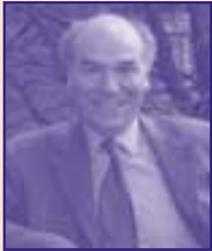




THE Independent

Winter 2004

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



All contracts are based on trust, none more so than the contract a student signs with a university. The student is not just signing a cheque but, more

importantly, is consigning years of his or her life to a group of strangers whose only obvious characteristic is their articulacy – and is not articulacy the characteristic of the confidence trickster?

To address that concern, the British government now forces the state-funded universities to be inspected by a Quality Assurance Agency, a body that scrutinises each university's claims and competencies. Universities await such inspections with dread, because the QAA is not afraid to condemn. In late 2003, for example, the QAA lambasted Cambridge University and the London Business School for not ensuring they taught their students properly.

Buckingham, as Britain's only independent university, is not required to submit to QAA inspections, but of course we want them: we have nothing to hide and, spending as we do, over twice as much per student as does the average British university, we have much of which to boast. We were inspected in November 2003 and the QAA has now written to say that their report will express "broad confidence in" (i.e., top marks for) Buckingham.

Having got this approval, we must now put Buckingham back in the league tables – but that is not why we entered QAA. We entered to confirm that we can be submitted to the closest professional scrutiny and emerge with top marks. And for that I thank our staff, our QAA team (Professor Len Evans and Mrs. Anne Miller) and, most importantly, the students who – bless them – never fail to indicate where we might improve.

Dr Terence Kealey
Vice-Chancellor

The Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth Appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources of Mauritius

We are delighted to announce that since 30 September 2003 **Pravind Kumar Jugnauth (LLB '84)**, pictured right, has assumed the above responsibilities in the Government of Mauritius.

When contacted by us with a request for more information on his professional and career path, the Honourable Minister sent us the following:

"After completing my law studies and obtaining an LLB (Hons) from Buckingham University, I became Barrister-at-Law following my pupillage at Lincoln's Inn, London.

On my return to Mauritius, I practiced as barrister and as legal adviser for a number of official institutions.

I officially joined active politics within the ranks of the Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM) in 1990. In 1996, I was elected councillor of the town of Vacoas/Phoenix and I served in that capacity until September 2000. In the meantime, in October 1999, I was designed Deputy Leader of the MSM. I was elected a member of the National Assembly for Constituency No. 11 (Rose Belle/Vieux Grand Port) at the general



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'Injustice that puts a low price on a woman's life' - Susan Edwards wrote in the *Law* supplement of *The Times* on the 2 September concerning reforms to eradicate a sex bias in law's dealings with perpetrators of domestic violence.

'It's a fee fight' -- In *The Guardian* on the 23 September Dr Kealey attacked Tory policy regarding 'top up fees'.

'Situation of Women in Britain' an article written by **Suzanna (Alina) Tomassi** was published in September in the Polish journal *Women in Business*.

'Sales Manager to beef up Hanco Team' - Alumnus Rob Grouse's appointment as new National Sales Manager for Hanco ATM Systems was featured in *Coin Slot International* on the 3 October.

'Henry VIII: Not such a bad bloke after all' - in this article published in

The Daily Express on the 10 October, Dr Jane Ridley gave her views about King Henry VIII.

'Norman Barry had two articles published in October - 'Pensions: A Worldwide but avoidable Crisis' published in *Ideas on Liberty* and 'The Origins of Liberty and the Market: The Work of Marjorie Grice Hutchinson' in *Economic Affairs*.

'A Twist in the Tale' - the publication of John Drew's new book, *Dickens the Journalist*, on 5 November was preceded by an article he wrote concerning Dickens's boyhood experiences in a blacking factory that was published in *The Guardian* on the 1 November.

'Charles Dickens jingle' - John Drew's discovery of a Charles Dickens jingle in the *True Sun* (a newspaper of the time) was reported in *The Guardian* on the 1 November.

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Editor's News

First of all may I wish you a very happy New Year! I hope that 2004 will

be a very good year for you. I would also like to welcome back Suzanna Tomassi (MSc Service Management '02) who has recently returned to work in the PR/Alumni Office as the Database Co-ordinator – taking over from Lynne who left last summer.

In the Alumni Office we feel that we have galloped through last year, and will continue running into the next! With the very good news from the QAA report, a well attended summer party, a lunch at the House of Lords and far more contact with alumni both in the UK and overseas the University has a strong sense of purpose and cohesion at the moment.

Added to this we have, during the past three months been putting a tremendous amount of effort into the upgrade of the AlumNet website. The restructure of the

site is being done by our own IT Services Department and shortly we will be rewriting the content for the pages.

A major change to the website will be the 'Mentoring' pages, where alumni offer to be mentors, contacts for mentees (other alumni and graduating students) who would like information about a various field of employment or specific job, around the world. Many of our alumni have already kindly agreed to take part in the mentoring scheme and if any of you have not yet heard of it and would like to take part, please don't hesitate to contact either me or Suzanna Tomassi on alumni@buckingham.ac.uk.

There will also be careers and business pages and the discussion page will be revamped to make it more accessible and much easier to use. We will also set up a page for countries so that news of events, and contacts for, our various alumni around the world will be far easier to find.

If any of you would like to have your

contact details input prior to the launch date (February/March), then please do let me know. We can offer this to all alumni for whom we have email addresses, but if any of you who are not receiving emails from us on a regular basis would like your information posted, please do let either me or Suzanna know.

Finally – and to give you plenty of time – please do write Friday, 18 June in your diaries and, if at all possible, we would absolutely love to see you at the Alumni Summer Party in London. Brief details and booking arrangements can be found on the back page, but we plan to arrange an even bigger party than last year and to run it on the same theme of networking, so that plenty of our students will come along as well.

I look forward to seeing you there.
Anne

Email: anne.matsuoka@buckingham.ac.uk
Tel: + 44 (0) 1280 820338

Emil's News



Dear Friends,

Today you are reading an issue of *The Independent*, which is one of a kind. It is not the stunning abundance of good news, reflecting on the ever-growing success of our alumni globally, that makes this issue a very special one. Nor is it the unbelievable amount of positive feedback from you, on the variety of ambitious reforms your University has undertaken.

The uniqueness of this *Independent* stems from the fact that although we have sad news to report in our obituary of Stephen Hands (BSc AFM '88), the overall message conveyed is one of inspiration and hope. Stephen was stricken down by Motor Neurone Disease, leaving him with control only of his mind. "Coping" is somewhat neutral in describing Stephen's attitude to fate. He retaliated it with mockery!

Inspired by his bravery, Stephen's family and friends took on a successful climb of the notorious Eiger peak. They did it to raise money for those, like Stephen, whose spirit flew high above the mundane and could not be shackled by their paralysed bodies.

Though deserted by his own body, he lived up to the inherently humane Buckingham motto, "Aliis Volis Propriis"! His memory will stay alive with us, and his example will be re-enlivened again and again by the deeds of other Buckingham alumni dedicated to good causes – apart from the "Eiger Challenge", in this issue we are also reporting on the "Muscular Dystrophy Campaign" and "Save The Children – India".

Another feature of this *Independent* is that it portrays political leaders, business tycoons and cultural trendsetters from Africa, Asia and Europe. If you examine the years of their graduation, you will discover that our University has been consistently delivering to the world graduates capable of challenging and re-shaping the political, economical and cultural status quo in their respective fields.

We are now on the eve of the launch of the fundamentally re-designed AlumNet web site. With the unquestionable support of the University's management and the invaluable help of its IT Services, the Alumni Office will be soon asking you to visit AlumNet, update

your details and start exploring the vast networking opportunities offered there.

Moreover, as part of our upgraded AlumNet website, many of you have agreed to become mentors to Buckingham students and fellow alumni. The mentorship is just the tip of the iceberg of potential this University has charged us with. But while Buckingham has taught us the vital first lessons in flying on our own wings, the time has come now for us to learn to fly together closely.

We need your help, in helping you, to help each other.
Do not neglect this chance.
Life is too short for crawling – let us fly together through it!

Yours,
Emil R. Vassilev
(MBA '02; LLM '03)
emil.vassilev@buckingham.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 1280 820230

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elections of September 2000. Thereafter, I was appointed Minister of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources. In April 2003, I was designated Leader of the MSM.

I was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance on 30 September 2003.

On the external front, I have been very active as spokesman of the ACP group of sugar-exporting countries in explaining to the European Commission and the WTO the importance of preferential regimes for vulnerable and resource-lacking countries like Mauritius. These initiatives have led to the postponement of the application date of the "Everything But Arms Initiative" from January 2001 to July 2006; the renewal for five years, until 2006, of the EU Sugar Regime; and lately, at the WTO, the concept of trade preferences and differential treatment to developing countries and island developing states has been recognised."

Following are excerpts from a letter sent to the University from the Office of the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation of Nigeria



"I want to thank you very much for the sustained efforts of your editorial team, which has enabled us to receive regular editions of *The*

Independent, our Alumni newsletter.

It is always a delight to read about new developments in the University and about how other alumni are faring in their chosen careers in life. You may recall that I last wrote to inform you about my own career when I was elected a member of

the Nigerian National Assembly. At the end of my four-year mandate I opted not to seek re-election to the legislature. Following his own re-election to a second four-year term, his Excellency, President Olusegun Obasanjo in July 2003, appointed me a Minister in the Federal Cabinet of Nigeria and assigned me to the Ministry of Information and National Orientation, where I now serve. The transition from the legislature to the executive arm of the government has been very exciting and challenging.

Thank you for encouraging other alumni to keep us informed on how they are faring in their various callings in life. This has enabled us to learn more on alumni and to network even better."

Chukwuemeka Chikelu (LLB '91)
Minister of Information and National Orientation

Alumni News

Many of you will remember our article in the Autumn 2001 issue of *The Independent* on the "Eiger Challenge", organized by **Isabel Keen (BSc Economics '90)**, a very close friend of Stephen's.

We are very sad to be printing the following obituary:

Stephen Hands (BSc AFM '88)
9 August 1965 – 15 June 2003



Stephen was born in Geneva and moved to Haywards Heath 18 months later. The family moved to Brazil when Stephen started Lancing College and he jetted between school and home every holiday. After attending the University of Buckingham he worked in the City as a Bond Trader, and in 1991 he spent some time working in the World Trade Center. He noticed that his

office had an American flag and a Canadian flag hanging on the wall and so he bought a Union Jack and hung it between the two! On September 11th 2002 the Home Secretary was handed a Union Jack that was found in the wreckage of the building. Perhaps it was the one Stephen bought.

In 1996 Stephen was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease, a devastating illness that deprives the sufferer of the use of all muscles but keeps the mind fully alert. Apart from not being able to move, he could not talk or swallow properly for the last three years. He coped amazingly well with being imprisoned within his body. He was generally cheerful and never lost his sense of humour. Whilst he was frightened of dying in a distressing way and he sympathised with motor neurone sufferers who campaigned for euthanasia, he never wanted this for himself and treated the illness as an "adventure" and would test himself regularly to see how far along the path he had gone. His positive attitude, bravery, and irrepressible sense of humour were an inspiration to all those around him and made life for his carers much easier. He will be greatly missed.

Amongst other Buckingham alumni who attended Stephen's funeral were **Isabel Keen, Mark Gleave (BA PEL '87), Michael Barlow (LLB '88), Gary Forrest (BSc AFM '89) and Tim Bowen (BSc AFM '87)**.

Donations are welcome to
'Eiger Challenge'
for Motor Neurone Disease'
for research into the disease.
c/o Eiger Challenge,
Yokehurst Place, South Chailey,
East Sussex, BN8 4PY

Keep On Running

Jason Colchin-Carter (BSc Business Studies '93) will be pushing himself to the limit, all in the name of charity, when he runs the London Marathon on 18 April 2004 for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

Jason chose the charity because of their hard work for their cause and it is a charity close to his heart. In preparation for the marathon Jason is already running for 6-8 hours a week with his trainer and hopes to be able to complete the 26.2-mile course in 4 1/2 hours. If all goes according to plan he is hoping to raise £10,000 in the next 5 months for the charity.

The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign is the only national charity focusing on all muscular dystrophies and allied disorders. It has pioneered the search for treatments and cures for over 40 years and provides practical, medical and emotional support to people affected by the condition.

Muscular dystrophy is the gradual and relentless wasting and weakening of muscles. It affects babies, young people and adults of any race and background. The condition is often inherited but can occur out of the blue, even where there is no history of muscular dystrophy in the family. There are over 60 types of muscular dystrophy; they differ in severity to cause anything from mild disability in adulthood to death within the first year of a child's life. Over 30,000 people in the UK are affected by muscular dystrophy. There is currently no treatment or cure.

Anyone interested in making a donation please contact Jason by email on Jazza@dircon.co.uk

Alumni at Work

Marc Giebels van Bekestein
(BA European Studies '88)



First in our series of alumni profiles, under the heading "Alumni at Work", is **Marc Giebels van Bekestein**, pictured above, who gave us the following account of his career, spanning over 15 years since he graduated from the University:

"For the last fifteen years since graduating from the University of Buckingham, I have endeavoured on several occasions to make it to one of the Alumni Reunions. Unfortunately, I never quite managed to make it. In November 2002, I finally managed to attend, although this was probably the most inappropriate day to attend a function as London was covered in snow, there was a frightful wind and many trains, power cables and so on were down.

I turned up with my wife at Cross Keys in Chelsea and had the pleasure of meeting Anne Matsuoka and Emil Vassilev. We had exchanged e-mails with Anne, but had never had the pleasure of meeting her personally. Needless to say, hardly anybody turned up to the reunion because of the foul and treacherous weather. This gave us the opportunity of getting to know each other and catching up with all the progress the University had made over the last decade.

At this stage I found out that I was the only

Andorran to have been a student at the University. For those of you who might not be familiar with Andorra, it is a small Principality in the Pyrenees with 65,000 inhabitants of whom only 25,000 are Andorran nationals. This may be why, to date, I am the only Andorran to have set foot in Buckingham.

After graduating from the University in European Studies, I worked from 1989 until 1995 in Andorra as an Account Executive in the Private Banking Department of Banc Agricol i Comercial d'Andorra where my particular focus was on the Bank's top clients. I also spent a year in Germany working in "Beratung" for Die Volksbank. From 1995 to 1997, I was a Financial Consultant in Private Banking at Merrill Lynch where I developed new business relationships with private clients and some small institutions covering all Spanish-speaking markets with particular focus on Iberia. In June 1997 I joined the Private Wealth Management Division of Goldman Sachs as an Executive Director. Again, I was responsible for developing the Spanish-speaking business throughout Europe.

A few years ago, I decided, partly due to my great appreciation of the product, to set-up a wine company that would focus primarily on importing to the UK the best of Hispanic wines. The business has now grown and we import over 300 different types of wine from Spain, South America, Italy and Portugal. We also recently established a joint venture with another wine importing company that specializes in French, South African, Australian and Italian wines. This has enabled us to cover geographically most wine producing regions worldwide. Most of our business is wholesale, but we also welcome retail. Our website, for those of you who might be interested, is www.hispamerchants.com where you can find all of our details.

I left Goldman Sachs recently and joined

Marcuard Family Office, an independent organization with offices in Zurich. I am a Managing Partner and have opened offices in London and Bermuda and am also a Director of the Board of Marcuard Holding Ltd in Bermuda. We offer wealth management services to, at present, a group of 30 international families with substantial assets.

The main differentiating aspects of our organization are briefly that our clients are able to select the financial institution(s) where they wish to custody their assets. We have invested considerable resources into developing reports that consolidate periodically all the assets of our clients. Also, thanks to our very developed, innovative and proprietary technology, our money manager selection process is focused on offering and monitoring the very best fund(s) and manager(s) for any particular asset class and style. And finally the financial advice we offer is truly independent. Open architecture and the fact that we do not depend on rebates, trailers, etc (these are used to negotiate lower fees with money managers), allows us to be totally impartial and act in the best interest of our clients. Again should anybody be interested in finding out more please look up www.marcuardfamilyoffice.com.

Since attending my first reunion, I have maintained close contact with the University. I have since attended, accompanied by my wife, a number of reunions and am happy to have re-established my relationship with Buckingham. Anne and Emil have been great supporters of my endeavours and I would recommend all alumni to keep in close contact with the University and offer support. I might, until now, be the only Andorran to have attended the University, but we are equally only but a very few to have had the privilege of studying there. It is an opportunity of networking and developing new relationships, all of us from such diverse backgrounds and nationalities, but all of us with something in common."

Aida Mwaniki
(BSc Financial Services '01)



Although it feels like just yesterday when I

joined Citibank, it has actually been three and a half years. The time has been very well spent and I have truly lived through interesting times.

Having joined straight out of University, I think I am a true Citibanker (as we call ourselves). Starting off in Operations & Technology and then moving on to join the Management Associate Program, I have been exposed to all areas of the bank. In the past two years, I have had several opportunities to travel to Johannesburg, South Africa for training and to work on various projects at the Citibank branch there.

I have recently returned from my fourth trip where I worked on a departmental re-engineering project. Few of us would ever

have believed the relevance of all we were taught while in Buckingham. (So to Professor Pendrill, thanks for all those tutorials on Financial Accounting; they have been very useful.) Other projects, I have participated in, included the implementation of an Activity Based Costing model, Fixed Asset reconciliation, reviewing Internal accounts and procedures; not to mention setting up Kenya's Operations & Technology intranet website.

It's been great reading *The Independent* and seeing how well many of my friends and colleagues have been doing. Those days in Buckingham were really great and who would have thought our respective destinies would have led us to where we all are now.

Alumni at Work

Ashish Antia (LLB '98)

I have been receiving and reading *The Independent* for a while now and I must say it is very nice to hear of the success and happiness of people I knew while at Buckingham.

First, I would appreciate if you can convey my congratulations to Charlotte Walsh on her appointment as Dean of the Law School - she was a fine lecturer and I am sure will be a really great asset as a Dean.

It is also great to hear that Sheena McMurtrie is back - she is a lovely person and a dedicated teacher. Please do let her know that I still think she was a fantastic personal advisor.

As to Dr Susan Edwards... Well, there are no words to describe her. She is an experience of a lifetime and someone worthy of being a true mentor.

After having passed my final exams in June 1997, I went to UCL and did an LLM in International Commercial Laws with specialization in Aviation Law and Arab Laws.

In 1999 I moved to Dubai where I did an internship with Emirates Airlines Legal Department. Thereafter I worked with one of Dubai's largest local law firms and then moved to assist a friend in managing Al Jallaf Advocates & Legal Consultants - a firm specializing in UAE and Aviation work.

In 2002 I received a great offer from the Blue Dart Group - India's largest express industry provider and owner of a fleet of 3 aircraft to work with them as a consultant, assist with their international contracts and even purchase aircrafts for their fleet.

I am a volunteer with Save the Children India to raise funds and create awareness of poverty, illiteracy, slavery and trafficking of women and children in the sub continent and while assisting them with legal work from time to time I set up my own consultancy and practice International Commercial Law from my laptop at home.

I do hope that at some point in the future the Students Union in the University would consider us, SAVE THE CHILDREN, as worthy recipients for their fund raising activities.

Sarah Wilson (BSc Business Studies '93) is about to direct her first British feature film, called LOVE



After returning from Los Angeles, where she has lived and worked for the past three years, Sarah set up her own Production Company, called Cat Films and based in London.

Although a successful writer, who has sold two screenplays, Sarah felt that the next natural step was to write and direct her own material. **LOVE** is her first feature-length project and will be shot in the summer in London and Surrey. This is how Sarah describes her project:

"**LOVE** is the story about those who find love, those who lose it and those who think they can live without it. I am extremely fortunate to have the opportunity of working with some of the best filmmakers in this country on my first project. Although we are shooting on a very tight budget and schedule, the production values will be exceptional. David Bennett, my cinematographer, won a BAFTA for his work on *Human Traffic*."

With the lack of funding for new British filmmakers, Sarah took the imaginative approach and raised part of the budget by selling tickets to the Preview Night, which is being held at BAFTA in the autumn (some tickets still available). "It is virtually impossible to get funding for projects in this country unless you have a long track record" says Sarah and continues "You cannot get funding without successful films behind you but you cannot make a successful film without the funding. It is a Catch 22 situation, which drives so much new talent out of the industry. However, my philosophy has always been where there's a will there's a way! **LOVE** is a great story that everyone can relate to. It will make you laugh, make you cry and possibly scream in frustration!"

For more information, contact Sarah at swilson@catfilms.com

Ishkandar Shah (BSc Information Systems '00; MSc Electronic Commerce '01) Takes Charge of the Largest Naval Shipyard in Malaysia



Upon returning to Malaysia after graduating in 2001, I assumed the CEO position of an IT company called BFIT Sdn Bhd (BFIT). BFIT is an IT company involving in various IT related works ranging from corporate network system design to implementation of

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). Our clients are mainly from the corporate sector, however, BFIT is also actively involved with Government projects at present.

Starting from January 2004, I have been appointed as the Executive Director of PSC-Naval Dockyard Sdn Bhd (PSC-ND). PSC-ND is the largest naval shipyard in Malaysia with strength of more than 1200 employees. My responsibility includes maximizing PSC-ND's overall performance particularly with regards to the Company's core business activities, which are the Naval Shipbuilding and Ship Repair projects.

PSC-Naval Dockyard Sdn Bhd is located on a sea front across the resort island of Pulau Pangkor, Perak. Built at a cost of RM650 million (£110 million) in 1984, PSC-ND sprawls over an area of more than 26 hectares, approximately 260 km from Kuala Lumpur and some 200 km from Penang. The best of its kind in South-East Asia, it has comprehensive and modern facilities integrated to meet the total maintenance requirements of the Royal Malaysian Navy fleet, from hull repairing to complete overhaul and from radar refitting to weapon systems refurbishment. Services are also extended to foreign vessels of the American, Australian, New Zealand and French Navy.

Backed by the Malaysian Government's multi-billion dollar contract, PSC-ND will undoubtedly play an important role in fulfilling Malaysia's vision of reaching developed nation status by the year 2020.

Quote of the Season

We wish you all a very happy, prosperous and fulfilling 2004. We pray that the Allah Almighty shower upon you and your loved ones His choicest blessings.

With kindest regards we assure you of our fullest and sincerest cooperation and hope that the New Year shall bring us together more closely and make our personal, professional and business ties stronger.

Barrister S. Najaf H. Shah (LLB '87)
Chairman Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan

Engagements, Marriages..

Engagements



Ashish Antia (LLB '98) had a pre engagement ceremony in 2003 and will be getting married on 22 January 2004. Her letter to us read "On a personal note, three days before my 25th birthday, I was introduced as a joke to **Dr Rustom Mody** - an orthopaedic surgeon, who does wonderful work with the poor and destitute. The funny thing is that we really got along and had the last laugh actually."

Marriages

In the previous issue of *The Independent* we informed you that **Francois de la Croix-Vaubois (BSc Business Studies '89)** married **Polly Holland** on 30th August 2003, in Somerset, UK. This time we are delighted to publish one of the pictures from their wedding ceremony. Polly and Franco are also the proud parents of **Daisy**, born on 8 April 2003.



In the Spring/Summer issue we also broke the news of the engagement and forthcoming marriage of **Georgina Tonkinson (LLB '97)** and **James Stephens (LLB '97; LLM '98)**. They married on 16 August 2003 and here is Georgina's recollection:

"James Stephens and I got married at St Andrew's Parish church in Guernsey, Channel Islands, and the reception was held in a marquee in the grounds of my parents house.



Rob Knight (BSc European Business Management '97) was James's best man and the other alumni who attended were my sister, **Nicola R. Harrison (nee Tonkinson) (BA English Literature '94)** and her husband - **Matthew C. Harrison (BSc Economics '93)**. Nicola and Matthew also met at Buckingham and married (it runs in the family)!! Their daughter, Lucy Harrison, was one of my flower girls."

Celimène Lachenal (BSc Econ '03) and **Patrice Dunant (BSc Econ '00)** were married on 22 November 2003. The Ceremony was held at the Cathédrale de Saint-Pierre in Geneva.

The dinner was organised in Geneva Circus and the entertainment included a show with lions. 500 guests, many of whom were alumni, attended the wedding party, which lasted until 6 am. Celimène and Patrice were particularly happy to receive congratulations from the Accounting and Finance, and the Economics Departments of the University.

Jorge Pinto Correia (MSc Service Management '00) and **Debarpita Bardhan (MSc Service Management '01)**, both from the Management Department of the Business School, got married in a church ceremony on the 2nd of August 2003, in the beautiful Douro region of Portugal. This was their third wedding ceremony (the first two being a Hindu wedding ceremony in Buckingham



and their Registry wedding in Aylesbury in 2001).

Approximately 110 guests from England, Germany and Portugal attended. Several people from the Business School were also present, at the beautiful ceremony at the Church of Nossa Senhora da Assuncao in Vilas Boas. Typical of a Portuguese wedding, the church ceremony was followed by a feast or festa, with lots of traditional Portuguese food, live Portuguese folk music and of course lots of wine.

..and Births

Alice Verghese (BA Politics, Economics and Law '90) and her husband, **Philip Risbjørn**, were delighted to inform us of the birth of their daughter - **Jasmine Aurélia Risbjørn**, who came to this world on 26 October 2002. In Alice's words: "Jasmine was eager to see the world and came six weeks earlier than scheduled. To fulfil her eagerness, she has taken 16



flights and travelled in Europe, Asia and America during her first 12 months of life. The photo was taken in Corsica when Jasmine was approximately 6 months of age."

Yaseen Gokal (BSc AFM '83) was delighted to inform us of the birth of his first son on 8 April 2003.



In Yaseen's words "We named him **Taha**. Life is good and there are no complaints."

Susanne Heipcke (DPhil Business '99) and her husband **Yves** sent us this lovely message: "Our daughter **Pia** was born in August 2003. She is a beautiful girl and grows so quickly that soon she will be able to play with her brother **Theo** (2½ years old). Celebrating Christmas with two children was a lot of fun."

Antonia Thompson-Carey (LLB '92) and her husband **Andre** celebrated the birth of their first child - a boy they named **Xavier Alexander Carey**, in Hong Kong, on 19 April 2003.



Guido von Rohr (BSc Business Studies '94) and **Christina Lowenstein (BA Politics and History '99)** were thrilled to bits by the birth of their first son.



Antonius, 10lbs, was born on 7 August 2003, in Queen Charlotte Hospital, London. In Guido's words: "Mum and baby are coping well, while Father is trying to recover..."



This bundle of joy is named **Amirul**, son of **Jazlina** and **Azly Anwar (LLB '96, BSc Econ '98)**. Amirul was born on 5 October 2003, in Kuala Lumpur.

After graduating from Buckingham, **Ashish Jhunjhunwala (BSc Financial Services '98)** acquired an MSc in Management Science and Operational Research (MSOR) from Warwick Business School, University of Warwick in 1999.



He married **Nidhi** on 18 February 2001 and was delighted to inform us of the birth of his daughter **Radhika**, who was born on 21 November 2003.

In the last issue of *The Independent* we were happy to endorse the initiative of **Karel (Charlie) (BSc Econ AFM '99)** and **Nathalie Slajs (MA Heritage Tourism Management '99)** to set up a Buckingham Married Couples Club.



This time we are delighted to announce the birth of Karel and Nathalie's first child. Their lovely daughter – **Emilie**, (pictured above) was born on 26 November 2003.

... and Grandsons

Chak-Lam (Gilbert) TANG (LLB '84) became a proud granddad. The birth of his first grandson, in the summer of 2003, was celebrated with a big party attended, among the others, by **Leland Chu (LLB '84)**, who enthusiastically reported the news.

Alumni News

Alumni on Mentoring

"I am pleased to inform you that after my training I have recently passed the professional qualifying examination set by the Israeli Bar" writes **Sameh Saadi (LLB '97; LLM '01)**. "I was one of 59% of the candidates who made it. The ceremony of qualification and oath took place on 11 December 2003.

Furthermore, I wish to add that I will be more than pleased to give any advice to candidates who wish to take part in the Buckingham experience. Mine certainly was unforgettable, and I have many fond memories of the students and staff all together, not to mention that it stood me in good stead for what was to come afterwards and will come in the future.

I am very happy that the University is so involved with the Alumni and trying to get everyone together and united. I know this takes a lot of effort, as we are now all in different corners of the world.

On my return to the Maldives, I came back to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives. I first worked in the Legal Department for six months before being transferred to the International Organisations and Conferences Department. I am now the Desk Officer dealing with all the correspondence for all the organisations except the UN.

I took the oath of a lawyer in April 2003.

I am also a part-time lecturer in the Faculty of Sharia' and Law of the Maldives College for Higher Education. I lecture on General Principles of Law – Criminal law, Contract law and Tort law – for the diploma foundation course.

I have been awarded recently a scholarship by the Government of Maldives to pursue an LLM in International Law, which I intend to do in the near future. I am a firm believer that the 'mentoring' service would be of immense help to new graduates who are seeking employment and guidance on being employed.

Shazra Abdul Sattar (LLB '03)

Buckingham Goes "Wies'n"

Now a firmly established tradition, the annual meeting of the "Freunde", the German Alumni Association, was held at one of the best known events in the world: The Oktoberfest (or Munich Beer Festival).

I was chosen to attend as the official University Representative and I tried my best not to let us down (beer-wise). The German alumni, especially **Ingo Westermann (LLM '95)** and **Birgit Otto (BSc Business Studies '93)** organised a full program with a City tour, a historic streetcar ride, a visit to **THE** tent (Käferzelt), a brunch in **THE** restaurant (Seehaus) and a guided tour through the newly opened museum of contemporary art in Munich (Pinakothek der Moderne). Supported by perfect weather the weekend was a complete success and I hope it will attract even more people to come and



meet other alumni in 2004. As this event is open to everyone who studied at

Buckingham we are looking forward to seeing many more "non-Germans".

To put my more or less official hat on: the alumni are very keen to hear the newest stories, gossip and news from Buckingham and I was impressed by their willingness to support the University.



As nothing is just pure fun, I also gave two presentations to pupils at my old school in Munich (around 180 pupils in total) about studying in the UK and at our lovely University but meeting all my former teachers and sitting in my old classroom (unchanged, by the way) made it a very enjoyable task.

What else can I say? Just that I want to thank the German alumni for their effort organising this weekend and for their support and interest in the University. Let us hope that this event will grow steadily. I certainly intend to go there again.

Philipp von Both (LLB '01; MBA '02)

Dr Mary Welstead, Senior Lecturer in Law, sent us the following update after she and **Debarpita Bardhan-Correia (MSc Service Management '01)** presented the University to educational fairs in India:

Our alumni have been supportive, generous and hospitable throughout our visit and we are very appreciative of all they have done to assist us.

Sanam Singh (LLB '99; LLM '00) came to help in Delhi while **Ashish Jhunjunwala (BSc Financial Services '98)** helped in Kolkata. They both entertained us to dinner, during which we discussed various Buckingham matters.

Mukta Mahajani (LLB '98) came to see us at the fair in Mumbai. She hopes to pursue postgraduate law in the USA.

Mallika Basu's (BSc Business Studies '99) mother and sister came to visit the fair too. Mallika is married and living in London.

Sheebani Sethi (LLB '97) came to the British Council reception with her father Anand Sethi. She is running her own commercial law firm in Delhi. Her sister **Deviany (BSc Business Studies '98)** is married and living and working in USA.

Ashish Antia (LLB '98) was most helpful in Mumbai. She is working with Save the Children to give refuge to young girls who have been forced into the sex trade. Ashish was very complimentary about her time at Buckingham, in particular her work with Dr Susan Edwards. She has offered to give a seminar on her work to the Centre for Multi-Cultural Studies in Law and the Family.

Alumni News

Obituary

Janet Hilton-Johnson (LLB '88)

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the untimely death of Janet Hilton-Johnson (LLB '88) in November 2003. Janet kept close links with the University and was in touch with alumni and staff alike.

Her husband, Christopher Hilton-Johnson, serves as a member of Council and we send him, and their family, our deepest sympathy.

I would like to let the rest of the alumni know that I am now a chartered accountant and will be moving to the USA in January.

I am married to Mr Samuel Hayibor, with no kids yet, but working on it. Could you send my best regards to my good friend **Kang Young (Jonty) Lim (LLB '96)**, who was our housemate in Hailsham hall of residence? The last time I heard from him, he was in Hong Kong. It would be great if he gets in touch.

I will end here and send my best regards for the New Year to you all.

Adriana Hayibor (nee Quansah) (BSc Business Studies '95)

I am practising law in Kuala Lumpur and life is wonderful, but the one thing that I am longing to do is go back to Buckingham. How I miss the life there! Some people might wonder what can such a small place as Buckingham offer? Only those who have stayed there will know how to treasure the precious memories and experience they have acquired.

The fond memories of Buckingham will remain in my heart for the longest time.

Azrina Tumar (LLB '99)

I have been in Germany for almost four years now, having spent time in Latin America, the US and Singapore after leaving Buckingham in 1995. Since my return to Germany I took over the full control of our family business, which is primarily ship broking (Chartering; Sales & Purchase and Ship finance). Shipping is a business of connection, hence I am looking for other Buckingham alumni who are active in shipping and with whom I might have a chance to develop joint business.

All those who remember our good parties at 36 Well Street come to Hamburg where I have started, together with a partner from Singapore, a Restaurant & Bar called "IndoChine". Rest assured, we are having good parties and events here.

Clemens Toepfer (BSc Business Studies '95)
snp@toepfer-transport.com

I would like to greet all the staff of the University, all the present students and my fellow alumni members. I look forward to hearing from any of my fellow alumni members. I have missed Buckingham and look forward to visiting the University



to assess how much it has changed since my departure more than a decade ago.

I am now resident in the USA, in a city called Milwaukee, state of Wisconsin. It is one-hour drive from Chicago. For those Alumni here in US, please get in touch and let us reflect on our Buckingham experience.

Anthony Uzzi (BSc AFM '92)

I just received the Autumn 2003 Independent. I am sure glad to read about the vast changes and progress made at the University. Indeed a far cry from my sleepy idyllic days! I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your editorial team for the excellent job on the Independent. It is indeed colourful and interesting reading. I receive it with excitement every time.

Sincerely,

Tengku M Fauzi Hamid (LLB '82)

Isabelle Dubois (BSc Economics '85) informs us of the recent re-unions she had had:

Hairat Abdulrazaq (LLB '86) came to Luxembourg at the end of June 2003 for a very short visit and we had an opportunity to discuss old and present times.

In October 2003, during my visit to Rome, I met up with **Romilda (Ilda) Rizzo (Postgrad. Dipl. Public Finance '82; DPhil '89)** and it was nice to discuss University matters again.

So the friendships, which started in 1983, are still going strong.

I am always in touch with **Monique Gilbert (BSc European Studies '88)**,

Moorari (Mulu) Gujadhur (LLB '86) and of course **Sheila Taylor** (Students' Union Administrator).

After graduating from Buckingham University, I moved "a few miles down the road" to Cranfield University to embark on the PhD adventure, which felt more like a nightmare at times.

Nevertheless, in June of 1998, I was awarded a doctorate for my study of the leadership styles of female and male managers. In Cranfield I met my Portuguese husband Victor and our daughter Joana was born in 1998 (vintage year for me!). Since my Buckingham days, I have lived in Portugal, learnt the beautiful, but difficult language, moved to my home country (Luxembourg) for 3 years and returned to Portugal in 2002.

A research project on women in local politics kept me busy until recently and I am on the lookout for new challenges, now.

Dr Isabelle Cames (BSc Business Studies '93)

Rajiv B. Bathla (BSc Business Studies '93) informed us that he is located now in Gurgoan (suburb of Delhi) and is working as the head of Domestic Call Centre Operations for American Express in India. The Centre deals with Banking, as well as Credit/Charge Cards, and is covering six locations: Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai.

Quote of the Season



On behalf of our entire team of some seventy legal professionals at Al-Twajjri and Partners Law Firm (TLF), we are wishing all the alumni, staff and

students a very happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year. Wishing you and yours Health, Happiness, Prosperity, and Success. May the Spirit of the Season help bring Hope, Freedom, Tolerance, Healing and Peace to everyone.

M. Al Noor (LLB '98)
Lawyer & Director of Business Development

University News

Obituaries

Peter Conroy

Older staff at Buckingham will be sad to hear that Peter Conroy, who used to look after the Franciscan Building, died on 8 November 2003.

Peter Conroy was in the army and then the Thames Valley Police.

He had a daughter and three sons (one son predeceased him) and after his retirement he looked after the building for the University. For many years Peter Conroy did the signage in the building in the form of cartoon figures until anonymous aluminium signs replaced them. He got to know generations of students and staff. We will miss him greatly and our sympathy goes to his daughter and two sons.

Prof. Andrew Durand

Alan Poole

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that Alan Poole died on 19 November 2003. He was a presence in the early days of the University College, encouraging and leading a student Dramatic Society, and was awarded an Honorary MA in 1984. His wife, Dorothy, worked here for many years in the Post Room and previously in the Hunter Street library.

Tom Merrick – Estates Bursar

James Martin-Bates

James Martin Bates (1912 – 2003), always known to his friends as Martin, played an important part in the story of the University of Buckingham. He came to us at the end of a long and distinguished career in industry and following his retirement as the Principal of the Henley Staff College of Management. He had a host of contacts

throughout the world and used them to our advantage, not least in bringing some valuable benefactions. He worked well with Joan Savage in running a very efficient Fund Raising Office. He was also a long-serving member of Council and Chairman of the Buildings and Development Committee. Our present attractive campus owes much to the decisions taken by Martin and his colleagues in those years. Martin had a strong commitment to the values of independence that Buckingham stands for. I went to his funeral – held in the 12th century Church at Fingest – and when we returned to his cottage, I went into his study. Above his desk there was a photograph of Martin receiving his Buckingham honorary doctorate. Clearly we meant a lot to him – and he meant a lot to us.

Prof. John Clarke

University of Buckingham Web site Revamped

Information Services launched a brand new design for the University Web site on 15 September 2003. Although the content and structure remain the same, the way the site looks has been revamped to incorporate the new University brand mark and to reflect its colours. We have also added a lot more photographs to the site which illustrate various aspects of life at the University and which show off our beautiful campus. In addition to this, we have made improvements to the navigation of the site, which means that you will be able to find your way around more easily than before.

As well as being more attractive than the previous design, the new look is also more accessible to disabled Web site users. All the new photos have text alternatives that describe them to people who cannot see them. We have also ensured that all the text - including that which appears in navigation bars - is scalable. This means that users who have set their browsers to display text larger or smaller than the default will be able to see our site's text in the size they want.

We hope that you like the new design. Feel free to browse around and if you would like to let us know what you think please email the Web Team
webcontent@buckingham.ac.uk.

Joan Holah

Librarian & Director of Information Services
www.buckingham.ac.uk

Graduation Ceremony for the MSc Transformation Management in Jordan

On 6 December 2003 Dr Frances Robinson, Dean of the Business School, travelled to Amman, in Jordan, to present the degrees to the first group of students, who had completed the part-time MSc in Transformation Management, run jointly by the University and TEAM Jordan.



Upon her return Dr. Robinson said: "This was the culmination of two years' hard work by the 11 students who were awarded their degrees. Eight graduands were able to be present at the ceremony and the three unable to attend because of work commitments were represented by members of their families. This was an excellent way to celebrate all the hard work by the students and also all the support they had received from their families and colleagues. It also gave me the opportunity to revisit a wonderful country and the staff at TEAM Jordan.

Concerts & Lectures

The Concerts & Lectures Committee have been working hard to engage high calibre speakers for the public lectures that are held each term.

Below is a list of the speakers we were able to attract last term, and we were very happy to see that the audience numbers rose and that the number of students attending the lectures also increased.

Barbara Stocking CBE, Director of Oxfam Great Britain - '**Dilemmas in Doing Good**'; **Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP**, Opposition Home Secretary - '**Law in a Multi-Cultural Society**'; **Dr Matt Ridley**, Chairman for the International Centre of Life (the UK's first biotechnology village, Newcastle upon Tyne) - '**The Biological Basis of Being Good**'; **Professor Anthony O'Hear**, Weston Professor of Philosophy at the University of Buckingham - '**Democracy or Openness: What is it we want in politics**'; **Rt Revd Richard Harries**, Bishop of Oxford - '**Just War**'.

If you are interested in seeing what lectures are planned for this term, please click on <http://www.buckingham.ac.uk/life/social/events/lectures.html> to find out more.

If you are able to attend any of the lectures, it would be wonderful to see you.

The University is also proud to present an exhibition of **Modern Art by four Polish artists**, hosted by **Ruprecht von Heusinger (BSc Economics '93)**.

The exhibition will take place from 24 February to 29 February 2004 in Chandos Road Buildings, Buckingham. 10% of the proceeds from the sale of any painting will go towards a scholarship for a Polish student. For further information please contact the Alumni Office, or visit the University web site.

www.buckingham.ac.uk

University News

Careers Corner

A very Happy Year to you All!

May the New Year bring you Health, Happiness and Career fulfillment!

I am delighted to be able to tell you that Tracy Dunkley will be back in the office before the end of January 2004, after a brief maternity leave. I would like to thank all of you for your support, help, guidance and friendship over the last six months. I hope that you will keep in touch and continue to help Tracy and me in further developing the Careers Service.

I am so pleased that students, as usual, have had interviews with companies such as JP Morgan, Christian Dior, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank to drop but a few names. We look forward to hearing that these have led to employment.

There are so many things that we would like to develop and we will need your help to do so. The **AlumNet** project is racing ahead and will offer you help and practical advice about job hunting, career changing, scholarship and other useful careers related information.

It is here that you can really help because the success of this ambitious undertaking will be substantially dependent upon your input. If you have any:

- Job-hunting tips or useful websites / where to look for work opportunities
- Details, not available on websites or in recruitment brochures, about Interview systems in various organisations please, do let us know.

We are developing links with Governments and Educational Institutions around the world and, with the help of the PR/Alumni Department, will be meeting officials from various embassies in the New Year.

Our sincere thanks to those of you offering placements and internships to University of Buckingham students - as you know these placements are increasingly vital to our students if they are to gain employment. With so many schemes offering placements for the summer and penultimate years it is imperative that we utilise the time available after graduation. Please continue to offer such placements and let us have details of any that you know of, or contacts who could provide them.

We are also hoping to introduce a vacancy and Internship Service/Database exclusively for University of Buckingham Students and will keep you up to date on this project too.

Best Wishes,
Marcus Williams
marcus.williams@buckingham.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 1280 828217

Professor Pendrill Visits the Far East

David Pendrill, Professor of Accounting and Financial Management, visited Singapore and Kuala Lumpur with his wife, Louise, during November 2003. They were well received by alumni in both countries and enjoyed excellent hospitality.

As well as making presentations and enjoying many meetings with individual alumni, they attended alumni dinners at the Magic of ChongQing Hot Pot Restaurant in Singapore and at the Royal Lake Club in Kuala Lumpur.



Graduates of many disciplines attended these functions and, in Kuala Lumpur, the alumni included Buckingham graduates spanning more than twenty years.

David and Louise Pendrill have had a long association with Singapore since David was a Visiting Professor at the National University of Singapore back in time. He was the University of Buckingham's Overseas Co-ordinator responsible for Singapore for the six years 1992 to 1998, when he visited the country at

least once a year. He became more involved with the alumni in Malaysia a little later and last visited Kuala Lumpur with Irving Stevens, Senior Lecturer in Law, and the then University Overseas Co-ordinator for Malaysia, in 1998.

Both Singapore and Kuala Lumpur are clearly cities on the up and it is great to see our alumni successfully playing such important roles in so many areas of the respective economies.



Jennifer Shearman Visits Germany

Jennifer Shearman, a law lecturer, took the opportunity to meet up with a group of a dozen or so University of Buckingham alumni when she was on a private visit in Hamburg, at the beginning of December 2003.



She says "I really enjoyed meeting up with those alumni who were able to attend - about a dozen or so - and hearing all about where their lives and careers had taken them since leaving University. We met in a cosy pub, run by an Englishman and his Swedish wife, and with alumni from Germany (naturally), Sri Lanka and Turkey, it was a really multi-national evening in true University of Buckingham tradition! It was great fun, with old friendships renewed and new ones made. The alumni clearly had very fond memories of their time at Buckingham. For my part, I went away thinking what nice people our alumni are!"



It is hoped to have similar get-togethers in the future, so if there are any other University of Buckingham alumni living or working in Hamburg or just passing through, get in touch with the Alumni Office at alumni@buckingham.ac.uk and find out when the next "networking" date will be.

New Dickens Research Published

John Drew, an expert on Charles Dickens and lecturer in our English Department, had both a book and an article published on 1 November 2003.

Dr Drew's article, which appeared in *The Guardian*, challenged a belief long held by Dickens scholars - that the young Dickens had experienced great unhappiness when working in a blacking factory and this had inspired him when writing the darker episodes in his fiction. Dr Drew's extensive research, involving scrutinising old newspapers and the diary of a journalist called John Payne Collier, uncovered some poems written by Dickens, which praise the product that he manufactured. Dickens had written the jingles before he became famous and Dr Drew found them in the advertising section of a newspaper.

Dr Drew's book, *Dickens the Journalist*, is the first critical overview of Dickens' journalism to have been produced. The book's publishers, Palgrave, say of it "This project offers the first critical guide to over a



million words of vintage Dickens, which have been much overlooked in continuous assessments and re-assessments of his novels".

Rebecca Mallon
Web Content Manager



THE UNIVERSITY OF
BUCKINGHAM

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.

The next publication we produce will contain more information, updating you on where alumni are these days and what they are up to.

Please Note:

**Copy for the next
issue required by
5th April 2004**

www.buckingham.ac.uk

Exams? What Exams?

And so was the collective thought amongst the students, faculty staff and their guests at the University of Buckingham Law Society's Annual Law Ball, held on 14 November 2003.



Not only was this year's event resplendent with the traditional elegance and formal national attire that has come to be the standard for such a distinguished event, but additional colour - if not somewhat limited anonymity - rewarded attendees, as the theme for 2003 was that of a Venetian Masque Ball. Sequins and feathers, whiskers and beaks all



contributed to the uplifting and upbeat evening.

But there was a serious side to this year's Ball as well, as it was held under the patronage of Gordon Goldberg to commemorate his retirement from the permanent staff of the School of Law. On behalf of Law students past and present, the Society's Executive Committee thanked him for the countless hours of dedication and support he has given the students, as well as to Kerry Goldberg for



the years of support she has given him while at the University of Buckingham.



After the dinner and dedications, the dance floors were opened as more students continued to join the night's activities to well beyond the traditional bewitching, with many an attendee finally being forced to return home commenting that "2003 was one of the better Law Balls in recent history."

George NH Jones (Law)

Quotes of the Season

Happy New Year, and may 2004 bring you and yours the very best - lots of laughter and true happiness, peace and contentment, achievement and success!

Sanam Singh (LLB '99; LLM '00)

Alumni Summer Party 2004

We're all going to the Zoowell, those of you who want to attend this year's alumni summer party on Friday, 18 June in the Prince Albert Suite anyway! We hope we have found a venue to attract even more of you than last year and... guess what it is the only day of the year that the London Zoo is open to the public in the evening as well. Let's make the most of it - let's go wild! For further information on the event

please call Larisa or Emil on (01280) 820213/820230 or email them on larisa.bogle@buckingham.ac.uk and emil.vassilev@buckingham.ac.uk. Tickets are £35 each and will include food, a limited amount of wine, disco, plus access to the terrace and lawn. Tickets must be purchased prior to the event, and as early as possible to secure a place.