

University honours England's Rugby World Cup winning manager

Clive Woodward OBE, manager of England's Rugby World Cup winning team, is to receive an honorary degree from Loughborough, in recognition of his inspirational leadership and the development of Rugby Union in England.

Clive Woodward was a student at the University in the late 1970s, gaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Sports Science, followed by a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE).

During his studies he captained Loughborough's 1st XV rugby team, leading them to victory in the British university championship, and came under the influence of coach Jim Greenwood of Scotland and British Lions fame.

In 1979 Clive joined Leicester Tigers, and the following year gained the first of his 21 England caps. He also toured twice with the British Lions, to South Africa in 1980 and New Zealand in 1983. While working in Australia in the late 1980s, he was captain of the Sydney Premier Grade side, Manly.

Turning his attention to coaching, Clive successfully presided over Henley RFC during their unprecedented success in the early 1990s. Coaching positions at Premiership clubs London Irish and Bath then followed, and in 1997, during his spell at Bath, he was appointed as England's first ever full time professional coach. In March 2003, England became the Six Nations Champions, beating Ireland to complete the Grand Slam.

Wins against the All Blacks, for only the second time in New Zealand, and Australia, for the first time on Wallaby soil, followed, and on 22 November he led England to victory against Australia in the final of the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

"We are extremely proud of our sports tradition at Loughborough University, and Clive Woodward epitomises the high-achieving alumni that have graduated from this department for over the past 60 years," said Professor Stuart Biddle, head of the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences.

"We are delighted to see the hugely successful achievement of England Rugby under Clive's leadership."

Clive will be presented with his award later this year.

First ever national award for Loughborough Innovation Centre



Loughborough Innovation Centre, the region's largest facility for high tech start ups, has won a prestigious national award in recognition of its success in helping new businesses grow.

The UK Business Incubation Ltd's (UKBI) Best Newcomer Award was open to all business incubators in the UK which have been established in the last two years.

The national business incubation community has grown rapidly, with incubator facilities rising from 25 to 220 in just five years. UKBI champions the interests of this industry by spreading good practice and setting standards of incubation.

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First ever national award for Loughborough Innovation Centre

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A significant deciding factor for the Best Newcomer Award was the quality and breadth of skills of the team behind the incubator.

It was widely agreed that Loughborough Innovation Centre offers the comprehensive support and mentoring new businesses need to become self-sufficient and thrive.

Loughborough Innovation Centre is based on the University's campus and has attracted high tech start ups from as far afield as London.

The purpose-designed facility opened in September 2002 following a successful £750,000 funding bid to emda, the East Midlands Development Agency, and a fundraising campaign, which generated £75,000 of generous donations from local businesses and private donors. It achieved 100 percent occupancy within nine months.

Polly Multon, centre manager, comments: "We're delighted to receive such strong

endorsement from UKBI for Loughborough Innovation Centre."

Jo Derbyshire, managing director of Loughborough University Enterprises Ltd, which commercialises the University's innovative technology and actively supports the centre, adds: "In 2001 the University, in partnership with emda and Charnwood Borough Council, spearheaded a campaign to create a high tech business incubator to support new ventures in the region and attract inward investment. It is wonderful to see this vision succeed and make such a positive contribution to regional wealth creation."

Malcolm Buckler, chief executive, UK Business Incubation, says: "I have personally felt for some time that UKBI should acknowledge the achievements and successes within our community and this award is the first of many that we will offer over the coming years. I am delighted to award it to Loughborough Innovation

Centre, who received all round praise from our panel of judges for their well thought out processes and the successful implementation of quality business support services.

"They are further able to demonstrate practising 'true incubation' and are already recognised by UKBI as meeting our best practice guidelines."

Loughborough Innovation Centre tenants include spin out companies from within the University and growing businesses from the East Midlands region and beyond.

Some of the tenants are setting up in business for the first time, such as Rapid Manufacturing, a Warwick University spin out. Larger, more established companies include Objectsoft, innovators in the much discussed arena of internet security, and Intelligent Energy, the UK's leading commercial developer of Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cell technology, and one of the few developers of this technology in Europe.

Professor awarded honorary degree

Loughborough's Phill Dickens, a Professor in the area of manufacturing technology, has been awarded an honorary degree by a Romanian university.

Professor Dickens was presented with the 'Doctor Honoris Causa' by the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca on 2 October. It was awarded in recognition of his work in rapid manufacturing and of the longstanding relationship between Loughborough and Cluj-Napoca.

Professor Dickens travelled to Romania to receive the honour. He said: "It was a very enjoyable visit. Romania is a very interesting country and on my way to the awards ceremony I was able to drop in at Castle Bran, near Brasov. This was the home of Vlad, who formed the basis for the Dracula story!"



Professor Phill Dickens, pictured second from the left, is presented with his honorary degree.

Coe's coach takes his place in Hall of Fame

George Gandy, director of athletics and senior lecturer at Loughborough, has been inducted into Sports Coach UK's Coaching Hall of Fame by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

At a prestigious ceremony held at the Café Royal, London, George received the Mussabini Medal, which celebrates the contribution of coaches to UK performers who have achieved outstanding success on the world stage.

As a coach, George was responsible for laying some of the essential foundation for one of Great Britain's most amazing running careers. Between 1975 and 1981, he advised Sebastian Coe on gymnasium, weight training and flexibility work.

Repeating the formula for success, George initiated a conditioning system at the University from which more than 200 international runners have benefited and which has earned substantial worldwide recognition.

In an era when full time athletics coaches are emerging, George's contribution and commitment to athletics at Loughborough has been over and above his role as a lecturer and admissions tutor. George is always willing to give his time and even his lounge floor to athletes, much to the dismay of his tolerant wife. The stories of George dashing to athletics meetings straight after lectures are both amusing and revealing – but he remains modest.

George says: "I am delighted to receive this prestigious award and feel that I do so not just on my own behalf, but also for those many thousands out there that do enormously good work usually with little reward and less recognition.

"It is a particularly special honour that this award carries the name of Sam Mussabini, stories of whom have inspired me for many years, and who can truly be regarded as one of the early masters of our trade."

Each winning coach received their award from HRH The Princess Royal and David Whitaker, Chairman of Sports Coach UK, who said:

"To be a great coach you have to have commitment – George has done exactly this for the last 30 years. He has been responsible for the outstanding careers of many athletes on an international level.

"The Coaching Hall of Fame is designed to pay tribute to the people who stand on the sidelines but who are pivotal in developing sporting success. Sports Coach UK is working to maintain and improve coaching standards and coaches like George Gandy are responsible for helping us raise those standards."



George Gandy receives his award from HRH The Princess Royal.

Through his induction into Sports Coach UK's Coaching Hall of Fame, George Gandy follows in the footsteps of Rod Thorpe and Rex Hazledine, both of whom are former directors of sports development at Loughborough University. Rod and Rex were Dyson award winners in 2001.

The other coaches who join the Coaching Hall of Fame this year are

- Terry Denison – Swimming
- Jane Goldsmith – Paralympic Dressage
- Colin Hood – Paralympic Swimming
- Lyndon Lynch – Disability Football
- David Shaw – Rugby Union
- Lloyd Readhead – Gymnastics

Loughborough University student accommodation plans – new consultation dates announced

The University has announced two new dates for consultations with residents regarding its plans to build student accommodation on a 13-acre western campus site.

In December a consultation event was held at Holywell School, Loughborough. The event was arranged as a 'drop-in' so that people could attend at a time convenient to them individually and meet directly with University staff. This was working well, until at the latter end of the meeting, large numbers attended which made dialogue less

easy. It was therefore decided that a further meeting should be arranged to continue the consultation.

The two new dates are: Thursday 29 January and Saturday 31 January. Holywell School will again be the venue. The University wants to continue consultation via small groups and with this in mind three separate sessions will be held on both days. Residents will need to book in advance to ensure the numbers at each session will allow everyone to be involved. In response to residents' suggestions, each meeting will

start with a short presentation by the University and discussion will follow in small groups. The University's director of estates services, Roy Hill, comments, "A number of local residents didn't get the opportunity to discuss the plans with us at our original meeting so we have organised these further meetings to give those people the opportunity to talk to us.

"We have had a wealth of useful information and constructive suggestions from residents so far. We are reviewing these and will continue to keep residents informed."

New research aims to improve career opportunities for female engineers

Researchers at Loughborough have been awarded a grant of £108,914 to investigate the experiences of women working in male dominated professions.

Professor Barbara Bagilhole from the Department of Social Sciences and Dr Andrew Dainty from the Department of Civil and Building Engineering will be working with Professor Richard Neale from Glamorgan University's School of Technology on the project, which is being funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

The team has already carried out an ESRC backed study into the career progression and experiences of female and male professionals and managers in large construction companies.

The results of this work contributed to national Government supported best-practice guidelines on equal opportunities within the construction industry.

The new research aims to explore the experiences of women at the outset of their engineering careers, which is identified as a key stage in their future employment choices. It will focus on women who have chosen to study the various major engineering disciplines, and will specifically evaluate the impact of their first

major contact with their chosen engineering profession – their year-long industrial placement. The year in industry is crucial in developing students' identities as engineers and represents a key transitional stage in their process of becoming an engineer or moving away from the sector.

Professor Barbara Bagilhole explains, "Despite the proportion of women studying engineering gradually increasing, this has not been translated into an equivalent increase in engineering professionals, and little is known about the effects of women's transition from engineering education to becoming a professional engineer.

"There remains a need to explore the role of the Higher Education system on women's early career experiences across the engineering professions."

The results of the new research will provide a practical guidance document identifying actions taken by particular engineering sectors to improve women's careers.

They will help develop a framework of practical policy initiatives for reshaping women's early career stages in order to retain them within the engineering industry, as well as contributing to the academic field of gender and employment.

Ofsted report praises Loughborough's teacher training

Loughborough has received a glowing report from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) in its assessment of the University's secondary initial teacher training (ITT) provision.

The findings of the inspections mean that Loughborough has been placed within the highest Ofsted inspection grouping, Category A.

During the 2002-03 academic year, a series of simultaneous inspections were undertaken by Ofsted into the subject areas of Design and Technology, Physical Education, and Science. An assessment of the

management and quality assurance of the University's secondary ITT provision was also carried out.

For the subject area of Design and Technology, the University's ITT provision was rated as 'Grade 1' – the top mark – for the quality of its training, and 'Grade 2' for the standards achieved by its trainees. The

Physical Education and Science programmes were deemed to have maintained the 'very good' quality identified in the previous Ofsted reports, carried out in 1999-2000 under an earlier framework. In the inspection of Loughborough's management and quality assurance of its secondary ITT provision, Ofsted again judged the University to be 'Grade 1'.

Dr Jo Harris, director of the Teacher Education Unit, commented, "We were delighted by the outcome of these inspections, and that Ofsted recognises the quality of our training.

"This will help us continue to attract the calibre of applicants that will be needed to promote the effective future education of our pupils."

International consultancy for LISU

Montreal City Libraries have enlisted the University's Library and Information Statistics Unit (LISU) to act as consultants in the development of new public library standards.

Montreal Public Library Service is currently undergoing change as a result of a re-organisation of municipal services in Montreal.

Twenty-six suburbs have merged with Montreal City authority and the library service is facing the challenge of integrating the diverse range of provision into a seamless service.

LISU's director, Eric Davies, said: "This is an important development for LISU. It represents international recognition of its expertise and authority in performance evaluation."

The CICE celebrates its first round of graduates

The first students to graduate from the University's Centre for Innovative Construction Engineering (CICE) were awarded the degree of Doctor of Engineering at the winter graduation ceremonies.

The CICE was set up in 1999 following an expansion of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's (EPSRC) prestigious Engineering Doctorate scheme. It is funded by the EPSRC and a group of more than 30 industrial sponsors, and is unique in being the only centre of its kind devoted to meeting the research and training needs of the construction industry.

The key objectives of the CICE are:

- To sustain a high quality research and training programme that meets the needs of the construction industry and enhances its knowledge base.
- To maintain close partnership with the industry sponsors in addressing their core technical and business needs, and to broaden industry participation in the centre.

- To produce high calibre doctoral graduates that can drive innovation in the industry with a high level of technical, managerial and business competence.

The centre had its first intake of research engineers in October 1999. The students, who are recruited from a combination of top class graduates and experienced engineers from the sponsoring firms, are awarded the degree of Doctor of Engineering after four years of advanced study and research.

The Engineering Doctorate is a postgraduate award intended for the UK's leading research engineers who aspire to key managerial positions in industry. The core of the degree is the solution of one or more significant and challenging engineering problems within an industrial context. Assessment is based upon a thesis, which consists of a discourse of no



The CICE's first graduates are pictured with Vice-Chancellor Professor David Wallace (left) and centre director Professor Chimay Anumba (right).

more than 20,000 words and a collection of published papers, setting out the aims, objectives, findings and industrial relevance/impact of the research.

At the winter graduation ceremonies four students were presented with the degree of Doctor of Engineering. They were Dr Simon Beatham, Dr Lee Bibby, Dr Matthew Ing and Dr Matthew Pilgrim. They have all secured jobs at senior level either within their sponsoring companies or other companies. A further four research engineers are expected to graduate at the summer graduation ceremonies in July.

2004 Frank Morton competition to be held at Loughborough

Hundreds of chemical engineering students from across the country will be descending upon the University next month to take part in a massive sports event.

Members of Loughborough's Chemical Engineering Society have agreed to host the annual Frank Morton competition at the campus on 17 February. The games are open to any chemical engineering student in the UK and were originally started in 1961 by Professor Frank Morton, a pioneering chemical engineer.

At the event teams battle it out in a variety of sports, including netball, badminton, football and tennis, to try and win the highly prized Frank Morton Trophy for their university.

Around 1,200 students are expected to take part in the 2004 competition. Second year Loughborough Chemical Engineering student Ed Chapman, who is chairman of the society's Frank Morton Committee, started organising the event nine months ago.

He said: "Trying to sort out an event as big as this is hard work, but it is also a lot of fun. The society is really looking forward to

the competition and we are confident that the event will be one to remember.

"The distinct advantage of having the day at Loughborough is that we have an array of first class sporting facilities right on campus. And we have already had a lot of interest from several leading chemical engineering companies who want to get involved in the event.

"The competition will also provide students with an opportunity to network with some of these companies and see what graduate job opportunities are on offer. In short, if you are a chemical engineering student you do not want to miss this event."

Throughout the day the main Students' Union building will be the competition headquarters, where those taking part can relax and catch up on the latest scores. To end the event there will be a trophy presentation and a celebration party.

Ed added: "This year we are hoping Loughborough might be able to win the event. It would be fantastic to have a home victory!"

New report illustrates perceived highs and lows of working for the NHS

A report by researchers at the University Business School has revealed that the National Health Service could attract more nursing, physiotherapy and radiography staff if potential recruits believed there was more time to care for patients and relate to them as human beings.

Almost 1,400 people were interviewed between September 2000 and December 2002 as part of a study, commissioned by the Department of Health. The report of the research – *Looking Good? The Attractiveness of the NHS as an Employer* – was written by John Arnold, John Loan-Clarke, Crispin Coombs, Jenny Park, Adrian Wilkinson and Diane Preston.

Among the key areas examined were the factors that encourage potential recruits to work for the NHS, what puts them off, and how current NHS recruitment strategies could be improved.

Of those interviewed, many perceived NHS work to be highly pressured, understaffed and subject to long and/or inconvenient

working hours. However, most interviewees also thought there were some important positive features of NHS work, such as working with patients, the availability, security and geographical spread of NHS jobs, the variety of work, the opportunity for teamwork, and a good pension scheme.

Pay levels were an issue for some respondents; interestingly, many perceived the starting pay in the three professions to be lower than it actually is.

The report also found that those under the age of 30 were more interested in working for the NHS than those over 30. The opinions of friends and family about working for the NHS appeared to have an impact too.

“Our findings provide both encouragement and concern for the NHS,” said leader of the research team Professor John Arnold.

“They also suggest some practical ways of attracting more people, and these are being actively discussed within the NHS.”

University and local firm join forces for festive fundraiser

Local company Gill Cooke Personnel Ltd helped make Christmas come early for two members of the University's 250 Club, who struck it lucky in the festive prize draws to win a combined jackpot of £1,250.

The 250 Club helps to raise funds to support the University's sports scholarship scheme. Around 200 people have now signed up to the Club, paying a fee of £25 per year. For this small contribution, each member is eligible to take part in ten

monthly draws for a £100 prize, the £250 November prize, and the bumper Christmas draw of £1,000. The remaining funds help to support Loughborough's sports scholars.

The November and December draws were made on 27 November by Caroline Nash from Gill Cooke Personnel Ltd, which, for the last three years, has generously matched all individual 250 Club donations pound for pound.

“The 250 Club is a fun way for us to raise funds for the sports scholarship scheme, and Gill

Cooke's generous matched funding is fantastic,” said the University's sports fundraiser, Lisa Farmer.

The sports scholarship scheme provides financial and in-kind support to help talented Loughborough students succeed in both their sporting and academic development. Past and present Loughborough Sports Scholars include Commonwealth gold

medallists and world record holders Paula Radcliffe, hurdler Chris Rawlinson, and swimmer James Gibson.



Caroline Nash (left) and Sally Banks for Gill Cooke Personnel Ltd, with Chris Earle, the University's director of sports development.

Leicestershire Monopoly winners



There was a massive response to the competition featured in the last edition of news@lboro to win a copy of the new Leicestershire Monopoly board game.

The limited edition game offers players the chance to purchase Loughborough University and a whole host of other local landmarks, including The National Space Centre in Leicester, Bradgate Park, East Midlands Airport and The Great Central Railway.

The lucky winners are: Sandra Jasper, Personnel Services and Linda Smith, Business School.

Look out for more competitions in future editions of news@lboro.

New research grants and contracts, awarded in November 2003.

Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering

Fuel Injector Flow Study
Prof J J McGuirk and Dr A Spencer
£25,787 Rolls-Royce plc

NETWORK : Grain Boundary Engineering
Prof R G Faulkner
£58,959 EPSRC

Civil and Building Engineering

Centre for Innovative Construction Engineering
Prof C J Anumba, Prof R McCaffer and Prof A Thorpe
£943,562 EPSRC

Mathematical Sciences

Ref 3907 - Support of Joint Research Group - Mathematics in Medicine and Biology
Dr J R Terry
£1,200 London Mathematical Society

Computer Sciences

Intelligent Agent-Based Knowledge Management Assistant
Prof P Chung and Dr Serpil Acar
£43,473 EPSRC

Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

Exploitation of Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Technology in the Healthcare Marketplace
Prof D J Williams
£24,500 EMDA

Economics

Visiting Fellowship
Dr M J Holmes
£2,734 Wakayama University in Japan

Equipment Award

Dr J Coupland
£47,700 RW Paul Instrument Fund

Electronic and Electrical Engineering

Maximising the End-to-End Quality of the MPEG-4 & the H26L Video Coding Standards over Wired Networks
Dr C Grecos, Prof D J Parish, Dr E A Edirisinghe and Dr A Feresidis
£170,599 EPSRC

School of Sport and Exercise Sciences

National PE & School Sport Professional Development Programme: Independent Research Project
Dr K M Armour
£75,000 PEA UK

Human Sciences

Learning in and for Interagency Working
Dr S Brown and Dr D Middleton
£39,235 University of Birmingham/ESRC

Diuresis after Consuming Caffeine-containing Drinks

Dr S Shirreffs and Prof R J Maughan
£54,840 Kraft Foods R & D Inc

IPTME

FARADAY : Suspension-based Fabrication of Nanostructured Materials for Engineering Applications
Prof J Binner and Mr J F Harper
£36,000 EPSRC/Rolls-Royce Ltd

Social Sciences

Women Engineering Students' Workplace Experiences: Impact on Career Intentions
Dr B M Bagilhole and Dr A R J Dainty
£108,914 ESRC

FARADAY : Suspension-based Fabrication of Nanostructured Materials for Engineering Applications
Prof J Binner and Mr J F Harper
£105,409 EPSRC/Rolls-Royce Ltd

Social Contexts and Responses to Risk (SCARR)

Mr A Cebulla
£337,596 University of Kent/ESRC

Loughborough engineer scoops top award at House of Commons exhibition

A Loughborough researcher has been awarded a £1,000 prize at a prestigious event at the House of Commons aimed at celebrating the work of Britain's top younger engineers.

Jill Patterson was one of seven researchers from the University invited to display their work at the event, which was held on 15 December.

The reception was organised by MP Richard Page and Dr Eric Wharton of Scientists, Engineers and Technologists

(SET) for Britain. It is open to people aged 35 and under, and is held to raise the profile of UK engineering – as well as inspire future generations of engineering researchers. Jill was awarded the Engineering Science Section Prize for her poster presentation on diesel engines.

She is currently researching ways of simultaneously fuelling a diesel engine with a gaseous fuel for the purpose of reducing emissions and costs.

"It has already been established that the most

promising emissions reduction technologies focus on the combustion process within an engine, and it is the gas-diesel combustion process that I am studying in some depth," Jill explains.

"Part of the motivation for this is that the highly complex gas-diesel combustion process is poorly understood.

"I am delighted to have won a prize at the Younger Engineers event. The quality of work on display at the reception was exceptional and it was fantastic that so many

researchers from Loughborough were able to attend."

Dr Steve Rothberg Head of Loughborough's Wolfson School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering added: "I am delighted for Jill. Applications for this event were invited from every UK university so we are extremely pleased that, of the 100 applicants selected, nine were current or recently graduated researchers from our engineering faculty. That's a strong message about the quality and relevance of our research."

University sculptor chosen to mark Loughborough's £45 million retail development

A University sculptor has unveiled his latest creation, which forms the centrepiece of a prestigious £45m retail development in Loughborough town centre.

John Atkin, a Reader in Fine Art at the School of Art and Design, was chosen by developers Metrobrook Highland after winning the fiercely contested competition for the commission. The chosen work, *The Signaler*, an 18ft, multi-sectioned sculpture, is the striking focal point of The Rushes shopping centre. The new development has been widely welcomed as a very important regeneration scheme for Loughborough, boosting the economy by creating new jobs and attracting more shoppers into the town by providing a wider range of retail and leisure facilities.

Atkin sought inspiration for *The Signaler* in themes relating to human anatomy and the fashion industry. The resulting work is a mechanomorphic figure, with abstract 'body parts' resembling giant garment templates. These pieces have been fabricated from sheet corten steel, whose weathered finish evokes the past, whilst gleaming stainless steel suggests the future. Atkin was technically assisted in his latest project by Loughborough graduate Malcolm Revill, whose own sculpture is the centrepiece of Westminster Woodland in the National Forest. Other Loughborough sculptors that

assisted are James Rawlinson (digital visualisation) and Jason Cole (full-scale pattern enlargement).

Photo courtesy of Steve Doherty



John Atkin and his latest creation, *The Signaler*.

John acknowledges this vital input, saying, "Their support has been invaluable in the creation of *The Signaler*. The graduates have also benefited from the project, further honing their own particular skills by working on such a large scale commercial project."

His commission for Metrobrook Highland reinforces LUSAD's long established tradition of creating bespoke art for the charitable, commercial and industrial sectors.

A broad spectrum of organisations and private individuals have commissioned new work in a variety of mediums to enhance the environment of their staff, clients and visitors.

AHRB grants on offer

Applications are invited for The Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB) Small Grants in the Creative and Performing Arts Scheme.

The scheme provides awards of up to £5,000 towards costs directly related to research projects in the creative and performing arts. These include travel and subsistence expenses, costs of short-term research and secretarial assistance, replacement teaching costs, and costs involved in preparing research for public output. The scheme aims to support research activity of the highest quality conducted by individual researchers across all areas of the creative and performing arts, enabling them to realise their potential to improve the depth and breadth of our knowledge of human culture.

The closing date for the next round of awards is 30 January. For further information visit the AHRB website, www.ahrb.ac.uk, or contact Gail Lambourne, research awards team leader for the AHRB, by calling 0117 987 6670 or emailing g.lambourne@ahrb.ac.uk

Launch of new ecodesign training and consultancy service

The Department of Design and Technology has successfully launched cedar, a new ecodesign training and consultancy service.

The programme has been established to assist electrical and electronic companies within the Midlands to meet new legislation from Europe. It aims to inform design and manufacturing businesses in the region about the benefits of ecodesign, and empower them to tackle ecodesign issues within their own companies.

More than 20 representatives of manufacturing businesses from across the region attended the launch event, which was held at the University's Innovation Centre on 10 December.

The event included an excellent presentation by Hugh Smith from Conservus Ltd, who provided an outline of the forthcoming Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive. The WEEE directive will have a major impact on all companies in the electrical and electronic sectors, requiring them to take responsibility for 'end of life' activities such as disassembly and recycling.

The cedar launch, which was supported by the Sustainable Design Network and the Engineering Employers Federation, also included key speakers from The Boots Company and Loughborough University. The aim of the event was to provide attendees with information about the implications of the WEEE Directive on their business and to show them how to take advantage of the high quality, low cost cedar ecodesign training.

Speaking on behalf of cedar, Dr Vicky Lofthouse said: "We have received a positive response from attendees and find it encouraging that companies appreciate the role and responsibility they have towards the future of the environment."

Council Report

The 302nd meeting of University Council, chaired by Sir Bryan Carsberg, took place on 16 December 2003.

The main business of Council inevitably touched upon many aspects, which are affected by, or affect, the financial situation in which the University finds itself.

It seems Loughborough, in the company of most other Higher Education Institutions, is at a critical crossroads in its development. If everything goes the right way, the University has every reason for optimism. If success in its various endeavours is more mixed, then the future will be, likewise, more mixed. A number of areas that were discussed illustrate this well.

The Vice Chancellor highlighted that recent exposure in the media had been very positive, reporting on many of the University's acknowledged strengths.

These include technology transfer and sport; the royal opening of the ECB Cricket Academy was a particular highlight. Such media coverage helps in continuing to strengthen the University's reputation. Updates on the core activities of research and teaching mirrored this picture.

The Pro Vice Chancellor for Research reported that the volume and value of research applications were continuing to rise. If these

continue their upward trend, with similar or improved conversions to research grants, research income will be buoyant indeed.

The Pro Vice Chancellor for Teaching provided an update on undergraduate and taught postgraduate applications. Compared with the previous year, undergraduate applications are slightly up, with an increase in international applications of 50 percent. Some areas are down, but these declines are in line with national trends.

Chemistry applications have increased and for taught postgraduate courses, it is early days but the trends are similar. Again, if these applications translate into students for 2004, the future looks promising.

Other matters that were covered included the continuing work on building positive and effective relationships with the local community, the approval of new purchasing procedures and the approval of revised subsistence rates. An update was also provided on planned hall fees for 2004/05. Approval was given to changes in University Ordinance XVII, which should enable some areas of student discipline to be dealt with more effectively.

The next council meeting is on 20 February 2004.

Report by Rob Kirkwood

Loughborough University-based engineering support centre receives high praise

The Learning and Teaching Support Network for Engineering (LTSN Engineering) is receiving international recognition for its work in assisting the UK's higher education engineering community.

The University-based organisation is a support centre for all engineering academics, promoting quality learning and teaching by encouraging the sharing of good practice and innovation.

During a visit to the University in November Professor Ed Crawley, executive director of The Cambridge-MIT Institute, an alliance between The University of Cambridge and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, praised LTSN Engineering for its work.

He said: "Having spent a considerable time familiarising myself with the various organisations in the UK aimed at supporting engineering education it is clear to me that the stand-out organisation offering top quality and accessible support to engineering

educators in higher education is LTSN Engineering.

"From visiting the centre it is clear that its success is built upon highly motivated staff who benefit strongly from their physical location at the heart of Loughborough University's Faculty of Engineering and adjacent to the University's own support centres in both engineering and mathematics education. LTSN Engineering's website is universally unique in providing practical resources on learning and teaching issues."

This view of the impact of the centre is supported by the feedback received in response to its annual report to the funding councils, which states that LTSN Engineering has 'continued to deliver a broad and impressive range of activities through an effectively run network.'

It goes on to say that 'Overall 2002/2003 has been another excellent year for LTSN Engineering. You have had a growing demand for your services and activities have increased to match that demand.'

Your annual report shows that you are making a real and measurable impact.'

LTSN Engineering, established in January 2000, is one of 24 subject centres which will form the core of the new Higher Education Academy – due to become fully operational in 2004.

Owned by the higher education sector, the HE Academy aims to enhance the quality and status of teaching and the professionalism of all those engaged in supporting students in higher education throughout the UK.

John Dickens, director of LTSN Engineering said: "The centre is looking forward to building on its current success by engaging with the new opportunities offered by the broader remit of the Higher Education Academy, and the challenges of working alongside the new Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, due to be established in 2005."

Obituaries

Alex Parish

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Alex Parish, a third year Civil Engineering student. Alex was tragically killed in a road accident on Sunday, 30 November 2003.

The 21-year-old was a popular student with staff and fellow students alike, and he will be remembered for his enthusiasm for life, for having fun and for being a great 'people person'. Alex relished the challenges that university life brought to him, enjoying especially the opportunities to meet new people. He possessed the rare gift of being the perfect host, bringing people together at functions and making them feel at ease very quickly. Always seeing the good in others, Alex had a wonderfully positive outlook on life that enabled him to enjoy it to the full.

He was a keen sportsman with a particular passion for football, which he played whilst successfully pursuing his studies at Loughborough. He was enjoying work during his industrial placement year, and looked forward to a successful future career as a Civil Engineer.

Alex will be greatly missed by his friends, fellow students and staff, both at Loughborough and at Interserve Project Services. Many friends and colleagues attended his funeral at Felixstowe on 11 December. Our thoughts go out in particular to his family, who have asked that donations be made to the international charity organisation GOAL (donations can be made through the Co-op Funeral Services, 213 High Street, Walton, Felixstowe, IP11 9BQ).



Lisa Woolford

It is with great sadness that we report the tragic death of Lisa Woolford, a second year student of Social Sciences. Lisa died on 24 November shortly after contracting meningitis.

Lisa was an extremely able and conscientious student who underestimated her own talents. She came to Loughborough with an impressive academic record and was beginning to achieve her potential with the award of first class marks in her second year.

While a serious scholar she had a great sense of fun, pulled her weight in groups, and proved a caring friend to many students in the Department and University.

Lisa was born and grew up in Denbighshire in North Wales. She was very close to her family and kept her friendships from school.

Scores of shocked and grieving young people attended her funeral, a testament to her popularity both at home and at University.

She will be greatly missed by students and staff alike. Our thoughts go out in particular to her family and to her boyfriend, who have asked that donations be made to the Adult Critical Care Unit at Leicester Royal Infirmary, the British Heart Foundation, and the Meningitis Research Foundation.



Department of Civil and Building

John Downey, Social Sciences

Found property sale

At 7pm on Monday 9 February Security will be holding its annual Found Property Sale/Auction at the James France Exhibition Hall.

Proceeds from the sale go to the Students' Distress Fund, which was set up some years ago by the former Registrar, David Fletcher. The Auctioneer and the security staff give their services for free for the event and all work hard to make it an enjoyable evening.

New Slide Scanning Service

Media Services are offering staff the opportunity to convert old sets of slides into an electronic version suitable for PowerPoint presentations.

The new service is being offered following a decline in the manufacture of standard slide projectors and an increase in the amount	of data projectors available on campus.	per slide – discounts are being offered throughout January and February.	five working days turnaround.
Media Services will scan slides and deliver them as Jpeg files on a CD with prices from £1		Staff making use of the service should allow	For further information contact Phil Wilson or Jagjit Samra on extension 2194.

AUA 2004 conference programme now available

The Association of University Administrator's (AUA) 2004 conference programme is now available on the AUA website, <http://www.keele.ac.uk/aua2004/>

The conference is being hosted by Keele University from 19-21 April and is open to all AUA members. University Administrators wishing to attend who are not members of the AUA should contact Miranda Whyte by emailing M.T.Whyte@lboro.ac.uk for details of how to join.

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New community sports coaching programme launched at Loughborough

COACHSTEPS, a new community coaching programme, was launched at Loughborough University in December.

The initiative, which is being supported by Yorkshire Bank, is aimed at raising the standard of sports provision in Charnwood by providing individuals with training on how to be a coach/official/administrator in a wide variety of sports. It has been developed by the University, in conjunction with Burleigh Specialist Sports College, Charnwood Borough Council and Loughborough College.

Through the structured programme those taking part will gain a comprehensive knowledge of coaching skills, which they can then use to develop sport in the local community.

It is hoped the initiative, which is backed by several national governing bodies of sport, will benefit clubs, schools and sports related organisations across the borough.

The scheme is organised into three separate steps. Step one is aimed at giving people a sound understanding of the issues that coaches need to consider in running a sport programme or team. It includes workshops on first aid, coaching analysis, disclosure and child protection.

At step two those taking part are asked to choose a National Governing Body Award from an extensive list of courses. These cover a variety of sports, including football, rugby, gymnastics, dance, hockey and netball.

Step three offers participants the chance to put all their hard work to the test by undertaking a voluntary placement with a local club, school or sports organisation.

They will be allocated a number of 'community sport hours' to complete under the guidance of an official.

The launch of COACHSTEPS was held at the University's Badminton and Netball High Performance Centre. James Ellis, Community Sport Manager at Loughborough, said: "I am extremely pleased with how the launch went and I am confident



Pictured at the launch with some of the scheme's first participants are from the left Carl Dickinson from Yorkshire Bank, COACHSTEPS development officer Collette Montgomery and Tim Plackett, also from Yorkshire Bank.

the initiative will have a very positive impact on sport provision in Charnwood."

For further information about the scheme visit: <http://www.coachsteps@loucoll.ac.uk>

ads@lboro

Houses for rent

Loughborough, modern 2 bed house in quiet area near University, clean, well furnished, DG CH, off road parking – £450 pcm; Tel 01509 504977.

Loughborough, one bed house, clean, well furnished, CH, quiet area near University, off road parking – £360 pcm; Tel 01509 504977.

West Bridgford, 4 bed house to rent for 6 months, close to shops and schools, furnished. Suit new or visiting academic – further details contact Dianne Fortescue; Tel 0115 923 4348.

Holiday Accommodation

Auvergne – granite and oak-beamed farmhouse. Shady gardens, mod cons, sleeps 8 to 10 but cosy for 2. Dreamy place to get away from it all – £350 pw; Tel 01304 381182 for brochure.

Wanted

A reliable car with good service history up to the value of £2,500. Any make considered. Contact j.p.harris@lboro.ac.uk