

## Loughborough awarded millions for engineering and mathematics centres

The University has been awarded more than £6 million in recognition of its excellence in the provision of engineering teaching and learning development and mathematics support to students.

Following bids to the Higher Education Funding Council for England Loughborough's Faculty of Engineering and its Engineering Education Centre (EEC) and the Mathematics Education Centre (MEC) have received Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Status.

Engineering has been awarded £3.9 million, which will enable it to further enhance its work in industry focussed engineering teaching and to research and develop enhanced teaching practices in this area.

John Dickens, Director of the Engineering Centre for Excellence and Associate Dean (Teaching) of Engineering at the University said: "This award recognises the excellence of engineering teaching at Loughborough, the strength of industry links and the unique support provided through the EEC.

"The funding will enable additional innovative

developments that will further enhance the student experience, and the models of practice developed at the centre through research will be transferable to other disciplines and universities." Professor Chris Backhouse, Dean of Engineering at the University added: "Work with Industry is a key element of Loughborough's strategic plan. The centre for excellence will help to further develop this work within teaching and learning and with the University having one of the largest engineering faculties in the UK it will have a significant impact."

The MEC, in collaboration with Coventry University, has been awarded £4.5 million by HEFCE. The funding, which will be spread over five years, will lead to significant improvements to the student support infrastructure at both institutions, investment in innovative approaches to the teaching and learning of mathematics, all under-pinned

with a systematic programme of research into improving the teaching of mathematics.

Dr Tony Croft, Director of the Mathematics Centre for Excellence at Loughborough said: "Students in a very wide range of disciplines are increasingly called upon to understand and use mathematical and statistical techniques. Consequently the enhanced provision offered through the Centre for Excellence will impact upon many large and diverse groups. In addition, a key focus of the Centre will be to support students with special needs arising because of disabilities such as blindness or learning difficulties like dyslexia. Students in many other universities will also benefit from this investment as there are plans to share experience and resources beyond the two principal institutions."

Professor Chris Linton, Head of the University's Department of Mathematical Sciences added: "Mathematics is a vital part of a great many degree programmes, from Engineering to Economics. Loughborough and Coventry have led the way in developing high-quality mathematics support services and the creation of this Centre for Excellence will allow us to significantly enhance our provision. The quality of mathematics support, offered to all students regardless of their programme of study, will be second to none."

The Director of the Centre for Excellence at Coventry University is Professor Duncan Lawson.

## Swimmers raise thousands

A marathon fundraising swim by Loughborough University swimmers in aid of the Tsunami Disaster Appeal has doubled its target – raising a staggering £20,000.

Turn to page 3 for the full story.

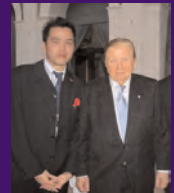


## Inside



4

**Sanitation project**  
WEDC visit Tanzania for launch of toilet centre.



5

**EU-China Summit**  
Geography student attends prestigious summit.



9

**emda visit**  
Chairman of emda visits campus.



10

**Rugby victory**  
Loughborough beat Bath University at the '21st Century Varsity Game'.

news@lboro is published  
by the  
Public Relations Office,  
Rutland Hall,  
Loughborough University,  
Loughborough LE11 3TU  
Tel: 01509 222224  
Fax: 01509 223902  
Email: news@lboro.ac.uk

Editor: **Judy Smyth**  
Ext: 8697  
Email:  
**J.L.Smyth@lboro.ac.uk**

Layout by:  
**Helen McCullam**  
Unless otherwise stated,  
photos by  
**Media Services**

Printed by  
**John Price & Sons Ltd**

Contributions to  
**news@lboro** should  
usually be made  
on disk or by emailing  
news@lboro.ac.uk

Due to space restrictions,  
not all submitted material  
can be printed. The editor  
reserves the right  
to amend or withdraw  
articles without notice.

Extracts from **news@lboro**  
should not be reproduced  
without prior permission  
from the Public Relations  
Office.

Issue No 34:  
Tuesday 12 April 2005  
Copy deadline:  
5pm Tuesday 29 March  
2005

**news@lboro** is also  
available online  
in pdf format at  
www.lboro.ac.uk/  
publicrelations/publications  
/newsatlboro/  
newsletter33.pdf

# Nominations wanted for University prizes

The application deadlines are looming for two of the University's most prestigious prizes.

Nominations for the T S Shipman Prize need to be made by April 15. This prize is awarded to a student who has made a significant contribution to the development of cooperation between the University or College and the local community.

Details of the prize and how to make nominations can be found at:  
[http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/ar/student/prizes/university\\_nominated/tss/index.htm](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/ar/student/prizes/university_nominated/tss/index.htm)

The deadline for the Sir Robert Martin University Prize is 22 April. This is awarded to a student who has performed outstandingly either academically or non-academically.

Details of the prize and a nomination form can be found at:  
[http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/ar/student/prizes/university\\_nominated/srm/index.htm](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/ar/student/prizes/university_nominated/srm/index.htm)

## Launch of Two Ticks

The University has been awarded the Two Ticks Disability Symbol by the Employment Service in recognition of its commitment to employing people with disabilities.

Loughborough will commence using the Two Tick Disability Symbol on all adverts on 1 April 2005.

The five commitments the University has signed up to are:

- To interview all applicants with a disability who meet the essential criteria for a job vacancy and consider them on their abilities.
- To ensure there is a mechanism in place to discuss at any time, but at least once a year, with disabled employees what can

be done to ensure that they develop and use their abilities.

- To make every effort when employees become disabled to ensure that they stay in employment.
- To take action to ensure all employees develop an appropriate level of disability awareness to make these commitments work.
- To review the above four commitments and see what has been achieved, plan ways to make improvements and let staff and the Employment Service know about the progress and future plans.

It is important that supervisors, managers and those responsible for staff recruitment take some time to familiarise themselves with the new procedures being implemented as a result.

Detailed information on the symbol and the implications for departments can be found at [www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/personnel/twoticks.html](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/personnel/twoticks.html). In addition, 40-minute focus sessions are being run for staff. Details of the sessions can be found on the Professional Development website.

For further advice or information please contact your Personnel Adviser, or Lesley Mansell, Equal Opportunities Adviser, by calling 01509 228026 or emailing [L.A.Mansell@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:L.A.Mansell@lboro.ac.uk)

There will be an official launch of the scheme and departments are invited to come along to demonstrate their current good practice. Please contact Lesley if you would like a space on the day.

## Business conference

A free one-day conference is being hosted by the University's Business School, which will look at ways of strengthening African and Caribbean businesses.

Taking place on Friday, 18 March from 9.55am until 4.30pm, the event is being funded by the European Social Fund. The Keynote Speaker at the conference will be Baroness Amos, Leader of

the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council. The key themes of the event are: Finance; procurement; ongoing support; trade barriers and black businesswomen.

For further information contact Elaine Harris at the University's Centre for Hazard & Risk Management by calling 01509 222158 or emailing [E.R.Harris@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:E.R.Harris@lboro.ac.uk)

# Loughborough and Oxbridge lead RAE sub-panel league

Loughborough academics will chair the second highest number of sub-panels for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), the higher education funding councils recently announced.

Cambridge University tops the league with six sub-panel chairs, closely followed by Loughborough and Oxford with five. There are 67 chairs in total.

The sub-panel chairs are experts in their field and were selected following peer nomination last year. They will be responsible for assessing universities' submissions to the 2008 RAE at subject level and will make recommendations to the main panels on the quality profiles to award for each submission.

The RAE is the Government-backed national survey of the quality of research in universities.

Loughborough University's sub-panel chairs are:

- Professor John Feather – Library and information management
- Professor Peter Golding – Communication, culture and media studies
- Professor Neil Halliwell – Mechanical,

aeronautical and manufacturing engineering

- Professor Michael Smith – European studies
- Professor Clyde Williams – Sports-related studies

Loughborough's Vice Chancellor, Professor Sir David Wallace, said: "I am delighted to offer my warmest congratulations to the five staff at Loughborough who will be taking on this responsibility.

"This is wonderful recognition, not only of their research esteem, but also of their personal qualities of impartiality, integrity and objectivity. The appointments also underline the University's position as a leading research-led institution."

In 2004 Loughborough regained top position as the most research-intensive university in the UK for funded research work given its subject mix, according to the Performance Indicators published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

# General Assembly

The next meeting of General Assembly takes place on Wednesday, 16 March at 4pm in lecture theatre J.O.01, EHB.

All academic, academic-related and research staff are warmly encouraged to attend the meeting, which represents an opportunity for staff to find out about, and have their views heard on, a range of topical matters.

The meeting will be led by the Vice Chancellor and there will be reports on key issues including:

- Recent and planned developments at the University
- Loughborough's financial situation
- Job evaluation
- The new arrangements for undergraduate fees and bursaries from 2006

This is a critical time for the University as student recruitment becomes increasingly competitive and we prepare for the next Research Assessment Exercise.

The detailed agenda is available on the web at: [http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/committees/general\\_assembly/index.htm](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/committees/general_assembly/index.htm)

## Swimmers' fundraising exceeds all targets

A marathon fundraising swim by Loughborough University swimmers in aid of the Tsunami Disaster Appeal has doubled its target – raising a staggering £20,000.

Almost seventy swimmers took part in the event in January, aiming to swim 100,000m, or 100km, in 17 hours and raise £10,000 in sponsorship. Not only did the team, which included nine Loughborough Olympians and a Paralympic Gold medalist, complete the gruelling challenge in just 16 hours 19 minutes and 25.67 seconds, they also doubled their fundraising target.

The challenge was devised by Loughborough swimming coach Ben Titley after a conversation with World Champion James Gibson. Just a few weeks earlier James had been holidaying on the Thai island of Koh Phi Phi, which was severely affected by the disaster.

"The support and interest during the day was tremendous and the generosity of the public immense," said Ben. "We had donations and support from several major companies, including Speedo and the London Office of BCJV, so we'd like to say a big thank you to them. But it was the personal donations from the friends of Loughborough Swimming and other University staff and students that will combine to make the big difference."

The final relay of the event was completed by the Loughborough Olympians – James Gibson, Melanie Marshall, Sarah Price, Ros Brett, Karen Lee, Ross Davenport, David Carry, Lisa Chapman and Caitlin McClatchey – with Paralympic Gold medalist Jane Stidever swimming the final leg.

David Carry produced the fastest men's time of the day with 50.4 seconds, while Lisa Chapman set the fastest women's time, with an outstanding 55.3 seconds.



Olympian James Gibson was delighted with the money raised by the relay swim.

# More female-friendly curriculum key to encouraging girls into sport

Schools that offer more female-friendly sports activities such as aerobics, pilates and dance classes are successfully attracting more girls into sport, a Loughborough research project has shown.

The findings come following an evaluation of the Girls in Sport initiative, which aims to increase girls' involvement in sport.

The research was undertaken by Dr Tess Kay and Toni O'Donovan from the Institute of Youth Sport at the University.

"Our research study has shown that the Girls in Sport programme offers a constructive way forward in addressing the long-standing, deep-rooted problems that adolescent girls have with sport and PE in schools," explains Dr Kay. "Schools that implemented the programme saw some very positive results."

The findings of the evaluation study revealed that:

- 83% of teachers who implemented changes perceived an improvement in participation levels in either PE or school sport
- Almost three quarters of teachers thought that the changes reduced girls' non-participation in school PE
- 77% perceived that the changes increased participation in extra curricular sport.

A high percentage of schools adopting the Girls in Sport programme were also planning further developments in the future, for example to cater for minority groups or to work with partner primary and secondary schools.

The Girls in Sport programme was first established by Nike and the Loughborough-based Youth Sport Trust. It aims to equip secondary school teachers with the appropriate skills and ideas to provide forms of physical education and sport opportunities that would foster long-term change in girls' involvement in sport.

The initiative offers a five-part approach for schools – a training workshop for PE department staff, a user manual for secondary schools, assistance in developing a tailor made action plan, research support through the Institute of Youth Sport, and a national award scheme.

Since the project was launched nationally in 2000, 2,271 secondary schools have attended one of 250 workshops. More than three-quarters of the schools have improved the range of opportunities available to girls both within the curriculum and at extra-curricular level. They have also placed increased emphasis on recognition of girls' participation and achievement in sport, and tried to address issues such as the sporting environment, the PE/sport kit and class composition.

However, the evaluation study has also highlighted the complexity of implementing change in schools.

Dr Kay added: "Support, staffing, time and funding were identified as four key aspects constraining teachers' ability to implement change. The research also showed the significance of key individuals in driving forward the Girls in Sport agenda."

# WEDC leads innovative approach to promoting sanitation

Loughborough's Water and Engineering Development Centre (WEDC) has been leading a new research project on sanitation marketing.

Despite toilets being considered by many as a basic necessity more than 2.4 billion people do not have access to this facility, particularly in Africa and Asia. To try and tackle this issue WEDC has been working in Tanzania and Ghana to inform low-income families about the different types of toilets available.

For the research, which was funded by the Department for International Development, the WEDC team carried out market research to develop suitable toilets for the local people, and then put together a marketing strategy to promote their use.

A display was held in Dar es Salaam to showcase improved house toilets, and this was followed by the launch of a toilet centre in one of the biggest slums in the

area. The centre is managed by a group of toilet builders and provides models/information on various types of toilets, costs, and advice on suitability.

Amaka Obika and Dr Andrew Cotton from WEDC were in Dar es Salaam for the launch. This was the first time that toilets have been given such profile and the event attracted a huge crowd and interest both from within and outside the Government. Within days of the launch the demand for toilets rose in Dar es Salaam.

For further information about the project contact Amaka Obika by emailing [E.U.Obika@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:E.U.Obika@lboro.ac.uk)



Photograph courtesy of Amaka Obika

# Examining the link between wealth and child health

Researchers at Loughborough University have been awarded almost half a million pounds to examine the effect wealth has on child health and development.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is funding the project, which is being led by Paula Griffiths in the Department of Human Sciences. It is hoped the study will help Governments across the world to design environmental, social and health policies that reduce the risk of poor health and improve the wellbeing of future generations of children growing up in urban societies.

To carry out the research Paula will be focussing on children in South Africa, where the income gap between the richest and poorest people is the second largest in the world.

Her work will tie in with an existing project, known as 'Birth to Twenty' (BTT) at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, which started in 1990 and is the longest running study of children's health in Africa. It is one of a few large research projects following almost 3,000 children from birth

to early adulthood within a developing country. Previous studies in Africa have not been able to consider how wealth affects health over time, but BTT makes this possible because the same children are studied annually.

This new project will involve 671 BTT children and aims to identify the contributions that household and community wealth make to their health and lifestyle. Examples of community wealth include access to schools and hospitals, good transport services, low crime rates and the provision of adequate facilities to buy food. Measures of household wealth include ownership of goods, such as cars, bikes, televisions and game machines, as well as social support, for example whether the mother of a young child has family and friends that she can talk to about problems that her or her child are experiencing.

To examine the contributions that these factors of wealth have on child health Paula will look at such things as growth, weight, on-set of puberty and bone health in the children, as well as the food they eat and the amount of exercise they take part in.

The study will also highlight differences that wealth makes in relation to gender, age, ethnic group and birth weight. Paula will make several visits to South Africa to carry out the study, working alongside the BTT researchers.

Paula explains: "This project will help us understand how the health of a child is influenced by factors arising before and after its birth. It will enhance our knowledge of the contributions of different aspects of wealth to health in South Africa, allowing policy-makers to design and target policies at the most important aspects of wealth for improving child health at the most appropriate stages in their growth and development."

The funding for this project has been awarded under the MRC's career establishment grant scheme and Paula was one of only 11 researchers across the country in the field of medical research to be given such an award in 2004. She is also the first ever Loughborough University researcher to be given this kind of grant.

## Geography student at EU-China summit

Geography research student Wei Shen recently attended the EU-China Summit in Hamburg.

The Summit was a top-level economic event bringing together international leaders to focus on Sino-European relationships under the theme 'Power of Partnership'. Delegates included China's Vice Premier, Mr. Zeng Peiyan, Singapore's elder statesman, Lee Kuan Yew, Germany's Helmut Schmidt, and Nobel Laureate Professor Robert Mundell, who all shared their vision of the economic development of China and called for the strengthening of commercial ties between Europe and China.

Wei Shen had been invited to be a member of the official organising team for this summit, successfully supporting the interactive panel discussion and facilitating press relations.

He said: "This was both a demanding and fascinating event. It gave me a first-hand opportunity to experience the political and academic worlds working creatively together. It was also good to witness the recognition of China's importance as a key player in global issues."

Coming from Shanghai, Wei is currently researching Chinese student migration and knowledge networks, and he has also just received a Marie Curie Scholarship from the European Commission.



Photograph courtesy of Wei Shen

Wei Shen is pictured with the Nobel Laureate in Economics, Professor Robert Mundell of Columbia University.

# Drug-free alternatives for insomnia treatment

Loughborough scientists are hoping to increase the use of drug-free techniques to treat thousands of insomnia sufferers.

The project is being led by Professor Kevin Morgan, who is based in the Department of Human Sciences. Its main aim is to develop and increase the availability of psychological treatments for insomnia by training existing NHS primary care staff to be able to offer such support to patients. Psychological treatments include educating sufferers on how to change their behaviour and control their thoughts in order to promote better sleeping patterns, and offering training in relaxation techniques.

It is hoped the increased use of psychological treatments will not only meet the needs of insomnia patients but also help reduce the high levels of prescription medication, largely benzodiazepines, given to treat the condition.

In England over the last two decades there have been between 10 and 11 million prescriptions for sleeping drugs each year, reflecting a clear demand for insomnia management among NHS patients. Despite widespread clinical and public concern about the long-term use of these drugs, few practical alternatives have been developed or offered to GPs and sufferers.

Research already shows that psychological treatments for insomnia are both safe and very effective but still such approaches remain under-developed and practitioners with experience in this specialised area are scarce. The principle remaining barrier to the wider deployment of these treatments in primary care is training.

This new initiative is hoping to remove this barrier by giving existing NHS primary care staff the training they need to be able to offer such treatments within their routine clinical service. It will also provide post-training support to develop the skills of these practitioners as 'instructors' who can then pass on their skills to others. Clinical supervision, available for six months after training, will help to ensure that the new skills become embedded in routine practice.

This unique training partnership will deliver skills which contribute directly to a number of primary care priorities, including medication management and mental health promotion. It is aimed at all suitably qualified primary care personnel who may encounter patients with serious sleep problems. Some of the first people to join the programme include practice nurses, health visitors, graduate mental health workers, primary care counsellors and psychologists. They make regular visits to the Loughborough University campus where they are given the necessary training.

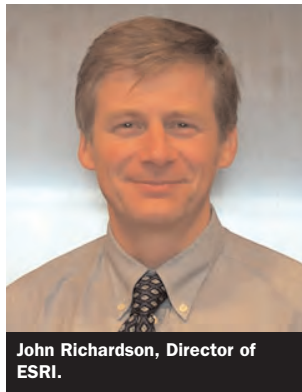
Professor Morgan said: "Insomnia is the most frequently reported psychological symptom in Britain, and a major demand on NHS resources. The wider availability of effective 'talking therapies' for this complaint provides the best possible deal for both patients and GPs."

The project is being funded by the National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) and the NHS University (NHSU).

## New appointments at ESRI

Two senior appointments have recently been made at the University's Ergonomics and Safety Research Institute (ESRI).

John Richardson has been appointed Director of the Institute and Pete Thomas has been made Research Director and Professor of Road and Vehicle Safety.



**John Richardson, Director of ESRI.**

John Richardson follows Meg Galley who previously led ICE and managed the successful merger of ICE and HUSAT to form ESRI in 2001.

Following an earlier appointment at University College London, John joined HUSAT in 1986 where he was responsible for HUSAT's, and subsequently ESRI's, research activities in vehicle and transport ergonomics.

ESRI has accepted a challenging set of targets for growth and development and John will be working with ESRI's staff to

expand the organisation's involvement in teaching, research student supervision and new collaborative alliances within, and beyond, the University.

Pete Thomas jointly founded the Vehicle Safety Research Centre at the

University's Research Institute for Consumer Ergonomics in 1983, having previously worked at the Accident Research Unit at Birmingham University. As Head of the VSRC he is responsible for the research direction of the Centre and its staff. He is a specialist in the relationship between car design and car occupant injuries based on real-world crash investigations and has published research papers on a number of subjects, including head injury causation, leg injury biomechanics, frontal crash test

procedures and the effects on injuries of passenger compartment intrusion.

Pete is the UK expert on several international standards groups, including accident investigation techniques and biomechanics. He is the UK expert to the Vehicle Safety Working Party of the European Transport Safety Council and is also a member of the Parliamentary

Advisory Council for Transport Safety, a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Crash Prevention and Injury Control, and is an IRCOB Board Member. He advises the UK Department of Transport on Safety Research and now chairs the newly formed European Enhanced Safety of



**Pete Thomas, ESRI Research Director and Professor of Road and Vehicle Safety.**

Vehicles Committee on Crash Injury data. Pete is the co-ordinator of several European projects developing new accident data systems including SafetyNet and Pendant.

## **Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering**

*Duct Design and Experiments for an Intercooled Aeroengine*  
Dr J F Carrotte  
£80,050 Rolls-Royce plc.

## **Centre for Hazard and Risk Management (CHaRM)**

*Evaluation of Northwest Contact Centres Project*  
Ms D Walker  
£15,000 Merseyside Call Centres Partnerships

## **Chemical Engineering**

*Naturalhy - Safe Network Distribution of Hydrogen and Natural Gas Mixtures*  
Dr G Hankinson  
£100,000 Health & Safety Executive

*Preparing for the Hydrogen Economy by Using the Existing Natural Gas System as a Catalyst (Naturalhy)*  
Dr G Hankinson  
£90,000 Transco

## **Chemistry**

*Fundamental Processes of Radionuclide Migration (FUNMIG)*  
Prof P Warwick  
£204,864 European Commission

*Cathode Carbon Black Development*  
Prof S Fletcher and Dr N VanDijk  
£21,110 Schlumberger WCP Ltd.

*Investigation of the effect of silicate concentration on the Kd of Ionsiv IE-911.*  
Prof P Warwick  
£15,750 British Nuclear Group

*Development and Utilisation of Sulfimide Derivatised Macrocyclic Systems*  
Dr P F Kelly and Dr G Reid, Southampton  
£124,586 EPSRC

## **Civil and Building Engineering**

*Towards A Safe, Secure and Sustainable Built Environment (S3BE): A Knowledge-Based Decision-Support Framework for Ensuring Safe and Secure Built Assets*  
Dr A Dainty  
£50,000 EPSRC(IMRC)

## **Design and Technology**

*Establishment of a Design and Development Department*  
Mr T Hodgson and Mr J S Smith  
£103,744 KTP/Hy-Pro International Ltd

## **Electronic and Electrical Engineering**

*Novel Demosaicing Techniques for Digital Cameras*  
Dr S Datta and Dr J A Flint  
£28,500 Apical Ltd

## **English and Drama**

*Travel to Shakespeare Association of America 33rd Annual Conference*  
Dr G Egan  
£500 The British Academy

## **Ergonomics and Safety Research Unit (ESRI)**

*Safety Net*  
Prof P D Thomas  
£338,139 European Commission

*Safety Net*  
Prof P D Thomas  
£118,628 European Commission

*Safety Net*  
Prof P D Thomas  
£863,674 European Commission

*Development of Accident Database for Thatcham*  
Prof P Thomas  
£7,200 The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre

## **Geography**

*2004 Philip Leverhulme Prize*  
Dr J E Bullard  
£50,000 The Leverhulme Trust

*Regulating the Spaces of Sex Work : Assessing the Impact of Prostitution Law*  
Dr P J Hubbard  
£48,391 ESRC

## **Polymer Technology and Materials**

**Engineering (IPTME)**  
*Electrochemistry and Deposit Characterisation of Copper (continuation)*  
Dr G D Wilcox  
£81,484 Technology Development Associates Operations Limited

*Polyurethane-Acrylic Dispersions*  
Dr D J Hourston  
£6,000 Avecia (Neo Resins)

## **Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering**

*Equipment Grant*  
Dr R Hague  
£15,863 EPSRC(IMRC)

*Equipment Grant*  
Dr N Hopkinson and Miss C E Majewski  
£12,328 EPSRC(IMRC)

*Use of Forced Convection to Control Pre Heat in Layer Based Freedom Sintering Process*  
Dr N Hopkinson, P P Conway and Miss C E Majewski  
£77,276 EPSRC(IMRC)

*Anisotropic Modelling of Athletic Products*  
Prof R Jones, Dr M P Caine and Dr A Harland  
£50,000 EPSRC(IMRC)

*Laser Sintering of Precious Metals*  
Prof P Dickens  
£18,000 EPSRC(IMRC)

*Custom, Environment and Comfort Made Shoe (CEC-MADE-SHOW)*  
Dr S Rahimifard  
£218,406 European Commission

## **School of Sport and Exercise Sciences**

*Relationship between sports participation and family/household type*  
Dr P Downward and Dr T Kay  
£3,246 English Sports Council

*Impact of Specialist Sports Colleges on Sports Participation and Academic Attainment (Extension)*  
Prof B M J Houlihan  
£42,070 Youth Sports Trust

*Zoneparc and Sporting Playgrounds : Extension to Evaluation*  
Dr T Kay  
£3,000 Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

## **Water Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC)**

*Gap Analysis for Education of Disabled Children in Kosovo*  
Ms H Jones  
£1,244 Save the Children, Kosovo

*Training for Rear (TRF) Strategic Human Resource Dev.(HRD) for Water and Sanitation, Uganda*  
Ms S Coates  
£303,660 DFID Uganda

*Phase 1 Rapid Assessment of Drinking Water Quality Pilot Project(Extension)*  
Mr M D Smith and Mr S E N Godfrey  
£3,441 World Health Organisation

# Celebrating black people in sport

An exhibition is being held at the University to acknowledge the contribution to British sport by black athletes.

The Black Gold exhibition has been organised by the Black Cultural Archive in Brixton and was originally displayed to tie in with the

Olympics in 2004. It is now on display on campus in the James France Building until April.

For more information contact Lesley Mansell by calling 01509 228026. Alternatively visit [www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/personnel/blackgold.htm](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/personnel/blackgold.htm)

# National Science Week 2005

Loughborough has organised a packed programme of events for this year's National Science Week.

Taking place from 11 – 20 March, National Science Week aims to celebrate science and its importance to our lives, giving everyone a chance to participate in science activities and to engage in science discussions in their local area.

The University's programme kicks off on Monday, 14 March with a workshop looking at the design of mobile phones. The hands on session, called 'How 'fit' is your mobile phone?' will take place in local schools and be led by the University's Ergonomics and Safety Research Institute. It is open to pupils aged 12 and over and places must be booked in advance by contacting Jackie Baseley.

A series of events are being held on Wednesday, 16 March, starting with a robotics workshop at 10am. Presented by Professor Paul Chung of the University's Computer Science Department, the session will see youngsters working in teams to construct and test their own robots. It will be held on campus and is open to pupils aged 12 and over. Places must be booked in advance with Jackie Baseley.

At 2pm a workshop entitled 'Why you should not play with Frisbees in the snow' will be held by staff from the University's Institute of Polymer Technology and Materials Engineering (IPTME). This will offer people a chance to see how a Frisbee is made from plastic by injection moulding techniques and how it reacts at different temperatures. It will take place at the IPTME building and is open to pupils aged between 14 and 16. Places must be booked in advance with Jackie Baseley.

The final event on Wednesday will be the annual Sir Neville Mott Lecture, presented by the Department of Physics at 5pm. The lecture will be given by the highly esteemed Russian physicist Professor Emmanuel Rashba, formerly of the Landau Institute for Physical Problems in Moscow and now with the Physics

Department at Harvard University. Professor Rashba belongs to the generation that started the field of solid state physics and created a theoretical background for people's understanding of the effects, processes and phenomena controlling the performance of modern electronics. His contributions to general physics and to almost all areas of solid state physics have been very important and still have tremendous impact today.

The lecture will take place on campus in the David Davis building, room W.0.01 and is open to staff, students and members of the local community with a background in physics. No pre-booking is required.

The final session of the week is on Thursday, 17 March when Dr John Tyrer of the Wolfson School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering will present a lecture entitled 'Bras to Bridges'.

Starting at 6.15pm the lecture will look at how people measure something without touching it. Dr Tyrer will utilise various practical demonstrations of optical equipment to show how modern techniques can be used on a wide range of measurement problems.

The lecture is being held in the Wolfson School, room T.0.03. It is open to staff, students and members of the public, and is suitable for school groups aged 14 and over. Places must be booked in advance by calling Gill Youngs on 01509 227509.

To pre-book any of the other National Science Week events or for further information about the programme contact Jackie Baseley by calling 01509 228336 or visit [www.lboro.ac.uk/nsw](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/nsw)



## Launch of EMCBE

Heavyweights from construction and education joined together to launch the Loughborough University-based East Midlands Centre for Constructing the Built Environment (EMCBE).

The EMCBE is an important initiative for the region's construction industry, and its origin lies in the 'Bridging the Gap' research and report as undertaken by Loughborough in 2002/03 to examine the status of the region's skills base.

It was concluded that the myriad of issues relevant to the wellbeing and future of the construction industry sector in the East Midlands needed to be addressed both coherently and consistently, and that this would be best achieved through a permanent centre with dedicated full-time resources.

The EMCBE is being funded for the first three-year period by emda, and is located in the University's Innovation Centre. It will provide the strategic leadership for the interests of the region's construction industry, become the focal point for its improvement, be the communications 'hub' for co-ordinating and disseminating the enthusiastic work of existing sector related groups and organisations and generally become the regional 'champion' for improving the skills, performance and long term development of the sector.

The EMCBE will accommodate and embrace the work of the East Midlands Construction Forum (EMCF) and Constructing Excellence (CE), and integrate a new position of Innovation Director, co-sponsored by CE and Loughborough University, whose purpose will be to realise, in partnership with

industry, the commercial benefits of work done by the region's universities.

Key stakeholders in the Centre will be CITB-Construction Skills, the Learning and Skills Council, Regeneration East Midlands and the East Midlands Regional Assembly.

The launch of the EMCBE took place at Stapleford Park, Melton Mowbray and was attended by 86 delegates from across the region, including employers, universities and colleges and Government agencies.

Speakers at the event included John Kirkland, OBE, Group Chairman of Bowmer and Kirkland Ltd and the East Midlands Regional Chair of the Learning and Skills Council and Loughborough's Professor Ron McCaffer, Director of Business Partnerships, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer.

# Widening Participation Scholarships

The winners of the Loughborough University Widening Participation Scholarships were recently presented with their grants.

The new scholarships have been introduced for the 2004/05 and 2005/06 academic years in response to the phasing out of the Government's Opportunity Bursary Scheme. They are designed to offer additional financial support to students from widening participation backgrounds.

The funding for the scholarships, secured following a successful bid to the University Development Trust, enables an award of £2,000 to be paid to five students over the course of three years of study at Loughborough.

Applications to the scholarship fund were restricted to students living within the East Midlands region from a family with an income of less than £21,000 per annum. In addition, applicants were invited to highlight any personal circumstances they felt were relevant to the application, as well as demonstrate how they felt they would benefit from receiving the scholarship.

More than sixty applications were received for the five scholarships available, the high quality of which made the process of assessing and making awards very difficult – a job done by members of the Widening Participation Monitoring Group.

As a condition of being awarded a scholarship, successful applicants were asked to register onto the new Students helping Students scheme, through which they work alongside other current Loughborough students, providing support and contributing to the outreach work done by the University.

Through the paid opportunities offered by the Students helping Students scheme, the successful applicants to the Widening Participation Scholarships are given the opportunity to give something back – not only to the University, but also to those younger students they work with who often come from similar circumstances to that of themselves.



Pictured from the left at the scholarship award ceremony are Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Phil Roberts, Alexander Maclean, Martin Coe, Khalid Rehman, Amy Cross and Bryan Johnston of the University's Development Office.

Martin Coe, one of those awarded a scholarship, has already contributed to this scheme. He said: "Working with younger students helps me improve my personal skills. I wish this had happened when I was at school because it gives students a good insight into what university life is really like."

In light of the much publicised financial challenges currently faced by students in higher education, it is hoped that the Widening Participation Scholarships will relieve some of those pressures, as well as demonstrating Loughborough's

continued commitment to Widening Participation.

Amy Cross, another successful scholarship applicant said: "The scholarship has helped me hugely since I began here at Loughborough. University is not cheap and therefore the award has had a huge financial impact for me."

For further information about the Widening Participation Scholarship Fund, or the Students helping Students scheme, please contact the Widening Participation Team by calling 01509 222246 or emailing M.Lister@lboro.ac.uk

## emda chairman visits campus



Dr Bryan Jackson, OBE, Chairman of the East Midlands Development Agency (emda), visited the University in February.

Whilst on campus Dr Jackson was given a tour of some of the University's top academic departments and sporting facilities. He also visited the Loughborough Innovation Centre, one of the regions largest high tech business incubators, and the Systems Engineering Innovation Centre, both of which were part funded by emda.

Professor Ron McCaffer, the University's Director of Business Partnerships, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer said: "We were delighted to welcome Dr Jackson to the campus and show him the difference funding from emda has made to the University. I am certain Loughborough will continue to have a successful relationship with emda."

Professor Ron McCaffer (left), Director of Business Partnerships, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer is pictured with Dr Bryan Jackson.

# Roll of honour

## Professor invited to prestigious event

Professor Ray Jones from the Department of Chemistry recently attended an A\*Star workshop on 'New Challenges in Synthesis for Pharmaceutical Products' organised by the British High Commission.

He was one of the invited speakers at the event, which was supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), and gave a presentation on his work in organic and biological chemistry.

Simon Campbell, President of the RSC, and Dr Keith Carpenter, Executive Director of the Singapore Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences led the teams of UK and Singaporean speakers from academe and industry with the aim of sharing knowledge and forming collaborations.

Professor Jones, who is President of the Organic Division of the RSC, said: "I was pleased to take part in the event and be able to showcase the work I do at Loughborough University."

## Invitation to join ministerial panel

Professor Harriet Ward, Director of the University's Centre for Child and Family Research (CCFR), has been invited to act as an adviser at the Ministerial Strategic Group on Vulnerable Children, chaired by Lord Filkin.

As part of the expert panel Harriet's role is to advise the Minister on the development of both a generic framework, and the practical steps that can be taken, to narrow the gap between outcomes for vulnerable children and outcomes for all children.

# Postgraduate Prizes

A research student in the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences has been the first person to receive the new Loughborough University Postgraduate Progression Prize.

Judith Allgrove was presented with her award by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sir David Wallace at the Winter Graduation ceremony where she also collected an MSc in Exercise Physiology, with distinction.



Judith Allgrove is presented with the Loughborough University Postgraduate Progression Prize by Professor Sir David Wallace.

This recently established prize is awarded annually to an MSc or MA postgraduate student, going on to study for a PhD at Loughborough, in recognition of outstanding all round achievement, including academic achievement.

The Vice Chancellor was delighted to present Judith with £400 and a certificate

in recognition of her exceptional academic achievement and the support she has given to the Great Britain swimming squad over the past 12 months.

Abdoul Al Shamrani, who graduated with an MSc in Polymer Technology with distinction, was also awarded the new Loughborough University Postgraduate

Prize. Abdoul, who was unfortunately unable to attend the Winter Graduation ceremony, received the prize in recognition of his outstanding academic achievement. The prize was also awarded for the support he has given in building up successful links between the Institute of Polymer Technology and Materials Engineering and Saudi Arabia Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), as well as an acknowledgment of Abdoul's mentoring of colleagues from SABIC, helping them to settle at Loughborough.

Both of these prizes are funded through the Loughborough University Development Trust. The Trust exists to support the University in giving students an outstanding quality of educational experience. It raises funds from former students and other friends of the University and their generosity has made these prizes possible.

# New creative writing competition

A new creative writing competition has been launched by Crystal Clear Creators, a radio production organisation based in the Department of English and Drama.

The competition is called 'Soliloquized' and asks entrants to write short monologues suitable for recording and broadcasting via the Internet site [www.crystalclearcreators.org](http://www.crystalclearcreators.org). Staff from the department will judge the competition.

The first prize of £50 in book tokens has been kindly donated by Blackwell's Bookshop, and there are runners-up prizes as well. For more information on how to enter and the competition rules contact Dr Jonathan Taylor by emailing [J.P.Taylor1@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:J.P.Taylor1@lboro.ac.uk)



# Loughborough beat Bath in '21st Century Varsity Game'

Loughborough produced a convincing 21-7 win over Bath University at the '21st Century Varsity Game'.

In a cold but thrilling game, Loughborough showed their dominance by scoring three tries to one. More than 4,000 people turned out at Bath Rugby Club's famous 'Recreation Ground' to watch the match. And they didn't go away disappointed, with a feast of exciting, attacking rugby that was a true showcase for university sport.

Bath scored the first try taking them into the lead, with Loughborough responding with three tries in the first half. Their response of the tries was over a blistering seven minutes of play by Loughborough when they scored their match winning points.

The first half was a real display of fantastic rugby, while the second half was slower with no points being scored at all.

Alan Buzza, Loughborough's Director of Rugby, said he was delighted with his team's performance in capturing the Bath Aqua Glass Trophy.

He added: "Bath really put us up against it in the first 10 minutes, but we held our shape well and moved the ball out wide and then started to find holes down the middle.

"The atmosphere was fantastic. Bath made a spectacular job of hosting this match."

Loughborough University team:

Tim Hurst, Niall Lear, Rhodri Gomer Davis, Alex Hayman, Andy Banfield, Justin Abrahams, Andy Houston, Mat Webber, Tim Brotherton, Dave Bassett (capt), Ben Griffiths, Brin Walker, Mark Cairns, Peter Clarke, Toby Walker. Replacements: Dan James, Gareth Jones, Seb Moss, Tom Yellowlees, Mark Bruce, Greg Collett, Andy Wright.



More than 4,000 people braved the cold to watch the match.



Andy Houston (left) and Dave Bassett (captain) are presented with the Bath Aqua Glass Trophy by England and Bath player Danny Grewcock.

Photographs courtesy of Bryn Vaile, Matchtight Ltd

## Olympics minister visits campus

Tessa Jowell, the cabinet minister responsible for London's campaign to win the right to stage the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, recently visited Loughborough to promote public support for the bid.

Her visit coincided with the arrival of a team from the International Olympic Committee in London to inspect its sports facilities and meet leaders of the bid.

The minister came to the University to see the 50m international standard swimming pool and high performance centre, and talked to swimmers and coaches, including Paralympic gold medallist Jane Stidever.

London is the second of the five bidding cities to be inspected by the International Olympic Committee's evaluation commission. The other bidding cities are Madrid, New York, Paris and Moscow. The IOC makes its decision on which city will host the 2012 Games in Singapore on 6 July 2005.

## Graduate McConnell sets fastest time

Lee McConnell, one of Loughborough's top graduate athletes, ran the fastest 300m ever by a UK woman at sea level, clocking 37.57 seconds, on a rare appearance indoors at the Loughborough University 'Past and Present Match' at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena in February.

McConnell, who now races for Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers, is best known for her outdoor prowess at 400m, and as well as competing at the Olympics and World Championships, Lee

won the Commonwealth Games Silver medal in Manchester and the European Championships Bronze medal also in 2002.

The long-striding Scot, who says she feels awkward negotiating the tight bends of indoor tracks, was unchallenged as she got to within 0.12sec of the world record run by Irina Privalova (Russia) in Moscow in 1993.

The fastest UK time, 37.46, was registered by Sharon Colyear at altitude in the USA in 1981.

**Thursday 3  
March**

**Piano Recital**

**7.30pm**

South Korean pianist Young-Choon Park. Programme includes music by Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. Music Centre. Adults: £7, Students: £6, Concessions: £6. Further details from Viv Green, T: 01509 222899.

**Wednesday 9  
March**

**Organising for Europe: the challenge of the  
British Presidency of the European Union**

**4.00pm –  
5.30pm**

Prof Simon Bulmer (University of Manchester) will deliver a brief presentation followed by a Q & A session. All are welcome to attend. Room A.2.04 Schofield Building. Further details from Professor Dave Allen, T: 01509 222983.

**Thursday 10  
March**

**Ulrich Heinen & Robert Markham**

**7.30pm**

Ulrich (cello) and Robert (piano) perform pieces by Debussy, Webern, Schumann, Janacek, Schubert. Music Centre. Adults: £6, Students: £5, Concessions: £5. Further details from Viv Green, T: 01509 222899.

**Saturday 12  
March**

**Charnwood Orchestra**

**7.45pm**

The Orchestra will perform an interesting mix of the familiar and the less well-known. Cope Auditorium. Adults: £6, Students: £4, Concessions: £4, Family (2+2): £15. Further details from Mary Treasure, T: 01509 227613.

**Monday 14  
March**

**Concert by the University Choir**

**7.30pm**

John Rutter: Requiem, Elgar: The Music Makers. Music Centre. Adults: £3, Students: £3, Concessions: £3. Contact Viv Green, T: 01509 222899.

**Tuesday 15  
March**

**Royal Aeronautical Society/Midlands  
Aerospace Alliance**

**7.30pm**

Robert Nuttall, Vice-President Marketing, Rolls Royce plc gives a talk on modern jet engines. Room U.0.20 Brockington Building. For further details contact Goff Tearle, T: 01509 227260.

**Wednesday 16  
March**

**Sir Nevill Mott Lecture**

**5.00pm**

Professor Emmanuel I. Rashba presents this annual Physics lecture. Everyone is welcome to this event. Room W.0.01 Sir David Davies Building. For further details contact Dr M B Sobnack, T: 01509 223307.

**Angika**

**7.30pm**

This leading British Indian dance company in BHAKTI perform a startlingly powerful and imaginative interpretation of the beauty of devotion. Sir Robert Martin Theatre. Adults: £6, Students: £5, Concessions: £5. Further details available from Viv Green, T: 01509 222899.

**Thursday 17  
March**

**Bras to Bridges**

**6.15pm – 7.30pm**

As part of National Science Week Dr Tyrer will give a presentation on 'How do you measure something without touching it?' Everyone is welcome to this event. Room T.0.03 Wolfson School. Please pre-book your place. For further details contact Gill Youngs, T: 01509 227509.

