

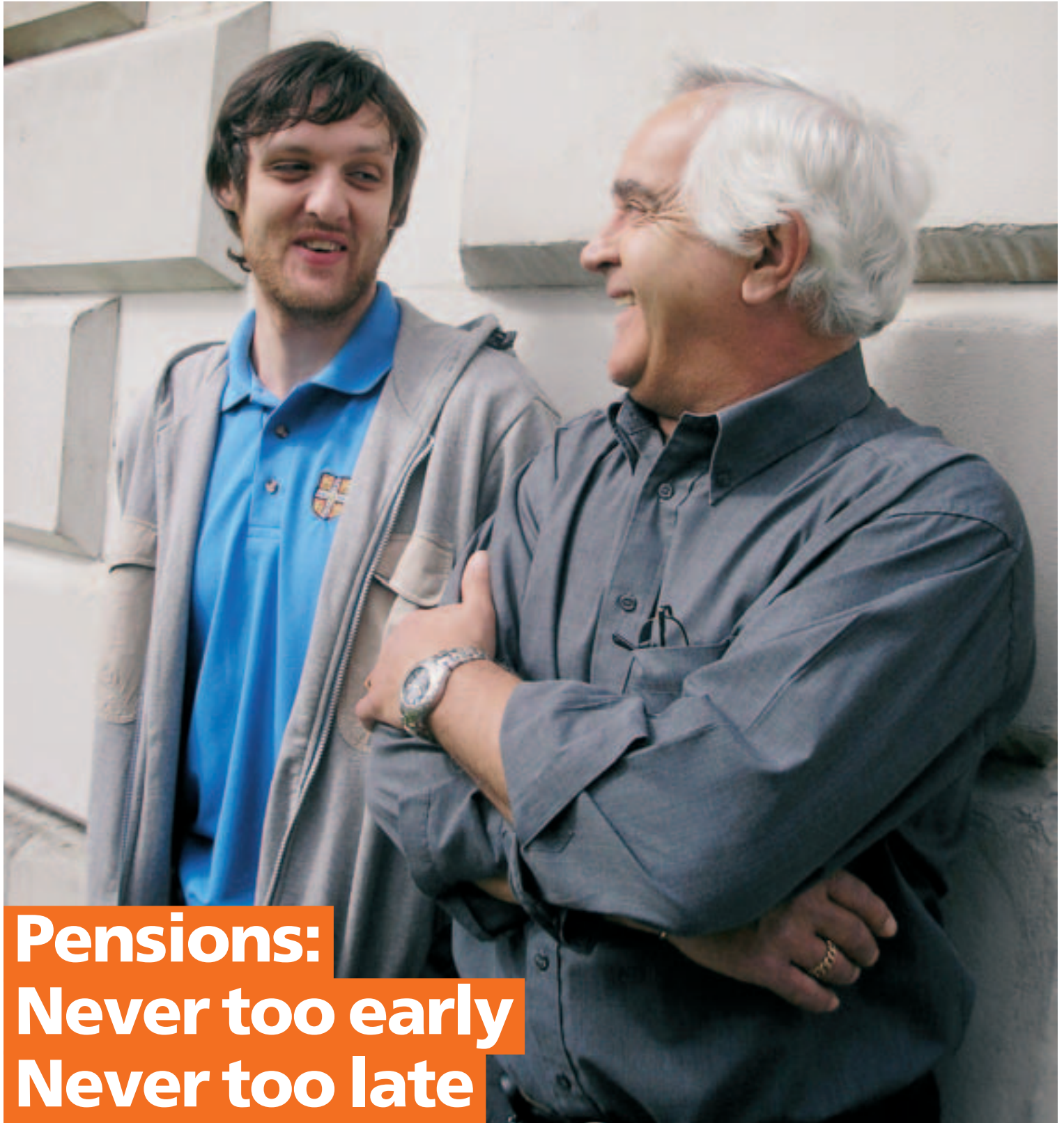
JUNE / JULY 2007

NEWSLETTER

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



**Pensions:
Never too early
Never too late**

Happiness research | Chancellor's visit | Who's won what | Who's new

SNAP SHOT

A huge cast of the biggest statue ever found in ancient Greece can be seen for free, along with more than 600 other casts, at the University's Museum of Classical Archaeology on Sidgwick Avenue. Measuring 4.8 metres in height, the plaster version of the Samos Kouros is three times human size and had to be lifted into the museum through an upstairs window by crane. The original Samos Kouros dates back to 570 BC and was discovered in 1980 on the Greek island of Samos.



Former US Vice President Al Gore, in partnership with the University of Cambridge Programme for Industry (CPI), delivered two Climate Project Training Programmes in the UK this spring. The programmes were attended by 200 leading individuals in business, politics, higher education, faith groups and local communities. CPI will launch a new climate change leadership programme in the fall. With Gore are Professor Ian Leslie and CPI Director Polly Courtice.



"Through the Whole Island: Excursions in Great Britain" is a forthcoming exhibition at the University Library's Exhibition Centre which will give insight into travel in Great Britain between the 16th and 20th centuries. The exhibition, 17 July to 22 December, will include highly visual rare maps, guidebooks and illustrated books that will shed light on the motives people have had for travel. The exhibition is open to the general public; 9am–6pm weekdays, 9am–4.30pm Saturdays.



It's a bird, it's a plane, no, it's a pterodactyl. Zoologist Matthew Wilkinson, a Junior Research Fellow at Clare College, has built a life size, remote-controlled model of an Anhanguera, a species of pterodactyl. Wilkinson built the model to better understand how large pterodactyls, who had wingspans of roughly 16 feet, could fly. He says a membrane in front of the wing may well have acted much like the flaps on a modern aircraft. With Wilkinson is model-builder Vivian Bock.



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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is published for the staff of the University of Cambridge and is produced by the Office of External Affairs and Communications. Please send in ideas for the content and other ways we can improve the publication.

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WHAT'S NEW

→ Your comments and contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor at newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk
The deadline for the next issue is 10 July.

Phone system will offer many benefits



Dr Jake Hornsby says the new system will greatly reduce operational costs

AFTER 23 years, the University Telephone Network is set for a major overhaul.

Beginning in January 2008, the University Computing Service (UCS) will roll out a new telephone infrastructure replacing all 17,000 phones currently in use. By the time the project is completed in January 2010, a majority of University and College staff will have new handsets – most keeping the same extension numbers – and have access to numerous improved features, including voicemail messages which can be delivered via email and caller ID display.

“The majority of users will see minimal interruption and the expectation is that the obvious changes will be cosmetic,” said Dr Jake Hornsby, Head of the Network Division for UCS.

The new system uses Voice over Internet Protocol Technology, meaning calls are sent over data network connections instead of traditional phone lines. Advantages include the ability to have ‘missed call’ lists delivered to a desktop computer and the ability to listen to voicemail through a web browser. The system may eventually allow

users to call other participating universities without additional costs. For those who require them, all special needs services, including text phone for the deaf, will also be provided for.

The move to a new system is overdue, Dr Hornsby said, despite gallant efforts by University staff and BT to keep the older system in use. “It has become increasingly difficult in recent years to obtain parts and repair a system that requires 5.25” floppy disks,” he said. By 2009, the current telephone system is expected to be beyond its designated lifespan and increasingly difficult and costly to maintain.

“Fortunately, when the existing system was purchased it was state-of-the-art for the time – 1984 – and thus has allowed the University Telecommunications Office to use it efficiently and effectively to the maximum extent possible, much longer than the systems depreciation period,” Dr Hornsby said. “After the conversion, however, operational costs are expected to be reduced by hundreds of thousands of pounds per year. More importantly, the service will be sustainable and act as an enabler for future technologies.”

“The majority of users will see minimal interruption and the expectation is that the obvious changes will be cosmetic”

ALL NEW...

Mediation



Trained mediators are now available to all staff who are involved in disputes at work. The Personnel Division has introduced the confidential service as an option offered under the University's Dignity at Work Procedure. The mediators are members of staff, drawn from a variety of roles, who have received mediation training and can provide a supportive structure for the parties to get together to try and restore a positive and productive working relationship. To request a mediator, contact your Personnel Consultant/Officer.

→ To learn more, contact Penny Davison, Dignity at Work Coordinator, 66240, pad24@cam.ac.uk

800th Chair



Professor Jeremy Sanders, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, has taken over from Dr Kate Pretty as Chair of the 800th Anniversary Celebrations Steering Committee. The initial plans for 2009 will be published shortly in the Reporter and at www.cam.ac.uk/800. Involvement in the 800th anniversary year is sought from across collegiate Cambridge, and a partnership fund will be established for activities in 2009.

→ For more information, contact Nicola Buckley, njb1010@cam.ac.uk

Trip south

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Alison Richard took a trip down under at the end of March to build on Australian links with the University. Over 500 alumni and friends attended dinners organised by the Cambridge Societies in Canberra, Victoria and New South Wales. Professor Richard then spent time in Hong Kong, meeting with alumni and friends of the University to strengthen important links between Cambridge and China. Highlights of the visit included a well attended alumni reception on 3 April and a visit to Shantou University in Southern China where she gave two lectures.

Puppy show



All dogs, and their owners, are invited to a ‘Fun Dog Show’ at the Cambridge Veterinary School on 1 July, 1-5pm. The family event will include competitions to find the cutest puppy, waggiest tail and the dog who looks most like its owner. Each event costs £1 pre-registry; £1.50 on the day. All proceeds will go to the HOPE Appeal.

→ For more details, email trust.office@vet.cam.ac.uk

WHAT'S NEW

Going the extra mile

HE STARTED BY dipping his bicycle's front wheel into the Pacific Ocean and 32 days and 3,440 miles later finished by dipping his wheel into the Atlantic Ocean.

With the aim of raising £3,000 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, Pembroke College Porter Andrew Rogers cycled across the United States this spring. He began his journey on 22 April in Costa Mesa, California, and followed a gruelling schedule by most mortal's standards – the 53-year-old covered between 85 and 153 miles a day – to finish 24 May in Amesbury, Massachusetts.

Rogers is one of many University staff and students who are willing to go the extra mile for charity. This year's annual University Community, Outreach and Widening Participation survey estimated that £1 million was raised and donated to charity by staff and students in 2006.

For Rogers, raising funds is a way of honouring a late friend who had suffered from motor neurone disease. In the past, he's cycled long-distances in tandem with partially-sighted people to support vision research. "It's a challenge, but I get to meet interesting people and raise awareness and money for charity," Rogers said.



Andrew Rogers spends two to four hours a day on his bike when training for a long trek

To train for long treks like the one he's taken across the States, Rogers cycles daily, sometimes biking the 12 miles from home to report for work. He's developed a strategy for completing longer journeys. "If you think I have 120 miles today, that is kind of daunting," he said. "The best way to cope is just to break it down into manageable chunks. I find myself thinking, 'After 40 miles I can have a cup of tea'."

Gay and lesbian steering group formed

BUILDING ON efforts to create a more inclusive environment at the University – for women, for people with disabilities, for all races – a steering group has been formed to address issues important to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) staff.

The group, comprised of LGBT staff, plans to develop a network from across the University. They are planning to organise a range of social activities as well as provide a supportive resource for staff who may be in need of it. The network also will be the nucleus of a consultative



forum as and when needed.

One resource already launched is a web page within the Equality and Diversity pages of the University Personnel Division website designed to help make policies on sexual orientation clearer. The new website currently includes links to employment and pension policies, sources of information for gender reassignment and transgender issues, and links to legislation, external organisations and the University's Dignity@Work web pages.

→ www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/personnellequality/sexuality/

Website features podcasts

THE UNIVERSITY is moving ahead with the adoption of new media: providing audio, video and podcasts on its website. This means visitors to www.cam.ac.uk can now watch footage of Stephen Hawking in his family home or hear Environment Secretary David Miliband lecturing in Cambridge on green issues – the subjects of just a few of the new videos to be found on the new News Audio and Video Service.

The videos were made by Cambridge Media, headed by Lucy Capewell, who came to the post in October 2006 with 20 years award-winning experience in documentary television. The project is a joint venture between the Office of External Affairs and Communications, now housed in the Pitt Building, and CARET.

"US universities are ahead of the UK in their use of new media, and we want Cambridge to be in the vanguard of UK universities," said Capewell. "New media, made possible by the power of broadband, makes it possible for organisations to become their own broadcaster."

Charlotte Sankey of the University's Office of External Affairs and Communications said: "New media allows us to combine the emotive power of film with the global reach of the internet. It is an exciting and cost-effective way of bringing Cambridge to life, of reaching new audiences and of keeping Cambridge cutting edge. Hearing someone like Professor Hawking talk speaks to audiences in a different way from printed media and brings a fresh energy to the way the University communicates."

→ Click on 'News audio and video' at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/news/

→ Your comments and contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor at newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk
The deadline for the next issue is 10 July.

New Registry for Cambridge

A SUCCESSOR to Dr Timothy Mead as Registry has been named.

Dr Jonathan Nicholls, who is currently Registrar of Birmingham University, will take up the post in October 2007 on Mead's retirement. As principal administrative officer of the University, Dr Nicholls will be responsible for over 750 staff and will take on management of an annual budget of approximately £27 million. He also will serve as Secretary to the University Council.

"I am greatly honoured that Cambridge has chosen to appoint me as its next Registry," said Dr Nicholls. "I look forward to working closely with the Vice-Chancellor and the University community to do all I can to ensure the continued success of one of the

world's great universities."

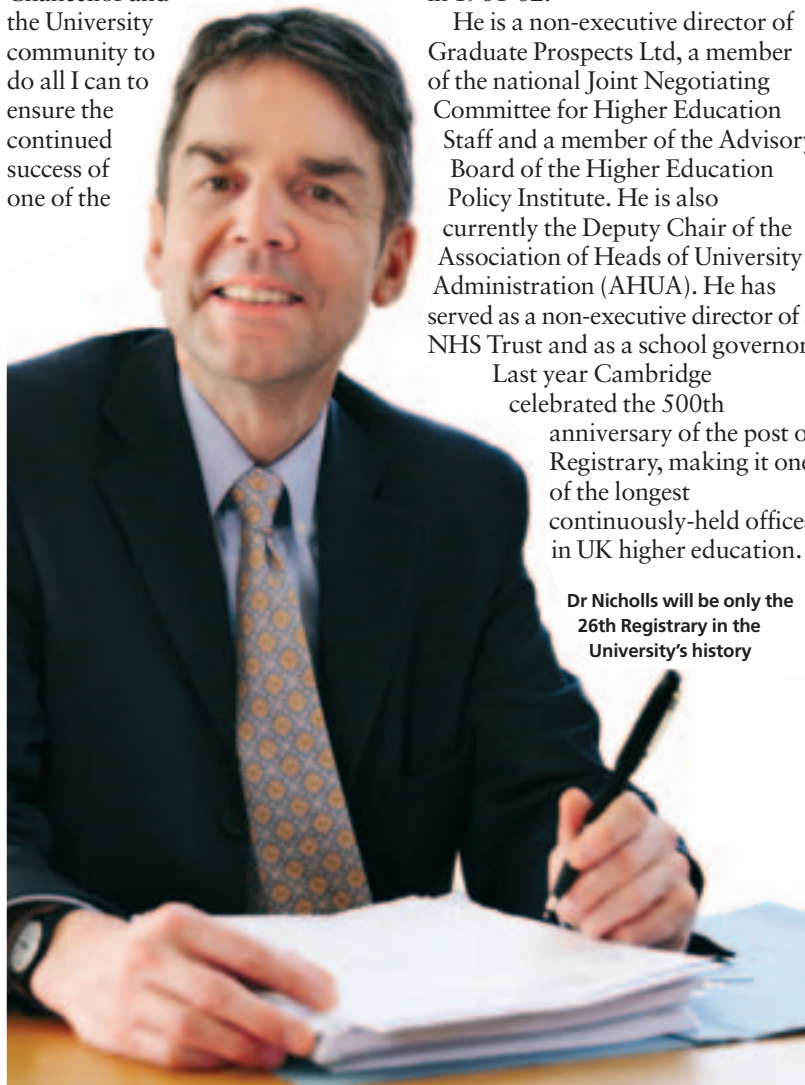
Dr Nicholls is a highly successful manager with a strong academic background who has devoted his career to higher education administration. He joined the University of Warwick in 1982 and became its Registrar in 1999, moving to Birmingham in 2004.

Dr Nicholls was educated at Culford School near Bury St Edmunds. He took a first class degree in English from the University of Bristol in 1978 and in 1984 he gained a PhD in English from Cambridge, where he was a student at Emmanuel College. He was the Herchel Smith Scholar at Harvard in 1981-82.

He is a non-executive director of Graduate Prospects Ltd, a member of the national Joint Negotiating Committee for Higher Education Staff and a member of the Advisory Board of the Higher Education Policy Institute. He is also currently the Deputy Chair of the Association of Heads of University Administration (AHUA). He has served as a non-executive director of a NHS Trust and as a school governor.

Last year Cambridge celebrated the 500th anniversary of the post of Registry, making it one of the longest continuously-held offices in UK higher education.

Dr Nicholls will be only the 26th Registry in the University's history



ALL NEW...

Smoke-free

When all of England's enclosed public places and workplaces go smoke-free on 1 July, so will the University. As a result of the national Health Act 2006, smoking will be prohibited throughout all enclosed and substantially enclosed University workplaces, including University vehicles, with no exceptions. Smoking also will be discouraged at entrances and exits to buildings or near to open windows or air handling units. All employees, students, consultants, contractors and visitors are covered by the policy, which seeks to guarantee all employees the right to work in air free of tobacco smoke.

Charity



The Bridge the Gap Charity Walk on Sunday 9 September is an opportunity to raise money for local charities whilst exploring some of Cambridge's most spectacular architecture. It is hoped that more than 1,500 people will take in the sights of several different Colleges, bridges and museums on the route. This year's walkers will aim to raise money for Arthur Rank Hospice, Press Relief and East Anglian Air Ambulance. The walk is non-competitive and wheelchair and push-chair friendly for people of any age and ability.

→ To take part, contact the charity Press Relief on 01223 434378

Conferences

Politics, humanism and urban transformations are just a few of the topics to be discussed in the Easter term programme organised by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities. One highlight is a 14-15 June conference which will focus on the politics of Turkey. A look at responses to the natural will be held 22-24 June and will include a field trip to Wicken Fen. Also planned is a 10-11 July conference concerned with the manifestations of what has been called 'Tacitean' humanism: Late Humanism and Political Ideology in Northern Europe, 1580-1620.

→ www.crassh.cam.ac.uk

Cricket



Some of the world's greatest cricketers will come to Fenner's on 13 June when Cambridge University Cricket Club plays the Lashings World XI. The gates will open at 11.30am, and cricket commences at around 1.30pm. Ground entry costs £5 for students and £10 for other adults, reduced to £5 after 5pm.

→ www.cucc.net

The University celebrates the Chancellorship of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

Commemorating 30 years

FOR 30 YEARS, Prince Philip has been the Chancellor of the University. His 17 April visit, designed to mark this anniversary, comprised his usual busy schedule of openings as well as a small dose of celebration.

In the morning he gave the opening address to welcome delegates from more than 25 East European and Central Asian countries to a three-day Knowledge Economy Forum organised by the World Bank.

The Chancellor then visited Hughes Hall to commemorate it receiving full University college status, 121 years after it was founded as the Cambridge Training College for Women.

In the afternoon, Prince Philip unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening of the Stephen Hawking Building. The building is a

new student accommodation and conference centre for Gonville and Caius College, named after its most celebrated fellow who once lived in a house on the site. Professor Hawking was not able to be there himself but sent a video message of thanks.

At a special event in the Senate House, Vice-Chancellor Professor Alison Richard praised the Chancellor for his perspicacity as a leader, as well as his sense of humour, and Professor Tim Clutton-Brock gave a lecture as the first Prince Philip Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

When he took the lectern, His Royal Highness said he was touched and flattered by the celebration. After a speech in which he looked back fondly on his years as Chancellor, he was thanked with a prolonged standing ovation by the packed house of University staff and students.



NIGEL LOCKHURST



MICK LE MOIGNAN

Above, Prince Philip converses with Hughes Hall students on 17 April. The Chancellor, above right, addresses the University in the Senate House. The Stephen Hawking Building, left, at 5 West Road, was built in an S-shape to avoid three mature trees on the site.

NIGEL LOCKHURST

Attracting the brightest and the best

Widening participation teams offer warm welcome

THE UNIVERSITY has one of the most extensive programmes in the country to widen participation in terms of applications from groups currently under-represented in higher education, specifically those of children from families who have little experience of going to university.

Schemes to increase applications from these groups – who include pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds, students at further education colleges, and young people with disabilities – work on many levels.

A targeted approach is taken by the widening participation team based at Cambridge Admissions Office (CAO). Led by Lesley Gannon, Head of Widening Participation, this team comprises officers dedicated to working with schools and colleges, as well as with organisations such as the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY).

CAO organises a programme of open days, visits, challenge days and summer schools, with the emphasis on encouraging visits to Cambridge. Members of the team travel to schools and colleges throughout the country to talk about Cambridge.

“Much of our work continues to focus on dispelling the myths about Cambridge – that it’s socially elitist and expensive, for example. The fact that the University is open to all, and that for some students it can be less expensive to study here than at other institutions, have to be pushed home,” says Gannon.

“We do emphasise that Cambridge is highly competitive. We are looking for the brightest and best. Teachers are not always aware of the level of competition, and can find it difficult to understand why some of their best students are unsuccessful.”

Each College has an official geographical “link area” in which it works with schools on schemes to raise aspirations and encourage



PHILIP MYNOTT

high-achieving pupils to consider applying to Cambridge.

Nine Cambridge Colleges have dedicated school liaison officers (SLOs) or recruitment officers, who work with schools in their link areas. In some cases, these officers are shared between different Colleges. For example, Subo Wijeyeratne works for Emmanuel, Fitzwilliam and New Hall. SLOs come from a range of backgrounds: three are recent Cambridge graduates, while two are former teachers.

For many pupils, their visit to Cambridge is the first experience of a university. “They ask questions like do you have to wear a uniform and are you allowed to watch television,” says Rachel Spruce, Access Officer for Pembroke and St Catharine’s.

Typically a “Cambridge taster day” will consist of an interactive challenge, such as making a video diary or taking part in a murder mystery quiz, a mini-lecture and a tour of some of the Colleges.

Current undergraduates, who work with visiting pupils, play a vital role in bringing the University to life. Selina Hawkins, SLO for Jesus and Homerton Colleges, works with a total of around 40 undergraduate volunteers.

Hawkins says: “School pupils really value talking to current undergraduates and finding out what university is really like. They ask questions they’d never ask a teacher.”

Each February around 200 year-12 pupils from state schools around the country spend two days at Cambridge shadowing Cambridge students, as part of a scheme organised by Cambridge University Students’ Union.

Access schemes are about much more than simply recruiting applicants, says Catherine Dougherty, SLO for King’s College. She says: “It’s about showing young people of all abilities that places like Cambridge really do welcome people from different backgrounds.”

Comprehensive students from Essex enjoy a visit to Emmanuel College under the guidance of Subo Wijeyeratne, School Liaison Officer for Emmanuel, Fitzwilliam and New Hall

Whether just embarking on your career or just around the corner from retirement, it makes sense to give your pension plan some thought. Here is a guide explaining the plans available to University and College staff

Pension planning: Never too early or too late



THINKING ABOUT RETIREMENT

Although he's only 28, Adam Gardner has already begun planning for his retirement. "I'd like to retire at 67 or 68," says the Chief Custodian at the Old Schools. His preparations have included doing research on the government's Department for Work and Pensions site (www.dwp.gov.uk/) as well as filling out the paperwork to ensure his funds from a previous scheme were transferred into his Cambridge University Assistants' Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS). Getting hired by the University is an asset. "It's known that we have a good system here," he says.

Gardner's 62-year-old colleague, Deputy Chief Custodian Mario Calenti, is only 18 months away from retirement. Also a member of CPS, Calenti is looking forward to a retirement with the funds he has accumulated. "It is quite straightforward and easy," he says. "It is a good scheme on the whole. I haven't had to worry about retirement."

A GOOD PENSION has long been one of the benefits of working in a university, and looks set to remain so for the foreseeable future.

"All the University pension schemes are well-managed and healthy," says Sue Curryer, Head of Pensions Administration. "Members can be reassured that they will be kept well-informed about any proposed changes."

Nationally pensions have become a hot topic. Government attempts to raise the retirement age on public sector pensions to tackle deficits have led to disputes, while many private sector employers have made substantial changes in the pension arrangements that they offer.

The Cambridge pension picture

There are five pension schemes in Cambridge – the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), the Cambridge University Assistants' Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), the National Health Service Pension Scheme (NHSPS), the Cambridge Colleges Federated Pension Scheme (CCFPS) and the Teachers' Pensions Scheme (TPS).

On joining the University, academics and academic-related staff are automatically placed in the USS, while support staff tend to go into the CPS. Staff employed by the Colleges are in the CCFPS, with clinical staff clustered in the health service scheme. Crucially all the

schemes are final salary schemes – which means that pensions on retirement are based on the member's length of service and pensionable salary at the time of retirement. The benefits of all the schemes are broadly comparable.

"Here at Cambridge we suffer from a double whammy or blessing – depending on your point of view," says Curryer. "Academics live longer than other employees and people living in East Anglia have a habit of living longer than people elsewhere. That is good news for individuals – but problematic for pension funds." Most of the pension schemes in Cambridge face deficits.

Deficits explained

USS: The USS has assets of £22 billion but has attracted publicity as it seeks to tackle a £6 billion deficit. Last October it published a consultation paper that proposed three main remedies: to increase the employers' contribution by 2 per cent; to raise the retirement age for new members; or to bring in a system where early retirements are paid for separately by institutions rather than being funded generally through the scheme. In December, the USS announced that it was going to go for option three.

USS also announced that new members would no longer have the



right to draw an unreduced pension before the age of 65. However, this change is on hold as negotiations continue about the introduction of a flexible retirement package, that will allow academics to work part-time, or in a less senior role, towards the end of their careers whilst drawing a part of their USS pension.

CPS: The CPS faces a deficit of £8.2 million, against total assets of £277 million – and has a plan to clear this deficit by 2010. “The contribution rate required to secure the benefits offered by the CPS is 22.2 per cent of pensionable salary,” explains Curryer. “Employees currently pay contributions of 6 per cent of pensionable salary and the University pays 19.7 per cent. The University has agreed that contributions should continue at the current joint rate of 25.7 per cent of salary and it is estimated that – provided the actuarial assumptions are borne out – this will clear the deficit by July 2010.”

NHSPS: The NHS Pension Scheme is rather different as it is paid for out of general taxation. Nevertheless, the Government has accepted that the continuation of the scheme in its current format is unaffordable and is proposing the introduction of a new scheme in April 2008. Some of the proposals, including raising employee contribution rates for higher earners to 8 per cent, are proving controversial.

CCFPS: The Cambridge Colleges Federated Pension Scheme is different again with individual colleges holding separate funds. Some Colleges have agreed to increase both employer and employee contribution rates in the last few years to address deficits.

TPS: The Teachers' Pension Scheme is the second largest public sector pension scheme in England and Wales with more than 1.4 million members. At Cambridge, however, there is just one member.

FAQ

Why aren't all University staff in the same scheme?

There are historical reasons for this. Traditionally the USS has catered for academics in pre-1992 universities and the TPS for academics in post-1992 universities. Support staff have been eligible for a range of schemes, with those in local government schemes in particular difficulties as the deficits on these schemes are huge. Attempts to bring all University staff onto one combined scheme have proved too complicated in the past.

Should I be worried that my pension scheme is in deficit?

The answer to this depends on the size of the deficits and how it is being managed. Historically, pension schemes have been through periods of surplus and of deficit. The current deficits are all being professionally managed.

I am thinking of going part-time, how will this affect my pension?

All the pension schemes have similar policies and will calculate pension using your part-time service fraction and the full-time equivalent of your salary.

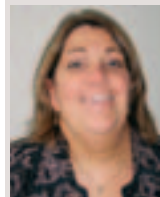
I joined the scheme several months ago. Should I transfer funds over from my former scheme?

You will need to seek independent financial advice on this. It is important for USS members who have transferred from post-1992 universities to Cambridge to remember that USS and the Teachers' Pension Scheme are both members of the Public Sector Transfer Club, and that transfers between these schemes are often made on preferential terms provided that the transfer is complete within two years of joining USS.

Are all employees at Cambridge eligible to join a pension scheme?

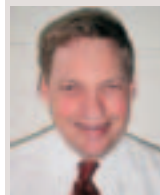
Yes, the vast majority are, bar some employees who are employed on an “as required” basis. Also some contract researchers are not eligible for pensions, notably those on the Marie Curie Fellowships funded by the European Union.

WHO TO ASK FOR GUIDANCE



Sue Curryer has worked for the University since 1991 and has been Head of Pensions since February 1998. Prior to working for the University she spent four years in pensions administration for a life and pensions company. “Like everyone else I did not plan to ‘do pensions’,” she said. “My original degree was in biological sciences!” She is a Fellow of the Pensions Management Institute.

→ sec28@cam.ac.uk or 32214



Andrew MacDonald has been with the University since May 1997 and prior to working for the University worked in a variety of roles for the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society, gaining experience in all areas of pension administration. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Insurance.

→ ajm81@cam.ac.uk or 31207

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

They've given the world Hans Christian Andersen, Lego toys and "wonderful" Copenhagen – now it would appear that the Danes are also happy. And know it

Happy Danes are here again

NEW RESEARCH from the Faculty of Economics suggests that the people of Denmark reckon they are the most cheerful country in Europe, closely followed by their perky Scandinavian neighbours, as well as the Irish and the Dutch.

But while things are far from rotten in the state of Denmark, less can be said of grumpy Brits. The United Kingdom, widely portrayed as a nation of cantankerous Victor Meldrews, ranked just ninth out of the 15 EU countries studied and reported falling levels of satisfaction.

Every week seems to bring a new assessment of public contentedness, but the Cambridge report is the most comprehensive and detailed to date.

WHO IS THE HAPPIEST PERSON IN EUROPE?

The data gathered in the European Social Survey means researchers in the Faculty of Economics can also identify the characteristics and experiences that make people happy. In theory, the happiest person in Europe would be:

- A woman
- Employed
- Married or co-habiting
- 25-34 years old
- Interested in politics
- With a busy social life and at least one close friend
- Confident in her government and the police
- Socially active
- Religious or spiritual

Dr Luisa Corrado and co-author Aqib Aslam spent months analysing data gathered for the European Social Survey – a biennial review that scrutinizes public well-being within the EU.

In 2002 and 2004, about 20,000 people in the 180 regions of the EU's then 15 member states were asked to rate both their overall happiness and longer-term sense of fulfilment ("life satisfaction") on a scale of 1 to 10. The scores were compared with the results of another survey, which asked its participants questions like "How religious are you?" and "How much do you personally trust the police?" The aim is to find out not just where people are happiest, but why, in the hope that policy-makers take notice.

From that point of view, the research couldn't have come at a better time. Politicians – most recently David Cameron – are already calling for their colleagues to focus on the improvement of public happiness as a major priority. Wellington College, the prestigious public school in Berkshire, has started giving its pupils happiness lessons. And last year, Cambridge launched the Well-being Institute, dedicated to establishing what helps individuals and organisations thrive.

So just what is making us so irritable? And why have the Danes, with their long winters, got so much to smile about? The research has only just begun, but one consistent trend is that those with the highest levels of happiness also reported the highest levels of trust in government,

"One of the main things the survey shows is that trust in society is very, very important"

the police, the justice system and those around them. Happier people also tended to have plenty of friends and acquaintances, as well as at least one very close friend or partner.

If you thought that money could buy you happiness, however, think again. In those countries where trust was lacking (such as Italy), even the rich said they were feeling grim. As for those long winters – Denmark, Finland and Sweden may be dark in December but their people are feeling much brighter than their Mediterranean counterparts. Gender and age could also play a part – women classed themselves as happier than men, while the young and old were in higher spirits than those grinding their way through their middle years.

"People throughout the EU are relatively happy overall," Dr Corrado says. "No area scored below 5/10 either in terms of happiness or life satisfaction."

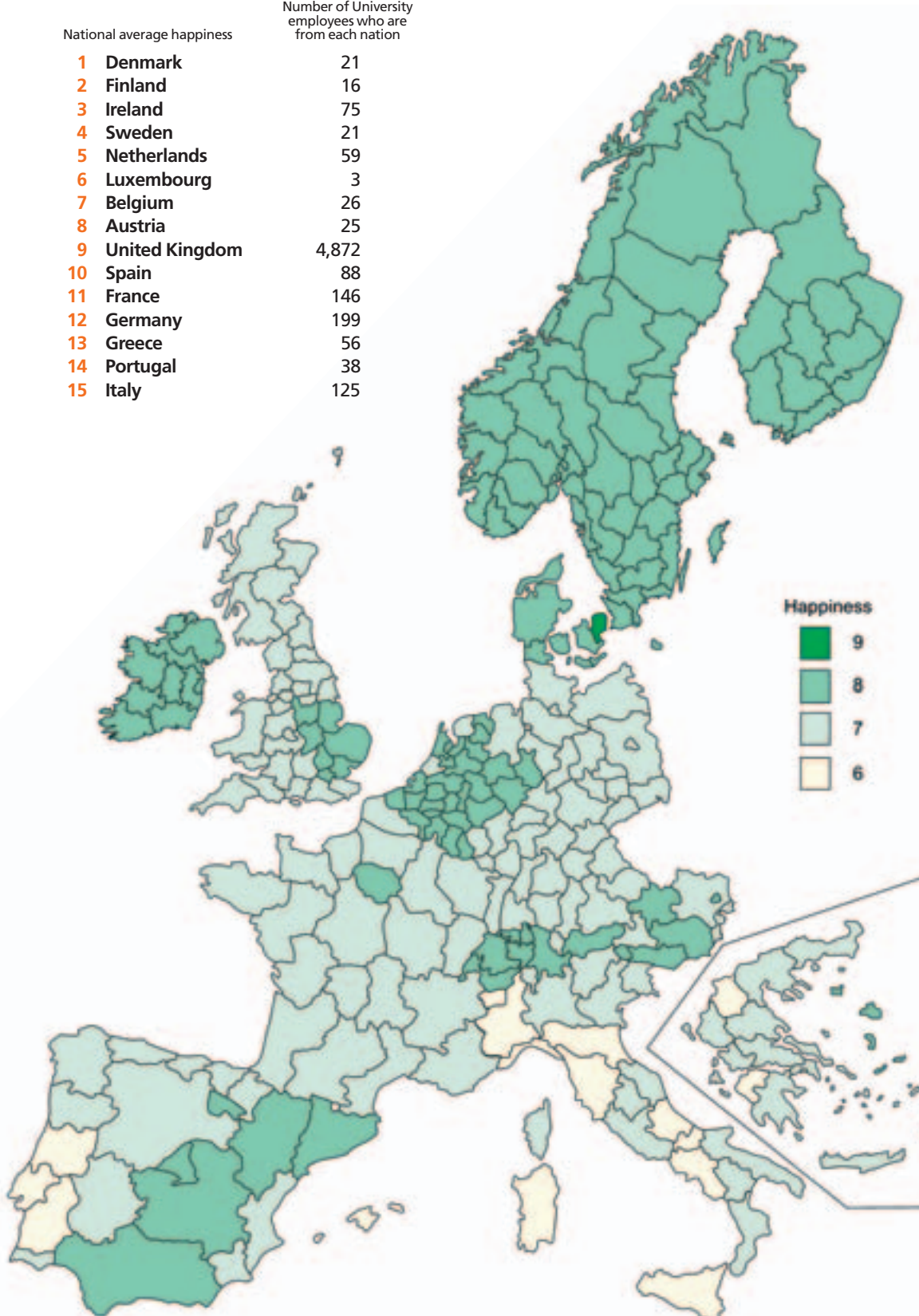
"One of the main things the survey shows is that trust in society is very, very important. The UK shows falling trust in government, the police and other institutions and higher social distrust. It's not the only cause of happiness or otherwise, but it might explain why the level of happiness among British people has fallen."

It's not all bad news for people living in Cambridge, however. According to the region-by-region breakdown, East Anglia was one of the most cheerful bits of the UK, along with the East Midlands and London.



2004 HAPPINESS RANKINGS

| National average happiness | Number of University employees who are from each nation |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Denmark | 21 |
| 2 Finland | 16 |
| 3 Ireland | 75 |
| 4 Sweden | 21 |
| 5 Netherlands | 59 |
| 6 Luxembourg | 3 |
| 7 Belgium | 26 |
| 8 Austria | 25 |
| 9 United Kingdom | 4,872 |
| 10 Spain | 88 |
| 11 France | 146 |
| 12 Germany | 199 |
| 13 Greece | 56 |
| 14 Portugal | 38 |
| 15 Italy | 125 |



OTHER RECENT FINDINGS

The tacit defiance of the Channel Islands

A new study from the Department of Archaeology is charting the symbolic resistance of the Channel Islanders during the German occupation of World War II. Dr Gilly Carr is conducting the first ever full study of the artwork, tools, trinkets and other artefacts made by both the islanders and the Germans who were based there. Outnumbered by soldiers by almost 2:1, the locals could only put up symbolic resistance, but the materials show how much they managed to do so. Dozens of V for Victory badges were cut from coins or tins, and radios were concealed in books, biscuit tins and even light switches.

Mongoose pups work together for food

A unique care system in Banded Mongoose families allows pups to cooperatively wheedle food out of their carers. As the pups emerge from the den they adopt an adult carer who becomes the sole carer for that pup. The amount of food that carers give their pups is influenced by the amount of begging from their pup and the total begging of all the pups in the family; the more the pups beg together the more food they receive. Matthew Bell, Department of Zoology, who led the research said: "These results suggest that there might even be situations where screaming offspring aren't begging for themselves, but are trying to induce parents to feed hungry siblings."

Motherhood provides link to obesity

Mums who had begun their menstrual periods before the age of 11 are more likely to have children who also start puberty early and who are more overweight than the children of mums who mature later. This apparent genetic link was found by Dr Ken Ong, Department of Paediatrics, who studied more than 6000 children from the Children of the 90s ALPSAC study in Bristol.

At any one time Cambridge academics are researching into well over 3,000 specialist subjects. Here is a sample of a few of the research projects currently being pursued:

Ancient DNA research

FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS who are ancient DNA researchers, like Dr Mim Bower, answering complex questions is just part of the job: How did wheat spread across the Western world? When and where did humans domesticate horses? What made an 18th-century racehorse so fast?

Bower was only the second person in the world to earn a PhD in ancient DNA research when she graduated from the University of Cambridge in 1998.

“The field has become established over the past 10 years,” says Bower, a post-doctoral researcher at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. “At the beginning, I used to find archaeologists were quite critical because they didn’t believe genetics was an effective way of answering archaeological questions, but we’ve shown now that it is.”

Bower examines DNA from animals that died thousands of years ago and compares it with the DNA of current populations. “One of the methodology challenges is DNA does degrade over time, so ancient DNA doesn’t offer the same range of results as DNA taken from modern animals,” she says. “What you do get, though, is a snapshot of the past.” Comparing modern and ancient genetic patterns, such as ones that indicate disease, can help establish where and when certain diseases developed and may make it easier to treat or prevent them today.

Bower is involved in studies examining the spread of wheat and barley in Europe in the Neolithic era, the improvement of medieval cattle breeds in Britain and the racing capabilities of some of history’s greatest thoroughbred horses.

Currently, her main goal is to research chariot burial horses in central Asia in the 2nd and 1st millennia BC. The three-year project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, will integrate archaeological, archaeozoological and genetic data. The ancient DNA will be gleaned

from bones sourced from archaeologists. For modern DNA, Bower has travelled to central Asia to do some of the collecting over the past two years. Two colleagues, however, have collected the vast majority of DNA samples, acquired from each horse by pulling 30 to 40 mane hairs.

Although Bower was “mad about horses” as a child, the equine aspect

of her current career isn’t its main draw. “Discovering archaeology was like flicking a switch and realizing it was everything I was interested in,” she says. “What I absolutely love is that it covers such a wide number of disciplines, philosophy to psychology to genetics, all packaged up as part of our human past. What ties it all together is questions about people.”

“What ties it all together is questions about people”



Left, This Mongolian rancher assisted with Dr Mim Bower’s research at Cambridge by allowing DNA to be collected from his horses. Above, Bower in her McDonald Institute lab.

MORE RESEARCH PROJECTS

→ **The rise of urban cinema in Latin America** is the subject of the research by two lecturers from the Centre of Latin American Studies. They have also created an archive of over 400 Latin American films for use by researchers across the UK.

→ **The oral history of 20th century Mongolia**, and the power of context, is being researched by the Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit in the Department of Social Anthropology. The researchers want to increase our understanding of the relationship between memory and people’s situatedness (i.e., their political, cultural and social context), and its affect on people’s memory and understanding.

→ **The mathematics of Assyria and Babylon** (which make up modern-day Iraq) are the focus of work by Eleanor Robson in the Department of History and

Philosophy of Science. The Assyrians were the first humans to make mathematical marks, before 3000 BC, and are also responsible for our 60-minute hour, as they counted everything in 60s.

→ **The anatomy and evolution of financial markets** is the focus of work by the Cambridge Endowment for Research in Finance (CERF), which is also looking into why markets behave as they do.

→ **The reasons behind gender inequality** is the focus of the work of Jackie Scott, Professor of Sociology and a Fellow of Queens’ College. Scott is looking into the causes of this continuing social imbalance via a research network called GeNet, which pulls together nine research projects across eight institutions. According to a 2006 government survey, the average income for women per week was only 55% of that of men’s income.

PRIZES AWARDS & HONOURS

The Queen's Award

The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion recognises individuals who have played an outstanding and significant role in promoting the growth of enterprise and entrepreneurial skills and attitudes in others. Less than a dozen awards are given out nationwide annually.

Cambridge's 2007 recipients are:

→ **Mr Nigel Brown**, one of the two external members of the University's Council, is the founder and chair of Cambridge-based financial services group, N W Brown Group Ltd. N W Brown includes the Great Eastern Investment Forum, a 350-strong business group which has provided very early-stage venture capital to more than 70 businesses. Brown is considered to be one of the key players in creating Cambridge's reputation as a home for entrepreneurial clusters and is chair of the Greater Cambridge Partnership, the sub-regional economic partnership with a remit covering the 25-mile area centred on Cambridge.

→ **Prof David Secher**, a fellow of Gonville and Caius College, has been involved in enterprise promotion for more than 30 years and has done much to influence the culture shift towards commercialisation by UK universities. He spent five years as Director of Research Services at Cambridge and was responsible for more than 100 new licences and 15 spin-out companies. In 2002 he co-founded Praxis, a not-for-profit organisation running a training programme on knowledge transfer for commercialisation staff in UK academic institutions.

Sir Fersht placed as highest ranked British chemist

→ **Prof Sir Alan Fersht** is the UK's highest-ranked chemist in a new league table of living chemists. The list, compiled at the University of Georgia, USA, places Prof Fersht 13th in the world. The table also features Prof Sir David King, Prof Steve Ley, Prof Chris Dobson and Prof Jeremy Sanders from the Department of Chemistry. The league table was compiled using the h-index; an h-index score is the highest number of published papers that have each amassed that number of citations. Sir Fersht has an h-index of 98, meaning he has published 98 papers that have each been cited at least 98 times.



Mr Nigel Brown



Prof David Secher



Prof Sir Alan Fersht

OTHER AWARDS

→ **Prof Stephen Jackson** has been awarded the Biochemical Society's 2008 GlaxoSmithKline Award 'for distinguished research leading to new advances in medical science'. This award recognises his standing as one of the international leaders in the field of DNA and chromosome damage and repair. Defects in these processes can be the causes of many diseases, most notably cancer. His work has led to clinical trials of drugs being developed that may be effective at killing cells that contain mutant breast cancer susceptibility genes BRCA1 and BRCA2. Prof Jackson is the Frederick James Quick Professor of Biology and the Head of Cancer Research UK Laboratories at The Wellcome Trust and Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute.

→ **Girton College** has won a Civic Trust Award for its new library and archive extension – the Duke Building. An Award is the highest category of recognition from the Civic Trust, given to projects that are of benefit culturally, socially or economically whilst making an outstanding contribution to the quality and appearance of the environment.

→ **Dr Richard Layfield** of the Department of Chemistry and a Fellow of Clare College, has been given the prestigious Meldola Medal and Prize for 2006 by the Royal Society of Chemistry. The award is given to a British chemist under 32 years of age for promising original investigations in chemistry.

→ **Prof Sir John Meurig Thomas** of the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy was awarded the 2007 Distinguished Achievement Award by the International Precious Metal Institute for his "pioneering contributions to the field of heterogeneous catalysis using precious metals".

→ **Prof Nigel Weiss**, Emeritus Professor of Mathematical Astrophysics, received the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) Gold Medal for Geophysics at the National Astronomy Meeting 2007.

→ **Prof Steve O'Rahilly** of the School of Clinical Medicine was the British recipient of the 2007 Feldberg Prize, an award given each year to both a German and a British scientist. The purpose of the Feldberg Foundation is the promotion of scientific contact

between German and English scientists within the sphere of experimental medical research, in particular in physiology, pharmacology and related topics, primarily by the establishment of scientific exchange lectures.

→ **Engineering** students have triumphed again in an international competition for young entrepreneurs with a product designed to help blind and partially-sighted people. The TouchSight Vision Mitt – designed by a team of four manufacturing engineering students – took first prize, worth 10,000 Euros, at the Next Generation Entrepreneur Forum (NGEF) competition in Monaco.

→ **Sir John Kingman**, former Director of the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, was elected as a foreign associate to the National Academy of Science, a private USA organisation of scientists and engineers dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. Membership recognises distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

→ **Dr Istvan Hont** of the Faculty of History has been awarded the History of Economics Society Spengler book award for his book, *Jealousy of Trade*. The annual prize is given by the Society for the best book in the history of economics. The book was praised for being both an outstanding work in the history of economics and political ideas and a work that is relevant to current discussions about globalisation and the nation-state.

→ **Sir Lawrence Collins**, a Fellow of Wolfson College, has been promoted a Lord Justice of Appeal, a permanent judge of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales. In 1997, Sir Collins became one of the first two solicitors to be appointed Queen's Counsel, and in 2000 was the first solicitor to be appointed direct to the High Court bench. He is also an honorary fellow of Downing College.

→ **Sir Michael J Berridge**, Honorary Professor of Cell Signalling and Emeritus Fellow, Babraham Institute, Laboratory of Molecular Signalling, has been elected to the American Philosophical Society. The American Philosophical Society, the oldest learned society in the USA, was founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin.

PEOPLE

PEOPLE COMING



Nanoscience Centre gains outreach officer

ALEX ELBRO has been appointed by the Nanoscience Centre to the new role of Nanotechnology Outreach Officer. Elbro, whose background includes research and primary school teaching, will initially be visiting schools in Cambridge and the surrounding areas to promote interest in and

enjoyment of nanotechnology. The Centre hopes that the role will eventually expand to include interactive lectures, seminars and workshops. The initiative is being funded by FRONTIERS, part of a European Commission programme. With support from Nokia, Elbro will soon be announcing the introduction of a Nanotechnology Art Competition for local secondary schools.

The Centre for the Study of Muslim-Jewish Relations names a Director

DR AMINEH HOTI is the new Director of the Centre for the Study of Muslim-Jewish Relations. Dr Hoti received her PhD from the Faculty of Social Anthropology at Cambridge and is a Visiting Scholar at Lucy

Cavendish College. In addition to her role as Director of CMJR, Dr Hoti runs the Society for Dialogue and Action, which promotes understanding between people of the Abrahamic faiths.

King's College announces new appointment

PROF YASIR SULEIMAN has been named a Fellow of King's College. Prof Suleiman is the newly-appointed His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Professor of Modern Arabic Studies in the University. Prior to Cambridge, Prof Suleiman was the Director of the Edinburgh Institute for the Advanced Study of the Arab World and Islam and Professor of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

IN BRIEF

Xiao (Scarlet) Ling Wang is the new ICT Manager at Lucy Cavendish College. Wang comes to Lucy Cavendish with a wealth of computing experience in the UK, most recently at the Perse School for Girls as ICT Manager and previously at the Institute of Manufacturing, Department of Engineering.



Ravi Kanbur will be at Clare College as a Senior Academic Visitor until the end of the calendar year. Dr Kanbur is T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics and Management, and Professor of Economics at Cornell University.

OBITUARIES



Jean Rudduck (11 February, 1937–28 March, 2007) Jean Rudduck, Professor of Education (Emeritus), played a key role over the last ten years in developing Education at Cambridge into a major force in this country. Jean came to Cambridge in 1994 as Director of Research at Homerton College. She was elected Professor of Education at Cambridge, the first female professor in the subject, in 2002, and although she officially retired in 2004 she continued her high level of activity giving lectures to teachers, policy-makers and researchers. Her main research interest was the transformative potential of pupil voice.



Karen Spärck Jones (26 August, 1935–4 April, 2007) Karen Spärck Jones, Professor of Computing and Information (Emeritus), was one of the most remarkable women in computer science. A Fellow of the British Academy, of which she was Vice-President from 2000 to 2002, she had a long, rich and remarkable career as a pioneer of information science from the very early days of computing to the present day. She received several major awards for her research including, the ACL Lifetime Achievement Award, the British Computer Society (BCS) Lovelace Medal and the Association for Computer Machinery (ACM)/AAAI Allen Newell Award.



Risa Domb (16 March, 1937–11 January, 2007) Holder of the first lectureship at Cambridge in Modern Hebrew from 1984-2004, Risa Domb also established the Centre for Modern Hebrew and Israeli Studies at the University in 1993. She came to Girton College as the Grace Violet Cohen Bye-Fellow in Hebrew in 1989 and became the Grace Violet Cohen Official Fellow in Hebrew in 1995. In 1999, she was made a Supernumerary Fellow and was granted Life Fellow status in 2004. She was renowned for her gifted and passionate teaching and her commitment to promoting knowledge of Israeli literature.

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Advertising on this page is open to University staff. The cost is £15 for a single insertion or £75 for six insertions (six for the price of five). The September/October issue deadline is 20 July. Maximum 70 words; we reserve the right to edit. Send your copy to the Editor at newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk or call (3) 32300.

HOUSES TO RENT

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Mountain tranquillity only 90km from Med coast. Medieval hamlet in beautiful isolated valley with 3 comfy stone gites each sleeping from 4 to 8, all mod cons. Ideal for walkers and nature lovers, handy for Templar, Hospitaller and Cathar country, Sylvanes Sacred Music Festival, Herault wine routes.

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→ France, Cevennes

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→ Germany, Black Forest

Traditional wooden house at the foot of the Feldberg mountain in one of the prettiest valleys of the Black Forest. Sleeps up to 10. Idyllic setting, suitable for families. Ideal for walking, skiing and relaxing. Close to Basel-Mulhouse, Karlsruhe-Baden and Friedrichshafen airports (direct Ryanair and Easyjet flights from Stansted and Luton). £275-£375 per week (depending on season). Photographs and fuller details available on request.

Contact: blackforestholidays@googlemail.com

→ Greece, Alonissos

Unwind in our lovely three bedroom villa, with spectacular sea views, on tranquil Greek island in the Northern Sporades. Peaceful hillside position, convenient for shops, tavernas, beaches etc. Well equipped and comfortably furnished, garden and balconies to three sides – perfect for relaxing summer holidays or winter retreat. Short ferry/hydrofoil ride from Skiathos airport. Summer rates £600-£900. Pictures and details available.

Contact: Philippa Smith at ps420@cam.ac.uk

→ Italy, Canino

Situated between Lake Bolsena and the sea, 1 large and 1 small flat in the small town of Canino. 90 minutes north of Rome and within easy reach of Orvieto & Viterbo.

For more details, visit

www.casacanino.com

Contact: 01223 522938

→ Italy, Tuscany

18th century farmhouse with east-facing studio available September to May. Restored to high standard, with writers, artists, academics in mind. Central heating; mod. cons; broadband. Beautiful situation above small hamlet 10 miles from Lucca. Sleeps 5. Long term rent discounts. Further information and photographs available.

Contact: r.gooder@btinternet.com

→ North Yorkshire Moors

Cottage in Low Mill, Farndale, with sitting room, dining room, play room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and garden with lovely views. Sleeps 7. All mod. cons. Fabulous walks in all directions. Near Rievaulx, Castle Howard, Runswick Bay. 2007 rate: £350/week.

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→ Portugal, Lagos

Individual, superb 4 bedroom/4 bathroom villa with pool set amongst the tree lined links of the Western Algarve's premier golf and leisure resort Parque da Floresta. Near Costa Vincentina Nature Reserve, historic port of Lagos, pristine beaches and quaint fishing villages. Luxury accommodation sleeps 8/10. Three week period in August could still be available if required.

Contact: Graham on gb313@admin.cam.ac.uk or Lyn on lb334@medschl.cam.ac.uk

→ Southwest Cornwall

Granite cottage in peaceful countryside between St Ives and Penzance. Sleeps 5 in 3 bedrooms, with comfortable sitting room, kitchen-breakfast room and bathroom. Sunny garden and off-road parking. Ideal for families and couples. Easy reach of wonderful beaches, coastal path, many sub-tropical gardens. 45 minutes Newquay airport. Visit www.tinminerscottage.co.uk

Contact: Penny Barton on 01638 507192 or pb29@cam.ac.uk

→ Spain, Andalucia

2 bedroom, 2 bathroom villa with air-conditioning in Nerja, Costa del Sol, 45 minutes Malaga airport. Wonderful sea views, south facing terrace and garden, large communal pool. Near mountains, cliffs and sandy coves. Granada one hour, Seville and Cordoba two hours. Low Season £345. Mid £395 or High £445 per week.

Contact: villa@thesmys.co.uk

→ Spain, Andalucia

House to let in historic Andalusian village in hills 4 kms from sea. Three bedrooms, comfortably furnished and well equipped. Sleeps 6. 325 euros per week. May/June; 400 euros per week. July/August/

September. More information:

www.frigiliana.ioners.net

Contact: ajc1002@hermes.cam.ac.uk

→ Spain, Barcelona

2 bedroom apartment near beach, sleeps 6, with balcony overlooking swimming pool. Prices start from £55 per night for 1-2 adults to £110 per night for 5-6 adults. Discounts for 6+ nights bookings. Special family rates available on request.

More information:

www.barcelonabeach.com

Contact: Mary Aldridge at mea@eng.cam.ac.uk

→ Spain, Murcia region (Costa Calida)

Superb, 2 bedroom penthouse flat with magnificent views. Sleeps 6, secure grounds, private indoor and outdoor pools, spa, gym, sauna, children's play area, garage. On beach. Near golf courses, inc. La Manga, 30 mins from Murcia airport. Rent 240-530 euros a week.

Contact: 01480 455391 or beehouseuk@yahoo.co.uk

→ Suffolk, Butley

Comfortable, spacious, well-equipped cottage with piano in Butley, Suffolk. Available for Aldeburgh Festival, weekends and short breaks throughout the year. Close to Orford, Sutton Hoo, Snape and Minsmere. Sleeps up to 8. More information:

www.butleycottage.co.uk
Contact: Miranda on 01223 357035 or info@butleycottage.co.uk

EVENTS VENUE

→ Italy, Tuscan Apuan Alps

Sixteenth-century former monastery high in the Tuscan Apuan Alps available for workshops, schools and group meetings (any subject). Attached church equipped as lecture theatre with state-of-the-art projection and audio-visual equipment with high-quality wireless computer network. Organized mountain hiking, caving, and cultural activities on request. All accommodation onsite. Fantastic local restaurants. Facilities for up to twenty-five people. More information: www.vallico.net/tti/tti.html

Contact: Mike on mdt26@cam.ac.uk

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

→ Cambridge Online

Can you spare a few hours per week/fortnight to help disabled people use a computer on a one-to-one basis? No specialized knowledge required, training available and expenses reimbursed. Volunteers work at the Hester Adrian Centre (off Chesterton Road near Elizabeth Way) or St. Paul's Church (Hills Road). Please call to arrange an informal visit. More information: www.cambridgeonline.org.uk

Contact: Sue or Andrew on 0845

458 0192 or 01223 300407

→ Healthy, over 40 years old

Willing to take part in a research study exploring hidden brain cell changes? Procedure involves 2 specialised brain scans in Addenbrooke's Hospital, lasting a morning or afternoon. The study is looking to map the hidden cell loss and cell inflammation in stroke patients, but we need healthy volunteers over 40 years old for comparison. You will be reimbursed for your time and trouble.

Contact: Dr Morris on 01223 217742 or rsm22@cam.ac.uk

→ Nutrition research

We are running a research study to look at the effects of taking fish oil capsules. If you are: healthy, aged 20-80 years, do not eat oily fish, willing to have three fat samples taken and to provide blood samples, willing to take fish oil capsules for 1 year. You will be reimbursed with an honorarium of £150 for participation and reasonable travel expenses.

Contact: Joanna Gambell on 01223 437 523 or Joanna.Gambell@mrc-hnr.cam.ac.uk

→ Pregnant?

Are you expecting a baby due between December 07 and March 08? Would you be interested in taking part in 'Preparing for Patients D', a programme for third-year medical students who visit and talk with women at home to learn about women's experience of pregnancy and childbirth?

Contact: 01223 769 288 or jg239@medschl.cam.ac.uk

→ Trustees required

The following Cambridge area voluntary organisations are looking for trustees:

Cambridge Consultancy in Counselling (independent trustees), Choices – counselling for victims of abuse (general trustees), Headway – the brain injury association (general trustees), COPE – representing older people (media, marketing or sales experience), Help the Aged – Eastern region (communication and publicity experience), OWL – Opportunities Without Limits helping people with learning disabilities (finance and employment experience), Ely CAB (general trustees), CAMTAD – Campaign for tackling acquired deafness (HR background or interested in their agenda and staff recruitment), CAMMIND – supporting for people who suffer from mental health problems (financial, legal, or marketing experience).

Contact: Yannick Auckland, Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service, at yannick@cambridgecvcs.org.uk

FOR SALE

→ Spain, Mar de Cristal (Costa Calida)

For Sale: 2 bed fully furnished penthouse apartment with solarium and underground car parking. 30 mins from Murcia Airport. Viewings can be arranged. Finance is available subject to approval.

Contact: val.shadrack@ntlworld.com

→ Triumph Spitfire 1500

1979 white overdrive. Good condition, new hood and exhaust, unleaded conversion, loads spent. Tax and MOT. £2,500.

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SERVICES

→ Antenatal classes

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Contact:

Joannebrown807@hotmail.com

→ Free tennis coaching to females over 45 years

Six free coaching sessions for ladies at Cambridge Lawn Tennis club on Thursday mornings 9.30-11.00, commencing 7th June for 6 weeks and 13th September for 6 weeks. To apply please download an application form from www.cambridgeltc.com and return to the address on the form, indicating your preferred start date. All female Cambridge city residents that have not received free coaching at CLTC before are eligible.

Contact: 07749 713450 or info@cambridgeltc.com

→ Homepetpals

Your animals and pets looked after in your own home or premises. We cater for all sorts of pets and animals of the smaller variety from 1 day, weekends or holiday periods. Cambridge and district, and village areas. Established over 5 years, references available.

Contact: 07702 314 693 or homepetpals@aol.com or cw356@cam.ac.uk or cw271@newton.cam.ac.uk

→ Legal fees

Michaela Overton, Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives offers 10% discount on all usual fees: Will, Probate Assistance, Powers of Attorney. Unit 8 William James House, Cowley Road, Cambridge, CB4 0WS.

Contact: Michaela on 01223 863719

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TRACKING THE ELUSIVE SNOW LEOPARD

WHILE MOST people enjoy spending their holidays lounging on a beach, Peter Pilbeam prefers to spend his trekking through the remote Altai Mountains of southern Siberia, tracking elusive snow leopards.

Pilbeam, Role Analyst in the Personnel Division, will take his fifth trip to Siberia in July to participate in a research project run by Biosphere Expeditions, a non-profit organisation. For two weeks, Pilbeam will sleep in a tent and spend his waking hours outside, toting a clipboard, looking for signs of snow leopards, such as droppings, urine or tracks, and recording details of all birds, animals and plants he sights.

The plight of the silver-grey snow leopard – which is a highly endangered species due to poaching and the loss of habitat from livestock grazing – sparked Pilbeam's interest when he first saw a web ad for these expeditions. "They are very pretty animals and sadly very endangered," he says. "On these trips, you can do something unusual and are helping to protect a bit of nature and you get to go to a place very few people get to."



Snow leopards are a highly endangered species

Travelling to Siberia isn't easy. Participants must obtain numerous immunisation shots, successfully navigate the difficult process of obtaining a visa, and book their own transportation to arrive at the meeting point, Novosibirsk. The base camp is a two day drive from there, off-road for the last 37 miles, and is 7,200 feet above sea level.

Up to 12 trekkers, who all pay their own costs, join a local scientist and an expedition leader to collect data for

detailed scientific surveys of the area. "It's arduous, but not that technical. They train you on site in a few hours," Pilbeam says. The Biosphere Expedition surveys, completed over a period of years, are helping to create a large body of data that can be used in efforts to protect snow leopards and other native species.

Originally trained as a biochemist, Pilbeam is active in local conservation work, including running the Cambridgeshire Mammal Group. His annual Siberian adventure provides him with a welcome break from processing PD33s and implementing the single pay spine restructuring. That he enjoys such strenuous holidays is a source of curiosity for his co-workers in Personnel. "My usual answer is everybody has to be mildly eccentric," he says.

Has he ever seen a snow leopard in the wild?

"No," he says, a small tinge of regret in his voice. "In the four years I've been, only two people out of about 200 have had actual sightings."

NEWS FROM THE 800TH CAMPAIGN

Investing in staff is one of the Campaign's four goals.

Jo Raines of Cambridge University Development Office (CUDO) reports

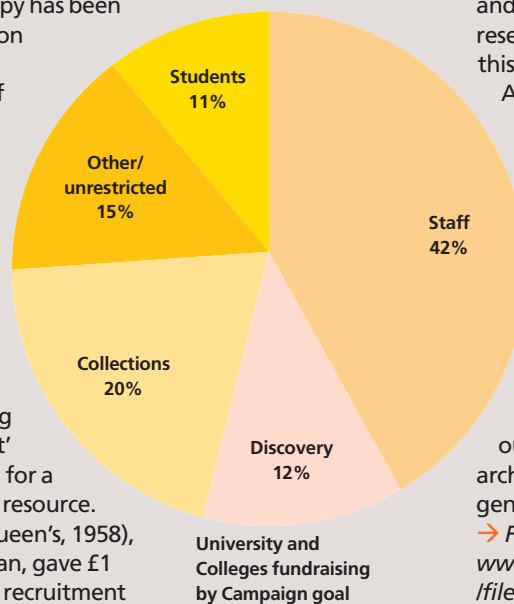
In order to compete in the highly competitive international market for academic talent, Cambridge must attract the best teachers and researchers. A key priority for Colleges and the University is creating endowed posts for distinguished academics while ensuring they have the facilities to meet today's research and teaching needs.

Staff support has received the highest proportion of funding of all the Campaign goals during its first five years, comprising 63% of all gifts to the University. During the quiet phase (August 2001–September 2005), many of these gifts focussed

on new and refurbished facilities, but since 2005, philanthropy has been increasingly focussed on support for posts.

Recent examples of staff support gifts include:

- The John Templeton Foundation's gift of more than £500,000 to support the Darwin Correspondence Project. The gift has secured match funding and a 'challenge grant' for Research Staff and for a 'Darwin and Religion' resource.
- Sir David Walker (Queen's, 1958), Campaign Co-Chairman, gave £1 million to support the recruitment



and retention of talented scientists and clinical PhD fellows in Stem Cell research in multiple sclerosis. Part of this gift will fund a Senior Research Associate position for five years.

● The Li Ka Shing Professorship of Oncology, held by Professor Bruce Ponder, was endowed by a gift of £2 million from the Li Ka Shing Foundation.

The remaining three investment goals of the Campaign focus on supporting students; enhancing the freedom to discover; and developing Cambridge's outstanding collections and architectural heritage for future generations.

→ For a Campaign Report copy, go to www.foundation.cam.ac.uk/uploads/1file/800%20Report.pdf