Mmm – delicious! In preparation for the bug eating session at the Bugs Alive week of the University’s Weird Worlds exhibition, the edible insects were sampled on members of staff. Not surprisingly, many were invited but few took up the challenge! Karen Gresty (seen here with Peter Smithers) of Biological Sciences was one of those brave enough to try one of ‘nature’s pure delicacies’.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 2 June 2003.
Please send all items to Paola Simoneschi, Marketing & Public Relations Department, 6 Portland Villas, Plymouth campus email: p.simoneschi@plymouth.ac.uk

Welcome to the May/June edition of UPfront.

If you have any feedback or ideas for future editions, please contact:
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A groundbreaking new centre bringing a fresh approach to service evaluation and service delivery in the public, voluntary and private sectors had its official launch at County Hall in Truro recently.

ERIC – the Evaluation Research and Innovation Centre – is the brainchild of Malcolm Williams, Principal Lecturer in the University’s Department of Sociology.

Malcolm, who is from St Just in Cornwall, has six years’ experience in evaluation. Speaking about ERIC, he said: “What makes ERIC different from other centres is that we work with and within our clients’ organisations. We don’t just turn up with a clipboard, produce some facts and figures, and walk away until our paymasters request some more figures next year. Instead, we are able to harness data which already exists, and help the organisation to use this information so they can operate more effectively.”

Companies who sign up to ERIC will have the quality, speed, efficiency and popularity of their services checked against a benchmark.

One client who has already benefited is Sure Start Lescudjack, based in Penzance. Project Director, Deborah Tredgett, explained: “We were a trailblazer Sure Start* project, and as such it was important for us to be able to measure the effectiveness of the work we undertook so that it could become a model for other programmes. At the same time, we knew we didn’t have the people, the time, or the expertise to evaluate ourselves.

“Our ERIC evaluator has worked with us to ensure we meet the needs and expectations of local families, while making the best possible use of the resources we have available. As a result of the work that’s been carried out in Penzance, ERIC now evaluates almost all the Sure Start programmes in Cornwall. It’s an integral part of our success to date, and our plans for future development.”

ERIC is based in the Social Research & Regeneration Unit at the University, and there are plans to open a base in mid or west Cornwall soon, where ERIC will be looking to employ and train local people.

Anyone requiring further information should contact Marilyn Darch, Administrator in the Social Research & Regeneration Unit, on 01752 232747/email: marilyn.darch@plymouth.ac.uk.

*Sure Start is the government’s programme to support children, parents and communities through the integration of early education, childcare and health and family support services.
A team of researchers from the University has won a grant to study the unique insect life on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius.

Dr Linton Winder, who is based at the Seale-Hayne campus, is leading the project, which will investigate the rich and varied insect life of the island. The team also hopes to discover new species.

The project is part of the Darwin Initiative, a biodiversity grants programme run and funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). It is set to receive a share of the £1.9 million that is being shared between 34 new projects.

Dr Winder said: “Research into insects on Mauritius has been neglected since the 1960s and our project aims to build up expertise within Mauritian conservation organisations.

“Native insects are threatened by invasive species imported from other places and loss of habitat. Working with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation and the UK’s Natural History Museum, we want to find out as much as possible so that ways can be found to save the insects from the numerous threats they face.

“We would not be able to carry out this vital research without the Darwin Project grant. Funding for these sorts of projects is very difficult and Darwin is a fantastic opportunity to get a conservation project up and running from scratch.”

The University’s key marketing projects range from publications to advertising campaigns. These initiatives are informed by research undertaken by Dr Rob Burton, Marketing Analyst in the Department of Marketing & PR. He tells us how his research findings have shaped recent developments...

“A good example of our recent investigations is the 2004 prospectus, which has seen improvements informed by four stages of research in schools and colleges. These enhancements include a reduction in blocks of text, the addition of more positive and informative photographic images and improved navigation. The research we undertook also means that we can be sure that the information accurately reflects what prospective students want to see.

“Another important area is that of course titles, where I have discovered a number of interesting ‘rules’. For example, it is clear that the use of the word ‘and’ in a title indicates to students that the course is made up of two parts and suggests that it isn’t ‘whole’ and could be more difficult, providing a negative image of the course. Course titles also must have longevity - the research has shown that prospective students are put off by trendy titles and those that attempt to use modern idioms of language.”

Rob’s research over the last year has also informed the Web Project Group and the poster/leaflet campaigns for Marketing & Public Relations.

“Currently, I’m carrying out research for the Faculty of Technology, looking at attitudes to engineering and technology in secondary schools. I’m also evaluating the impact of the Weird Worlds science exhibition upon the school groups who visited the latter. The latter has so far revealed that the exhibition has had a dramatic and very positive impact on the children’s views of science and scientists.”

If you would like Rob to undertake market research on your behalf, or would like some advice about your own research projects, please contact him at rob.burton@plymouth.ac.uk

Insect research

Before visiting Weird Worlds at Plymouth City Museum, children were asked to draw their idea of a scientist. The illustration on the left represents the typical response – the stereotype of the ‘mad’, white-coated, bespectacled male surrounded by potions and with hair standing on end. The drawings produced after the visit (see example above right) typically told a different story – scientists were seen as being of either sex and the stereotypes were ‘diluted’, giving scientists a far more favourable image. For more on Weird Worlds, see pages 12 and 13.

Student Community Action (SCAP) volunteers even dressed as Elvis to advertise the Volunteer Fair and promote the its theme - ‘a little less conversation, a little more action’ – lyrics from the Elvis song that recently made number one as a dance remix.

The Fair, jointly organised by the University’s Careers Service and the Active in Communities Project, a University initiative aimed at increasing staff and student volunteering and building links with the local community, was opened by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Les Ebdon. It was attended by over 30 voluntary and community organisations ranging from the Monkey Sanctuary to the Prince’s Trust.

“Volunteering is something everyone should consider,” said co-organiser Louise Baker, Active in Communities Co-ordinator. “As well as the obvious benefits of being rewarding and enjoyable, involvement with voluntary and community groups can provide staff and students with development opportunities and experiences that aren’t necessarily available in their current roles. Volunteering can help to boost career prospects and progression.”

Jackie Taylor from the Careers Service summed up the success of the event: “We had over 500 attendees and the voluntary organisations were pleased with the number and quality of enquiries they received. We now hope to make this an annual event.”

The organisers would like to thank all those involved, including people who raised funds for charity - the £850 will be donated to St Lukes’ Hospice, the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia and CLIC. Special mention goes to Geology technician Marilyn Tucker (below, with Professor Les Ebdon), who raised £280 by sitting in the bath of beans for over two-and-a-half hours!

Any staff who have students interested in volunteering, are interested in setting up a subject-related volunteering project, or who would like to volunteer themselves, are asked to contact Louise Baker on ext 2708/email: louise.baker@plymouth.ac.uk
It's a fair cop! Professor Peter Evans, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources), was arrested recently, but it was all in the name of charity!

Peninsula Medical School students getting to grips with their course.

Figures recently published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show the Peninsula Medical School’s annual increase in applications as being almost twice the national medical school average. The UCAS figures show a 53% rise in the number of applications to the Peninsula Medical School, one of the highest increases reported by any medical school in the UK. More than 1,000 candidates applied for entry to the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree at Peninsula in the 2002 admissions cycle, compared with 667 applicants during the same period last year.

The School has 167 places for entry in 2003 and competition has been fierce. Dr Judy Searle, Associate Dean and Chair of the School’s Selection & Admissions Panel said: “We are very excited by the impact that the Peninsula Medical School has made in such a short period of time. The quality and quantity of applications is an endorsement of the School’s innovative approach to medical education.”

It’s a fair cop! Professor Peter Evans, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources), was arrested recently, but it was all in the name of charity! Professor Evans was taken to Crownhill Police Station as part of a fundraising event organised by St Luke’s Hospice, which raised nearly £10,000 for the Plymouth-based charity.

“The competition, organised by the University in collaboration with Paignton Zoo and Plymouth Sound as part of National Science Week, challenged pupils to demonstrate their understanding of conservation and the role of zoos,” said John Gardiner, teacher of the winning class from Sir John Hunt Community College, “They put a great deal of effort into their entries, working beyond the end of the college day. We’re so glad that in some small way the school has been able to bring conservation into the public domain. The £700 will go towards our Specialist School Fund, which will benefit our students immensely,” he said.

University biologists and environmental scientists have recently been awarded over £180,000 to try to discover whether microscopic pieces of the 100 million tonnes of plastics produced each year have any undesirable effects on marine life.

A pilot study by Dr Richard Thompson of the School of Biological Sciences, working with colleagues at Plymouth and the University of Southampton, showed that tiny bits of plastic were building up in sandy beaches and muddy estuaries around the UK. Dr Thompson said: “Using a microscope we could even see small pieces of fibres in the guts of barnacles and other organisms from the seashore.

Along with my colleagues in the study, Tamara Galloway of the School of Biological Sciences and Professor Steve Rowland of the School of Environmental Sciences, and Dr Andrea Russell of the University of Southampton, I now plan to determine whether leaching of chemicals from discarded plastics causes any unwanted effects on the wildlife.”

The money to support this research has been awarded by the Leverhulme Trust.

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Established last October, the University’s Graduate School aims to promote and support graduate activity across the University and encourage the development of a vibrant graduate community. UPfront spoke to Dr Joan Chandler, Deputy Head of the Graduate School, to find out more about the reasons for the School’s creation and details about its mission...

“Until recently, the University’s work with undergraduates has been its main focus and, although the institution has a strategic objective to develop its postgraduate work, our level of postgraduate research activity and the number of research students graduating has remained relatively static over the past few years,” explained Dr Chandler, who — until taking up her new position — had responsibility for postgraduate students within the Faculty of Human Sciences.

“Establishing a Graduate School is the result of the University recognising the need both to raise Plymouth’s profile and to take account of new developments nationally.

“The Joint Funding Councils’ review of postgraduate education, which was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roland Levinsky, has done much to set the agenda of the Graduate School. The review aims to improve the quality of postgraduate research degrees and identifies a set of standards for us and other universities to achieve over the next few years.

“While the responsibility for graduate education will remain with the faculties, the Graduate School — which has a relatively small staff base — will develop appropriate quality assurance mechanisms for research supervision, organise the award of research student scholarships in order to maximise the benefit to the University, encourage the graduate developments within and between faculties, and support the wider graduate community.

“It’s still early days for the us but the Graduate School has begun to engage with the broader University in planning the provision of improved graduate facilities and support, including dedicated social space and learning facilities, support services and a graduate skills development programme. It’s intended that this provision will improve the quality of the graduate experience and ensure that the University will reach emergent threshold standards in postgraduate research training.

“Although the Graduate School is based at Plymouth, we aim to be truly inclusive and involve students from all the University’s sites. A ‘virtual’ Graduate School on the web is a possible future development and one that will help foster a sense of identity.

“The Graduate School is a mature development for the University and is an essential part of its future as a well-respected, research-based institution.”

For further information about the Graduate School, contact ext 2786/ email: graduateschool@plymouth.ac.uk

“Why is it so important for the University to keep in touch with its graduates — and what does the institution offer them? Rebecca Liddington, Marketing Officer (Alumni), explains...

“Our alumni are valued ambassadors for the University, and we are acutely aware of the importance of a widespread, active and well-informed network of graduates. We also recognise that the alumni development programme has a crucial part to play in Plymouth’s mission to become a world-class research and teaching University.

“The Graduates’ Association team is keen to develop ways to support the core activities of the University — and we do far more than simply collect names and addresses.

“Many of our graduates are strong advocates for studying here and encourage friends and family who may be thinking of entering higher education to visit us. We have past students who volunteer at University fairs and exhibitions, and many who are willing to talk to undergraduates about their career choices and even provide them with placements. Of course, there are also graduates who, having completed a first degree, return to us for postgraduate study.

“Membership of the Graduates’ Association, which is free, offers alumni a range of benefits. These are all available via the website and, as well as discounts on a variety of products and services, there are travel offers and an affinity credit card, plus the alumni magazine, In Touch, and a ‘graduates reunited’ service to help alumni find friends they’ve lost touch with. In addition, graduates have access to University facilities and career services.”

Rebecca and her colleague, Margaret Thomas, the Graduates’ Association Database Administrator, can be contacted on ext 3983/email: graduates@plymouth.ac.uk

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Professor Andy Hannan (above) has joined the University’s Educational Development team on a part-time basis in order to lead developments in research on teaching and learning in HE. He has been seconded from the Faculty of Arts & Education in Exmouth to work in Plymouth for two days each week.

Andy’s previous work has included Economic and Social Research Council-funded research on ‘Innovations in Teaching and Learning in HE’ as part of the Learning Society programme. The first phase of the project focused on the experiences of innovators, based on 221 interviews at 15 universities (a balance of ‘old’ and ‘new’ across the UK). The second phase revisited three English and one Scottish university from the original 15, plus the Open University, to undertake case studies of the process of change. The findings have been published in a book co-authored with Harold Silver, Visiting Professor of HE within the Faculty, on ‘Innovating in Higher Education: Teaching, Learning and Institutional Cultures’ (Open University Press, 2000). Andy is currently undertaking a follow-up survey of those Innovators’ interviewed in the late ‘90s in order to investigate what’s been happening since to teaching and learning in their institutions.

Speaking about his new post with Educational Development, Andy said: “I’ve been working with colleagues from across the University on a number of research proposals. These have included a bid to the DfES to support a large-scale project on the experience of students with disabilities (with Judith Waterfield), an internally-funded investigation of our own institution from the perspective of students recruited as a consequence of our ‘wider participation’ initiatives (with Vanessa Fitzgerald), and a course team approach to pedagogic research (with Mark Stone and others). “I have also been working with Dr Susan Lea (Psychology), one of our National Teaching Fellows, in an attempt to establish a research institute dedicated to HE research.”

Andy is keen to hear from colleagues with their own ideas for research projects focussed on HE, particularly those that might attract external funding. He can best be contacted by email, via andy.hannan@plymouth.ac.uk

The Department of Marketing & Public Relations Relations has launched a new schools and colleges database.

Designed in collaboration with Management Information Systems, the database will help to foster a holistic view of the University’s activities with schools and colleges. The enhanced database allows:

■ all school and college visits to be logged and updated
■ details of contacts within establishments to be logged and maintained
■ details of mallshots to be recorded against establishments
■ label production via an Excel spreadsheet.

The system can be used by anyone who interacts with schools, colleges or universities, although it is anticipated that the key users will be marketing and school liaison staff, academic partnership staff and academic staff who liaise with educational establishments.

If you would like to have access to the system, please contact Marketing & PR on ext 3987.

Congratulations to Mary Squire of Computing and Christine all school and college visits to be logged

Partnership for Equality: Action for Higher

A new publication, Twenty-two-year-old Seale-Hayne PR & Marketing Co-ordinator Melodie Juste is celebrating the publication of her first novel, Turning Point.

The contemporary fiction novel, launched at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel in Plymouth, was written over a six-year period. It follows the problems and issues of a typically modern, ‘dysfunctional’ family and much of the story is set in Plymouth.

Melodie plans to pursue her career in public relations and will continue to write in her spare time. “I’m very happy to have had my first novel published and have almost finished my second,” she said. “Having been writing since the age of ten, it will always be something that I enjoy.”

Now on sale, Turning Point is published by Cambridge-based company Pegasus Elliot Mackenzie.

Welcome to the latest round-up of news from Equal Opportunities (EO) Development.

‘exemplar of good practice’. Plymouth was one of only 30 institutes of HE to receive this accolade so, thanks to the work of a cross-University Race Equality Working Group, led by Ann Jeffries, we are off to an excellent start. How we fare in HEFCE’s 2004 review will depend on the extent to which our legal responsibilities under the Race Relations Amendment Act, as reflected in our own Race Equality Policy, are ‘owned’ and implemented across the University.

It is expected that each faculty, division, school and department will identify, by November 2003, specific actions needed to implement the policy in their area, naming people responsible and expected, timed outcomes. With this in mind, staff should attend one of the Race Equality Roadshows at the University. Further information on the implications of the policy can be obtained from the EO public folders.

A new publication, Partnership for Equality: Action for Higher Education, produced by the Equality Challenge Unit in partnership with HE trade unions and employers, is now available. It takes account of implications of the Race Relations and Special Educational Needs legislation for institutes of higher education.

If you would like to discuss the implications of any aspect of the developing EO agenda for your area, please email eodevelopment@plymouth.ac.uk
Visitors flocked to the City Museum in Plymouth to experience the University’s interactive Weird Worlds exhibition, which ran during March and April.

Thousands of school children, community groups and other members of the public enjoyed, and were educated by, the range of demonstrations and hands-on activities at the exhibition, which was co-sponsored by Plymouth City Council. The comments in the visitors book speak for themselves (see small selection below)...

“ Fantastic – the children have learned so much”

“The displays are first-class and we’ll definitely come back again”

“It inspired me”

“Now I know how volcanoes work. It was really brilliant”

“I loved the robots!”

Another visitor, Science and Innovation Minister Lord Sainsbury, took the time to view Weird Worlds during his visit to Devon. Speaking about the exhibition, he said: “I think it is brilliant. It is the kind of thing the youth find exciting. There are not enough hands-on exhibitions.”

Not surprisingly, staff at the Museum were delighted with visitor numbers. Nicola Moyle, Director of Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery, said: “We have thoroughly enjoyed working so closely with the University’s Faculties of Science and Technology on this project. We hope to continue collaborating with the University on future projects.”
Deputy Diving Officer Stuart Jacques recently took part in two of the races at the British Superbike round at Thruxton. He tells us about the thrilling hobby that really gets his motor running...

"I took my motorbike test seven years ago and had a road bike for a while, then had the chance to do a track day at Sears Point Raceway in California. That was it – I was hooked from then on!

"I belong to a road-racing club with around 400 members and, although we are based in the South West, people come from all over the country to meet up.

"As Deputy Diving Officer for the University I am usually active and there is no way I could ever do a normal 9 - 5 job. I have to be doing something that gets my heartrate going and I really enjoy motorbike racing for that reason. It can be dangerous, but I have never been seriously hurt due to the safety gear worn – and the enjoyment I get from it definitely outweighs any risk.

"I am really lucky that my girlfriend, Lisa-Marie, also gets involved – in fact she is my mechanic! She comes everywhere with me and does everything from sorting out any mechanical or suspension problems with the bike to being a 'brolly dolly'. Going to race events is a big social outing for us.

"It's incredible to see how much money some people invest in their race and support equipment – we started off with a tent but some people have huge state-of-the-art juggernauts to stay in – and then another one they use as a workshop. It's amazing to see – and really makes for a great atmosphere in the paddock.

"At our last meeting at Thruxton in March, we were the first 600cc machine past the chequered flag in the first round of the Open Championship and just missed out on the points in the 600cc final."

If you know of anyone who would like to support Stuart, please contact him on 01752 672802/email: stuart.jacques@plymouth.ac.uk

To promote the University's forthcoming Open Days (18 and 25 June, plus 28 June for the Peninsula Medical School), a 'destination Plymouth' concept is being used (see right) – an idea well received when tested on Year 12 and 13 students by staff in the Department of Marketing & Public Relations.

The creative concept is being used across a wide range of media – including press advertising, outdoor poster sites and mailshots to enquirers to name but three – to reinforce the message and make each channel of communication more effective.

If you require further information about Open Days, ring 01752 232232 or email: prospectus@plymouth.ac.uk

The expert opinion of Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Matthew David, was sought by the Times Educational Supplement for an article on school pupils demonstrating against the war in Iraq. "This generation is over-cosseted. Physically, they're growing up faster than ever but they're staying at home, because they can't afford to leave. They feel trapped, which generates a desire for rebellion," he said.

Europe's largest complementary medical research group – part of the Peninsula Medical School - needs more funding to enable scientists to continue their cutting-edge research. As reported in the Western Morning News, since its opening a year ago the School has received a total of £1.5 million in donations to carry out research into areas such as diabetes, cancer, multiple sclerosis and the new variant CJD. A 16-strong research team has also been investigating the benefits of homeopathy and acupuncture. The Dean of the School, Professor John Tooke, said they aim to generate £5 million in funding to enable the good work to continue.

"All money raised will be used in the South West region and have a positive impact on the local community," he added.

A recent Country Homes & Interiors article on cob-built homes drew attention to the University's courses in architecture: "Thanks to organisations such as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Devon Earth Buildings Association, and courses offered by the University of Plymouth, traditional earth techniques are gradually being revived."

Pride magazine turned to the expertise of Paul Farrand, Senior Lecturer in psychology, for an article looking at the psychological suffering of people with disfigurements. Talking about how cognitive behavioural therapy works, he said: "You can do role rehearsal with a patient who finds it hard to cope when people stop and stare. Someone might say something rude and the patient can use a simple statement to deal with it."
opportunities for excellence

Ten able and enthusiastic Year 11 pupils from schools in Braunton, Park, Pilton and South Molton have just celebrated gaining an A level in critical thinking 18 months early.

The pupils took part in a new initiative for 14 - 19 year-olds, which allows them to 'fasttrack'. In Year 10 they began extending their thinking skills by attending a weekly class at North Devon College, where they displayed great enthusiasm for learning, eagerly participating in the group exercises designed to help them assess reasoning and gain confidence in creating their own arguments. And they managed to fit all this around their other activities - county music ensembles, Ten Tors training, the Duke of Edinburgh Award and drama productions!

The pupils now hope to take the Advanced Extension Award in critical thinking at the College, and 19 new pupils are set to follow their success by embarking on the A level.

groundbreaking conference

Experts believe play is a biological need along with other basic human necessities such as sleep and shelter, and now Cornwall is firmly established at the forefront of playwork and education, thanks to a conference attended by 98 playwork practitioners and theorists.

Hosted by the Play Add training project through St Austell College, New Theories, New Developments in Play and Playwork was the first conference of its kind in the South West. Organised by University of Plymouth students taking the Playwork HND through St Austell and course co-ordinators, Anita Hill and Di Murray, it gave attendees the opportunity to discuss and debate the meaning of play, and explore ways of articulating that meaning based on sound academic theories. As a result, delegates and speakers passionate about play have strengthened their resolve to safeguard the right to play for all children and young people in appropriate, sustainable ways.

freelearning

Somerset College of Arts & Technology (SCAT) recently worked with four libraries in the county – Burnham, Frome, Taunton and Yeovil – to offer free learning opportunities to adults seeking to improve their word and number skills.

Tutors provided taster sessions, and learners coming into the libraries were able to use the newly installed computers, part of the People’s Network, which offers free access to the internet and a selection of software, including word-processing packages.

campuswatch

The most glamorous night in the Somerset calendar is back! Somerset College of Arts & Technology’s fashion show is set for 26 June in the marquee on the front lawns of the College.

The show, which focuses on the work of final-year fashion and textile students, will raise money for the national breast cancer charity, Breast Cancer Campaign. Professional models will travel down from London to take part and the event will feature student designs that premiered at the prestigious Graduate Fashion Week in London, sponsored by TopShop.

For details of SCAT’s fashion show, contact Steve Langford on 01823 366366 (ext 264).

A-level students from Plymouth College of Further Education (right) visited the University to attend a workshop on pollen analysis from an archaeological perspective. Ann Kelly from Geographical Sciences gave a short talk and the students enjoyed gaining hands-on experience using microscopes to look at pollen samples.

The campus hosted a postgraduate symposium on 30 April. The event comprised both oral and poster presentations by postgraduate research and MSc students respectively. The primary aim of the day was to provide students with valuable training and to give some insight into the research work undertaken at Seale-Hayne. The presentations were followed by a barbecue and evening entertainment.

Congratulations to MSc Food Product Development student Jessica Vencatasamy and her supervisor, Dr Victor Kuri from the Department of Agriculture & Food Studies (pictured), who received the best project award at the annual Food Processing Faraday and Advanced Food Manufacturing event in London.

The results of Jessica and Dr Kuri’s project will improve the quality of the ready-to-eat seafood salads produced by Faraday Food Processing.

Exeter

Congratulations to the following staff...Dr Malcolm Miles, who has been successful in gaining a grant of £4,750 from the Arts & Humanities Research Board (AHRB) to research the built and social architectures of alternative settlements. This will involve visits to a range of intentional communities in Europe, North America and India, over a 12-month period from June 2003, and will provide original research material for a forthcoming book in the subject.

Angela Smith has been successful in her application for funding for research leave. The award is worth £13,153 and Angela will be writing a book about the relationship between the First World War and the suffrage movement explored through a variety of written texts.

Liz Weis has been awarded an AHRB grant (£5,000) towards travel for research for her new exhibition, Facing East: Recent Landscape Photography from Baltic Areas, which will be shown at the Arts Institute in Bournemouth as a part of the 2004 Bournemouth International Photography Festival, and will then tour.
The University’s sponsorship of Plymouth’s Theatre Royal entitles all staff and their families to purchase discounted tickets for selected performances of certain shows throughout the year – this includes shows at the Theatre Royal and the Drum Theatre. Tickets should be booked via Lindsay Brooks in the Recreation Office, Room 1, Isaac Foot Building, Plymouth campus (ext 2264/email: lindsay.brooks@plymouth.ac.uk). They should be booked at least one month in advance and can be collected from the Recreation Office two weeks in advance of the performance. Tickets can be posted for a charge of 50 pence.

Staff can also book full price tickets for shows at the Plymouth Pavilions via the Recreation Office. These should be booked as far in advance as possible due to high demand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Booking Deadline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRB The Sleeping Beauty</td>
<td>Saturday 5 July</td>
<td>2.30 pm</td>
<td>£25.50</td>
<td>ST H6-15, DC A19-27 Friday 6 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welsh National Opera</td>
<td>Friday 11 July</td>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>£17.00</td>
<td>UC Row D12-31 Friday 13 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Edge of Darkness</td>
<td>Saturday 19 July</td>
<td>2.30 pm</td>
<td>£12.00</td>
<td>ST H5-14 Friday 20 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Night Fever</td>
<td>Monday 28 July</td>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>£21.50</td>
<td>ST H6-15, DC A18-27 Friday 27 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Night Fever</td>
<td>Thursday 31 July</td>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>£21.50</td>
<td>ST J8-17, DC A18-27 Friday 27 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>How the Other Half Loves</td>
<td>Saturday 6 August</td>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
<td>ST H5-14 Friday 6 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old World</td>
<td>Saturday 16 August</td>
<td>2.30 pm</td>
<td>£13.00</td>
<td>ST H6-15 Friday 11 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glyndebourne Opera – La Traviata</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 November</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>£41.00</td>
<td>ST H6-12, DC A18-25 Friday 24 October</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outside Edge</td>
<td>Friday 27 July</td>
<td>7.45 pm</td>
<td>£7.00</td>
<td>Unreserved Tuesday 27 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Talented Mr Ripley</td>
<td>Friday 4 July</td>
<td>7.45 pm</td>
<td>£8.00</td>
<td>Unreserved Wednesday 4 June</td>
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<th>Price</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Booking Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Misteeq</td>
<td>Thursday 2 October</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>£16.50</td>
<td>Standing Monday 19 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stereophonics</td>
<td>Thursday 13 November</td>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>£23.50</td>
<td>Standing Monday 19 May</td>
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<td>Sugababes</td>
<td>Thursday 17 November</td>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>£17.50</td>
<td>Standing Monday 19 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty X</td>
<td>Tuesday 24 February 2004</td>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
<td>Standing Monday 30 June</td>
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