State-of-the-art seating – 3D Design student Steve Brennan at the recent Degree Show.
Recently, it was announced that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Bull (right), has been awarded the CBE in recognition of his services to higher education. This tribute is both fitting and timely – Professor Bull retires at the end of July after nearly 37 years in HE, the last 17 with the University of Plymouth. In this farewell message, he reflects on his time here – and looks to the future...

I don’t usually find writing papers or articles particularly difficult – it’s a way of life for a Vice-Chancellor! But writing a final piece before I retire (for the first time!) has proved quite challenging. I’ve never really looked back, and when I do it is not with any sense of nostalgia, but rather to reflect on what that experience might offer for the future – which is so much more interesting than the past.

I joined the University, then Plymouth Polytechnic, in January 1985 as Deputy Director (Academic) and became Director/Vice-Chancellor in 1989. The 17 years have been immensely memorable, a period of considerable and rapid change, challenge and growth. I certainly did not dream that when I came to Plymouth in 1985, a relatively small (but very good) Polytechnic would be transformed into one of the largest universities in the UK.

What can I pick out in particular? There are some obvious features. We’ve grown from around 7,000 to 27,000 students; maintained high teaching standards (with excellent assessments by the various quality assurance bodies); improved greatly our research quality; built an impressive regional partnership with FE and HE colleges; developed our health portfolio (with nursing and the new Peninsula Medical School); widened opportunity and access for students; improved our estate and remained financially sound. It’s an impressive list, and clearly demonstrates why we’ve consistently been ranked at the top of the new universities, beginning to challenge and overtake at least some of the old.

All that is important, and certainly could not have been achieved without a committed, loyal and able staff – from cleaners to professors. And I think that what gives me most satisfaction is that we’ve achieved all this whilst remaining an organisation where people want to come to work, a friendly and open community in which staff are supportive and caring towards colleagues and students. It is a quality noted by many visitors, and a quality that I believe is vitally important.

We now aspire to become a truly world-class university – world-class, not only for research and teaching, but also for the attributes and skills of our graduates, our regional presence and commitment, and our openness and accessibility to students. Those ambitions will only be realised over the next ten or twenty years – we’re still young as a University, but if I have one message, one hope as I move on to my ‘retirement’ jobs, it is that the ethos, the friendliness which has characterised the University for many years, will ever remain associated with, and embedded in, the University of Plymouth.

Thank you all for your support over so many years. I wish you and the University continued success in the future.

Professor John Bull, CBE
Vice-Chancellor
By September the student portal, an online learning environment, will be accessible to all staff and students. Developed from the rich functionality of Microsoft Outlook, the student portal has already been successfully piloted by 1,500 students and over 50 staff. Feedback has been extremely positive, highlighting the need to be able to access resources both on campus and off site via the internet.

The aim is for academic staff involved in teaching first year students to make their materials available via the student portal from September. However, staff teaching other students are welcome to make full use of the portal too.

In addition to the standard functions of the web-based version of Outlook, the student portal makes use of Outlook ‘public folders’ to provide access to course materials and links to other web-based resources. From the lecturer’s perspective, it’s a simple case of ‘drag and drop’ to load Word documents, Excel spreadsheets and PowerPoint presentations – as well as video and audio clips – into the folders ready for students to access.

If you want more information on using the portal, you can sign up for a Teaching and Learning with Outlook/Exchange training session. Contact Staff Development to book your place. Contact: staffdevelop@plymouth.ac.uk

Young scientists from across the South West descended on the Eden Project in June to learn all about climate change and its influence on living things.

At the Biodiversity and Climate Change Conference, organised by the University and Eden in collaboration with the Met Office, the Year 10 students experienced a combination of hands-on workshops, presentations and ‘field’ work that made the most of Eden’s awe-inspiring environment. They met BBC weatherman Craig Rich (right), who opened the conference and presented a live weather forecast, and later in the day they quizzed a panel of climate change experts about everything from permanent to the Jurassic Park ecosystem.

The conference was deemed a big success by students and teachers alike:

“it’s great that conferences like this are available so that our students can see what’s happening to the world and, hopefully, not make the same mistakes that we have,” said Andrew Davies, Head of Science at St Boniface’s School in Plymouth. “A great day that was fun yet educational.”
The Institute of Health Studies (IHS) has come a long way since it became caught up with Head of IHS, ranks us eighth out of twenty institutions providing nurse education and growth and her vision for its future...

With campuses in Plymouth, Exeter, Pool and Taunton, the Institute of Health Studies is the main provider of nurse and midwifery education and training in the South West. There has been much to celebrate in its relatively short history - student numbers have grown steadily and there have been several key milestones along the way.

The IHS is justly proud of its teaching, having scored 23 out of 24 points in the Quality Assurance Agency’s review of its teaching quality, and another notable achievement was the department’s entry into the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), in which it was awarded a grade of 3b. Although seen as a ‘developmental’ grade, this was no mean feat given the young age of the department and the fact that just seven of its staff were entered in the exercise.

Work on a research plan to enhance the grade next time around is already underway.

Speaking about these achievements, Mary said: “I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished and delighted that the recent Times Good University Guide ranks us eighth out of twenty institutions providing nurse education and training. This success is very much down to team effort – I see my role as facilitating the development of other people’s ideas and encouraging team members.”

Collaboration - and providing opportunities for lifelong learning - is very much at the heart of the Institute, as Mary explained: “NHS trusts work with us to deliver new programmes and clinical placements so that their staff can be educated locally and stay local. Together we provide opportunities for people to further their careers in health and social care – or – enter the field from a totally unrelated area. For example, a redundant dockyard worker would now have the opportunity to access education and training in podiatry.”

Naturally, there will be much collaboration and sharing of facilities between the IHS and the Peninsula Medical School (PMS). They will share the new Portland Square building (along with other related disciplines) on the Plymouth campus and headquarters at Derriford, and in 2004 both the IHS and PMS will establish a base at Treliske in Cornwall. “This is highly cost effective and will enhance opportunities for shared learning and make the very best use of facilities,” said Mary.

So, what else does the future hold? “In the medium term, the changes to the delivery of health and social care that are required will mean changes to the role boundaries of healthcare professionals and, very likely, the emergence of new professions. For this reason the IHS is undergoing a restructuring – from September 2002 we will have three departments so that particular themes can be developed in relation to hospital care, community care and maternity and child health.”

A prime example of one of the ‘new professions’ to which Mary refers is Lecturer Practitioner in Emergency Care, a new role for the NHS for which the IHS, in collaboration with colleagues from acute NHS trusts, has developed a degree course, BSc (Hons) Emergency Care (see page 4 of the May/June UPfront for further details.)

Having won the allied healthcare bid to form a Peninsula Collaboration with the University of Exeter, the College of St Mark and St John in Plymouth and St Loye’s College in Exeter, the IHS – along with other University departments – is currently bidding for NHS contracts to train radiotherapists, radiographers and physiotherapists. “If we succeed, we’ll have a full portfolio for the Peninsula to prepare practitioners and meet the demands of the region for health and social care delivery,” said Mary.

These plans – together with the intention to develop foundation-level courses in health and social care at several of the University’s partner colleges – will mean that the IHS continues to do what it does best: deliver education and training locally and to the highest standards.

Contributors to the University’s website have been busy throughout May and June, adding many new pages and features.

Staff at the Diving & Sailing Centre have been particularly active, with full details of all their professional and leisure services, staff profiles and frequently asked questions now available online. The Recreation Service has published two new online maps of leisure facilities on the Plymouth campus and facilities in and around the city, while the University’s television and broadcast studio is another notable addition to the site, providing an insight to the many services it offers.

In recent weeks, visitors to the site will have noticed the introduction of some welcome improvements to the menu structure of the Courses section. More informative menu options and consistency make it even easier for prospective students to find their chosen course. By the end of July these students will have access to a revised feature-packed Student Life section and more extensive information about the undergraduate courses.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the University’s extranet site, please contact Web Editor, Michael Marker, on ext 2396 or email m-marker@plymouth.ac.uk
HEMIS is a title familiar to many staff as shorthand for the University’s student records system. It is around seven years since the system was installed, and the suppliers - Capita - are working on an upgraded system, to be known as ‘UNIT-e’. This new system will meet the needs of Capita’s many FE and HE customers. Capita have given notice that HEMIS will not be formally supported after 2004, so attention must focus on replacement.

Many users of the system around the University have already got involved in the replacement exercise. Some ‘gaps’ between what the current HEMIS system does and what we want it to do have been identified, and users have been able to comment on Capita’s detailed plans for UNIT-e. Seven years is a long time in system terms, and obviously the University itself has changed. For example, the University is using HEMIS - in conjunction with Exeter University - to meet the student records needs of the Peninsula Medical School which seemed a long way away on installation of HEMIS in 1995/6. With this in mind, the University has set up a project board, chaired by Pro Vice-Chancellor Clare Broom, to oversee the HEMIS replacement exercise. The Board has agreed to develop a specification of requirements that can be submitted for tender before Christmas 2002. The process of drawing up a specification will be facilitated by Southern Universities Management Services (SUMS). However, once the specification is complete, there will be a careful evaluation of UNIT-e against it, and a decision made whether or not to proceed to tender.

The Board has developed a ‘vision’ for the new system, which will be expanded out into a detailed specification. HEMIS itself has moved beyond being a system just holding essential student details: did you know that the course listings on the Extranet are all driven from HEMIS for example? HEMIS module data underpins the use of Outlook/Exchange for ‘e-learning’, and from September 2002 students will be able to use the student portal to check and amend their address, view their transcript and soon see their timetable online. Academic staff will be able, via the staff portal, to check class lists and admissions information.

The project board has set out the essential requirements of the student administration system. It will have to handle:
- programme (course) and module development and management
- enquiries
- admissions
- enroilments
- tracking
- assessment and progression
- graduation
- alumni relationship
- planning and statutory returns.

It will assist in meeting the University’s obligations under legislation such as SENDA and the Race Relations Act, and will provide a student data flow to the University of Exeter, as partner in the joint Peninsula Medical School.

The project board is representative of all interest groups, including academic staff, and many more people will be involved in the consultation process which is being facilitated by SUMS.

Further details about the HEMIS replacement project are available in an Outlook public folder under ‘projects’, or from Graham Fice in the University Registry on ext 2142/email: g.foe@plymouth.ac.uk

The Students Accommodation Office is seeking to increase its database of landlords who offer accommodation to students in their own homes so, if you have room to spare, why not get in touch?

Many of the University’s overseas students will be looking to live within this environment and are prepared to pay between £40 and £55 per week for self-catered accommodation, or between £60 and £80 for catered accommodation. If you would like to welcome a student into your home – or if you know of someone else who might be interested in renting to students – please contact 01752 232068, or call in at Room 2 in the Isaac Foot building, Plymouth campus, to request an information pack.

Once again the Exeter campus was transformed into a huge gallery for the Faculty of Arts & Education’s annual student Degree Show.

The show, which opened to the public on 24 June, portrayed the students’ skills of the traditional as well as new technological processes, from fine art to digital art.

“The students put their all into this exhibition – it’s the culmination of three years’ hard work, and for many, is the start of their career as an artist,” said Dean of the Faculty, Professor Mike Newby.

“The Degree Show reflects the diverse culture of styles and creativity in the Faculty. The breadth and complexity of work presented in both media and content reflects the students’ awareness and understanding of issues addressed by contemporary fine art practice. The final presentation evidences their ability to communicate visually and verbally; to utilise and master traditional as well as new technological processes; and question and challenge their role within society.”

“academic staff will be able, via the staff portal, to check class lists and admissions information”

The draft Information Strategy is now available at www.plymouth.ac.uk/infrastr Feedback is welcomed and any comments should be sent to Clare Broom, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Information), at cbroom@plymouth.ac.uk by 23 September 2002.

Formal consultation with members of Faculty Boards, Academic Board and the Senior Management Executive will take place during October. Work on developing the implementation plan will begin in July 2002.

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Visual Arts student Raphal Shelley at the Degree Show.

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Professor Malcolm Hart (pictured right) of the Department of Geological Sciences has recently returned from a three-month research visit to the University of Western Australia (UWA) in Perth, where he presented papers at Forums 2002, an international conference on Foraminifera, carried out fieldwork and spent time working with UWA’s Professor David Haig and his postgraduate students.

Funding from a Leverhulme’Study Abroad’ Fellowship enabled Professor Hart to present papers at the conference and visit key geological sites in the Carnarvon Basin, where he and Professor Haig collected samples of Gingin Chalk and Toolonga Calciilute in order that comparisons can be made with similar faunas in the UK and south-east Asia. During his visit, Professor Hart found time to visit a number of national parks, including Shark Bay World Heritage Site, which includes world-famous localities for ‘stromatolites’, strange inter-tidal growths of blue-green algae that are remarkably close in appearance to some of the earliest life on Earth.

With the Donetl Coast now a World Heritage Site, Professor Hart, a council member of English Nature, took a keen interest in how the Australians manage their famous natural sites and provide information for visitors. Having identified a number of joint projects, Professor Hart is planning a return trip to the Carnarvon Basin in the near future, when he and David Haig will collect more material for their research.

Since its launch last August, thousands of prospective students have visited the University’s extranet website, with comprehensive undergraduate courses and postgraduate opportunities, University accommodation and services, and Open Day details proving popular. Up until now, however, little has been known about the users’ experience of the site, and their use of HE websites generally.

Michael Marker, Web Editor, has recently completed the first phase of the study of web users’ experience, having spent two days with sixth-form students at a local school. Through a combination of perception questionnaires and observed usability test sessions, Michael gained an invaluable insight into their ‘online behaviour’ when considering HE study.

All the students surveyed had used the web to search for information about universities and the courses they offered, and were as likely to access the web from home as they were at school. Several key characteristics of students’ use of the internet when considering their next step emerged from Michael’s research…

- students routinely used the web to order a prospectus and locate contact information
- course information, student life and recreation, entry requirements and accommodation were considered the most important information they expected to find
- speed was of the essence - users wanted to find information as quickly as possible and avoided reading pages crammed with text
- consistency of design and navigation were considered important.

Many of the research findings will be implemented in the near future, and studies of other user groups are planned for the months ahead.

Michael Marker can be contacted on ext 2396/email: m.marker@plymouth.ac.uk

Researchers at the University have developed one of the most advanced research and teaching packages in the world. It is unique in being able to take information from a web-based database and convert it into a ‘virtual reality world’ that the user can explore. The £500,000 package is an upgrade to Pore-Cor, the 3D modelling and analytical software developed by Dr Peter Matthews and his research group in the Plymouth Environmental Research Centre (PERC).

Pore-Cor Research Suite is able to model the permeability of porous materials and has many commercial applications. It is being used by companies in Sweden and Switzerland to improve print quality on recycled paper and high quality glossy magazines. Pore-Cor can also help study rock structures to maximise oil extraction by using water to force oil out – British Gas and BP have assisted with this.

As Dr Matthews explains, “The program has its own brain, nervous system and consciousness. Its coding is the length of all three volumes of Lord of the Rings – but is written in five languages, not one – and a single spelling mistake anywhere can cause the entire program to fail.”

In addition to providing funding for marketing the Pore-Cor upgrade, University of Plymouth Enterprise is working closely with Dr Matthews and the team on the final development and negotiations in Atlanta for the launch of the new package, which is scheduled for November. Further information is available at www.pore-cor.com

Unfortunately, chemicals often get a bad press - but many are, of course, essential to life. Dr Simon Bell has been awarded £47,000 to study new, natural chemicals produced by microscopic algae, which may give a clue to the development of cellular life on Earth.

Over the past few years, scientists from Strasbourg University, France, have argued that in order for life on Earth to have developed from the ‘soup’ of chemicals that many think are important, there must have been some way of ‘encasing this chemical broth’. “A sort of natural, spontaneously-forming bubble – a bit like a long-lasting soap bubble in your washing up” explained Dr Bell. Japanese workers carefully made some of these chemicals in the laboratory and found that those that formed the best bubbles were phosphates of so-called ‘Hills’ (short for highly branched isoprenoids: chemicals with a distinctive repeating unit of five carbon atoms).

Pore-Cor scientists, Dr Simon Bell and Professor Steve Rowland, also found Hills in microscopic samples of oil from the sea water and around oil rigs.
The sun came out for the summer Open Day and over 600 visitors enjoyed a day of talks and tours, getting a taste of student life and a feel for the surroundings. At Plymouth, visitors had the chance to join in with local drumming band, Colour and Noise.

Thursday 15 August is a date imprinted on many people's minds: it's a level results day, and for universities, the start of clearing.

Around one in five students gain their university place during clearing, and with its wide range of courses, reputation for quality and excellent location, Plymouth is a popular choice. Last year our staff received over 3,000 calls from students during clearing – as well as online enquires and visits.

This year’s plans include:

- running the dedicated Actionline call centre:
  - 15 & 16 August 08.00 hrs – 20.00 hrs
  - 17 & 18 August 09.00 hrs – 17.00 hrs
  - wk 19 August 08.00 hrs – 18.00 hrs
  - 24 August 09.00 hrs – 16.00 hrs

- clearing open days:
  - Plymouth 18, 21 & 24 August
  - Seale-Hayne 28 August
  - Exeter & Exmouth by appointment

- improved web arrangements, with a front page clearing button, and a new portal available to applicants to the University

- a dedicated, direct dial phone enquiry line for heads of sixth form within our top 20 recruitment postcodes

- advertising in local and national press.

For further information on clearing arrangements contact: Fay Steer in Marketing & Public Relations on ext 2194, or Christine Todd in Registry on ext 2135.

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Landmark design unveiled

An original and striking design for the £40-million main campus of the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) project (in which Plymouth is a partner) has been revealed in recently released drawings of the building.

The 20,000 m² development is a major element of the CUC project. The new building has been designed to reflect the contours of the sloping site at Tremough, near Falmouth. Running downhill from east to west, the western roof will be directly level with the ground, whereas where the land falls away in the east, the building will rise to four storeys with views of the sea. The defining feature of the design is the building’s roof, which will be arranged as a series of fully accessible landscaped terraces stepped down the side of the hill and planted with local species of grasses and shrubs. The designs are already being praised for their exceptional originality.

The structure will feature a central courtyard that will form the active centre of the campus and a covered courtyard that will be the social centre. The building will incorporate a Design Centre for Falmouth College of Arts with open plan studios and workshops. There will also be science laboratories; a learning resource centre with a 24-hour library; a multi-use lecture and seminar room complex; plus a bar, restaurant and entertainment facilities for students.

Work on the new campus begins in July with the first buildings due for completion by September 2003.

PCAD history

Plymouth College of Art and Design (PCAD) will be celebrating in September, when its new extension opens with a series of special events and exhibitions.

One of the exhibitions planned for the opening is The History of PCAD. Grace McCormick, a former PCAD student who is now employed at the college, is currently undertaking research for the exhibition and is busy collecting anecdotal histories, images and publications for display.

If you have any information or items that could be used in the exhibition, please send your contributions to: Grace McCormick, c/o Marketing Department, Plymouth College of Art and Design, Tavistock Place, Plymouth, PL4 8TT.

Animal magic

As part of Cornwall College’s HE development, St Austell College has formed a partnership with Newquay Zoo to create a new course which is set to grow into one of the most important wildlife conservation developments in Europe.

Newquay Zoo is one of Cornwall’s busiest tourist attractions and has a growing reputation for its work in conservation and education. The partnership with St Austell College has led to the introduction of an HND in Zoological Conservation Management. “Good zoos are an ideal setting for education,” explained Managing Director of Newquay Zoo, Mike Thomas. “They act as a concentrated microcosm and offer students unparalleled opportunities to gain first hand experience of live species. Importantly, they inspire students to care about and understand animals and the threats they face in the wild.”

The partnership is set to flourish with the new Cornwall College Centre building planned on land adjoining the zoo. The first stage of the Centre’s development will be teaching facilities, followed by a dedicated Wildlife Centre with closed circuit television for non-intrusive observation of the animals. As well as providing state-of-the-art facilities for students, it is intended that the Centre develops a research focus with the safety and well-being of animals, both in captivity and in the wild, as its highest priority.

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The merits of the University’s Certificate of Higher Education were highlighted in a Times Educational Supplement article on training opportunities for teaching assistants. Programme Director, Richard Tyrer, said: “Many students have non-standard qualifications for entry into higher education and little successful experience of post-16 education. But they have bags of commitment, understanding and experience. We started with a pilot scheme of 20 students one evening a week – this academic year, 700 are signed up.”

A new premium skincare range inspired by a week-long residential perfumery course at the University was featured in beauty journal Esprit. Beauty journalists Emma Bannister and Kate Shapland launched ‘Capsule’ in partnership with Debenhams after nearly three years of intensive research into modern skincare requirements.

Research fellow, Dr Nick Tregenza, has invented T-POD, a device to help prevent whales, dolphins and porpoises becoming ensnared in fishing nets. The Independent reported. “It may help to identify when and where they are at risk,” explained Dr Tregenza in the article. “Knowing exactly what is happening will help the conservation movement draw up a strong case for measures to provide greater protection for marine mammals.”

The Western Morning News recently ran a weekly series on the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) initiative. “Here is a university that is actually going to go to the people and deliver higher education in the community,” said Professor Les Elston, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), in one of the articles. “We are building a model of university education for the future.”

Beauty magazine called upon the expertise of Dr Tony Curtis, Director of Aroma Trade Studies at the University, for a feature on creating new fragrances. Dr Curtis highlighted the importance of aroma selection, blending and concentration and appropriate packaging in launching a successful perfume.

The Times Higher, Evening Herald and Western Morning News reported the departure of the University’s robot football squad for the FIRA World Cup. After drawing in a friendly match against Queen’s University in Belfast, the team, managed by staff in the School of Computing and the Department of Communication & Electronic Engineering, flew out to Korea to represent England alongside their real-life counterparts. KingGo from Korea benefited from the support of the home crowd and won the 5-a-side championship final with an impressive 7-0 defeat over German team DURST.

The University of Plymouth has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship, worth £50,000, for the third year running.

Professor Brian Chalkley (right), Director of the Learning & Teaching Support Network National Subject Centre for Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences (GEES), is one of 20 lecturers across the country to win the prestigious award in this year’s National Teaching Fellowship Scheme.

Professor Chalkley has been at the University for 31 years. Most of his work concerns undergraduate teaching in human geography and leading the promotional and dissemination work of the GEES subject centre, which was established in Plymouth in 2000. His award will fund a project to enhance graduate employability – through identifying ways of strengthening students’ capacity to make an effective contribution in the workplace.

“I am delighted to receive this award,” said Professor Chalkley. “Teaching is, however, a team activity and much of my success rests on the hard work of my colleagues at the University and particularly those in the Geographical Sciences department.”

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One of many Plymouth graduates excelling in their chosen profession, Alanna Carty (left) told UFront about her career – and how her degree course helped pave the way for success.

Alanna Carty graduated from the University in 1994 with a degree in personnel management. After two and a half years at Walt Disney Television International, she now works for Discovery Networks Europe as Director of Marketing and Press and PR.

“I am a very outgoing person and really wanted to be in a role that gave me the opportunity to travel, present and negotiate with a variety of personalities,” she explains. “Marketing in an international television environment seemed to be the most viable option and I was incredibly lucky to be in the right place at the right time.”

As I now have a team of 18 people the training and development side of my final year has been very handy. Other aspects of my course have been very useful, too, particularly the business German I did in the first year and also some of the employment law.

In addition to developing communications processes within her department, one of Alanna’s main aims is to reinvigorate the network, which will include raising public understanding of the benefits of interactive television.

“Interactivity will become increasingly important and more and more of our content has an interactive component. We are now running marketing and PR campaigns that focus solely on this side of our business. Discovery has revitalised its marketing strategy over recent months – like every other commercial broadcaster we are being hit by the downturn in the global economy and particularly TV advertising revenues. How we synchronise the new strategy across all our communications teams could have a significant impact on our business in the year ahead.”

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Sherwell Centre, Monday - Friday, 9 am – 7 pm: Caroline Evans

7.30pm: Endellion String Quartet with Michael Collins (clarinet)
Weber: Clarinet quintet; Haydn: Quartet in C major, op.76 No.3 ‘Emperor’; Schubert: Quartettsatz D703; Mozart: Clarinet quintet in A major, K581.

1 January
7.30pm: Tom Pigott-Smith (violin) with Huw Watkins (piano)
Janacek: Violin sonata; Debussy: Violin sonata; Saint-Saens: Havanaise, op.83; Elgar: Violin sonata in E minor, op.82; Kreisler: Gypsy Caprice; Kreisler: Syncopation.

5 February
7.30pm: Comtempo String Quartet
Mozart: Quartet in D, K449 ‘Hoffmeister’; Ligeti: Quartet; Beethoven: Quartet in B flat, op.130 with Grosse Fuge op.133

6 March
7.30pm: Maggini String Quartet
Haydn: Quartet in B flat, op.76 No.4 ‘The Sunrise’; Bridge: Quartet No.2 in G minor; Beethoven: Quartet in A minor, op.132

5 April
7.30pm: Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble
Brahms: Sextet in B flat major, op.18; Patterson: Deviations for string octet, op.88; Mendelssohn: Octet in E flat major, op.20

All concerts will be held at the Sherwell Centre, Plymouth campus, except the one in October, which will be held in the Robbins Conference Centre.

For a leaflet/further information, contact Alice Li, Marketing & Public Relations, on ext 3968.

26 September
7.30pm: Emma Kirkby (soprano) with Jakob Lindbert (lute)
Brahms: Trio in B major op.88; Mendelssohn: Octet in E flat major, op.20

26 October
7.30pm: Richard Soffe (violin) with Huw Watkins (piano)
Haydn: Piano sonata in G major, op.101; Mozart: Piano sonata in C major, K545

26 November
7.30pm: Mandelring String Quartet
Beethoven: Quartet in F minor, op.95; Debussy: Quartet in G minor, op.10; Schubert: Quartet in D minor, D850 ‘Death and the Maiden’

Graduating students from the Faculty of Arts & Education – and hundreds of their relatives and friends – descended on Exeter Cathedral for the award ceremonies on 10 and 11 July.

The graduates received their certificates from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Bull, who also presented honorary degrees to three distinguished people. Cornish-born education researcher and author, Jennifer Nias; and Devon-based author and founder of Farms for City Children, Michael Morpurgo (right), received honorary doctorates of Education. Victor Parsons, INB, who recently retired as Chair of the University’s Board of Governors, received an honorary doctorate of technology.

Among the students receiving their awards were the first graduates of the University’s innovative honours degree in Early Childhood Studies, which deals broadly with many aspects of childhood. Such is the success of the course that the numbers have more than doubled for September 2002.

So what’s come out of Harvard for the University of Plymouth?

■ a mass of new material for our leadership programmes
■ a range of contacts involved in leadership education around the world
■ a better understanding of the different ways leadership is taught in such varied cultures as the Arab countries and former Soviet states
■ new international links, including those with organisations in Kuwait and Australia.

It was something of a surprise to find that 30% of the US contingent came from a security background – from the military, the CIA and the police. Attitudes to leadership education have changed dramatically since 11 September, which may be why the Director of Strategic Planning of the CIA was one of the participants.

Richard Soffe can be contacted on ext 5669/email: r.soffe@plymouth.ac.uk