



THE Independent

Winter/Spring 2006

Message from the Vice- Chancellor



This year we celebrate our 30th birthday as Britain's only independent university. The story of Buckingham can be told simply. During the 1970s a group of distinguished academics and their

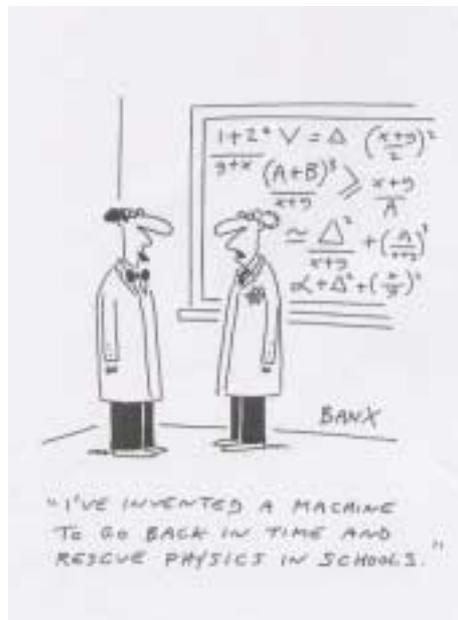
supporters got together to create a university that was going to be different. Because all other British universities were run and funded by the state, they had to take their instructions from the state - and the founders of Buckingham anticipated, correctly, that the state would not look after the universities or their students properly. So, for example, in 1976 staff:student ratios in British universities were on average 1:9, whereas now they are 1:17. But in Buckingham they are still 1:9 and we continue to put the students first.

Between 1976 and 1996 the University grew well, and it embraced a culture of liberal education: every student, regardless of his or her major course of study, had to dissect a shrimp and learn a second European language. Nevertheless the University grew increasingly vocational in its orientation, and the Law School, followed by the Business School, soon emerged as the largest disciplines. But the University has remained true to its origins as a liberal arts college, and the humanities (as represented by English and Modern Foreign Languages, and by History and Philosophy as taught within International Studies) and the sciences (as represented by Biochemistry, Psychology and Information Systems) and the Social Sciences (as represented by Economics and Politics) continue to thrive.

In 1996, however, the university took a knock when the conversion of the polytechnics in Britain into universities reversed the longstanding shortage of university places in the UK, and suddenly there was a surplus (of free places, to boot, for home students!). In one year alone, 1996, Buckingham lost two hundred students, falling from a thousand to eight hundred.

The University responded by cutting its costs and by recruiting more avidly, and over the last three years I'm glad to say that the numbers of full-time resident students have been steady. In addition, the University has entered into partnerships with a number of foreign entities including the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology in Bosnia, the Irish National College of Computing Analysis in Dublin, and the European School of Economics in Lucca, and the numbers of students that are registered with the University of Buckingham now again exceeds a thousand.

We have, moreover, expanded in recent years, and we have created a new School of Education and we are in the process of creating a School of Medicine. These, and the innovations of the established schools, have been described in recent issues of *The Independent*, and we hope you'll sample some of them during our upcoming 'Homecoming Weekend'. We have also created a significant number of scholarships, and our research has so flourished that it now accounts for 10 per cent of our income, a record. Indeed, our research is of such quality that the recent study from Professor Smithers and Dr Robinson on the study of physics in the UK even generated a cartoon in *Private Eye*. It is reproduced here.



None of these developments would have been possible without significant donations and I thank the MB Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Dixon's Foundation, Sir Christopher Ondaatje, Mr and Mrs R.M. Gregory, Mr John Desborough, Professor Ronald Coase, Sir Ray Tindle, Mr David Fisher, Slough Estates, Mr Ralph Yablon, The American Friends of the University, and others for their considerable generosity. These donors have built on the past donations of such giants as Lord Tanlaw and Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, in whose munificent gifts we still rejoice.

As we celebrate our 30th birthday, therefore, you can see that we are a university determined to grow in numbers, reputation and scholarship. Since the quality of an independent university depends largely on the size of its endowment (and since our alumni have an interest in the quality of the university, because the higher the quality, the more prestigious the degree) and since we need more scholarships (to help poor students) and facilities (we would love a new sports hall) we've decided to launch a 30th anniversary fundraising campaign. The appeal will feature the number 30 prominently. So, for example, Mr Anthony Green RA, the famous artist who is a member of Council, has kindly offered to produce a limited edition (30 or 300 copies) of *The Buckingham Print*, which will be a collage of the campus, Mill, swans and depictions of the great people who have been associated with the University. Meanwhile I'll be writing to many alumni over the next year or two asking if they would like to contribute \$30 or £30 or more.

Buckingham is unique and uniquely good and uniquely important. We want to make it even better and we're asking for your help.

Dr Terence Kealey
Vice- Chancellor

30th Anniversary - "Homecoming Weekend" 29/30 July 2006

The Graduation ceremonies are over, winter term is almost at an end and we are now planning for our big summer celebration here at Buckingham. 30th anniversary events will take place on 29/30 July and we hope many of you will be able to find time to come back and visit us and take part in the celebrations.

Beginning with everyone meeting up in the Chandos Road Buildings (the new examination suites) for coffee, we move to the main lecture theatre for welcome addresses by the Vice-Chancellor and dignitaries.

We then break for lunch, following which people can spend the afternoon visiting their own schools, chatting with lecturers and there will be on campus games etc for any spouses and children. Each school will be arranging their own programme of events for the afternoon.

From 5pm there will be entertainment on Beloff Lawn, with a BBQ starting at 7pm and (weather permitting) people can spill out from the Refectory to enjoy the music,

dancing and entertainment. Prizes for the online competition (to choose a member of staff from both the academic and support team who made the greatest impression on you during your time here - if you haven't voted yet, please do) will be awarded during the evening.

On Sunday morning there will be breakfast in the refectory followed by a morning to do what you would like. At 12 noon buses will take those who wish to go to Stowe where there will be a picnic, cricket match and games. Finishing at 4pm the buses will bring everyone back to Buckingham where we will say goodbye. Hopefully many friendships will have been renewed and many new ones made. Old staff members will have been back to meet with students they have known and it will be a chance to network and relax in a familiar and nostalgic setting. Everyone is free to join as many events as they wish to, but we would ask you to let us know if you will be here for Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, Sunday picnic or for all. Wet weather arrangements will be in place (just in case!), but we hope for the

best. If you can come, please could you let us know for sure no later than 1 July so that we can finalise catering arrangements.

We will also put a list of names of those attending on the website and would ask that you let us know if you do NOT wish to be named, otherwise your name will be on the list an attraction for others to come.

We do hope that many of you will be able to attend. Please check the AlumNet website as it will be updated regularly (<https://extranet.buckingham.ac.uk/alumnet/>), enter the competition, **let us know that you are coming** (and if you are bringing your family) and we look forward to welcoming you to Buckingham once again.

Anne Matsuoka

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Graduation 2006

Dear Friends,

I am happy to tell you that you are holding in your hands a unique edition of the *Independent* with news of Graduation 2006 and a special 'taster' of the 'Homecoming Weekend' to celebrate the 30th Anniversary. But let me be more specific.

Firstly, I would like to begin with Graduation, which this year was held on 4th March. As always, everything from the Church ceremony to the Swan Ball was brilliantly organised. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who helped make this Graduation unforgettable for the graduands, their families and guests. The excitement at seeing old friends and tutors was tangible and for some students very emotional.

Graduation Day is the most important day of the year at Buckingham. University Chancellor, Sir Martin Jacomb, congratulated the 2006 graduates. He also gave honorary degrees to **Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss**, formerly the highest ranking female judge in the country and the **Honorable Michael Eugene Misick (LLB' 01)**, a former Buckingham student and Chief

Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Dr Mary Welstead, Dr Terence Kealey, Sir Martin Jacomb (back row) The Honorable Michael Misick (Law '01)(front row) - receiving his Honorary Degree at Graduation 2006

This year the Palamountain Award for excellence was awarded to **Michael Ballard Smith (LLB' 06)** and the Dame Barbara Shenfield Medal was awarded to **Georg Friedrich Baur (MSc Service Management' 06)**.

Following the ceremonies a reception was held in a marquee on Beloff Lawn which was later transformed into the venue for the Swan Ball with 3 cocktail bars, a chocolate fountain, and various musical

acts. Academic gowns were swapped for ball gowns and the partying (which began with a dinner in the local Villiers Hotel) went on until six in the morning. As always, the famous *Survivors Photo* was the final event of the day.



We would like to congratulate all our graduands and wish them success in their future endeavours! We enjoyed having you here! Looking forward to seeing you and your families at the 'Homecoming Weekend' on 29/30 July 2006 to revive the good, old memories of Buckingham and have some fun!

Iva G. Netzova (LLM '05)

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www.buckingham.ac.uk/alumnet Get connected!



Ahmad Fadzel and his best friend

This is what **Ahmad Fadzel (LLB' 01)** had to say on his life and career after leaving Buckingham "... I would like to share some news on what has been happening ever since I left the University of Buckingham.

I attended the Certificate of Legal Practice course back in Malaysia in September 2001 until June 2002. Then I worked as a research consultant and legal executive from July 2002 till February 2004.

I immediately went to Australia to study for my LL.M at the University of Queensland, which is one of the top universities in Australia. I graduated on the 20th July this year. If I am not mistaken I am the first person from Buckingham University to enrol in the University's LL.M programme.

Interestingly enough, the Head of the Law School had heard of Buckingham. In fact, one of my former Contract tutors at Buckingham, Professor Francis Rose, is a friend of his. I am currently waiting to do a one-year legal research internship here in Australia.

I would say my undergraduate training in Buckingham has helped me tremendously to prepare in adapting to the rigours of postgraduate law studies here in Australia and helped me successfully to complete it. I really appreciate all the helpful things I learnt in Buckingham Law School".

**Ahmad Fadzel
(LLB' 01)**

This is what **Iain Holmes (BSc Business Studies' 03)** has to say about his life: 'I am moving up to Denver Colorado - I know many of you will ask why? I am sure some of you are thinking, Coors Light, or the Broncos, however I am sure many of you soon come to the realization that I think Justin Timberlake is cooler than football and light beer. I am moving to Denver first and foremost for a change. I started thinking about the possibility of moving, and then things went rather smoothly after that my company offered to

accommodate my move; my best friend just bought a house up there, and the company's office is located about 15 minutes from one of the many polo clubs there.

The company I am working for has offered to cover the relocation of not only me but Stella and Clarita (my 2 horses). There seems to be some good low goal polo up there. They play indoor in the winter, and then low-medium goal on the grass from May to September. I am not particularly concerned about the cold, I plan on meeting a girl quite soon after arriving, and if that fails I can revert back to the British technique of a good stiff drink!



Iain Holmes and his two horses

Iain Holmes (BSc Business Studies' 03)

I can't believe it's been 7 years since I graduated in 1999. It feels like yesterday. I have been receiving regular updates of the *Independent* and I would like to thank the team for this. I think it's great. A lot has happened to me since I graduated. I started my own IT Company once I went back to Kenya after graduating. In 1999, in 2001, I had the privilege to visit Perth, Australia and fell in love with the place. I applied for migration and am currently well settled in Perth where I work for Telstra (a telecommunications company) as a sales consultant. I got married in 2001 as well and currently have two kids, Yash was born on 17th December 2003 and Jiya on 2nd August 2005. I have lost touch with most of my friends from Buckingham as my email crashed. Here is my new email address for those who would like to get in touch. It is sagarh@lycos.com



**Sagar Hindocha
(BSc. Information Systems with
Business Studies '99)**

1976 – The Inaugural Year of The University College at Buckingham

I enrolled as a nineteen-year old Law student at The University College at Buckingham (UCB) in 1976, the year that UCB opened its doors to its first students. 1976 proved to be a very special year. Paul Seligman, the first President of the Student Union, wrote in the Student Handbook in December, 1976 that:

"...We are engaged in an educational experiment – an experiment in terms of independence from the State, in terms of breadth in education, in terms of the intensive nature of our academic course, in terms of our relationship to the community...and to a large extent the success of UCB rests on our shoulders".

The outside world was also aware of the intellectual importance of UCB's attempt to establish a university completely independent from state finance. Mrs. Thatcher, the Conservative Leader, commented during our opening ceremony in the Parish Church of Buckingham on 6th February, 1976 that:

"The inauguration of the University College at Buckingham...is..... a sign of hope that teachers may now be encouragedto embark upon institutional adventures which do not involve the lobbying of public opinion or government departments".

Mrs. Thatcher's view was not accepted by everyone within the Conservative Party. However it was particularly opposed by the Labour Government which believed that all universities should be under the financial control of the State. The Labour Party's ideological hostility had practical consequences since only certain local education authorities would provide UCB students with discretionary grants and UCB was not included in the list of institutions attracting mandatory grants. The Law Society, the Council of Legal Education, the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, the Institute of Bankers and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales were initially the only bodies which recognized the Licence as a degree for the purposes of entrance to their professions although the Licence was recognized by many other associations later on. Articles describing UCB as "a playground for the rich" or "elitist" appeared regularly in the Press and UCB was under great pressure.

As a new and controversial institution, we were fortunate to possess outstanding lecturers who were happy to involve themselves in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. We also had many highly-motivated students willing to work very hard to obtain good grades to establish Buckingham's academic credentials and to start extra-curricular clubs and societies. Professor Beloff, the Principal, was an inspiration to us all. He was tremendously articulate and had vision and drive. Professor Beloff publicized our cause effectively and raised large sums of money for UCB particularly in the United States. Buckingham would not have survived and prospered without him. Dr. Clarke, the charmingly modest Dean of Admissions, was a talented historian. He organized the Admissions Office into an extremely efficient department and developed the new School of History, Politics and English which opened in 1977. Professor James, the Head of the Law School, had an impish sense of humour. He was a good administrator and excellent academic lawyer. His Law School colleague, Professor Hall was tall, thin, gentlemanly, amiable and very intelligent. I particularly enjoyed his Introduction to English Law lectures and the courteous atmosphere prevailing during his tutorials.

The students were a talented and cosmopolitan group comprising at least twenty nationalities and the worldly experience of the mature students provided an important steadying influence. Paul Seligman, the Student Union President, was excellent at deflecting aggressive questions from the Press with well-chosen remarks and generally handled our Public Relations well. Anna Bramwell was academically outstanding in most subjects right from the start and became UCB's first First Class Honours Licentiate, in Law, Economics and Politics. Nigel Rawlence, an amiable Old Etonian, was our first Captain of the Cricket Club. I am sure that all the members of the 1976 Cricket Team will remember his innings against the Stowe School Second XL and the quiet encouragement he gave us at all times. Jomoria (Joe) Ogbiru, as the Vice-Chairman of The Overseas Students Club (OSC), helped many students studying a long way from home to settle in at UCB and was involved in planning the OSC's initial cultural activities.

The two-year Licence taken over eight terms was a new concept in the Britain of the 1970's, but the curriculum taken by students in the three Schools of Law; Economics; and Law, Economics and Politics; was particularly innovative. In addition to their Main Subject(s), all students read Supporting Subjects

including French and German, European History, English Literature, Mathematics and / or Life Sciences. UCB allowed the students to influence the structure of the Licence which was a valuable part of our learning process. For example, Law Students were originally required to study Mathematics and Life Sciences, but this was reduced to either Mathematics or Life Sciences after representations by the students.

The multi-cultural intellectual atmosphere, extra-curricular activities, team spirit and camaraderie in 1976 provided students with a quite exceptional experience. The Buckingham Evening Lectures, which were open to the general public, were established and proved to be a fantastic success. I particularly remember Ted Dexter speaking about "A Sporting Chance in Life", but the standard of all of the guest speakers was extremely high. We were really learning all the time. Even after we had finished studying in the Library or in our rooms, conversations about almost everything under the sun took place from 10.30 pm onwards at Istra Cottage, which was then a Student Residence, over tea, coffee, toast and biscuits in one of the several kitchens. The usual participants included Umi Palmer, Simon Barton, Anthony Fairtlough, Chris Codrai, Pat Francis, Mary Smith and myself although other students were often present.

The outstanding academic and extra-curricular education which I am describing will be familiar to every Buckingham University student regardless of when they were students. Although I did not obtain the Licence, my UCB education helped me to obtain my four degrees at Strathclyde, Wolverhampton and Stirling Universities and a PGCE at Durham University. UCB also provided me with a great example of how to start up any organization rapidly and efficiently. Indeed, the innovative atmosphere at UCB in 1976 continues to influence how I think and run my businesses today.



**Cameron Donnelly
(LLB' 78)**

Goodbye and Hello!

On behalf of us all in the Alumni Office I would like to say a big "thank you" to Suzanna Tomassi (Service Management '02), who left us as Alumni Database Co-ordinator at the beginning of March. But we have not lost her – she has moved into the QA (Quality Assurance) Office as a Senior Quality Administrator where she will be taking on a very demanding and important role. Thank you for all your hard work, Suzanna!



We would like to welcome, in Suzanna's place, Pam Lindsay. Pam has been working as a library auxiliary and we are extremely happy to have her with us in the attic. You will, I am sure, be hearing a lot from her as she rapidly masters the database. Good to have you here Pam!

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or email
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Email:
patricia.prada@buckingham.ac.uk**

Alumni News



Isabella with her daughter Anjali

After graduating from Buckingham with a degree in Business Studies ('89) I worked in the private and public sectors for more than ten years. After becoming a mom in 2003, I wanted to continue working, but from home. I set up a research company in Chiang Mai, doing business research for American, Japanese and British clients. During my graduate work at Georgetown, I took classes in entrepreneurship and small business management, as my long-term goal was to start my own business and I wanted to have the skills to do that.

After moving to Thailand, I fell in love with Thai handicrafts. Many of my friends have had babies and I have spent lots of time looking for interesting and unique handicraft gifts to send to them. One of my friends suggested I make a business

of it. This was the perfect opportunity to take advantage of Internet technology, to link my creative interests into a small, but global business.

First, I needed a catchy name. My daughter loves papaya, so I created papayakids.com. This name is easy to pronounce in both English and Japanese, the languages of my primary target markets.



Isabella with business partner Wattana Jaturasita

Second, in order to develop a set of unique products I gathered product ideas from friends, who had newly become moms. My business partner and I spent the next year visiting factories, villages and local artisans about developing products that would be cost effective and of export quality. Ensuring that the

products meet our artistic vision and quality requirements is an on-going process.

E-business is still undeveloped in Thailand. As a small business, I have been unable to get a local merchant account to accept credit cards on-line. I now plan to use a US company, because I believe that there is no way to do credible e-business without accepting credit cards on-line.

For the time being, I don't expect to earn a living from the e-business. But it has been an educational and enjoyable experience. I hope to leverage that know-how into a new e-business in the future.

If you see any problems, typos, glitches etc. on the web-site, please feel free to point them out to me. You can reach me on berarin@loxinfo.co.th I am also open to any suggestions or comments (positive or negative), so please keep those coming. Papayakids.com is an ongoing project, so I am very keen to get feedback from everyone!

Isabella K. Badenoch
(BSc Business Studies' 89)

Having graduated with my LLB (Hons) degree from Buckingham, I returned to Lusaka, Zambia to embark upon my Bar exams in 1997 at the Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education.



Tukuza Tembo

Towards the end of that course, my sisters dared me to enter the Miss Zambia 1997 competition, and I jokingly entered.....to my greatest surprise and shock, I won the competition and on September 27th 1997, was crowned Miss Zambia 1997!

That was the beginning of a journey which

has truly changed my life forever. The day after I was crowned, my Pageant organiser, Paul de Sousa, told me words that to this day remain etched in my mind, and I did not then realise the magnitude or impact of his words...."If you work hard at it and are focused, this title will change your life positively forever..."

I was privileged to become an Ambassador and represent my country at the Miss World Pageant 1997 held in Mahe, Seychelles, where I met a lot of wonderful women, many of whom I am still in touch with. The interaction with all the nations and cultures in the world brought to my mind memories of my time at Bucks, where I met a lot of people from different backgrounds, cultures and countries. With that experience, it was relatively easy to mix with all the other ladies proudly representing their countries.

In addition to attending the Miss World Pageant, I was also fortunate to represent Zambia at the Miss Malaika 2001 pageant (An African and African Diaspora Pageant) held at Sun City, South Africa, where it was an honour for me to fly the Zambian flag as a top ten finalist.

During my reign as Miss Zambia, I attended to national duties, public engagements, charity work and was exposed to numerous experiences and people, who have influenced my life, not only as a person, but in my chosen career of law.

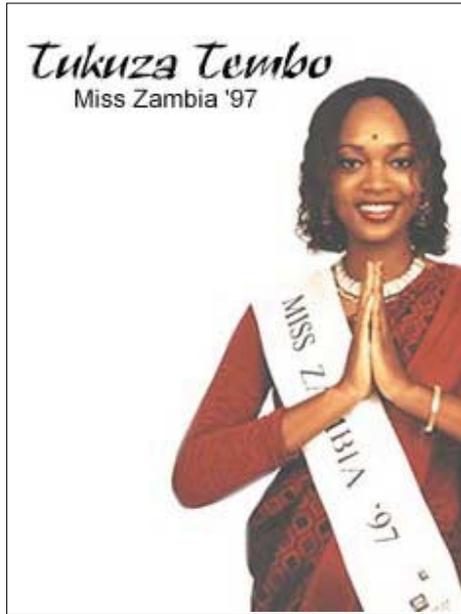
I worked with (and still do to date) an orphanage called Kabwata Orphanage, established by Mrs Angela Miyanda (the former Second Lady of Zambia) that mainly attends to abused children and children orphaned through HIV/AIDS. From Mrs Miyanda and the children, I have learned the art of being humble and sensitive to others' needs and plights, as well as appreciating and being grateful for everything, no matter how small, that we are fortunate to have in life.

I can say that being Miss Zambia taught me to be confident, social and pro-active (which has greatly helped me in my career!), as well as to be focused in life, setting goals, and striving to achieve them. I also learned the art of being patient not only with oneself, but also with the ways of the world, which with my career has come in quite handy!

Having 'Hung up my high heels' and departed from the world of fashion, glamour and modelling, except for the odd public appearance which is mostly for charity, I am now focusing on my career in law (I think much to the relief of my father, who though proud and supportive of my achievements, I think secretly despaired that after all the effort at Buckingham, I had decided to give up a career in law for fashion and beauty!). I am currently a State Advocate working for the Ministry of Justice, as the Assistant Administrator-General & Official Receiver. Previously, I was the in-house lawyer for Grant Thornton Associates. The question of my marital status.....no, I am still single and no children!!!

I have my family to thank for 'nudging' me onto that path that has turned out to be a phenomenal highway in my life and I am eternally grateful for their constant support in all my endeavours, which have shaped me into the person that I am today. If there is one thing that I learned from my experience as Miss Zambia 1997, it's that life is full of surprises and with it, anything is possible if you put your mind to it.

Tukuza Tembo (LLB' 96)



Quotes of the Season

Allan Katatumba (LLB' 99)

Thank you and your fellow staff very much indeed for working hard to make sure that those of us Alumni may continue to be in touch with Buckingham and our former peers.

Raymond J Noel (LLB' 91)

Hey you guys out there, it's real sweet of you. In our part of the world birthdays are usually observed by children! 54 year-olds are more concerned with their kids' birthdays. Nonetheless I don't mean to be unappreciative. It's been 15 years since I graduated from Bucks. Never been back although I'd love to.

I am still in legal practice working as a courtroom lawyer. That's barrister's work for you. Bucks gave me a good education, fine friends and lovely memories. The Buckingham Evangelical Church was a solid support to us Christian students from Malaysia. God bless you all and keep those snippets of news coming. They keep me in touch and give the feeling that I never left Bucks.

Law School Legal Workshop



Jennifer Shearman (left) and Alumni Advisers

Jennifer Shearman, who is a Senior Lecturer in the Law School, has been running the extremely popular annual Legal Workshop for the last 12 years. This is an event organised to give the students some insight into how both branches of the legal profession work and to help them decide what sort of lawyer they would like to be – a Solicitor or a Barrister. Practising lawyers (many of them alumni) give up their day to provide the law students with a taste of practical life. They each take small groups for discussions about their particular areas of

practice, followed by a negotiation or client interviewing exercise, which a solicitor might typically undertake. After a break for afternoon tea, each group then takes part in a bail application or a plea in mitigation, acting as a barrister on behalf of a client.

The day is rounded off with supper at the Tanlaw Mill, giving the students an opportunity to chat informally to the visitors. Often students have been able to arrange mini pupillages or vacation placements as a result of impressing the visiting lawyers.

Jennifer says "This is a fun event and I have been extremely well supported by our alumni over the years. Many have returned as qualified lawyers and given up their day voluntarily on behalf of the next generation of Buckingham law students. Some have returned year after year. As Robert Benzynie (LLB 92) once put it, he feels glad to be able to put something back into Buckingham."

Jennifer has now handed the task of running the Legal Workshop and acting as Law Careers Officer to Janice Denoncourt, who joined the Law School last year. She would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all those alumni who have helped her all these years, and hopes she has not forgotten anyone.

They are :-

Stephen Akinsanya (LLB '92)
 Nicholas Alexander (LLM '95)
 Pepin Aslett (LLB '95)
 Yew See Bailey (LLB '85)
 Robert Benzynie (LLB '92)
 Rodney Corner (LLB '98)
 Dean Dunham (LLB '97)
 Fiona Hewitt (LLB '99)
 Tania Panagiotopoulou (LLM '94)
 Emma Paton (LLB '00)
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 Michelle Rich (LLB '00)
 Robert Shuster (LLB '88)
 Peter Silver (LLB '86)
 Damian Stuart (LLB '95)
 Stephen Taylor (LLB '93)
 Helaine Whiteside (LLB '88)
 Gordon Woolridge (LLB '98)

Finally, if any qualified alumni out there are interested in helping at future Legal Workshops, then please contact janice.denoncourt@buckingham.ac.uk

Buckingham Law School



Charlotte Walsh

I was delighted to be asked to write an article about the Law school for the first edition of the Independent in our 30th anniversary Year. It gave me the opportunity to reflect on what we have been doing at Buckingham Law School since our

25th Anniversary five years ago. Law is still a popular option for Buckingham students with the Law School having over 300 full time students, with another 40 or so part-time students. We remain committed to providing an exciting learning experience that will both challenge and engage our students. Over the past five years our programmes have stood up well to the increased competition from other UK universities and from the USA and Australia. This is because we offer something unique at Buckingham. There are few other Law Schools that can provide the individual attention given in small group tutorials and none who give students the advantage of studying a full three-year undergraduate degree in only two years. Whether students are from Britain or overseas, the School continues to produce confident, skilled lawyers, able to practise almost anywhere in the world. Those of us who travelled for the University last year were lucky enough to witness the proof of this for ourselves when we met so many of you in different corners of the world, and saw first-hand how you have built such successful careers after graduating from Buckingham.

We are fortunate in retaining dedicated and talented staff at Buckingham, with a strong emphasis in all major areas of scholarship. Inevitably, there have been some changes in staffing over the past five years - most recently and significantly with the retirement last summer of Professor Durand after nearly 30 years at Buckingham Law School. This sadly coincided with Professor Alcock's departure to start Salford Law School. We shall miss them both, but I am delighted that we have been able to attract such high calibre replacements in Jonathan Black-Branch as Professor of International Law and Nigel Foster as Professor of European Law, both of whom enjoy an international reputation in their respective fields. We remain well known for our expertise in International and Commercially orientated subjects but we have also been able to increase other

available options during the past five years. International Sports Law is proving very popular and likely to be more so as the date for the London Olympics grows nearer. Dr Ioannidis (who joined us in 2003) is currently representing the Greek sprinters, Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou against charges that they missed anti-doping controls during the last Olympics. There is massive interest in this area. It is hard not to speculate that perhaps the athlete who wins is the athlete who has the best chemist and the best lawyer.

Jurisprudence, Sex & Gender issues, International Labour Law, Advertising and Marketing, and a totally revised Banking Law course are other welcome additions to our profile. For those of you who only had the option to study single honours Law you will be interested to know that we can now offer a qualifying law degree with a minor option taken from the School of Business and Humanities.

This is a very interesting time to be studying law – although common lawyers amongst us may bemoan the sheer quantity of legislation emerging from the English Parliament. European law is bound to have an ever-increasing impact when in May 2004 ten new countries, including some from the former USSR, joined the European Union. Now 25 nations and 457 million people share a single market in which they can trade, travel and work.

The Human Rights Act 1998 (which came into force October 2000) has begun to impact on all areas of English law. In my own field, the law of negligence, it looked at one point as if interpretation of Article 6 threatened to undermine our whole approach to compensation in negligence claims. However, the English courts have now adopted a more restrictive approach and made it clear that Article 6 cannot be used to create any substantive civil law rights but merely provides a procedural guarantee. Fewer appeals are going to the ECHR in Strasbourg now that our own courts are interpreting those rights enacted in the HRA. Some would argue that this has been more than made up for, however, by the number of times the Act has been invoked to protect the civil liberties of suspects under arrest.

The threat from international terrorism and drug trafficking has led to the implementation of a duty on, inter alia, solicitors and bankers, to report any suspicions to the authorities, and the introduction of a criminal offence of 'tipping off'. This raises issues about the confidential nature of the relationship and the Court of Appeal has recently had to

decide whether this new duty takes priority over the duty of confidentiality between solicitor and client.

Finally, we have yet to see the full effect of the major constitutional changes in England and Wales provided for in the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (coming into force later this year). The Act concerns, inter alia, changes in the role and functions of the office of Lord Chancellor and the way in which members of the judiciary are appointed, as well as changes to the structure and function of the House of Lords with the establishment of a new Supreme Court. From time to time the judiciary has had to fight hard to maintain its traditional independence from the power of the executive. We all applaud its ability to do so. Those of you in commonwealth jurisdictions may be aware of recent decisions by the Privy Council that have given rise to discussion about its role as a final court of appeal. We would welcome contributions from our alumni as to their views on developments in this area.

Last year saw the Law School achieve its first trophy in a National Mooting Competition with success in the 2005 English Speaking Union Mooting Competition. We also reached the finals of the Weekly Law Reports Mooting Competition. Dr Ioannidis, our Master of Moots, has proved a worthy successor to Mr Goldberg who retired in 2003 and who did so much to encourage mooting at Buckingham. The Student Mooting Society is thriving and their weekly moots have reached 'standing room only' status this term – no doubt encouraged by last year's successes!



Dr Ioannidis and Students at a Moot

2005 also saw the Law School emerge with flying colours after having been subjected to its Quinquennial Review. All three of our external assessors praised the structure, content and delivery of our programmes which the Bar Council believed boded well for the future of our Law School. They praised those elements we have introduced in response to the needs of the profession.

(continued on page 10)

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

Engagements



Alaistair Jerrom-Smith (BSc Information Systems' 02) is happy to announce his engagement to **Heather McClarty**, which took place on the 14th August 2005 in Jersey.



Ben Marr (BSc Accounting and Financial Management' 92) is happy to announce his engagement to Miss **Renuka Kukanesen**. This is what he had to say: "We shall be getting married in a few places... Bosnia, and UK and possibly Malaysia to allow relatives and friends to take part without difficult travel arrangements. The wedding in the UK will be in September 2006".

Marriages



Cecilia McCann (LLB' 95) and Edward Hughes are happy to announce their wedding, which took place 30th September 2005 at Trinity Church, Doynton and afterwards at "The Park, Wick". Their best man was **Stephen Donley (LLB'95)** and his wife Clare Donley (nee Neville) who was formerly a librarian at Buckingham.



This is what **Nyree Lane (LLB '94)** had to say about her wedding: "The date of the wedding was 30th April 2004. We were married at St Mary's Church Stapleford Tawney near Epping Essex. Our reception was at Leez Priory at Hartford End in Essex. My husband's name is **John Watkins** and I am now **Nyree Lane-Watkins**".



Johann Kottulinsky (BSc Business Studies' 00) is happy to announce his marriage to **Xenia**. Their wedding took place in the Black Forest on the 6th August 2005. Best man was **Dominic Bakic (BSc Business Studies' 00)**, another Buckingham alumnus from the year 2000. Xenia is CFO at Siemens and Hans is CFO with AVL List an Austrian engine development company and industry leader. As of early February this year they have started their own consulting company and are supporting foreign companies who want to enter the Chinese Market.

Marriages and Births

Ekaterina Soukhoroukova (LLB) and Michael Carter (Politics Economics and Law) are happy to announce that they got married on 25th February 2005. There were two wedding ceremonies – one in Westminster, London and the other in Russia. The wedding picture below was taken at the Westminster ceremony.



Ekaterina and Michael are also very happy to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter **Kallista** born on 5th October 2005. Mother and baby are doing well.



Births



John Tomlinson (LLB' 03) and his wife **Sue Dimmock (LLB' 03)** would like to announce the birth of their son **Ellis Morgan Tomlinson**. He was born on 26th January at Milton Keynes General Hospital and weighed in at 8lb 3oz. This is what his father had to say: "He is doing very well and is behaving too - sleeping all night and not crying too much at other times! Sue and I both gained LLB (Hons) in 2003 via the Part-Time study route. Sue is currently at home with Ellis and his older brother Alexander, whilst I while away my time as Head of UK Operations for Harris Corporation, a large US communications company."



Hadiza Muhammadu Buhari (BA English Studies with Media Communications '04) and Bello Abubakar (Politics with English Language Studies (EFL) '03) are happy to announce the birth of their baby girl **Aamina- Amal Bello** born on 22nd of November 2005. She weighed 3.5kg at birth. The happy parents call their baby **Amal** for short, which means 'Hope'. The picture was taken on 29th November 2005, just 7 days after the birth.



Chew Chin Wong (Ginny) (LLB '96) is happy to announce the birth of her beautiful daughter **Anouk Qiyu**, born in February 2005. This is what Ginny had to say about her: "I've taken time away from work to spend with her (and am having a wonderful time!). We will be taking her to visit eager grandparents in Singapore soon after the Chinese New Year. Meanwhile, she's just seen her first snow in New York".



Monika Mikula (BA English Language Studies (EFL) for Translating '05) and Darik Miles are happy to announce the birth of their baby. **Monika** gave birth at Royal Berkshire Hospital to a baby girl. **Laura Jessica** was born on Saturday, 3rd December 2005. The baby weighed in at 7lbs 13oz. Mother and baby are doing well.



Robyn Wood (neeJones) (LLB '97) and Stephen Wood (LLB '97) are happy to announce the birth of their baby girl **Eila** born on 30th December 2005. She was born in the early hours 12:06am and weighed in at a very healthy 8lbs 13oz. The picture was taken when **Eila** was 2.5 weeks old.



Muriel Cutiri (nee Ukpaukure) (BA English Literature '01, MBA '03) and Paolo Cuturi (BSc Business Studies '03) are happy to announce the birth of their son **Vincenzo**. This is what **Muriel** had to say: "We are very happy and it is an incredible experience for us being parents, unbelievable since it seems like just yesterday we met in Buckingham, and today we're married and the proud parents of the most wonderful boy. I guess we have Buckingham to thank for making all of this possible".



Abdulaziz Al Shaikh (BSc Information Systems '02) is happy to announce the birth of his baby girl **Hamda**. She was born in Dubai on 28th March 2005. This is what her dad says about her: "This photo has been taken during **Hamda's** lunchtime, I have particularly chosen this picture because it shows the real naughty **Hamda**".



This is what **Philippa Skandaliaris (nee Pearce) (LLB '04)** has to say about the birth of her daughter: '**Sofia Amelia Skandaliaris** was born 5 weeks early on August 2nd 2005 weighing 5lbs 12oz to **Manoli** and myself in Nassau'.



Francois de la Croix-Vaubois (BSc Business Studies' 89) and his wife Polly Holland are happy to announce the birth of their son **Luke Henry Adam de la Croix-Vaubois**. This is what father **Franco** has to say: "**Luke** burst onto the scene on the 15th January 2006, here seen celebrating France's recent Rugby success! He was born at St. Thomas' Hospital in London and weighed in at 8lb2oz. **Polly & Luke** are both well and sister **Daisy** (3 yrs old) is very proud of her little brother".

(continued from page 7)

Mooting workshops are now compulsory and all students have to take part in a moot and a negotiation exercise as part of their LLB programme. We now have a proper Moot court in the Franciscan building where these exercises take place.

We continue to forge links with the profession in other ways. Many of you will remember the annual Legal workshop. It continues to be heavily oversubscribed and Jennifer Shearman reports on its activities. Our Centre for Multicultural Studies in Law and the Family continues to thrive under the joint Directorship of Professor Edwards and Dr Welstead. We now include an active Visiting Professors programme and our students have benefited from the expertise offered by regular visits and lectures from these three eminent representatives of the profession. In the last year both staff and students have been stimulated to consider such issues as the role of advocacy and the continued use of a jury in fraud trials; the complex moral questions about the role of the provocation defence in terms of stereotypes about gender, culture and ethnic background; professional conduct in the city, and corporate management issues relating to the role of Directors.

Seminars, debates, and parties continue to be an important part of law school life and the student Law Society remains as active as ever with a mixture of both 'worthy' and social events planned for the year.

The annual Law Ball in November was a great success and we have got off to a good start in our sporting competitions

with the Business school. Mr de Mink (who joined us as a full time member of staff in August 2005) has personally taken over the coaching of our sports teams so we have every expectation of regaining the Chancellor's cup this year! Currently, we are busy planning festivities to welcome you all to our 'Homecoming' weekend in July. Of course, the Law School has been based in the Franciscan Building for longer than five years, but I hope that those of you who visit us in July will appreciate some of the changes. Please notice the refurbished foyer, the new coffee bar area, the two new lecture rooms, the Moot court and extensive refurbishment of the Denning Law Library!

Finally, we are all conscious that the energetic and cosmopolitan nature of our students remains the absolute core of our identity at Buckingham. We live in an age where worldwide communication has become easier and yet this has not necessarily led individual nations to a greater understanding of each other's cultures. With our Law School welcoming students from literally all over the world, I feel fortunate to work in an environment that not only provides an excellent legal education but also helps to foster that greater understanding.

Charlotte Walsh
Dean of Law

The University of Buckingham Press

"The University of Buckingham Press (UBPL), which has been dormant for a while, has been brought back to life by Mr Christopher Woodhead (NOT Professor Chris Woodhead in the Department of Education) and begins operating from Room F216 in Verney Park with immediate effect.

UBPL will be publishing journals and books in the areas of Law, Business and Education as well as arranging conferences, seminars and webinars. The Press will also take on the task of producing the **Denning Law Journal** each year.

UBPL will use the Web to expand the established and profitable academic journal model. It will provide a new publishing environment for informed views, for hard, evidence-based information and for debate through its journal articles, books, reports and other material. In addition the press will hold physical and web-based conferences which will enhance the strength of its communities of contributors and readers and create further revenue streams and marketing opportunities.

The publishing programme will be heavily influenced in its editorial direction by the values of the University of Buckingham. Linked as it is to the only independent university in the UK, the publishing programme reflects the tenets of the university and the principles of its founding fathers. The University representative on the Board of Directors is Dr John Drew. Mr Woodhead can be contacted on ext: 3338 or via email, christopher.woodhead@buckingham.ac.uk"

Quotes of the Season

"Good luck and thank you - Graduation 2006"

On the eve of this graduation it is probably timely (actually long overdue) to thank you all for being so instrumental in helping me to get this far, I am truly grateful and I will miss you all tomorrow. I would love to be there to share in the day along with all the other great UoB people who were also part of my rich treasure of life since July 2003. Realistically though, the expense and disruption to work here (Massey College, University of Toronto) would have been more than I could afford; there is little time to pause from drinking from this fire hose and perhaps the true appreciation and success is in the realisation that the water never stops flowing and that there is nothing wrong with spilling a substantial amount, as long

as one doesn't drown and does one's best to live fully on the nourishment.

Buckingham prepared me for this as well as any other University, I believe probably better, and that grew as much from the commitment, inspiration, accessibility and caring on the part of the lecturers as it did from hard work and basic talent. From 3500 miles away the pride of having studied at Buckingham is not diminished. I will think of you, raise a glass, shed a tear and find a willing dance partner. Good luck graduands of 2006.

With fondest regards,

Patrick Byrne (LLB '05)

Buckingham in the News

Idris secures position as Senator

An announcement that Buckingham alumnus, **Datuk Idris Buang (LLB '82)**, has been elected as a Senator by the Sarawak state assembly in Malaysia. *The Star Online* 1 December

Take company cars on an economy drive

In an article that looks at the pros and cons of businesses offering company cars to their employees, Buckingham alumnus, **Chris Smith (LLB '84)** is featured as a case study. Chris explains that leasing cars, as opposed to purchasing them, saves a great deal of money, administration and risk.

The Daily Telegraph 17 January 2006

News from the Law School

Professor Andrew Durand leaves the University

Professor Andrew Durand retired at the end of the Autumn Term 2005, after a distinguished career at Buckingham lasting twenty-seven years. When Andrew joined us, Max Beloff was still Principal, and he served under all of Max's successors – Alan Peacock, Michael Barrett, Richard Luce, Robert Taylor and Terence Kealey. At one time, Andrew was Head of the Language Centre and he was a notably successful Dean of Law. Andrew was strikingly hard working, a brilliant lecturer, something of a computer expert, a good chairman and an effective and forceful member of Senate and Council. Above all, he embodied the highest standards of personal and academic integrity that this university was set up to preserve and uphold.



Prof Andrew Durand

When speaking at a party to mark his retirement, Andrew mentioned that there had been four people whose example he had found particularly inspiring. I did a quick guess as to who they would be: I got all four right. They were Peter Watson, James Martin-Bates, Matthew Lavis and Alistair Alcock. In their different ways, all four represented a combination of ability, hard work and probity – qualities that Andrew himself certainly exemplified. Quite rightly, Andrew warned us not to look at the early days of the University through rose-coloured spectacles. He believed that Buckingham had been at its best when there was plenty of debate and controversy. There had always been a creative tension between the ideals of the founders and practical considerations. Andrew stressed that Senate was the right place for these matters to be thrashed out.

Andrew was a great Buckingham character and we shall miss him. We wish him and Jane a long and happy retirement. He will probably spend most of his time at his houses in Scotland and France but promises to return to Buckingham quite frequently. We look forward to seeing him.

John Clarke
Professor of History &
Secretary to Council

Buckingham Reaches National Finals of the Negotiation Competition 2006!

The National Negotiation Competition begins in the first term of the year in order to select a team of students to represent the University in the Regional and National Competitions held in February and March respectively.



Janice Denoncourt (centre) and Negotiation team

This year, the internal competition began in Week Two of Winter Term and was judged by Faculty Advisors, Janice Denoncourt and Jennifer Shearman. As in previous years, the Law School admitted students in both the first and second years for the knock-out rounds.

The two internal team finalists were of exceptional talent. Consequently, the Law School sponsored both teams to participate in the Regional Final held on 18 February at the Guildford College of Law in Surrey. Each team honed their negotiating skills in preparation for two fact scenarios: a commercial dispute and an emotive 'nuisance neighbours' dispute. Buckingham was ably represented by negotiating teams Clive Hughes and Aaron Racine; and Tom Durbin and Denise Saunders. Janice Denoncourt was a Competition Judge.

We are delighted to announce that for the second year in a row, Buckingham law students have secured a place in the

National Negotiation Competition Final. Tom Durbin and Denise Saunders were one of five teams selected from a pool of sixteen. Competition judges commented on the high quality of both Buckingham teams. Together with other competition finalists, Tom and Denise will attend a one-day negotiation course sponsored by the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution in London.

The National Final will take place in Stoke-on-Trent on 25 March 2006. The winner of the National Final will represent the UK in the International Final. We wish Denise and Tom all the best in their quest to win the National Title.

Janice Denoncourt
Faculty Advisor

News from the Foundation Office

30th Anniversary Campaign

As you will all already know, 2006 is the 30th anniversary of the University of Buckingham. To celebrate the event, the Foundation is launching a 30th Anniversary Campaign to raise £10 million over 6 years to help fund all the projects on the University's wish list including a multi-purpose sports hall, which will give the students not merely sporting facilities but also a venue for social events, theatrical performances and concerts. I am being supported in this campaign by many people including our existing benefactors, the Friends of the University, the Students' Union, which is hoping to organize fundraising events, and, I hope, by you the readers of *the Independent*.

One venture which is very worthy of support is the important research into diabetes which Mike Cawthorne and his team are carrying out in the Clore laboratory. Diabetes has increased significantly and Mike has written about this important work elsewhere in this issue of *the Independent*. If you know of anyone who would like to help fund their endeavours, do please tell me.

Further details are available at www.buckingham.ac.uk/ubfoundation/ or by contacting the Foundation office on +44 (0) 1280 820142

Donations received in 2005

The sum total of donations in 2005 amounted to £328,000 and I would like to thank all our donors for their generosity towards the University.

News of our donors Sir Nigel Mobbs

I am very sad to report that Sir Nigel Mobbs, one of the University's and the Foundation's strongest supporters, died in September 2005; his obituary appears in this issue of *the Independent*.

Sir Christopher Ondaatje

In October 2005, I attended a reception at the Royal Geographical Society for the launch of Sir Christopher Ondaatje's latest book entitled *Woolf in Ceylon - an Imperial Journey in the Shadow of Leonard Woolf 1904 - 1911* (published by Harper Collins). It is a highly praised account of Leonard Woolf's time in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

Sir Christopher Ondaatje, one of Buckingham's honorary graduates and the generous donor of the Ondaatje Scholarship, was born and brought up in Sri Lanka. In the book, he describes his own journey following in the footsteps of Woolf and compares the way of life during colonial times in Ceylon with that of the post-colonial period in Sri Lanka. He tells the story of Leonard Woolf's life in the Ceylon civil service, from 1904 - 1911, and his ultimate disillusionment with the British colonial period.

Johnny Hon

In 2005, Johnny Hon, a donor and Fellow of the University, married one of Buckingham's alumnae, Selina Choo. The wedding in London was attended by many past and present members of the University.

On one of his frequent visits to Hong Kong, Johnny met up with another of our alumni and an Honorary Graduate, Roderick Wu. They had dinner together and shared ideas about how they might help Buckingham. Roderick already funds two prizes for law school students.

Events

In November, Rupert Carington invited a distinguished group of guests to a formal dinner at the University. It was held in the transformed examination rooms in Chandos Road. The rooms were candle lit, and Sally Kealey, the Vice-Chancellor's wife, had decorated them beautifully. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor talked about the progress of the University and the need for endowments. Dr Kealey acknowledged the generosity of major donors to the new Buckingham Brunel Medical School (BBMS). Further such dinners are planned to interest potential donors in the work of the University.

On March 9th 2006 the 3rd biennial Garrick dinner for honorary graduates and donors was hosted by the Chancellor, Sir Martin Jacomb. It is always a very happy event and I will give you more news of it in the next edition of the *Independent*.

Sarah Rush

On the domestic front, I am currently without the invaluable help of my secretary, Sarah Rush. Sarah is currently recuperating from orthopaedic surgery. We all wish her well and a rapid recovery. Apart from anything else, the Foundation cannot manage without her.

Mary Welstead
Director of the Foundation
Email: mary.welstead@buckingham.ac.uk

News from the Marketing Office

Hello from the Marketing and Admissions team!

For us, January 2006 saw the launch of a new and exciting initiative – the personalised prospectus.



Enquirers now have the opportunity to "tailor make" their own prospectus, combining the particular subject pages which are of interest to them with general

information about the University, all presented in a cover which bears the individual enquirer's own name. This can be delivered in either an electronic (PDF) or traditional paper version as the enquirer specifies. As you would expect from the UK's only independent university, this is a pioneering innovation as the University of Buckingham is the first British university to offer this service (although we expect others will follow suit!). We feel that the individual nature of this service reflects positively the University's personal and individual ethos.

Another project to be launched around the January 2006 enrolment was the Parents Programme. The Vice Chancellor hosted a reception to introduce this initiative which allows not just our students, but also their families and "significant others" the opportunity to be more closely involved with and informed about all the latest developments at the University.



Tim Gutsell

The early months of 2006 will see a strong emphasis on promotional and information activities in the UK as we move towards the new UK university fee regime from September 2006. The government is allowing all public universities significantly to increase their fees to up to £3000 per year for UK and EU students from this September. At Buckingham, we are also re-aligning our fees to allow us to be more competitive on fees with the public universities (although we were always better value, of course!).

But we will, as always, be very active internationally as well, with visits planned to Kenya, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Taiwan, Ghana, Nigeria, Japan among other countries during the first half of 2006. We very much hope we will have the opportunity to meet you in your own country – where we may have the opportunity to celebrate the University's 30th anniversary even in advance of the July Homecoming Weekend.

Best wishes,
Tim Gutsell
Director of Marketing and Admissions

Obituaries

SIR NIGEL MOBBS 1936-2005

On October 21st 2005, Sir Nigel Mobbs, Chairman of the University of Buckingham Council from 1987-1998, died aged 68. He was a true ally of the University and guided its development in an amicable manner.

Although it is rather clichéd to comment on Sir Nigel's physical stature, it is difficult to talk about him without averting to it. He was a giant of a man; 6 feet 5 inches in height, he towered over all at any gathering he attended. However, he was not only large in stature, but also large in many other ways; he was generous with his energy, and his time, in whatever he was asked to do. He had a huge, infectious sense of humour, which he often turned on himself, and was a wonderful raconteur and a charming dinner party host and guest.

After attending Marlborough, Sir Nigel went up to Christ Church, Oxford. He failed to obtain his degree in engineering, partly because he found the subject somewhat tedious and partly because of an accident incurred whilst hunting; hunting was one of his great passions. After Oxford, Sir Nigel worked for Slough Estates, the company established by his grandfather, and ultimately became chairman and chief executive.

Whilst Chairman of Council at Buckingham, Sir Nigel did his utmost to persuade his many friends and acquaintances to be as supportive of the University as he was. He happily bombarded them with requests to make generous donations; they found him difficult to resist because he himself was such a liberal benefactor. He set up the Slough Estates' scholarship for students from Buckinghamshire who would otherwise have been unable to benefit from a University of Buckingham education.

After he became Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire in 1997, Sir Nigel's chairmanship of Council ended but he continued to be a friend to the University. He visited regularly, co-hosted with the Vice-Chancellor the reception to launch the new medical school, BBMS, and always attended Graduation. His wife Jane, who was his right hand, joined him on many of these visits.

Two memorial services took place to honour Sir Nigel, one in Aylesbury and one in London; both were packed with

friends from his many and varied endeavours. Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Sir Nigel's successor to the Lieutenancy, delivered the eulogy in Aylesbury, saying

'Whether you are a civic leader, a volunteer or an employee, your lives have all been lifted by this extraordinary human being, who "walked with Kings but kept the common touch" '.

Lord Luce, Vice-Chancellor of Buckingham from 1992-1997, and now Lord Chamberlain, represented the Queen at the London memorial service in the Royal Chelsea Hospital chapel.

Sir Nigel's early death is a huge loss to all.

Mary Welstead
Director of the Foundation
Email:
mary.welstead@buckingham.ac.uk

News from the Clore Laboratory

Obesity and diabetes – the health Tsunami

The staggering pace of the obesity epidemic makes the world news on a daily basis - this epidemic in turn is triggering the development of type 2 diabetes. Diabetes is predicted to be one of the major health crises of the 21st century. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates the number of people with diabetes worldwide will grow from 194 million in 2003 to 333 million in 2025 – more than 19,000 new patients everyday.

Developing countries will bear the brunt with India and China vying to be the diabetes capital of the world. Asia, with six of the world's ten largest diabetic populations, will experience over a 90% increase in people with diabetes.



Clore Laboratory

Diabetes is an illness that occurs when the body lacks insulin either because the

Islet of Langerhans cells in the pancreas do not produce any insulin or because the patient's muscle, liver and fat cells become resistant towards insulin and hence the patient's own insulin is not very effective. The two conditions are generally referred to as type 1 and type 2 diabetes. The latter form occurs in more than 90% of all diabetics and can be prevented but, once present, it is treatable but cannot be cured. Thus, once diabetes occurs it is a chronic disease for life. In Europe and the US about 50% of those affected do not know they have the disease and in developing countries this is much higher. Diabetes increases the risk of heart disease and other complications such as kidney damage, blindness and limb amputations.

The annual direct healthcare cost of diabetes worldwide is estimated to be between US\$153 billion and \$286 billion. By 2025 it could be up to \$400 billion – around 12% of the total healthcare budget. But in many of the developing countries diabetes is going untreated in many patients partly because most have to pay for their medication and they cannot afford the best treatment. Hence complications will worsen and over-burden health service resources.

As with the tsunami, there are warning signs of the diabetic catastrophe. These warning signs are in the soaring rates of childhood obesity. North America, Europe and part of the Western Pacific have the highest prevalence of overweight children at 20-30% but rates are rising rapidly in the developing countries fuelled by eating high caloric density food, drinking soft drinks and lack of exercise.

Research in the University of Buckingham Clore Laboratory

The Clore Laboratory was established in 1986 by Professor Anne Beloff-Chain, wife of Nobel laureate Sir Ernst Chain to study obesity and type 2 diabetes. The present Director, Mike Cawthorne, came to the Clore Laboratory from the pharmaceutical industry in 1994. Prior to 1994 he directed the drug discovery programme that developed the first new type of medicine for type 2 diabetes for more than 30 years. This drug improves the sensitivity of the patient to their own insulin and thereby delays the development of diabetic complications. The drug is available throughout the world.

Prior to the discovery and development of insulin sensitisers, Mike and Professor Jon Arch, now Deputy Director of the Clore Laboratory, developed compounds that acted as chemical mimics of exercise

and had a potential utility in treating both obesity and type 2 diabetics. Although the particular compounds proved to be insufficiently efficacious in man, the pioneering work laid the foundation for much of the current drug discovery efforts for obesity treatment in pharmaceutical companies.

Today the Clore Laboratory is playing a key role in the search for new treatments for both obesity and type 2 diabetes as well as training the future diabetes and obesity researchers. Researchers at the Clore Laboratory are working with biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies worldwide on evaluating potential new therapeutic targets and pioneering treatments. In addition, they have a particular interest in understanding why babies that are born small for gestational age have an increased tendency to develop central 'beer-belly' obesity and type 2 diabetes in adult life, particularly if they consume a Western-style diet. It appears that babies who are undernourished in utero (because of poor diet, young mother still growing or maternal smoking reducing blood supply to foetus) are programmed to survive under famine conditions. The corollary is that in times of plenty, they are too efficient and store food as fat. Work conducted by Dr Claire Stocker at the Clore Laboratory has suggested that the administration of a hormone to either mother or the offspring in early life might provide life-long protection from obesity and type 2 diabetes. This work is in its early stages but was nevertheless judged so important that Claire was awarded the New Investigator Prize by the International Association for the Study of Obesity. Claire is collaborating with other research groups around the world to take this work forward.

Green Medicines

Many patients in developing countries will unfortunately be unable to afford conventional medicines to treat type 2 diabetes and obesity. In a whole range of medical conditions today's medicines are based on original discoveries on plant or fungal extracts, for example penicillins, aspirin and digitalis. Plant extracts are used in many countries for the treatment of type 2 diabetes but currently these treatments are poorly characterised and the secrets can be held by local doctors. The future treatment of obesity and type 2 diabetes in developing countries would be enhanced enormously if plant sources of obesity and type 2 diabetes medication could be identified and then grown and processed locally to supply the endemic

population and maybe even provide a source for the development of better drugs by the pharmaceutical industry.

Researchers at the Clore Laboratory have worked on a number of plant extracts including a cactus from South Africa (traditionally used by Kalahari bushmen to ward off hunger in times of lack of food), a potential diabetic treatment from Libya and guggulipid from India. The latter is the recent subject of a DPhil thesis by Claire Cornick and identified potential mechanisms for the lipid and cholesterol lowering and anti-diabetic properties of guggulipid.

Funding

Research in the Clore Laboratory is supported by private donation and industrial sponsorship as well as competitive grants. Funds are currently being sought to provide two named professorial chairs as well as fellowships and studentships to allow gifted scholars, particularly from developing countries, to undertake research in the Clore Laboratory.

For further details of the research at the Clore Laboratory please contact mike.cawthorne@buckingham.ac.uk. If you would like to discuss a donation please contact either Mike Cawthorne or the University of Buckingham Foundation (mary.welstead@buckingham.ac.uk).

Some facts

- The top ten countries in number of people with diabetes are India, China, USA, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Russia, Brazil, Italy and Bangladesh.
- The country with the highest percent of the population with diabetes is the Pacific island Nauru followed by a number of Pacific islands and Middle Eastern countries.
- Diabetes is the biggest cause of adult onset blindness and non-traumatic amputation.
- 35-50% of male diabetics are impotent.

Professor Mike Cawthorne
Director of Metabolic Research and
Professorial Research Fellow

A 30th Anniversary Message to Bahamian Students

On 17th January, I had the privilege of travelling to the Bahamas with Mr Irving Stevens and Ms Janice Denoncourt in order to celebrate the 30 years' connection between Bahamian students and the University of Buckingham. It was the first of several 30th anniversary visits to different parts of the world this year. We made visits to several of your colleges and schools, including the College of the Bahamas, the Bahamas Baptist Community College, Success Training College, St John's School and St Andrew's School. We also had a very useful meeting with Mr Wayne Munroe, the President of the Bar Association, in which we discussed the recent proposal of the English Bar to 'defer call'. He brought it to our attention that of the approximately 750 registered lawyers in the Bahamas, almost 300 of you graduated from Buckingham! It seemed fitting therefore that our first overseas visit of 2006 should have been to the Bahamas.



Ir Kenneth Lightbourne (LLM '05), Janice Denoncourt, Randol Dorsett (LLM '05) and Irving Stevens

As is always the case with overseas visits, the highlight for me was to meet so many of you all. In response to your requests we held a Law Forum at the Nassau Hilton on January 20th. Ms Denoncourt's lecture on 'Securitisation of Intangible Assets' was very well received and was followed by a lively debate. There seemed to be a great deal of interest in this type of event and topics such as Insurance Law and Maritime Law were requested for 'the next time'. Unfortunately, we learned too late that a major Bahamian Bar event was also taking place on the same evening with the result that some of you were unable to attend both functions. Nevertheless, the Reception in the Victoria Room following the lecture was good fun and it was such a pleasure to meet all those of you who came to help us celebrate.

In travelling round, I was repeatedly struck by the large number of you who are doing so well in practice or in other influential

positions. It made me feel confident that Buckingham must be offering an excellent route to qualifying as a lawyer in the Bahamas. Yet I know that we cannot be complacent and the University is fully conscious of the fact that studying in the UK is an expensive option for Bahamians when compared to staying at home - yet it is still the preferred option.

Therefore, in recognition of our 30th Anniversary and long association with the Bahamas, the Law School will be offering a full scholarship exclusively to a Bahamian student in 2006. I am hoping that some of you, too, as leading figures in the legal community in the Bahamas, would wish to contribute to a second scholarship - either personally or through your Chambers. The two scholarships would be a wonderful way in which to celebrate our long association and give the opportunity for other Bahamian students to benefit from a Buckingham education.

In our 30th year, I am eager to continue our connections with the Bahamas and make Buckingham Law School the first choice for any prospective lawyer wanting a fast track to success. You, our alumni, have benefited from this experience and I am confident that you would want that experience to be extended to your children.

Finally, this was my first ever visit to the Bahamas - and I was not disappointed! We met with wonderful friendship and warmth from so many of you. Space does not permit me to name you all but I would in particular like to thank Stephanie Mackenzie and her team for co-ordinating our visit, together with Rouschard Martin, the Alexiou family, Rionda Godet and Jan Ward, who especially looked after us and showed us such hospitality during our short stay. I so look forward to welcoming you all back for our 'Homecoming weekend' in July and I hope our recent visit represents the beginning of a continuing relationship between Buckingham and the Bahamas that will last for at least another 30 years.

Charlotte Walsh
Dean of Law

Email:
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Law Alumni Profile

Earlier in the month I had the pleasure of visiting The Bahamas on University business. I was fortunate to catch up with one of our recent graduates, Valentino Moreno Hamilton.

Moreno (we knew him as Valentino in Buckingham) attended Buckingham's Law Forum and Alumni Reception which was held in Nassau at the British Colonial Hilton on 20 January this year. Moreno achieved a First Class Honours in his LLB in 2002 and was our first ever law graduate to win the coveted Edgar Palamountain Medal for Excellence. This is awarded annually to the undergraduate who, having come first within his or her discipline has, in the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor, shown the greatest degree of excellence. He then went on to complete the LLM at Buckingham and was called to the English Bar in July 2004. As the legal and judicial system in The Bahamas is English-based, Moreno has since been admitted to the Bahamian Bar. He then proceeded to secure an enviable position as Counsel & Attorney with a leading Bahamian commercial law firm, McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes. McKinney's is one of the largest and oldest law firms in The Bahamas and conducts an extensive international and domestic practice.



Valentino Moreno Hamilton

I visited Moreno at his office which is located in central Nassau on New Providence Island. He kindly gave the Dean, the Law School Admissions Tutor and myself a tour of his firm and introduced us to his colleagues and partners. He told us that he is currently involved in several commercial matters and civil litigation. Although The Bahamas is a fantastic tourist destination, since the 1930's it has been a major offshore international financial centre which attracts substantial overseas commerce. It is home to more than 400 licensed banks and trust companies with a total asset base of more than \$250 billion. Accordingly, there is a high level of international business activity which results in major commercial litigation.

We are thrilled that Buckingham's LLB and LLM programme was of assistance to Moreno and has helped to establish him with a premier law firm in one of the world's principle financial centres. Moreno's firm website is www.mckinney.com.

Janice Denoncourt
Deputy Director LLM

University News

NEW

University of Buckingham's MA in Global Affairs

The only professional training programme of its kind in the United Kingdom

The Department of Economics and International Studies is launching a unique professional skills training programme that is one of Buckingham's innovations.

Main areas of study will include international law and organisations, global governance, international economics and finance, the development of global society, security studies, international environmental politics and international negotiating.

The university is proud to welcome one of Buckingham's alumni, Dr. Charles Henn (L. Arts Hons '79), who will be teaching on this postgraduate programme together with Professors Martin Ricketts, John Clarke, Geoffrey Wood, Richard Langhorne and Dr. Deborah Davenport.

For information on this unique MA programme please contact Linda Waterman, International Studies Secretary, linda.waterman@buckingham.ac.uk Or visit our website www.buckingham.ac.uk/international/postgrad/

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM ALUMNI OF MALAYSIA

Fellowship gathering at Card Room, Royal Selangor Club, Jalan Raja, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at 6.30 pm on the following dates in 2006: 17th January; 21st March; 23rd May; 18th July; 19th September and 17th October.

The University of Buckingham Alumni of Malaysia and Hong Kong friendship and goodwill dinner at Kawloon Shangri-La, Hong Kong on Friday, **9th June 2006** jointly organized by the Alumni from Malaysia and Hong Kong (family and friends included)

(18th – 26th August 2006) The University of Buckingham Alumni of Malaysia and Mauritius friendship and goodwill dinner at Berjaya Le Morne Beach Resort, Mauritius on Saturday, **19th August 2006** jointly organized by the Alumni from Malaysia and Mauritius followed by stop over at Kenya (family and friends included).

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM ALUMNI OF MALAYSIA

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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:
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