

Buckingham has the most satisfied students



For the second year we have come top of the National Student Survey. This is a survey of all final year undergraduates in all universities in Britain, run by an independent

polling agency, asking about student satisfaction in 21 different areas ranging from quality of teaching to quality of feedback. I am humbled that our students expressed such confidence in us, and I thank them. I hope that you, as alumni, will feel proud.

We are not sure who came second. According to the *Times Higher Education Supplement* of 14 September 2007 we beat Oxford into second place, but according to the *Sunday Times* of 23 September 2007 it was Cambridge we beat into second place. Either way, those two universities did really very well considering, and if they feel there's anything we can do to help them improve, they have only to ask.

Our success as a university is attracting interest. In September 2007 Ernst & Young, one of the big four accountancy firms, published a report entitled *The New World Order for Higher Education*. There they wrote that "the development of a strong brand" is key to the development of a first class university. They also wrote: "as Buckingham University has shown, it is not only the traditional elite universities that can establish a strong, distinctive presence in the market place" which they illustrated with a comprehensive case study of Buckingham.

Where does the Survey leave us? We have four mid-term goals. One, we must maintain our position towards the top of the National Student Survey (inevitably we will eventually be displaced from the No 1 position). Two, we have to build on our success to raise more money in donations from friends, supporters and alumni, to help the University grow its scholarship, teaching and facilities, and to

increase the number of students of different backgrounds who can afford to attend the University. Three, we have to develop a stronger research profile.

What sort of research should we be doing? This is easy to answer – research that the government would not fund. Governments use research to distract universities from their proper role of speaking truth under power, so I hope that we will, over the next decade, move into the areas of research that have been pioneered by free market think tanks such as the Institute of Economic Affairs, Civitas, the International Policy Network, Global Vision and the Centre for Policy Studies. We should be developing a critique of social and economic policy that, freed of obligation to government, will allow us to say what is unsayable and think what is unthinkable within state universities.



VC with current students

And finally, four, we should seek to attract new academics and create new courses. It is lovely that Professor Peter Cooke has joined us to create a Centre for Automotive Management; it is lovely that Professors Rajat Mathur and Jay Arnold are creating, with Professor Karol Sikora, our Postgraduate Medical School; and it is lovely that Professors Anthony O'Hear, Chris Woodhead, Alan Smithers, Dennis O'Keeffe, Dr Pamela Robinson and others have created our new Department of Education. We want more such stars!

In the last issue I promised to write about the Postgraduate Medical School but, because of the National Student Survey, space is now limited. Let me just say here that we will be recruiting qualified doctors from India and other parts of the world to

spend two years rotating between Buckingham and a small family of district general hospitals, after which they will return home with Buckingham MDs and significant expertise. Buckingham will, in short, be playing a useful role in postgraduate medical education globally, and one day our Medical School will challenge our Law School for size and international significance.

Dr Terence Kealey
Vice-Chancellor

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Editor's News



Welcome to the final issue of *the Independent* for this year. Each year I say it, and each year I mean it, where has the time gone to? However, although it is barely believable

that we have almost reached Christmas once again, we have begun to plan for next year. As well as the annual alumni summer party in London, our big event for next year will be a

Weekend in Geneva 12-14 September, 2008

Make a note in your diary now to join us for a weekend of events in Geneva, Switzerland from 12-14 September next year.

We want to create a weekend where Buckingham alumni will meet to discuss how to help grow the University, to enjoy each others' company, and to enjoy a stimulating series of events. We will therefore be discussing the formation of an International Alumni Group and welcome interest in that from alumni who cover all disciplines, years and cultures. Everyone is welcome.

This will not replace the usual London event, which will take place on Friday 20 June.

We will be sending out more detailed information about the weekend via email and on the website early next year.

To enable you to check the hotels we will be using please click on the links below:

Recommended hotels are the Suitehotel Genève (http://www.accorhotels.com/accorhotels/fichehotel/gb/sui/5654/fiche_hotel.shtml) or the Hotel du Rhone (<http://www.hoteldurhone.com/>), which is rather more expensive.

You may also be interested to learn that a new train service from St Pancras Station, London direct to Geneva was launched recently and takes just 6 hours.

Please contact us on alumni@buckingham.ac.uk to make a booking, or if you have any other queries. More details will follow in the Spring issue of the *Independent*

If you are not already registered onto the AlumNet website (www.buckingham.ac.uk/alumnet) please do consider doing so, as it will enable you to keep up to date with the details of all events, but this one in particular. It also gives us the ability to contact you via email with "hot off the press" news, and for friends from the past to seek you out and make contact.

Also to let you know that on 29 April

Lord and Lady Luce (former Vice-Chancellor) will be hosting a tea party for anyone who has given a donation to our Alumni Annual Fund at the House of Lords. Invitations will be sent out shortly and we very much hope that you will be able to be there.

We have had quite a few changes in the department and you will be reading about these in different articles in the magazine, but I would like to welcome Beth into the role of PR/Media Communications Co-ordinator, Iva (Xiaoqing) Yu who is standing in as Student Sabbatical Officer and to thank Helen Miller for her tremendous support in filling in wherever she has been needed during the past six months. We shall miss her when she goes, but we wish her the very best of luck on her gap year travels and hope that she will stay in touch. We will be taking on a new Student Sabbatical Officer at the end of this year and they will be introducing themselves in the next issue of *the Independent*. I very much hope to see you next year in either London or Geneva if not before!

Anne Matsuoka
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Xiaoqing's News



I am glad to be writing to you as the 'newest' member of the alumni team. Actually, I have worked in the Alumni Office before. Some of you may remember I was

the Student Sabbatical Officer three years ago. From the middle of September, I started covering for Ayo, whom I wish all the best in her Masters at Birmingham University. I am also working with **Nancy Zulu (LLM '06)**, Sabbatical Officer in the Admissions Office, two days per week, which I enjoy very much.

Since I joined the team, Buckingham was voted No 1 in the National Students Survey (again). I hope you spend a bit of

time reading the comments from some of the alumni (reproduced on the back page) who responded to this news. One of them might be yours.

As part of my job, I have been on a trip to China with Eddie Shoesmith (Senior Lecturer, Business School) to market the University. We attended the Education UK Exhibition arranged by the British Council China in Xiamen, and visited British Council offices in Guangzhou and Shanghai. An alumni gathering was arranged in Shanghai on Saturday 10 November.

I also visited Beijing British Council Office and we held an alumni meeting on Thursday 15 November.

The interest shown in the trip by our alumni based in China was wonderful and I was especially grateful to those who made a special trip to either

Shanghai or Beijing to attend the events. I will provide you with details in the next issue of *the Independent*.

Of course, my work is not all exciting trips abroad (I wish). The yearly Students, Staff and Alumni Art Exhibition was held from 22 to 25 October. I would especially thank **Uzoamaka Nsien (LLB '99)** for donating her poem, and **Henry Adebonojo (LLB '82)**, who posted 6 photos (one of which I successfully bid for) from the States and donated them all for the Auction night of the exhibition. The event raised £202.60 (both raffle and auction) for the UBSOS (University of Buckingham Supporting Overseas Schooling) and was enjoyed by all.

Enjoy your reading.

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Alumni at Work

How to cope with a media crisis



Many years ago, I received the sort of phone call that any public relations adviser dreads: a solicitor client had been accused of assaulting a woman at his Belgravia offices, and the press were all over the story.

Allen Chubb, then senior partner at a firm called Child & Child, had apparently rugby-tackled Laura Harold, the wife of a wealthy property developer, after a dispute where he refused to hand over the deeds of her home before an outstanding bill was settled.

Chubb was ultimately convicted of falsely imprisoning and causing actual bodily harm to Harold, and faced a three-month suspension by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. The tale, unsurprisingly, resulted in copious amounts of salacious media coverage, and that was back in 1996. Today, the press is even more voracious in its pursuit of juicy tales of wrongdoing, and where professional services organisations are involved, the column inches dedicated to a spur of the moment misdemeanour can often appear dramatically out of proportion to the story.

The importance of understanding the workings of the media, and being prepared for their reaction to a business event, has never been greater, as the recent experience of Northern Rock demonstrates. Today my clients include not just major corporations, but government bodies, owner-managed businesses and individuals, all of whom feel they could either unwittingly attract the attentions of a journalist, or wish to somehow influence the public perception of their activities.

Any company, however large or small, needs to think ahead and be ready to deal with the media properly in the event of a crisis. This doesn't mean burying your head in the sand when the press inquiries start rolling in, but rather completing a risk analysis and assessment in advance, so that you know what you will do if something goes wrong. How will you behave if one of your employees claims unfair dismissal and tells the local paper? What will you do if one your company's suppliers is found to be cooking its books or sourcing

your products illegally? What's the correct answer if a journalist phones up and says they understand one of your managers has just assaulted one of your clients?

Of course, you don't anticipate any of these things going on in your business, but reputational risk is everywhere and simply saying it'll never happen to you is not the answer. Instead, should something go wrong, the first thing to do is to make sure you know all the facts of the matter before you even consider talking to the press.

You need to establish what the position really is, and having done that, a steering committee should be appointed to deal with any media attention, and the company should seek to take a proactive stance, even though it is sometimes difficult. The instinct is to run for cover in the face of a media storm, but remember that there will always be someone, often inside the company, who is disgruntled and willing to talk about their views on the issue. Furthermore, journalists are pretty good at picking up the phone and asking what's really going on, whilst simultaneously offering reassurances to potential sources that comments will be kept off the record.

So you need to make sure everyone in your business speaks as a team, and you need to make sure your messages are loud and clear. New Labour comes in for many criticisms – a lot of them justified – but few can fault the way it dealt with press attention in the early days, when MPs were regularly bleeped or paged with precise instructions as to what they could say, when and to whom, in the face of either good or bad news.

As part of the damage limitation exercise, it is vital that other staff are fully briefed on what is going on, and are told as much as is reasonably possible. You do not need to invite the opinions of your junior employees, but you should keep them informed of what's happening, safe in the knowledge that they will probably express a view regardless.

Running for cover in the face of calls from the media can seem a very tempting option, but in the long-term, it will rarely prove to be the best strategy. Of course it is inadvisable to assault your own clients, but what is even more foolhardy is to be unprepared for a media reaction.

Ronel Lehmann
(BSc Business Studies '86)
Chief Executive
Lehmann Communications Plc

BUCKINGHAM IN THE NEWS:

On 15th August 2007, **Professor John Adamson**, Research Professor in Modern History, addressed the Edinburgh International Book Festival, on his recent book, 'The Noble Revolt: the Overthrow of Charles I' Following this the University was delighted to hear that he has won the Samuel Pepys award for his book beating 17 other titles to the prize. The judges included Claire Tomalin, winner of the 2003 prize, and Sir Keith Thomas, former Regius Professor of History at Oxford and former President of the British Academy. Staff and students at the University send him their congratulations.

They fiddled the figures: do you agree or disagree?

Vice-Chancellor, **Dr Terence Kealey** poses this question in his article and asks why the University of Buckingham was ranked second in the government agency HEFCE results.

The Times, September 13, 2007

University Guide

Buckingham comes top of the National Student Survey (NSS) for the second year running, scoring 88.2% for overall satisfaction and beating off stiff competition from rivals Cambridge and The Open University.

The Sunday Times, September 23, 2007

Postgrad MD for Bucks

The University of Buckingham launched a new two-year **Clinical MD programme** in general internal medicine. The course will start in April 2008 and dean of the school will be Professor Karol Sikora

Times Higher Education Supplement November 9, 2007

Concerts & Lectures January-March 2008

Tuesday 12 February

Amnesty Lecture, Professor Susan Edwards, Deputy Dean of Law, University of Buckingham and Mr John Cornwell, Buckingham Amnesty Group

Tuesday 4 March

Professor Vernon Bogdanor, MA (Oxon) FBA, Oxford University

Tuesday 11 March

Professor Peter Cooke, Inaugural Lecture

Thursday 13 March

The Rt Hon Lord Leonard Hoffmann

Tuesday 18 March

The Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe, MP

For further details email
publicity@buckingham.ac.uk

Alumni at Work

Internship at Hewitt Associates Japan



I had the opportunity to participate in an internship programme (9- 13 July 2007) at Hewitt Associates in Japan (Hewitt Associates, provider of human resources

outsourcing and consulting services), and was so impressed I wanted to tell you about it. Having a mission statement "making the world a better place to work", Hewitt Associates in Japan provides an opportunity to share experiences of making the world a better place to work. Its businesses cover, amongst others, Talent & Organisation Consulting, and Retirement Financial Management. The purpose of the internship programme is to help raise the brand recognition and recruiting in the long-term and my missions as an internship participant were:

- Learn (e.g. participating in a seminar by Maita, the CEO of Hewitt Associates in Japan)
- Contribute (e.g. translation work of Hewitt's publication)
- Experience (e.g. getting involved in step-by-step work)
- Report (e.g. showing what is learnt to the world)

Given the translation work, data check, and opportunity to participate in the seminar, I could see more about the aspects of the HR consulting work than I was expecting and I found significant differences in management of work regulations by companies. Although I felt that the step-by-step work is time-consuming and less exciting than other dynamic work, it does build the basis of all HR consulting work, and is therefore vitally important. Working with, and helping, other participants meant I was even more encouraged, and learnt the importance of friendship at work.

Maita cited a mission statement of The Ritz-Carlton Company in his seminar "Ladies and Gentlemen Serving Ladies and Gentlemen." meaning that professional employees serve professional clients. The consultants at Hewitt Associates also have this mission statement in mind. Although the internship programme was only 5 days, I

was happy to have the opportunity to take part. I feel I benefited from, and really enjoyed, the time at Hewitt Associates. I hope that many people will know and get interested in the company and its work.

Masatoshi Kaneta
(BSc Psychology '06)
MSc Management student
Imperial College London

SUMMER PLACEMENT:

Dow Jones London, Tower Hill



When I arrived at St Katherine Docks on my first day of work I was welcomed by the manager of the research department who introduced me to the research team and the sales

team. The team I was to work with reminded me very much of Buckingham: international, motivated, and from different backgrounds. They were English, French, Italian, German, Korean, Danish, all with high communication skills. Lots of jokes were going about the acquisition of the Wall Street Journal by News Corp., as well as how Rupert Murdoch has the potential to turn the WSJ into another sensational, eye-catching slogan tabloid. The atmosphere was easy. I was given my own office, computer and telephone, and my first task was to read the company's magazines as well as a series of definitions about the meaning of private equity and venture capital.

Basically I had to get ready to start to work with the research team within days, and to do so I had to know what they were talking about. Everybody there uses a different vocabulary such as IPO, MBO, LBO, seed round, first round, venture capitalists, angels etc. All sorts of abbreviations and expressions I had heard of, read about, and others I had no clue about at all, were now what I had to work with. To be honest the first week of office work was a real challenge: I was in a new environment I was not used to, and I had to get ready to work as a member of the research team.

Fortunately the members of both teams (research and sales) were fantastic with me. At lunch break we were going for a quick sandwich outside the office, getting some fresh air, and relaxing a bit before

going back to work.

My first assignments were to get information on companies and investors from European countries. I worked on Spain, France, Sweden, Norway and Israel. I was getting there. The manager was happy with me and now I could understand what I was doing (I had no idea the first few days) and what was the benefit of my work for the company.

On the fourth week of the placement the manager assigned another project to me. The project seemed quite the same as the others, but this time I had to use the company's software and enter my work directly into the database system. I was not reporting to the manager every time I finished a job and showed him what I had done. No, this time I was given responsibility. Everything I was doing I would enter directly into the database, with my name and the date on it like everybody else in the team so that we all knew who had done what and if there was any change or update to do. This time I was a member of the team.

The placement was for seven weeks and I have to say these seven weeks went really fast.

I learned a lot about the private equity and venture capital industry, their sector of activities country by country, and region by region. And more basically how people "there" do business.

All in all I could not have wished for a better work experience this summer.

Thank you Buckingham and thank you Dow Jones.

Pierre Bridel
(BSc Economics '08)
MA Global Affairs student

STUDY ABROAD

The University of Buckingham **Study Abroad and Internships Office** in association with European Study Abroad (EUSA) help students like Pierre find work placement opportunities to enhance their career prospects. These placements are offered in a wide range of employment areas.

If you would like more information please contact Patricia C. Prada Jimenez.

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I met **Baroness Patricia Scotland** (picture left) for the first time when **Michael Morris (LLB '01)** and I arranged a visit to the House of Lords when we were students

at Buckingham University. Baroness Scotland invited the Society of Caribbean and Atlantic Students (SoCA), of which I was then President, to tea. We were so thrilled to be invited by a woman from the Caribbean who had distinguished herself in the world of law and politics. She was then, and remains now, an incredibly strong role-model for young black women.

Baroness Scotland was an extremely gracious hostess. She appeared genuinely interested in our thoughts on world matters and constitutional affairs. We were fortunate also to observe her formidably debating a Bill in Parliament. It was an awe inspiring occasion to see a black woman like myself, from the very same island from which my parents had come, shaping the policy and laws of Great Britain in the very chambers of power that had shaped the policy and laws that had for centuries affected my ancestors in islands thousands of miles away.

I then met Baroness Scotland again when she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Buckingham. Baroness Scotland eloquently espoused the importance of the Rule of Law in a democratic society and on the world stage. When I met her then, I remember saying to her that when I grow up I want to be just like her. I was only half-joking.

From the first time that I came to know of Baroness Scotland I have felt a particular affinity for and pride in her. Her accomplishments include being a founding member of Greys Inn Chambers in London. She is the first black woman Attorney-General of the United Kingdom. She has two beautiful children and a successful marriage. She has been a champion for people's rights in her capacities as a lawyer and a politician. She recognises and upholds her roots from the Commonwealth of Dominica but embraces her Britishness.

Baroness Scotland is a shining example of a successful human being

who happens to be black and who happens to be a woman.

In reply to a letter I once wrote the Baroness, she kindly wrote a note to me in which she said, "God has a funny sense of humour... I am...a politician," referring to her early ambitions to be a Barrister and change in career. Life's circumstances are indeed sometimes strange and the Baroness has achieved and been granted the highest legal office in the land, therefore still realising her early ambitions.

I have recently been through incredibly harsh life challenges which have rocked my belief in myself and in my ability to become a lawyer. I have however been strengthened by these challenges and have learnt much about life, the pursuit of excellence and myself. I have also been motivated by the example of Baroness Scotland to continue to strive for success and achievement.

I hope to meet Baroness Scotland again one day and to be as successful as her when I do meet her. She is simply inspirational.

Deirdre La Touche (LLB '01)



Changing your whole life can be daunting. One day you are at home and the next you are on a plane and "on your own". Being alone in a foreign country, you have never

visited before, in a place where you know no one and nothing is familiar is difficult. Nevertheless, from my first week at Buckingham everyone made me feel welcome with their hospitality, friendliness, helpfulness, and cooperation.

My years at Buckingham made me a stronger person by discovering my inner thoughts, as well as my strengths and weaknesses. Buckingham allowed me to achieve my maximum potential since its environment allows talent to develop and flourish.

Buckingham is a safe and ideal place to study and enjoy the experiences of a lifetime while at the same time gaining a valuable education. By the end of my studies I had come to realise that Buckingham was truly the starting point

of my life experiences.

It is a significant achievement to attend University without having spoken a word of English before and ending up as an English teacher. After graduating from Buckingham, I completed my MA in Modern English Language at UCL (University College London) and then worked in a College in London as an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Teacher/Lecturer for adults for two years.

When I returned to Cyprus I began teaching English in a private school in Nicosia - Pascal, while at the same time getting my Certificate in CELTYL (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Young Learners) from Cambridge University Syndicate and also LCCI Higher in Public Relations.

For the past two summers I taught English as a Foreign Language to foreigners at a summer school based at UCL for a couple of months each time. This academic year 2006 – 07 I taught English to adults in the University of Nicosia / Intercollege, as well as Cyprus College.

I am currently in the United States as a Fulbright Scholar having been selected and appointed as a FLTA (Foreign Language Teaching Assistant) for this academic year 2007- 08.

Vivian Constanta (BA EFL '02)

Lost Alumni

Mrs Sarimah Abdul Aziz, studied International Hotel Management, left 08/07/1996

Mr Mohammed Abdul Ghani, studied Law, graduated 07/03/1997

Mr Junaid Abdul Karim, studied Accounting and Financial Management, graduated 23/02/1991

Miss Halima Abdullahi, studied Business Studies, left 02/08/2001

Mr Andrew Babalola, studied MBA, graduated 01/03/2003

Miss Corinna Bainbridge, studied Law, left 13/01/1992

Miss Fiona Campbell, studied Law, graduated 23/02/1991

If you know where these Alumni are, please do let us know.



My work, life and memories of Buckingham...

Many moons ago (in 1976/77) I showed up at the doors of the then University College of Buckingham. I have to admit that I was quite entranced by the most beautiful and charming personality that first greeted us all – the stunning receptionist – I will never forget her happy friendly face and smile – Sandra if I am not mistaken? Well what can I say – I had to get in – education was secondary!

There were a handful of students in my school (Economics), 7 of us out of a total of 180.

It was an amazing experience – we had a global community in this small town with the smallest university population - from Royalty to unknown – all wearing UCB sweatshirts. Lets just call it the Saturday Night Fever Era!

There was plenty of drinking at our local student union bar and the Mitre pub and the food at the café was actually quite good. There was a distinct shortage of beautiful women, but no shortage of weird individuals while our car park was, at times, valued higher than our buildings, making us not quite the place of study for the then Labour party diehards.

I had the good fortune of making true friends at Buckingham, some lost in the course of growing up and apart and others still in touch. Chris Hollis, still a champ, and Squeeky still a darling.

Soon after graduating, I set sail – arriving in style, like most boat people – to the United States. No, not the Mayflower and not an illegal Cuban, but the Queen Elizabeth 2.

Having spent my first six years as an investment banker in Boston, I went on to become a Venture Capitalist and have stayed in that field till today. Currently I am Chairman and CEO of a private Equity Firm that I founded in Beijing, Wang Capital.

Life has been full of challenges, with no shortage of perils. I conclude that the world is not round as suggested but rather square. The trick is to stay out of the corners of life, often dead ends, and at each turn stay true to conviction and belief and work out of the box – round things off – and march on. Okay, too philosophical!

I am very passionate about Polo, owning and playing for team ESCUE which won the US Open in 1998, and was defending champion in Argentina Open in 2005. I have three of the best kids (all polo players) and a beautiful wife of 22 years. Also some young (4 legged) ladies in the barn – all 20 of them!

At 51, it seems that I left Buckingham just yesterday – not 20+ years ago. Fond memories are impossible to dismiss – so folks, study hard but play harder – as one wise man once said, its not knowledge or intelligence that will get you there, it is all about ATTITUDE. That's what I graduated with and it has carried me through life with no regrets.

Always smile, respect everyone and remain focused. And yes, send your kids to Buckingham!

Sohail Quraeshi
(BSc Econ '81)



It has been a long time (20 years) since I attended the University of Buckingham as an “occasional” student (to Americans this was always a very amusing, and fitting term). At the time, Lehigh University had a popular semester abroad program with UB. Nine Lehigh students attended (John Fleming, Pete Winebrake, Margaret LaForce, Liz Lindahl, Robin Paoli, Steve Strzylecki, Patty Hall, and Julie Shumofsky). We had a great experience at UB getting to know the other students, professors, and staff, as well as traveling all around Europe. I keep in touch with several of the UB friends I made that semester and can safely say that they are cherished, lifelong friends.

After UB and a B.A. from Lehigh in 1988,

I returned to the UK to attend the LSE, earning a Master's degree. I moved to Washington in 1989 and worked for the U.S. Commerce Department investigating unfair trade complaints. It was a great experience for a young person to travel abroad and conduct investigations of companies and government subsidy programs but by 1993 I knew that this capitalist was not meant to be a bureaucrat. I had met my wife in Washington and moved back to her home town, Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1993 to work for First Union National Bank. With the exception of one year (1999-2000) at Duke Energy, I have been with First Union (now Wachovia – the 4th largest bank in the US) ever since. My past positions have included country/bank risk analysis, international corporate banking, and media portfolio management. Currently, I am Managing Director for Wachovia's Energy & Power portfolio management, where I lead a team that underwrites, syndicates, and manages loans to Wachovia's Energy & Power corporate clients.

Most importantly, my wife Linda and I spend much of our time involved in the lives of our three boys – Matthew (11), Jack (9) and Mark (9). I coach soccer and basketball teams year-round. Swimming and baseball also work their way into our schedule. We are very involved in our church and try to focus on raising our children in a faithful Christian environment.

I told my oldest son the other day that he and I might need to find a cheap airfare and go to England so we can visit some old friends and I can show him some of my “memories.” My hope for him is that he can find as memorable and treasured experience as the one I had at UB.

Larry Sullivan
(Occasional Student '87)

Advertising

With a circulation of 8,500, *the Independent* would like to publicise the businesses of alumni.

The cost will be: quarter page £50
half page £100, full page £200

All in colour and based on A4 size sheet.

Please contact
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Alumni News

I graduated from Buckingham in 1993. Writing this brief article is a good opportunity to share my journey since I graduated, and how my time at Buckingham has helped to shape some of the decisions made along the way.



Marco with his daughter, Amélie May (Milly May)

I moved to London straight after graduating. I was keen to find something that combined both an opportunity to continue my academic development as well as kick-start a professional career within a business-oriented environment. Finance seemed to fit the bill. I worked for a medium-sized Accountancy firm in the City for four years and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1997. This provided me with a solid grounding in

understanding business and accounting issues across a broad range of organisations. Hmmm....

I'm not too sure what drove my decision to specialise in Corporate Tax. I still wonder sometimes, but in any case, I joined KPMG as a Corporate Tax Advisor for the Entertainment and Travel industry shortly upon qualifying. I was fortunate to join at a time when the .com bubble was inflating. I was also part of the tax team servicing a small budget airline called easyJet (before they went Public). It was fascinating (in a strange, "I enjoy tax" sort of way) to be involved in the whole Public Offering and receiving the odd email from Stelios.

However, after six years at KPMG, one wife, two daughters and an MBA later, I decided it was time to join a smaller organisation. Enter Pricoa Relocation. Pricoa Relocation is part of Prudential Financial, a large US Insurance and Investment company. We help companies (predominantly Financial Services organisations) move their employees into Europe; so we find them temporary accommodation at the beginning of their assignment, permanent housing for them and their family, appropriate schools for their

children, we negotiate leases on their behalf and support their tenancy management needs during their stay. Today, I am the Managing Director for EMEA; we employ approximately 150 people based in London and in Paris and have been growing at a rate of 20% a year for the last 2 years. Long may it continue!

After some initial difficulty in "letting go" (I attended some 6 or 7 graduation balls after graduating...), I haven't actually visited the University in quite some time. Nevertheless, throughout the last 14 years there is an aspect of my life, you could say, that has remained forever Buckingham: the great bunch of guys that I met during my stay there, and whom I still meet regularly today. As the University aspires to grow in size and status, I hope it will retain the fantastically diverse pool of students and staff that I was fortunate to be part of, and continue to promote the close environment that has enabled me to find the enduring friendships that were made during my "Buckingham years", and that endure to this day.

Marco Previero
(BSc Econ '93)

Nigerian Alumni Update



Adefunmilayo Tejuoso and Nike Animasaun

I want to take this opportunity to let you know of some of the successes of our Nigerian alumni. I hope you might like to see what they are doing now, and how prominent many of them are:

Mrs Adefunmilayo Tejuoso (LLB '92) is the Deputy Speaker of the Lagos State house of Assembly, the legislative arm of the Lagos State Government, and is serving her second term.

There are also a number of Law graduates doing well in their chosen fields. In the Lagos State judiciary a number of alumni sit as High Court Judges in the State. They are

Honorable Justice **Gbaja-Biamila (Law '82)**, Honorable Justice **S.O Nwaka (LLB '86)** and Honorable Justice **Tunde Oshodi (LLB '86)**.

While on the lower bench (the Magistracy) in Lagos State are the following alumni:

Mrs Eniola Fabamwo (née Koleoso) (LLB '91) (picture right)
Mrs Nike Animasaun (née Senbanjo) (LLB '87)
Mrs Adefunmilola Demi-Ajayi (née Smith) (LLB '87)
Mrs Jumoke Olagbegi-Adelabu (née Olateru-Olagbegi)



Other Nigerian Law graduates from the University are mostly in private practice and are doing very well in Lagos State and many other States in Nigeria. The credit goes to the highly knowledgeable lecturers we were privileged to be taught by – Dr Clifford Hall and Mr Irving Stevens, to name but two.



Adefunmilola Demi-Ajayi

Many thanks to the publishers of *the Independent*, who enable us to look back and remember the good old days at the University!

Adefunmilola Demi-Ajayi
(LLB '87)

Engagements... Marriages...

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

Engagements



Philipp Kleyser (LLM '02) is happy to announce his engagement to **Amelie Heuser**, which took place on 14 July 2007 in Paris. Philipp says the wedding will take place in Germany in the middle of next year.

Marriages



Charlie Venn (née Brooker) (BSc Business Studies '00, LLB '03) and her husband **Robert** are delighted to announce their marriage which took place on 7 July 2007.

They were thrilled to be surrounded by family and friends including their Maid of Honour **Elizabeth Saxby (BSc Business Studies '00)**, their Best Man **John Pattinson (LLB '80)**, **Jane Howell (née Henderson) (LLB '83)** and her husband **Andrew (BSc AFM '80)**, **Dr Terence Kealey**, the Vice Chancellor, **Professor Alistair Alcock** (former Deputy Vice Chancellor), **Anne Matsuoka** (PR/Alumni Office), **Eddie Shoesmith** (Business School), **Sheena McMurtrie** (former Tutorial Fellow, Law School), **Sheila Taylor** (SU Office),

Nigel Hawkins (BA PEL '78), **Emma King (née Saxby) (BSc Business Studies '00)**, **Anthony Edwards (BSc Business Studies '00, MBA '01)**, **Dan Day (BSc Business Economics '99)** and **Faye Geoghegan (LLB '04)**.



After ten years of being in love, **Trang Nguyen (MBA '05)** tied the knot with her fiancé, **Minh Bui**. The couple had their wedding on 6 April 2007. They are very pleased their former classmates sent them greetings. They now live in Hanoi, Vietnam.



James Baker (LLB '06, LLM '07) and **Xiaojing Yu (MSc IHM '05)** are happy to announce that after their marriage in Beijing in December 2006 a blessing was held on 21 July 2007 in Bradford Abbas, Dorset attended by family and friends, including a large contingent coming from Buckingham.

The guests braved unseasonable flooding in Buckingham and torrential rain all through the day in Bradford Abbas but this did not hamper the fantastic day, which was enjoyed by all. The happy couple are now living in Buckingham.

Births



Anna Harvard (LLB Law '07) is happy to announce the birth of her daughter. **Evelyn Barbara** was born on 16 February 2007 weighing 7lbs 7oz.



Guido von Rohr (BSc Business Studies '94) and **Christina (BA Politics and History '99)** share the photo of their second baby boy **Konstantin**. 'Born on 8 June 2007, the second one is keeping us on our toes, demanding his milk at 2:30am.'



Uzoamaka Izuora-Nsien (LLB '99) and her husband **Michael** had a baby girl **Angel Uyaibong** (beauty of God) **Afomachukwu** (the Grace of God) **Nsien** on 2 August 2007. Born on Thursday at 7:28am. She weighed 7.5 pounds. Uzo said, 'Michael and I are so happy to have our long awaited bundle of joy. She's our angel and in perfect health. I am enjoying motherhood. It's an awesome job.'

...and Births



Andrea Welby (née Kelly) (BSc Economics '87) happily announces the new addition to the family.

'On Tuesday 4 September 2007 my husband Chris and myself had a baby boy whom we have named William Michael. He was 7lb 10oz when he was born. Andrea and William are well. We are enjoying parenthood but it is very hard work.'



Ailsa Dennett (LLB '97) told us her birthday was rather quiet this year because of their new arrival.

'Miss **Belinda Rachel Dennett** arrived on 11 September 2007 weighing in at 8lb 8oz and has turned our worlds upside down - in a good way! We are settling in well although she has made us realise in a very short amount of time exactly who is boss!!'



Donna Hardman (née Wiseman, former HR Dept) gave birth to a beautiful baby girl at 12.36pm on Sunday 21 October 2007. She weighed a whopping 8lb 7oz. Donna and her husband Trev named the girl **Eleanor Chloe**. Both Eleanor and Mum are very well.



Austin Aloysius Tay (LLM '04) who wants to share good news says: '**Selina Hon (née Chen) (BSc Psychology with English Language '03)** (husband **Johnny, Fellow of the University**) recently gave birth to a baby girl. **Cecilia Hon** was born on 6 September at 8:33am in Hong Kong.'



Veselin Bandev and Shulian Zhang (both MBA '04) were really thrilled that their baby girl **Sophia Veselinova Bandeva** was delivered safely at 17:07 on 16 October 2007 in Tokuda hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria. She was 50cm at birth and weighed 3.42kg.

Shulian says: 'We named her Sophia, as Sofia is the city where Ves and I registered our marriage in 2004, where we are living now, as well as where she was born.'



Antonia Thompson-Carey (LLB '91) and her husband Andre are happy to announce the birth of a baby girl, **Gabriela Elise**, sister to four-year old Xavier. Gabriela was born on 23 January in Hong Kong. "She is a wonderful addition to our family and she and Xavier are crazy about one another ... hope it lasts!"



Yusrin Faizd Yusoff (LLB Law '93) says '**Faris Irfan** was one year old on 21 July 2007 (photographed with my wife, **Rashidah Rasib**). We can tell that things are just going to get more exciting as time goes on.'

Postgraduate Medical School



It's a very exciting time in medical education at Buckingham. Britain's only independent University is going to be offering two courses. A postgraduate medical school (to

train already qualified doctors and award a Clinical MD) will open in September 2008. Its first entry will be 24 students and this will subsequently increase to 50 students per year. They will be based at Buckingham, Ealing Hospital, London; St Richards Hospital, Chichester and Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport. The course will be divided into seven clinical modules of ten weeks each (cardiology, respiratory medicine, gastroenterology, infectious diseases, critical care, diabetes and endocrinology, emergency medicine) and last for 2 years full time. There will also be a Buckingham module focussing on ethics, accountancy, legal issues, molecular medicine, statistics, management and audit. The relevant contracts have been signed by the hospitals and the curriculum already approved by UB after external peer review.

The graduate entry medical school is being created by bringing together a consortium of clinical partners from both the public and private sector. This allows selected candidates who already have degrees to enter a fast tracked 4 year programme to become a qualified doctor. Teaching will take place at several hospitals including Milton Keynes, Bedford, Stoke Mandeville, Ealing and for the first time in several major London private hospitals. UBMS plans to take its first cohort of 100 students in September 2009.

We have discussed this proposal with the GMC, the DH and our potential clinical partners who have all welcomed this strategy which creates Britain's first truly independent Medical School. We have now field tested the implications of our distributed model with several of our partners who are enthusiastic but concerned that they receive realistic payment. We have negotiated with the University of Leicester Medical School to version their graduate entry curriculum materials into the form required for the UBMS distributed learning system. This course has full GMC approval.

The distinguishing features of the UBMS course include:

- Response to UK and global market outlook and local demographic changes.
- Innovative entry for successful graduates likely to increase diversity of entry into medicine
- International student mix with 50% UK; 50% international (including 25% from EU)
- Design and delivery especially attractive to mature entrants
- Designed to provide alignment for students to link to US Medical Licensure Examination requirements
- Fast track four year integrated full time programme based in clinical centres and at UB
- Distance learning provision throughout the course
- A rich supported learning environment intertwining science and clinical teaching using a unique, web-based, distributed clinical learning system will distinguish this programme from the existing provision.
- Novel use of IT to disseminate and monitor use of teaching material
- Student, patient and public involvement in curriculum development proposed
- High levels of student support and career guidance
- Recognition of more pluralistic healthcare delivery landscape demonstrated through clinical experience in NHS and private hospitals and community facilities
- Unique model for clinical training can be re-produced in other parts of Britain/abroad – presenting the opportunity for satellite centres.
- Individual clinical mentor and professional development supervisor throughout the course
- Excellence in both internal and external quality assurance
- Full compliance with UK General Medical Council and WHO guidelines

There is tremendous enthusiasm for such a venture from clinicians in both hospitals and general practices which was mirrored by the considered corporate responses from the management of the relevant

NHS hospital trusts approached as well as the chief executives of independent sector healthcare providers. The concept of an independent medical school captures the continuing drive towards public-private joint ventures and growing involvement of the private sector in the provision of front line services in both health and education.

Professor Karol Sikora
Dean of the Medical School

Message from Dr Sum-Wah Lam

I spent 3 hours with **Professor Kerry Shephard**, who was my thesis supervisor at the University of Buckingham, on Friday 14 September 2007 here in Hong Kong, while he was in transit from the UK to New Zealand. He has not changed too much since the last time we met twenty years ago in 1987.

Kerry is now Director of the Higher Education Development Center at the University of Otago in New Zealand. His wife, Sally, a registered physiotherapist, is now a student taking courses in Fine Arts in New Zealand. His little son, Tom, is eleven years old receiving primary education in an aided school in New Zealand. His other children have completed their university education. Jacob, the elder one, with a chemistry degree from the University of Bristol and Katie with a fine arts degree from University College London. Kerry is still very competitive; he is also very competent in his work. I hope he and his family will continue to have a prosperous and happy life in New Zealand.

What I have written is to share with friends from the University of Buckingham the joy of meeting Kerry again. I hope I can be in touch with friends who have not been in communication with me for the past twenty years.

Dr Sum-Wah Lam
(DIP Fisheries Psychology '88)

The MA in Global Affairs programme



When I took my degree in Politics, Economics and Law at Buckingham almost 30 years ago, I never thought I would one day return to teach here.

When, in November 2005, the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of Humanities, Professor Martin Ricketts, asked me to design an MA for the Department of Economics and International Studies that would be uniquely attractive, the task was not at all daunting. The idea of such a programme had been with me for over a decade and had grown largely out of the advisory work I did for Foreign and other Ministries of the major Powers. The resulting programme was the MA in Global Affairs, with the distinctive subtitle, 'a professional training programme'. Launched in September with only a modest amount of marketing from March till September 2006, it attracted 33 applicants of whom 11 were admitted. In April 2007, another 7 were admitted out of 37 applicants; and in September 2007, as the first intake of 11 students completed the programme, 7 were admitted out of 65 applicants. The statistics speak for themselves.

The instant success of the programme is not surprising. It is, after all, unique and inimitable. Buckingham's four-term twelve-month academic year makes it easy to create unique and inimitable programmes. With three courses per term, students receive twelve courses for roughly the same amount of money they would have to pay if they were enrolled at state universities where they would receive only six courses taught over two terms (three per term), where the third and final term is used for examinations and where the summer is used for the rather leisurely writing of a 12,000 word dissertation. Buckingham's MA in Global Affairs is therefore excellent value for money. However, the intensity of the twelve-course programme coupled with the professional skills training does mean that only high-flyers would want to apply - and that is just as it should be. I tell my students that apart from learning the substance of the various courses, "I will teach you the meaning of discipline and hard work, and you will like it." And they do. The feedback has been

consummate, indeed, flattering.

Consisting in two terms of global governance (global politics and institutions), two terms of international law (public international law and law of international trade and investment), two terms of history (evolution of the state system and of global society), two terms of global economics and finance, two terms of security flashpoints and other global issues, one term of global environmental politics and one term of negotiations, the programme is so comprehensive that it prepares – indeed, over prepares – its graduates for senior employment in virtually any sector in the 21st century world, be it public office and government service including diplomatic service, trade and industry, commerce and finance, multinational corporations, global civil society organisations, non-government organisations, international organisations, and serious journalism. No other MA in the world offers such a comprehensive range of courses that together give graduates this full understanding of the modern world.

Added to the unique and inimitable scope of the programme is what I regard as the jewel in the crown – the unique Professional Skills Training and Testing. I had quietly and rather secretly developed the Professional Skills Training and Testing during the 15 years I taught Public International Law for Diplomatic and International Studies at Birmingham University's Graduate School of Political Science and International Studies. My colleagues there only looked at me quizzically or blankly whenever I mentioned it; nobody was really interested in it, and that was just how I wanted it to be. The Professional Skills Test part of my course at Birmingham was worth only 5% of the final mark, but it involved a tremendous amount of additional work for the students as well as for me (approximately two hours per student). However, year after year, my students would tell me that the Professional Skills Training was the most enjoyable and most rewarding part of the course. Among my many grateful students was one from China who, despite his less than perfect English, consistently surprised his internship supervisor at the United Nations Security Council by always being the first to find materials he was asked to find and the first to complete professional tasks he was asked to complete, notwithstanding the fact that he was the only non-law graduate among that year's interns. It was most gratifying when I received a

note of congratulations on United Nations Security Council headed notepaper. And so, when I designed the MA in Global Affairs programme for Buckingham, I made **Professional Skills Training and Testing central to the entire programme** – without it, the programme could not properly be called 'a professional training programme'.

I would not give the Professional Skills Training and Testing to any institution, but I gave it without hesitation to my *alma mater*, Buckingham University.

The success of the MA in Global Affairs must wisely be followed by a period of consolidation. But watch this space: another unique, inimitable and equally revolutionary MA has already been designed and will soon be launched by the Department of Economics and International Studies at Buckingham University.

Dr Charles Henn
Consultant Professor
Founding Director of the MA in Global Affairs programme

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For Buckingham scenery paintings, please log on to www.tuidesign.com

Commissions taken for Buckingham alumni

News from the Foundation



By the time you receive this issue, the 2007 Foundation year will be almost at an end. However, as I write my column, it is a wonderful sunny autumnal day in Buckingham, and

winter still seems very far away.

The Foundation has enjoyed a good year to date although the summer period is always our quietest time when we are able to contemplate and plan our future activities.

Donations

Donations this year are close to the £500,000 mark and it is wonderful to see how generous our alumni are becoming as they reach a successful point in their post-Buckingham careers. We hope to end the year on a high note and I know that with the help of all our supporters that this is likely to be so.

Prebend House

As so many of you know, the renovation of Prebend House has always been high on my list of priorities. However, time is no longer on my side. Unless I can raise £1.75 million in the very near future, I fear that the University may have to part with the property before it deteriorates still further. There is a faint optimism on my part that one of our *Independent* readers may know of a generous donor who would like to safeguard this property for the University before it is too late. My telephone line and email box are open!

Clore Laboratory

I commend to everyone the support of Professor Mike Cawthorne and his Clore colleagues' work on obesity and diabetes. Many of you will be aware from your own or your family's experience how prevalent type 2 diabetes is throughout the world today, and its incidence is growing. Donations are always welcome for the valuable research which is being undertaken at Buckingham into this problem. Mike led the research team which discovered the insulin sensitiser drug Avandia. Mike was also responsible for writing a significant part of the UK Government's recent Foresight report on obesity.

Scholarships

The Leathersellers' Livery Company in London offers a competitive scholarship for any student who has resided in the UK for three years, who wishes to undertake a second degree. The degree may be either at undergraduate or postgraduate level, and in any subject. Do contact me if you would like further details.

The Athenaeum Lunch

On December 3, the Vice-Chancellor will host the annual lunch in London to thank all those who have been major supporters of the University.

The Annual Buckingham in London Dinner

This dinner which is open to our alumni, our honorary graduates and our donors will be held on May 1 2008 at the Leathersellers' Hall in London. The Livery Company has very kindly allowed us to use their hall for the second year running. It will be a glittering occasion with wonderful food, interesting guests, and a

stunning location. Tickets will be very limited and will be £60 per head. If you wish to reserve your place, please contact me as soon as possible.

Deaths

I am sad to report the deaths of two of our honorary graduates, Sir John Burnett in July and Dr L M Singhvi in October, and one of our patrons, Sir Edward Tomkins, an eminent diplomat, in September. Their obituaries are reported elsewhere in the *Independent* but I must record my thanks to Dr Singhvi for his help in obtaining recognition of the Buckingham law degree by the Indian Bar Association.

General Sir John Hackett's widow also died in May 2007, Sir John who predeceased his wife was one of our honorary graduates.

Visit to Sarajevo School of Science and Technology

In mid-October, I made one of my bi-annual visits to Sarajevo to visit SSST where, as always, I was made most welcome. Emir Ganic, an MBA alumnus is now working at SSST. At the end of this academic year, SSST's first students will graduate which will be a wonderful achievement for them and their professors who have seen them through the 4 year degree programme.

Early in October 40 students registered for the two new programmes in economics and political science.

Our baby is thriving and Buckingham feels like a proud parent!

Dr Mary Welstead
Director of the University of Buckingham Foundation
Tel: +44 (0) 1280 820263
mary.welstead@buckingham.ac.uk

Honorary Degree for Sir Rhodes Boyson

An Honorary Degree (DLitt) was conferred on Sir Rhodes Boyson on Thursday 20 September in recognition for his unerring support in helping Buckingham gain its Royal Charter in 1983. As Under-Secretary of State for Education at that time Sir Rhodes liaised closely with Professor Sir Alan Peacock (the University College's last Principal as well as the University's first Vice-Chancellor) to help him achieve University status for Buckingham - not an easy task as officials in

the then DES were opposed to the idea of an independent university.

Because Sir Rhodes was not well enough to travel to Buckingham, arrangements were made for a special, though low key, ceremony at the nursing home where he now lives. The Vice-Chancellor and the Graduation Officer travelled from Buckingham, picking up Sir Alan on the way. Also present were Lady Boyson and one of their daughters.



Sir Rhodes Boyson (fourth from left), next to Professor Sir Alan Peacock, with his family and the Vice-Chancellor and Graduation Officer

Who, Whom? Unresolved Judicial Review



On the evening of 29 May 2007, the University was delighted to welcome the Honourable **Michael Beloff Q.C.** of Blackstone Chambers, to deliver his

inaugural lecture as Visiting Professor of Law before an audience of students, academics and other staff and visitors.

Michael Beloff was introduced by Professor Susan Edwards of the Law School, who in emphasising the international reknown of the speaker said that in searching the Lexis data base she had found in excess of 100,000 entries for him. Suffice to say that he is described as a 'superstar silk who does a lot of things very well' and 'a showman (with) incredible brainpower' and 'immense experience'. He has appeared more than 40 times in the House of Lords, ten times in the Privy Council, ten times in the European Court of Justice, eight times in the European Court of Human Rights, and in Courts in Hong Kong, Bermuda, Kuala Lumpur, Kuching, Gibraltar, Singapore, Trinidad, Brunei and Belfast.

Being a leading silk in, inter alia, administrative and public law it was fitting that his lecture focused on two particular topical aspects of judicial review; the definition attributed by the courts to 'public law' for the purposes of judicial review, and the issue of 'standing' or 'sufficient interest'. Michael combined a review of the law in these areas with both humour and panache. He outlined the legislative framework for judicial review, contained in the Supreme Court Act, 1981, s.31 and Rule 54, Civil Procedure Rules, and through a number of decided cases demonstrated a progressive relaxation towards the categorisation of cases that fall within the ambit of public law and are therefore subject to judicial review, and also the standing of such cases for judicial review purposes.

In connection with the definition of 'public law', Michael said that since *O'Reilly v Mackman* in 1983, in which the House of Lords adopted the principle of exclusivity, the law had reached a high water mark in the city takeover case of *ex parte Datafin*, in which the House of Lords

adopted the function test – whether the function of the organisation concerned, as opposed to statutory foundation, was of a public nature. Michael discussed subsequent cases, inter alia, the National Greyhound Racing Club and the Jockey Club, neither of which are amenable to judicial review; parochial church council, which the House of Lords, by a majority, held was a hybrid public authority, and nursing homes, both private and local authority owned. Michael also discussed the interpretation given by the courts to 'public authority' contained in the Human Rights Act 1998, s.6(1), which provides that it is unlawful for a such an authority to act in a way incompatible with a Convention right. Whilst suggesting that these definitions will need to be harmonised he pointed out that in European law 'emanation of the state' contains a different analysis again, as demonstrated in *Foster v British Gas*, in 1991 in which he appeared for British Gas.

In connection with standing, Michael reviewed early decisions, such as *ex parte National Federation of Self-employed and Small Businesses* and *ex parte Rose Theatre Trust* case, where 'busybodies' were held not to have sufficient interest in the matter to bring an application for judicial review. Michael outlined the case law that demonstrates how the courts have moved from treating 'standing' as a threshold precondition to recognising that unless access to judicial review is given to individuals and groups not directly affected by the decision being challenged, the decision may go unchallenged. This was demonstrated by the granting of leave to pressure groups such as the World Development Movement, Greenpeace and The National Trust. Most recently leave was granted to Remedy UK, the group formed by junior hospital doctors to challenge the decision of the Secretary of State to proceed with the computer based Medical Training Application Service (MTAS).

Following questions, William Lo, a Law student, presented Mrs Beloff with a bouquet and the law school entertained Mr and Mrs Beloff to a buffet, during which many students had the opportunity to talk with our guests.

Dr Helen Desmond
Director of LLM

Lecture on entrepreneurship

On the 3 October **Chris Smith (European Studies '84)** returned to the University after 23 years and gave a lecture regarding "The Highs and Lows of being an Entrepreneur".

The attendance was higher than expected and Chris gave the audience not just an insight into the pleasures and disappointments someone might have in the life of an entrepreneur but also valuable lessons for life itself.



Chris (second from right) with Dr Mary Skinner, Kyriakos (far right) and other students

Chris made a full presentation on three companies that he started as business projects and that have now expanded all over the world. The companies were: Inspects, Maratex and GreenPower.

One of the biggest and most successful business projects that Chris started, together with another alumnus of the University (**Robin Totterman, PEL '85**), is the Inspects Group, a Bath-based company that has more than 600 employees and forecasts revenues of about €65 million (\$83 million) in 2006, up about 24% on 2005. Inspects designs, manufactures and distributes spectacle frames all over the world. This year they were awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise as well as the Optician Award for Optical Product of the Year.

GreenPower is a business project that has as a primary goal to cut significantly carbon dioxide emissions for HGV's by developing a unique dual fuel system.

The lecture went very well indeed and both Chris and the audience thoroughly enjoyed it.

Kyriakos Armenakis
Current Law student

International Conference in Beijing



I had an opportunity to present a paper at an International Conference jointly organized by IARIW (International Association for Research in Income and

Wealth) and NBS (National Bureau of Statistics, China). The Conference was held in Beijing in September 2007 with over 100 academics and senior staff attending. The paper was entitled, "The Postwar Japanese Economy: Some Cautionary Lessons for China from the Japanese Experience," which fortunately attracted a strong interest among participants.

The Chinese economy has witnessed rapid economic growth and remarkable progress since 1979. The country is undergoing similar and dissimilar economic experiences to those of the Japanese rapid growth period (1950-73). The two countries shared most of the gloomy sides (congestion, pollution, social imbalance and inflation) and some bright sides (increased income, material standard of living, and employment). Various differences existed, however, between the two countries both at the starting point of expansion and in their respective growth strategies. The Japanese experiences provide some valuable lessons for China to enable it to cope with the more unwelcome downside effects and distortions brought about by rapid industrial change.

The paper explained why economic growth did not always lead directly to the improvement of household living standards. The paper investigated some of the causes that were included in the measurement of GDP that reflects the cost of market failures theoretically and empirically. The paper considered the use of NNW (Net National Welfare) and the measurement of happiness, investigating their properties. Finally, the paper briefly outlined the proposal for a basic design towards a high satisfaction level society, which included the discussion of social balance.

The paper originated from a presentation I made to the Economics and International Studies Seminar series of Buckingham University in August 2006. I am grateful for the comments made by the then participants.

Professor Mitsuhiko Iyoda
(DPhil Economics '96)
Momoyama Gakuin
(St. Andrew's) University

Message from Alumni Office



Since the last issue of *the Independent* a lot has changed. As some of you may already know, I have recently left my old role as Alumni Annual Fund and Country Groups Co-

ordinator to take the place of Lauren in the Publicity Office. I have taken my place in the hot seat on the landing and am very much looking forward to the challenges ahead. As I have now handed over the role to Helen Miller I thought it only fair to give you all a quick update on the annual fund.

All has been going well with the plans for the memorial garden and I am delighted to announce that work began on 23 October and is now complete. If you haven't already seen the plan and photos of what the area looks like then please log on to:
<https://extranet.buckingham.ac.uk/alumn et/news-garden.aspx>.

With the donations made so far to the annual fund we have been able to set aside money to give to the student union to provide a new 'big screen' television for the refectory and we hope to purchase one soon.

I would also like to mention that while working in the alumni office I created an 'up-date leaflet' for the annual fund to let staff and students know how it has been developing and where the money has been and will be spent in the future. I hope that you will all have a look at a pdf version, which is available on this page.
<https://extranet.buckingham.ac.uk/alumn et/ubf-aaf.aspx>.

Finally, I am exceptionally pleased to have become the new PR and Media Communications Co-ordinator. This role is highly relevant to my degree in Media Communications and English and getting a job in this area has been my goal since graduating from university. I have been given a fabulous opportunity and am working with a fantastic team of kind and hugely supportive people. As part of my new role I will be writing the 'Buckingham in the News' section of *the Independent* so please do let me know of any media coverage you have had or will be getting.

Bethany Carter
PR/Media Communications
Co-ordinator

Memorial Garden

It is with great pleasure that we show below photographs of the newly completed Memorial Garden. This was funded from the Alumni Annual Fund and is the first major project that the Fund has undertaken. It has also paid for flooring in the refurbished Bar in the Mill and for an LCD flatscreen TV in the Mill, but the Memorial Garden has been the biggest, and most visible, project so far.

There will be a grand opening on Friday, 22nd February 2008 at 3pm and **Mr Wilhelm Bourne (LLB '87)** the Attorney-General of Anguilla, has been invited to cut the ribbon and formally open the Memorial Garden. Anyone who is going to be here for Graduation on the 23rd is most welcome indeed to attend the ceremony. At that time we will remember those alumni, staff and students whom we have lost over the years, and we hope that the garden will become a place of peace and contemplation, changing and evolving with the seasons.

Our thanks go to everyone who has contributed to the Annual Fund - your generosity is very much appreciated, particularly by the students who are the recipients of your kindness. We will be sending out our second Annual Fund letter shortly, but for those of you who have given already we will be inviting you to a tea party at Westminster in the Spring of 2008. We very much hope that many of you will be able to attend.



Memorial Garden, under construction



Memorial Garden

For further details of what is happening with the fund please look on the AlumNet site at www.buckingham.ac.uk/alumnet

Obituaries

Sir John Burnett

(1912-2007)



Sir John Burnett, who died in Oxford at the end of July at the age of 85, was a distinguished academic and university administrator whose influence was of great

assistance in gaining the Royal Charter for Buckingham. He also served on our Academic Advisory Council for many years. He believed in academic innovation and the two year degree, saying that the long summer vacation was only there to allow students to return to the family farm to help with the harvest. His last demanding administrative post was that of Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Edinburgh University, but he maintained a foothold in his chosen discipline, mycology. In this, his research interests ranged from the genetics of certain fungal groups to their complex structure. Extensive appraisals of his contributions to botanical science can be found in the tributes in the "Independent" and the "Times" newspapers.

Professor Alan Brook

Sir Edward Tomkins

(1915-2007)



It is with great sadness that the University heard of the death of Sir Edward Tomkins on 20 September.

Following a distinguished career in the Diplomatic Service Sir Edward and

Lady Tomkins retired to Winslow Hall where they immersed themselves in local affairs. As well as being elected to Buckinghamshire County Council (as vice-chairman of the education committee), and chairman of governors at Stowe School, Sir Edward has always been a strong supporter of the University of Buckingham and was on the founding committee of the Friends of the University, in the role of Chairman, alongside Ralph Yablon who was President.

The Friends held their inaugural dinner in

the Refectory on 19 January 1977 and since then the group has worked tirelessly to raise funds for and support Buckingham students. Sir Edward became President of the Friends in 1985 and was also a Patron of the University. Sir Edward and Lady Tomkins kindly hosted various events at Winslow Hall over the years including some committee meetings. Although he had retired as President Sir Edward stayed in touch with the University and he will be sadly missed.

Dr Singhvi (Hon Grad)

L.M. Singhvi, India's longest-serving High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, died on 6 October 2007 in Delhi. He was a great friend of Margaret Thatcher who introduced him to the University of Buckingham during his time in London; Dr Singhvi hosted a dinner at his residence for the University and in honour of Margaret Thatcher. He also helped the University obtain recognition of the Buckingham Law degree to enable students to become members of the Indian Bar Association. In 1993, Dr Singhvi was awarded an honorary LLD by the University of Buckingham.

Dr. Singhvi was truly a renaissance man: he was a scholar; a statesman; an eminent jurist; an excellent linguist; patron of all forms of arts and Indian culture; a constitutional expert and scholar; an illustrious diplomat and an able parliamentarian. He wrote prolifically both prose and poetry. From 1998 to 2004 he was a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party of the Rajya Sabha, India's Parliament. He was responsible for initiating a programme of interaction with Indians living abroad.



Dr Singhvi (bottom right) with Baroness Thatcher and the other honorary graduates of 1993

His wife Kamla Singhvi, his son Abhishek Singhvi, also a member of Rajya Sabha, and his daughter Abhilasha, a senior advocate, survive Dr Singhvi.

Dr Mary Welstead

Neil Cawley

(1957-2007)



It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Neil on the morning of 7 September. Neil studied Law at Buckingham, graduating in 1989. His funeral took place on 12

September 2007. It was a private family funeral in accordance with his wishes. A Requiem Mass was held on the 22 September at St. Edward the Confessor in Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes. Mr Irving Stevens, Senior Lecturer in the Law School and Mr Gordon Goldberg, retired Law lecturer, attended the Mass. Our thoughts go out to his wife Serene and their children.

Memories of Chris Codrai (1955-2007)

Chris Codrai (LLB '79) was one of life's nice guys. He was one of Buckingham's first seven students. Before the University officially opened, they ran a French language course for some of the first year in-take at the University Libre de Lille. John Clarke came out and introduced Chris to me and a motley band of undergraduates including, amongst others, Paddy Kealing, Robin Neil and Derek Thresher. On the course, I am not sure that Chris learnt much French, but we did our best to sample much of what France had to offer.

I can't help but think that Chris is one of Buckingham's great successes. He was a quiet man, full of charm, thoughtfulness and consistency. Chris and I had diametrically opposing views on many issues, like the Arab/Israeli conflict, but he had the ability to discuss and ultimately agree or disagree with one in a civilised manner. He was a man who you could count on for reliability and friendship. Such people are rare.

It is not surprising that, in an environment that stimulated logical debate and sensible compromise, Chris would do well - as reflected in his rise to be IFAD's general counsel. I am sure that I speak for many Buckingham graduates...that we will remember Chris with great affection.

Paul Seligman (PEL '79)

Comments – AGAIN, Buckingham Tops the Poll

"Fantastic! You certainly deserve it! It makes me proud to be an alumnus."

Franco De La Croix
(BSc Business Studies '89)

"2 years in a row - simply great! Buckingham is truly a wonderful university and you have no idea how much I missed it while I was in Bristol for 2 years doing my LPC and BVC."

Winnie Carruth (LLB '03)

"No wonder the University stood first in the league table because the professors are the real assets and they are not only teaching but also creating students who excel in their fields of study. Please convey my heartfelt wishes and greetings to all staff for their achievement in making this university truly a learning experience in my lifetime, one which I can never forget."

Sathiyarayanan Krishnamurthy
(DIP Computing '05)

"Good news and very well deserved indeed. I totally agree with this result as the University has left profound imprints on my education and personal development."

Charlene Astwood
(BSc Economics, Business and Law '07)

"Great news to learn whilst on a far away mission in Kunming, Yunnan Province,

China! Keep up the good work and spirit and enjoy the moment of glory! But.... remain critical and ambitious for growth and improvements at the same time!"

Rutger Groot
(BSc Business Studies '86)

"This is an excellent all-round performance and puts the University in a good position to attract students."

Cameron Donnelly (Law '80)

"Heartiest Congratulations from me!!! Keep the spirit of UB riding high every year."

Ismail Tajol Aros (LLB '93)

"This is exactly why I am proud to be a Buckingham alumnus."

Pushpika Weerakoon (DIP Law '04)

"PROUD! I'm glad to be a product of the great University."

Popo Kadiku (BA PEL '87)

"We are the proud students of Buckingham."

Hasnain Kazmi (LLM '99)

"You guys must be feeling on top of the world after coming top of the survey. I have not the slightest doubt that it was a well-deserved recognition of how we do things at Buckingham. You set the usual

high standards, and are keeping the flag flying. The people at Buckingham seem to have it ingrained in them that better than best is better, always. Well done. We share your pride."

Raymond Noel (LLB '91)

"Bravo! Let's go for third time running and remain there perpetually."

Mohammed Abdul Mumin (LLB '97)

"Hearty CONGRATULATIONS to all. Wishing the University the same in next years' Survey."

Medinah Huthman (BSc AFM '80)

"I remain ever so proud of our University! My prayer is that our beloved University will continue to grow in leaps and bounds in the years ahead."

Shirley Okonkwo (LLB '85)

"Congratulations and thank you very much for your continuing efforts."

Chen Ke (LLB '02, LLM '03)

"I am very pleased that Buckingham is, for the second year, at the top of National Student Survey. Also, when I receive the Alumni newspaper I always read it with pleasure."

Julietta Alkhasova
(BSc Business Studies '05)

Events in 2008

April

On Tuesday, 29 April Lord and Lady Luce (former Vice-Chancellor and his wife) will be hosting a tea party at the House of Lords, Westminster. This is an invitation only event and anyone who has most kindly donated to the Alumni Annual Fund will be receiving a formal letter of invitation shortly.

May

The Annual Buckingham in London Dinner will be held at the Leatherseller's Hall in London on 1 May. All alumni are welcome and tickets are priced at £60. See page 12 for further information.

June

On Friday, 20 June we will be holding the annual Alumni Summer Party in London. We

are considering going to the Piano and Pitcher in Trafalgar Square again but would welcome comments from Alumni who were there this year before making a final decision. Further details will in the next issue but if you think you will be coming please let us know so that we can put your name on the website. This is a strong encouragement to attend.

September

A weekend in Geneva for all alumni and students from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September. There will be a chance to network, catch up with old friends, and make new ones. For those who are interested, we will also meet to discuss the formation of a Buckingham International Alumni Group. Further details will be posted on the website and via email in the New Year.



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
1st February 2008

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