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Pretend games help child development

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Leading role in £15-million centre

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Social Science & Business

NEWS FEATURES REGULAR COLUMNS & MORE
Welcome to the October edition of UPfront

If you have any feedback or ideas for future editions, please contact Paola Simoneschi, Public Relations Manager, on ext 3986 or email paola.simoneschi@plymouth.ac.uk

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If you require any part of this magazine in larger print, please contact: Disability ASSIST Services on ext 2289 email: das@plymouth.ac.uk

The university is committed to the promotion of equality and diversity. Our policies are available on the website: www.plymouth.ac.uk/equalopportunities

Film: Field of Dreams, starring Kevin Costner. I don’t think it won any Oscars but how could you not be touched by the ghostly baseball players coming out of the cornfields for one last game under lights? Magical!

Song: It’s a toss up between Reward by Teardrop Explodes and Truly by the great Lionel Richie.

Read: I’d like to say something highbrow but I only manage to read one or two books a year (on holiday) and either go for a ‘bloke’s read’, like Nick Hornby, or a crime biography.

Food: Curry

Destination: Washington State is fantastic, particularly when the water’s calm off Seattle and the whales are swimming alongside the ferries.

Person: Without wishing to sound like a sad football fan, Ian Holloway, a former player and manager for Bristol Rovers who’s now at QPR. He brought to Rovers the best strikers we’ve had in my lifetime and made sure the rest of the team got the ball to them as quickly as possible. Added to that, ‘Ollie’ is totally committed to success and is great for bizarre quotes on football and life.

Memory: Apart from the births of my children and getting married, it has to be either Devon White scoring for Bristol Rovers at Wembley in the 1990 Leyland Daf Cup Final (although a screamer by Peter Beadle at Bristol City in 1996 is a pretty close second), or the first time I ran the London Marathon.

Crush: As a teenager, actress Jenny Seagrove.

Whinge: People who either drop litter or don’t clean up after their dogs, particularly on the beach.

Tip: I’ve always tried to maintain a good balance between my work, home, interests and village life. It’s all too easy for work to take over!
Young children may be missing out on 'pretend' games like pirates and spacemen due to the demands of the school curriculum, according to research carried out by Dr Sue Rogers of the Faculty of Education.

The project, funded by the Economic & Social Research Council, involved visits to schools from three contrasting areas in the South West, with a total of 144 children, six teachers and six classroom assistants taking part.

As well as observing how play was organised in the schools, Dr Rogers and her colleagues asked the children about their favourite games and used drawings, stories, role play scenarios and photographs to build a picture of their perspective on role play.

"Children of this age learn to make friends as well as to use their imagination through role play," said Dr Rogers.

"We know that they are capable of sustained and complex imaginative play and that capturing and engaging their interest is essential. Unfortunately, pressures on time and space, as well as the need to teach literacy, mean that playing at shops, pirates and hospitals is difficult to fit into the school timetable."

The project findings – which were reported on by key national media, including BBC news, The Times and the Daily Mail, and backed by parent groups – reveal a need for more outdoor play spaces so that children can have more choice over materials, locations and playmates. Such facilities would encourage girls to take a more active role in building activities and allow boys' play to develop without disrupting people around them.

"It is important that children are allowed to play for sustained periods without interventions from adults," said Dr Rogers.

The research highlights a number of gender differences in play. For instance, although girls sometimes combine traditional and less traditional roles, such as mum and astronaut, they more often choose to play domestic/maternal or nurturing and emotional caretaking roles. Boys, on the other hand, prefer to be robbers, superheroes or policemen in predominately action roles, despite teachers' efforts to 'de-gender' role play.

A key observation of the study, advises Dr Rogers, is "that most children of this age are having their first experience out of the home environment. The importance of role play is learning to socialise, to interact with other children as well as to experiment with language and develop the intellect."

Dr Rogers can be contacted at sue.rogers@plymouth.ac.uk
The postgraduate prospectus for 2006, sporting a distinctive shell design on its cover and containing details of the university’s postgraduate degrees and facilities, has recently been published.

Staff can order copies of the new prospectus by contacting the Marketing & Communications Department, on ext 3345.

Karen Mason (above left) is the new PR Officer within the Marketing & Communications Department, which is based in Hepworth House on the Plymouth campus. Karen, 24, is a graduate of the broadcast journalism degree at Falmouth College of Arts, a partner with the university in the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC). For the past two years she has worked in news broadcasting at the Q Radio Network, in Northern Ireland, her home country.

As well as providing PR support for the Faculty of Health & Social Work, University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC) and Research & Innovation, Karen will be the main point of contact for staff who want to put staff announcements on the portal or send out news-alert messages, which are set to replace postmaster messages as the main form of email communication for important staff messages.

Karen can be contacted on ext 3788/email: karen.mason@plymouth.ac.uk

Watersports clubs within the university and across the city are being given a boost by new Watersports Club Development Officer, Stephanie Green (below left). Funding for Stephanie’s post was secured from Active England, a programme jointly funded by Sport England and the Big Lottery Fund that aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity across the country.

Stephanie is already working on projects across the city, ranging from disability sailing and youth canoeing to working with the police and young people at risk. Her appointment has opened up exciting opportunities for university clubs to train and compete with community clubs, and she hopes to play a part in encouraging students to make the most of the university’s coastal location by taking up opportunities to get involved in the wealth of watersports available.

Based at 22 Endsleigh Place, Stephanie can be contacted on ext 3094/email: Stephanie.green@plymouth.ac.uk
The university has been chosen by the government to play a leading role in the new £15-million National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM), it was announced earlier this month.

There has been a worrying decline in the number of people taking maths A-levels and university degrees in recent years, and the new centre was recommended last year in a report by Professor Adrian Smith into maths teaching.

The NCETM, which will be launched in summer 2006, will be run jointly by the university’s Centre for Innovation in Mathematics Teaching (CITM) – which is headed by Professor David Burghes – and private company, Tribal Group. It will train new and existing maths teachers, and identify new ways to improve how pupils learn the subject.

“Maths is one of the crucial subjects, not just in the classroom but in everyday life. This centre of excellence will add up to better standards that will equal greater success for us all,” said Bill Rammell, Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further & Higher Education.

“We are delighted to have been chosen to play a leading role,” said Professor David Burghes.

“There is a national crisis with mathematics teaching and our ultimate aim has to be to both recruit higher calibre trainees and retain the creative and talented teachers that we do have in schools and colleges.”

To view a full copy of the government’s response to the Smith report go to www.dfes.gov.uk/mathsinquiry
on track

Advice from the university’s Professor Mick Fuller has helped Devon and Exeter Racecourse win the prestigious Neil Wyatt Track of the Year award for best racetrack in the UK.

GET IT RIGHT

A practical guide to managing externally funded projects has been produced by Victoria Martin, Claire Cridford and Christine Anniss of Research & Innovation.

The guide can be used by staff who have been in receipt of external funding for a number of years, or those who have only recently been successful in securing funding.

Having identified the need for such a publication, the team were successful in securing an Enterprise Fellowship Award, funded through the Higher Education Innovation Fund, to produce Get it Right.

The guide covers a number of project management topics, including project set-up, procedures for monitoring project expenditure and outputs, effectively managing partners and external contractors, and advice on project evaluation and audit. In addition to identifying common pitfalls associated with managing externally funded projects, Get it Right also provides tips and ideas to facilitate success.

The launch of the guide coincides with the recent formation of the Regional Projects team, within Research & Innovation, which provides support to academics, Centres of Expertise and faculties in relation to government and European structural funded regional projects.

If you have a project idea or wish to discuss regional funding opportunities, contact the team on ext 2361.
CHEMISTRY: alive and well

If a recent article in The Independent is to be believed, the decision by Exeter University to close its chemistry department will create a ‘void’ for the subject in the South West. Not so! Chemistry is thriving at Plymouth.

In a letter of rebuttal published in the newspaper, Vice-Chancellor Professor Roland Levinsky pointed out that Plymouth has been teaching chemistry for 30 years and is recruiting a growing number of students from across the UK.

“We have an intake of 30 - 35 students per year to our first-year chemistry courses, and the employment record of our chemistry graduates is excellent,” he said. “Employers include local, national and multi-national employers, such as Astra Zeneca, GlaxoSmithKline and the NHS.

“Our courses have been continually highly rated by the Quality Assurance Agency, and we have recently invested millions of pounds in the refurbishment of our chemistry laboratories. One of our staff, Professor Paul Worsfold, is the current President of the Royal Society of Chemistry’s Analytical Division, while another, Professor Simon Belt, received the 2003 Higher Education Teaching Award from the Royal Society of Chemistry.”

Getting results

The morning of 18 August – A level results day – saw the university’s phones ringing from 7.30 am.

Staff at Actionline, the university’s Clearing call centre, were geared up for dealing with queries from prospective students up and down the country, informing them about course vacancies and general details of the institution.

Until the lines closed – on 27 August – the operators were busy with 3,853 calls to the hotline and around 150 emails.

Advice from Actionline, both over the phone and on the Clearing Open Days at the university, helped to generate over 1,100 Clearing records and 141 visitors, many of whom commented on the university’s friendliness and hospitality.

“Making Clearing a success is a real team effort,” said Marketing Manager Andrea Newell. “Thanks to everyone who made it run smoothly and helped show that the University of Plymouth is a great place to study.”
As fear of crime increases, experts from the Faculty of Social Science & Business are undertaking fascinating research into the causes of crime and the widespread consequences of criminal activity.

Rob Mawby, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, has been involved in a major evaluation, on behalf of the Home Office, of a national crime prevention scheme for the benefit of elderly people. He has also carried out research into tourism crime and how effectively its victims are dealt with by police across Europe.

“Although crime rates are falling, alcohol-related anti-social behaviour is increasing and we are seeing more and more media coverage of crime-related issues, which tends to increase people’s fears,” said Professor Mawby.

“We have developed a research project, which has been rolled out nationally, into the ramifications of crime against tourists and discovered that people act very differently on holiday and will therefore not be aware of the danger hotspots, as they would be at home.

“Tourists often carry cash and travellers’ cheques as well as passports, so they can be easy targets - as can hotels and caravans. Police also deal with victims of tourism crime differently from how they deal with crime against local people. Victims of tourism crime can feel isolated and misunderstood, particularly if they do not speak the local language.”

Senior Lecturer in Criminal Justice Studies, Adrian Barton is researching drug crime and the effectiveness of drug workers as well as, along with Professor Mawby, carrying out work on behalf of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in Cornwall.

“The CDRP develops the strategic overview of how each authority deals with crime and disorder issues,” said Adrian. “Crime is multi-causal and we are looking at how the two camps – statutory bodies such as the police and the NHS, and organisations within the voluntary sector – deal with the consequences of crime and disorder issues such as drug crime.

“It is not set in stone but, statistically, the high risk groups of youngsters who receive Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are the same groups who are likely to get involved with alcohol and drugs from an early age. Staggeringly, over 90% of people arrested have alcohol or illicit substances such as heroin and cocaine in their bloodstreams.”
Within the faculty’s School of Business & Management is Plymouth Business School (PBS), which was recently selected to host the new Devon and Cornwall hub of the Regional Language Network (RLN) South West.

Recognising that the South West is at the bottom of the UK export league and that many companies are losing business because of language or cultural barriers, the network promotes foreign language use and intercultural skills in the region’s businesses. Funded by the Regional Development Agency (RDA), it is managed by Professor David Head, Director of PBS, and Dr Jacquie Hope from the Languages Group, assisted by research student Valentina de Micheli. “PBS is ideally placed to offer such advice, being home to the Languages Group and including on its staff an impressive range of experts from around the world,” said Professor Head. “Our links with local companies and support agencies enable us to reach out very effectively into the business community.”

Recently, the team appeared on ITV Westcountry, undertaking an advice session for Plymouth’s National Marine Aquarium, where Marketing Manager Melanie Cowie is an enthusiastic convert to the languages crusade. “The RLN’s guidance has helped us develop a languages strategy,” said Melanie. “We knew we needed one but didn’t know how to go about it. We’re sure it will increase our business by giving our overseas visitors an even better experience.”

To find out more about the RLN, email rlnhub@plymouth.ac.uk

Appropriately, as the country celebrates SeaBritain 2005, the annual British Cartographic Society’s 42nd Annual Symposium was hosted by Plymouth’s School of Geography in early September.

Sessions included a map curators’ group workshop, historical naval mapping and contemporary marine charting, as well as tourist and travel mapping, and design and data visualisation. “The British Cartographic Society is the major voice of UK cartography so it was a privilege for the university to host the first visit to Plymouth of this prestigious event,” said Brian Rogers, Senior Cartographer in the School of Geography.

Left to right: Melanie Cowie, Professor David Head, Valentina de Micheli and Dr Jacquie Hope
The publication of the report followed the visit of a team of auditors to the university first in March and then in May this year to carry out the institutional audit. The purpose of this is to provide public information on the quality of the university’s programmes of study and the academic standards of its awards (ie the level a student has to reach to gain an award such as a degree). The report, which says that “broad confidence can be placed in the soundness of the university’s current and likely future management of the quality of its academic programmes and the academic standards of its awards”, highlights six features of good practice in particular:

- the active and continuous development of the staff and student intranet portals, allowing both currency of information and relevance of communication to be maintained during a period of extensive organisational change;
- the effectiveness of the Internal Quality Audit as a mechanism for investigating the operation of key quality processes;
- the partnership between the university and the students’ union to improve student representation;
- the work of the Educational Development and Learning Technologies unit in supporting staff academic and professional development, as exemplified by its comprehensive guide, Designing your Programmes and Modules;
- the effectiveness of the SkillsPlus strategy in drawing together policies relating to student academic support, skills development and employability, and
- the support of postgraduate research students provided through the Graduate School, facilitating development of the university’s research student community.

The team of auditors noted that, even at a time of great organisational change due to the restructuring of the university, the institution had strategies in place to draw together policies relating to the academic support of students, their skills development and employability.

The report also highlights the university’s success in the National Teaching Fellowships and in gaining an extra £18 million in funding for its Centres for Excellence in Teaching & Learning.

“The audit confirms the very high quality of academic provision for students at Plymouth,” said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roland Levinsky. “The results demonstrate that we are committed to maintaining the rigorous standards that make us one of the UK’s top universities for teaching and learning.”

“I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our good performance, which depends on positive participation by all concerned,” said Sara Jennett, Director of Quality Support. “Public reports such as this form the basis of many decisions that are made about the university and obviously impact on our reputation. “We should be greatly encouraged while making a continued effort to address areas that have been highlighted as needing further work, such as full implementation of the university’s Assessment Policy. Staff’s co-operation will be needed again as we prepare for the Collaborative Provision Audit next year – this will look at all aspects of our collaborative provision, from the University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC) to partnerships overseas.”

To see the university’s institutional audit report, visit the QAA Institutional Audit community on the staff portal, or go direct to www.qaa.ac.uk and follow links to ‘institutional reviews’.
CONTRIBUTING TO RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

KTPs are one of the Department of Trade & Industry’s business support products. They are designed to help UK businesses to access university expertise through recruitment of high-calibre graduates into the business, where they are supported by university and business experts. The company completes a strategically significant project and the university generates research papers and an average of £100,000 per project (which count fully towards the next Research Assessment Exercise in 2008, providing one member of the supervision team is submitted).

The recent seminar featured a keynote presentation from Dr Joan Chandler, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science & Business.

Dr Chandler is the lead academic on a three-year KTP with Plymouth Hospital’s NHS Trust. “Our Plymouth team delivering KTP is one of the most successful in the UK, managing around 25 projects at any one time and working closely with academics to seek out and partner businesses in the region that are best placed to utilise our academic expertise,” she said. “I fully embrace KTP - not only does it contribute significantly to our research income, but my KTP graduate is registered for a PhD and her work has already generated two journal papers. This faculty intends to partner many more businesses on KTP.”

To discover how KTP can contribute towards your research activity, contact Emma Hewitt, KTP Manager, on 01752 233504 or email emma.hewitt@plymouth.ac.uk Alternatively, visit www.ktponline.org.uk

The university is again sponsoring Enterprising Plymouth, which takes place during National Enterprise Week, 14 - 20 November. See www.plymouth.ac.uk/entrepreneur for details.

It is also launching the New Business Plan Challenge, for staff, students and alumni, intended to turn business ideas into reality. Further details and an application form can be found at www.plymouth.ac.uk/bpchallenge

The University of Plymouth Alumni Association has recently launched UoP Alumni online, giving graduates the opportunity to search class lists and contact old friends, catch up on news and renew acquaintances.

“This we know that some of our graduates work at the university and we’re keen for them to use this new online community,” said Rebecca Liddington, Marketing Officer (Alumni).

“Two key features are the ‘who’s who’ and the ‘email for life’ directory allows graduates to quickly locate old university friends and network with other members. Once registered, each alumnus receives their own unique University of Plymouth email account, which they can keep for life. The system has been created so that, if required, emails can be forwarded from this address to a preferred email account.”

If you are in contact with any University of Plymouth graduates please encourage them to register on UoP Alumni online by visiting www.plymouth.ac.uk/alumni, or calling 01752 233983.

**ALUMNI ONLINE**

Earlier this month the university hosted the 2005 South West Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) Regional Seminar, an inspiring showcase of KTP graduates’ work with innovative regional companies.
The Equal Opportunities Development Unit has been renamed Equality & Diversity (E&D), the new title reflecting the broader range of work undertaken by the unit, which has significantly expanded since its inception in 2000.

E&D covers a wider range of equality issues than those originally associated with equal opportunities, including sexual orientation, religion and belief, transsexuality and age, as well as family-friendly policies and the effects of career breaks and part-time working. Gender, race and disability are, of course, still included with new positive duties on public bodies to promote equality in these areas. In addition to advising on all the equality issues the unit is also working to promote diversity, which is aimed at valuing and developing individual difference for the benefits it brings.

The unit will continue to develop equality policies in order to ensure compliance with the legislation and the implementation of good practice but its role is now more focused on mainstreaming equality and diversity and facilitating its development by everyone in the University. This September has already seen the launch of a campaign to raise awareness of the university’s network of harassment advisors, and in the coming year E&D will also be developing the university’s Disability Scheme, responding to the forthcoming legislation on age and supporting the university’s application for Athena SWAN charter status. (Athena aims to support the increase of women academics in top posts within science, engineering and technology.)

E&D is based at 4 Portland Villas on the Plymouth campus. You can contact the unit on ext 3973/equality@plymouth.ac.uk

Disability equality

Equality & Diversity is keen to hear from disabled staff and students who are interested in helping the team formulate a relevant and effective plan for the development and implementation of a Disability Equality Scheme (DES).

In accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act, the university has new general duties to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment, and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. It also has specific duties to draw up a DES.

The working parties tasked with developing the scheme will consult and involve disabled staff and students. If you can help, contact Disability Assist Services on ext 2696/email: das@plymouth.ac.uk

Dr Jason Hall-Spencer was in demand from the media after speaking at the BA International Science Festival in Dublin. The Royal Society Research Fellow revealed footage of Irish coral reefs, never before seen by the public, and warned that deep sea fishing trawlers are bulldozing the 4,500-year-old underwater environment. The national broadsheets, New Scientist and the BBC covered Jason’s research, which has called for satellite monitoring technology to be used in saving the coral reefs. This state-of-the-art equipment would work by tracking fishing vessels, to keep them away from endangered areas.

Off his trolley... The international media were quick to seize on the story of a recent graduate’s unique furniture design.
The Press Office took calls from as far afield as ABC News in Australia, as word spread of Colin Lovekin’s shopping trolley-based furniture. The 3D Design graduate hopes to turn his art into a commercial venture and, judging by the media hype, he now looks set for many more commissions.

New light was shed on the dark world of illegal online animal trading by Jason Lowther. The Senior Lecturer in Environmental Law was featured in The Independent and on BBC Radio 5 Live, as well as receiving local coverage. Jason’s groundbreaking research for the International Fund for Animal Welfare is pushing for a change in the laws regulating online animal trading to prevent the exploitation and extinction of some rare species. Jason uncovered sales taking place in chat rooms and even legitimate sites like eBay.

Gracing the Devon airwaves and filling the local entertainment columns is all in a week’s work for Director of Music Simon Ible. Simon, also conductor of the Ten Tors Orchestra, had his work cut out in the week running up to the highly successful Gala Opera Concert at Plymouth Pavilions, giving media interviews in between preparations for the event.

Students’ Union Finance & Communications Officer Kris Talikowski brings us the latest news from UPSU…

focussing on three in particular: ‘Back to Basics’, is aimed at cutting the red tape on union democracy. This campaign, led by the three site presidents, will start to make it easier for students to understand they can get involved. Emily West, Plymouth Site President, describes it as ‘the best and only way to get students interested in what we do’. We aim to change the format and branding of events such as our Annual General Meeting to make it more accessible, and jump into the technological age by trying electronic voting for the first time this year!

The second campaign will see us oppose the proposed closure of the Exmouth campus. “Students lead the SU and they have spoken out in the past about relocation,” said Katie Shaw, Exmouth Site President. “Now they have spoken out again and we will support them in providing the counter argument to the proposed relocation of the Faculty of Education and the planned move to Plymouth.”

Our third campaign, ‘Fairer Funding for All’ is about lobbying the government to review the way in which higher education funding is allocated in the UK.

Going national

Demonstrating that the sabbatical officers are taking a wider interest in the national student movement, Ben Wiggins, Sports & Activities Officer, has been elected as the South West’s Divisional Chair for BUSA (the British Universities Sports Association). Ben aims to develop the South West regionally in terms of sports provision and put Plymouth even more firmly within the national sporting picture.

In addition, I have been elected Chair of the Licensed Trade Committee for NUS Services, the commercial support company for students’ unions. This means I’m now technically responsible for buying all the beer for students’ unions, but - more importantly - I can help set the strategic direction for the student union licensed trade industry. The main focus is for unions to start catering for all our students by introducing more diverse commercial services, like the juice bar we will be launching soon.
Thinking of organising a staff social event? Why not promote it on the Staff Club community on the staff portal?

Dave Furniss, Sports & Recreation Manager, is keen to hear from staff with ideas for events or information to share, which he will publish on the community – just send details to him at dave.furniss@plymouth.ac.uk

Partner Awards

Higher Education Learning Partnerships (HELP), one of the university’s Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs), recently presented awards to 21 staff from seven of the University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC).

The Continuing Professional Development Awards and Teaching Fellowships were presented at the UPC Summer Conference by Professor Mark Cleary, the university’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), to staff from Somerset College of Arts & Technology, Truro College, North Devon College, Cornwall College, Plymouth College of Further Education, Plymouth College of Art & Design, and Bridgewater College.

The awards holders have been funded to develop research and teaching and learning development projects over the academic year across a range of subject areas. The website at www.help-cetl.ac.uk contains further details of the awards and the development activities of the HELP CETL.

For more information email Christine Smart, HELP CETL Operations Manager, at help-cetl@plymouth.ac.uk
CAN YOU HELP?

If you are a parent of a healthy baby or toddler, you may be able to help researchers at the university to better understand neurological disorders.

The team at the SensoriMotor Laboratory, led by Professor Chris Harris, aims to develop new methods of recording eye movement abnormalities in babies and young children with neurological disorders. In order to judge the effectiveness of these new methods it is important that they are first tried out on healthy infants to assess how their eyes should be moving.

The procedures being developed are straightforward and completely safe, with the whole process taking just 45 minutes.

For further details, contact a team member on 01752 233359/email: noreen.derbyshire@plymouth.ac.uk. The website at www.harrislab.com gives details of the work carried out by the SensoriMotor Laboratory.

HONORARY DEGREES

Astronaut Helen Sharman, broadcaster Sir Trevor MacDonald and actress Josie Lawrence are just three of the university’s honorary degree holders. Now is the time for staff to nominate individuals they’d like to see honoured in 2006.

The university can confer honorary degrees – either a doctorate or a masters - on those who have earned distinction for activities associated with education, business, culture, the professions, creative work or public service, or who have given particularly outstanding service to the institution or its partner colleges.

Nomination forms are available from Margaret Metcalfe, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, on ext 2017/email margaret.metcalfe@plymouth.ac.uk, and nominations should be sent to Jane Hopkinson, University Secretary and Academic Registrar, by 11 November.

Since not all nominations are approved by the Honorary Awards Committee, nominees must not be contacted about nominations, which must be made in confidence.
The university is a key partner in the exciting UK Sailing Academy project that has seen the restoration and re-launch of Gipsy Moth IV, and this time teams of young people are helping to crew the yacht on each of the 28 legs round the world.

Dr Andrew Eccleston, a maritime expert and meteorologist from the university, is acting as ‘weather guru’ for the voyage, and the university is also involved in creating oceanographic experiments for the young people to complete while at sea.

Taking part in the onshore action prior to Gipsy Moth IV setting sail were Plymouth graduate and leading yachtsman Conrad Humphries and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Roland Levinsky.

The yacht is due to return to Plymouth in May 2007.