Degrees on the doorstep  
University of Plymouth Colleges launch

Scent to India  
Perfumery goes east

Life begins at 40  
Medical School’s first PhD

Civil engineering celebrates  
Graduate scoops national award
A group of international students enjoys the welcome buffet organised by the International Office as part of the orientation programme.

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Front cover: Bill Messner (centre), Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Colleges, with Dr Ian Tunbridge (left) and Professor Roland Levinsky at the launch of the University of Plymouth (UPC) Faculty.

Welcome

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The good news that people across the South West can now take a University-approved, two-year foundation degree at their local college was celebrated at the official launch of the University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC) Faculty in October.

The University’s senior managers and principals and students of partner colleges attended the special event to mark this milestone. Guest of honour was Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Colleges, Bill Messner. The Wisconsin model of dispersed education has earned international respect for its effectiveness and has been influential in UPC’s development.

From a modest start in 1989, when Polytechnic South West collaborated with its partners to provide off-campus provision for just over 450 students, the network has expanded across the South West with UPC now providing locally based University education at 19 sites, from Penzance to Bristol, for some 5,000 students.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roland Levinsky praised UPC for providing for an essential part of the University’s regional and widening participation mission, a sentiment echoed by Bill Messner, who outlined the similarities between the Wisconsin and Plymouth approaches to meeting local needs. “These are very exciting times for the University and all our partner colleges,” said Dr Ian Tunbridge, Dean of the UPC Faculty. “Our partner colleges serve their local community. They are much more easily accessible than the University’s main campus in Plymouth for many and they are able to offer high quality education in an environment that is smaller and more personal.

“By bringing higher education opportunities closer to home, UPC ensures that every part of the South West can benefit from University of Plymouth courses – and that can only be good news for students, business and the local economy.”

### University of Plymouth Colleges
- Bicton College
- City of Bristol College
- Cornwall College (comprising Camborne Redruth Pool College, Duchy College, St Austell College, Saltash College and the College of Falmouth)
- East Devon College
- Exeter College
- North Devon College
- Penwith College
- Plymouth College of Art & Design
- Plymouth College of Further Education
- Somerset College of Arts & Technology
- South Devon College
- Truro College

### University of Plymouth Associates
- Bridgewater College
- Estover Community College - Plymouth
- Highlands College - Jersey
- The John Kitto Community College - Plymouth
- Weymouth College
A University of Plymouth graduate recently scooped the title of Best Civil Engineering Student in the UK.

Talented Oliver Latham competed against students from universities including Oxford and Cambridge to take the title in the civil engineering category of the prestigious Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Awards. He received a trophy – and a cheque for £500 – at an awards ceremony held in London.

“It was a great night and I am now looking forward to starting work with the engineering company Halcrow,” said Oliver.

Dr Clive Williams, Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs in the Faculty of Technology, accompanied Oliver to the ceremony. He said: “This is a tremendous achievement for Oliver and well deserved. There were 12 subject areas and Oxbridge won seven of those – Oliver’s award illustrates the high quality of civil engineering students at Plymouth.”

Professor Chris Fleming, Group Board Director of the Halcrow Group, and Visiting Professor for Coastal Engineering at the University, said: “This is excellent news and makes me feel really proud to be attached to the University of Plymouth.”

For further information about civil engineering courses, contact the Faculty of Technology on 01752 233325/email: technology@plymouth.ac.uk.

“Implementation of UNITe provides an ideal opportunity to formally review the student – related processes – from admissions to graduation – and the Project Team will be coordinating with the ongoing review of the University’s administration,” said Graham Fice. “Review will be aided by input from Southern Universities Management Services (SUMS), building on their work to draw up the Specification of Requirement for the student administration system and their involvement in the evaluation of UNITe.”

Further information is available via a new ‘community’ on the staff portal, established by Gill Gilmore, Project Administrator – just click on the UNITe link in the list of communities.

Oliver (left) receives his award from Richard Haryott, Vice President of the Institute of Civil Engineers.
We are thrilled with this decision.

The University’s unique Introduction to Perfumery course has had a breakthrough in the highly competitive Indian market.

The week-long residential course, led by Dr Tony Curtis and John Ayers, is considered a must for anyone working in – or considering working in – the perfumery or aroma trades industry.

While attending the course at Plymouth, one of the delegates from Ultra International, a high-profile fragrance company based in New Delhi, was so impressed with the quality of the programme that he declared his desire to bring the course to India next year to train senior executives from his company.

“We are all thrilled with this decision. It is testimony to the quality of the programme that someone is prepared to spend a lot of money for people in his company to be trained by the University of Plymouth,” said Dr Curtis. “I think this will be the start of a new direction for the course – not only will we continue running the Plymouth-based programme, but also branching out into these in-company sessions overseas.

“In the fragrance industry we are seeing a continuing trend in the research, development and manufacture of essential oils moving away from their traditional European bases towards India and increasingly Australia.”

The University has long-established links with the International Federation of Essential Oils and Aroma Trades, the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, the British Society of Perfumers and many of the leading creative perfumery houses.

For information on the course, contact Dr Tony Curtis on 01752 232820/email: tony.curtis@plymouth.ac.uk
It was a close shave – quite literally – for Dr John Summerscales during Freshers’ Week, when he braved the electric razor to help raise awareness of meningitis.

Dr Summerscales, Reader in Composites Engineering, contracted meningococcal septicaemia in 2000 and fortunately made a remarkable recovery. He took part in the Meningitis Trust’s Big Head Shave to help make students aware of the symptoms of the potentially deadly disease and highlight the work of the Trust, which aims to fight meningitis through research, education and support.

“I was discharged from hospital after a ten-day course of antibiotics. I was extremely lucky to come through unscathed, but the after-effects of meningitis can be extremely serious,” said Dr Summerscales, who believes his level of fitness (thanks to Morris dancing) helped him combat the disease.

Alex Brown, the University’s Head of Health & Welfare, said: “It’s vital that staff and students are aware of the signs and symptoms of meningitis. If you suspect meningitis, seek medical advice immediately – to hesitate can make all the difference between making a complete recovery or not. In the case of meningitis, the advice is always ‘better to be safe than sorry!’”

For further information, visit the Meningitis Trust’s website at www.meningitis-trust.org
Leather sofas, Sky TV and new games machines are just three of the features of the new-look Students’ Union on the Plymouth campus, which has recently undergone a £94,000 refurbishment.

“The SU now has a different feel – it’s more lively and inviting,” said Commercial Services Manager, Paul Clayton. “Ignition, the new DJ bar, is proving very popular with a different drinks promotion every day. And the SU isn’t just for students – staff are very welcome to use the facilities.”

“The SU shop has also had a major overhaul and both the layout and the product range are much improved. It now has a Threshers off-license outlet, pick and mix sweets and a broader range of SU-branded clothing as well as the usual items such as discounted newspapers, magazines and stationery. Our prices are very competitive and we’re happy to source products for staff and students if there’s something they want that isn’t currently stocked, whether it’s for them or their course.”

The Students’ Union at Plymouth is open every day of the week from 8.30 am to 11 pm, except Fridays and Saturdays, when it closes at 2 am. The shop opening hours are 8.30 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 10 am to 6 pm at weekends.

Paul Clayton can be contacted on ext 3716/email: paul.clayton@su.plymouth.ac.uk

Psychologist Dr Phil Gee found himself in the spotlight recently, when his research into the mental powers of fish captured the attention of the national media, including national BBC television and radio, Sky News, The Times and The Guardian. Dr Gee’s research has shown that fish can remember things for at least three months and can even be taught to tell the time, or at least sense what time of day it is. He found that they can learn that pressing a tiny lever in their tanks dispenses food at certain times of the day.

It is hoped that training fish in this way will help fish farmers around the world to control their stock.
From the start of the academic year, students have been enjoying the benefits of using the new modern, powerful fleet of computers at the University – and new computers for staff are now being phased in across the institution.

Following a rigorous tender process, it was decided that Research Machines provided the best value for money for the University, and following the company’s selection staff from Information & Learning Services have worked closely with them to ensure a well-planned and successfully executed deployment of new PCs.

“The response from students to the modern PC hardware and flat screens has been extremely positive,” said Dr Phil Richards, the University’s Head of Information & Communication Systems. “Staff computers are being upgraded in two phases – 1,400 machines will have been replaced before the end of November and the remaining stock will be in place next autumn.”

The new computers provide a range of benefits to staff, including:

- powerful desktop hardware (with laptop version available)
- a more reliable service
- a fixed replacement cycle of three years widely available
- specialist software
- ergonomic design, taking less desk space
- secure ‘webstore’ available off campus via the Internet.

Forty is a time of new beginnings, as Peninsula Medical School student Nick Morley (pictured above) can testify. He is celebrating achieving a Doctor of Philosophy award for his research into skin cancer and is the first PhD student to graduate from the School.

“Ten years ago I decided to give up my job at a sign-writing company in Cornwall and return to full-time education. I wanted to really build my knowledge of science,” said Nick, who studied at Cornwall College and went on to obtain a first-class honours degree in Biological Sciences at Plymouth.

In 2000 Nick began his PhD in skin cancer research, carried out while employed by the Cornwall Dermatology Research Project, based at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro. His investigations examined the role of antioxidants in reducing DNA damage caused by exposure to ultraviolet radiation. This work is particularly relevant for the South West, which currently has the highest levels of skin cancer in the UK.

“I found the work challenging, but the Peninsula Medical School was really supportive and it was great to get the opportunity to study locally,” said Nick, who has since secured a position as Clinical Trials Co-ordinator at the Royal Cornwall Hospital and is also conducting research into the diagnosis of autism in the county.
Over 50 personnel from the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines at Lympstone in Exmouth will have achieved a University teaching qualification by December, thanks to a partnership between the Centre and the Faculty of Education.

Centre instructors at Lympstone are studying on the University’s Post-16 Certificate of Education (Cert Ed) /Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) course on a part-time basis – a model that’s proved so successful that the Prison Service, Britannia Royal Naval College, HMS Raleigh and naval bases in Portsmouth are also committing to the programme.

The Cert Ed/PGCE is a nationally recognised and accredited qualification and is generally accepted as the minimum requirement needed to teach in further education and adult and community education.

“The course broadens the understanding of education,” said Gillian McQueen, Programme Co-ordinator at the University. “It looks at educational issues, from the management of the classroom through to education within a global perspective. We offer optional modules such as educational psychology, tutoring, mentoring and guidance, and there’s also the opportunity to visit other countries to carry out comparative studies into education.”

Due to service requirements, military personnel can find it difficult to study on the normal basis of one evening a week for two years. With this in mind, the University and Lympstone developed a condensed four-term, 15-month model integrating weekend provision, which takes into account the previous experience and qualities of Royal Marine instructors.

“In addition to producing assignments and professional practice portfolios, the students have to complete 240 hours’ teaching practice,” said Gillian. “It can appear daunting for people who haven’t undertaken academic study since they left school, but students are given full support. We tend to find that in terms of experience and commitment, service personnel are very well equipped.

“The Lympstone model allows people to study around their service commitments, and the modular structure means there’s considerable flexibility of study in the programme, with personnel able to attend other centres if they are unavailable for their own group’s provision.”

For further information about the CertEd/PGCE course, contact Frances Keays-Smith on 01395 255313/email: frances.keays-smith@plymouth.ac.uk.

It was open house at the University’s Electron Microscopy Unit (EMU) recently, when over 800 A-level biology students attended special workshops in the biological applications of electron microscopy.

With a full range of state-of-the-art instrumentation, the EMU is the most comprehensively equipped in the region. The microscopes are used extensively in investigations of cell structure and tissue organisation, and there are a number of current collaborative studies with Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust in areas of biomedical research including respiratory and renal biology.

“The students were able to learn about aspects of these biomedical research programmes as well as applications in other areas of biology,” said Dr Roy Moate, Head of the EMU.
Scientists from the University were in Bermuda recently, taking part in a groundbreaking workshop focusing on the health of coral reefs.

Dr Tamara Galloway, Dr Jo Hagger and Nik Bouskill from the Ecotoxicology Laboratory in the School of Biological Sciences joined experts from around the world for the first International Coral Reef Ecotoxicology & Health Workshop, held at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research (BBSR).

“What we are realising is that strategies and techniques for assessing and promoting human health can be used to evaluate the health of our vital coral reef ecosystem,” said Dr Richard Owen, workshop organiser.

Marine scientists now recognise that just as doctors carry out blood tests on patients and then recommend diet and lifestyle changes – and possibly medication – if necessary, they need diagnostic tests that can show, early on, if coral is exhibiting signs of stress as a result of exposure to pollutants. Such information can be used by environmental managers to prevent late-stage, irreversible decline of the reef habitat and protect fragile reefs.

The team from Plymouth was able to demonstrate its Rapid Assessment of Marine Pollution (RAMP) project, which has already been tested by the United Nations Environment Programme in Brazil, Costa Rica and Vietnam.

RAMP involves suites of rapid, robust biological measures (biomarkers) developed for the detection of exposure to specific classes of chemicals, and for detecting the chronic health effects they may cause to humans and to marine organisms.

“The scientific rationale adopted in the RAMP project is that to fully assess the significance of pollutant releases into the environment we need to determine both the concentration of chemicals accumulating in organisms and the biological effects they give rise to,” said Dr Tamara Galloway. “The choice of biomarkers and analytical techniques has thus been made to provide cost-effective, user-friendly and rapid methods which do not require sophisticated laboratory facilities.”

For further information, contact Dr Galloway on ext 2904/email: tamara.galloway@plymouth.ac.uk.
Psychologists at Plymouth are undertaking research that aims to contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between sign language, deafness and the brain.

The research, funded by the Economic & Social Research Council, is being carried out by Dr Allegra Cattani and Dr John Clibbens from the University’s School of Psychology in partnership with Professor Ruth Campbell from the Department of Human Communication Science at University College, London.

Sign language, the visual-gestural language used by the deaf community, is recognised in the UK and several other countries, including Portugal, Sweden and the USA.

“Understanding the role of sign language and deafness in the relationship between the brain and language is a crucial area in psychology,” explained Dr Cattani. “And although there has been much investigation involving the brain’s processing of language, the non-verbal processes have been little explored.

“As part of our research, hearing non-signers, and hearing and deaf signers, will be evaluated while they memorise the spatial location of everyday objects.”

The researchers expect to find that it is deafness alone, and not the use of sign language, that affects the brain’s processing of spatial information. It seems likely that the areas on the left side of the brain normally used for processing linguistic information in the hearing population might be used by deaf people for processing spatial information.

“The findings should help us understand the sort of difficulties that can occur following a stroke – which often affects only one half of the brain – and other types of brain damage,” said Dr Cattani. “They may also contribute to the development of diagnostic and remedial procedures for deaf people with difficulties in understanding pictures.

“The findings will help teachers and support workers to understand differences and similarities between deaf and hearing people in understanding pictures – for instance in remembering where things occurred.”
The Wendy Atkinson her colleagues know works on the Plymouth campus as Project Manager for gradsouthwest.com, the student and graduate online careers service. For 16 hours a month, however, Wendy (pictured) takes on a very different job – that of Special Constable for Devon and Cornwall Police.

Being a Special Constable is not something that is undertaken lightly as the role involves working alongside regular officers dealing with local policing issues and helping prevent crime and disorder. Special constables play a crucial part in the forging of stronger links between the police and local people and join up because they have a real desire to help make their community a safer place.

Wendy began volunteering for the Specials in May last year after a friend persuaded her to apply. “I wanted to give something back to the community and also develop my personal skills,” she said. “I could never deal with confrontation but being in the Specials has changed me. I stand up for myself more and I’ve developed the confidence to be assertive about what I believe in.

“The volunteers are from all ages and backgrounds and we work with police from different stations. They really look after us and are keen to get us involved.

“Specials often work on events, and my most memorable experiences so far have been the Queen’s visit to Plymouth this summer – and my first night on the beat in Union Street!

“Being a Special has really taught me the importance of good communication. What you say can either diffuse a situation or spark a riot. It has also shown me parts of Plymouth I’d never seen before and I’ve encountered people I’d never normally meet. You also gain a real insight into police work. To anyone who’s interested I would say that, while it’s far from easy, you get good training and it’s a really great experience.”

If you’re interested in finding out more about joining the Special Constables, or want information on other volunteering opportunities, contact Mel Lonsdale, Co-ordinator for the University’s Active in Communities Fund, on ext 2708/email: mel.lonsdale@plymouth.ac.uk.

The University has a long history of supporting businesses in the region, particularly through its dedicated Enterprise team and Centre of Expertise initiative.

Under the umbrella of the South West Regional Development Agency’s three-year Knowledge Exploitation South West (KESW) programme, a collaboration between 13 higher education institutions across the region, Enterprise has expanded its support through a unique range of business services.

Within the lifetime of the programme, academics working with businesses through the University’s Centre of Expertise initiative will aim to deliver over 500 business briefings and business support activities. KESW is also developing entrepreneurship modules for students and academics within the University and has recently launched the £150,000 Proof of Concept Fund to help entrepreneurial University staff access money to explore the commercial potential of their research ideas.

To facilitate business enquiries and referrals, Enterprise runs a dedicated Business Enquiry Service, providing a simple yet effective way to access the expertise, resources and facilities within the University. The Service can be contacted on 0800 052 5600/email: businessservices@plymouth.ac.uk.

For further information about the KESW, contact Claire Cridford, Programme Manager, on 01752 233562/email: claire.cridford@plymouth.ac.uk. For information on the Proof of Concept Fund and Entrepreneurship Programme, contact Dr Susan Boulton, Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Manager, on 01752 233556/email: susan.boulton@plymouth.ac.uk
The University is currently in the process of selecting architects to design the new Faculty of Arts building at Rowe Street on the Plymouth campus. Following a very high response to the advertisement in the Official Journal of the European Union, six firms of international standing have been invited to tender for this commission.

Due to open in 2006/7, the building will be the new base for the Faculty, which encompasses arts, architecture and humanities. Plymouth Arts Centre, currently in Looe Street, will also relocate to the new building complex.

The building will include state-of-the-art teaching, studio and gallery space and meet the individual needs of the academic community and the professional needs of Plymouth Arts Centre. It will also include ‘incubation’ space in which newly graduated artists can start to establish themselves.

As part of the tender process, the architects have been asked to demonstrate their interpretation of the University’s aspirations in their design concepts. These designs will be on display in the Portland Square building between 17 and 21 November and staff will be invited to view these initial concepts and express their opinions and preferences.

The architects’ tenders will be evaluated against prescribed criteria and the opinions expressed between 17 and 21 November will be taken into account by the appointment panel, which will meet at the end of November to interview the architects and make the appointment.

Endeavor’s Voyager has been selected as the replacement for Libertas, the University’s library management system.

Voyager will provide a sophisticated information retrieval system for the University as well as allowing better links with other systems, including finance, student registration and the student portal. The interface will be web-based, user-friendly and easily accessible both on and off campus.

The decision was taken earlier this year by the Library Management System (LMS) Project Board, chaired by Clare Broom, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), following a rigorous selection process. This board has since been replaced by the LMS Implementation Project Executive Board, also chaired by Clare Broom. Project Manager is Penny Holland, Head of Customer Services, Information & Learning Services.

“The implementation process has begun and will take at least six months to complete as it is a considerable project affecting every aspect of work for library staff,” said Julia Paget-Woods, Voyager Communications Co-ordinator for Information & Learning Services.

“We anticipate that the public face of Voyager will be launched in February next year. Library staff are committed to continuing to provide a high quality service throughout the transition, though users need to be aware that a huge amount of work is underway in the background.”

Library users will be kept informed of progress via email, the staff and student portals and poster displays.
In the news
A round-up of where the University has appeared prominently in recent weeks...

■ An open letter from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roland Levinsky, to Charles Clarke, the Secretary of State for Education (entitled ‘Mr Clarke, you have got funding all wrong’), appeared in The Independent’s education supplement. Professor Levinsky wrote the letter after attending a meeting where Mr Clarke discussed the government’s White Paper, The Future of Higher Education. He felt Mr Clarke had refused to discuss the introduction of a graduate tax, a concept Professor Levinsky supports, without fully considering both sides of the argument.

■ Students are learning to dive professionally as part of their studies, thanks to a unique diving qualification introduced by the University. As reported in the Evening Herald, the School of Earth, Ocean & Environmental Sciences is using the skills of staff at the University’s own Diving & Sailing Centre to train students. The first environmental science students to qualify as professional scuba divers will graduate in 2005.

■ A new study supported by the Peninsula Medical School is working towards an innovative treatment for cancer patients. As reported in the Exeter Express & Echo, research groups are investigating drugs that could cause cancerous cells to destroy themselves. The work is expected to take at least eight years to complete.

■ A Plymouth-born professor has been made an ‘honorary Cossack’ on a trip to Russia. As featured in the Plymouth Evening Herald, Professor Bob Stone received the honour for his services to virtual reality (VR) and his help in bringing the technology to Russia. A Visiting Professor at the University, Professor Stone was instrumental in introducing virtual reality to the Cosmonaut Training Programme by creating a VR model of the Mir Space Station.

December ceremonies
Plymouth Pavilions will once again be the scene of celebrations for graduates receiving their awards in December. Dates are as follows:

- 15th: Plymouth Business School
- 16th: Faculty of Science
- 17th: Faculty of Human Sciences
- 18th: Faculty of Technology

This December’s honorary graduates are: former Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor John Bull; Sir Neil Chalmers, Director of the National History Museum; geologist Dr Richard Scrivener; Catherine Caldwell, former Deputy Director of Nursing at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital; and Sir Marrack Goulding, Warden at St Antony’s College, Oxford.

Call for Nominations
If you would like to nominate someone for an honorary degree for 2004, the Honorary Awards Committee wants to hear from you!

The University may confer honorary degrees on individuals who have either 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 University or its partner colleges.

There are two categories of honorary degree: honorary doctorate – awarded to those who have made a significant contribution at national and/or international level, or a major contribution to the corporate life of the University, and honorary masters – awarded to those who have made a major contribution to the region or within a specific area of the University.

Nominations should be sent to Jane Hopkinson, University Secretary and Academic Registrar, by 28 November. Nomination forms and notes for guidance are available from Margaret Metcalfe (ext 2017/email: margaret.metcalfe@plymouth.ac.uk).

Please note that since not all nominations are approved by the committee, nominees must not be contacted about nominations, which must be made in confidence.
Despite an important fixture in the Rugby World Cup, the Autumn Open Days saw over 2,000 prospective students descend on the Plymouth, Exeter and Exmouth campuses to meet staff and current students and get a taste of University life.

The record crowds of potential students brought with them family and friends, bringing the total number of visitors to approximately 5,000. Some visitors travelled from as far as Belgium and Holland.

At Plymouth, the Portland Square atria were used as an exhibition area for the building’s first large public event. Accommodation, student funding, health and welfare, mature students and the Year in Industry scheme were covered in the talks given. In addition, there was a huge array of subject-specific talks and drop-in sessions.

The Exeter and Exmouth campuses were also buzzing with activity. And the following week’s Faculty of Health & Social Work events at Pool, in Cornwall, and Taunton, were also well attended.

“Feedback from visitors and staff was very positive,” said Fay Steer, the University’s Head of Marketing. “Many parents commented on how well our Open Day compared against those at some other institutions – they were particularly impressed with how well organised we were, the friendliness of staff, our modern buildings and the number of student helpers available.

“Thank you to everyone who took part. All the research – national and our own – shows how important open days are in the decision-making process, and hopefully this will be reflected in the number of applications we receive in the next cycle.”

Jetting to Japan

Degrees completed, three former geography students have settled in Japan for a year, where they are participating in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) programme.

Having shone during the selection procedure, Marian Montgomery, Elliott Green and Robert Giddings were chosen to take part in the programme, which aims to increase understanding between Japanese people and those of other nations. They are currently teaching English to different age groups in small communities in the south of the country.

“It’s quite an achievement for three students from the same department in the same university to be chosen for this programme,” said Elliott. “It’s a fantastic opportunity to live among people of a different culture, see the country and try to teach the locals English while we attempt to learn Japanese.

“Our only regret is that we’ll miss our Plymouth graduation ceremony, but we’ve promised to keep Geography staff up to date on our progress.”

The three probably won’t see much of each other as their postings are located some distance apart, but the programme’s mid-year seminars will give them the chance to meet and swap experiences.

Left to right: Elliott, Marian and Robert
Chris Chandler (pictured above), an HND Design Metals student from Plymouth College of Art & Design (PCAD), was chosen to design and make the trophies for the Association of Colleges’ 2003 Gold Awards. The Gold Awards are presented to high achievers who began their careers at further education colleges. High-profile winners have included celebrity chef Gary Rhodes and top shoe designer Jimmy Choo.

“The College became involved in the Gold Awards last year when a member of staff suggested that further education students should be given the chance to design and make the trophy,” explained Pam Weldon, Professional Development Co-ordinator.

“The foundation degree ethos is about providing real professional and vocational opportunities as part of an educational qualification,” said Kathy Sharpe, Tutor for the foundation degree.

“What could be more real than working with theatre professionals on a project of national interest? To say that it’s exciting just doesn’t begin to describe it!”

It is intended that the performance and workshops will tour schools from June 2004.

The medium of performing arts will be used to take the debate about genetic modification (GM) to schools in Cornwall, thanks to a collaborative venture between Truro College and the Eden Project.

With £40,000 funding from the Wellcome Trust, the Eden Performers and Education Team will work alongside 12 students on the Performance foundation degree at Truro College. Together with a team of theatre artists and performers they will create a performance and associated role-play workshops for Year 9 pupils.

The finished work – which aims to explore the ethical issues of vested interest and public accountability, in addition to de-mystifying some of the science of genetic engineering – will tour schools in Cornwall and subsequently play in repertoire at Eden.

The project fulfils Eden’s aim to communicate science through innovative creative arts events and builds on the College’s main focus for the foundation degree – that of education and community theatre.

“The students gained a lot from observing a European Championship in two disciplines,” said Tessa Counsell, Programme Manager at the College. “During lectures they are now able to visualise top horses performing under those conditions.”

First-year students on the foundation degree in Equine Sports Performance at Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, started their studies in style when they witnessed top-notch horsemanship at Punchestown in Southern Ireland.

The students were there to watch competitors take part in the European Three-day Event Championship and the Endurance Championship. Prior to the events they were permitted to walk the course, where they took in the vastness of the venue.

For details of equine and other outdoor and countryside courses at Duchy College, call Admissions on 01579 372233 or email stoke.enquiries@duchy.ac.uk
The Plymouth campus is the venue for a new personal development programme for women from across the University.

The award-winning Springboard programme aims to enable each participant to set her own agenda for her career and personal life and covers areas such as assertiveness, balancing home and work, and networking.

The programme is organised as four one-day workshops over three months and participants must be able to attend all four. The next group will start on 15 January, with another scheduled to begin 28 April.

For further information, including workshop dates, contact ext 2475/email: staffdevelopment@plymouth.ac.uk.

The Promoting Successful Teaching & Learning conference held at the Robbins Centre in late October drew teaching staff from all over the University and its partner colleges.

Organised by Educational Development and including workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions, the event provided an opportunity to disseminate information about the excellent and innovative projects going on throughout the institution. It also gave delegates the chance to discuss new initiatives, such as the rethinking of the undergraduate curriculum, in an open forum.

Neil Thew, Head of the Teaching & Learning Unit at the University of Sussex, and Alan Jenkins, Professor of Education at Oxford Brookes University, provided the keynote speeches.

The conference also saw 18 staff receive Teaching Fellowship Awards, which were presented by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roland Levinsky.

The Awards scheme provides funds of up to £5,000 so that members of staff can undertake innovative developmental work in an area of teaching and learning. The award holders will join an informal network of teaching fellows which meets twice a year.

Local firefighters were on campus at Exmouth recently, helping to educate new students about general fire safety. Having watched an educational video made by students for students and used regularly by the fire brigade, the new intake witnessed firefighter Graham Wilkins – who is also a member of the University’s Estates team – deal with a kitchen fire.

Dr Andy Hannan has received an Academic Partnerships grant of £12,000 to fund a project on Widening Participation: the Experience of University of Plymouth Students.

The project aims to foster a better understanding of the students’ experience from their perspective; establish the extent to which the experience of students from backgrounds targeted by widening participation initiatives differs from that of their peers; gauge the impact of opportunities bursaries on students, and serve as a pilot for comprehensive research on a national scale.

Anya Lewin, Senior Lecturer in Visual Arts, has been awarded an Artist-to-Artist international grant of £1,500 from the British Council. The grant will allow Croatian artist Maya Kalogera to spend a week in the UK with Anya so that they can learn about each other’s practices for future collaboration.

The Seale-Hayne campus was the scene of celebrations when graduating students received their awards at a ceremony attended by family and friends.

Students receiving awards included those who studied at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate levels across subject areas ranging from agriculture and food to hospitality, tourism and conservation.

Peter Stevens (pictured above), former Director of Paignton Zoo and founder Chair of the Welfare and Ethics Group of the World Zoo Organisation, received an honorary doctorate of science at the ceremony.
concerts

27 November

1 pm – Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery
Judith Hall: flute and Hugh Webb: harp. The programme is entitled ‘American Brunch’ in celebration of Thanksgiving Day. Composers to include Liebermann, Piazzolla and Gershwin. Tickets £4 each (Plymcard holders £3.60). A limited number of complimentary tickets are available on a first-come-first-served basis by emailing Jeanie Moore at JeanieMooreMVO@aol.com. The University is one of the organisations sponsoring the 11th International Series of concerts. Email alice.li@plymouth.ac.uk for a leaflet and further details.

29 November

7.30 pm – Robbins Conference Centre, Plymouth campus
Plymouth Chamber Music concert – Graham O’Sullivan (baroque flute) Francisco del Amo (viola da gamba), Richard Sweeney (theorbo) and Angharad Gruffydd Jones (soprano). A programme of German and French baroque music. Tickets cost £10 (£5 students/registered unemployed) from the University Reception in the Security Lodge, by phoning Alice Li on ext 3988 or at the door on the night.

5 December

7.30 pm – Davy Main Hall, Plymouth campus
University of Plymouth Orchestra Christmas Concert. The orchestra of students, staff and community members perform a popular programme of orchestral and chamber music. Admission and refreshments free. For further details, contact Simon Ible, Musical Director, on 01566 783310 or email simon.ible@plymouth.ac.uk

6 December

7.30 pm – St Andrew’s Church, Royal Parade, Plymouth
University of Plymouth Choral Society and The Sherwell Chamber Orchestra Christmas Concert. Festive programme plus traditional carols with audience participation. Tickets £7.50 (children and students £5) from Plymouth Music Shop, tel: 01752 670403. For further details, contact Howard Jones on ext 5327 or email howard.jones@plymouth.ac.uk

9 December

7.30 pm – Central Hall, Methodist Church, Drake Circus, Plymouth
University of Plymouth Carol Service
For details, contact Roger Williams on ext 2261 or email roger.williams@plymouth.ac.uk

9.30 am – Sherwell Centre, Plymouth campus
E-learning: Strategies for the Future. Papers, workshops and demonstrations will focus on the new digital technologies, and their implications for teaching and learning. For details, contact Heidi Crelley on ext 5509 or email heidi.crelley@plymouth.ac.uk

10 December

4 November – 5 December
Sherwell Centre, Plymouth campus
A selection of the best works from the Degree Show 2003

9 December – 9 January
Sherwell Centre, Plymouth campus
Photographic exhibition by Steve Dey
For further details on these exhibitions, contact Nicola Griffin on ext 2027 or email nicola.griffin@plymouth.ac.uk

Atrium of the Owen Building, Exmouth campus
An exhibition of botanical-themed paintings by Wendy Jones, a PGCE lecturer from the Faculty of Education. The exhibition is open daily – for details, including times, contact Howard Jones on ext 5327 or email howard.jones@plymouth.ac.uk

1 December

7 pm – Lecture Theatre 6, Babbage Building, Plymouth campus
Plymouth and District Archaeological Society lecture: ‘Victualling the Navy in Plymouth and Portsmouth in the 17th-19th Centuries’ by Martin Watts, Cotswold Archaeology. Non-members of the Society are welcome to attend but are asked to contribute £3 towards expenses. For further details, contact Chris Ruse on 863084 or email Chris@rusej.freeserve.co.uk

exhibitions

4 November – 26 November

Heritage Officer, on 01752 670403. For further details, contact Nigel Overton, Maritime Education. Non-

26 November

7.30 pm – Upper Lecture Theatre, Sherwell Centre, Plymouth campus
Organised by Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery: TV producer and presenter Adam Hart-Davis will give a talk entitled ‘Henry Winstanley and the First Eddystone Lighthouse’, which tells the story of Henry, his amazing achievement and his tragic end. Tickets cost £2 each, £3 for two or £5 for four and are available from the Plymouth Dome and the City Museum & Art Gallery. For further details, contact Nigel Overton, Maritime Heritage Officer, on 01752 304778.

18 November

7.30 pm – Great Hall, Seale-Hayne campus
The HSBC Agriculture and Seale-Hayne Farm Management Lecture. The lecture will be given by Norman Coward, a Director of Dairy Farmers of Britain. Closing comments will be made by Pat Tomlinson, Regional Agriculture Manager, HSBC Bank plc. For details, contact Val Crean on ext 5619 or email val.crean@plymouth.ac.uk

Staff wanting to promote an event on campus can email Alice Li at alice.li@plymouth.ac.uk with details. For inclusion in the University’s web events calendar, at least one week’s notice must be given. Diary items for the next UPfront should be submitted by 3 December 2003.
InTouch, the magazine of the Graduates' Association, has a fresh new look.

The autumn edition is out now - to request a copy, contact Rebecca Liddington on ext 3983/email: rebecca.liddington@plymouth.ac.uk. Rebecca is also keen to hear from anyone with ideas and contributions for future editions.

Dr Ian Tunbridge, Dean of University of Plymouth Colleges, had plenty to smile about at the recent launch event for the new faculty (see page 3 for details).

There's a prize of a music voucher for the writer of the wittiest caption for this photo. Please send your entry to Samantha McKay, Public Relations Assistant, at 6 Portland Villas, Plymouth campus/email: samantha.mckay@plymouth.ac.uk by 8 December 2003.

**LAPTOP** computer wanted. Contact Debbie Barenksie, 01752 232109 (mornings only)/01752 216732.

**MUSIC** all year. Plymouth Folk Festival is active all year, running concerts, workshops and dances, not to mention the Folk Boat. For a week in May 2004, we will take over the Barbican and the Sundial! We cover all sorts of music, inc folk, blues, world and roots. If you sing, play or dance, and would like to take part, contact Geoff Horne, 01752 233410/email: geoff.horne@plymouth.ac.uk

**TO LET** Saltash town centre - character cottage in conservation area nr River Tamar. 3 bedrooms (2 doubles). Offered furnished/unfurnished. Gas central heating and double glazing. Glimpses of river from near bedroom. Street parking. Close to railway station, bus stop and shops. No smokers. £525 pcm. Tel: 07952 913108.

**TWO-BEDROOMED**, fully furnished house to let, near to Novotel, Marsh Mills, Plymouth. Central heating and well-equipped kitchen. Rent: £450 pcm. Contact Julian Stander, 01752 232750/email: julian.stander@plymouth.ac.uk

**WANTED**: Volunteers to give an hour a month of their time, to facilitate and support student volunteers in reflective learning and promoting good practice. For more details, contact james.robbins@su.plymouth.ac.uk