

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

League Tables

The University's greatest weakness over the last decade has been our absence from the league tables.



When we were last in the *Times* league table in 1996, we came 30th out of around 120 universities, but we fell out of the league tables when the Government's Higher

Education Funding Council took over the collection of data from the newspapers.

But a university is only as strong as its brand, so we decided in 2001 to re-enter the league tables. This has been a long haul. First, we had to re-submit to the inspections of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) but that was something we wanted to do because the QAA is not a Government agency but, rather, a voluntary agency analogous to, say, the Association of British Travel Agencies (ABTA) namely a market mechanism designed to reinforce trust and confidence.

As everyone knows, under the leadership of Professor Len Evans and Mrs Anne Miller we achieved 'broad confidence' (the top mark) in 2004, and we are about to have another inspection.

With QAA under our belt, we started to submit our data to the Higher Education Research Organisation and the Higher Education Statistics Agency, which are the bodies from which the newspapers construct their league tables.

We found last year that presenting our data for the newspapers was a challenge because the HERO and HESA data systems are attuned to large universities, not small sweet boutiques like Buckingham. Consequently our first league table success was coming top of the

National Student survey (see *The Times Higher Education Supplement* for 25 August 2006) and that owed nothing to the newspapers as it was a direct survey of our students.

Nonetheless we have had our league table successes. The *Times Higher Education Supplement* for May 4 2007 reported that Buckingham's staff:student ratio was one of the best in the UK at 1:11 (it will be significantly better next year) and soon afterwards the *Guardian* newspaper's universities league table placed our Law School at 20th out of 90 Law UK schools. Mr Irving Stevens's article inside this issue of the *Independent* expands on the result.

The Law School was our only School to enter the *Guardian* league tables this year, because it was the only School big enough to trigger the thresholds of the HERO and HESA data systems. Moreover, because of those systems, it achieved an inappropriately low ranking. But we hope next year that the whole University and all its Schools will be recognised, and we anticipate that the Law School's entry will be higher too. Now that we increasingly engage in these nationwide databases, we get some interesting postings. In October 2006 for example - when the British university sector as a whole saw a 3.5% fall in student admissions - the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) reported a 38% increase in our total intake and a 55% rise in our UK intake (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6070300.stm>).

And we are increasingly posting our own data. Our Annual and Financial Reports, for example, are now available on our website (www.buckingham.ac.uk/facts/official/accounts/).

We have for too long been 'Britain's best-kept secret'. Engaging in these data and Web activities costs us disproportionately more than it does the big universities, but we owe it to you, our alumni, to advertise our present excellence, so that you can be ever-prouder of your *alma mater*.

Stop Press. I am writing this on the day that Senate agreed to the creation of our Postgraduate Medical School. This is a marvellous step for us, which is being led by Professor Karol Sikora (who will become the new Dean) Professor Rajat Mathur and Professor Jayantha Arnold. I shall dedicate my article in the next issue of the *Independent* to describing that development

Dr Terence Kealey
Vice-Chancellor

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Editor's News



I need your advice? Having visited the Royal Overseas League (based on the edge of Green Park, a few doors away from the Ritz) in London, the University is considering taking out a group membership in

the hope that this will be of benefit to you, our alumni. Even though we take out membership, there is still a small annual fee to be paid if you wish to use this facility, but the benefits are the access to very reasonable accommodation in the heart of London, a venue for events and, perhaps most importantly, a long list of reciprocal links with clubs around the world, all of which can be used by our alumni. Hopefully places that can be useful to those on marketing trips as well. Do have a look at www.roi.org.uk and let me know what you think? If I get enough positive responses, by the next issue we will have set up a group membership, and I can give you more details.

I also wanted to let you know of a recent trip I made to Japan, with Professor Susan Edwards from the Law School.

Recruiting in Japan is not as easy as it once used to be and competition is stiff. So we decided to do it differently this time. Professor Edwards, our expert on domestic violence, sex and gender, very kindly agreed to give a talk to the Bar Association in Osaka on the subject of domestic violence. A subject that has only recently been open to discussion in Japan and one that a small group of academics and lawyers are fighting for support for. The Bar Association were thrilled that she could speak to them and following the publicity for this event, she was asked to speak at three universities in Tokyo (Waseda, Kokugakuin and Ochanomizu). As well as meeting two high profile Professors in the field to share their experiences, she was also asked to speak to two representatives from the Gender Equality Group in the Prime Minister's Office. All in all a very interesting and useful trip.

Negotiations for the translation of Professor Edwards book "Policing Domestic Violence" are now underway and we are sure that she will be invited back to follow up her advice on how her colleagues in Japan can begin to progress their cause on how to deal with DV. She

even had time to meet with some alumni in Tokyo and see a tiny bit of the city and the countryside ... and talk to a trainee geisha!

I have to make a quick mention of a quote in Medinah Huthman's piece in the last issue of the *Independent* that said "Page Hill was Page Hill, understand it no longer exists pity!!!" Fear not Medinah - it does still exist - although not with as many students as in the early years.

I must finish on a rather sad note - Lauren Hardy, who has been working with us in the PR/Alumni Department (dealing with all things, publicity) since the end of 2004, will be leaving us in mid-July. We shall miss her tremendously, as I know many of you will. But, she was always destined for greater things and, however much I wish she wasn't going, I know that she will do incredibly well, and wish her the very best of luck in the next phase of her career. Our very best wishes to her from us all in the attic and the whole University!

Anne Matsuoka
PR/Alumni Relations Officer
Tel: +44 (0) 1280 820 338
Email: anne.matsuoka@buckingham.ac.uk

Ayo's News



It's another edition of the *Independent*. I am happy to say I have finally got a grip on the job - well I must confess with the help of my colleagues in the attic.

The summer is finally here and I wish the rain would allow us to enjoy it. However, it did not stop the summer party from taking place on the 22 June. It was the loveliest evening with people who had graduated in different years meeting in the Pitcher and Piano conservatory area. I am very glad that the summer party was a success. To see pictures of the party please flip to page 7 and to view more pictures please click on this Web link

<https://extranet.buckingham.ac.uk/alumnet/news-alumni07.aspx>

I have been thinking about what to write for this issue of the *Independent* and I thought ... AlumNet. I am sure a lot of people registered on AlumNet do make good use of the services.

However, just to refresh the memories of those who know about this service or to inform those who do not know about the benefits of being registered on AlumNet, Alumnet provides all sorts of services such as announcing information about forthcoming events; helping you keep in touch with old students; making business contacts; special offers such as discounts on the Denning law journal and other magazines, a career mentoring scheme and all the past editions of the *Independent* are on the AlumNet website. To view these services please click: <https://extranet.buckingham.ac.uk/alumnet/servicesAlumni.aspx>.

If you have any suggestions about how AlumNet could be improved kindly send us an email.

Also I will be more than happy if you could ask any alumni you know who have not registered on AlumNet kindly to do so.

Ayomiku Babalola-Elewa
(BA International Studies '07),
Student Sabbatical Officer
Tel: +44 (0) 1280 820 230 (2230)
Email: ayomiku.babalola-ele@buckingham.ac.uk

Alumni Weekend in Geneva 2008

A London alumni party in Geneva for a change? If this appeals to you, email us NOW and it will be arranged.

How about September 2008 if we get plenty of interest?

My life in PR



I'm sure fellow alumni would agree with me that by far the biggest challenge facing any of us is that daunting period after we graduate when we have to think about what profession to pursue.

Even if we put off the decision by taking another course or perhaps going travelling, the fact is that the day will come when the decision has to be confronted: What on earth am I going to do for a profession?

When I graduated from Buckingham in 1992 I was adamant that I would find a profession that used the skills I most valued: my deep interest in people, my love of communication, my great passion for writing and of course my BA from the University of Buckingham in Business Studies.

After graduating from Buckingham, I lived in Madrid for a year teaching English. I then decided to move into marketing and publicity, where I worked in London and then in the Middle East. In 1996 I decided I'd gained enough experience to return to the UK and run my own company, Da Vinci Public Relations. Eleven years on, we're a thriving business serving a wide range of clients around the globe. So what do I do? Basically, my company helps organisations communicate with their customers, clients and with people they want to be their customers.

I think of myself as a sort of marriage broker between an organisation and the media who want to write about that organisation. I love making marriages between my clients and the media, and I really love seeing coverage in print and TV about my clients.

My job at Da Vinci PR has also given me the opportunity to travel all over the world and meet interesting and successful people from every walk of life.

As well as writing news stories and full-length articles, the job has given me the opportunity to write many books. I sometimes ghost-write books for my clients, and I've also authored and co-authored many business books under my own name. These include *The Seven Deadly Skills of Competing* (Thomson Learning International), *Internet Trust & Security* (Pearson Education), *IT in Selling Retail Financial Services* (Financial Times), and *Devising Successful Strategies in Food and Drink* (Reuters).

This is a job that is always varied and always challenging; I've never had a dull day yet, and I don't think I ever will.

For further information, call Helen on 07768 165 340 or email helenkomatsu@yahoo.co.uk, h.wylie@davincipr.com, www.davincipr.com

Helen Komatsu
(BSc Business Studies '92)

Buckingham Alumni win Queen's Award of Excellence

Inspecs, the company run by two Buckingham alumni which was featured in the Spring/Summer 2007 issue of the *Independent*, received the Queen's Award for International Business in the Birthday Honours List published on 21 April 2007. Christopher Smith (European Studies '84) and Robin Totterman (Politics, Economics and Law '85) met at Buckingham and have been running the company together since 1988.



Here is the Inspecs press release following after the receipt of the Queen's Award: "British eyewear firm Inspecs is to receive the prestigious Queen's Award for international business. Announced on the Queen's birthday, the award comes as a huge accolade to the firm established in 1988 and recognises a rapid growth of 500% in international business in the past 3 years. The award is to be presented to Inspecs' two founders, CEO Robin Totterman and COO Chris Smith at Buckingham Palace in July. To win the award the company fought off stiff competition from IT, retail, management consulting, real estate and biotechnology companies.

The Queen's Award was achieved by a highly talented and focused team carving out a niche applying new perspectives with a modern twist in what is a fundamentally traditional industry. Earlier this year Inspecs was also ranked for the second consecutive year in the top 500 European Hot Growth Companies by *Business Week* magazine, achieving 39th position.

2006 saw growth in emerging markets with additional offices opening in China, India and the CIS (Russia and Ukraine). Inspecs will continue to build a global business - with a strong focus on emerging markets - over the next 2-3 years. The focus will be on world brands and worldwide distribution. Current eyewear licences include Terence Conran's Vision By Conran, Caterpillar / Cat, Speedo, Nascar, French Connection, fucuk, Manish Arora, Austin Reed and Nicole Farhi. A large portion of the company's sales are provided through so-called private label products. These are house brands owned by large optical chains or retailers.

Inspecs has offices in the UK, Hong Kong, USA, Scandinavia, France, Ukraine, India and Japan. Technical product design is split between the UK and Hong Kong as well as production bases in China, Korea and Taiwan. Inspecs' UK head office is based in an historic castle in the unusual and beautiful surroundings of an ancient 150-acre estate near Bath.

It was a weekend of awards, Inspecs also won the Optician Award for the 'Optical Product of the Year' in 2007 in April.

The University would like to offer its congratulations to Chris and Robin and wish them every success in the future. We look forward to following their progress with interest and pride.

BUCKINGHAM IN THE NEWS

Drink to Your Success: Entrepreneurs at Work. **Hubert Stoehr and Stefan Stockinger**, students on the Business Enterprise degree at Buckingham are mentioned in this article. The business they have set up as part of their studies is the promotion and selling of Eggenberg Beer at events.

Courses and Careers magazine, May-September

Letters: two-year degrees really can work

In this letter, **Professor John Clarke** responds to a comment made by a columnist that "two-year degrees make a mockery of universities." Professor Clarke explains how Buckingham has been offering these for over 30 years and that they work incredibly well. The *Independent*, 30 May

The **ex-factor**: what former leaders did next. In the lead up to the standing down of Tony Blair, this article looks at former Prime Ministers and what they did after their term/s in the role. **Baroness Margaret Thatcher's** period as Chancellor of Buckingham is mentioned. *Guardian Unlimited*, 26 June

Laundry, Italian style!



After reading Economics at Buckingham in 1983, I worked as an accountant, then in a business involved in shipping and tuna-canning. This gave me a great learning experience.

In 2003, having some free time, I wanted to set up something new. I used my passion for the Internet and its growing potential but did not know where to start.

My trepidation was caused not by lack of imagination but because some friends who had just done something entrepreneurial on the Net had come out losing money.

During that same period a friend had started up a business of coin laundries. As he thought it would be a success he opened a chain of coin laundries before realizing they were all losing money. He asked me for advice and I told him to go get the customers instead of waiting for them. In that same moment I combined the two things into an idea: Internet and laundry.

After a check on existing websites in the laundry world I discovered there were a lot of websites in the USA and the UK, but none allowed online ordering in a simple way. I discovered laundering is a huge and growing market. The same goes for the Net. The same goes for pickup and delivery services. So I continued.

A friend who produces websites loved the idea. So this is how I started www.lavanet.it in Milan, Italy.

Today www.lavanet.it is an online shop where customers select garments to be sent to the cleaners, book pickup and delivery date and time, and pay. Everything online is growing every month. Our website is extremely clear and functional, otherwise nobody would ever use it for ordering.

The real job of cleaning and laundering is done by established professionals under agreement. The activity for Lavanet consists in receiving orders online and co-ordinating pickup and delivery by a dedicated driver.

Having realised that there is continuous growth, and nothing yet by way of competition, I am now working on the franchising of the website. The program has already been modified and the website can be reproduced and partially adapted to the affiliates' requests.

Following the franchising start-up, the plan consists of adding services and products to the website. If an affiliate wants to change the list, they may do so if authorised by the base.

When I began I was told "your project will never work". Today, a success story, I can say the project is working and it has great potential based on facts. As a student reading this, you may take it as an inspirational story, or as an opportunity to take up a franchise licence in a town/country of your choice.

Emanuele Palau (BSc Econs Economics '84)

Matt Harper & Bluefin Solutions

When graduating from Buckingham with a Business Studies degree in 1994, I was then not sure what to do with the rest of my life. I joined Cable & Wireless Communications, which gave me sound IT experience, specifically with software called SAP. In 1998 I joined an IT consultancy called Axon Solutions which provided me with a consulting role in a variety of blue-chip organisations around Europe. These were the days of the dot.com boom and Axon could do little wrong, so it was a fun time to be involved with them, and the industry. I then joined Bluefin Solutions in 2003, where my role is currently that of Client Partner.

Bluefin was founded by four of my Axon colleagues in 2002, so I was very keen to join and help build Bluefin as we all shared the same views about what constituted an ideal consultancy. Bluefin is a UK based SAP consultancy and a full SAP Services Partner. We work with organisations to make them more successful through the use of SAP technologies. Bluefin uses innovative delivery methods, built on a culture of teamwork and knowledge sharing, in the pursuit of 100% customer satisfaction. Bluefin's HQ is next to Kew Bridge,

London (with a 'North-West office' in Chester), and as we approach our 5th birthday this summer, our headcount has just hit 80. With new starters almost every week, we are looking forward to having 100+ employees soon. My role provides me with a lot of variety, and I am rarely in the same office two days running. My activities include selling to new customers, farming existing clients, consulting, project managing, mentoring, and ultimately being responsible for anything that we are involved in, with any of my clients.

I came back to the University at the end of May 2007 to speak to the IT department, existing students and the careers office about Bluefin, and to see whether we could offer any students or Alumni any opportunities. We are always looking to recruit bright and enthusiastic IT people, and we begin a graduate programme from August for five of the best graduates we can find from a selection of Universities; Buckingham being one. If this process is successful then we will repeat it in February & September each year. We offer very competitive packages and focus on continually developing our consultants to enable them to achieve more, which helps us to retain the best consultants.

If you are interested in finding out more, visit www.bluefinsolutions.com or e-mail me at matt.harper@bluefinsolutions.com.



Here is a picture of my son and me on holiday in Malta.

Aside from work, I've been married to Andrea since April 2005, and we have a 1 year old boy called Thomas, with another baby due on 24 October. We 'did' London for nearly 4 years, but escaped back closer to home 5 years ago, now living in a village called Stratton Audley (about 12 miles from Buckingham, towards the M40). Time is certainly flying by so I reckon I must be having fun!

Matthew Harper (BSc Business Studies '94)

Patricia's Story.... Continued



Here I am again to tell you more about all those extraordinary things that have happened to me in these last four years...yes, it has been four years already! Remember?

It was not just the completion of my undergraduate degree, working with the fantastic Alumni Office, or co-ordinating the Study Abroad and Internship programmes, there was still so much more to come....

Did you know that there are extraordinary people worldwide who support the University of Buckingham? Yes, thanks to the generosity of Sir Christopher Ondaatje, among others, and the support of the University' students like myself are able to continue further with their studies.

I became an Ondaatje scholar in July 2006. My brilliant supervisors, Professor John Clarke and Dr Jane Ridley, agreed to my working towards an MPhil in History: *Argentina and Britain in the early Nineteenth Century. A theory of 'Informal Empire'?* So...I became a student yet again. Is this not extraordinary too?

While I pursue my research study I will continue to work at Buckingham. However sad I was to leave the Alumni Office -one cannot do it all!- I was happy to be coordinator in the Study Abroad Office and support the Department of Economics and International Studies. There was a lot going on here as well.

In September 2006 we launched the new MA in Global Affairs, a comprehensive programme with a focus on international issues, which has attracted new and old students from all corners of the world.

We have now also emphasised our marketing efforts towards Latin America. If you are willing to help with the development of exchange programmes and other links with institutions in Latin American countries please do get in touch.

There has been progress towards Internship opportunities for all students at Buckingham. Our 'Undergraduate

Professional Practice' programmes for Economics and International Studies students are now open to all those who wish to stay and pursue a Postgraduate degree at Buckingham.

As you see there is a lot happening and I am lucky enough to be still part of it all. I mentioned in my previous article all the wonderful things that had happened since I arrived here and I now wanted to tell you about so many more. I hope you have enjoyed it.

What does the future have in store for me now? Who knows...this is already far better than I had ever expected so I do not dare ask for more...yet!

Patricia C. Prada Jimenez
BA (Hons) International Studies with
French '06, MPhil History.
Co-ordinator Study Abroad &
Internships

Buckingham's Second Generation

The University is proud to see another generation of Buckingham students. Below is the story of **Ekaterina Kalogeropoulous** and her son, a current student, **Kyriakos Armenakis**



Ekaterina tells her story.....

At the age of 18 I joined Buckingham University, which was at that time the University College of Buckingham, as an undergraduate of Economics.

Buckingham was a second home to me, a small and friendly community, with a very professional environment and high standard of education. The professionalism of all, starting from the professors, tutors and administration staff. I appreciated all this; that is why I advised my son to have Buckingham as his first choice and I am delighted that he is presently studying Law at Buckingham. I believe that Buckingham offers the young teenage students a smooth transition from the secure family environment to the tough business world.

Having completed my BSc in Economics in 1983, I joined Banque Indosuez in London and after a short training and the lucky incidence of a vacancy, I was appointed Account Officer for high networth individuals, a post I held successfully while I was attending a Master Degree course at Reading University, as a part-time student. After work I was also attending a Banking Law course at London Polytechnic, a very valuable course for a banking career.

As Greece was not a full EU member at the time, I had problems with my residence and decided to work in and get to know Greece. I was immediately employed by Citibank in Athens in Investment Banking and was straight away sent to New York to be trained as a stockbroker. Working and studying in New York was an amazing experience in itself. As a qualified stockbroker and bonds expert, I returned to the Athens offices where I set up a new banking service which was a breakthrough at the time.

At the age of 25 I got married and had 3 children. I decided to withdraw from the business world and dedicate myself to my children. For the following 5 years I was a full-time mother, a hard period more stressful than trading in NYSE, but a very important period for me and the children.

In 1993 I was appointed to be the Ethiopian Government's Honorary Consul General of Ethiopia in Athens. As there was no Embassy at the time and there was a large Ethiopian community residing in Athens, I was extremely busy with the consular services, bilateral agreements, visits of officials and business delegations as well as cultural events promoting and strengthening the ties of the two countries. I feel I owe a lot to Buckingham and more specifically the drive and professionalism of my tutors has always been motivating me.

Having my son in Buckingham and visiting him is such an emotional experience for me as I relive all the lovely student moments. I almost feel like studying again.

I wish to thank the professors and the administrative staff for keeping the high standard of the University, which makes all alumni proud of the University and I wish continued success to the generations to come, as I hope to see my grandchildren attending Buckingham.

Ekaterina Kalogeropoulous
BSc (Hons) Economics '83

Alumni News

Kyriakos Comments.....

In September 2006 at the age of 17 I joined Buckingham's LLB course.

I believe that after all these months I left my family for another 'family', and I say that because here in Buckingham I found a friendly and quiet environment for study and the most important feeling is that I am part of an international community.

Here I found what I was looking for: a tranquil environment, experienced staff and excellent student support from the University.

I believe that Buckingham as a University motivates students to gain work experience and I believe that has to do mostly with tutors' professionalism and many work experience opportunities that can be found here.

One of the most important things that I've learned here is how to live with students from all around the globe (according to University statistics 83 other nationalities) and this is an 'educative challenge' for me because every day I learn more and more about people, countries and nationalities. Personally I believe it is hard to find this in any other University.

In Buckingham students never lose the momentum because of the 2 year degree and there are so many things to do and to see around here that you will never believe how fast time goes by.

I would like to mention something that has not changed for many years, since the time my mother joined this university, and that something is Buckingham itself: a friendly university and a family to all students who leave their home to study abroad.

Kyriakos Armenakis
Current Student (LLB Law)

News from Clare

Clare Greenhalgh (BA English Literature '03), an English Literature graduate is teaching Business English online in a way she believes is a "world first". "It was Buckingham's marvellous internationalism that first sparked me off", said Clare. After graduating, she trained in London to teach English as a Second Language and was surprised that there are no organisations basing their ESL teaching on modern webcam technology to provide the benefits of face-to-face live tutorials online. This was the genesis of her BELT*Live* company, which went live this year.



Clare explained that while there are plenty of online courses claiming to be 'interactive', they actually only include video-clips, sometimes with questions set for students to answer and written tutorials - improving speech, pronunciation and accent by using DVDs, CDs and audio tapes and solitary repetition. This is inadequate and demotivating.

Nothing can replace face-to-face interaction between teacher and student and BELT*Live* makes this possible without the two actually being in the same room. BELT*Live* connects tutors in England with students around the world via webcams for customised one-to-one lessons focussed on the individual needs of each client. The clients choose the time of each lesson and it can be at any time – day or night! This saves clients money as they can continue to work and stay at home. The alternative is to take time off work, visit England and stay in a hotel, in addition to paying for the intensive course. Courses are carefully tailored for individual clients, who range from Business School students to top business people seeking to improve their fluency. Lessons range from giving a course based on a chosen book to very specific help for a client with a presentation to prepare and perfect. All include help with pronunciation, grammar and idioms.

BELT*Live* really provides what it promises - Business English Language Teaching *Live*. Any client with good broadband internet access needs only an ordinary webcam with earphones and microphone, because BELT*Live* has developed a powerful system which ensures the proper synchronisation of lips and speech and the smooth movement of picture usually lacking in skype and ordinary webcam communication.

This revolutionary teaching method has already been picked up by the influential periodical Business India, which featured BELT*Live* in an article on 6 May this year. Interested readers can find out more about the latest example of the Buckingham entrepreneurial spirit in action on www.beltlive.com.

Ermin's Call to Bar

The university is happy to announce the recent achievement of its Alumni.

Ermin Moise (LLB Law with Business Finance '05) says "I was called on the 25 June by Justice Cottle of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court."

The petition that I be admitted to practise was made by attorney Andie George in whose chambers I work. I am attached to Andie George and Co. Chambers."



Lost Alumni

As we like to remain in touch with our alumni, below is a list of people that we have lost, if anyone is in contact with them kindly let them know the university would like to stay in touch with them.

Roberts A Stalder
(Business Studies, '87)

Christina (Tam) Fong
(Law, '92)

Natasha Aaron
(Psychology with English Literature, '01)

Abdulrauf Ahmed Abba
(Law, '98)

Samir Odeh Helal Abbadi
(Transformation Management, '04)

Yousif M A Abbas
(Accounting and Financial Management, '85)

Tara Abbott
(Psychology, '96)

Natalia Abboud
(English with European Law with French, '91)

Zehimkhan Abdoukady
(Business and Economics, '01)

Alumni at Work

Visit to Sri Lanka

It gives me great pleasure to write a few words about representing the University of Buckingham in my home country, Sri Lanka.

As I went through my academic adventure and had the pleasure of going to other alumni presentations the one thing I dreamt of was representing the University one day! When I was asked to do so I was delighted to know that I would be able to go back to Sri Lanka to inspire and enhance the enthusiasm of prospective students. This was definitely one of the highlights of my life.

My visit started off by meeting a good friend, Abdul Aziz, who is an alumnus himself, in Dubai on my way to Sri Lanka. It was great to see him and to learn that he is doing so well in life. After arriving in Sri Lanka on a hot Sunday morning, I spent a few hours with my family before meeting Lucinda (Roberts-Holmes (Law '06) – International Manager) that evening. We had planned many visits to schools in Colombo during our short stay. We also gave a presentation at the British Council and conducted interviews for prospective students. Stuart Andrews (another alumnus) also joined us while he was

travelling in the region. The three of us being Buckingham graduates of different disciplines added value to our purpose. It was such a delight being received so well in all the schools we visited. Being a native and recommending the University of Buckingham for Higher Studies among fellow Sri Lankans and seeing their enthusiasm was a great feeling. I thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to be actively involved in the promotion of the university.



But what fun would a trip like this be if it was all work and no play? Hence on Friday the 18th June 2007, we had an Alumni night. It was a huge success as even more alumni than we thought came for the gathering. Everyone had a great

time, seeing old friends as well as making new ones. Although we did miss some alumni, it gave me great joy to reminisce and socialise with everyone who was there. After the dinner the night ended with a warm feeling of meeting friends and with promises of keeping in touch and keeping the alumni bonds strengthened. Everyone sends their warm regards and praised the University for organising the Alumni night.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the alumni who came to meet us at the British Council and a big thank you to alumna Swasha Perera (BSc [Econs] Accounting and Financial Management '03) for organising such a great alumni night with dinner. Finally I would like to thank the University for giving me this tremendous opportunity. It was a marvellous experience. I am truly honoured. Hopefully it has enhanced the enthusiasm of more students in Sri Lanka to come and join the excellent community at the University of Buckingham. I take great pride in all that the University has offered me.

Harin Sellahewa
DPhil Information Services '07

Transition from Buckingham to Cambridge.

I completed the LLB at Buckingham in 2005 and was admitted to the LLM at Cambridge in 2006. Once the novelty has worn-off, Cambridge has its pros and cons like any other university although, there is



less negativity surrounding the name. To strip away the technicality, I can honestly say from my experience that the level of teaching at Buckingham adequately reflects the level of teaching at

Cambridge. I believe the student-teacher ratio and the mere availability of the lecturers has a fundamental role to play. It is important to take full advantage of this fact.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Buckingham and wish everyone the best of luck for the future. A special thank you goes to Professor Susan Edwards.

Jayesh Soni (LLB '06).

Pictures from the Alumni Summer Party



Who do you recognise?

Engagements... Marriages...

Congratulations to all these alumni who have recently married, become engaged or added to their families:

Engagements



Helene Abdon (LLB '01, LLM '02) is happy to announce her engagement to **Richard F. Jones Jr.** The engagement took place on March 17, 2007 at the Signature Room on the 95th floor of the John Hancock building in Chicago. Helene says "We are looking forward to our upcoming wedding in October 2007."



Atinuke Osibogun (LLM Law '05) is happy to announce her engagement to **Adegoke Adeleke.** The couple are pleased that their relationship, started as the result of a need for painkillers, will be taken to a new level. They will be married on 18 August 2007 in Nigeria.

Marriages



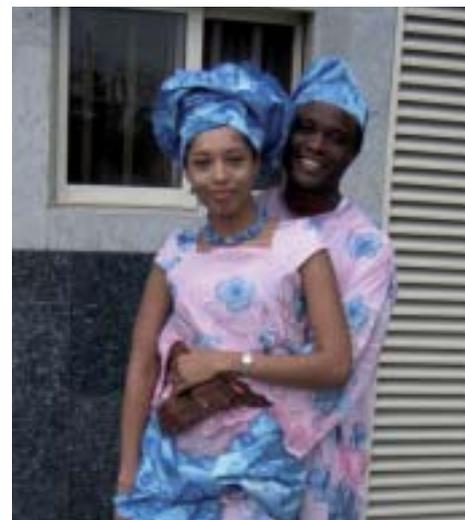
With great joy and happiness, **Haifa Ahmed (LLB Law '00)** is announcing her marriage to **Ahmad Al Omani.** The wedding took place on the 14 March 2007.



Jennifer Enwerem (BA English Literature '95, LLB Law '97) announces she has tied the knot with her heartthrob **Ifeanyi Nwankwo.** The marriage took place on the 10 April 2007. The happy couple now live in Canada.



On December 23 2006 **Helen Wylie (Business Studies '92)** married her good friend **Anthony Komatsu.** The wedding took place in the twelfth-century church of St Nicholas in the old farming village of Ash, in Kent where they now live. The reception was held at the bride's family home in Deal, on the East Kent coast.



Olabode Longe (BSc [Econs] Economics '06) and **Shavanthi Griffin (LLB Law with Economics '06)** are happy to announce their traditional wedding which took place on 11 June 2007 in Lagos, Nigeria. Shavanthi says 'It was a pleasure marrying my best friend. I had to fight to hold back tears of joy. I am really looking forward to our 'white wedding' in The Bahamas.' Olabode says 'Shavanthi is simply special, more than anyone could ask for. I consider myself one of the luckiest to have her for the rest of my life'.

Yu Xiaojing (MSc IHM '05) and **James Baker (LLB '06, LLM '07)** are happy to announce their marriage. The couple registered on 18 December 2006 at the Marriage Registration Office, Civil Administration Bureau of Beijing, China. Their blessing will be held on 21 July 2007 in Bradford Abbas, Dorset, where James' parents live.

Births



Thomas Harper was one year old on 28 April 2007. His parents **Matt Harper (BSc Business Studies '94)** and his wife **Andrea** say "having one is never enough, so we have another baby due on October 24. Another busy year in prospect". Who says there is no joy in parenthood!



Clemens Toepfer (BSc Business Studies '95) is happy to announce the birth of his daughter, **Philippa**. She was born on 7 April 2007 in Hamburg. Clemens says, "She is a healthy, and so far, easy going little girl".



Very excited, **Lenny Zahari (LLB Law '04)** says "I'm the proud mother of **Mikael Zahriz**." He is such an adorable baby. I can't wait for him to grow up so that I can take him to see Mummy's University!" We are certainly waiting to meet him too.



Julian A. Bostwick (LLB Law '99) announces the birth of his daughter **Bailey Rebecca Suzanne**. She was born at 11am Monday morning, 19 March 2007 weighing 10lbs 11oz. Both mother (Candace) and daughter are doing well.



Aya Goda James (BA Literature '06) and **Steve** would like you to meet their son **Rhys Ryu Goda James**. Rhys was born on 11 December 2006. This adorable and happy little boy is filling everyone's heart with joy!



Nicola Courtenay (nee Bradwell, ex-staff English Department) and **Feargal** are happy to announce the birth of **Luke**. He was born on the 22 February 2007, weighing 8lbs 8oz.

By appointment to education



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Cancer Relay For Life

One of our Malaysian alumni writes about the success of the "Relay For Life" she organised in early June.

"We successfully completed our 16-hour Relay For Life non-stop from Saturday evening (6pm) until Sunday morning (10am). It began with heavy rain and thunderstorms; by the time I gave my Opening Speech folks were restless and raring to go! They were undeterred by the drizzle. I was more frightened of the lightning, since I was holding the microphone!

There were a few thousand (last estimates around 3-5 thousand) people. Reason being hundreds of volunteers and food vendors and families and friends (the Asian culture) don't register as they are part of the extended Organising Committee but they joined in the crowd.

The Relay For Life began with the Cancer Survivors Lap, where 500 of them from ALL over Malaysia (even from far away Sarawak in East Malaysia!) turned up,

also from Singapore.

There was endless entertainment, dance and shows, group dance and exercises, fashion show (by survivors), Ms Relay Beauty Pageant (performed by real men as drag queens!), through the night whilst the Relay was on. People continued to walk, or run, or jog in their outfits, jogging attire or fancy dress. We had a Toga party team, clowns, University and School teams.

At 8.30pm, the Luminaria Ceremony was held, where we lit candles in special luminaria small white bags, handwritten with markers, words and thoughts in memory of those who died of cancer and placed them around the stadium's inside track. A few moments of silence were observed. Some said their prayers in accordance with their denomination. The stadium went dark except those candles in the bag. It was a moving moment. We then continued the Relay until 10am in the morning.

We had 100 tents pitched around the stadium, for those who'd booked to stay

and rest. It was heart wrenching to see families with young Cancer children survivors spending time together all night under the stars. The Relay continued with at least one member of each team remaining on track walking, jogging at all times. The Battle of the Bands (the Finals) screamed away rock music and caused the Police to arrive at 1am!

It was fun closing as everybody made the effort to do the final lap. Talking about charity, companies like Giordano and others were selling their t-shirts dirt-cheap with proceeds all for our cancer cause. It was incredible.

The cancer survivors' groups and participants from all over took turns to take photos on stage. It was endless and people didn't want to leave! Overall Relay For Life was an opportunity for cancer survivors to get-together, exchange info on their state of health, cancer treatment, exercises, network together; with support of caregivers, volunteers and the community. It was a joyous event".

Zuraidah Atan (LLB Law '84)
Volunteer and Organising Chairperson

Reunion

Earlier this year Mike and Wendy McCrostie visited the United States. They started off in Philadelphia where they caught up with **Ram Mudambi** (Ex-staff member) and family. Ram is now a Professor at the Fox Business School, Temple University. Then, after enjoying New York, they ventured north to stay with **Dave Hines** (Occasional Student '82) and his family: wife, Debra and children, Natalie (8) and Garrett (6).



Dave was first at Buckingham as a visiting student from Lehigh University in 1982 and then returned in 1985 to work in the Alumni office for a while.

He recalled many members of staff from those days including Martin Ricketts, Linda Waterman, Alan Peacock and David Greenaway. He also asked about several students from his days at Buckingham; amongst them were, Isabelle DuBois, Josie Mazzawi, and Zuaidah Atan and would like to hear from them. He keeps in touch with Chang Heah, Mark Deal, John Henson and Virginia Blackwell (nee Hasleden).

Dave now runs a successful business in Massachusetts helping firms with medical claims and employs around 40 people. He also has a condominium in New Hampshire where Mike and Wendy spent a few days. It is in Bretton Woods, which probably won't mean much unless you studied Macroeconomics!

Dave and his family hope to visit England again in the next couple of years and are sure to include Buckingham in the itinerary. He sends his regards to all.

Wendy McCrostie
Secretary to Director of Finance

News from the Foundation Office

Donations

A successful beginning to 2007 for the Foundation; donations have already reached £402,000 and alumni donations continue to flow in.

Graduation

The Foundation is responsible for honorary graduates. We arrange a dinner for them on the eve of Graduation. This year, the honorary graduates included two alumni, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, who is currently Governor of Osun State in Nigeria, who came with his family and the senior advocate Otuna Kunle Kalejaiye, and Mark Lancaster, Buckingham's first UK Member of Parliament. Other honorary graduates were Robert Pearce, Acting Vice-Chancellor from 2000 to 2001. His wife Chris, who also worked here, came with him; Sir Gordon Jewkes, a member of Council from 1996 to 2001 and Governor of the Falkland Islands and High Commissioner for the British Antarctic Territory from 1985-1988, and Charles Moore, an eminent journalist who is writing the authorised biography of Baroness Thatcher, a former Chancellor of Buckingham, and now Chancellor Emeritus (1993 to 1998). It was a happy occasion and the transformed examination rooms glowed in the candlelight. Sally Kealey, the Vice-Chancellor's wife is always a wonderful help on these occasions as is Sarah Rush.

Sir Christopher Ondaatje

Sir Martin Jacomb, Terence Kealey and I met with Sir Christopher to update him on University activities. Sir Christopher Ondaatje showed an enthusiastic interest in the University and his scholars. This year's scholars are Alifa Chowdhury, Clive Kozah and Patricia Prada.

The Bulgarian Ambassador

The Bulgarian flag flew from the flagpole for the Bulgarian Ambassador's visit on 30 May 2007. Mrs Alison Phillips OBE, who has enjoyed a fascinating career with the Foreign Office, and who is a member of Council, formally welcomed him. It was a wet day and a large University umbrella was required throughout the Ambassador's tour. He met with Bulgarian and other students over lunch. He was a delightful guest. I would like to thank Alison Phillips for helping me to host this visit. We are planning more visits by Ambassadors and High Commissioners from countries whose students are at Buckingham.

Visit to Sarajevo School of Science and Technology

I visited SSST at the end of May 2007. As always, I was struck by the enthusiasm of the professors and students. Emir Ganic (MBA '07) has returned to Sarajevo to take care of IT and marketing for SSST; it was good to meet with him.

Two new programmes, Economics and International Studies, begin in October 2007, when SSST will have 240 students and when its first set of students will enter their final year.

Lord and Lady Wolfson of Marylebone

The Chancellor, Sir Martin Jacomb, and Dr Terence Kealey hosted lunch at Willowbank on 3 June. The Wolfson Foundation, chaired by Lord Wolfson with Lady Wolfson as a trustee, has given generously to the University. Lord and Lady Wolfson toured the University to look at projects funded by them.

Mr Faccenda

Sir Martin Jacomb and Dr Terence Kealey hosted a lunch at the University on 18 June for Mr Robin Faccenda, a local businessman.

Patrons' Lunch

A lunch will be held at the Athenaeum in November 2007 for patrons and other special guests to thank them for their support.

Annual Dinner

The Palamountain dinner in January 2007 was such a success that a similar event will be held annually. Donors, honorary graduates, alumni and others will be invited. The date will be given in the next issue of *the Independent*.

Visits

Visitors are welcome; if you know of anyone who would like to visit the University, do let me know.



Dr Mary Welstead

Director of the University of Buckingham Foundation
Direct Line: +44 (0) 1280 820263
Email: mary.welstead@buckingham.ac.uk

LAW SCHOOL

National Negotiation Competition

After the glory of 2006, the University was honoured to host the National Negotiation Competition in 2007. Chandos Road was set as the venue and after a day of hard negotiation Michael Weinstein and Steve Meltzer of the University of Leicester were awarded the winning certificates. As we did, they will go forward to represent England in the International Negotiation Competition except this time, it is to be held in Singapore in July 2007.

In the final, pairs representing twelve universities participated in a series of rounds negotiating dispute-related and deal-making scenarios before panels of judges drawn from the Buckingham Law School staff, alumni, visiting professors and distinguished guests of the University. We were honoured to have Sir James Nursaw, an Honourary Professor, Michael Crean QC, and Sir John Brigstocke, our Chairman of Council as distinguished judges, all of whom gave words of wisdom which were taken to heart by the students

A great team of Law students ensured the event ran smoothly, all dressed in special University of Buckingham polo shirts, whilst outside caterers provided much needed and well deserved sustenance for everyone. In the evening, all involved converged on the Villiers Hotel where a fine supper was served and tension rose in preparation for the reading of the results. Some fine words from Graham Massey on the effectiveness of the UN were complimented by the witty rhetoric of Mark Saunders, the events director. It was a fantastic event, much enjoyed by all.

Janice Denoncourt, Buckingham's Faculty Advisor, said of the winners: "The standard of this year's competition was again very high, and it's encouraging to see that the number of Law Schools participating is on the increase". Negotiating is a key life skill as well as a professional requirement for lawyers and has always been a practical component of Buckingham's Law programme.



Tom Durbin

The League Tables - an "Old Timer's" View!

As the longest serving member of the Law School (now that the redoubtable Andrew Durand has finally retired) I am delighted to have been invited to write a few words for this issue of the *Independent* about the Law School's success in the national University league tables, compiled and published recently by the *Guardian* newspaper.

It has been many years since the University featured in any of the league tables (despite regularly receiving favourable comments in the annual University Guides published in some of the same newspapers) and when we did (if memory serves me well), we were ranked overall at around thirtieth. Given that the University was a very young institution in those days - not to mention the undoubted strength of the opposition - that seemed to be an altogether reasonable result.

We are all thrilled, therefore, by our rankings in the *Guardian* University league tables 2008, in which the Law School is placed twentieth overall out of a total of ninety institutions - behind such behemoths as Cambridge, the LSE and Oxford, admittedly, but ahead of many other prestigious university Law Schools such as Nottingham, Leeds, Leicester and Reading.

What is really exciting (and, for me, particularly gratifying to report) is the fact that our scores in a number of key areas - arguably the most important ones - place us in the top three university Law Schools in the country. For Teaching, for instance, we are placed equal first (along with King's and University College, London) with the maximum score of 10/10. Our score on Feedback was bettered only by King's (10 to our 9) and that for Job Prospects puts us at equal third - again on 9 - with only Cambridge and Aberdeen beating us with the maximum score of 10.

It was slightly disappointing that, for technical reasons, we were not given a score for student/staff ratio, since, as you all know, that is something of which we in Buckingham can be rightly proud, and for which we should be right up there (with one lecturer for every nine students, as against a national average closer to twenty). However, it would be wrong to cry "foul". Suffice it to say that we have a thing or two to learn about presenting the relevant data, such that we in the Law School are hopeful (and in my own case, optimistic) that, those lessons having been learned, we will make it into the top ten next year. Certainly, that is what we are working towards - and, having had the

pleasure of getting to know so many of you personally, I know that we can count on your help and support in doing so.

I fervently believe that, in the University of Buckingham, you have a Law School of which, like me, you can be proud - it is probably the reason I am still here! Nevertheless, like you, I am always especially pleased when that pride can be shown to be objectively justified. In the case of these latest league tables, it demonstrably can be, and in our success, we all have something to share and celebrate now, as well as something to build on in the future.

Together, let's do it!
Irving Stevens

Marketing Department



Seven years ago I told *The Independent* that Buckingham had been described as 'the best kept secret in higher education'. Well in 2007 the secret is well and truly out!

Coming No 1 in the National Student Survey has given our recruitment effort a real boost, and the more recent news of the Law School's league table success has been another reminder of the excellence of Buckingham. We are working hard to maximise the impact of both these well-deserved results.

The decision to remove regional discounts and offer a competitive fee for home students has certainly been a success. We are seeing more applications from UK students, and teachers and careers advisors are being forced to re-think their perceptions about 'that private university'! Local promotions this year include radio advertising and having our name emblazoned on the back of all Milton Keynes' buses! We continue to take part in the UCAS recruitment fairs around the UK and are embarking on more visits and lectures to schools and colleges.

University News

Good news travels fast and our programme of international visits, especially those where we include alumni gatherings, is always appreciated. So far this year we have visited Poland, China, Argentina, Cyprus, Austria, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Malaysia. We plan to return to a number of these countries in the autumn, as well as encompassing Japan, Nigeria, India, Bahamas and Pakistan. We are now concentrating on independently arranged visits, using alumni contacts and agents, rather than on big education fairs. This more personal approach ensures that we build up relationships with key personnel in schools, and our agents are well briefed and fired with enthusiasm to promote Buckingham.

But there is no doubt that the best marketing of all is personal recommendation and we continue to reward alumni who refer students to Buckingham. The token payment of £250 is paid to you once the student you referred has registered. If you would like more details about this scheme, do please contact me.

Debbie Millns
Marketing Manager
Tel: +44 (0) 1280 820220
Email: debbie.millns@buckingham.ac.uk

Alumni Office



In the five months since I started my job here at the University, things have really taken shape and I have settled into my role well. I am familiarising myself with all the different country groups and building up good relationships with the many alumni and students.

As alumni you are exceptionally important to us and as you know our relationship with you continues long after you graduate. So many of you have played a fundamental role in the continued success of Buckingham University. It is as a result

of your unwavering support and generous donations to the annual fund that we have been able to set about making changes to improve your University. To date we have raised just over £8,000 which will enable us to make many changes around campus. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you some of the many ways in which we will be putting your donations to use.

Our **AAF wish list** identifies the following future projects:

Memorial Garden

We are currently having plans drawn up for a memorial garden. The garden will be situated next to the Tanlaw Mill – an area which sees students from all schools come together during their time here at Buckingham.

Cost towards updating the SU Bar - Estimated cost = £1,400

Creation of a cyber café in the Franciscan Coffee Bar - Estimated cost = £3,000

An interactive whiteboard for the library study area - Estimated cost = £5,000

Student scholarships and updating of student accommodation

Further investment in sports and equipment

Renovation of the entrance to the Franciscan Building

Funding for Business Enterprise student companies

Provision of an SU mini-bus and driver training

If you have any other suggestions of items to add to the AAF wish list please contact the Alumni Office:
alumni@buckingham.ac.uk

I hope that the success of the fund will continue and help towards securing a great future for the University and its students.

From all of us here at the University of Buckingham we would like to say a huge **thank you** to all our donors:

Mohamed Berjawi, E Georges, Frederic Moraillon, Iban Ortuzar, Cenzig Firat, Omolara Kayode, Jaspreet Gill, Kingsley Francis, John Price, Nicolo Zanutto, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Clemens Toepfer, Frank Lefley, John Embiricos, Huda Al-Rasheed, Walter Pauly and all our other donors who wished to remain

anonymous.

If you feel you would like to make a **donation** to the fund then an online donation form is available at:
www.buckingham.ac.uk/ubfoundation/howtodonate/.

Any and all donations will be gratefully received. Your support is vital to our continuing success!

Bethany Carter

Alumni Annual Fund and Country Groups
Co-ordinator
Tel: +44 (0) 1280 820 210
Email: bethany.carter@buckingham.ac.uk

Concerts and Lectures Series

As some of you may know, the University runs a termly Concerts and Lectures series. The series sees a range of speakers and performers visiting Buckingham to give talks and recitals to members of the University as well as the general public.

The Summer Term is home to the annual Art History series of lectures. These lectures are given by Dr Nicola Smith, Dr Joachim Strupp and a guest speaker. The series this year is on the theme of Venice

Tuesday 24 July

Dr Nicola Smith Ruskin - *Venice and England*

Tuesday 31 July

Dr Joachim Strupp - *If it's Tuesday, it must be Venice*

Tuesday 7 August

Lady Clarke CBE - *Venice in Peril : 40 Years On*

To book your place, contact the Publicity Office on +44 (0)1280 820213 or email publicity@buckingham.ac.uk. All lectures begin at 6:30pm and take place in the Ian Fairbairn Lecture Hall, Chandos Road Building.

There are no concerts this term because of the Buckingham Summer Festival. Details of all forthcoming events can always be found on:
<http://www.buckingham.ac.uk/news/events.html>

QAA Institutional Audit, National Student Survey and League Tables

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) is a national organisation that inspects universities across the UK to assess the quality of teaching and confirm academic standards. In 2003, QAA inspected the University of Buckingham and their report published in 2004 confirmed that standards here are amongst the highest in the UK.

A spin-off from the Audit was that the University became eligible to take part in the National Student Survey (NSS) – an independent survey of students across the UK. In 2006, the University's students voted Buckingham into top place and we are currently awaiting the results of the 2007 survey. The participation rate was high again and all students who took part were automatically entered into a prize draw to win a Special Edition UB Ipod or a cash prize.



The photograph shows the lucky winners, Katherine Waite (Psychology) and Masiur Ghaani from the Law School receiving their prizes from the Vice Chancellor with Dr Alan Martin (newly-appointed Head of Psychology) and Mrs Charlotte Walsh (Dean of Law).

As you have read in other articles in this issue, the QAA Audit and NSS have raised the University's profile nationally and internationally. Following its successful Audit, the University joined the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and started making statistical returns to it in 2005. This has directly resulted in Buckingham reappearing in University League Tables in 2007, with our flagship Law School achieving 20th position amongst all Law Schools in the UK.

The University is small which is one of our strengths. However, the methodology of some League Tables (which include student number thresholds) can make it more difficult for us to be included in the overall University rankings. Nevertheless, we are redoubling our efforts to get into them in future and this year's inclusion of the Law School represents a major step towards this goal.

The University has another QAA Audit in November 2007. Students play a major part in the process and throughout the coming months we will be working closely with them (and, of course, our staff) to try to repeat the success of 2003.

Anne Miller

Quality Assurance Manager.

The English Eccentrics!



The English Department at UB makes a point of keeping in touch with alumni, and now hosts an annual get-together for those able to return to their home university. This year's gathering took the form of a summer launch party complete with hats, bunting, and music on the lawn. The May Day traditions of English village life were honoured, and in true Buckingham style guests lingered at the prettiest part of our riverside campus quaffing iced drinks, and engaging in pre-summer silliness.

Customarily an alumni event, this year current students and local teachers joined the crowd who were entertained by madrigals (Gerry Loftus), recitations (Dr John Drew), and the soothing strumming of Dr Mike Lucas, whose day job is Head of Department of Accounting in the Business School. The sun shone, and the birds sang, and the Millpond had never looked more idyllic, as we sampled excellent canapés and welcomed in the summer season. The tradition of 'doing a turn' added a nice touch of humour to the event and a melodramatic rendition by Dr John Drew, in kimono and solar topi, was the highlight of the evening.

Acting and lecturing are kindred abilities, and Dr Drew's theatrical talents are no secret to those lucky enough to have enjoyed his excellent lectures. It was a delight to see our alumni happily relaxing with members of staff and the event once again illustrated that a university truly is its students - past and present.



Setara A.L. Pracha (BA English Literature '04)
English Tutor and Researcher

University News

Obituaries

Christian Codrai (LLB '79)

4 August 1955 - 2 February 2006



It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Christian Codrai after a short illness in Italy.

His brother, Justin Codrai said "he studied Law in the University's first intake and he subsequently went on to qualify as a Barrister in the Inner Temple.

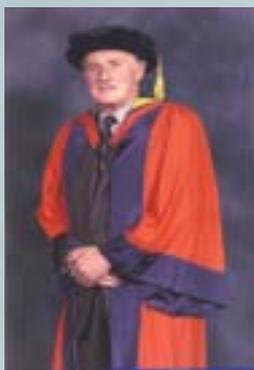
Following a stint in Brussels where he obtained his Masters degree and another short period at the Bar in the UK, he took up a post in the legal department of the UN Agency, IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development). He rose to become IFAD's General Counsel and Director in charge of the legal department.

Any alumni wishing to contact Justin can do so at justincodrai@ntlworld.com"

Mr John Wheeler

8 November 1931 – 29 May 2007

It is with sadness that the University has



heard of the death of Mr John Wheeler on 29 May after a long battle against cancer. An Honorary Graduate, Donor and member of Council and F & GP, John was one of Buckingham's strongest supporters.

His funeral was held at the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Great Missenden on Thursday, 7 June. Chris Wilkes represented the University at the funeral.

Professor Harold Edey

23 February 1913 – 12 March 2007

The University is sad to learn that Professor Harold Edey, a Patron of the University, died on Monday 12 March 2007 at the age of ninety four.

Harold Edey joined the staff of the London School of Economics in 1949 and was a Professor of Accounting from 1962 until his retirement in 1980. He was the LSE's first Pro-Director, was responsible for developing the first Master's courses in Accounting in Britain and has taught a large proportion of British Professors of Accounting, including Buckingham's Peter Watson and David Pendrill.

His major academic interest was in financial accounting and reporting on which he published several books and seminal papers. He provided an important link between the academic world and the practical world of accountants by serving as the first academic member of the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales from 1969-1980 and by playing an important role in the early setting of accounting standards.

Professor Edey held important positions with many prestigious institutions: He was a Governor of what is now the London Business School, a Member of the Council of the CNAA and an Academic Adviser and Patron of the University of Buckingham. He provided us with his usual sound advice and was involved in making critical staff appointments in the early years of the University's development.

Professor David Pendrill
(Emeritus Professor of Accounting & Financial Management)

Philip Cardi (occasional student Lehigh '86)

18 June 1965 – 30 May 2007



It is with a heavy heart that I report the death of my dear friend Philip Cardi on May 30, 2007. Phil died suddenly after falling ill at work. At the time of his death, Phil was a partner and the lead technologist at Volant Trading LLC in New York City. Phil was a visiting student at

Buckingham from Lehigh University from where he obtained a B.S. in 1987. He obtained his MBA from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1991, and had previously worked at DuPont, Bankers Trust, Hull Trading, and Goldman Sachs. He worked and lived in London on two occasions, in 1999, and again in 2006.

Phil is survived by his wife Elissa Perry, their two sons Maxwell (5) and Benjamin (2), his parents, six brothers and sisters, numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and devoted friends all over the world.

A memorial service for Phil was held on June 4, 2007 in Doylestown, Pennsylvania USA. Fellow UB occasional student David Greene (1987) attended.

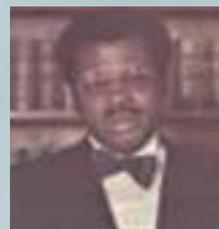
During his two terms at Buckingham, Phil wholeheartedly immersed himself in campus life. He was an enthusiastic member of the basketball club, and well-known for organizing American football games in front of Beloff House. Those who knew Phil are invited to post comments at <http://rememberingphilcardi.blogspot.com>.

A fund is being established for Phil's sons. Information about the fund will be posted on the blog when it is available.

David Greene
Occasional Student – Lehigh '86

Christopher Okolie (LLB '84)

6 July 1947 – 4 March 2007



It is with great sorrow I announce the death of Christopher Okolie. Chris Okolie graduated from the university with an LLB Law '84. He pioneered editorial magazine journalism in Nigeria. As a charismatic journalist he played his role by fighting relentlessly, using his magazine for the stability of democracy in Nigeria. Olusegun Obasanjo in his own words described him as a man who maintained a lively interest in public affairs throughout his existence: his periodic interventions in political affairs and contributions to national debate marked him out as an essayist, editorialist and analyst motivated by patriotism and idealism.

Daniel Bakpa
Current Student

The Denning Law Journal

Annual Conference 27th September 2007

Howling at Liberty's door

"What if the Church and the State
Are the mob that howls at the door"

W.B. Yeats

President

Lord Slynn of Hadley

Chairman

Professor Susan Edwards

Speakers

Professor Conor Gearty

Edward Fitzgerald QC

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC

Keir Starmer QC

Mark Muller QC

Dr Jocelyne Scutt

Desmond Fernandes

Venue

The Law Society, Chancery Lane
9.30 to 5.30

Fee

Full £265 + VAT

Academic £175 + VAT

Denning Society £225 +VAT

CPD

6 Hours Bar Council (accredited)

6 Hours Law Society

(non accredited)

The conference will

- # Explore the assault on Liberty by the state
- # Interrogate the way in which the terrorist threat is both real and imagined in popular and legal discourse
- # Discuss legislation as a result of the recent acts of terrorism

Buckingham Law School, The University of Buckingham
Book online now at: www.denninglawjournal.com/index_files/Page794.htm
tel +44 (0)1280 828338
janie.hextall@buckingham.ac.uk



To All Alumni

This publication is for you and if you would like input into the next issue, please send comments and ideas to Anne Matsuoka. Copy for the next issue required by Friday 12 October www.buckingham.ac.uk