Crowds gathered at Plymouth Guildhall for the international graduation ceremony in July. Around 100 students from countries as far afield as South Africa and South Korea were joined by proud family and friends, many of whom had travelled thousands of miles to be there.

"Some overseas students experience extreme financial and personal hardship in order to successfully complete their courses, so the relief at receiving their awards is always understandably high," said Carol Roden, Director of the International Office. "We wish them all the very best for the future."

Copy deadline for the next issue is 4 October 2004.
Please send all items to Paola Simoneschi, Marketing & Communications Department, 6 Portland Villas, Plymouth campus
email: paola.simoneschi@plymouth.ac.uk

BIOPATTERN launch
Helping to combat major diseases

Rewarding excellence
National Teaching Fellowships

UPSU news
Who’s who and their views

First-class childcare
Freshlings celebrates
Students on courses in politics and international relations are seizing the opportunity to take part in exchange programmes that take them to Eastern Europe, with applications higher than ever before.

An exchange programme with the university of Economics in Prague has been running since 1995, and a similar programme in Wroclaw, Poland, was established in 1996. More recently, an exchange with Masaryk university in Brno took place.

Although Plymouth has received students from Brno before, the past academic year saw the first of our students visit Masaryk. They studied the Central European Studies programme, which gave them the chance to focus on Czech culture alongside modules in Central and Eastern Europe.

Brno is a major Czech educational centre, with six HE institutions and over 40,000 students, a vibrant cultural scene and lively nightlife. Exchange organiser Dr John Wilton, Senior Lecturer in Politics, who is a visiting professor at Marsaryk, has been invited to spend a semester there in the spring.

“The high volume of applications for this year indicates the huge success of the exchange programmes,” said Dr Wilton. “Students who have previously taken part have found it to be an invaluable experience.”

“The partnership with Plymouth is undoubtedly our most successful project under the Erasmus framework,” said Ivan Maly, Vice-Dean for International Affairs at Masaryk. “The studies in Plymouth have always been highly appreciated by our students because of the quality of lectures, and the overall friendly and supportive atmosphere. In addition, John Wilton’s regular courses and lectures have been very popular with our students, and have added to our curriculum and international profile greatly.”

A groundbreaking European project led by the university will help to combat major diseases such as cancer and brain diseases.

The recently launched €6.4 million EU-funded BIOPATTERN Network of Excellence project will integrate key elements of European research to enable Europe to become a world leader in ‘eHealthcare’.

The four-year project, which involves 31 institutions across Europe, was launched in Milan in July, when the first workshop took place.

The project’s key aim is to tackle and reduce fragmentation in the new field of biopattern and profile analysis. (A biopattern is the basic information – ie pattern – that provides clues about underlying clinical evidence for diagnosis and treatment of diseases. A bioprofile is a personal ‘fingerprint’ that fuses together a person’s current and past medical history, biopattern and prognosis.)

“The grand vision is to develop a pan-European, coherent and intelligent analysis of an individual’s bioprofile; to make the analysis of this bioprofile remotely accessible to patients and clinicians, and to exploit the bioprofile to combat major diseases such as cancer and brain diseases,” said Emmanuel Ifeachor, Professor of Intelligent Electronic Systems at Plymouth.

‘BIOPATTERN brings together leading researchers in medical informatics and bioinformatics from academia, the healthcare sector and industry in a new way, harnessing expertise and information to put Europe at the forefront of eHealth. The project aims to identify how bioprofiles could be exploited for individualised healthcare such as disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment.”

“We are delighted to be hosting the first event for the BIOPATTERN project with partners across Europe,” said Leader of the Evaluation Task Force of BIOPATTERN, Dr Elia Biganzoli from the Unit of Medical Statistics and Biometry of the National Cancer Institute, Milan.

“We see the key benefits of the BIOPATTERN Network of Excellence in the multi-disciplinary approach for bioprofile analysis. The synergy from joint efforts of researchers from different fields is needed to offer the EU citizen a realistic perspective of the improvement of patient care through the exploitation of biopatterns.”
Plymouth is one of just two universities in the UK to receive three prestigious National Teaching Fellowships. The awards, which recognise excellence in teaching, have been won by Judith Waterfield, Head of Disability ASSIST Service, Priska Schoenburn, Senior Lecturer in Computing, Communications & Electronics, and Paul Murray, Principal Lecturer in the School of Engineering. Each has received £50,000 of funding.

The scheme, now in its fifth year, is managed by the Higher Education Academy on behalf of the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Department of Employment & Learning in Northern Ireland.

Judith’s award was made in recognition of her work over the past decade, developing one of the largest university disability support services in the country, with 22 multi-disciplinary staff and 40 ‘student enablers’ helping 1,200 students a year. She will use her funding to research a curriculum specifically designed to meet the needs of a diverse student body.

Priska – identified as one of ten ‘rising stars’ in higher education – is involved in a broad range of activities that are having a strong influence on the work of her colleagues. She has raised awareness of disability issues through the SPACE project (the Student-Staff Partnership for Assessment, Change and Evaluation), which promotes alternative methods of assessment for students with disabilities. “I plan to use my award to develop and implement a new online method for teaching systems analysis and design,” she said.

Paul has already earned £250,000 for the pioneering SLICE project, which focuses on Student-centred Learning In Construction Education. His award, in the ‘experienced... and related industries. “I’m delighted,” said Paul. “It’s good to see innovation in teaching brought to the fore.”

All three winners were presented with their awards by Higher Education Minister, Alan Johnson, at a ceremony in London earlier this month.

As announced in the previous UPfront, the implementation of UNITe, the successor to the HEMS student records system, is now underway. Access to HEMS will close in December, with UNITe ready for use from mid-January.

The UNITe team – Dave Ballard, Jim Coulbridge and Nick Byrne – have been talking to staff across the university, and the Students’ Union, as they plan in detail the switch over to the new system.

“Plans for training the users of UNITe are well advanced and the emphasis now is on defining and writing new standard reports,” explained Deputy Registrar, Graham Fice. “With the disappearance of the familiar Business Objects reports, there is a focus on the ‘menu-driven’ reports, while the Corporate Information System will eventually deliver high-level analysis capability.”

At the time of going to print, the Customer Services team in Marketing & Communications – and staff across the university – had started capturing enquiries on UNITe.

“This is an exciting time,” said Head of Marketing (Undergraduate), Fay Steer. “With over 40,000 enquiries to the university, we need to capture every one as a potential student. We’ll be using UNITe as a customer relationship management system, and expect to get more information from the system to support our marketing effort.”

Staff at the university’s Freshlings nursery are celebrating receiving a glowing OFSTED report which praises its high standard of teaching and childcare provision.

The nursery, which caters for 150 children on a part-time and full-time basis, was judged as providing a ‘very good quality’ education for the six areas of learning covering nursery education (for funded places for three- and four-year-olds) and ‘good quality’ childcare for the 14 National Standards for under-eights daycare.

The report also praises the staff individually, describing them as ‘consistent, sensitive and responsive’ and adding it is their enthusiasm that ‘forms the key strength’ of the nursery, which caters for children belonging to both staff and students on the Plymouth campus.

“This was a very satisfying report, which more than confirmed my confidence in the Freshlings team,” said Robert Stannage, Deputy Director of Learning Facilities. “I attended the oral feedback session with the two inspectors at the end of the inspection day, and their delight at what they had observed was a joy to behold. They were full of stories about what children had said to them and the positive interactions between the children and nursery staff.

“Having such a good outcome is also an excellent basis from which to move on to the expansion in numbers we will undertake in early 2005 when the nursery moves to its new premises in Endsleigh Place.”

“Speaking on behalf of parents, the excellent OFSTED report is very welcome, but no less than Barbara and her team at Freshlings deserve,” said Deputy Registrar, Pat Wilde.

“The Nursery provides a vital service for parents; it’s very reassuring to know that our children are receiving the best possible care. Well done!”

Freshlings staff have plenty to smile about.
As a consequence of the Administrative Review of the university, the Department of Marketing & Public Relations has been re-titled the Department of Marketing & Communications, reflecting the expanded role of the department to cover both internal and external relations.

“The overarching vision for the department is to be effective and proactive, providing expertise, direction, leadership and cohesion to the university’s marketing, recruitment, reputation and internal and external relations activities,” said Director John Griffiths.

“In order to work more closely with our faculties, we have three liaison managers – Fay Steet, Tracy Wilson and Peter Ingram – who will each have responsibility for two faculties. They will help ensure that faculty marketing plans are much more cohesive, and enhance communications with senior faculty managers and the new faculty admissions and marketing units.

“We will work closely to improve conversion rates for undergraduate, postgraduate and international student recruitment, from first enquiry to pre-enrolment.”

Windswept Dartmoor was the scene of the first team ‘away day’ for the newly formed Department of Marketing & Communications. Susannah McDougall, International Customer Services Supervisor, describes the day.

“We were welcomed by members of the Dartmoor Preservation Association (DPA), the British Conservation Trust Volunteers (BCTV), plus Jo Kan, the university’s Training Manager; and Tess Nixon from Active in Communities. Then we set off, stylishly attired in waterproofs and wellies - a sight to behold!

“Split into two groups, we headed in different directions, one group investigating the archaeology of Dartmoor and the other identifying some of the wildlife there. With our expert leaders, we learned a lot in a short time, many of us seeing Dartmoor with new eyes.

“After lunch we threw ourselves into bracken bashing, pulverising a wide area with our bamboo canes to help the DPA control the plant which, if left to grow unchecked, can split the rocks and destroy the landscape.

“By the time we finished, blistered hands covered in plasters, we were ravenous and ready to enjoy the barbecue back at base.

“We left with DPA certificates and goody bags, a better understanding of Dartmoor and raised awareness of the importance of protecting the beauty of this National Park.

“A big thank you to the DPA, the BCTV, Jo and Tess for an enjoyable day - and a great start to working with new colleagues!”

moves to plymouth

This month sees staff from the Seale-Hayne, Exeter and Exmouth campuses relocating to Plymouth as part of the university’s restructuring. Professor Mark Cleary, Dean of Social Science & Business (above), and Dr Harry Bennett, Head of Humanities, share their thoughts on the move.

“Colleagues from Rural Economy are moving into Geography and those in Tourism and Hospitality are moving to Plymouth Business School. These groups will bring a lot of positives to the campus - more research expertise; a very strong tradition of excellence in teaching and pastoral support for students; a portfolio of courses that will enhance what is already available on the Plymouth campus, and excellent support staff.

“The process of integration has been taking place during the past year - for example, staff moving into Geography have been involved in teaching and research at Plymouth, while colleagues in Tourism and Hospitality have begun to integrate into the redesigned subject groupings in the Business School.

“Although some issues - such as timetabling for staff teaching on two campuses - have presented big challenges, Seale-Hayne staff have been incredibly helpful in dealing with the range of academic and administrative issues surrounding the move to Plymouth.”

Professor Mark Cleary

“The School of Humanities and the School of Media in the Faculty of Arts face a challenging 12 months from this month as they relocate to Plymouth.

“Increases in student recruitment, opening operations in Plymouth, and the need to teach third years based in East Devon mean that most of us are going to be seeing a little too much of the A38! However, we are very upbeat about the contribution we can make to the university and the city.

“We are already collaborating with colleagues in other faculties in research and on new courses. This will continue to grow in the future to our mutual benefit.”

Dr Harry Bennett

New disability legislation comes into effect on 1 October. This will affect smaller employers in terms of reasonable physical and practical adjustments to be made to the workplace. The University of Plymouth has already made many of these adjustments, which can be seen around the campuses - access ramps, well-lit premises and clear signage are just three examples.

The government has also announced changes to the Draft Disability Discrimination Bill, which could be in place by 2006. One of the most significant features of the existing draft is the new positive duty it will place on public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.
A recent two-day ‘residential’ for 58 Year 12 students helped them get a head start in the UCAS applications process.

The Purbeck School students from Somerset were accompanied by their teachers. They experienced a taste of university life with specially organised lectures and a session that helped them to complete the personal statement on their all-important UCAS forms.

“We found the student ambassadors and staff very helpful,” said Purbeck student Becky Ewan. “It was a great time – and well worth it,” added fellow student Kirsty Speer.

Mid-August saw all hands on deck as the A level results were published and staff involved in undergraduate recruitment geared up for the Clearing period.

Going into Clearing, applications to the university were up on last year’s,” said Fay Steer, Head of Marketing (Undergraduate). “And although the number of those choosing Plymouth as first choice was slightly down, more than last year were choosing us as second favourites.

Actionline, the university’s course vacancy hotline, took a record number of calls – nearly 2,700 as opposed to just under 2,600 last year – and online enquiries were also higher than in 2003. The three Clearing Open Days also went well, with the weather staying mainly fine! All our visitors commented on the friendly welcome they received.

Media coverage of the university’s Clearing activities was exceptional, with articles in local newspapers and on local radio. One of the Actionline operators, Chloe Robertson, who came through Clearing herself and has since graduated with a degree in sociology and criminal justice, was the star of the hour, with her photo even making it into the Daily Mail in a half-page article that focused on Plymouth.

“Thank you to everyone who helped make Clearing run so smoothly,” said Fay. “Staff in Admissions and Marketing, along with those in the faculties, ILS, MIS and the Web Team, and our own student helpers, did a fantastic job in showing Clearing applicants what a great place Plymouth is to be a student.”

A clinical network co-ordinating centre for Cornwall and Devon and a multi-disciplinary support team for Cornwall are to be set up for people with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS/ME), as part of the first phase of investing £8.5 million over two years across England to develop new clinical services for these patients.

Professor Anthony Pinching, Associate Dean for Cornwall and Professor of Clinical Immunology at the Peninsula Medical School, who has a special interest in this condition, will lead the centre and team. He is also the national clinical lead for CFS/ME at the Department of Health and will chair the collaborative comprising the network centre champions. The South West Peninsula CFS/ME Centre will help to develop and support new services across the two counties, including planning and setting up two further local multi-disciplinary teams in Devon as part of the second year of the implementation.

The three local teams, Cornwall, South and West Devon, and North and East Devon, will provide specialist assessment and diagnosis, multi-disciplinary clinical management, and advice to patients, carers and other clinicians. The Cornwall CFS/ME team will include doctors, occupational therapists and clinical psychologists to provide guidance on different aspects of management, including diagnosis, symptom control, activity management, and adjustment and coping skills. Services will be provided as close to patients’ homes as possible, with domiciliary support and rehabilitation for house-bound or bed-bound patients.

The South West Peninsula Centre and the local teams will work in close collaboration with local ME support groups to maximise community links, share perspectives, enable efficient information flow about the services available and support self-management programmes. The centre will maximise the opportunities for clinical research into the epidemiology, manifestations and treatments, and will also develop training for clinical staff.

Professor Anthony Pinching said, “I am really delighted to start developing multi-disciplinary services across the Peninsula for patients with this very disabling and unpleasant condition. We are keen to see access provided to patients as close to their homes as possible. I also want to enable all practitioners whom they will meet in the NHS to be aware of their needs and of the services available. Members of the team in Cornwall will be recruited as soon as possible, while I will work with colleagues in Devon to plan their bids for funding in the second round.

“The clinical research opportunities in epidemiology and clinical trials work that can improve our understanding of CFS/ME are tremendous, and I am keen that the Peninsula Medical School contributes to the development of research proposals to capitalise on these.”

The university’s new-look intranet was launched earlier this month, thanks to colleagues across the institution and the Web Team.

More functional and interactive, the new version is better equipped to help meet the university’s communication needs. The intranet enables a focus for staff, students and postgraduates, providing latest news and access to university-wide information.

“Staff and students should find that it is both more modern and easier to use,” said Mandy Goss, Web Services Manager.

“Following the design vote, a lot of staff indicated that they would prefer a less text-heavy approach. The technical solution provides tools to encourage a more visual approach, but will be driven by content providers. The launch has provided access to the new format and the first core of information. Further development and cross-university collaboration now needs to provide and maintain the sort of intranet most people seem to be indicating they want.”

Find out more by looking at the online Web Development Community. Use the feedback form to provide your comments.
In the first of a series of University of Plymouth Students’ Union (UPSU) views, the newly elected Finance & Communications Officer, Kris Taiklowski, introduces his fellow Sabbatical Officers and brings us up to date on the SU’s plans.

We’ve been hard at work over the summer, putting into place UPSU’s strategic direction. These are our thoughts on the year ahead.

**What would you most like to achieve?**

**Bar**: I want a drive to involve students in sports, societies and volunteer groups within UPSU and the wider community – through all the campus sites and the Partner Colleges.

**Brendan**: New challenges are placed in front of us every day and I believe we can rise to those challenges and overcome them.

**David**: I would like to see the students of the Exmouth site become a positive influence within the Exmouth community.

**Toni**: I want to run a successful campaign on students’ rights.

**Kris**: I would like to see UPSU make considerable improvements in communication areas such as the website and I would like to improve our democratic processes.

**Steve**: I want to achieve my manifesto pledges which are the refurbishment of the lounge bar, providing for the mature students, improving sports facilities, and facilitating the students that have relocated from the smaller sites.

**Matt**: I am here to represent students and if I manage to help students achieve what they want this year then I will have had a successful year.

**How do you see the relationship between the university and the SU?**

**Bar**: I think the combination of the university’s continual development and restructuring, along with the development and growth of UPSU, poses huge potential for cooperation and the establishment of better relationships.

**Steve**: I feel it’s strong. We work for the common goal of making students’ lives better.

**Brendan**: The union has a really good group of sabbaticals this year and I think we are going to achieve a lot working together with the university.

**David**: I think it is important that the union and the university have a good working relationship so that they are able to work together to provide the highest standard of student life and education.

**Kris**: I see the relationship as challenging, but one that has a positive effect on students.

**Toni**: UPSU has always had a good partnership with the university and I would like to see that bond strengthen this year.

**Matt**: There will definitely be conflicts of interests throughout the year but that is to be expected as we have different agendas.

**Campaigning for change**

UPSU is developing its approach to affect student ‘campaigns for change’. We recognise national issues and we’re fronting a ‘Kick Discrimination out of Sport’ campaign, designed to promote a positive and ethical environment surrounding all our sports teams.

Student safety is of paramount importance and we’ll continue to come up with new ways to tackle problems surrounding drink-spiking, excessive alcohol consumption and student travel at night.

We will continue to strive to improve the lives of students through pro-active campaigning. Students often face problems on a day-to-day basis that we can help find solutions to or even help reduce the risk of them happening. For example, this year’s anti-discrimination campaign will train our clubs to be outstanding representatives of the SU and university.

**New Staff**

UPSU has recently appointed three new staff to bring added expertise into the organisation. Andrea Pierce, the new Membership Services Manager, designed to promote a positive and ethical environment surrounding all our sports teams. Security in the university, will become Head of Security Services, and Phil Harrison takes on the role of Security Operations Manager for the Plymouth campus. Security Guards are now known as Security Officers, which is a more accurate reflection of their role.

Congratulations to four members of staff – Dave Owen, Paul Casey, Lawrence Church and Des Braund – who have gained promotion to the new posts of Security Supervisor in the restructured service.

“The beginning of August saw the start of a new era for security and we are all excited about the changes,” explained Phil Harrison.

**Library extension**

The impressive new £7-million Library extension has now been handed over to library staff, who are preparing to open it to library users later this month.

As well as a new cafe, the extended library provides improved study facilities and re-arranged stock to cater for the students on courses moving to Plymouth from other campuses. The round-the-clock open access computing and media area will start its extended opening hours a little later in the term. In addition, there are new ‘self-issue’ and ‘self-return’ machines enabling full borrowing facilities throughout opening hours.

The area outside the Library is being reaped in the same style as the Portland Square development and is designed to improve disabled access. The Library foyer also contains a lift enabling wheelchair users access between the two levels of the campus.

“The extension will improve book space, increase individual reader spaces and provide a 247 student open access computing centre – it is a valuable addition to our learning facilities,” said Robert Stannage, Deputy Director of Learning Facilities.

See the next edition of UPfront for news on the official opening. Staff can find out all about recently completed and ongoing IT projects by visiting the staff portal. So, if you want to learn more about U-drive migration, strong passwords and XP rollout – it’s name just three – log on.

Help and advice on IT matters is also available from the Staff Support Desk (email support@plymouth.ac.uk) or local IT staff.

**Who’s who?**

**Finance & Communications Officer**: Kris Taiklowski

**Union Welfare Officer**: Travis Ogger

**Union Education Officer**: Derek McDonald

**Sports & Activities Officer**: Ben Valiprum

**Plymouth Campus Site President**: Steve McHale

**Exeter Campus Site President**: Matt Orton

**Exmouth Campus Site President**: David Holloway

**IT update**

As reported in the previous edition of UPfront, the high standards of health and safety within the university have been recognised with a silver award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). David Morton, Health & Safety Officer at the university, explains more about the significance of this prestigious award.

“The RoSPA Occupational Health & Safety Awards are not just about reducing the number of accidents at work. They help reinforce the message that good health and safety is good business and our award demonstrates our commitment to the achievement of high levels of performance in this crucial area.”

The award for Plymouth involved the assessment of the university’s safety management system and plans for its development in the future.

Visit the Health & Safety Community on the staff portal for more information about ongoing work in this area. Feedback is welcome - contact David Morton on ext 2171/email: david.morton@plymouth.ac.uk

**Campus Site President**

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Dr Susan Boulton, Intellectual Property & Entrepreneurship Manager in the university’s Enterprise team, brings us up to date with news of projects that are helping to turn ideas into business successes.

In addition to supporting staff and students with intellectual property issues and opportunities for commercialisation, we are delivering a range of services to foster entrepreneurship within both the university and the local business community, encouraging ideas generation and development, and providing people with the skills and confidence to turn those business ideas into success.

The Proof of Concept Fund recently confirmed a further four awards, bringing the total package awarded to £363,000. Run under the umbrella of the South West Regional Development Agency’s Knowledge Exploitation South West initiative, this scheme provides access to funding to explore the potential of an idea and is making a considerable difference in turning ‘good ideas’ into commercially viable projects.

The university’s Enterprise Fellowship Awards represent a further source of cash for university staff to support entrepreneurship and collaboration with industry and the community by encouraging promotion of knowledge transfer activities in line with performance improvement in the transfer of knowledge.

In the School of Earth, Ocean & Environmental Sciences, Peter Matthews’ research into fluid flow in porous material led to the development of a suite of unique, world-leading software. His successful Proof of Concept award facilitated the development of branded marketing and training materials and a supporting marketing strategy to bring the Pore-Cor Research Suite to an international market. Earlier this year, Peter delivered a Pore-Cor training course in Germany to the European agents of US company Micromeretics, which has acquired the licence agreement.

The Entrepreneurship Programme, a series of short, practical workshops involving presenters from the university, professional organisations such as Bevan Ashford and Francis Clark, plus Business Link and individuals from the local business community, has now provided over a hundred university staff and students with the business skills, knowledge and confidence to develop their business ideas.

Comments from regular attendees endorse its value: “I really like the involvement of people who have actually set up in business”, and “an excellent grounding in the legal aspects of business start up... good, practical, real advice,” are typical. The next programme of workshops starts in October and will run every Wednesday evening though to January 2005 during term time.

For further information please contact Susan on 01752 33556/ email: susan.boulton@plymouth.ac.uk or visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/entrepreneurship

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PCAD considers the standard a helpful tool for providing a benchmark for provision and promoting an institution-wide, co-ordinated approach to the progression of young people. Achieving the award also proved of value during the OFSTED inspections.

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The university’s Cruise Operations Open Day attracted interest from the National Union of Marine Aviation and Shipping Officers’ (NUMAST) journal, the NUMAST Telegraph. All students enrolled on the BSc (Hons) Cruise Operations Management degree have been offered one-year work placements with Princess Cruises and, in preparation for this, they joined the Star Princess cruise liner on an orientation cruise in the Mediterranean.

British surfing champion Sam Lamiroy – a university of Plymouth validated photomedia and design communication degree course with first-class honours, was selected for the new Nautical Science degree. Sam, who was born in Belgium but grew up in Devon, said the university’s location enabled him to get more practice in while continuing with his studies.
The Active in Communities project has now been running for two years and staff would like to congratulate and thank everyone who has been involved in volunteering activities and projects. Thanks also go to everyone who helped and facilitated the progress that has been made.

Active in Communities is funded through the Higher Education Active Community Fund (HEACF), which is intended to ‘enhance the key role played by higher education institutions in their local community’. Reflecting the government’s wider commitment to volunteering within the community, HEACF seeks to increase the number of volunteers from universities and other higher education institutions.

The university of Plymouth’s Active in Communities project specifically aims to:

- sustain, embed and extend staff and student volunteering activity developed through the Active in Communities project and Students’ Union;
- promote and support volunteering within the university’s wider strategy for widening participation and community engagement, and
- provide training opportunities for staff and students to support their volunteering and related personal and professional development and to recognise and celebrate their achievements.

For information about current volunteering activities, if you would like to volunteer yourself or if you have any ideas for a community action project, please contact Melanie Lonsdale on (01752) 232708 or email melanie.lonsdale@plymouth.ac.uk

The venue for this year’s staff Christmas party is the China Fleet Golf & Country Club in Saltash. The festive event is on Friday 17 December, 7 pm - midnight, and all staff are welcome to bring a partner or other guest.

Hurry – the tickets, which are £24.50 each – will be sold on a first come, first served basis. The ticket price includes a three-course dinner and a disco.

For more information, contact Dave Furniss on ext 2265/email: dave.furniss@plymouth.ac.uk.