

Graduation 2014

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH

*1<sup>st</sup> Ceremony*

Chancellor, Baroness Rawlings, Sir Gordon and Lady Jewkes, Dr Robert Vanderplank the Chairman of Council, Professor and Mrs Keith Mansford, Dr Paul Davis, the Revd and Mrs Jeffrey Bell, Professor Robert Pearce, Dr Philip Smith, Mr Chris Smith, Mrs Pat Brook,

*2<sup>nd</sup> Ceremony*

Chancellor, the Viscount Monckton, Dr Ruprecht von Heusinger, Dr Robert Vanderplank the Chairman of Council, Mrs Brigitte-Karin von Heusinger, Mr Robert Tomkinson, Emeritus Professors Peter Cooke and David Pendrill, Mr Lawrie Drury, Ms Emma Boustouler, Ms Chris Elliott,

*3<sup>rd</sup> Ceremony*

Chancellor, Lord Lieutenant Sir Henry and Lady Aubrey Fletcher, Lord Scott, Dr Robert Vanderplank the Chairman of Council, Professor Mary Beard, Dr Paul Davis, Dr and Mrs Keith Elliott, Mr Martin Shenfield, Mr and Mrs Tom Merrick,

*4<sup>th</sup> Ceremony*

Chancellor, Mrs Helen Nellis the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Prince Oyinlola and guests, Professor Sir Fred Crawford, Sir Ivan Lawrence, Dr Vanderplank the Chairman of Council, Councillor and Mrs Michael Rand, Councillor Ruth Newell the Mayor of Buckingham and Mr Robert Munday, Mr William Underwood, Mrs Gillian Miscampbell, Mr and Mrs Robin Hollington, Mr Roger Jefcoate, Mrs Charlotte Walsh, Mr Guy Walsh, Mr Barney Walsh, Ms Anna Pichowski, Mr Chris Smith,

*5<sup>th</sup> Ceremony*

Chancellor, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Mustafa Mujezinovic and Mrs Mujezinovic, Dr Hermann Hauser and Dr Pamela Raspe, Dr Vanderplank the Chairman of Council, Mr William Underwood, Mr Emir Ganic, Mrs Fahwar Ganic, Miss Emina Ganic, Miss Joan Hall,

... and most importantly you - our current graduands and your parents, families and friends - welcome! And thank you for coming here today.

Today is a very special day. After a serious period of serious study, which for many of our students has been in a foreign country, often speaking a foreign language, our students are graduating here today, and you have come – from all four corners of the world - to support them. On their behalf I thank you. But on behalf of the University, too, I thank you, because when you support our students you are also supporting us.

We are met today as the Convocation of the University, Convocation being the meeting of the whole University, namely all of its graduates and staff. Convocation, therefore, is like the annual general meeting of a company, during which the senior offices of the company report to its shareholders. Here therefore let me report on the last year's events to you, our stakeholders.

You will be pleased to know that the University is doing well. After a series of record entries, we now have some 2,000 students, which is as much as we have ever had in our history. The symbol of our progress is, I think, the permission to proceed with the medical school that we have received from the General Medical Council, which regulates medical education in this country. Only the best British universities possess medical schools, and we intend to be recognised as being amongst the best British universities.

To accommodate the medical school we are refurbishing the Chandos Road Building, and that is not the only upgrade to our facilities we are planning for this upcoming year. To improve our accommodation we are refurbishing Hailsham House the way last year we refurbished Sunley House, which I think people agree was a success. And we have also bought the football field that lies across the river from the Tanlaw Mill. So we trust that these improvements to our fabric will ensure the students' increasing satisfaction with our facilities.

We have also bought the beautiful house known as Walnut Yard in Church Street. These two purchases, of the football field and of Walnut Yard, were made possible only thanks to generous gifts from supremely generous donors, and next year in my speech to Convocation I shall describe those donors in detail.

The growth of the University - in terms of reputation as well as physically - has been real in recent years, as is confirmed by our position in the National Student Survey (of satisfaction) and in the employability tables. Here is *The Times Good University Guide 2014* and on page 30 it shows that we are one of the top 5 British universities for both student satisfaction and graduate employment.

We do well in the NSS because you, the students, vote us there, and we thank you for that, but let me also say that if there was a National Lecturers' Survey of satisfaction, we would also come top, because you - the students - are so delightful, courteous and serious. You are a pleasure and a privilege to teach. And you are also, clearly, a pleasure and a privilege to employ, and you do so well in employment because, I think, the two-year intensive degree course is a grown-up course that encourages grown-up behaviour.

### *1<sup>st</sup> ceremony*

Over the last year the School of Humanities has continued to grow both in size and reputation. More than one thousand students are now registered, spanning the Departments of Education; Economics and International Studies; Arts, Literature and Languages; and the London MA Programmes.

During the year several new members of staff joined the Department of Economics and International Studies. Dr Paul Graham has been appointed as a Senior Lecturer and Programme Director in Politics and International Studies, and as well as overseeing the Politics modules for undergraduates offered within the Department he is further developing our graduate MA Global Affairs programmes in Prebend House. Dr Mogha Bassim has joined the Department as a Lecturer in Economics, and she is giving modules in Econometrics and Quantitative Techniques. These appointments underline our commitment to the development of Social Science at the University and to building our reputation as a significant centre for teaching and research in Political Economy and Public Policy.

Many of our students go on to further study at other universities, and six internships in Economics have been introduced to enable some of our best students to gain experience of postgraduate research work. Dr Juan Castaneda and Dr Ali Kabiri have devised the scheme which provides them with research help and which enables the students to build their skills in advance of further graduate level study. Through the efforts of Dr Castaneda the University has also signed an agreement with Santander Bank which will enable students and staff to benefit from scholarships, travel bursaries and internships over a three year period. We look forward to taking advantage of the international contacts that joining the Santander network will bring.

*Dickens Journals Online*, the English Department's freely available digital resource, currently used in 154 countries worldwide, clocked up its millionth page view on 1<sup>st</sup> March which is – for a University research project – a significant milestone. Judith Allnatt, who teaches on our Creative Writing modules, had her third novel *The Moon Field* published by Harper-Collins in January. I have read it and I confirm that it is a good and timely book. The

English Department was also pleased to welcome its second cohort of students from Soka University in Tokyo onto the English Studies for Teaching programme. We very much value our strengthening links with Soka, which have been facilitated by Mr Kazuhiro Tobisawa, a graduate of this University and currently a research student in our Law School.

The Journalism Department has been able to develop its offering thanks to a generous donation by Sir Ray Tindle of Tindle Newspapers of ten state-of-the-art professional digital video cameras, which are now at the heart of all University news gathering and film making. Sir Ray's donation has also enabled the Chandos Road studio to be remodelled to include a web radio station. Broadcasts are scheduled to start in the summer, supplementing the video news bulletin that goes out every Friday. One viewer in the US was so impressed with the news of Buckingham life that he signed up as a student at this university. We look forward to a deluge as our broadcasts get bigger and better!

In Art History we are developing important relationships with institutions such as English Heritage, the Royal Collection, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. In September, the University will be collaborating with Waddesdon Manor and with London's oldest commercial art gallery, Colnaghi, in a major conference on art dealing in the early twentieth century.

It was five years ago that I reported how we had been able to restore the teaching of Art History at the University thanks to the wonderful generosity of the Fairbairn Foundation: so in 2009 we revived the MA in Decorative Arts in London, where we are grateful for the support of the Wallace Collection, and in 2011 the teaching of undergraduate Art History returned to Buckingham. Today's ceremony is a very special one because it marks the graduation of the first cohort of BA Art History students.

And finally let me note that the Modern Foreign Languages department continues to flourish: we congratulate Dr Karine Deslandes on the publication last December of her book *Regards Francais sur le Conflit Nord-irlandais* – a study of the French media's image of the Northern Irish conflict.

Achievements such as these do not appear by chance, and Professor Martin Ricketts the Dean of Humanities, and Mr Julian Lovelock the Dean of Arts and Languages, have done a fantastic job in leading the School, as have its heads of department and course directors including Mr Gerry Loftus, Mr Mike McCrostie, Professor Saul David, Professor Alan Smithers and Mr Peter Ireland, and we are hugely grateful to them.

## *2<sup>nd</sup> Ceremony*

Over the last four years much of the growth of the University can be attributed to the growth of the Business School, which has doubled in size during this period. The undergraduate management programmes have grown particularly strongly, and much of that success can be attributed to Mr Eddie Shoesmith's leadership of those programmes. Mr Shoesmith retired last October and he is sorely missed.

We continue to be proud of our Business Enterprise programme, the first of only three such undergraduate programmes in the world, which has more than 30 students running some intriguing businesses. These include "Packs for Uni" providing very popular kitchen, bedding and personal items especially designed for overseas students arriving at Buckingham. There is also a BBE student business that imports rum from the Seychelles, one that sells a Concrete Patching System, and one that sells e-Shisha. We even have a business that will export high quality chicken stock to China. One BBE graduate runs a business producing and exporting wooden mice for computers, and another is helping other start-ups to succeed.

Nigel Adams, the energetic Programme Director for Business Enterprise, has developed superb links in the entrepreneurial sector, with involvement in the National Association of College and University Entrepreneurs (NACUE), Enterprise Educators, and enterprise conferences. Nigel was recently invited to present our BBE programme to Babson College in USA, which is one of the world's centres for entrepreneurship education.

We have also had an inspiring visit by Lord Young of Graffham, the Prime Minister's Special Adviser on Start-up and Growth Businesses, whose recent government reports, such as *Make Business Your Business* in 2012 and in 2013 *Growing Your Business* are both of significance for our young entrepreneurs. Lord Young is encouraging closer links between business schools and small and medium size businesses to encourage growth.

There has been significant growth in recent years in numbers of students on our postgraduate programmes, thanks to the hard work of Deba Bardhan-Correia and Drs Gurcharan Singh and Robin Burrow. We continue to add to our portfolio of programmes, with the introduction this year of the MSc in Financial Service Management. We are also currently in the process of finalising a new MBA programme to meet the needs of business students and businesses in these fast-changing times.

The MSc in Lean Enterprise, introduced in 2013, continues to go from strength to strength under the direction of John Bicheno, John Darlington and Dr Pauline Found. This is a two-year, part-time programme specifically designed for managers in the area of operations. The

typical age of participants is 30s and 40s, and all participants have considerable commercial experience and are contributors as well as recipients. Students in this year's second cohort represent businesses such as the Royal Mint, Boston Scientific and Copenhagen University Hospital.

The first Buckingham "Lean" Conference took place in Milton Keynes in July 2013, attended by 200 industry leaders. Overseas speakers included three from the USA (Dr Gwendolyn Galsworth, Dr David Mann and Patrick Graupp – all leading authorities in Lean enterprise), and a Shingo prize winner from Sweden, Christian Houborg.

In November we hosted the first ever UK workshop on "Factory Physics" with one of the originators of the concept, Dr Mark Spearman. Factory Physics is a new, breakthrough, approach to factory management.

And this year, the Business School is set to launch a new MSc programme in 'Continuous Improvement in the Public Sector'. This is aimed at senior managers from the public sector who intend leading 'Lean' initiatives.

Sales of John Bicheno's book *The Lean Toolbox* exceeded 100,000 copies late in 2013, and in 2014 the second edition of John's book *The Lean Games Book* is due for publication.

The Chartered Institute of Marketing Study Centre was launched at Buckingham in 2009, and it now has forty-two students and offers five different courses. The School is intending to extend the range of professional qualifications and executive development courses, and over the last few months a new initiative, the Buckingham Business School Centre of Professional and Executive Development (CPED), has emerged. Our intention is to bring the strengths of the Business School closer to the needs of the local business community by providing a range of business and management-related training and development opportunities. It is also our ambition to provide even more opportunities for our students to gain experience of employment.

2014 sees the successful graduation of the third cohort to complete our Professional Certificate in Management. Students from the Manheim organisation, which operates in the automotive sector, have combined work with study over the last year to develop their management skills. They should be congratulated as it is not easy to balance a full-time job with study.

To help handle our growth and our new ventures, the School has welcomed several new members of staff this year, including Dr Anwar Halari, Dr Eleftherios Filippiadis, Dr Juliette Smeed, Dr Melissa Cole, Mr John Spoerry and Ms Marijana Baric.

And it is good to report that the School's research has been re-invigorated in recent years. Amongst our peer-reviewed papers last year were Dr Anwar Halari's "Investigating Calendar Influence in the Karachi Stock Exchange" in the *International Research Journal of Finance and Economics*, Dr David Ferguson's paper on "The Fractional Chromatic Number of Cubic Graphs" in the *European Journal of Combinatorics*, Dr Filippiadis' paper "Using the allocation of emission permits for strategic trade purposes" in the *Journal of Regulatory Economics* and Dr Singh's papers "The Effects of OPEC Conference Announcements on Oil Prices" in the *European Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Science* and "Strategic Innovation of Professional Accounting Firms to Compete Globally" in *Actual Problems of Economics Journal*.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Ceremony**

This ceremony is for postgraduates in the humanities and in business. Over the last year the School of Humanities has continued to grow both in size and reputation. More than 1000 students are now registered spanning the Departments of Education; Economics and International Studies; Arts, Literature and Languages; and the London MA Programmes.

In the Department of Education numbers on all the courses are larger than ever. Today over 500 serving teachers are taking part on our various programmes, yet ten years ago we started with an intake of just 12. This year we have pioneered a new Certificate in Middle Leadership for established teachers wishing to develop their skills and to move into leadership roles. With 27 students and excellent reviews we anticipate that this will grow and become a valued method of fostering the leadership qualities necessary for success in teaching. Meanwhile our Masters Course in Educational Leadership was praised by Michael Gove the Secretary of State for Education, when he visited Buckingham and took part in a lively discussion session.

In International Studies, graduate work takes place in the attractive surroundings of the newly refurbished Prebend House. Here our Advanced Studies seminar programme, under the direction of Professor Anthony Glee, continues to bring leading figures to the University including Lord Powell of Bayswater (foreign policy advisor to Mrs Thatcher); the Right Hon Hazel Blears MP (former Home Office Minister); and many others. The Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies continues to gain in reputation, and it is used as a source of expert advice and comment not only in the international media but by official bodies such as the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament. An outreach programme has been developed with the Academy of the German Intelligence Service, with staff of both institutions giving lectures and seminars in Munich and in Buckingham.

Our MA programmes in London continue to expand and to attract excellent speakers and first rate students. This year we launched a programme in the *History of Art: Renaissance to Modernism* in association with the Royal Academy of Arts and under the directorship of Michael Prodger and Martin Gayford. Later this year we will add a programme in *Archaeology* that will take advantage of the work being undertaken in Amesbury, near Stonehenge, by David Jacques, a Senior Research Fellow at the Humanities Research Institute. Excavations at Vespasian's Camp have uncovered evidence of Mesolithic occupation over many millennia before Stonehenge was built. David Jacques and his team are unearthing artefacts and other material that are transforming our understanding of Stonehenge, and students on the new MA programme will be able to gain practical experience on this important project. None of these developments would have been possible without the work of Professor John Adamson, who has led the Humanities Research Institute from its founding, who acts as Director of the London MA programmes and who has successfully attracted financial support for its expanding activities.

In the Business School, it is good to report that there has been significant growth in recent years in numbers of students on our postgraduate programmes, thanks to the hard work of Deba Bardhan-Correia and Drs Singh and Burrow. We continue to add to our portfolio of programmes, with the introduction this year of the MSc in Financial Service Management. We are also currently in the process of finalising a new MBA programme to meet the needs of business students and businesses in these fast-changing times.

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#### *4th Ceremony*

It is good to report that this year we are graduating a record number of Law students with a record number of 1sts. Gaining a good degree requires not only ability and talent, but hard work, commitment and dedication. We are very proud of your successes. We are also proud that, like previous cohorts of Law students, you will be going out across the world, taking with you the particular values of the common law system and, we hope, applying them both inside and outside legal practice. It is also good to report that the *Guardian* League Table last year showed Buckingham Law School having the best employability record of any English or Welsh Law School, better even than Oxford or Cambridge. Unlike so many other Law Schools in this country, Buckingham is still producing graduates who get into practice and other professional positions.

Inevitably a large mature School like Buckingham Law School sees staff coming and going each year. This year saw the retirement of one of our longest serving staff members, Jennifer Shearman. We will miss her calm advice and manner, particularly in her additional role as Tutor for Undergraduate Studies. We miss our staff when they leave, so it is particularly good to report on how many staff never do leave completely. Two retired Deans, Charlotte Walsh and Professor Robert Pearce, still come back and teach on a part-time basis, Professor Alistair Alcock has returned as Dean, a post he last held over a decade ago, and three other former Deans, Professor Susan Edwards, Jae Sundaram and John Halladay still teach full-time in the School.

One of the longer term strategic goals of both the University and the School is entry into the national Research Excellence Framework, and it was very pleasing to note how many members of staff would have qualified for entry had the University been part of the current exercise. It is invidious to pick out particular publications over the last year, but to show the range of output, let me mention...

Professor Bob Watt's work of the reform of electoral law including the publication by the Law Commission of his *Reflections on a New Structure for the United Kingdom's Electoral Law*.

Professor Judith Bray, who was awarded a Personal Chair this year for her continuing publications on Land Law and Trusts, including three new editions of her books and an article in the last twelve months alone.

Professor Susan Edwards who, in addition to being Deputy Dean, continues to edit the School's *Denning Law Journal* which this year contained articles from three current members

of staff, Professor Alistair Alcock, Dr Carol Brennan and Karen Dyer, and one retired member, Dr Mary Welstead.

Professor John Hatchard has just published a major new book *Combating Corruption: Legal Approaches to Supporting Good Governance and Integrity in Africa*.

The Dean, Professor Alistair Alcock continues to edit and contribute to *Gore-Browne on Companies*, a leading practitioners' book in the area.

Dr Carol Brennan has produced two new editions of her books on the *Law of Torts* and Jae Sundaram has written an article on India and Pharmaceutical Patents.

Two of the newest and youngest members of staff, moreover, Natalie Pratt and George Mawhinney, have produced articles on respectively *Religious Freedom* and the *Criminality of Contagion*.

In the last 12 months, the School hosted two important conferences; in May, a conference on the Rights of Indigenous People, organised by Dr Sarah Sargent, and in October, a conference to launch the University of Buckingham Centre for Extractive Energy Studies, organised by Professor John Hatchard and Hephzibah Egede.

Our Honorary Graduates and Visiting Professors continue to give the School active support. Lord Scott, a retired Law Lord, and his wife were Guests of Honour at the Law Ball and Sir Ivan Lawrence gave an inspiring talk to the students on the Art of Advocacy.

And finally let me thank two students, Enyinnaya Uchenna-Emezue, the recent President of the Student Law Society, who organised the sell-out Law Ball at Stowe, and Jannis Bille, who represented so effectively, the students at School and University level.

### ***5th Ceremony***

Today's graduation ceremony celebrates the achievements of our postgraduate students. Our LLM in International and Commercial Law continues to produce very pleasing results with 4 students obtaining Distinctions this year. Gaining a good degree requires not only ability and talent, but hard work, commitment and dedication. We are very proud of your successes. We are also proud that, like previous cohorts of Law students, you will be going out across the world, taking with you the particular values of the common law system and, we hope, applying them both inside and outside legal practice.

Inevitably a large mature School like Buckingham Law School sees staff coming and going each year. This year saw the retirement of one of our longest serving staff members, Jennifer Shearman. We will miss her calm advice and manner and her contribution over the years to the LLM in particular.

But no School can afford to rest on its laurels. The legal world is changing rapidly, both here in the UK and around the world. Law students are going out into an increasingly competitive market place. In the last year, the School has been reviewing its programmes, their assessment, and contents. The introduction of two new modules on the LLM, Marine Insurance and Securities Regulation will allow us to offer a Financial Services specialism next year. However, the changes are evolutionary rather than revolutionary, because we are very conscious that, unlike a number of other Law Schools in this country, Buckingham is still producing graduates that do managed to get into practice and other professional positions, as highlighted by the Guardian League Table last year which showed Buckingham Law School having the best employability record of any English or Welsh Law School, better even than Oxford or Cambridge. The other striking trend in the School is the rising number of research students.

Indeed, one of the longer term strategic goals of both the University and the School is entry into the national Research Excellence Framework, and it was very pleasing to note how many members of the Law staff would have qualified for entry had the University been part of the current exercise. It is invidious to pick out particular publications over the last year, but to show the range of output, let me mention....

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Our Honorary Graduates and Visiting Professors continue to give the School active support. Lord Scott, a retired Law Lord, and his wife were Guests of Honour at the Law Ball and Sir Ivan Lawrence gave an inspiring talk to the students on the Art of Advocacy.

Undoubtedly the most important development in Science and Medicine this year – and indeed one of the most important developments for the whole University since its Foundation – has been the progress that has been made towards starting the University of Buckingham undergraduate Medical School in collaboration with Milton Keynes NHS Trust. We are targeting to recruit 70 students to begin in January 2015. The General Medical Council has given us approval to go ahead, the University Council has agreed our financial plans, Milton Keynes NHS Trust is fully committed, potential students – and they are very high quality – are applying in their droves, and many have already been through our rigorous selection procedure. Our Medical School team is working feverishly to deliver the course on time and to the highest possible standards.

The work involved in setting up a medical course to turn school leavers into qualified doctors is not like setting up any other course. The GMC has so many procedures that have to be followed that the paperwork we have generated would reach several feet high if we were to pile it on the floor. I cannot mention everybody who has contributed to this effort, but I must name a few without whom we would be nowhere:

First, Professor Karol Sikora, our Dean of Medicine and eminent oncologist, is the man whose vision we have pursued. About ten years ago we ran a seminar at the clinical medical school in Cambridge where we asked a panel of experts who would be the best person in Britain to create its first independent medical School, and Karol's was the name that emerged. We needed someone who would be so eminent that he could lend credibility to the project yet who was sufficiently individualistic that he would want to challenge convention. We found our man.

But it has been Professor Mike Cawthorne, our Head of School, who has driven this project forward. Mike never gives up. Lesser mortals would never have pursued such a monumental task.

Third, Professor Stewart Petersen, who recently retired as Director of Medical Education at the University of Leicester, has been instrumental in putting together the curriculum and supplying much of the paperwork that formed our submission to the GMC. Without Stewart we would not be where we are today.

Professor John Clapham has joined us from leading a pre-clinical drug discovery group at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, to be our Chief Operating Officer, whilst Dr Kenneth Langlands leads the phase 1 teaching of the undergraduate Medical School.

A group of people have been developing the curriculum and establishing the various procedures such as selection of students, ensuring equality of opportunity, establishing medical student support systems and establishing assessment and quality systems. In each case people have taken these tasks on whilst still undertaking their current University role. I thank Drs Jacqueline O'Dowd, Frances Robinson, Joanne Selway and Claire Stocker in particular.

Our principal hospital partner in this venture is Milton Keynes NHS Foundation Trust, and we are very grateful to Mr Joe Harrison, the Chief Executive, who has had the vision to see how becoming part of a medical school could potentially be transformative for the hospital and enhance patient benefit. The medical team at Milton Keynes under the leadership of Professor Martin Wetherill, has enthusiastically embraced the challenge and, in particular, I would like to acknowledge the work there of Professors Doug McWhinnie and Pete Thomas, who have worked tirelessly on the clinical schedules and student placements.

Not all the clinical teaching can be undertaken at Milton Keynes and we have an enthusiastic set of General Practitioners, led by Dr Greg Simons. All our mental health training will be undertaken in superb facilities at St Andrew's in Northampton under the guidance of Dr Katina Anagnostakis. Finally, as our student numbers have reached the limit of the capacity

at Milton Keynes, Bedford Hospital under the leadership of Dr Ed Neale and Sarah Reynolds, will be taking students.

The undergraduate course will be four and a half years long but with exactly the same teaching time as five-year courses elsewhere. As usual our students will have fewer holidays. The first two years will be spent at Buckingham. Initially the Medical School will be in refurbished accommodation in the Chandos Road building. However, we are seeking planning permission and funding to refurbish the large office building on the former industrial site across the river, which will ultimately also house Psychology and Applied Computing. We are looking to raise significant funds behind this project, and it is good to report that we have already raised useful support from the Weston Foundation primarily, and for this support we thank Mr Guy Weston profusely.

We aim to have at least 50% of the students from overseas, and Lucinda Roberts-Holmes is the team member charged with establishing our marketing and recruitment plans. We are seeking AAA students so our students will have similar academic entry grades to other UK medical schools.

We aim that the Medical School project will be as successful as our Clinical MD programme which provides advanced training for overseas doctors. It started in 2008 with 5 students and by the end of last year we had 80 students. The course is centred at Ealing Hospital, but with students going on rotation to other hospitals. I am grateful to Professors Jay Arnold and Rajat Mathur for their tireless effort in making this course a success.

The Psychology degree programmes were reaccredited by the British Psychological Society in Autumn 2013 and this recognition will help our students' professional development for years to come. In addition, the Psychology Department, led by Dr Alan Martin, was located in 16<sup>th</sup> place in the *Guardian University Guide* for 2014, firmly establishing it as one of the top 20 departments in the country. And let me tell you just how exceptional the Psychology staff did in the 2103 NSS. The average mark (out of 100) for Psychology Departments in general for teaching on their course was 88. At Buckingham it was 99 – out of 100! Another key score is that for overall satisfaction: the sector average was 87; for Buckingham students it was 99.

But now I would like to focus upon the research being conducted in the Psychology Department. Our research makes us better teachers, yet as recently as 2009 the Psychology Department had no research students. Now it has over a dozen, including some of its best undergraduates who have chosen to stay on at Buckingham. More than half of psychology postgraduate students are working towards a DPhil (the rest for an MSc). We expect that the

first of the DPhil students will submit their theses this year and may be present at this ceremony next year.

Our research students are working on a range of topics, ranging from children's understanding of gravity and the day/night cycle, cyber-bullying on the internet, how children understand emotion regulation and the biological markers of insight experiences. These are but some of the topics.

Let me note that Dr Katherine Finlay researches into the psychological aspects of pain. Two of her doctoral students are currently studying the pain experiences of spinal cord injury patients in collaboration with Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Katherine also works with Milton Keynes hospital in the assessment of pain clinics. One of her postgraduate students is studying the provision of mindfulness training for pain and stress management.

Dr Philip Fine might be described as an applied cognitive psychologist, and he investigates amongst other phenomena the factors affecting the intelligibility of the words singers are singing, people's perception of time, and the cognitive strategies used by expert cryptic crossword solvers. Last year Dr Fine's work on the psychological aspects of crossword solving got a lot of media coverage.

During 2013, the Applied Computing Department invested in a Smart Lab, an initiative driven by Dr Harin Sellahewa. The lab provides its students with the latest equipment, specialised software and smart technologies. The Department has expanded its collaborations with local business, IT companies and industries that rely on computing, and it can now offer work experience or internship opportunities with six companies. And the Applied Computing staff far exceed the average scores for the sector in the National Student Survey in matters related to teaching. On teaching, the sector average was 81; Buckingham scored 90. For assessment and feedback, the sector average was 71; we scored 82.

And the Department's research flourishes. In 2013 it published 60% more papers than the previous year. And this past year alone Dr Stuart Hall has been invited to speak on his maths research at universities in Brussels, Paris, London (University College), Cork and Galway. The Department has appointed two prominent professors: Paul Finn, a world expert in computational chemistry (the design of drugs with the help of computers), and, as a visiting Professor from the University of Magdeburg, Jana Dittmann, who is an internationally renowned researcher in multimedia security. The growing research profile of the Department in Biomedical Image analysis and classification has helped it to establish collaborative projects with international centres of excellence including the Sanger Genome Centre, Cambridge (Skeletal X-Ray and Skin Tissue analysis), The Queen Charlotte & Hammersmith Hospital, London, and University Hospital of Leuven, Belgium (Ovarian Ultrasound Image

analysis and classification), as well as growing list of potential projects with MK Hospital and OU life sciences.

Much of the biomedical imaging work of the Department of Applied Computing is being done in collaboration with a department that has been with us for many years and which does only research. We used to call it the Clore Laboratory and the Clore Laboratory still exists, but only as a building. Under the continuing leadership of Professor Mike Cawthorne, it has changed its name to the Buckingham Institute for Translational Medicine. Translational medicine is the process by which basic research findings are translated into more useful things, such as diagnostic tools or medicines. Why change? Well, partly because the Clore Laboratory was mainly known for its research into metabolic diseases – diabetes and obesity – but in recent years it has expanded into other areas – biomedical imaging, bioinformatics, skin diseases, cancer, chemoinformatics, much in collaboration with the Department of Applied Computing. In the last year members of the Institute of Translational Medicine have had 18 publications accepted in peer-reviewed journals, and the first DPhil has been awarded in Bioinformatics to a student who was associated with both the Clore Laboratory and Applied Computing. So another reason for the new name is that this research is no longer confined to one building. Not only is some work done in the Department of Applied Computing, but also we intend that some of this translational research will be in collaboration with Milton Keynes Hospital. The new name can then encompass all the biomedical research of the School of Science and Medicine.

We are, as always, thrilled by the strength of our collaboration with the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (SSST), and we welcome Mrs Fahrwa Ganic, Mr Emir Ganic and Miss Emina Ganic and their students to Buckingham this afternoon. We were introduced to Professor Ejup Ganic, the School's founder, by Margaret Thatcher, and we have been proud to have been associated with a School that is clearly the best science and technology school in Bosnia and Herzegovina and which is helping that country recover from a bitter war.

For many years Professor Sabah Jassim was the general co-ordinator with SSST, but the non-academic aspects of this role have been taken over by the Collaborations Office under the leadership of Dr Frances Robinson.

Professor Jassim has handed over the role of Academic Co-ordinator for SSST to Dr Harin Sellahewa, who is not only as the link tutor in Computing, but also looks after their exam boards, acts as a research officer and liaises with link tutors from other Schools. Harin has already proved himself both capable and committed in these new tasks.

Our Science and Medicine would never have grown had it not been well-led, and I thank Professor Mike Cawthorne, Professor Karol Sikora, Professor Sabah Jassim and Dr Alan Martin for their inspired leadership over the years. In particular I thank Professor Jon Arch, the Dean, whose guidance of the School has been so inspiring.

### *Conclusion*

The University is sufficiently small that we remain a family, so let me give here news on some of our friends. First this is of course Lady Keswick's first graduation ceremony as our new Chancellor. Our Chancellor is voted into office by all the graduates of the University, however long ago they graduated, so she is indeed a symbol of Buckingham as a family. In Lady Keswick we have found someone who has played a significant part in the governance of the nation and who has significant business experience abroad, particularly in the Far East. We are lucky that she has agreed to be our Chancellor, and I trust that over the years you and she will get to know each other.

Lady Keswick's predecessor was Lord Tanlaw, and his portrait and those of all our previous chancellors, Lord Hailsham, Margaret Thatcher and Sir Martin Jacomb, hang in the Staff Dining Room. A Chancellor is like a constitutional monarch, he or she reigns over us in a symbolic and inspirational way, leaving the day-to-day running the place to the Council and the staff, but as the example of Queen Elizabeth shows, a constitutional monarch helps mould an institution powerfully.

We have a number of stressful situations to deal with every year, and let me here thank the Reverend Will Pearson-Gee, the Rector of this Church, not only for lending it to us but also for being such a rock when we need help from outside the University.

The Friends of the University continue to help us enormously, and they took a huge lead in helping fund the recent refurbishment of the Radcliffe Centre. We thank Dr Paul Radcliffe for chairing that group.

For the organisation of this ceremony, let me thank the Graduation Officer Mrs Anne Matsuoka, Mrs Pat Smith, and the team of Marshals; Mrs Anne Miller and all her team in Registry including Mr Miles Exelby and Ms Carmen Austen; the Catering team led by Mr Craig Decent; and the members of the Buildings, Maintenance and Security teams led by Mr Jim Brown for the work they've done in preparing for this ceremony. Smooth operations like this aren't smooth in the background, and they've all put in a fantastic amount of effort to make today work.

Equally, I thank Mrs Colleen Carter my PA, and all the academic and administrative staff, for all the support they've provided over the last year. They've been great.

I've left the most important part of my speech to last. It's you, our graduates. We want you to keep in touch. We are very proud, for example, of the fact that we do so well in the employment tables in the Good University Guide, but we wouldn't do so well if our graduates didn't fill in the forms we send them by e mail. We are very proud of the donations we receive, which have helped us to grow the University so successfully, but we wouldn't get such donations from our graduates if they didn't keep in touch.

But most importantly we, the staff, don't do this job for the money; we do it because it gives meaning to our lives. Helping educate and mould successive generations of young people from all over the world is a privilege, and part of that privilege lies in making friends with you and in following your progress through your careers. Dr Johnson told us to keep our friendships in good repair, so I'm asking you to help keep your friendship with us, and ours with you, in good repair by – at the very least – keeping us up to date with your contact details.

Terence Kealey

March 2014

