Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Over the last year two of our students or recent alumni have died. Tara Hepburn, from the Bahamas, who graduated in Law last year but died soon afterwards and Nuhu Ahmed, from Nigeria, who was reaching the end of his law studies when he died earlier this year. In my speech at Graduation I recounted this news, after which - to my surprise - Tara Hepburn’s parents came and introduced themselves. They were attending the graduation of one of their godchildren, who had also studied at Buckingham.

It was brave of them to revisit Tara’s university, where memories would have been fresh, but I am glad they did because they heard the paragraph I dedicated to Tara and Nuhu in my speech. Here it is, slightly shortened: “We also mourned the deaths of Tara Hepburn and of Nuhu Ahmed. These were sad occasions but alleviated, at least for me, by the moving remembrance ceremonies that Sasha Lightbourne and Daniel Bakpa and their fellow students from the Bahamian and Nigerian Societies arranged on campus. I’ve never worked in a university where students are as kind to each other, and as respectful of their memories, as at Buckingham. It was particularly touching when the balloons released on the Beloff lawn in Tara Hepburn’s memory, actually flew more closely together as they rose into the sky, like a message of solidarity. Buckingham is meant to be a family, and those two ceremonies were led by the students themselves. Out of tragedy we can find comfort in the instincts of our students.

Terence Kealey
Vice-Chancellor

Graduation 2007

Graduation day at Buckingham is always a joyful and emotional event with students and their families returning for the ceremonies, in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, and the Swan Ball in the evening, held in the gorgeously decorated marquee.

Who better to describe the event than the organisers, Mr Tom Merrick and Mrs Pat Smith and one of our graduating students, Mr Philip Hodgkinson:

Graduation Day last Saturday was an exciting and successful day, culminating in the magnificent Swan Ball that went through to breakfast on Sunday morning. With the clearing up now done, thoughts are already turning towards the plans for next year. The Graduation Working Party has already held its first meeting to reflect on this year and consider improvements for next year.

Philip Hodgkinson
(Law’07)

I welcome the opportunity to be able to say to all those who helped organise and staff the graduation, a great big THANK YOU. Please pass on my appreciation of everyone’s efforts.

Whether at the registration in the Anthony de Rothschild Building, the Church or the Reception in the marquee afterwards, here was always someone on hand to help direct and support us on our big day. With the numbers graduating I’m not sure it could have been done any better or any more efficiently.

All the fellow graduates I spoke to were impressed with the setting, the way the whole thing was handled, the order of service book and the certificate itself. It was a wonderful, colourful, happy event, handled with just the right amount of pomp and decorum.

As a mature student at Buckingham, and as someone who previously had many years’ experience in the world of industry and business I hope I’m qualified to say congratulations all round to the team who made our big day even bigger.

Pat Smith & Tom Merrick
Graduation Officers

Continued on page 3
This year was going to go more slowly than last year ... I was sure it was! How wrong could I have been. With a good January intake and many new students to get to know, a wonderful graduation ceremony and Swan Ball, a snowfall so deep that many staff couldn’t get to work and the students simply had to amuse themselves by building snowmen and having snowball fights, 2007 has got off to a fun-filled, VERY busy, start. We have even arranged a student photographic competition so that the best picture of the snow scene on campus will be transformed into this year’s Christmas card. So we are busy getting to know our future alumni!

As you will see in this edition, we have a new Student Sabbatical Officer, Ayomiku Babalola-Elewa and a new Alumni Annual Fund & Country Groups Co-ordinator, Beth Carter. Ayomiku takes over from Iva Netzova who did a wonderful job for the past year and has now moved to Milton Keynes to work with her boyfriend, alumnus Peter Simeonov, setting up a company that will import yoghurt from Bulgaria. Beth takes over from Kate, who worked hard to help set up the early stages of our new Alumni Annual Fund. Letters were sent out at the end of last year and we were overwhelmed when we saw that we had received almost £10,000 before the end of February. The generosity of many of our alumni will help our current students so much and a small portion of this money will go firstly to create a memorial garden on campus in honour of those students who have died. Our current students very much want this project to go ahead. Most sadly, we have lost two alumni and one student this year.

Should you wish to give to the AAF, you can contact Beth or give online. Towards the end of this year we will publish a list of those who have given (you may, of course, wish to remain anonymous), and next year we will be arranging an event for our donors. We will also, in the next issue, let you know what else we have used the donations for.

We have an “appreciation scheme” which rewards alumni who recommend a student to come to Buckingham. I have been told, on occasion, that the money should be kept for the University. This is just to let you know that any money of this nature will be donated to the Annual Fund. Beth will also be arranging alumni meetings in the countries where marketing trips are taking place and as there is now a plan for a year in advance, she will have plenty of time to send letters should we not have email contact with you.

However, I do encourage you to register onto the AlumNet website (www.buckingham.ac.uk/alumnet) if you haven’t already done so, as it is such a good way for us all to stay in touch with each other. And that is our aim - and indeed our purpose in life!

With all good wishes, Anne

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

Happy New Year everyone! I hope this will be a year of success, fulfilment and perfection.

I hope you all haven’t started breaking your New Year’s resolution.

I haven’t broken any and that’s because I don’t have any New Year’s resolution—therefore none to break!

My name is Ayomiku Babalola-Elewa (BA International Studies’ 07). I was fortunate enough to take over from Iva Netzova (LLM’05) and get to work with the Alumni and Publicity team up in the attic. My job so far has been a beautiful experience and I love every moment of it. I mustn’t forget to say I am not the newest girl in the team. The newest girl is the Alumni Annual Fund and Country Groups Co-ordinator. Do you want to know more about her, like her name? Please go to page 13 of this issue.

I would like to congratulate those who graduated with me on 24th February. It was a memorable day, filled with excitement and fun from the graduation ceremony held in the church to the Swan Ball held in the marquee on Beloff lawn. The events of the day have been featured in this edition of the Independent. Its unbelievable two years has gone by since we all came to the University.

Do you remember what happens every summer? It’s the ALUMNI SUMMER PARTY! This year the party will be held in the heart of London, Trafalgar Square, at the Pitcher and Piano. It will be held on 22nd of June, starting at 7pm and ending at 11pm, just enough time for everyone to mingle and catch up on old times. I hope to see you all there! More details about this are featured in this issue.

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

It is with great pleasure that we send congratulations to two of our distinguished alumni who had Honorary Degrees conferred upon them at the Graduation ceremony this year.

Mr Mark Lancaster
Doctor of Science of the University

Mark Lancaster was raised and educated in Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire. He read his first degree at Buckingham (Business Studies, 1992). Mark is now the Conservative MP for North East Milton Keynes, where he lives with his wife, Katie, a practising solicitor. He was promoted to the Whips Office in October, 2006. Mark spent the last summer recess in Afghanistan, serving alongside the British forces, in his capacity as a Major in the Territorial Army. This follows similar voluntary service in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola
Doctor of Laws of the University

Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola (Law, '03) was born in Osun State, Nigeria. His father, Oba Oyinlola, was King of Okuku where he reigned from 1934 to 1960.

The Prince is currently Governor of Osun State where, earlier this year, the Osun State University (the personal initiative of the Governor), a multi-campus University based over six different cities in Osun, was started. As an advocate of fairness, equity and justice, Prince Oyinlola strongly believes that society should not be a theatre for unnecessary conflicts but one where tolerance, love, peace and dialogue should flourish. These are goals that our own international community at Buckingham also strives to achieve.

Further honorary degrees were given to:
Professor Robert Pearce (formerly Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buckingham) Vice-Chancellor at the University of Wales Lampeter (pictured right with his wife Chris)
Mr Charles Moore and
Sir Gordon Jewkes.

Graduation Day

My proudest moment has always been winning the District Cross Country Running Championships when I was twelve-years-old but I think I can safely say that Graduation Day at Buckingham University has finally topped the bill.

I found strange about the whole University experience was that prior to graduation day it somehow didn’t feel that I had achieved anything all that special. It was just another two year’s study after all. What made the day so special to me, however, were the speeches made on stage and the comments from my tutors that made me realise what an achievement this degree actually was. Not to mention the overly proud parents. Having already found employment in the job of my dreams, I cannot say how fortunate I am to have been given the opportunity to study at Buckingham University and to have had the backing from my family at home. Where ever life takes me from now, I will never forget the support I have received from the University and the friends I have made along the way. The degree programme has been far from easy but I will never forget my two years at Buckingham University.

Kerry Thronhill
(English Literature with Journalism '07)
Alumni Entrepreneurs

Here are some words on the challenges Robin and I had on our way to [some degree of material] success:

Robin and I met at Buckingham (actually, just before) and always got on well. I think we were the only lunatics who windsurfed through the winter on Willen Lake [without wetsuits]…but had a great time.

Christopher Smith

After we left, I became a solicitor, and Robin a banker. But we always nurtured a dream – to start our own company. One day, after a visit to Finland (and having been told he needed glasses) Robin said the choice in the UK was terrible – and there was a gap in the market for some trendy, new specs to replace the awful NHS frames available then. Mrs Thatcher seemed to agree and the sector was privatised, now free to choose what to sell.

The challenges we faced then seemed to me (as a rather naïve articled clerk) huge: the challenges we faced then seemed to sell.

...but had a great time.

When he had left, we heard nothing until Robin chased, and then we heard we were appointed distributors for a leading name. But, we still had no company, no money and no experience. We did manage to open a bank account, and get an overdraft for our first stock delivery (just as well as it cost 3 times my articled clerks salary!). So we started, but it was hard. We often refer to this period as our MBA – a huge learning curve at our own expense [time, money and experience] but, it was a lot of fun.

Inspecs began as a small company, and that was (and remains) a strength for both of us: humble beginnings we have never lost sight of. But, after 5 years it was (nearly) strong enough to employ Robin who bravely left a very good job to join Inspecs. Then it went from strength to strength. In 1996 we moved into manufacturing, and took on several licences. We, started designing and manufacturing for ourselves. Then, we began an export drive. In 2001 we moved into fashion retail, and now have more than 50 shops. We are based in a beautiful HQ near Bath [www.inspects.com] and have 600+ employees and sales forecast at Euro 65M this year.

Challenges remain – the World is tough and getting tougher – but the opportunities remain also. We have recently developed a unique dual fuel system for HGVs [with grant aid, British patents and we hope British manufacturing]. And, we plan to roll this out in 2007.

We try to stick to the plan: work hard, enjoy life and have fun – as well as producing something extraordinary and indeed unique in the Inspecs Group. We work with many inspired and inspiring people, and genuinely enjoy what we do.

Christopher Smith (European Studies ’84) and Robin Totterman (Politics, Economics and Law ’85)

Marc Telemaque confirmed in Cabinet Secretary post

Lawyer Marc Telemaque (LLB’91) has been appointed as the new Cabinet Secretary in Bermuda. The Royal Gazette revealed that the 36-year-old former Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Transport and Tourism had been given the role. Former Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet Kenneth Dill becomes Head of the Civil Service. Government has separated the two jobs for the first time since the early part of this decade.

A Bermuda Regiment Major, Mr. Telemaque was educated at Paget Primary School, the Berkeley Institute and the University of Buckingham in England.

He started his own law firm, Telemaque and Associates, on the Island and became Aide-de-Camp to the Governor for two years before joining Government in 2002. His appointment then, aged 32, as permanent secretary of the Ministry of Transport, made him the youngest permanent secretary to be appointed in Government history.

Lawmaps.org

A venture started earlier this year by two Buckingham alumni, David Stubbs (LLB 2005) and Paul Hogarth-Blood (LLB 2006) recently received coverage in The Times Law Supplement (28 November). Their not-for-profit venture, Lawmaps.org, is a website providing learning resources for anyone with an interest in English law. The site uses computer software to map out areas of the law, and the resulting maps resemble spider diagrams. Much of the material was gathered by Paul and David while they were studying at Buckingham. Lawmaps.org has a third member, Mathieu Moss, who became involved after he met David during his Legal Practice Course at the Inns of Court. The School of Law and has also contributed significantly to the resource. Paul Hogarth-Blood said: “We were enthusiastic about sharing our work because of the success we have experienced. We have taken care to identify different lines of legal argument and valuable dissenting judgements for crucial cases. Pupils will be able to use this as the basis for their criticism of the law. Apart from providing an alternative to learning the law from traditional sources such as textbooks, as a non-profit-making organisation we hope to make a contribution, albeit a small one, to the wider movement for free legal information and in turn to help combat access costs.”

Paul, David and Mathieu hope to encourage up-and-coming people in the field to contribute case summaries and their criticisms of the law to the website so that it can grow as a knowledge base. Charlotte Walsh, Dean of the Law School at Buckingham, said, “We wish our alumni well in their new venture.”

Lauren Hardy PR/Marketing Communications Co-ordinator
Brendan O’Flaherty (BSc Business Studies ’05) is preparing for a life at sea after qualifying as a ship’s third officer in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. He now hopes to receive a posting by April after graduating from the prestigious Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth on Thursday, December 7 2006.

Originally from the port of Falmouth in Cornwall, he moved to this area to marry his 34-year-old wife Lorraine, originally from Finmere. He went on to study business at the University of Buckingham, after which he worked in recruitment and finance for 18 months.

After completing a gruelling seven-week training programme, he is now looking forward to supporting senior officers on ships supplying British forces around the globe.

By Gavin Moore
Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser (Buckingham)
19 December 2006

Alex Jovy (English with European Law and German ’95), The University’s own Oscar-nominated film director and producer, has just set up a website entitled www.itsourmovie.com. Alex has decided that its time for a change in the film industry. “You get the chance to both act and become part owner of a cinema release feature film. The film is of an award winning script and will be shot by Alex Jovy”. It is a sort of pop idol but for actors! Anyone interested is more than welcome to have a look at the site and get in touch with Alex.

Hal Serudin

I recall what Martin Luther King once said: “Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle.” I left Buckingham University at a watershed in my life, having survived a major RTA (Road Traffic Accident) in 1997 which left me in a wheelchair for the best part of 1997/8.

This mishap delayed my graduation date by a year, but allowed me to meet new friends and brought literally a new lease of life. After the course, sponsored by my employer Royal Brunei Airlines, I was appointed head of the Public Relations division. I was then unexpectedly offered work in Singapore with International Communications firm Fleishman-Hillard (F-H). My then MD recalls introducing me to the firm as the only person he knew who had gotten married, moved country and changed job all in the space of a week!

A consultancy such as F-H provides a plethora of opportunities, interesting multi-industry experience and hones communications, project and service orientation skills like no other. I was fortunate to be able to work with illustrious brands such as BMW, MINI, Lockheed Martin and Hitachi Ltd. One of my career highlights included the international launch of the BMW 7 Series in Italy. Others included Asian Aerospace; Asia’s largest show of its kind - the backdrop for me to run the communications offensive for defence contractor Lockheed Martin, which included the launch of the Joint Strike Fighter, the next generation of multi-role military aircraft.

It was time to have a baby, and also to take stock. Our daughter Ashia was born in late 2002 and, barely two months old, headed with her mother to meet me in Finland. The purpose of our rendez-vous? An intensely enjoyable two years completing an International MBA course. Braving a minus 30 degree winter, we learnt never again to complain about British weather. Our near arctic mission was to be rewarded, however, with the hospitality of the Finnish people, a fascinating insight into Scandinavian culture and, like Buckingham, a pot-pourri of nationalities.

We are back in the warmer climes of Asia, at the invitation of my firm to handle automotive, consumer and health accounts. We have been blessed to have experienced so much and would like to convey our best wishes to all staff and friends at Buckingham University who may remember us.

Hal Serudin (BSc Business Studies ’98)
Women who make the world better

Below is an article from June Arunga (LLB '06) recipient of the award mentioned above:

It is my personal opinion that there are so many others more deserving of this award than myself. Those who have successfully raised children while having full time careers in various fields, those who have changed our world through scientific research and technological innovation, to the exceptionally accomplished women who are in business (like the CEO of Ebay and thousands of others who actually champion the visions for their respective companies and offer leadership for the production of goods and services that improve people's lives, making payroll for employees, and profits for their shareholders).

But I am honored to received the award, and hope it will help me meet more people with whom I could work in future. One day I hope to be like the many successful women whom I greatly admire, several of whom (from my own mother to my friends in the UK and US), continue to believe in me and encourage me as I start out in life, and have been wonderful role models.

The link leads to the announcement of the "Women who make the world better" award. www.iwf.org (I would encourage you to please nominate a deserving person who in your opinion makes the world better)

I am very grateful to the Independent Women's Forum for conferring this honor on me.

---

Iain Holmes (Business Studies '03)

On Thursday November 9th Harvard and Yale took their centuries old rivalry to the polo field. In typical US intercollegiate fashion. It was a 4 chukkar arena match. This match was special because it was the first time Harvard and Yale had played intercollegiate polo in 15 years, and one former Harvard Polo member stated that Harvard hadn't beaten Yale in any level of polo in the last 45 years. Iain Holmes, University of Buckingham class of 2002 (Business Studies) was one of the co-founders of the recently reformed Harvard Polo Club and is one of their starring players. Iain, a British expatriate who has lived in the United States for the past 12 years, is currently enrolled in Harvard's post-baccalaureate Pre-Medical program and is doing medical research under one of the Harvard Medical School Professors. In a very exciting fluid match Harvard was able to pull off a decisive win 13 to 7, with 3 goals scored by Iain. 'It is always great to play polo; however pulling off a victory like this is especially exciting – it is hard to believe Harvard hadn't beaten Yale in that long' Iain said.

In the post game picture - Iain is the Harvard Player on the right side of the photograph!

'The Hidden Backroad - A Message from one who had thought he was at the End of his Development'

Buckingham was, quite simply, a Renaissance for me. Coming there in 2001, a weary writer lumped all his worldly possessions into a room in Sunley House (how the floor stood the strain I'll never know because I did not travel light in those days) and thought: 'So far, so good, so what now?'

Well, 'now' entailed a rollercoaster trip that tested my skills as a writer and research student to the limit. I 'did' the Biography MA - one of the rarest and most rewarding writing programmes available anywhere - and lived to tell about it with hundreds of great in-class anecdotes. I met many extraordinary people, made wonderful friends, led a few seminars, and absorbed the essences of many cultures so very casually that I might as well have been living on some kind of latter day Atlantis.

Now, five years on from the last days of wrapping up my degree, I've had time to realise that, although there were times when the compressed programme did get me a little flustered, I actually enjoyed the challenge of working under that kind of pressure. Strangely, I still managed to participate in activities - bar committee, student revue, etc - and never once felt either lonely or overcommitted. Above all, I sensed that I was getting somewhere: working hard and fast, to be sure, but seeing enough progress to appreciate that my efforts really counted. Writing several pieces for The Ugly Duckling was icing on the cake!

I'd say 'Buckingham' to people who just want to cut to the chase with their academic development. There, they will be able to realise many things, an important one being that the last thing a student is at Buckingham is a faceless component of some amorphous student body. Because the university is unique I'd also recommend living on campus because (and not to sound saccharin) it will change a person's perspective on life in general.

Graduating in 2003, Johnny founded his proofreading company The Text Vet the following year. Johnny looks forward to continue offering Buckingham students a high quality essay/thesis checking, word directing and editing service. Students can find this at www.textvet.co.uk. Johnny is also an award-winning writer. His latest work, Séances with the Living, is out in Doublebay books this March. The horror anthology emerges alongside the release of Johnny's first published novel, Souls of the Southern Stars. You can find out more about his writing on www.johnnygeddes.com.

Johnny is also working in the Voice-over industry and is known as the Voice of Atlantis.

Johnny Geddes (MA Biography '03)
News from Medinah

Our set was the first in the School of Accounting and Financial Management. Professor Watson had the onerous task of teaching us Accounting. We actually all graduated in February 1980!

In those days we were called Licenciates!! And Page Hill was Page Hill, understand it no longer exists....pity!!!!

Thanks to Professor Watson, I am now a Chartered Accountant as is Alison Treco (BSc Accounting and Financial Management ’80) (nee Spencer, she was a partner in Peats before setting up her own consultancy). The third in our trio is Helen Kassardijan (BSc Accounting and Financial Management ’80) (a guru in world commodities). We still are in touch and visit each other after all these years.

News from Ona Erike

I am an alumni of the Law School (graduated in 1985), and have been living and working in the United States ever since. I just recently read the copies of The Independent that had been sent to my parent's home in Nigeria, and was quite impressed with the developments and growth at Buckingham. After our graduation in 1985, I got married in July 1985, had a set of twins in 1986 who are now 20 years old and third year university students. I had a third child in 1989, who just turned 17 years old and is now preparing to enter university in September 2007. I was admitted to the New York Bar in 1989, worked with a legal publishing company and then later practised on my own for several years. I have been employed as an Administrative Law Judge for New York State since August 2001 and it has been quite interesting, challenging and stressful work.

Ona Okeke-Erike (LLB Law ’85)

Sum-Wah Lam’s News

Below is the narrative description about my experience and its impact on me during and after, my time at the University of Buckingham. I joined the University of Buckingham in 1986 as a British Government Overseas Development Administration Scholar, which would lead to the award of a M.Sc, in the school of Biological Sciences, where Professor Alan Broock had the chair.

Study during the year was extremely demanding and we had to write each week an essay not less than 3,000 words to train students how to put things together, the presentation of ideas, and how to argue. Then, we had 8 lecture hours with two to three taught courses each week, plus two to three laboratory sessions with the maximum of two consecutive days to complete one experiment. How to collect data, and how to do data analysis were also important components of training. My contribution to new knowledge then was to study how to let fish grow at their maximum speed but with the minimum amount of food, which was very important in the economy of the fish industry.

I got married in 1990 and have three boys the oldest of whom is preparing to gain admission into the university in September 2007. Hakeem (truly by far my better half) is also a Chartered Accountant and we run a property development company (called Hydraform) based in Abuja, Nigeria. I was the Financial Controller of Eko Hotels before leaving to set up Hydraform.

Like most I have juggled being a good old mum, a loving wife, an innovative director and last but not least a woman. In African tradition how well I have juggled depends on how well my children do in life.

It has not been easy living in Nigeria as you may all be aware. We have had our own share of growing pains. But Babs, Phillip, Rotimi, Richard, Ada, Kayode, Yinka, Gani, Gerry and so many of us first sets of University College of Buckingham have survived!

Anyway I CANNOT forget Bucks, Lille and all the friends I made (from all over the world) but have lost touch with so many. Sonia, Caird, Dinah, Pamela...if perchance anybody reads this and remembers Flakkee (my alias ) email me on medinahh@yahoo.com

Olufolake Medinah Huthman (nee Okulaja) BSc Accounting and Financial Management ’80

Dr Sum-Wah Lam

The final training was the graduation thesis. Mine was supervised by Dr. Kerry Shephard, who closely monitored progress and guided me throughout. I must thank Kerry who spent many hours with me discussing the best way to proceed with the experiment. My thesis was a study portraying how to maximize the growth effect of the carp with the minimum amount of food, which would mean a contribution to the economy of fish growth. After one year of full time training, I found myself competent in using scientific method to handle things put in front of me, though in order to be very competent in research, I still had to receive further training from the University of Hong Kong, which was a Commonwealth University. I also did another postgraduate course after my study at the University of Buckingham, at the University of Strathclyde. From this, you can see my approach in handling problems and situations is to use the British scientific approach. Indeed I consider myself a British trained scientist. The University of Buckingham was a starting point to train in the organization of knowledge. All my important influential thinking and ideas originated and were refined after receiving research training in the UK. I will tell anyone that the British approach to training scientists is the best among any of the developed countries, as scholars there always use the simplest method to train their students which can lead their students to the correct path to understand the universe, which is just one word…… “Simplicity”.

Dr Sum-Wah Lam
(MSc Fisheries ’88)
Congratulations to all the following alumni who have recently married, become engaged or added to their families:

**Engagements**

Charlie Brooker (BSc Business Studies '00 and LLB '03) and Robert Venn are happy to announce their engagement, which took place in the midst of the morning rush hour in Canary Wharf on 31st January 2007. They are greatly looking forward to their wedding in July 2007.

Fiona Hewitt (LLB Law and Politics '99) and Christian Button are happy to announce their engagement which took place on 14 February 2007.

**Marriages**

Johnny Geddes (MA Biography '03) and his wife Sarah are happy to announce their marriage. It took place on 30 June 2006 in Las Vegas. This is what Johnny had to say: “My parents and brother were present and Sarah and I enjoyed an otherworldly honeymoon in Hawaii”.

Megumi Sakurai (nee Katakabe) (BSc Psychology with EFL '98) and her husband Tatsuya Sakurai (BSc(Econ) AFM '99) are happy to announce their wedding which took place in October 2005.

Jamila Yakasai (BA English Studies with media communication '05) and her husband Babagana Mohammed Abba are happy to announce their marriage which took place on the 17 February 20

**Births**

Spencer Voakes (BSc Business Studies '97) and his girlfriend, Aranya are happy to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Jennifer Suprinya Voakes. She was born on 19 October 2006 weighing 3.88kg.

Xenia Yun (LLB '02) and her husband Joseph are happy to announce their marriage and the birth of their twins. This is what Xenia had to say: “We got married in Kazakhstan in Almaty on 9 June 2006. We had a civil and church ceremony. My twins were born on 18 October 2006 one minute apart from each other. Their names are Emilia and Valentina. First Emilia was born and she weighted in at 2.8kg and Valentina at 2.6kg, both were 49cm in length. I had them at Portland Hospital in London”.

Ken’ichi Minamino visiting student (English Language (EFLS) with Literature ‘01) and his wife Aya. are happy to announce their wedding which took place in Osaka on 2 December, 2006. They went on honeymoon to New Caledonia. Michelle Hind (LLB '04) travelled from Buckingham for the wedding.

Ailsa Dennett (LLB '97) and her husband Ross are happy to announce their wedding which took place on 23 September 2006 on the Isle of Man.

Jackie Moore ( MBA '05) and her husband Andy are happy to announce their wedding which took place on 24 November 2006 at the Bitter End Yacht Club, Virgin Gorda, BVI
Emmanuel Lebel (ex IT staff) and his wife Celine are happy to announce the birth of their son, Theo. This is what Emmanuel had to say: "The new born Théo, 3.4kg (7lb 8oz), 51.2cm (20’’), arrived a little bit ahead of schedule on Friday 12 January. Baby and mother are doing great. We are enjoying each and every moment and trying to realise what’s just happened!"

Fatima Mohammed (BSc Business Studies ’98) and her husband Nuhu Umar are happy to announce the birth of their son Almin. He was born on 16 December 2006.

Misty McCroy (HR Manager) and her husband Lawrence are happy to announce the birth of their son, Ben Lorcan. He was born on the morning of Monday 5 March 2007. Mother and baby are doing well.

Miki Nagano (BSc Psychology with English language ’00) and her husband Satoshi are happy to announce the birth of their ‘healthy and happy boy’ Sotaro. Miki says in her message, "He has started smiling and talking. He says "Ah" and "Woo"!

Julia Baumgartner (MA Decorative Arts and Historic Interiors) and her husband Thomas are happy to announce the birth of their son, Lorenz Thomas Curt Georg. He was born on 6 November 2006 at 19:19. Julia says "my husband and I are very happy with our baby boy. He is already very interested in every thing around him and loves me carrying him around.”

Alison Rochat-Spechter (LLB ’91), says “I am well - keeping busy with work (60%) and the 4 children, 2 cats and 2 fishes! She sends a picture of her children, Jeremy (10), Joanna (8), Naomi (6.5) and Emily (nearly 5)".

Folake Olubunmi-Ehindero (LLB ’94) and her husband Femi are happy to announce the birth of their son, Toluwaloju Olaolu. Her daughter’s name is Ayomide (Ayo) and her older son is Moronfoluwa (Folu).

Paul Keatley (Information systems with business studies ’04) and his wife Yan Wang (MBA ’02) are happy to announce the birth of their son, Oscar. He was born on the 1 December 2006.
Chola Chilufya is Doing the Moonwalk

Chola in Fashion Targets Breast Cancer t-shirt. The campaign celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2006.

A Very Happy New Year to you.

Hope that you have had a great start to the New Year.

This year, I have taken on the challenge to complete the full Playtex Moonwalk Marathon in London. I and thousands of women will take to the moonlit streets of London to raise £6m for breast cancer research and cancer care. Organised by Walk the Walk, The Playtex Moonwalk is in its 10th year and to date has raised in excess of £20m.

Please visit my page www.justgiving.com/cholachilufyasdoingthe moonwalk to support me and help me raise money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Any donation, no matter how small would be much appreciated as every penny I raise will be going towards breast cancer research and education.

May 2007 bring you much success and happiness in all your endeavours.

Many thanks in advance for your support!

With Best Wishes,

Chola Chilufya (BA Politics with French '04)

Hiro’s Career Change

Yasuhiro Kushiya (Economics, '01) has chosen a completely different path in life from the one he had imagined. Read Hiro’s story and then let us know if your career path was altered by your experiences at Buckingham:

Before I went to Buckingham I had worked in a local bar kitchen in Tokyo, so I used to cook for my friends and neighbours at Bishops Court. One day one of my neighbours came and said; ‘Hiro, you like cooking and you’re Japanese, why don’t you make sushi for us sometimes?’ Well ask your Japanese friends if they could make proper sushi; ‘That’s for the professionals’ they’d reply. I told him it wasn’t as easy as it looked, but his question made me realise how popular sushi actually was. After my BSc(Econ) I tried office work for a few months, but it wasn’t for me. My mind was made up – I wanted to be a sushi chef. It wasn’t an easy decision, but what helped was this simple but important lesson I learned from Buckingham; no matter what people say, your hard work will eventually be rewarded.

The place I’m working at is called SUSHI AOKI, one of the best sushi bars in Tokyo. What’s special about AOKI is that, amongst other things, traditional craftsmanship and new ideas are both at work, and in balance. Working at AOKI is quite competitive, and I am yet to be called a ‘chef’ because people spend around ten years to become a good chef. I’m only halfway, but I’m looking forward to things to come. Here, as in Buckingham, working hard is the way to succeed, and one day when I’m good enough I’d love to come and serve my sushi at the Graduation Ball. May that happen before too long!

Yasuhiro Kushiya (BSc (Econs) Economics, '01)

Alumni News

Sunni Lau's News

I graduated from the University of Buckingham in 2003, BSc Business Studies (Hons). On returning to Hong Kong, I went straight into the banking and finance industry with a local based Bank responsible for equities research and investment advisory duties. Hong Kong is one of the most important financial centres worldwide and every financial activity is regulated by various independent commissions. It took me very little time to get all the relevant licenses for conducting my duties at the bank and I was actually in the field in less than three months. The bank allocated some clients for me to serve; most of them were expatriates from all around the world. This is where my communication skills and understanding of cultural differences that I learnt from Buckingham was put to good use. I gained very valuable experience while working as an investment advisor for a year and a half before moving on to work for the giant banking group, Credit Suisse Group. At Credit Suisse, I was specialising in mutual funds investment advisory services mainly targeting high net worth individuals. While I was in Buckingham, I had a good friend who was Indian, and I learnt a lot about the Indian culture and how they think in both business and personal feelings. However, at that time I never knew how useful it would be for my future career. I remember closing a deal worth US$1 million for Credit Suisse Group with an Indian client living in Hong Kong. The client trusted me because I knew their culture so well and I was able to build a rapport with him, and I am certain I wouldn’t have closed that deal if I hadn’t come to Buckingham.

I’m now Assistant Vice President for an Investment and Fund Management Company responsible for setting up mutual funds that invest money in the Asian pacific markets, in particular China and Vietnam. I am currently in talks with the university that my company may be able to offer opportunities for Buckingham graduates who are interested in the Fund Management field.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Chinese New Year.

Sunni Lau (BSc Business Studies '03)
Alumni News

Kirsten’s News

Many years have passed since I arrived on campus in January 1994, leaving two and a half years later with a LLB in English and European Law and language studies and my MA in International Relations and Politics under my belt. Student life at Buckingham was unique and the friendships that went back then have enriched my last decade and have taken me all over the world for both business and pleasure. The independent and global outlook of Buckingham, together with the Kurt Hahn spirit of my schooling, has given me the incentive to get up and do my own thing. After a happy and successful career working as a qualified solicitor for great firms in the City I finally ventured into setting up my own legal practice in 2006.

K Law is a new kind of law firm. I created an advisory model which suits clients from a diverse range of backgrounds. We look after private individuals and their property purchases. TV presenters, sports personalities, fund managers, accountants and bankers as well as small, medium and large businesses for manufacturing industrial or consumer products and services, even high street food stores use our services. The practice specialises in a range of services from private client on and off shore tax structures and property conveyancing to corporate legal support and employment law. Whenever I pick up a law book I remember Buckingham and the excellent teaching, encouragement and vision I received from the University.

On a recent trip to Mauritius, where I caught up with Jean Christope Bellepeau.

K Law embraces the virtual world in a unique and cutting-edge way. Through the website www.KLaw.biz we enable our clients to stay fully informed at any stage of our engagement by logging into their own secure on-line file 24 hours a day using a username and password. This provides a much more efficient and cost effective way of employing our time which in turn benefits the clients, and their advisors, exponentially. Please feel free to get in touch with me at K@KLaw.biz!

Another passion I have pursued since I was introduced to it at University is polo. I play all year and recently returned from the first women’s polo tournament on snow in Klosters. I am currently offering a unique opportunity to potential sponsors to support my team in the 2007 season.

Kirsten Ladebeck (LLB ’96, MA ’97)

Abdul Buba

I will start by congratulating the February 2007 graduates as well as saying big thank you to the members of the School of Humanities, especially Linda Waterman, Secretary to the Economics Department.

To be honest, when I first arrived in Buckingham, I did not expect much of the University and the town itself. However, after being there for two years, I can confidently say that I made too-hasty a judgement. There is no doubt that the town is small but the University and the locals more than compensate for its size. Buckingham University brings together over 80 nationalities and the relatively small class and tutorial groups set an atmosphere where students receive personal attention from the lecturers and gain a high level of academic tuition.

At Buckingham University, I was exposed to different cultures of the world and found a flavour of their different traditions; this has helped me understand the way things work worldwide. Besides from this, Buckingham town is just a few minutes away from Silverstone, the home of British Grand Prix; going to watch a Formula 1 race was quite a thrill.

I am now so in love with the University and the town that I have decided to go back for a Masters’ degree in Global Affairs.

Abdulqadir Buba (BA International Studies ’07)

The Pride and Prejudice

Below is an article Larissa Boyer (Visiting Student English Literature’06) wrote for the Lehigh magazine: the Brown and White

Larissa Boyer

Initially there were two reasons why I applied to the summer study abroad program at Buckingham. First, I wanted to study in England. I didn’t have to learn a different language and already knew I loved the country after a family visit in 2005. Second, I wanted an internship. Buckingham provided this, and an amazing internship I wouldn’t have gotten any other way at that.

After the initial internship phase in London, I arrived at Buckingham, expecting a good time, but not realizing just what I was in for. It turns out studying at the University of Buckingham was the best part of my summer, as well as one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

I met some friends I will treasure forever. Those friends allowed me to study abroad in several countries while never leaving England. I had friends from Pakistan, Malaysia, the Phillipines, India and Nigeria. I got to practise my Russian (however bad it was) and learned the proper way to say Edinburgh from a true Scotsman.

Come mid-August, I didn’t want to leave. My friends would tell me I should transfer to Buckingham, and part of me wanted to seriously consider that. Now that I’m home, it seems as if Buckingham was this amazing dream from which I was rudely awakened. All I want to do is fall back asleep and return to that dream. Is it time for bed yet?
Dr Deborah Davenport, full-time Lecturer in International Political Economy, came to the University of Buckingham in January, 2006. Since her arrival from Mississippi State University, she’s had a very busy time, teaching two new undergraduate courses in Politics of Latin America and International Organisation, taking over the International Relations Concepts and Theories course, reading the proofs of her Palgrave Macmillan book Global Environmental Negotiations and US Interests, working on new articles, and launching the MA in Global Affairs, of which Dr Davenport is Coordinator and Academic Admissions Tutor. I am lucky to catch her in her room and happy to be able to interview her for the Independent.

Although there’s the sound of busy typing from within, as soon as I knock at the door Dr Davenport gets up to receive me and immediately tells me to call her Debbie.

Interview with Dr Davenport

There is plenty of evidence of a busy, international life in Dr Davenport’s office, from the crates of books recently shipped from the US, not all of which have been unpacked, to the conference papers from negotiations on the International Tropical Timber Agreement which she attended in Geneva and more recently in Yokohama.

So, Debbie, could you give the Independent readers a brief autobiographical sketch?

Well, I came into the field of international relations rather sideways. I’m American and I studied Music and Spanish for my first degree at Wellesley College, then taught Music and English as a Foreign Language for a while in Saudi Arabia and in London. But I grew very concerned at the state of the global environment in the late 1980s and I decided that maybe my international background could be put to use in some way. So I got an MA in International Studies from the University of Salford and from there was able to go on to get my PhD at Emory University in Atlanta. That was really lucky, because that opened some doors for me and I wound up, while still a doctoral student, directing the environmental work of the Carter Presidential Center.

Can you tell me a little bit about the MA in Global Affairs and its genesis? The programme was really the brainchild of Buckingham alumnus, Charles Henn. It’s designed to give professional training to students wanting a career at the international level, working for government, an international organisation, or in the private, non-governmental sector. It’s special in two ways. First, it runs for an entire 12 months, with three courses per term for four terms; it’s thus much more intensive than the usual one-year MA degree. Second, and even more importantly, students get hands-on experience in the kind of reasoning, writing, and oral skills that they will use in their professional lives.

And what about your specialist courses on it, particularly the one in International Negotiation? I sort of feel you’re passionate about that. Yes, I’ve been to too many United Nations negotiation processes which are dominated by certain countries at least partly because their delegates are simply more skilled in the art and language of negotiation. This course is intended to help students understand the process of negotiation and participate effectively.

What sort of students are taking the MA programme so far? Well, true to Buckingham tradition, we have applicants from all over the world. Of the first cohort of 12 students, 7 are University of Buckingham alumni. As the programme becomes better known and more established, it will be interesting to see if the proportion changes. I have been very pleasantly surprised at the large number of applications we’ve had for the April 2007 intake. Most interestingly, we’ve had a number of applications from people who have been working for a while—some even already in fairly high-level government positions—who see a benefit to furthering their education here, probably for their longer-term career prospects.

There are lectures to be prepared and papers to be written and a trip to Atlanta coming up over the break, so I feel I have to leave Dr Davenport to her academic work. As I close the door, I can hear the sound of typing resume and I have a good feeling because I think I know that the world’s trees are in good hands.

So you worked for former U.S. President Jimmy Carter? Sounds pretty impressive. What sort of work did you do there?

The biggest project I had was to conduct a collaborative, participatory effort on reforming land use policy in Guyana, where President Carter had a strong interest. I spent more than a year there working on that project, which included, among other things, holding 18 public consultations all across Guyana as well as a national two-day conference on land use policy reform.

It’s good that you’ve come back to England after a time spent away. What attracted you and have you found a lot of changes since you were last here?

Yes, I was away for about 15 years, but I was really drawn to come back and teach at Buckingham because it in many ways reminds me of where I did my first degree, in that it is small and personal—and has, if I may say so, a beautiful campus—but it has the added benefit of having postgraduate students as well as undergrads, and I like working with both.

What do you most like about Buckingham?

I love my students! It’s such a treat to get to teach students from literally all over the world. Amazingly, it’s the best way in the world to get beyond ethnic and religious differences and see people as individuals. And the students here seem much more cosmopolitan in their outlook than many other students I have taught. I have found some of the discussions we’ve had in tutorials to be quite interesting and inspiring.

And what do you most dislike, I ask, hoping that we won’t get into a very British discussion about the weather.

One reason I was drawn back to Britain is the (somewhat) ‘greener’ lifestyle than in the US. Although I was a bit dismayed to see how much people here rely on cars nowadays—this seems different to when I was here 15 years ago—there is still a much greater environmental consciousness here than in the US. So I use a fan instead of an air conditioner!
Hi everyone!

My name is Bethany Carter (Beth) and I have just started work in the PR/Alumni office as ‘Alumni Annual Fund and Country Groups Coordinator’

The Palamountain Dinner

In January 2007, the Palamountain Trust generously hosted a dinner at the Leathersellers’ Hall in the City of London to celebrate the success of the Palamountain Medal winners, and the University.

The late Edgar Palamountain, in whose memory the award was created, was a member of Council and Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Chloe Woodhead, his daughter, is also a member of Council.

Among those who attended were the Palamountain family, the University’s Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, past Vice-Chancellors, donors, Palamountain Award winners, honorary graduates, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, academics, and alumni.

The former Governor of the Bank of England, Lord George, spoke on independence. The Vice-Chancellor praised the successes of the University. Rufus Palamountain, Edgar Palamountain’s son, gave the vote of thanks, Ruprecht von Heusinger (BSc Economics ‘93) toasted the University and thanked the Palamountain Trust on behalf of the medal winners.

I wish to thank the Palamountain family and Sarah Rush for their help in arranging the dinner. I also wish to thank the Leathersellers’ Livery Company for allowing the use of its splendid Hall.

Lord Harris

Professor Norman Barry, Professor Martin Ricketts and I attended the late Lord Harris’s thanksgiving service. Lady Thatcher, Chancellor of the University from 1993-1998, and a good friend of Ralph Harris, was present. Many of Ralph’s fellow Buckingham supporters attended the service.

Contacts with Embassies and High Commissions

The Vice-Chancellor and I met the Indian Deputy High Commissioner, Yusuf Siddiqui (LLB Law with Politics ’99), one of our alumni, introduced him to us. He would like to arrange visits from the High Commission to the University. We also met the Chinese Education Minister, Counselor Wang Yongda, at the Chinese Embassy in London. He too hopes to visit the University.

Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (SSST)

Our collaboration with SSST flourishes; Buckingham academics make regular visits to Sarajevo to help the University’s development. New degree programmes will begin in October 2007.

On a recent visit to Sarajevo, fog forced me to take an exciting overnight train journey through Croatia; shades of John le Carre crossed my mind as the train zigzagged across borders. Working for Buckingham is never dull.

Portrait of Lord Beloff

Irene Simpson, the late Max Beloff’s secretary, and an artist, kindly donated a drawing of Max to Max’s son, Jeremy who commented: ‘It is a very good likeness with an expression somewhat more benign than I sometimes remember. Maybe that reflects the good times he had at Buckingham’.

Forward Together - 30th Anniversary Campaign 2006-2012

The Campaign is entering its second year. Copies of the brochure are still available. You may also download a copy from www.buckingham.ac.uk/ubfoundation and join the campaign. Funding a sports hall remains our major concern. If you know any potential donor who might like to help please let me know.
Buckingham Law School’s LLMs

In January, the Law School welcomed almost forty new postgraduate students to its longstanding LLM in International and Commercial Law and Diploma programmes. Our LLM programme attracted students from an incredible twenty-five countries across four continents making the student body a truly international one!

Over the years, Buckingham has attained an admirable reputation for its concentrated nine-month LLM programme which is three months less than a typical UK LLM and a whole year less than a standard US LLM. The Buckingham LLM brings together the scholarly interests of staff and postgraduate students in an academically challenging, but friendly, environment. Faculty strengths include International Law, European Law, Banking, Commercial, Intellectual Property and Comparative Law. The selection of courses, our typically English campus and central location with easy access to London, Oxford and Cambridge are key attractions for our students. Another feature of Buckingham’s LLM is the unique ‘World Trade Specialist’ designation which can be obtained by successfully completing certain nominated courses. In addition, Buckingham offers its LLM and Diploma on a part-time basis.

Several of our current postgraduates availed themselves of the University’s English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses run by the English Department to help them meet the Law School’s English language requirements. There is a six month EAP beginning in July or a three month EAP course beginning in September each year.

This year the breadth and depth of the LLM programme have been increased by two new postgraduate law courses. First, Professor Jonathan Black-Branch, an eminent academic and practitioner, now teaches International Humanitarian Law. This course covers the regulation of the use of armed conflict. Second, another new offering, International Intellectual Property Law, is taught by Janice Denoncourt, former IP counsel for a publicly listed Australian technology company. This course syllabus includes the key IP conventions and treaties, the role of the World Intellectual Property Organization, comparative copyright, patent, trademark and trade secret law, art & cultural property and geographical indications. Our newest member of staff, Jae Sundaram (formerly of the University of Plymouth) has taken over the ever popular International Trade & Maritime Law course.

The LLM is not just about taught law courses. There are a variety of opportunities to enhance the postgraduate experience. For example, a group of postgraduate law students is now involved with the prestigious Denning Law Journal under the supervision of the Editor, Professor Susan Edwards. Another student, Mr Nurnaen Zeb, represented the Law School in the regional round of the National Negotiation Competition recently held at the College of Law in York. We are very proud that Professor Nigel Foster has recently been awarded the Jean Monnet Chair in European Law and has developed links with German law schools through a student and staff exchange programme.

From a career perspective, a taught master’s degree will improve legal career prospects and helps to distinguish candidates from undergraduates. The intensive nature of study on a taught master’s degree course, possibly including the completion of a research dissertation, can help persuade employers that you are self motivated, work well under pressure and have developed more advanced analytical and problem solving skills.

We are pleased to advise that Buckingham law graduates are entitled to a 25% loyalty discount on full-time taught LLM programme tuition fees, if they have achieved a Second Class Honours, Upper Division (2:1) degree, or a 33% discount if they have achieved a first class honours degree. It is easy to apply online at http://www.buckingham.ac.uk/study/apply/index.html. Applications for the academic year 2008 are being accepted now. We hope you will be able to join us.

Janice Denoncourt
Senior Lecturer
Deputy Director LLM

University News

CAREERS CORNER

Law Alumni speak about a Day in a Solicitor’s Life

Damian Stuart (LLB Law ‘95), Pauline Purcell (LLB Law ‘99) & Paul Millan (LLM ‘93) (front) with current Law students

On Wednesday 7th February, three law alumni, Pauline Purcell, Damian Stuart and Paul Millan returned to Buckingham to speak to students about their work as solicitors in a Meet the Practitioners event.

All three of the alumni had taken rather different routes to get where they are today. The students learnt some of the harsh realities of today’s legal world, but also that, if they could change their job tomorrow, our speakers wouldn’t want to do anything else.

The alumni had various gems of advice for our law students. They stressed the importance of networking and using your personal contacts to get placements. Make your CV different to give you the edge over other applicants. You need to do your research on the firms you apply to ensure you stay “ahead of the game”. Even though a law trainee’s salary may be low, the future rewards certainly seem to make up for it.

The event concluded with refreshments in the Careers Service office, which gave the students an opportunity to talk to the alumni informally and to gain more useful advice on their future careers.

Tracy Dunkley
Careers Advisor
Email: tracy.dunkley@buckingham.ac.uk

Blundell’s Blast:

Buckingham is number one, is an article written by one of our strongest supporters, John Blundell (Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs) on 11 November 2006 in his column in the Scotsman. This piece shows that the University of Buckingham is flourishing and reports the fact we are the top university for students, as reported in the THES on 25 August 2006.

http://www.iea.org.uk/record.jsp?type=pressArticle&ID=324
Dr John W. Paulley

It is with great sadness that the University has learnt of the death of Dr John W. Paulley on Saturday, 10 February.

Dr Paulley wrote a letter to The Times on 27 May, 1967 calling for an independent university in the UK based on the Stanford model in the USA. This was the beginning of the foundation of Buckingham and Dr Paulley was very much involved in the early stages.

His son and daughter-in-law are both alumni of Buckingham and his interest in how Buckingham is progressing never waned.

Dr Paulley’s funeral took place at 11am on Friday, 2 March at Stoke by Nayland in Suffolk. Professor John Clarke was asked to speak at the funeral about Dr Paulley’s involvement with Buckingham.

Derek Mahon on (1926 - 2007)

The University was saddened to learn of the death of Derek Mahon on 1 February.

Derek worked in the Student Postroom from the late 1980’s until 1994 and, together with Tom Treacy and Di Davies, was very much a part of the students’ life during that time - as the Postroom ‘boys’ always are.

Mike Booth who worked with Derek in the post room for 18 months before he retired in 1994, says “he was always a very kind man, who loved to have a laugh with the students, even writing letters to students who didn’t have any post! The system in the post room was set up by Derek and is still operating very successfully today, which gives an indication of how well organised a man he was”.

Our sympathy goes to his family, and many friends. He will be greatly missed.

Doreen Anne Gregory (1946 -2007)

It is with great sadness that the University has learnt of the death of Doreen Anne Gregory (BA English Literature with History ‘00) on 23 January.

"Many students who graduated in 1999 will have their own heartfelt memories of a special friend who graduated alongside them that year.

Doreen (or "Dee", a she was known) was so proud to have completed her degree in Literature at the University and to have started a new life in the surroundings of Gawcott and Buckingham.

She brought much love and joy into the lives of those who spent time with her. She had such a sharp sense of humour and a joy of laughter and dance. She was so full of life and embraced new friends, always opening her home to those around her and welcoming new people into her life. She was never at a loss for words, a compliment or a witty twist of phrase. Her ability to spin a difficult situation into one of comic relief by the use of her Sheffield humour was an enormous bright light for all.

Dee will be greatly missed, both at the University and in the town of Buckingham. May her light continue to shine in the memories of those who were lucky to have known such a wonderful person. Always remembered.

Jennifer Fleming

Nuhu Ahmed (1973 – 2007)

It is with great sadness that the University announces the death of Nuhu Ahmed who was killed in a car crash in Nigeria. Gregory Ioannidis, Nuhu’s personal tutor says, “I was shocked and extremely sad to be informed about Nuhu’s tragic death. As his personal tutor, I had the opportunity to get to know Nuhu not only as a student, but also as a person. Despite his personal problems he fought hard for a cause which he believed to be sacred and benign: a better future through his education.

Nuhu was a kind man, always courteous and with an unbelievable and unconditional respect for his tutors and fellow students. His smile was a source of inspiration and joy and his perseverance to complete his studies showed his qualities as a student and human being. He will be greatly missed and it is with much sadness that I send my sincerest condolences to his family, his wife and his children. I pray that God will give them the strength and courage to support them in their tragic bereavement.”

Mr Micheal Kapeleta (1962 – 2002)

The university regrets to announce the death of a Malawi alumnus, Micheal Kapeleta (Biological Science ‘94) who died whilst on an assignment in Namibia.
To All Alumni

This publication is for you and if you would like input into the next issue, please send comments and ideas to Anne Matsuoka.

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

Please Note:

Copy for the next issue required by 4th June 2007

www.buckingham.ac.uk