manufacturing industry.

Sir Nigel has been Chairman of East Midlands Electricity, Ridex, Pilkington and Alliance Boots, and Deputy Chairman of BAE Systems and Sappi, and Chairman of Pendragon and M&A, one of the UK’s leading airport operators.

He is a Deputy Lieutenant of Derbyshire and a Freeman of the City of London.

Chris Garrod
Assistant Registrar in Academic Registry’s Student Office

What role do you play in graduation set up?
I am responsible for organising the ceremonies, from managing the event administration through to ensuring everything runs smoothly on the day. I manage a team of staff within the Academic Registry and we liaise with staff right across the campus as well as external contractors who provide services for the event. As Secretary to the Honorary Degrees Committee my office is also responsible for the coordination of the honorary graduates at the ceremonies.

How far in advance do you start preparing for the ceremonies?
For the summer ones we begin about a year before, We plan every detail in advance, including the seating arrangements, the procession, stage plans, the catering and car parking.

Our busiest time is early July as we have to wait to find out which students have passed their degree before we can finalise the degree programmes, certificates, seating cards and guest tickets. We work to very tight timescales which means some long hours – on the days themselves we typically work from 8am until 8pm.

Once the planning’s all done, what do you have to do on the day?
I have a lot of tasks. I oversee the student registration process, amend attendance lists, ensure everything’s in place for the honorary graduates, verify the order of the students as they cross the stage...

Once the ceremonies are over for the day, it’s back to the office to finalise arrangements for the following day. Seeing how proud the graduates’ parents and friends are when they receive their award makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Carole Burgess
Domestic Services Manager in Facilities Management

What’s your role in setting up graduation?
I organise the Domestic Services staff who are responsible for putting out the chairs and clearing the graduation hall and surrounding areas. We’re part of a bigger team of Facilities Management staff who do all the set up, from erecting the stage to dressing the room.

How long does it all take?
Three days to set up for the ceremonies and the same to clear away at the end of them.

So on the day, what do you and your team do?
Domestic Services staff act as ushers, fire marshals and first aiders. We also deal with anyone who needs extra help, if there’s anyone with a disability for example.

What does graduation mean to you?
It’s always really satisfying to see it run from start to finish successfully. And it’s also nice to see the parents glowing with pride when their sons and daughters receive their certificates.
Avoiding ruin in the rubble
As part of an international collaborative project, Professor Paul Thomas from Chemistry is leading a team of researchers to investigate the development of a new device which will help rescue workers locate people trapped or buried in buildings as efficiently as possible.

Professor Thomas’s team is researching the chemical profiles of people trapped in such disasters and the development of specialist sensors, which could allow rescuers to determine if a person is still alive.

“If you see carbon dioxide in a null at elevated levels, something is resiping, which is obviously good news. Carbon monoxide, however, indicates the opposite. If you have a collapsed building with a fire burning in it and high levels of carbon monoxide, there’ll be no one alive in there.”

“A human being trapped in a building will produce a large chemical profile, including carbon dioxide, ammonia, and other compounds which come out in their breath, skin and sweat. Our role is to develop the chemical profiles associated with a trapped human and the sensors and detectors which can identify these markers of life.”

Helping the poorest communities
In the aftermath of a disaster, exports from WEDC (the Water, Engineering and Development Centre) provide practical advice and support to humanitarian aid agencies working in the stricken countries. Sometimes they travel to the affected country; at other times they offer support via their publications and guides on best practice.

For example, one of WEDC’s experts, Bob Reed, visited Sri Lanka in 2004 to help with the relief effort after the Tsunami struck, and he liaised with the World Health Organisation in the aftermath of the Burma cyclone two years ago.

“At WEDC we provide basic human needs for the poorest elements of society. Despite our high tech age, it’s sometimes low tech solutions which work best – building a well wall and cover prevents dirt and animals contaminating the water, and a plastic sheet can offer privacy at a public toilet. That’s what we’re about,” explains Bob.

“We keep people alive by teaching them how to use simple bits of kit such as hand pumps and water filters. Our aim is to empower communities by ensuring they get involved in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of their own water supply and sanitation points.

“We also disseminate information on the web which communities can download for free. We’ve produced around 150 simple, four-page guides with pictures. During the Tsunami in 2004, there were in excess of 2,000 downloads of our material. Perhaps tellingly, the most popular leaflet was ‘How to dispose of dead bodies’.”

PRE-EMPTing hazards
A team of researchers from Civil and Building Engineering have been investigating how resilience to natural, and even human-induced disasters such as terrorist acts, could be ‘built in’ to new structures.

The research project, called PRE-EMPT (Pre-Disaster Engineering and Emergency Mitigation Planning Tool), brought together experts from Loughborough, industry and the Government to work in partnership with the shared goal of making the UK a safer place to live and work.

Although guidance existed on how resilience to events such as flooding, terrorism and coastal erosion can be built in to new construction projects, the information was widespread, updated infrequently and, in many cases, unsuitable for built environment professionals.

PRE-EMPT drew these guidelines together and created a tool that enables the construction sector to assess the resilience of new and existing structures, including schools, hospitals, office blocks and residential developments. By considering processes such as risk assessment and hazard mitigation, the open access web-based tool that has been developed during the project will help decision makers take the first steps towards choosing appropriate project designs and construction strategies.

PRE-EMPT has already influenced the final designs in tender documentation for a large civic redevelopment in Greater London. The tool is also now being used by organisations such as John Laing plc and Camden Borough Council, which are keen to mitigate the threat posed by natural and human induced hazards.
We could have a Hollywood-style walkway at an appropriate location on campus whereby sportspeople who were at Loughborough could be invited to unveil their ‘star’ which gives their name, sporting achievements and their link to the University. The walkway could perhaps coincide with unveiling ceremonies that could grow over the years. We could even be unique in the university sector.

Clive Trusson, School of Business and Economics

We are in fact looking at developing a ‘Hall of Fame’, inspired by a number of famous Loughborough alumni who were at Loughborough university and who are invited to each year. We’re also in talks about the possibility of having a ‘Walk of Sporting Fame’ in the area leading from the Sir David Wallace Sports Hall, where we could have names on plaques or handprints as they do in Hollywood.

Jo Brewin, IT Services

We discussed your suggestion to provide tap water for meetings at the magpie Board, but ultimately we felt that it would be at the discretion of the Raudrops for Life campaign – an initiative we introduced to the University some time ago now in partnership with WEDC and the National Forest Spring Water Company. Through this we donate at least 5p on each bottle of water sold on campus through images, including the water provided at meetings. The donations help to fund water harvesting tanks in the Derbshire region of India in conjunction with WEDC. To date we have been able to fund seven.

Malcolm Brown, Director of magpo

Suggestions and questions

Here are some of your latest questions, thoughts and bright ideas. Keep sending them in to news@lboro.ac.uk

I have a money-saving suggestion for the University – could we not consider removing some water fountains around campus, in those used exclusively by staff, and stop supplying bottled water at meetings? Flasks of cold tap water could be provided instead.

Helen Sherwood, Department of Mathematical Sciences

With all the building going on around campus and the loss of green space, how about ring-fencing some land list for their allotments. The University could offer plots of any extra space to Loughborough residents. This would help the University’s environmental policy and give staff something to do in their lunch hour!

Jo Brewin, IT Services

As part of the University’s arts programme, Radaan, we have a project on campus (near the Gardens of Passmore), a Garden, which allows volunteer gardeners to instalment. It’s been really successful, and so on the thing that area of land as a garden. If we can get a help maintain the garden, it could be a step towards as allocating further space on campus for allotments. If anyone is interested in joining the group, email radaran@lboro.ac.uk

Jo Hadaway, Facilities Management

The price of education

Universities have been in the spotlight of late. The long-awaited Browne Review into tuition fees and students’ financial support was published last month, followed swiftly by the Government’s much-talked about Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). And just days before newstudent went to print, the Government revealed its plans for the future of student fees.

So what are the implications for universities in England and, particularly, for Loughborough? And what does it all mean for students? Newstudent gets the views of Vice Chancellor Professor Shirley Pearce and the Students’ Union President, Lucy Hopkins.

The University perspective – Professor Shirley Pearce

Why does the current system need to change at all?

Demand for places is growing, but the Government is reducing the amount of money it’s giving to universities, as part of its plans to reduce the national debt. So far it’s cut higher education’s budget by £850million, and in its CSR it announced that funding for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which is responsible for higher education, was to be cut by 28% over the next four years.

We won’t know the extent to which higher education, or Loughborough, will be affected by these cuts until the new year when the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) has had a chance to do its analysis. But if universities are to continue competing on a global scale, we need to find ways to address this shortfall, and increased tuition fees is one of the ways being considered by Government.

How are universities funded at the moment?

Proportions vary between universities, of course, but at Loughborough in 2008-09 we received 30% from HEFCE, 27% came from the fees students currently pay, we received 16% from research grants and contracts, and the remainder was generated from various sources, such as imago and the University’s other income-generating operations.

How much might Loughborough’s fees be?

It’s too early to say. We’ll be giving the issue very serious consideration though, in conjunction with the Students’ Union.

When would the new fees come in?

According to the Government’s plans, students beginning university in 2012 would be the first ones to pay the higher fees.

If fees go up won’t it be harder to recruit students?

Not necessarily. We already work hard to ensure we attract good quality students and I think our strengths are those that really matter to students. For instance we have always tried to ensure that our graduates are best-placed to find employment, and our degrees are designed and sponsored by industry, meaning our students develop the knowledge, skills and qualities required by business. It’s going to become increasingly important for students to be able to maximise their chances of gaining employment on graduation and I think we’re already well-placed to do that.

The students’ view – Lucy Hopkins

How do you feel about students having to pay more for a university education?

Obviously we’re not happy about it. We understand the need to plug the gap left by the huge cuts in Government funding, but students shouldn’t have to shoulder the bill. This will turn students into true ‘customers’, which is not the type of relationship a university should have with its students.

If fees do go up as the Government plans though, it’s crucial that the quality of the education universities provide goes up too. The additional income from tuition fees needs to be ploughed back into teaching and learning, rather than being diverted into other areas of university activity.

Do you think the prospect of huge debts at the end of university will deter some from applying?

I’m sure some students will think twice about it, especially those from poorer backgrounds who perhaps haven’t had family go to university. The idea of such enormous debt will make it feel like it isn’t an option. Now more than ever students will want to make sure they have the best possible chance of gaining a good job when they graduate, so universities will have to work hard to show how they can boost students’ chances of employment. I believe Loughborough will continue to be a popular choice, for its high student satisfaction and the overall experience you gain here.

The media have suggested that higher fees will mean lots of very able students won’t be able to afford to go to university – do you think that will be the case?

It’s too expensive.

I’d hate to see that happen. Every student who’s really want to go to. Students shouldn’t be put off because they think it’s too expensive.

The type of relationship a university should have with its students

This will turn students into true ‘customers’, which is not what we should be doing. Funding, but students shouldn’t have to shoulder the bill.

At a glance – the Government’s plans for tuition fees

• Tuition fees, currently set at £3,290, would rise to £6,000 per year with an upper limit of £9,000 for institutions that charge over £6,000 per year

• Graduates would begin to repay the cost of their fees when their earnings reach £21,000, rather than the current £15,000

• Outstanding payments would be written off after 30 years (currently 25 years)

• A £150m National Scholarship Programme would be established to encourage bright students from poorer backgrounds to apply to university

• All universities that charge over £6,000 per year in fees would have to participate in the National Scholarships Programme and show how they would support students from disadvantaged backgrounds

• Maximum maintenance grants, which don’t have to be repaid, would increase from £2,300 to £2,520

• Part-time students would be eligible for loans on the same basis as full-time students

• All universities would be expected to publish a standard set of information about contact hours, learning patterns and employment outcomes

It’s really important that universities offer a range of bursaries and scholarships that will help to support able students from all backgrounds. We don’t want to be in a position where students choose the university they can afford rather than the one they really want to go to. Students should be able to apply for the very best, based on no other factor than their academic ability.
What's your sport?

If you want to become more active but don't know where to start, then a new tool created by experts from Loughborough, along with NHS Choices and the British Olympic Association, could be just the thing for you.

"What's your sport?" matches people to the sports which best suit them by creating a personalised profile of their "type". It recommends five sports to try, based on a series of questions and tests which assess personality, sport preferences and reactions.

Users are then guided to activities going on in their area, with an interactive map featuring links to over 35,000 sports centres and clubs.

The tool contributes to the Government's aim of securing a lasting legacy from the London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Dr David Fletcher from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, who led the Loughborough research on the project, said: "The School has a reputation for world-leading research and this project helps ensure that this work has a positive and direct impact on wider society and people's quality of life."

Olympic silver medallist swimmer Sharron Davies said: "Loughborough have really taken a good opportunity, with the 2012 Olympics just around the corner, for people to get inspired to be more active and healthy. It can often be difficult to know where to start and that is why the 'What's my Sport? tool is so clever. By getting people thinking about what they enjoy doing or might suit them and pointing them to what's available locally, it will hopefully get people off the sofa and into their community sports centres.

Hugh Robertson, Minister for Sport and the Olympics, added: "London 2012 will feature 26 Olympic sports and 20 Paralympic sports, each needing different qualities and skills. With so many different sports out there, there is something for everybody and this is a great way to find out what suits you best."

Check out your sport at www.nhs.uk/olympics

Do the ‘Hip Hop’!

Men from 65 to 80 have been doing the ‘Hip Hop’ in Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences (SEHSE), as part of a major study to examine whether exercise can help reduce the risk of osteoporotic fractures.

Osteoporosis causes bones to become brittle and fracture more easily, with hip fractures causing particular problems. The condition will eventually affect one in every five older men and one in every two older women. However the team from SEHSE has found that by undertaking specific, exercise, such as hopping, for just a couple of minutes each day, bone density of the hip can be increased.

Now they are working with University Hospitals Leicester to discover whether similar exercises can affect bone shape as well as density.

"Exercise can produce small increases in bone density but seems to have larger effects on bone strength, which may be why it is particularly important for preventing fractures," said lead researcher Dr Katherine Brook-Wowell.

"This collaborative research will allow us to do an extra bone scan to measure the shape at the hip and find out whether exercise can affect the regions of bone that are particularly important for preventing fractures."

New year, new you!

With the new academic year now in full swing, it’s the perfect time to get more active, and the Sports Development Centre (SDC) has a range of support programmes and activities designed to help you become fitter and healthier.

As part of the Active Lifestyles programme you can do aqua jogging to yoga and badminton to body combat. There are classes you can do regularly or just as a one off – it’s completely flexible.

Go to www.loughboroughsport.com/active for further information or contact LUPS Gym (T: 228470 or E: lups@lboro.ac.uk) to book a class.

Most of the University’s sports facilities are also available to staff, whether it’s for leisure or through work, or as part of the University’s staff membership scheme. The Pool offers swimming lessons for adults and children, aqua jogging, aqua aerobics, lifeguard courses and recreational swimming (T: 226200, E: swimming@lboro.ac.uk) and tennis and badminton lessons are also available through the Tennis Centre (T: 226730).

For more information on all the activities available and details of prices, contact Sports Reception, T: 226205, E: sdc@lboro.ac.uk.

For the more competitive among you, there are also three staff sports clubs, at which new players are always welcome.

Loughborough Academicals play in a local Sunday football league – contact Tom Jackson, E: T.J.Williams@lboro.ac.uk. The cricket team plays in two local leagues and uses the National Academy nets through the off-season – see loughborough.ac.playcricket.com. And the Unicorn Table Tennis Club runs seven teams of staff and postgraduates in two local leagues – contact Dr David Green, E: D.R.Green@lboro.ac.uk.

New facilities for cyclists

Covered storage for up to 40 bikes has now been installed at the rear of the Schofield building.

A staff-only locker/dryer room has also been created in the basement of Schofield, to allow cyclists and runners to store their work clothes or cycle gear or to hang wet clothing. Access is via the steps next to the covered storage facility.

The lockers are available to be hired for a refundable deposit and the drying room is free to use. A key code is needed to access the facility.

To use the locker/drying room go to www.lboro.ac.uk/sustainability/travel/cycling/
November
24 November, 3.30pm, Sir Robert Martin Theatre, Martin Hall
Kathleen Banks Memorial Lecture – ‘I wanted to be a Writer’

December
8 December, 5pm, Stewart Mason Building
Inaugural Lecture: Professor Angus Laing (School of Business and Economics)

13 December, 7.30pm, Emmanuel Church
University Choir Christmas Concert

www.arts.lboro.ac.uk
Class of 2010 follows US lead
Students who graduated from Loughborough this year have so far donated £14,000 of their own money to the University as part of a major fundraising scheme. The graduating class of 2010, together with the Loughborough Students’ Union executive committee, began the American-style gift scheme to raise up to £25,000 towards the cost of a new Multi-Use Games Area sports facility at the University.

Times Higher Education
Cost of living soars for low earners
People on low incomes are finding it harder to meet a minimum standard of living, according to new research carried out by the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF).


Being green at work is a monster task
The Business School’s Professor John Arnold says our laxity towards recycling and saving energy at work stems from our belief that it’s someone else’s responsibility.

The Guardian
Inspired to put a new spin on biking
Sports Technology graduate Dave Cleaver talks about his new off-road bicycle business, Inspired Bicycles, a spin out company from the University, started in 2007.

The Daily Express
Walking to a good night’s sleep
Busy days and hot baths are the key to a good night’s sleep, writes Professor Jim Horne, from SSEHS.

The Daily Telegraph

Grand designs
The Loughborough Design School, launched on 1 August, brings together expertise from the Department of Design and Technology, the Ergonomics Safety Research Institute (ESRI) and the Department of Ergonomics and will become a significant centre for the design of ‘real world’ products, services and systems.

Times Higher Education

Economics of the World Cup
As part of a series of programmes on the FIFA 2010 Football World Cup, Dr Mahoud Amara from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences comments on the economic impact of the tournament.

‘Open Agenda’ BBC Arabic