

Value for money research recognised in performance indicator tables

The latest performance indicators for higher education institutions, published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), show that Loughborough University offers some of the best value for money research in the country.

The research performance indicator measures the research outputs of universities in relation to their inputs, such as staff costs. For the academic year 2001-2002, Loughborough is the second highest ranked university in the UK, and the Midlands' top-rated institution, for attracting

external research grant income per academic staff cost.

Professor Neil Halliwell, Pro Vice Chancellor for Research, says he is delighted that this year's performance indicators once again show Loughborough to be one of the best universities in the country for

'value for money' research and comments: "Loughborough is renowned for the relevance of its research to business and industry. We have an impressive track record of providing practical solutions to real life problems and, as these indicators show, we are very efficient in doing this."

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Formula One legend Sir Jackie Stewart praises Loughborough University

Former Formula One world champion Sir Jackie Stewart paid a special visit to the University in February.

Born in Scotland, Sir Jackie was one of the most successful racing drivers of all time, winning three world championships. When, in 1973, he announced his retirement from driving, he had won 27 of his 99 races, a record at the time.

He was invited to Loughborough by the Vice Chancellor Professor David Wallace to see firsthand some of the state-of-the-art University



facilities, and during his visit he was taken on a tour of the ECB National Cricket Academy and the Henry Ford College.

After this Sir Jackie visited the Department of Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering to learn about the pioneering research the University is carrying out in this area. He

was also given the opportunity to drive the Fiesta 'adaptive throttle' car. The high-tech vehicle, which has been developed in partnership with Ford, monitors the way people drive and is then able to adapt its throttle control to suit individual driving styles.

To end his visit Sir Jackie met student Dean Scott, who is a member of the University's Formula Student team. Formula Student is an international competition for engineering students where they have to design and build a small single-seater racing car.

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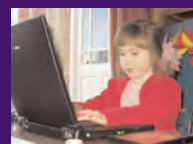
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Formula One legend praises Loughborough University

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Professor Ron McCaffer, Director of Business Partnerships at Loughborough said: "Sir Jackie was incredibly impressed by what he had seen during his visit to the University, and commented that the campus was the closest he had seen to an American style university anywhere in the UK. He was particularly impressed by the work we are doing in engineering and the many links we have with industry, and commented on our ability to get people to perform to their maximum ability, both in sport and in study.

"During his visit he spent a lot of time with the Loughborough University Formula Student team, giving them advice on their racing car design and tips on how to improve their driving. When the time came for him to leave he said there was still a lot he wanted to see at the University and that he would certainly be making a return visit in the near future."



Widening Participation Update

With the introduction of top-up fees, the establishment of the Office For Fair Access (OFFA) and the Government target to ensure 50 percent of 18 to 30-year-olds experience higher education by 2010, the Widening Participation agenda is continuing to develop and grow both nationally and here at Loughborough University.

Nationally, the University is being measured on its work in this area through performance indicators, which are published every year by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The most recent set of figures, included in the table below, show that Loughborough is close to achieving its HEFCE benchmarks in a number of areas.

	England	HEFCE Benchmark	Loughborough University
Young full-time first degree entrants from state school or colleges	85%	84%	84%
Young full-time first degree entrants from Social Classes IIIM, IV and V	26%	23%	21%
Young full-time first degree entrants from low participation neighbourhoods	12%	10%	8%
Percentage of Mature students from low participation background	15%	12%	9%
Young entrants from low participating neighbourhoods no longer in HE following year of entry	9%	7%	5%
Mature entrants, with no previous HE qualification, no longer in HE following year of entry	15%	14%	17%

Obviously there is still work to do and academic departments and central services will continue to work together to achieve these benchmarks.

From August 2004, there will be a new national scheme for widening participation focusing on raising aspirations and attainment in schools. This is the coming together of the university partnerships (Partnerships for Progression) and the schools initiative (Excellence Challenge) into a

single brand – Aimhigher, which has recently been featured in a television advertising campaign. All educational providers will be expected to work closely together to provide excellent educational and career advice focusing on those areas most in need. Partnerships are also being encouraged to share best practice and work across areas and in regions.

Loughborough University is part of the East Midlands region and

also has the added responsibility of being the Lead Financial Institution for the East Midlands. This means that Loughborough is the conduit between HEFCE and all of the educational partners, that it houses the Regional Operational Manager for this initiative and, importantly, it administers and monitors the budget for Aimhigher.

Look out for further updates on Widening Participation in future editions of News@lboro.

Research reveals safety issues for pregnant car users

Research at Loughborough University is revealing that the majority of pregnant car occupants are not wearing seatbelts correctly.

Of the 400 pregnant women who took part in the Government funded project 'Automotive Design: Incorporating the Needs of Pregnant Women', 87 percent are not following the Department of Transport and medical guidelines to position their seatbelts.

Dr Serpil Acar of the Department of Computer Science, the principal investigator of the project, outlines the findings of the research: "Recommended guidelines specify that seatbelts should be worn throughout pregnancy with the lap strap across the hips and fitting under the bump while the diagonal strap is placed between the breasts and around the bump. But our research reveals that most pregnant women are not aware of these guidelines or, in some cases find it impractical to follow the guidelines. Some pregnant women experience discomfort, they pull and hold the seatbelt away from their bodies and some do not even wear the seatbelt at all. Pregnant car users who improvise to increase comfort might be risking their lives and those of their unborn babies in case of an accident".

The research aims to capture the many changes women undergo during pregnancy by recording 49 sets of body measurements of 100 women. These measurements have created a database of body changes. "Physical changes such as enlargement of the breasts and curvature of the spine as well as the growing bump can affect how the seatbelts are worn. Furthermore these changes do not take place in isolation, they

interact", adds Dr Acar.

"Getting in and out of the car, loading and unloading the car boot also need careful design decisions without compromising the safety, ease, and comfort of non-pregnant drivers and passengers".

The experiences of 400 pregnant women have also been recorded through an online questionnaire.

Dr Serpil Acar and her research assistant Miss Alix Weekes will present their research findings as an electronic resource, to enable car designers to readily incorporate the needs of pregnant women.

Dr Acar and her team are now two years into their research, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). Ford, Jaguar, Nissan and the restraint systems and airbag manufacturer AutoLiv are collaborating on the study, and MIRA, the Motor Industry Research Association, will be communicating the research findings to the automotive industry. Malcolm Griffiths, a leading consultant from Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust, has also contributed with his obstetrics expertise.

Dr Acar believes that there is a need for a wider campaign to raise awareness about positioning seatbelts during pregnancy as advised by the medical experts and the Government. More research will also be



Dr Serpil Acar and her assistant measure a pregnant woman as part of the study.

necessary to produce tools for the industry to consider the needs of pregnant women.

Dr Acar has recently been awarded further EPSRC Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre funding for a pregnant crash test dummy as a tool for improving car safety. The researchers will incorporate the existing body measurement data into the crash test dummy to help manufacturers' safety research.

"This is very exciting new interdisciplinary research and through our design tools and resources we hope to make a real difference to the quality of pregnant women's lives, initially where cars are concerned, but ultimately in design throughout every aspect of their lives," concludes Dr Acar.

Dr Acar is very interested in hearing from women who would like to discuss any design challenges they have experienced during pregnancy as car users. A questionnaire can be completed online at <http://pregnantdriver.lboro.ac.uk>

New Year Honours

Several Loughborough University graduates, current students and former members of staff were awarded New Year Honours by Her Majesty The Queen. They were:

Sir Clive Woodward – graduate (Manager of England rugby team)

Professor Sir John Enderby - honorary graduate (Former Professor of Physics at Leicester University and external examiner for Loughborough)

Frances Cairncross CBE – honorary graduate (Journalist and Chair of the Economic and Social Research Council)

Professor Robin Butlin OBE – former member of staff (Department of Geography)

Andy Robinson OBE – graduate (England rugby team coach)

Dave Aldred MBE – current research student (England rugby team kicking coach)

James Gibson MBE – current masters student (50m Breaststroke World swimming champion)

Ben Kay MBE – graduate (member of England rugby team)

Phil Larder MBE – graduate (England rugby team defence coach)

Dave Reddin MBE – graduate (England rugby team fitness advisor)

The University is extremely proud of all those with links to Loughborough who were awarded a New Year Honour and offers them its warmest congratulations.

Loughborough student to investigate the link between schooling and eating disorders

A PhD student at Loughborough University is using her own experiences of eating disorders to research ways in which schools, teachers and health professionals can prevent young people from developing conditions such as anorexia and bulimia.

Rachel Allwood has joined a research team within the University's School of Sport and Exercise Sciences to explore the connections between schooling experiences and the development of eating disorders. The research is the first of its kind in the UK and will focus on how aspects of schooling such as bullying, peer culture, academic achievement, and the increasingly heavy emphasis on healthy eating may have a bearing on young people and eating disorders in often negative ways.

Rachel suffered from anorexia from the age of 13, but this then developed into severe bulimia just before she applied to study at Derby University. She said: "It took me five years to complete my

degree because I was in a very bad state for the first four years and kept having to defer my exams. I had very low self-esteem and very little faith in my abilities. I thought I would just about scrape through in my degree, so when I found out I had been awarded a 2:1, I just couldn't believe it."

Now aged 24, Rachel is at Loughborough University on a PhD Research Studentship entitled Education and the Aetiology of Eating Disorders.

She added: "The PhD aims to understand and highlight the part played, if any, by formal education in the reasons behind and the development of the eating disorders anorexia and bulimia. I hope to establish measures that can be taken by schools, teachers and health professionals to prevent the development of disordered eating and ill health. After having suffered the devastating effects of eating disorders myself, I really want to try to help other people."



News from the Department of Chemical Engineering

Gold Medal

Professor Richard Wakeman, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, and Dr Pihong Wu have been awarded The Filtration Society Gold Medal.

The award was presented for their winning paper 'Permeation with vibrated media: Experiments and modelling', which they co-wrote with Professor Curt Koenders and Dr Ozcan Gundogdu of the Department of Mathematics, Kingston University.

The paper provided a structured account of a methodical investigation into the phenomena surrounding vibratory shear enhanced filtration and opened up an exciting avenue for further work and discussion.

The Gold Medal is the most prestigious award of The Filtration Society and is awarded to the most meritorious paper on particle-fluid separation or a related topic.

Salters Prize

Loughborough Chemical Engineering finalist Richard Wilson has been awarded the Salters Graduate Prize 2003 by the Salters Institute.

Richard is the ninth student from the Department to win an award in ten years. The Prize is sponsored by the Salters Institute of Industrial Chemistry and is awarded annually to the graduate students most likely to succeed in industry. Professor Richard Wakeman, head of the department said: "This award is a great credit to Richard. Everyone in the department wishes him well in his future career".

Harassment Panel

The University has a policy on harassment and bullying, which states that it is committed to fostering an environment where its staff, students, visitors and contractors can work, study and live free from intimidation, aggression, coercion and victimisation.

It is particularly concerned to eliminate all forms of harassment and bullying as it recognises that such behaviour is unacceptable, discriminatory and, in certain circumstances, also unlawful. The University has a Harassment Panel, consisting of 13 members of staff who have received training in dealing with incidents of harassment and bullying. These people are available to talk to any member of staff or student in confidence and will offer support, advice and assistance in seeking a satisfactory solution. They are willing to discuss any incidents or problems, no matter how serious or trivial they may seem. You may seek an informal, confidential interview with a member of the University Harassment Panel at any time.

Further details on the Harassment Panel, including contact details for the panel members, can be found at www.lboro.ac.uk/harassment. If you do not have access to the internet, and wish to talk to someone about harassment or bullying, please contact Anne Lamb, Harassment Panel Coordinator, by calling 01509 222168.

Stories and software

In February, the Department of Information Science hosted an informal drop-in session for teachers, librarians and research students to provide feedback about their project 'Electronic books: children's reading practices and comprehension'.

This was an 18-month project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board and conducted by Professor Cliff McKnight, Dr Anne Morris, Dr Shirley Grimshaw and Naomi Dungworth.

The project involved 132 Year Five children from a variety of schools in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire whose reading skills and experiences in relation to electronic story books were investigated. The results showed that children benefited in terms of their comprehension and enjoyment of books when they received narration but that electronic books provided no significant advantage. Children's use of the online dictionary that accompanied the electronic book far exceeded their use of the printed dictionary provided with the printed storybook.

The feedback evening provided teachers with an opportunity to try out the software for themselves and to discuss any queries they



Pictured reading an electronic storybook is Isabel Dungworth, who is a pupil at Holywell Primary School in Loughborough.

might have about the study with the researchers. It was also an opportunity for the researchers to express their gratitude to the teachers upon whose participation and enthusiastic support the success of such projects depends.

University researchers put workers' bodies to the test

Engineers, construction workers and emergency rescue crews from across the UK are being asked to step onto the scales by researchers at Loughborough to help improve work safety.

A team from the University's Ergonomics and Safety Research Institute (ESRI) is hoping to measure and weigh around 700 people who work at height as part of a new project called Body Size Criteria. The study has been commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive to try and assess if current design standards for personal protective safety equipment, such as harnesses and lanyards, are adequate for the weight of the average worker.

Current standards in place for this type of equipment utilise test weights of 100kg. This body mass representation is drawn from the normal weight distribution of the

UK's male population aged between 18 and 64 years. But anecdotal evidence suggests that many people who work at height today do not fall within the normal size distribution of British adults – with a significant proportion weighing more than 100kg.

If this is the case, then current safety equipment design standards may not provide sufficient protection for all users in the workplace. The researchers want to collect basic body size and weight data from people who work at height to establish whether the design standards are sufficient. Recommendations for any changes to the

standard will be made, if needed, to ensure workers are given the utmost protection.

Groups the team are hoping to include in the research are workers in steel erection, new build, interior build, the transport industry, offshore/rope access, the manufacturing industry, rescue services, maintenance and repair, agriculture/environment and engineering.

Project researcher Fran Lenton said: "It is vital this study is carried out in order to ensure that people who work at height in the UK are given the best possible protection."

University's performing arts venue receives high praise

Loughborough University's Cope Auditorium is going from strength to strength, attracting large audiences and praise from its many users.

The venue, formerly the Great Hall, is located on the East site of the campus, close to the School of Art and Design. It was refurbished in 2002 and is now a centre of learning and

culture for both students and those in the local community, providing a venue for large group teaching, and evening and weekend cultural and arts events.

Since opening the Auditorium has hosted a variety of concerts and plays to suit all tastes and, along with its sister venues, the Sir Robert Martin Theatre and the Music Centre,

it has a packed programme of events for 2004.

For further information contact the University Arts Centre by calling 01509 222899.

University sculptor selected to design city tidal barrage and gates

Dan Archer, Senior Lecturer in Sculpture at Loughborough's School of Art and Design, has been selected by judges at a prestigious national competition to design the tidal barrage and sluice lock gates for the River Ouseburn, which flows into the River Tyne in the centre of the city of Newcastle.

Dan's radical sculptural designs for the new lock gates and barrage were selected from an exceptionally strong field by a panel of judges including Peter McIntyre from Newcastle City Council, Ian Patterson and Les Javen from Entec engineering, the Artist Effie Burns, Andy Balman, Manager of the Biscuit Factory Art Gallery and Richard Broderick, Arts Officer for Newcastle City Council. But it soon became apparent that Dan's radical design promised much more than aesthetic value. Entec, the company employed by Newcastle City Council to commence work on the Ouseburn, discovered Dan's radical design of a gate that lifts up and out of the water to be structurally very efficient.

Dan explains: "My designs were initially based on aesthetic and sculptural terms



Dan's 'gateway' sculpture series includes this 1.5-ton crucible in Woodmere Country Park, Chesterfield.

which relate to my 'gateway' series of sculptures representing change and transformation. I was delighted to hear of Entec's discovery of their structural value, and we are looking forward to working together over the next year to complete the design of this exciting new project."

Dan exhibits widely both in the UK and abroad, and has solo exhibitions at The Yorkshire Sculpture Park and The Royal Institute of British Architects. He has

made large works at symposia in Japan, South Korea, Italy, and Germany, and was the stone carving fellow at KKV – Bohusians in Sweden in 1998. Recent public commissions include an 8.5 metre granite work for Cardiff Bay, a 4 metre marble portal work for Ashridge Management School near London, a 3 metre work in French limestone for Glasgow City Council and a 3 metre portal piece for Cardiff in steel and slate. His most recent installation can be viewed at the East Midlands Conference Centre at Nottingham University.

As Senior Lecturer in Sculpture at Loughborough University, Dan is committed to the development of students' professional practice, through commissioned work on public sites. Significant student achievements include commissions for the NatWest headquarters in Bristol, Westminster Woods in the New National Forest in Derbyshire and an exhibition at Sheffield Cathedral sponsored by the world's leading steel manufacturers, AvestaPolarit.

Student accommodation update

The start of the year has seen ongoing consultation with local residents regarding on campus student accommodation. Two meetings were held at Holywell School at the end of January and the University has held its first meeting with representatives of the newly formed Nanpantan Residents Network (NRN).

It is anticipated that further announcements regarding on campus student accommodation will be made around Easter. Over the next few weeks the University will be concluding its feasibility studies into the four site options. It will also review the proposals put forward by the NRN. Evaluation and an official response will be provided to the group in due course and it is anticipated that further meetings will be held.

Any member of staff with queries or questions about the on campus student accommodation should contact either Alison Barlow, Community Relations Officer, on 01509 228696 or Roy Hill, Director of Estates Services, on 01509 222102.

Professor of Mathematical Sciences awarded prestigious medal

A Loughborough Professor has been awarded a prestigious medal by the Australian and New Zealand Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ANZIAM).

Professor of Mathematical Sciences, Roger Grimshaw has just become the fifth ever winner of the medal, which is awarded in recognition of outstanding service to the profession of applied mathematics in Australasia.

Dr Chris Linton, head of Mathematical Sciences at the University said: "He fully deserves this recognition for his outstanding contributions to applied mathematics. His work has been an inspiration to scientists from all over the world."

Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering

Unconventional Nozzle Research Phase 5
Prof J J McGuirk
£37,500 BAE Systems

Carburettor Icing
Dr P Render
£8,340 Civil Aviation Authority

Wind Tunnel Research
Dr P Render and Dr M A Passmore
£1,000 Various Industrial Sponsors

Low Cost Duel Fuel (LCDF) External Aerodynamic Optimisation
Dr J F Carrotte, Dr P A Denman and Prof J J McGuirk
£167,500 Rolls Royce Plc, Quebec, Canada

Temporal Scaler Mixing Probe Development
Dr P A Denman
£24,120 Rolls Royce Plc

Two Phase Fuel Injector Flow Measurements
Dr J F Carrotte
£30,880 Rolls Royce Plc

Chemical Engineering

An Extraordinary Method of Directly Measuring Partial Molar Volumes in Gas Mixtures
Dr G Mason
£263,603 EPSRC

Chemistry

New Zealand Institute of Chemistry 2003 Conference
Prof V McKee
£1,450 The Royal Society

Investigation of Ion Exchange Properties of AW500 (Award Increase)
Prof P Warwick
£8,000 BNFL Magnox Electric Plc

Civil and Building Engineering

Mechanical Behaviour of Municipal Solid Waste
Dr N Dixon
£3,500 British Council, France

Overcoming barriers to timber frame housing
Dr A G Gibb
£13,000 DTI via TRADA

prOSP a - promoting off-site production applications
Dr A G Gibb
£163,000 DTI via CIRIA

CECA Civil Engineering Occupational Health Toolbox
Dr A G F Gibb
£22,500 Civil Engineering Contractors Association

Civil and Building Engineering (WEDC)

Water & Sanitation Programme Research Review (to replace CVJKG)
Dr A P Cotton
£37,975 World Bank via ITAD Water Ltd

Computer Sciences

Outerplanar Crossing Numbers
Dr O Sykora
£163,905 EPSRC

Electronic and Electrical Engineering

Teaching Company Scheme with Autochair Limited
Prof B Woodward
£99,844 Teaching Company Directorate

Study of Chinese Pulsed Power
Prof I R Smith
£5,467 Ministry of Defence

English and Drama

The Actor's Problem: Performing the Plays of Richard Foreman
Dr N Swettenham
£2,355 AHRB

Ergonomics and Safety Research Institute (ESRI)

Location Based Services in the Construction Industry
Mr J H Richardson and Prof A Thorpe
£47,635 EPSRC(IMRC)

Geography

Greenwood Health Research Project
Mr L Almond, Prof M Bell, Dr T Brown and Ms K Buxton
£17,999 The Countryside Agency

Human Sciences

Good Corporate Governance for Better Management of Configuration Management
Mr M A Sinclair and Ms C E Siemieniuch
£98,946 EPSRC(IMRC)

IPTME

Polymer research with Chinese Universities
Dr M Song
£6,996 EPSRC

The Effect of Precipitated Calcium Carbonate on the Processing and Properties of PVC Foam
Dr N L Thomas
£12,500 Solvay PCC

Investigate the Properties of TiO₂ on PVC processing and Properties of PVC Profiles in Particular Organic Treatment
Dr N L Thomas
£30,000 TIOXIDE EUROPE LIMITED

Mathematical Sciences

Inverse Problems in a Laterally Varying Multicomponent Layered Medium
Prof Y V Kurylev
£3,566 EPSRC

Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

Achieving Varied Mechanical Response in Laser Sintered Products Using Football Boots as an example
Dr N Hopkinson, Prof P Dickens and Dr M P Caine
£49,760 EPSRC(IMRC)

Use of Intermittent Pneumatic Compression in Sport: A Feasibility Study
Dr M P Caine and Prof D J Williams
£50,000 EPSRC(IMRC)

Bio Process Bottlenecks in the Construction of 3D Tissue Engineered Structures: A Technology Feasibility Study
Prof D J Williams, Prof P Dickens, Dr RA Harris, PP Conway and Dr D Malik
£49,608 EPSRC(IMRC)

Aerodynamics of Sports Balls
Prof R Jones, Dr M A Passmore and Dr A Spencer
£49,703 EPSRC(IMRC)

Strategy to Improve Global Networking and Performance in Organisational Structures and Teams
Prof N D Burns and Prof C J Backhouse
£55,916 EPSRC(IMRC)

Pit Stop Train Maintenance
Dr R Harrison and Dr A A West
£192,438 EPSRC(IMRC)

Study of the Interplay between Role Dynamics and Organisational Performance
Prof R H Weston, Dr R Harrison and Dr A A West
£259,900 EPSRC

Politics, International Relations and European Studies

Ethnic Politics in the Cold War
Dr R G Knight
£12,300 The British Academy

School of Sport and Exercise Sciences

Supporting Gifted and Talented PE and Sport Pupils in Schools (Extension)
Dr M Nevill and Dr J Morris
£57,500 Youth Sports Trust

Physiological Responses to Powerade
Dr S Shirreffs and Prof R J Maughan
£89,572 Coca-Cola Ltd.

EC Research Projects on Sport Lots 1 & 3.
Prof I P Henry
£68,376 PMP Consultancy Ltd

Social Sciences (CRSP)

Setting up and Coordination of the European Observatory on Social Security for Migrant Workers
Dr S Roberts
£3,590 Max Planck

Vehicle Safety Standards : Improving Car Crashworthiness
Dr B R Stafford and Dr S Roberts
£48,435 Ergonomics and Safety Research Limited

Systems Engineering

CDDP
Mrs C Siemieniuch and Prof M Woodhead
£200,000 BAE Systems

Five Peaks Challenge

A Loughborough student is appealing for volunteers to take part in a mammoth mountain climbing challenge to raise money for the charity DebRA.

Paul Wright, a third-year materials engineering student, is organising the Five Peaks Challenge, which will see him and a team of fellow students and staff climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, Helvellyn, Snowdon and Casdair Idris in just three days.

Below, Paul gives his personal account of why he takes part in the event and hopes others can join him:

"I invented the Five Peaks Challenge way back in June 2002 to help raise money for a small children's charity called DebRA. This supports children with the rare genetic disorder Epidermolysis Bullosa, which causes very sensitive skin that can rupture or blister with any contact. There are only around 5,000 sufferers in the UK, and unfortunately many don't make it past their teens.

Researchers are working hard to create suitable gene therapy to treat the disease, however due to the small number of sufferers the charity and the researchers fall short of the criteria set by the Government for funding for treatment and research. This means DebRA has to rely solely on the help and effort from volunteers to raise the required funding.

Of course you may be wondering if this charity is so small then how did I find out about DebRA and that is a story in itself, which continues to inspire me to make great leaps of faith. My late father had been medically retired since 1983 with debilitating arthritis and had raised my family on not very much money. He was a firm believer in the motto 'charity begins at home' and looking after the pennies to give my brother and I the best he could.

One day whilst I was home on holiday from university he set off for the local shopping centre, which was not unusual as it was his weekly ritual. But it was the length of time that he was away that pricked my curiosity. Asking my Mum where Dad was, to be told that he was down at Asda collecting for charity was something out of left field. It was probably the last thing I expected, knowing that my Dad was the kind of man that kept hold of his loose change in his pocket just in case he needed it, coupled with the fact he was in no condition to be standing with a collecting tin for a few hours raising money for a charity. I decided

to investigate what could 'move' my Dad so much to make such an effort and gesture.

I had found DebRA and instantly understood what had motivated him. He had a great love of children and was not a man to bear suffering of others easily. His decision to help DebRA in his way was something that struck a chord with me, so when I became Rag Rep for David Collett Hall in February 2001 I took the inspiration and support that he always gave me and applied myself to help these children.

Three students and I from David Collett decided to climb Kilimanjaro and raise a minimum of £12,000 for DebRA. I realised that asking people I knew for sponsor money would raise only so much money and that if I were to be successful in this audacious bid I would need other people to ask for sponsor money for me.

Taking climbing as the theme for a sponsored event I realised that a great deal of people would have to take part and the traditional Three Peaks in 24 hours challenge presented problems with climbing during the night. Each of the main hills, Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon would have to be climbed during daylight hours so it would be three hills in three days. This in itself was not much of a challenge so I threw two more hills into the mix; Helvellyn & Casdair Idris and so the Five Peaks Challenge was born.

In the end we generated £43,000 for DebRA, £6,000 of which came from the first Five Peaks Challenge. The Five Peaks is back this summer and the aim is to raise £20,000 for DebRA, making it the single biggest financial event on the RAG calendar this year.

If this is a story that inspires you to dust off your boots and join this summer from 15 to the 18 June, then feel free to get in touch with the RAG Office on 01509 635036. Basic information can be obtained at www.lufbra.net/5peaks and information about DebRA and the good work they do can be found at www.debra.org.uk

I hope this is a story that inspires you to help someone in a way that only you can, thank you."

Paul Wright

National Science Week

National Science Week this year takes place from 12 to the 21 March. It aims to celebrate science and its importance to our lives, giving people from everywhere in the UK the chance to participate in science activities and experiments and to engage in science discussions in their local area. Loughborough Faculty of Science is hosting a number of events throughout the week, which are open to staff, students and the local community. These include a demonstration on what happens to your hands when they become cold, a debate on the future of computers in the home and a chance to meet the University's two thermal manikins. For further details contact Jackie Baseley by calling 01509 228336 or email J.A.Baseley@lboro.ac.uk

Book released

Len Cantor, the University's Emeritus Professor of Education, has released a new book called 'The Scheduled Ancient Monuments of Leicestershire and Rutland.

The book is a companion volume to his previous work on parks and gardens, country houses and parish churches in the two counties. It covers all 212 scheduled ancient monuments, and draws together detailed descriptions, maps and photographs of these legally protected memorials which preserve a fascinating record of more than 3,000 years of human habitation and activity. Published by Kairos Press, the book costs £7.50 and is available in local bookshops.

Environmental Week

Staff and students are being invited to take part in a variety of activities being held to mark National Ethical and Environmental Week, taking place from 21 to the 26 March.

Further information on what events will be taking place will be circulated in the next few weeks. In the mean time staff are reminded of the importance of being environmentally friendly and how simple steps, such as switching off computers and lights when they are not needed, all help.

QAA Institutional Audit

Preparations are now well underway for the Institutional Audit by the Quality Assurance Agency.

The audit will culminate in a five-day visit starting on 22 March. A team of six auditors and an audit secretary has been appointed for the visit, and they will be accompanied by an assistant director from the QAA.

The new institutional audit process replaces universal subject reviews and the previous 'continuation audit' process at institutional level. Its introduction has been accompanied by new requirements on institutions to maintain and publish a range of up-to-date information on quality and standards, more details of which will be provided in the coming weeks.

The process is based on a clear understanding that institutions are responsible for managing the standards and quality of their awards. The audit will examine the effectiveness of our internal quality assurance structures and mechanisms; and the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the information we publish about the quality of our programmes and the standards of our awards.

The audit will include investigations of how internal QA systems operate, by following a number of 'discipline audit trails' (DATs). These provide a window through which the audit team can consider aspects of what is actually being achieved by students and the effectiveness of the support offered to

assist students' learning. They also provide a direct means of comparing the claims made by the University for the information it provides with the experience of students who have actually used the information.

Five departments have been selected by the audit team for DATs. These are Civil and Building Engineering, Economics, English and Drama, Social Sciences and Sport and Exercise Sciences.

The institutional 'self-evaluation document' is a key reference point for the audit team and was submitted to the QAA in November 2003. The departments involved in the DATs have also had to submit 'self-evaluation documents' and relevant programme specifications. The departments which underwent a Periodic Programme Review in 2003 have been able to rely largely on their PPR documentation for this purpose.

The QAA invites students to participate in the key stages of the audit process. The Students' Union has made a written submission to the audit team and Students' Union officers and other students will be invited to participate in specified meetings during the briefing and audit visits and have the opportunity to ensure the team is aware of matters of primary interest or concern to them.

During the audit visit in March investigations at both institutional and discipline level, including meetings with staff and students, will take place. There will be no direct observation of teaching.

The audit will result in a report published by the QAA, which will set out the audit team's judgement on two key issues. Firstly the confidence that can reasonably be placed in the soundness of the University's management of the quality of its programmes and the academic standards of its awards. And secondly on the reliance that can reasonably be placed on the information the University publishes about the quality of its programmes and the standards of its awards.

The two judgements will be accompanied by recommendations for consideration by the University, categorised in order of priority as essential, advisable or desirable. The judgements will take into account the findings in respect of the DATs and a summary statement on each of the trails will be incorporated in the report. The report may also highlight features of good practice at institutional level and within the disciplines involved in the trails.

The University's audit steering group, chaired by the Pro Vice Chancellor for Teaching Professor Morag Bell has established an intranet site where relevant internal documents, including the institutional self-evaluation document, can be found. The site address is <https://internal.lboro.ac.uk/admin/registry/univide/audit/index.htm>

More details of the audit process can be found on the QAA website, and in particular in the Handbook for Institutional Audit: England, 2002 at <http://www.qaa.ac.uk>

news@lboro

Director of CICE visits China

Professor Chimay Anumba, the Director of Loughborough's Centre for Innovative Construction Engineering (CICE), recently gave a keynote lecture at a conference in China.

Professor Anumba was invited to speak at the International Conference on Sustainable Development in Building and Environment, held at Chongqing University. His lecture was entitled 'Knowledge Management for Sustainable Construction'.

During his visit he was made a Visiting Professor, which will enable him to continue to build up strong international links with the University and its Faculty of Urban Construction and Environmental Engineering.

Professor Anumba was also interviewed by the Chinese Television Network, CQTV during his trip. In the broadcast he suggested ways in which modern information and communication technologies can help the fast-growing Chinese construction industry.



Pictured from the left are Professor Baizhan Li, Dean of the Faculty of Urban and Environmental Engineering at Chongqing University, Professor Tony Marmont of Beacon Energy, Professor Saffa Riffat of the University of Nottingham, Professor Li Xiaohong, President of Chongqing University, Professor Chimay Anumba of Loughborough University and Dr Runming Yao of Chongqing University.



Loughborough crowned European Indoor Hockey Challenge Champions

Loughborough Students have been crowned European Indoor Challenge Champions, after beating Ukrainian side Kolos Vinnitsa 7-1 in the championship final held at the University in February.

A superb goal from Loughborough's David Ralph in the last seconds of the game rounded off both a terrific match and a very successful tournament. Loughborough Students' victory in the championship ensures their promotion and a place in the highly rated European Indoor Trophy for 2005.

Loughborough booked their place in the Final after beating Finnish side HT 85 11-2 in the Semis. Earlier in the championship, convincing wins over Irish side Avoca, SK Senkvice from Slovakia, and Swansea Bay had seen Loughborough finish top of their group.



The Loughborough Students team in action.

The three-day tournament saw the Students' side, who were representing England, take on teams from the Ukraine, Slovenia, Finland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Ireland and Wales. It was the first time that an English side had hosted a European indoor event.

Loughborough Students qualified for the tournament after winning the Higgins Group English Indoor Club Championship in 2003. The team have continued their dominance of the domestic indoor game this year by successfully retaining their National Premier League and National Club Championship titles for the third and second consecutive years respectively.



Crowds gather to watch Loughborough Students perform.

Staff cricketers are Division One champions

Amid the exciting times for cricket at Loughborough with the establishment of the ECB National Cricket Academy, the staff cricketers had their own reason to celebrate at the end of the 2003 season.

After a very close battle with main rivals Newtown Linford, they eventually came out winners of Division One in the Loughborough Cricket Association Evening League. This means they are entering the Premier division for the first time in their history this year.

Club Secretary Dave Richardson said: "Winning the division last season was a fantastic team achievement. Unfortunately we haven't been able to keep all of last season's successful squad together so we are keen to recruit some new players to help build on our

recent efforts. We are also interested to hear from players of all abilities interested in playing weekend cricket and from anyone who would like to become involved with the club in any other capacity such as scoring, umpiring or simply supporting."

For further information please contact Dave Richardson by emailing d.j.richardson@lboro.ac.uk or calling 01509 224094. Alternatively drop in at one of the Monday evening net sessions held from 9pm to 10pm at the Cricket Academy.

Marshall sets new British Record as Loughborough's swimmers warm up for Athens

Loughborough University's Melanie Marshall set a new British Record of 1:58.51 in the 200m freestyle at Ponds Forge, Sheffield in January.

Marshall, who set a new 400m short course record in Berlin the previous week looked impressive as she set a blistering pace over the opening half of the race. She powered her way down the final 50m to shave close to a second off the old record and set a

time which would have been ranked fifth in the world last year.

Loughborough's other stars continue to shine as they warm-up for Athens. At the same meeting James Gibson had impressive swims, winning the 50m & 100m breaststroke, and Lisa Chapman built her confidence with wins in the 50m & 100m freestyle. Rosalind Brett made a welcome return to form by lifting the 50m & 100m

butterfly titles, and her time in the 100m butterfly of 1:01.51 was a new University record. Brett went on to dead heat with Chapman in the 50m freestyle and took silver in the 100m freestyle. Janine Belton, an Olympic veteran of Atlanta & Sydney, showed she was on target for a berth in Athens with a fine victory in the 200m freestyle, while British record holder Liam Tancok overcame a recent illness to take gold in the 50m backstroke.

Obituaries

Anthony David Goodson, MPhil, FIOA

It is with great sadness that we report the death David Goodson, who passed away on 13 January, aged 61.

As a long-serving member of the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, David established himself by becoming a genuine world authority on bioacoustics. He crossed the divide between engineering and biology with such success that he was regularly invited to present his research at prestigious institutions around the world. This is all the more remarkable given that he was not formally an academic but an experimental officer who was not expected to do research at all, let alone initiate and lead international projects.

David was born on 3 July 1942. He attended two schools on the Isle of Wight, Cowes Secondary School during 1953-59, then Carisbrooke Grammar School during 1959-61. The next phase of his education was at Shoreditch Teacher Training College, Surrey, during 1961-64, at the end of which he gained a London University Institute of Education Teacher's Certificate. His first teaching post was at Harold Malley Technical Grammar School, Solihull, during 1964-67, then he took charge of engineering education at Loughborough College School during 1967-73. Next, during 1973-76, he worked as a broadcast video engineer with Ampex (GB) Ltd, becoming a Member of the Royal Television Society.

David was appointed Experimental Officer at Loughborough University in 1977 and gained promotion on merit to Senior

Experimental Officer in 1980 and Chief Experimental Officer in 1994. Initially, he worked on the design, development and testing of sonar systems. His expertise on this work led to the award of the MPhil degree in 1990. Gradually, he shifted his interests to bioacoustics and wrote many papers on the subject. He also contributed chapters to several books. He wrote two successful EC funding proposals, with European partners, and co-ordinated sea trials abroad. He organised three Institute of Acoustics Symposia on Biosonar and Bioacoustics at Loughborough, and he was joint holder of a US Patent on an acoustic device, now on the market, for reducing the by-catch of porpoises in fishing nets. He presented many invited lectures abroad, including to the US Navy, the University of Kentucky, the German Navy Research Centre, the US National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the International Whaling Commission, and the Indian Institute of Technology. As a result of this work he was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Acoustics.

He was an excellent asset to the department, always cheerful, and ever helpful to generations of students whose projects he supervised. He set a fine example of selflessness for others to follow and many people will miss him, both here and around the world. We extend our condolences to David's wife Paula, and to all his family and friends.

Bryan Woodward

Emily Craddock

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Emily Craddock, who graduated from the Department of European Studies in 1998. Emily, 27, went missing before Christmas while working on a Greenpeace ship which was monitoring illegal logging in the Amazon delta.

Someone who took her politics seriously but could still see its funny side, Emily felt passionately about injustice and was determined to change the world for the better. She impressed everyone who met her with her lively and friendly personality and great sense of humour. The impact she made in her life - now so tragically cut short - can be seen in the many moving tributes posted on the Greenpeace website: <http://www.greenpeace.org.nz/news>

We send our deepest condolences to her family and friends at their appalling loss.

Dr Robert Knight, Department of Politics, International Relations and European Studies

Roll of Honour

New Year's honour for Loughborough student

A postgraduate student from the University's Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) has been honoured by his hometown in Spain by being named as its 'Personality of the Year'.

Whilst visiting family and friends in Ibi, a small town near Alicante, for Christmas Cristobal Gamez was told he had been chosen for the honour in recognition of his work with several relief agencies, providing emergency assistance to victims of war or natural catastrophes.

To be chosen as 'Personality of the Year' is a great local honour, and nominations have to be approved by all local political parties. To mark the award on 6 January, the feast of the Epiphany, a Mass was held with Cristobal as the honoured guest. The service was

followed by a celebratory reception and meal at the Town Hall.

Before coming to study at WEDC Cristobal was working with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Colombia, where he survived a serious accident from which he is currently recovering. This event has not changed Cristobal's motivation to work in developing countries. He chose WEDC as the best place to study to prepare himself for future challenges.



Cristobal is officially named as 'Personality of the Year' at his home town of Ibi.

Wednesday 3 March **Honey from the Hive: a tribute to Elizabeth I** **7.30pm**

Legendary duo Emma Kirkby and Anthony Rooley offer an intriguing and satirical insight into the last days of the Elizabethan era.
Cope Auditorium. Adults £9, Students £5, Concessions £8. *

Inaugural Lecture **5.00pm**

"Designer Alloys: Modelling Microstructural Evolution in Engineering Components" by Professor Rachel Thomson. Lecture Theatre T.O.03, Wolfson Building. For details contact Trish Swift, T: 01509 222475.

Thursday 4 March **The Body in the Minds of Artists: Ideas in the Nature and distinctiveness of Visual Artistic and Aesthetic Thinking** **4.15pm**

Talk by Professor Ciaran Benson, University College, Dublin.
Further details from Karen Dickman, Human Sciences, T: 01509 228818.

Monday 8 March **Spring Careers Fair** **11.00am to 4.00pm**

Over 40 organisations with information and opportunities for graduates, vacation work, placement students, postgraduate study and voluntary work.
Edward Herbert Building. Contact the Careers Service, T: 01509 222051.

Tuesday 9 March **Royal Aeronautical Society Lecture** **7.30pm**

Barry Swainston, Chairman of RAeS Flight Simulators Group, will describe the history of flight simulation, discuss current configurations and look at the future.
Room U.O.20, Brockington. Further details from Goff Tearle, T: 01509 227260.

Wednesday 10 March **Global Ideology as seen in Management** **4.00pm**

Georges Salemohamed will give a brief presentation to be followed by a Q & A session. All welcome. Room A.2.04, Schofield.
Further details from Dr Maurice FitzGerald, T: 01509 223659.

Thursday 11 March **Addressing long-term Health and Safety issues in Industry** **4.15pm**

Talk by Dr Murray Sinclair, from the Department of Human Sciences.
Further details from Karen Dickman or Paula Griffiths, T: 01509 228818.

Friday 12 March **London Contemporary Dance Postgraduate Group Edge** **7.30pm**

An exciting new repertoire performed by students who have achieved an exceptional standard in technique.
Sir Robert Martin Theatre. Adults £6, Concessions £5. *

Saturday 13 March **Prospero's Island** **7.30pm**

An inventive prequel to The Tempest, a stunning visual spectacle.
Sir Robert Martin Theatre. Adults £8, Students £6, Concessions £6. *

Wednesday 17 March **Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet** **7.30pm**

Shifting Sands Theatre Company perform a comic reworking of this classic tale.
Sir Robert Martin Theatre. Adults £6, Concessions £5. *

Saturday 20 March **Concert by Leicestershire Chorale with the Leicestershire Camerata** **7.30pm**

A performance of Haydn's The seasons, conducted by Jonathan Tilbrook.
Sir Robert Martin Theatre. Adults £8, Concessions £6. *

* Further information from the Arts Centre, T: 01509 222899.

