



The Independent

University of Buckingham Alumni Magazine
Autumn 2012



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Welcome



have been renovated and are open for business again; and we have a healthy number of students at the University in the autumn term. The University continues to improve its offering to students both in terms of buildings and facilities.

We want in this issue of *The Independent*, as in the last one, to give you an idea of the research work being carried out at the University – on page 7 you will find an article by Justine Kibler about a pioneering breakthrough in the diagnosis of diabetes that is being conducted by the Applied Computing department jointly with the Clore Lab. The most interesting research is often at the intersection of disciplines and this

The University is having a good year – as you will see when you read this magazine. Both the Radcliffe Centre and Prebend House

particular piece of work is a good example of how academics in different subjects at the University are collaborating to achieve great results.

We want to give you a feel for some of the courses available to study at the University. Buckingham's Business School has become a powerhouse in the last few years, growing significantly in student numbers to the extent that it now rivals the Law School in size. One of its most innovative courses is the BA in Business Enterprise run by Nigel Adams which enables students to set up a company as part of their degree. Please turn to page 14 for an article by Diana Blamires on how one of the Business Enterprise students has fared since graduating.

Sadly, we have to report that the eminent Professor John Clarke is retiring after a long and distinguished career at Buckingham. One of the first of the young academics to land a job at the University, John has taught history for more than 35 years. Many alumni will remember him for his scholarship and wry humour – and, in

the 1970s for his bell-bottoms and kipper ties. Thankfully, he will be staying on at the University in a part-time capacity to teach postgraduate students and to give us all the benefit of his wisdom. Justine Kibler has interviewed him and her article appears on page 10.

This magazine contains a lot of news about alumni – an interview with Chris de Lapuente who took his life in his hands in recent months to try to reach the South Pole and another article about the interesting and ambitious jobs that some of our alumni are doing.

On page 18, you will find details of past and future alumni events. We hope that you will come to one of these to make contact with old friends, to connect with your *alma mater* and to find out how the University is doing. We would, of course, love to see you again.

Lucy Hodges

Director of External Affairs
& Development

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From the Vice-Chancellor



A new sector is being born by Terence Kealey

Here is an extract from an editorial from *The Times* of London for 27 July 2012:

The Government's decision to let Regent's College award degrees, making it the UK's first new private university in almost 40 years, introduces a welcome bit of extra competition into a [public] sector where there is far too little. It is no accident that the University of Buckingham, Britain's first private university, frequently comes top of the National Student Survey rankings – with the Open University not far behind. These institutions are relentlessly focused on the student experience, and they provide real competition to traditional providers.

Oxford is healthier for its competition with Cambridge. Harvard is healthier for its competition with Yale. But we at Buckingham have had no competition, ever. It's been lonely. But now, with the announcement that Regent's College is to become a university, we finally have a competitor (though, as with the rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard and Yale, ours is a friendly competition, in which we have more in common than not).

Indeed, since the Government has now also announced that colleges with only 1,000 students may apply to become universities, within a few years there will probably be several new independent universities in Britain. A new sector is being born.

How different from 15 years ago, when the independent sector was looking squeezed. Many of our alumni will remember how student numbers at Buckingham were small, but this was a problem that affected all the

independent institutions of higher education in Britain. Following the conversion of the polytechnics into universities, Britain went from having a shortage of university places to an excess, which hit the independent sector because we were then the only sector to charge fees. Among our independent peers that were thus forced to apply for funding from the Government were the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, Heythrop College of the University of London, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and Henley Management College. Now, however, with the levelling of the playing field over fees, the independent sector is flourishing.

We survived the hard times only thanks to our donors, who provided such generous gifts of land during the 1970s and 1980s that we could sell those acres and thus liberate capital. It is nonetheless gratifying to report that we have more than compensated for those sales by our recent purchases of six acres of land across the river behind Hunter Street and a further six acres in Gawcott.

We bear a massive responsibility to our alumni (who need their *alma mater* to be credible), our students (who need their education to be credible), our staff (who need security in employment), and to the local community (which is dependent on us as the largest employer). Without our major donations – and our minor donations which, collectively, have been transformative – we would have been bereft of the capital that has cushioned and nurtured us.

This year we came 16th in *The Guardian's* league table. Our Education department came 5th in its subject league table, and other departments did equally as well. We are flourishing indeed, but we would have been nowhere in recent years without the donations of the Brunner Charitable Trust, Dr Paul Davis, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Anthony Green, Robert and Dorothy Gregory, Sir Martin Jacomb, Lord Kalms, Brian Kingham, Edward Legg, the Catherine Lewis Foundation, Lord Sainsbury's Linbury Trust, Adrienne Maycock, Sir Christopher Ondaatje, the Edgar Palamountain Memorial Trust, the Radcliffe Trust, Lord and Lady Tanlaw, and Guy Weston, among others. We cannot thank them enough.

Buckingham has gone from being the Cinderella of higher education to its pathfinder, and the British Government's recent adoption of credible fees is a tribute to the success of our model. The burgeoning of the new independent sector is another tribute to our model. We have all been in this together over the last 36 years – staff, students and donors in a matrix of mutual support – but of these three categories, the donors are perhaps the greatest because theirs were unilateral gifts with only our gratitude in exchange.

University news

Exquisite restoration Prebend House reopens its doors

After an amazingly quick internal refurbishment, Prebend House, the handsome Grade II listed mansion on Hunter Street, has opened for business as a postgraduate centre for students and a research centre for academics. It – together with its adjacent Coach House – has been restored to a very high standard with new cornicing, fireplaces, staircase and panelling in the downstairs meeting room.

Because it is listed, the original features have been maintained but the interior decoration is contemporary, which gives the old building a wonderfully modern and sophisticated feel. “Together with Aylesbury Vale’s Historic Buildings Officer, we were trying to keep the historic integrity of the building but bring it up to today’s standards in terms of lighting, heating and audio-visual equipment,” says Clive Martin, the Estates Bursar who oversaw the restoration. “We were trying to get a balance between the old and the new.”

The architects Berman Guedes Stretton were responsible for both phases of the refurbishment: Phase 1, which was to secure the fabric and structure of the building to prevent further deterioration, and Phase 2, which was to upgrade the interior and renovate the Coach House. “The scheme provided high quality, modern, well-appointed accommodation, and has sensitively restored a key listed building back to its former glory,” said Roger Stretton, of Berman Guedes Stretton.

There were difficulties along the way. The rear wall of the Coach House, which has been converted into a studio flat for visiting dignitaries and professors, was found to be crumbling and had to be rebuilt, and the lift shaft was fitted into the main house only with difficulty.

The building is taking a long time to dry out because of the lime plaster required by the Historic Buildings Officer. Lime plaster does not meet modern standards of insulation, so the builders – Kinglerlee of Kidderminster – mixed lime with hemp, the first time that this method has been used in Buckinghamshire.

The University is grateful to Lord Tanlaw,



Round the table: The downstairs meeting room in Prebend House

the University’s Chancellor, for a donation which made the internal restoration possible, and to the Linbury Trust and the former Chancellor Sir Martin Jacomb for further donations for the building work. We are also grateful to Edward Legg for his bequest, which went towards Phase 1 of the building work.

Our thanks go to Mrs Pauline Brown, who runs the Buckingham Garden Centre, for her kind gift of grass seed and plants for the Prebend House garden; to the Buckingham Archaeological and Historical Association for its pledge of a bird bath; and to Mrs Carolyn Cumming who has pledged landscaping advice and hedging for the garden.

New dentistry school Applications invited from 100 globally

The University is establishing Britain’s first independent dental school with the Leicester Dental Teaching Academy.

Based in Leicester, it will be aimed at the global market and will take 100 students annually onto a five-year degree course. Students will be introduced to clinical work early on in their training and will be given a thorough grounding in business development, management and enterprise.

Once the school is established, the intention is to set up a charitable trust and to engage in research, as well as to award bursaries to promising students with limited means of support.

The new dental school will create employment in the city centre of Leicester in an area of economic regeneration and will provide free dental treatment to members of the public with limited or no income. It will be Leicester’s largest drop-in centre for dental services, open from 8am to 9pm.

“We are pleased to be pioneering a new dental school that will offer dental education internationally and dental services to the people of Leicester,” said Professor Terence Kealey, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buckingham.

Professor Stuart Morganstein, Dean of the new Dental School, said: “Our school will have a completely new and innovative course that will prepare students for a lifetime career. They will be stimulated to continue to learn and will be exposed to patient care throughout their training.



Professor Stuart Morganstein

Town and Gown come together Undergraduates go into primary schools

The University has a new policy of working more closely with the community and has already started forging close links.

It is now working with Aylesbury Vale District Council, the police and the AntiSocial Behaviour Unit to handle complaints.

The partnership has led to a range of measures including bringing in new contracts for students which require them to be good neighbours. University security staff numbers and patrols have been increased and the police and council are alerting us to problems. We are keeping them informed of issues. This makes handling problems faster and more effective. There are now regular meetings with representatives of the University, the town council and police.

The University has become a greater part of the community. A dozen students have been going into a local primary school to listen to children read and one member of staff has become a governor of the school.

Around 90 students and staff joined locals to celebrate the Olympic torch being carried through Buckingham.

The University has brought out a newsletter – *In The Loop* – to keep local people abreast of new developments. It is delivered to every household in the town.

Diana Blamires

PR/Community Liaison Co-ordinator

Take to the airwaves Radio station for staff and students

The University is on course to start its own internet radio station in the new year. Students and staff will be able to broadcast live or pre-record a mixture of music and talk radio that can potentially be heard all around the world.

The station will be run from the broadcasting studio in the Chandos Road Building under the supervision of the media and journalism department and will conform to Ofcom regulations and the necessary licensing rules.

Any student from whatever academic discipline can broadcast as long as he or she can produce a one-term broadcasting plan that is approved by the media department.

Roger Perkins, lecturer in journalism, said: “We’ll be purchasing the equipment in

January so shortly after we should be set up and ready to go. We look on this as a valuable resource for training broadcast journalists but equally as a resource that can give any student or staff member an outlet for his or her creativity.

“Anyone who wants to broadcast will have to present a plan and sign up to the same kinds of regulation that the professionals have to, but the emphasis will be on discovery and creativity.

“Personally, I’m going to bag a slot so that I can inflict my collection of vintage punk on the public. 1977, here we come.”

Become a garden scholar A Master’s bursts into flower

Buckingham has a unique Masters degree in the history of gardens and landscaping, beginning in October 2012 and based in London.

Directed by one of Britain’s leading scholars of garden history and landscape design, Professor Timothy Mowl, the MA by Research in Garden History will be the latest addition to the series of innovative graduate programmes launched by the University’s Humanities Research Institute.

One of the most innovative aspects of the programme will be its series of seminars and working post-seminar dinners, led by leading international scholars in the subject. These include Sir Roy Strong FSA, the gardening expert and writer, Anna Pavord, the English country house architect, Robert Adam, and Professor Stephen Bann, the art historian and landscape designer.

Subjects they will discuss in the seminars are the heritage, appreciation and preservation of gardens and landscapes.

These seminars, held in the elegant surroundings of the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall, will be followed by a reception and dinner at which students will have the opportunity to continue the discussion with the seminar speaker.

For further details about the MA please contact The Secretary for Graduate Admission, School of Humanities, University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG Tel. +44 (0)1280 820120.



Well read: a student listens to a child read

University news

High scores in the rankings Satisfied students bring results

The University has continued to perform well in the league tables published in newspapers and on websites. Buckingham came 16th out of 120 universities in *The Guardian's* 2013 league table which came out this year, the first time that the University has appeared in *The Guardian's* main league table. This has happened because we are now big enough in five subjects.

In *The Guardian's* subject tables, the University did well, coming 14th in English, thereby beating King's College London and Leeds; 17th in Economics, ahead of Queen Mary University of London, Leeds and Exeter; 20th in Psychology; 28th in Business; and 30th in Law.

Professor Alistair Alcock said: "We're delighted to have entered the main *Guardian* University Guide league table. Our 16th position reflects Buckingham's commitment to providing high quality teaching with small class sizes and close personal attention."

In *The Times's* Good University Guide, the University was ranked 41st and in *The Complete University Guide* it came 55th.

Buckingham does well largely because of its performance in the National Student Survey organised by the Higher Education Funding Council to keep its finger on the

student pulse. We came top again in 2011 – for the sixth year running – for student satisfaction, based on an average score over all the questions asked.

The *Complete University Guide* 2013 reported that Buckingham was ranked second in the nation for staff:student ratio.

Safest campus for crime University beats 102 others

Buckingham is the safest university in the country, according to the *Complete University Guide* which rates each university annually for the number of burglaries, robberies and violent crimes in their area.

The figures, which are calculated using data published by the Home Office and cover England and Wales, show that the University of Buckingham had only 0.8 crimes for every 1000 residents. It is therefore the safest university out of 103 in England and Wales.

Professor Terence Kealey, the Vice-Chancellor, said he was thrilled that Buckingham had the lowest crime rate. "We take the safety and security of our students very seriously. Earlier this year we doubled our security staff as a crime prevention measure and access to our buildings on campus can only be gained by a swipe card."

London universities fared worst for



Buckingham's green campus

safety, earning 18 of the top spaces in the league table for the highest crime levels. Manchester and Birmingham were also high.

Bernard Kingston, founder of the *Complete University Guide*, said that quality of tuition and prospects for employment were key elements for students in choosing a university course. "But it is important not to overlook other aspects of the environment in which the student will be living," he said.

The Playboy Prince A life of Edward VII, king of all the people

Professor Jane Ridley, the biographer and founder of the MA in Biography, has published a new book about the life of Edward VII.

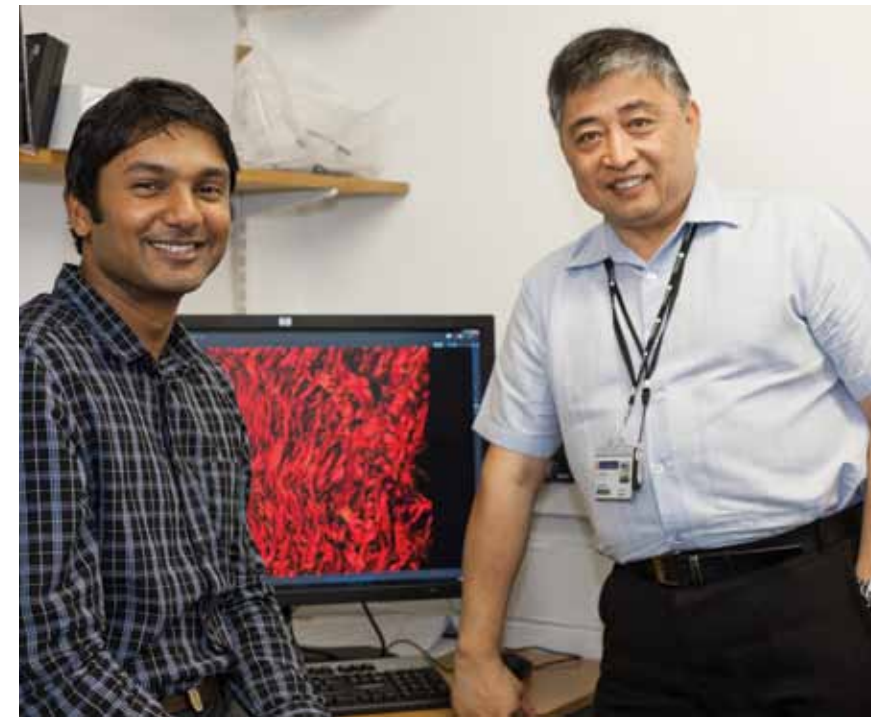
Known as the playboy prince, Edward VII was only king for the last nine years of his life. Denied any proper responsibilities, the heir to the throne spent his time eating, pursuing women, gambling, partying, and shooting pheasants. Professor Ridley's exhaustively researched biography draws on new discoveries and primary sources to give him due credit while painting a vivid portrait of the age in all its excess and eccentricity.

Professor Ridley will be talking about her book on 6 November as part of this term's Concerts and Lectures series. Other speakers include Lady Judge, a successful lawyer, who will be addressing the issue of nuclear energy on 26 October and alumnus Jan McCourt, who will talk about his struggle for life after a tractor accident on 13 November.

For more details please email concerts-and-lectures@buckingham.ac.uk.



Three cheers for our league table positions



Groundbreakers:
Dr Harin Sellahewa, left,
Mr Hongbo Du, right

processing technology research for several years. He has helped to develop successful facial recognition software. Content-based image retrieval for skin samples uses similar techniques to facial recognition. His main focus is to extract the features of the images of skin in terms of colour and texture.

Du is an expert in data mining. Nowadays computers hold vast amounts of information, and data mining uses computer software to try and find useful and previously unknown patterns and correlations within this information. For example, when the statistical data from the supermarket Sainsbury's was mined, it was found that on Thursdays 98 per cent of people who bought nappies also bought beer. Sainsbury's acted on that information, putting beer and nappies together in the same aisle. Amazingly, the sales of these products increased by 3 per cent.

Du is looking to use this technology to mine image data. Data mining comes into use for content-based image retrieval, in this case images of skin, because it is necessary to extract the small amounts of useful information within the large volume of data in the given image. Once the colours and textures of the skin have been extracted, Du can apply data mining techniques to identify which colours and/or textures are the fat cells, the epidermis, and so on. When the different components of the image are identified, the system will be able to measure their attributes – such as the thickness of each layer and number and size of the fat cells – and ultimately decide how diabetic the sample is.

"There are some promising results so far," says Sellahewa. "Our computer system can reasonably say which part of the image is fat automatically, and identify the layers of skin in all its variations. We are getting very close to being able to count how many of them there are automatically as well."

This system would revolutionise the way skin samples are diagnosed. "By making this process automated, hundreds of images can be analysed without human intervention," says Du. "Traditionally biological research was done by a technician manually doing measurements under a microscope. It's inaccurate and unrepeatable. Taking the human out of the loop will save a huge amount of time and money, and avoid many errors."

Though the research still has a long way to go, the team are very optimistic. "Information technology is moving very, very fast," says Du. "Just think of how far computers have progressed already. So ideas may not sound possible now, but they are likely to happen in the future. And gradually we are moving there; you push a little bit until you have accumulated enough to be ground-breaking."

Take the human out of the loop

Researchers are developing new ways to diagnose diabetes automatically
By Justine Kibler

Finding an image on a search engine like Google is simple; you type in the words that best describe it, known as the "keywords".

This method can, however, fall short sometimes, according to Mr Hongbo Du, lecturer in Applied Computing. "For example if the police have a CCTV picture of someone walking in the street, and they want to know if there are any details of this person on record, they can't rely on this type of keyword search because they know nothing about them – they just have a photo."

So, different search processes are needed, and for the last few decades computer scientists have been looking for a solution. Known as content-based image retrieval, this enables you to search for an image using another image. The search engine looks at the colours, textures, shapes, and so on, of the image you provide and then finds other images that closely match these attributes within its database of images.

While the idea of content-based image retrieval may seem modest, the applications of this technology are

ground-breaking. In the only collaboration of its kind, Mr Hongbo Du and Dr Harin Sellahewa have joined forces with researchers in the Clore Lab at the University in order to help them analyse photographs of diabetic skin samples.

"In an image of a vertical layer of skin, healthy and diabetic skin look quite different," says Du. "Our aim is to use image processing methods to segment the image in order for us to identify the thickness of the different layers in the skin. Then, based on that data, you can diagnose whether it is healthy or diabetic, and even how diabetic it is."

Sellahewa and Du are tackling this project using their two different areas of expertise. Sellahewa, a lecturer in Applied Computing, has been pioneering the department's biometric and image

The system would revolutionise the way skin samples are diagnosed

‘I almost reached the South Pole’

Jonathan Sale interviews Chris de Lapuente, explorer and businessman

Chris de Lapuente (Economics 1983) worked for Procter & Gamble for 27 years, retiring as Group President of the Global Hair Division in 2010. He was appointed CEO of Sephora Worldwide, part of luxury goods company LVMH. In December 2011 he took part in a two-month, five-man Antarctic expedition from the coast to the South Pole and back but was injured and flown back to England.

“What a disaster! I fell awkwardly on the ice and really bashed my arm and my knee. Then I made it a whole lot worse by trying to fall down a crevasse! Fortunately Richard, our team leader, grabbed me... but by my bad arm. I can ski with one arm, but not one leg. I hobbled along and we managed 33 kilometres but the result was that my knee ballooned up.

I had set off to try to accomplish one of my lifetime dreams: to ski to the South Pole from the coast and kite-ski back with the wind behind, 2,400 kilometres. I went to Finse in Norway to learn to kite-ski with a man who had set a world record of 500 kilometres in a day and we then had a practise run for the Antarctic adventure on the Great Slave Lake in Canada.

It's a beautiful sight, kite-skiing: a line of huge, multi-coloured kites in the air, all doing figures-of-eight. You move the kite through the air – you pull one arm in and let one arm out – and as the kite dips up and down it generates a force which pulls you along, like a centrifugal force. You have to travel together in case one of you breaks down. You can do 20 to 30 kilometres an hour.

But only seven days away from our destination, my dream of reaching the South Pole as part of an unsupported expedition ended. In my last week I had walked almost 100 kilometres while “buggered up”, hoping my injuries would somehow miraculously disappear. Then we had to stop due to a “whiteout” and the pain in my knee. My leg had swollen

up to the size of a tree trunk and even on maximum painkillers the going was very tough. We all agreed that I needed to be looked at by a doctor and we made the decision to call the plane. I was airlifted off and taken via the South Pole to Union Glacier [on the Antarctic coast]. On December 24 2011 at 4am I was carried onto a Russian cargo plane and departed Union Glacier for Punto Arenas, Chile. Certainly not the triumphant way I ever envisaged leaving Antarctica! Good news at the hospital, all the tests proving that things weren't as bad as initially thought.

At the University of Buckingham you didn't get the long summer holidays which you need for adventures. You only got two or three weeks and I would be off to Brazil where my parents lived at the time. Because of the four ten-week terms, you get through a three-year syllabus in two years – and it is also possible to have a damn good time! I originally wanted to go to the States for a two-year MBA, so Buckingham would have allowed me to finish in a total of four years instead of five if I'd gone to another university.

My father was Spanish, I grew up in Portugal until I was 11 and I went to boarding school, Worksop College in Nottinghamshire. There was a tremendous international feeling about Buckingham. Almost a microcosm of the world; I shared a house with a Nigerian guy and in my class there were people from Chile and Argentina as well as America, Malaysia, Germany, Spain, Greece and a couple of Hong Kong Chinese. The Brits were more vocal but not in the majority.

The University had only been going a few years and there were only a few hundred of us; there was a very family feeling about it. Most of us knew each other. I was the Vice-President of the students' union and raised money for the common-room.

Did my degree in economics help afterwards? At Procter & Gamble you didn't need to have a degree in economics but you could argue that for the first two years being familiar with business terms gave me a bit of an edge.



Thanks for the rest: the team take a break



Dressed for the part: Chris de Lapuente, far left and below

I graduated with a 2.1 when I was 20. I thought, “I could start earning money at once. Should I wait for my MBA?” I wrote to Procter & Gamble, one of the best marketing companies in the world. I did well at the interviews in London and was offered a job starting at the UK headquarters in Newcastle.

I started in Newcastle as assistant brand manager of Fairy Liquid and was there for seven years. Then I went to Spain as Marketing Director, followed by another stint as Marketing Director in Turkey. Then I was promoted to General Manager of Feminine Products Europe, based in Germany, and then back to the UK where for six years I ran the entire UK operation of P&G. My last job was as President of Global Hair Care which had a turnover of \$10bn. The next promotion would have involved moving to the group headquarters in Cincinnati but I didn't want to uproot the family again, so I retired after 27 years. I was the youngest President of a division and the youngest retiree!

I had a wonderful time at P&G. It is a true multi-national. I worked all over the world with people from all nations. The spirit of adventure in me was satisfied in moving around to different countries. (I met my wife

Jo in London when she was working for Saatchi & Saatchi, our 17-year-old boy Alex was born in Istanbul and Lottie, 15, was born in Germany.) But several years ago I did manage to go to the North Pole in a three-week gap between jobs at P&G. My idea was to do a lot of things like this when I retired. I sailed for 10 days around Greek islands, trekked up Kilimanjaro, skied

for five weeks in Courchevel and trekked up Aconcagua, the highest mountain in South America.

When Jo and I trekked up Kilimanjaro we met Bob Phillips, a retired schoolteacher who has done incredible things to help educate many poor children, in particular numerous HIV orphans in Mshiri village in the foothills. We would like to raise £50,000, which will make a massive difference to these children.

In April I became a CEO in LVMH, the world's largest luxury products company. The agreement was that I would have two months leave from November 2011. The owner of the company, interviewing me, was a bit gobsmacked: “Why are you punishing yourself like this?” Some people negotiate a salary, I negotiated time off for an adventure.

I have to admit that I'm totally disappointed that I didn't make the dream of skiing to the South Pole and back come true. That said, I've lived almost six weeks in Antarctica at temperatures from -18C to -25C and skied almost 700 kilometres unsupported. I've had a truly extraordinary experience which included certainly the toughest week of my life!



The History Man

Professor John Clarke, one of the University's most distinguished and long-serving academics, is retiring (or semi-retiring). Justine Kibler asks him whether he will be putting his feet up

John Clarke almost didn't come to Buckingham. As one of the cleverest students of his generation, he excelled in his degree and was elected to a Prize Fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford, in 1967. Not long after, in the early 1970s, he completed his doctorate on the social and economic history of the early 19th century. The world lay at his feet.

Any very brainy and conscientious young person has a lot of choice – and Clarke was no exception. He was introduced to the idea of a university that was independent of the state while he was at All Souls by the great Max Beloff, later Lord Beloff and Buckingham's founder and first Principal. At the time – the early 1970s – Beloff was becoming interested in the idea of an independent university and, unsurprisingly, was keen to sign up the talented new scholar to his scheme.

Clarke had his doubts about whether it was a good idea. But Beloff was determined to overcome them – and his opportunity came when the pair of them were stranded on a railway platform in the depths of one winter night.

"Max and I had met on Paddington Station platform late at night and travelled together," recalls Clarke. "He was saying

what a brilliant idea Buckingham was, but it wasn't really making that much impact. Then somewhere around Pangbourne the train caught fire and we had to get out. Standing on the platform, Max had another hour to tell me how wonderful Buckingham was, and I suppose by the end of it I'd given in. Max was not a charming man, but he was a very persistent man, and if he wanted something he would go on until he got it. He would wear people down, I suppose!"

Overnight Clarke's career took a very different turn. He gave up his Oxford career

The CV

Born Brackley, Northants

Educated Magdalen College School, Brackley; First Class degree, Wadham College, Oxford, 1964; DPhil, All Souls College, Oxford

Career Prize Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford; Dean of Admissions, Senior Lecturer in History, then Professor of History at the University of Buckingham

Books *George III* (1972), *England in the Age of Cobbett* (1977), *British Diplomacy and Foreign Policy* (1989)

and moved to Buckingham. It was a huge change for him but, in a sense, it was a return home because he had been born just a few miles away from Buckingham in Brackley.

Clarke remembers wandering round the streets and buildings that would later become the University of Buckingham. "They seemed to be, as I recall, in a pretty dreadful and run-down state," he says. "One had a feeling of a place that was interesting, but slightly down at heel in many ways."

His links to the area and to Buckingham, in particular, stretch back for generations. His great-grandfather was the village blacksmith at Lillingstone Dayrell and served the men of the Bucks Yeomanry, who later took over what is now the University's headquarters, the appropriately named Yeomanry House.

Clarke has history in his blood. It is as though he was born a historian. "As far back as I can recall I wanted to be a historian," he says. "I don't think I really seriously thought of anything else. I loved history at school and I spent a lot of time with my grandparents, who talked about life before the First World War almost constantly, and I greatly enjoyed that."



Speaking his mind:
John Clarke has never regretted his decision to work at Buckingham

few students – not very many, but a few – and a very interesting group they turned out to be."

Buckingham was full of colourful characters in the early days. In fact Clarke believes it was easier to be a character then, because today you are surrounded by so many rules and regulations that you can't really be an individual. He remembers, for example, Caryl Ramsden, a former diplomat who drank enormous amounts of Famous Grouse Whisky. "He had a great range of stories, though he never quite made it, and the opening lines were often 'When I was Number Two in Addis...'"

He recalls Phillip James, the lawyer, who had a second secret career writing novels under a false name, as well as a "very bizarre" guy called Jack Straw who was in charge of Accommodation. Of the latter, he says: "I never quite worked out what he was up to but he'd sort of hinted that he'd got intelligence connections."

He hastens to add that the University was not totally populated by eccentric madmen. "In some senses the great thing about Buckingham was that because money was tight you couldn't have too many passengers," he says. "We lived on a shoe string and we had a job to do – and if we didn't there was no sort of fall-back. So the vast majority of people did a good day's work."

Thirty seven years later, Clarke is just as devoted to Buckingham, and to history, as ever. His main project for the next five years is to write the history of the University. He plans to do less teaching to concentrate on this but doesn't want to give teaching up completely, so he is definitely not putting his feet up.

"I think that history is an extremely important and valuable subject to teach; to know about the past is an essential way to preserve the fabric of civilisation. And teaching in general is very rewarding. Plus, I've got several research students and I think I'll have to live to about 200 to see them finish."

Through all the University's ups and downs, Clarke has never regretted his decision to work at Buckingham. People have always been interested in the University, he says, but in the early days a lot of the interest was hostile. "One of the greatest pleasures of being at Buckingham is to have seen the tide turn our way."

"Academic freedom is a very precious thing indeed, and the transmission of a body of knowledge to students in a careful and reflective way is actually a very high calling. I wish I'd written more books, but I suspect I would have said that wherever I was. I'm certainly very proud to have spent most of my professional life at Buckingham, and I'm very glad I was detained by Max at the railway station."

"I think that history is an extremely important and valuable subject to teach; to know about the past is an essential way to preserve the fabric of civilisation"



Clarke had taught in a few other universities after completing his doctorate, but did not enjoy the experience. "They seemed to be really rather large and anonymous places," he says. "The students were regarded almost as an irritant rather than a *raison d'être* of the place, and I just didn't like that."

But, as one of the first members of staff, Clarke's first job was not teaching at all because there were no students. He was given the task of dealing with admissions. "It was a bit of a baptism of fire, really," he says. "At that time we didn't have a charter, we weren't quite sure what the qualification meant, and the fees were very high compared to everybody else."

"In many ways it was actually rather fun at the beginning, though, because few staff were here and there were no students."

There were some people who never really believed that there would be students at all – it was just an interesting project that would fade away.

"I actually stuck my neck out and said actually it *will* happen, and I think some of them were a little bit scared when they thought it might! But we got a

Racing to get ahead

Among our alumni are innovators, entrepreneurs and captains of industry. Liz Lightfoot talks to graduates at the beginning, middle and end of their careers

Making the world's highest phone call, setting up an innovative company to sell a niche product and becoming CEO of a FTSE 250 company – Buckingham alumni are determined to leave their mark.

They can be found breaking world records, forging successful careers in the arts, running charities and bringing new products to market.

Among the alumni are world record holders such as Rod Baber (European Business Management 1996), the climber who made the highest telephone call from the top of Mount Everest, and Sean Obedih, the refugee from Rwanda who has launched a range of innovative sticking plasters to match black and Asian skin tones. Sean is also the founder of a unique networking

forum to match entrepreneurs with suitable partners and investors.

Rubbing shoulders with royalty and the sons and daughters of millionaires at Buckingham in the 1980s was Mark Allen (Law 1986), a lorry driver's son from a council house in Stoke on Trent. Now he's the Chief Executive of Dairy Crest Group and the chairman of the Prince of Wales's Rural Action Programme.

They all have something in common – none went to university straight from school and that perhaps gave them a different perspective. "I liked Buckingham because it wasn't full of stereotypical students just out to have a good time," says Rod Baber. "There were people from all over the world wanting to get a good education to launch their careers."

Mark Allen

Law 1986

The man who runs Dairy Crest, Mark Allen, is a law graduate who left Buckingham in January 1986, intending to specialise in criminal law. Having secured a place at Guildford College of Law to complete his legal training the following September, he took a temporary job as a junior auditor with a firm of accountants.

"It opened my eyes to the world of business and I decided I didn't want to be a lawyer after all," says Mark. Instead he became an area manager with Shell, responsible for petrol stations in the south-east of England.

Five years later, in 1991, he joined Dairy Crest, the food giant, as a regional manager. In 2000 he was appointed managing director of the important cheese part of the business, in 2002 he joined the company's Board and in 2006 he got the ultimate promotion to Chief Executive.

Now 53 and on a salary of around

£750,000 a year, he has not forgotten his humble origins. "I am proud of my working class background," he says. "My father was a lorry driver and my mother worked in the pottery industry. We lived in a council house in Stoke and I left school at 16 to join the police force."

From bobby on the beat he moved into driving police cars and then, in a sharp change of direction, moved to Bermuda where he specialised in policing narcotics.

Perhaps because of his background he has empathy with the rural community and is the chairman of Prince Charles's Rural Action Programme. It encourages businesses to work together to improve the environment in which people live and work in the countryside.

"My degree from Buckingham was the key to the door. It gave me the qualifications to apply for my first job in retail and the confidence to make the career change," he says.



The Independent



Sean Obedih

Business Enterprise 2011

A refugee from Rwanda, Sean Obedih has had a lot to contend with. When he arrived in Britain he was put into a refugee centre in Weston-super-Mare. He was 19 and it took nearly eight years for the Home Office to sort out his case. He moved around the country finding a series of jobs until finally, in 2007, he was given leave to stay.

"It wasn't until I got my papers that I was allowed to do what I should have done when I first arrived, which was to catch up with my education. I read about the scholarship to study for a BSc in Business Enterprise at the University of Buckingham and applied," he said.

By that time he was already working on a business plan for skin-tone sticking plasters: "A friend's son came home from school in tears saying he had been bullied for wearing a white plaster on his forehead after an injury in the playground. We couldn't find any skin-tone plasters in the shops and I realised that here was something I could change."

He won the scholarship from SEGRO plc, the industrial property developers, and was able to develop his business as part of the honours degree.

The expense of getting the plasters to market was daunting for someone without family money or influential friends. After a struggle to raise funds, he managed to get them manufactured and sells them now through his Urban Armour website.

Meanwhile he has started another business called the Founders Hive; an online platform supported by a series of events he organises on the Google campus in London to bring entrepreneurs and inventors together with suitable partners and investors. Entrepreneurs present their business plans and have a chance to "speed date" with people who could bring expertise or funding. "After what I went through, the idea is to help people get a team together with the right expertise to be able to go out and look for funding," he says.



Rod Baber

European Business Management 1996

Now 41 and living with his wife and four children in Nailsworth, a Cotswold town in Gloucestershire, Rod says that he wanted to leave school and get a job as soon as he could. He was in his 30s when he decided to enrol at Buckingham to study French and business.

A keen climber he had a "Eureka moment" while working in the City. Relaxing in a bar with friends, he was asked which mountain he would climb next. "All of them," he pledged, and the Highest Challenge was born. He set out to ascend the highest summits of 47 European countries and entered the *Guinness Book of Records*, completing the climbs in 835 days, and beating the previous record by four-and-a-half years.

In May 2007 he set another world record when he made a mobile phone call from the top of Mount Everest. This was an incredible feat because he was 8,848 metres on top of the world, struggling for oxygen and battling high winds and temperatures of minus 30 that welded his lips with permafrost. He made two calls, the first to an answerphone set up by his sponsors, Motorola, and the second to his wife.

"Technologically it was a challenge," he recalls. "We needed to put up a mast and I had to make sure the battery didn't go flat."

Now he has turned his love of climbing into a business. He built the popular ZooRopia attraction at Bristol Zoo – a zip wire course that offers an aerial view of the animals. He also runs Head 4 Heights, an aerial adventure centre in the Cotswolds for schools, groups and families.

Over the last 18 months, however, his focus has been on his youngest daughter Amalie who suffered brain damage when she contracted a virus as a baby. He has set up a charity to raise money to help parents with brain-damaged children explore new ways of getting them back to health.

"You live on hope, you want things to change and you cannot give up. Amalie cannot see but we got her to smile. That makes you think you are helping in some way," says Rod who is writing a book on Amalie's struggle that he hopes will raise money for the cause.

Winds of change

Diana Blamires interviews an alumnus who took a unique degree at Buckingham and is putting into practice the skills he learnt

Sebastian Musil (Business Enterprise 2010) had a simple ambition when he applied to study Business Enterprise at the University of Buckingham. He wanted to raise £20m to set up a wind farm.

The BSc programme director Nigel Adams was delighted by Sebastian's drive and ambition and accepted him onto the course, one of only three in the world that requires students to set up a business as part of their degree and that gives them grants of up to £5,000 to help them get it off the ground.

"I wanted to find a way that people could reduce their carbon footprint and I felt the best approach was through business," says Sebastian, who was 19 when he applied to the University.

"The course enabled me to find a way of doing this. I first began to get interested in renewable energy when I was 17 and doing business studies A-level. I used to do whatever I could to reduce my carbon footprint, for example, cycling two miles to school."

Nigel Adams advised him to start with a small project. So, he joined forces with the Buckingham Green group – made up of local organisations – to produce a canvas bag for local people instead of plastic ones. He managed to drum up £1,000 from local businesses to pay for the manufacture of the bags and they were handed out free to shoppers.

"If I just wanted to make money, there are a lot of other businesses I could have gone into"

But the bags had more than one function: in addition to helping to save the planet they also promoted local businesses because they were emblazoned with the logos of organisations such as the *Buckingham Advertiser* and Aylesbury Vale District Council.

The success of the canvas bag project gave Sebastian the confidence to work on a scheme involving renewable energy during the second year of his degree course. He spent part of the £2,500 he had been given by the Business Enterprise course getting consultants to undertake a feasibility study to decide whether Tanlaw Mill could be powered entirely by water using hydro power from the river. The consultants decided it could. It would cost £100,000.

Nigel Adams was impressed with Sebastian's attitude. He recalls: "Right from the start Sebastian was quietly passionate and had a serious interest in renewable energy. He was very knowledgeable about it and the course enabled him to harness his enthusiasm to set up a business."

After graduating with a 2:1 degree Sebastian moved back to his family home in Cottingham, near Hull, and got together with another Buckingham Business Enterprise graduate, Alec Greenwell (Business Enterprise 2010), to begin work on setting up a wind farm. Alec's job was to search for investors; Sebastian looked for a site for wind turbines.

"The site has to be a long way from a residential area," says Alec. "It can't be near a forest or village and must have a good connection to the National Grid. There can't be any airports or low-flying aircraft. As there are many constraints, it takes a lot of research."

Sebastian found an area in Hull and paid



Business Enterprise: vital statistics

Students embark on the course in January and by May are required to produce a business plan. In June they are expected to start running their own business.

Founder members of the course include serial entrepreneur Bev James, who helps with training as part of the course through The Enterprise Business Academy, a collaboration of individuals and organisations.

The course has a 100 per cent success rate: all graduates are either employed or undertaking postgraduate courses.

Businesses set up as part of the course include one for digital signage for shops and businesses to advertise local services. This year one student has set up a business importing pearls and selling them online.

for a Screening Operation. This determines whether or not an expensive Environmental Impact Assessment is necessary. It was good news: the conclusion was that the assessment was not needed. But then the local council decided to build on the land, which meant Sebastian's research had been in vain and it was back to the drawing board.

Sebastian was philosophical. "At least we had only spent £2,000 on the Screening Opinion and didn't have to pay for the Environmental Impact Assessment which would have been extremely costly."

After the first abortive attempt Sebastian eventually found two other sites for wind turbines, both on an industrial estate outside Scunthorpe. He has signed exclusivity contracts with the owners of both sites and is now applying for planning permission.

Sebastian is hopeful. A wind farm containing eight turbines less than a

mile away was approved with no objections from planners or local people and Sebastian has been advised there are unlikely to be objections to his project. Each of the two turbines would be 125 metres tall and cost £2m. The money has been pledged by investors, so the omens are looking good.

Money is not, however, the driving factor for Sebastian. "If I just wanted to make money, there are a lot of other businesses I could have gone into," he says. "I am in favour of wind and wave power – and nuclear power is safer than people think."

The lessons that Sebastian learnt at Buckingham have been invaluable in helping him succeed. "Before I came to Buckingham I was very shy and nervous about making presentations. I had to do so many on the course that I learnt to do them confidently and I worked out how to act when meeting people.

"I didn't have many skills in diplomacy.

Young ambition: Sebastian Musil has wanted to set up a wind farm since the age of 18

I also knew very little about accounting. The degree course taught me to be realistic – setting up my own business was very good practice in being realistic."

Nigel Adams added: "He was unsure about presentations and accountancy when he began, but by the end he was confidently giving talks and handling his own business affairs. Being able to set up his own business as an integral part of his honours degree programme gave him the skills and confidence to set up a successful business and realise his ambition of setting up his first wind farm."

For Sebastian, one of the huge benefits of Buckingham is that it is small. "It's easy to make friends and the staff are very friendly and helpful. It was a nice place to study and it has helped me to make a success of my business."

Alumni news

Dinner with the PM

Chris Chown (Accounting and Finance 1981) runs an award-winning restaurant on the coast in North Wales and was amazed and flattered to find that David and Samantha Cameron wanted to book a table for eight people last Easter in his dining room. But it wasn't just the Prime Minister and his wife coming to dinner. Two security men occupied another table – and there were more outside. "They were very nice," says Chris. "David Cameron knew about my cooking and said that my reputation preceded me."

His restaurant, Plas Bodegroes, had a Michelin star for 14 years and has won plaudits from Egon Ronay, *The Good Food Guide* and *The Observer Food Monthly*. Situated in a lovely spot on the Pwllheli Peninsula, it occupies the ground floor of a Georgian manor encircled by a delicate veranda and looking out onto a lush lawn and wooded bluebell walk. Lambs bleat and cows moo in the nearby fields.

After graduating from Buckingham, Chris went into accounting but didn't find it creative enough so he got a job in a cookery school in Richmond run by a lady who knew Anton Mosimann. That gave him an entrée to the Dorchester – and the rest is history.

When he found Plas Bodegroes he realised how indebted he was to the

University of Buckingham. His degree course had taught him how to write a business plan. Armed with that, he was able to borrow £50,000 from a local bank in Wales and get his restaurant off the ground.

Crushed: My NHS Summer

Jan McCourt (Law 1982) is an investment banker turned farmer who has written a book, *Crushed: My NHS Summer*, published this year by the University of Buckingham Press. It tells the story about the day back in 2006 when he was left fighting for his life after he was crushed by a tractor on his farm on the border of Leicestershire and Rutland.

"You don't often get to read good news stories about the NHS but my experiences were positive," he says. "I wrote this book to try to get my head straight about it."

The ambulance crew who rescued Jan on the day his pelvis was crushed did not believe he would live, which is why he is dedicating the proceeds of the book to the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance. "I started the book after the accident but didn't have time to finish it until I had heart problems recently."

After a career in banking, working for Nomura and UBS among others, Jan became one of the first farmer/producers to



Jan McCourt: lived to tell the tale

open a stall at Borough Market in London. With the rare breed cattle from his farm, he built up an acclaimed business selling premium quality lamb, beef and pork. If you would like to buy some of Jan's meat go to his Northfield Farm website. If you would like to buy his book, contact Christopher Woodhead, Managing Director, University of Buckingham Press, Buckingham MK18 1EG. Direct: +44 (0)1280 828399 or email christopher.woodhead@buckingham.ac.uk

Tackling the threat of white collar crime

Security adviser Dr Shima Keene (Business 1990) has published a new book called *Threat Finance*, which aims to counter terrorist white collar crime.

Criminal and terrorist organisations are increasingly targeting victims indiscriminately around the globe through white collar and violent crime, according to Dr Keene. Her book offers new thinking to equip organisations, including the government, the military and corporations, with the knowledge and tools to use effective counter measures to tackle the threat. She brings together a variety of perspectives – cultural, legal, economic and technological – to explain the sources, mechanisms and key intervention methodologies. Her book is for sale on Amazon.

A former investment banker, corporate strategist and soldier, Dr Keene is a security adviser and scholar practitioner specialising in threat finance, advising and working closely with government and law enforcement agencies around the globe. Between 2004 and 2008 she was based at the Defence Academy in the UK and was Special Adviser to the Ministry of Defence.



Coreen Egege, above, Sue Sowerby, below



Holding the torch

Two Buckingham alumni had the experience of a lifetime this year by becoming Olympic Torchbearers.

Coreen Egege (LLM 2011), a legal adviser for a security company, carried the torch through Bletchingley. Born in Nigeria, she was one of only nine Nigerians to have been a torchbearer.

Her positive and helpful nature earned her a place in the Olympic team. While at Buckingham she spent much of her time caring for the elderly and initiated a programme to educate people about autism.

"It was amazing to carry the torch," says Coreen. "And I would not have had the opportunity if I did not enrol at my great *alma mater* at the time I did." Coreen has appeared on television channel BEN TV and in Nigerian newspaper *Vanguard* to comment on her experience.

Criminal lawyer turned charity worker Sue Sowerby (Law 1979) was Enfield's torchbearer. For the last five years Sue has

worked for the charity Walk the Walk, who raise money for breast cancer by arranging power walking marathons known as MoonWalks. To date the charity has raised over £80m, which has given grants for research, equipment and care for cancer patients.

Sue's daughter nominated her to carry the torch because of her 100 per cent commitment to her job and the cause. "I screamed with delight when I was chosen," says Sue. "The day itself was extremely hot and the crowds were unbelievable. I felt a sense of pride and humility rolled in to one and since that day I have taken the torch on visits so that youngsters can feel inspired." She has been featured in several London newspapers, including *Enfield Today*.

Sue invites all readers to take a look at the website walkthewalk.org and get involved with one of the upcoming challenges.

News in Brief

Okey Wali (Law 1984), a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, was elected as the new President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in July 2012. The NBA is the umbrella body of all lawyers admitted to practice law in Nigeria.

Sandra Ankobiah (Law 2008) is fast becoming Ghana's best-loved television personality and fashionista. She hosts the popular show *Fashion 101* and in August made a grand appearance at the Glitz Africa



Glitzy Sandra Ankobiah

Fashion Week, a new international event set to be one of Africa's most popular fashion shows.

Dato Zuraidah Atan (Law 1984), has been appointed a member of the board of governors of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), a public University based in Malaysia, in May.

Chris Fish (PGCE 2010) and his barbershop quartet have hit television screens in the UK this year. Known as the Quidco Quartet, they appear in a TV advert for Quidco, which can be viewed on ITV or YouTube.

Paul Davies (English Literature 1996) was part of a team that raced from Land's End to John O'Groats in 27 hours on a 110cc motorbike. The near-impossible feat was completed on 23 June to raise money for Monkey World, which cares for rescued and endangered primates. The team have raised over £1500 to date. Visit their site monkeybike2012.co.uk to read the full story.



On your bike: Paul Davies, far right



Chris Chown puts his arms round the PM and his wife

Alumni events

Summer Party at Speaker's House

Over 90 alumni, students and staff held their annual alumni party in the State Rooms at Speaker's House on 13 June 2012.

By kind invitation of the Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons, guests enjoyed catching up with old friends and chatting to members of staff. After a welcome by Mr Speaker, the Vice-Chancellor talked about how the University was flourishing and thanked Buckingham's former students, especially the early alumni who, in the founding years, were "the risk takers that have made Buckingham what it is now". Lorinda Long, Chair of the Alumni Association, encouraged alumni to stay involved with the University and to support it in any way possible.

After the reception some of the guests went on for supper at a nearby Italian restaurant where the conversation continued to flow and stories of the past added to the fun of the evening.

A big thank you to everyone who came!

Business Breakfast with Mark Allen

Success at work is down to luck and hard work, according to Mark Allen, Chief Executive Officer of Dairy Crest and a Buckingham alumnus.

Speaking at an Alumni Business Breakfast at the Athenaeum Club in London on 19 June 2012, Mark talked about his rise to CEO of Dairy Crest, a company with a turnover of £1.6bn a year and profits of £88m. To read more about Mark's story, please turn to page 12

Forthcoming

Breakfast with Bruce van Saun 9 October 2012

We are delighted that Bruce van Saun (Occasional, Bucknell 1977), Director & Group Finance Director of RBS will be speaking at the next breakfast. This will be held on 9 October 2012 at the Athenaeum Club in Pall Mall, London.

If you are interested in attending please email anne.matsuoka@buckingham.ac.uk and/or alumni@buckingham.ac.uk. More Alumni Breakfasts are planned for the future. If you would like to register your interest, or suggest someone you would like to hear speak, please email alumni@buckingham.ac.uk.

The breakfasts, held three or four times a year, are supported by the UBAA, and are an excellent opportunity for networking.

First Alumni Years Group Dinner (1976-80)

Thursday 18 October 7 for 8pm

The first of a series of annual dinners for our alumni will begin with the years 1976 to 1980. The dinner, for anyone from those years, will take place at the Royal Overseas League (ROSL), Green Park, London in the Hall of India and Pakistan on 18 October 2012.

The Vice-Chancellor will host this event, and will speak to the guests. Some lecturers from that period are attending, including



The Vice-Chancellor chats to alumni

Professor Sir Alan Peacock, Professor Peter Watson, Mike McCrostie, Eddie Shoesmith and Professor Jane Ridley.

Next year we will be inviting those alumni who were at Buckingham from 1981 to 1985. If you fall in that year group, please let us know.

Carol Service 5 December 2012

The UBAA are arranging for 30 spaces to be available for alumni at a Carol Service to be held in St John's in Smith Square, London on Wednesday, 5 December.

Lady Rose Luce (wife of Lord Luce, former Vice-Chancellor) will be singing in the choir and is looking forward to seeing you there.

Summer Party 2013

We are beginning to plan the alumni summer party in mid-June next year with the support of UBAA. We have mooted a few ideas and a reception and dinner at the House of Lords was the favourite choice, which we have provisionally booked for Friday 28 June.

Another idea, a weekend in Buckingham, would need a lot of support from alumni in terms of organisation and attendance, but if you think this would be a good idea for 2014 please email alumni@buckingham.ac.uk. The event would take place on a Friday and/or over the weekend.

Further details about the 2013 event will be circulated as soon as possible.

Anne Matsuoka

Head of Alumni and Graduation
Telephone: +44 (0)1280 820338
Email: anne.matsuoka@buckingham.ac.uk



Caroline and Christina Kirkpatrick (History of Art and Heritage Management 2001).

Alumni announcements

Births



Congratulations to **Sophie Steers (Sophie Gadsby Law 2006)** and her husband Brian on the birth of their daughter Poppy Isabella Steers on 23 June 2012.



Saphia Laushi Dzarma (LLM 2008) gave birth to her first baby on the 6 January 2012. Her name is Alysha Hannah Mshelia.



Paul Davies (English Literature 1996) and his wife Yvette welcomed their daughter, Laila Wynne Davies, into the world on 12 July 2012, weighing 7lbs 11oz.

Deaths

Sir Rhodes Boyson, former Conservative MP for Brent North and honorary graduate, died on 28 August 2012 aged 87 following an illness. "Sir Rhodes Boyson was a doughty defender of independence," says Professor Terence Kealey in *The Times*.

"When in 1983 the University College of Buckingham applied to the Privy Council for a Royal Charter as a full university, it was Sir Rhodes who, as a minister in the Department of Education, shepherded the process successfully against the statist inclinations of his own Department and indeed against the statist inclinations of the rest of the sector."

Professor E A French died on 17 July 2012. He was an external examiner of the University in the 1980s and served as a member of the University's Academic Advisory Council for many years.

Known as a man of great integrity, he leaves his wife, Lillias, three sons and two grandchildren with two more on the way.

Darnton (Don) Holister, the former consultant architect to the University and Honorary Graduate, died on 10 August 2012 aged 84. Having served as a bomb disposal officer in the Royal Engineers, he trained at the Birmingham School of Architecture before winning a scholarship to take his Master of Architecture at Harvard.

Mr Holister's vision resulted in the academic aspirations of the University's

founders being translated into the lovely campus which is acknowledged as being one of the strengths of the Buckingham experience. One of his legacies is the Anthony de Rothschild building.

Michael Hornigold, a Biography MA student, died after a long battle against oesophageal cancer on 30 June 2012. In 1989 Michael undertook a BSc in Business Studies at Buckingham and for the next 20 years he worked for insurance, training and financial advisory companies.

Known for his quiet demeanour and sense of humour, Michael dealt with his illness in a brave and dignified fashion. He will be sadly missed by all as a generous friend, brother, uncle and great uncle.

Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge died peacefully in hospital on 5 July 2012 aged 78 with his wife Janet, daughter Anna and son-in-law Simon at his side, after a long illness. He was the long-serving chief executive and chairman of British Airways and president of the CBI. He was awarded an Honorary Degree (DSc) in 1990.

Linda O'Halloran (History of Art and Heritage Management 2001) died of cancer on 4 July 2012. Linda had taught history at a special needs girls' school before coming to Buckingham. She had enrolled on the Art History and Heritage Management course in 1999 to celebrate

her five years of being cancer free and was awarded a First Class Honours degree.

Linda will best be remembered for her warm friendship and wickedly funny wit. says Cindy Jansz, a close friend and Buckingham alumna.

For complete obituaries please go to:
buckingham.ac.uk/alumnet/obituaries

Lost alumni

If you know how to contact the following, please email the Alumni Office at alumni@buckingham.ac.uk

- Mr Idris Akande Law, 2010
- Mr Ray Barnard, Law (Part-time) 2004
- Mrs Haifa Hajjar Najjar, Transformation Management 2004
- Dr Maqbouleh Hammoudeh, Transformation Management 2004
- Mr Malick Jallow, Law 2007
- Mr Muhammad Khan, Law 2010
- Miss Shushan Wang, Business Studies with Information Systems 2004
- Mr Junaid Abdul Karim, Accounting and Financial Management 1991
- Mr Dimitre Abgouzov, Business Economics 2002
- Mr Christopher Akerele, Economics 1978

Alumni Annual Fund



Help us to remain at the top in the National Student Survey by donating to the following projects:

- A student social venue
- Extra sports facilities
- Equipment for the Radcliffe Centre
- Outside seating

In the last year we have raised money for the following items:

- Sound and lighting equipment for the Radcliffe Centre
- Gazebos for the SU
- Video cameras for student weekly news blog

Many thanks to all our alumni who have contributed

To donate, go to extranet.buckingham.ac.uk/alumnet/ubf-aaf.aspx

To register your interest, please fill in the form below:

Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone
Email

Please return this form to:

The University of Buckingham
Development Office
Buckingham
MK18 1EG
UK

Telephone

+44 (0)1280 820210

Email

development.office@buckingham.ac.uk