Celebratory smile — Christelle Hutchings hugs fellow law graduate Giles Taylor at the December award ceremonies.

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

UPfront is produced by the Marketing & Public Relations Department. Designed by Document Production Centre Printed by Deltor on 115gsm Blacklabel silk.
The exciting plans for the University’s new building at Rowe Street, on the Plymouth campus, have moved forward with the selection of two firms of architects as preferred bidders for the contract.

Following a rigorous selection process, during which the University considered the initial design concepts submitted by a shortlist of six firms of international standing, Ushida Findlay (UK) Ltd and Henning Larsen Tegnestue have been chosen to go on to the next stage of the tender process.

Due to open in 2007, the building complex at Rowe Street is the first major project of the vibrant ‘cultural quarter’ planned by the University, Plymouth City Council and the Arts Centre for the North Hill area. It will house the Faculty of Arts and University teaching facilities as well as providing a new base for the Plymouth Arts Centre, currently located at Loos Street.

“The shape and style of the development on this very prominent site is really the beginning of a reawakening of Plymouth,” said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roland Levinson.

Nick Urwin, Chair of the Plymouth Arts Centre, said the new venue would help Plymouth become a ‘major cultural destination’ in the South West.

It is anticipated that the successful firm of architects will be announced in mid January.

Building work on the new complex at Rowe Street is scheduled to start in October.
The University has demonstrated its support for students who compete in sport at national and international championship level by presenting 11 students with sports scholarships and bursaries.

The Sports Scholarships and Bursaries Scheme is designed to support top-class students in their chosen sport while they study for their degree. This year’s recipients represent sports ranging from dinghy sailing to ultimate frisbee.

The benefits of the awards include funding for competition fees and travel expenses, a personal training programme and advice on diet and nutrition.

“Ivan Sidgreaves, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean for Students, received the award on behalf of the University from Staff Nurse Julie Thomas and NBS Marketing Co-ordinator Anne Grimsted when the NBS was on the Plymouth campus recently.

Rachel Yandell, spokesperson for the NBS said: “This is an extremely important service, ensuring that the NBS reaches a wide range of people and collects the 9,000 – 10,000 units of blood it needs every day. Currently only six per cent of the population give blood so we have ‘a lot to say thank you for’ to these people.”

Anyone interested in becoming a blood donor should call the national helpline on 08457 711711.

The University is playing a key part in the recently launched £12.5 million broadband4devon project, which will harness high-speed broadband technology to help small- and medium-sized enterprises benefit from the e-business revolution.

With the University of Exeter, North Devon College and Plymouth College of Further Education, the University is an education partner in the three-year project, which is funded by the European Objective Two programme and the South West Regional Development Agency.

The University’s contribution to the project includes: an ‘observatory’ and research studies: development of support packages, technologies and models; and development of application solutions.

Julian Beer, Mike Phillips and Steve Childs are working with Steve Schlemmer to pull together the University’s work which may also include Andy Philp, Chris Johnson, Jonathan Lean, Martyn Warren and Peter Jagodzinski, who are all active in this subject area.

broadband4devon will provide 5,500 businesses with practical guidance on equipment and applications, and will subsidise connection, access and services – all aimed at dramatically increasing profitability and competitiveness. The overall project is estimated to create more than 600 new jobs and safeguard more than 1,000.

The University is proud to have students who have made outstanding achievements in their chosen sports nationally and internationally.

The National Blood Service (NBS) has recognised the commitment of the University to donor sessions by awarding the institution a special Support Loyalty Award.

The award – part of the NBS ‘A Lot to Say Thank You For’ campaign – is presented to organisations that have demonstrated support for the NBS by inviting them to hold blood collection sessions on their premises and allowing staff to give blood during work time.

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The benefits of the awards include funding for competition fees and travel expenses, a personal training programme and advice on diet and nutrition.

“The University is proud to have students who have made outstanding achievements in their chosen sports nationally and internationally,” said Head of Recreation, Lesley Coulton.

“These awards demonstrate our commitment to helping them as they continue in their endeavours.”

Thanks to everyone who entered the caption competition in the previous UPfront, and congratulations to John Abraham from Earth, Ocean & Environmental Sciences, who scooped the prize of a music voucher. John's suitably cheesy caption ‘Just Gruyere and bear it’ was chosen for the photograph of Dr Ian Tunbridge with (fake!) cheese on his head.

Zoe Lyle of Biological Sciences was one of the many staff happy to donate blood.
This month sees the launch of an innovative programme that will train graduates to become graduate mental health workers in primary care. The programme is the result of a year’s development work involving the Universities of Plymouth and Exeter and the Mental Health Steering Group. It is chaired by Carrie Morgan from the National Institute for Mental Health.

Graham Russell and Tony Gilbert from the Faculty of Health & Social Work are leading the programme, which aims to recruit top-flight graduates to take on new and challenging roles in primary care.

“It is envisaged that trainees will focus on areas such as self-help and brief cognitive therapies and will provide an important new link between general practitioners, service users and traditional mental health services,” explained Graham.

The degree in occupational therapy joins the Faculty’s existing courses, which range from nursing, midwifery, operating department practice and podiatry to physiotherapy, dietetics and social work.

St Loye’s School of Health Studies has transferred to the University’s Faculty of Health & Social Work in order to continue delivering the well-established honours degree in occupational therapy – a real boost for health education and training in Plymouth.

Founded in 1944, St Loye’s School of Health Studies is one of the oldest and largest centres for the provision of occupational therapy education in Europe. Joining the University will provide further opportunities for the continued successful development of this discipline in the South West.

The degree in occupational therapy joins the Faculty’s existing courses, which range from nursing, midwifery, operating department practice and podiatry to physiotherapy, dietetics and social work.

Professor Mary Watkins, Dean of the Faculty of Health & Social Work, said: “As health provision is expanding in the South West, now is the ideal time for institutions to work together to deliver inter-professional health education and training. The University of Plymouth has worked closely with St Loye’s School of Health Studies in the drive to modernise health education in the region, as part of the Peninsula Allied Health Collaboration. We look forward to continued collaborative working and welcome all those joining the University from St Loye’s.”

St Loye’s School of Health Studies will become Millbrook House, Faculty of Health & Social Work, University of Plymouth.

For information about the Faculty of Health & Social Work, contact 01752 233842 email: healtheducation@plymouth.ac.uk

Student divers from the University have been putting their training exercises to good use by collecting mugs from the bottom of Sutton Harbour in Plymouth.

As part of their professional scuba diving course, the civil engineering students volunteered to gather up mugs thrown overboard from harbour-side café Captain Jaspers by careless customers.

The owners of Captain Jaspers offered to pay 20 pence to charity for each mug recovered by the students, who receive their training at the University’s Diving & Sailing Centre in Cosside. In total, the intrepid team dredged up 200 sludgy, barnacle-coated mugs.

“I was shocked at how many they recovered,” said owner of Captain Jaspers, Georgina Curtin. “We suspected that some mugs had been thrown over, but not quite the quantity they came up with. Years ago, before we charged a deposit, we found that mugs were always ending up over the side.”

A group of students based at the Seale-Hayne campus is compiling a database of equestrian businesses in the area, which – it is hoped – could hold the key to improving tourism in Devon’s Blackdown Hills.

According to the Blackdown Hills Rural Partnership, the finished list will be useful for both tourists and businesses.

“This will form a database linking all the equestrian industries so that we can move forward projects and develop the industry,” said a spokesperson for the partnership.

Students of the University’s unique degrees in surf science and technology and marine sports technology demonstrated their entrepreneurial skills at a trade fair in December.

The annual event – organised by the students themselves – was attended by representatives from some of the biggest local names in the marine sport and surf industry, as well as members of the public.

As part of their course, the third-year students developed innovative ideas for products and services to help further the industry. This year’s examples included the ‘surf trainer’ – a new kiteboard design, a hand-warmer pouch for surfers, and ‘mobile chandlery services’ which, along with many other ideas, were demonstrated by their creators.

“The scope of this project is diverse, covering all aspects of industry, trade and technical innovations,” said Dr Colin Williams, Director of Programme Development. “It provides students with a conducive environment for business discussions and the opportunity to promote themselves to future employers.”
Dr Joyce Halliday (pictured above), Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Social Policy & Social Work, has been awarded a prestigious two-year ESRC Research Fellowship.

Joyce, who graduated from the University of Oxford with a first-class degree in geography and gained a PhD in coastal zone management from the University of Wales, moved to the University of Plymouth three years ago to work with Dr Sheena Asthana on a major evaluation of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health Action Zone (HAZ). Over the past two years this has resulted in the production of over 40 evaluation reports, ranging from those on partnership working and community involvement to local projects targeting vulnerable children and young people, older people and service access problems.

The ESRC Research Fellowship, totalling £94,000, was one of only five to be awarded nationally. It gives Joyce the opportunity to transfer the applied research into academic scholarship and to inform policy and practice in the field of health and social care.

The second challenge is to develop the experience gained in the Cornwall HAZ by working further at innovative ways of delivering health and social support in rural areas including the dynamics of rural partnership working. Joyce is hoping this will give her scope to further her interests in rural regeneration and access to services fostered in her previous role as Devon Research Fellow at the University of Exeter.

After 20 years moving from one research contract to another Joyce is ‘overjoyed’ at this opportunity to consolidate her research. “I just couldn’t let this opportunity pass without thanking the two colleagues who made the award possible – Sheena for her inspiration and Sue Richardson, who has been working alongside me looking at partnership working in the Plymouth Health Action Zone and was the first to suggest applying for an ESRC award,” she said.

Sociologists at the University have been awarded a £48,000 grant that will enable them to undertake unique research into the controversial topic of nanotechnology and how it is portrayed in the media.

Nanotechnology involves the manipulation and manufacture of devices at an atomic level and nanotech work is carried out on the scale of a nanometer (a billionth of a metre), which is about a fifteen-thousandth of the diameter of a human hair.

Professor Alan Petersen and Dr Alison Anderson (pictured below), along with Stuart Allen from the University of West England, say the grant, awarded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), means they can appoint a full-time research fellow to aid them in their work, to be carried out over the next 18 months. The project investigates how scientists, journalists and editors view the production and coverage of news on nanotechnology as it applies to medicine.

Some scientists believe nanotechnology will be the key technology for the 21st century, with extreme supporters claiming that it could even rebuild the human body from within and effectively abolish death.

However, others – including Prince Charles – believe nanotechnology could have just the opposite effect and actually do away with life by turning the surface of the Earth into an uninhabitable ‘grey mess’.

It is this debate that has caused such controversy in the media and Professor Petersen and Dr Anderson will focus their research on how that controversy has been played out.

“Some scientists believe the development of nanotechnology could mean all sorts of potential benefits, particularly in the area of medicine, such as the cleaning of arteries, the repairing of cells and the diagnosis of disease,” said Dr Anderson. “But a number of pressure groups claim that the technology has potentially ‘horrendous social and environmental risks’. We are interested in how the controversy surrounding this subject is represented in the news media.”

Dr Andersen added: “We are delighted with this grant. The ESRC told us our proposal dealt with an extremely interesting set of issues relating to the production of scientific knowledge and the re-interpretation of this knowledge within the media... ‘a project just waiting to be done’.”

The research aims to advance knowledge about the processes underlying news reporting on nanotechnology and medicine. It seeks to further dialogue between scientists and journalists about the making of news, particularly in regard to improvements in current reporting practices.
The Students’ Union advice centre (upsu:advice) at Plymouth has a new home! After 25 years, the service has moved from a portacabin to 1 Portland Mews, a curved building that provides the ideal location for students to seek help and support without being in view of the whole campus.

“We are thrilled with our new facilities and cannot thank Learning Facilities enough for this great move,” said Advice Centre Manager, Lynne Shaw. “We have everything we need here, including a dedicated quiet interview room and a toilet for the disabled.”

upsu:advice offers a free confidential, impartial advice and information service to all students of the University. As well as assistance on all aspects of student life, staff can provide general information on just about everything. “We have the full Citizens’ Advice Bureau information system on computer and can refer students to other agencies when expert help is required,” said Lynne.

“We can accompany students to meetings within the University and even offer a representation service when appropriate. We also provide help with all aspects of budgeting, student funding, welfare benefits and debt problems.

“Regardless of whether we are a last resort or a first port of call, students can be sure of a warm welcome and a professional service. If you are passing, please take the opportunity to drop in and familiarise yourself with all that we can offer students when the going gets tough.”

upsu:advice can be contacted on ext 2281/email: advice@su.plymouth.ac.uk

Thirty-four Year 9 students gained an insight into innovative ways in which medicine is taught using the latest medical equipment and simulation technology when they visited the Peninsula Medical School recently.

The 13- and 14-year-old students, who came from schools in Camborne, Pool and Redruth, were at the Plymouth campus for a ‘Getting into Medicine’ taster session, part of the widening access to medicine programme. In small groups, they teamed up with first- and second-year medical students and, assisted by staff, tried their hand at a number of clinical skills techniques and life sciences activities.

The overall aim of the taster session – and the programme as a whole – is to raise students’ awareness of medicine and inspire those who would not traditionally choose the subject (due to cultural, social or educational factors,) to consider it as a career option.

“In giving secondary school students the opportunity to mix with medical students and staff in a supportive environment and experience ways in which learning medicine can be fun, we hope to dispel some of the negative stereotypes surrounding medicine,” explained Liz Hodgkinson, Widening Participation Project Officer. “We also aim to increase their confidence, raise aspirations and begin to break down some of the barriers to access for those students who need the most support.”

For further information about this event and the concurrent widening access to medicine research study, contact Liz on 01752 238037/email: liz.hodgkinson@pms.ac.uk

Dr Percy Seymour (below) welcomed competition winners Sophie Lloyd (left) and Josie Clift – plus their classmates – to the University’s planetarium recently. The two Langley Junior School pupils were the lucky winners of the ‘What will the space probes see on Mars?’ art competition organised by the Faculty of Science.

The Faculty of Arts has received a grant of £335,706 to research the parallels of mental illness and art.

In conjunction with Dr Leslie Topp of Oxford Brookes University, Gemma Blackshaw from the Faculty will use the funding to research, curate and open an international exhibition called Madness and Modernity: Mental Illness and the Visual Arts in Turn-of-the-Century Vienna.

The aim of the exhibition is to delve into the relationship that existed between psychiatry and the progressive visual arts in Vienna in 1900. Visitors will see mechanotherapy and electrotherapy equipment on display alongside photographs of ‘hysterics’ patients, portraits by artists such as Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka, items of furniture from Sigmund Freud’s consulting room, and architectural models of hospital spaces. These objects will be used to widen understanding of turn-of-the-century concepts of health and illness, freedom and Utopia, and the role of art in society.

“We will consider such areas as the architecture of new psychiatric spaces, the early development of the art of the mentally ill, the turn of artists to the iconography of ‘madness’, and the changing attitudes towards the treatment and care of psychiatric patients,” said Gemma.

The exhibition will open in London in 2007, before travelling to Vienna and New York.
The Faculty of Arts celebrated the publication of two new books at a special launch event on the Exmouth campus in December.

Writing Back: Sylvia Plath and Cold War Politics (Associated University Presses) by Robin Peel, Principal Lecturer in English, looks closely at Plath’s interest in history and international politics. The book places her writing in this area alongside the contemporary reporting of Cold War events, and argues that the discourse of global politics, especially as absorbed by Plath in England, informs her imaginative work much more significantly than is usually acknowledged.

While Hollywood celebrates Plath’s life with the forthcoming film Sylvia, Robin’s book, which was consulted in the making of the film, concentrates on her poetry, of which some of the best known was written in Devon.

False Memory (Salt Publishing) by Professor of Poetry Tony Lopez made the New Statesman’s ‘Book of the Year’ listing. A major political poem written through the events of the 1990s, it represents the damaged world in all its violence and inequality. Focusing on public language rather than private experience, the poem is a hilarious collage of all the specialised jargons and advertised slogans that situate us in the post-modern world.

Both Robin and Tony signed copies of their books at the launch event, which was attended by University colleagues and friends.

Further information is available from Becky Stewart on 01395 255413/ email: becky.stewart@plymouth.ac.uk

Equal Opps Update

The latest news from the Equal Opportunities Development (EOD) Unit...

- New legislation on religion and sexual orientation
  New laws that outlaw discrimination on the grounds of religion and belief and sexual orientation have been introduced. Sexual orientation discrimination is already covered by the University’s policies and a new Religious Diversity Policy (available on the website) has been developed to reflect the University’s commitment to welcoming cultural diversity and promoting good relations between people of all religious backgrounds.

- EO community on the staff portal
  The EOD Unit has moved all of its documentation, resources and information from the Outlook public folders to the staff portal – visit http://staff.plymouth.ac.uk/equalopps

Latest additions include the EOD Briefing Paper on Positive Action in Employment, Information on implementing SENDA (Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001) and a race equality teaching resource pack.

Graduation Celebration

Hundreds of graduates, joined by family and friends, gathered at Plymouth Pavilions in December to receive their awards.

Among those celebrating was Zak Mazumdur, who – having gained a first-class honours degree in mathematics from the University at the age of 27 – completed his PhD in quantum field theory in the impressively short time of three years.

Zak, from Assam in north-eastern India, came to the UK in 1992. When he began his studies at the University, he was the owner of his own business, The Octagon Indian takeaway in Union Street, Plymouth. He later gave up the business and began working as a chef at India Express in Ebrington Street, alongside his wife and brother-in-law.

“I had to work weekdays and weekends to support my family while I studied. It was extremely challenging, but well worth it,” said Zak, a father of two. “The support I received from the University – and in particular my PhD supervisor, Dr Martin Lavelle – was invaluable.”

Receiving honorary degrees from the University were: Professor John Bull, CBE, former Vice-Chancellor of the University and current Chair of the Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust; Dr Richard Scrivener, District Geologist and Head of Station at the British Geological Survey’s Exeter Office; Sir Neil Chalmers, Director of the Natural History Museum and President of the Marine Biological Association; Sir Marrick Goulding, KCMG, who was responsible for United Nations peacekeeping operations between 1986 and 1993 and is the current Warden of St Anthony’s College, Oxford; and Catherine Caldwell, OBE, former Director of Midwifery Services and Deputy Director of Nursing at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.
The Faculty of Technology is a step further towards having state-of-the-art facilities following completion of the first phase of work in the Smeaton building – and the second phase is already underway.

While Phase 1 revamped the first floor and created a new computer lab, providing more effective use of space than before, the second phase will see further improvements to the second and third floors, resulting in all Schools within the Faculty being able to use and benefit from the same space.

“The Faculty used to be very separate, with the School of Civil Engineering, for example, located off campus,” said the Dean, Professor Neil James. “These developments mean that ... same space. As a result, students will benefit from much more exciting interaction and synergies with their colleagues.”

Cornwall College awards

Hundreds of students from Cornwall College were rewarded for their dedication and hard work at the College’s annual awards ceremony, held at Truro Cathedral.

Over 700 students were invited to the ceremony to collect their higher education awards, many of which are approved by the University of Plymouth.

Getting special awards were Linda van den Berg (left), University of Plymouth Student of the Year, and Amanda East, Cornwall College Student of the Year.

Amanda, who was forced to leave the police force after a car crash, studied furniture design.

Also among the successful students was one of the first cohorts of foundation degree graduates in the country. Two years ago, Cornwall College was one of the few institutions to pilot the new foundation degrees, which are approved by the University of Plymouth.

The Helena Kennedy Bursary Scheme was established to encourage social inclusion and widening participation in further and higher education. The bursary is designed to directly support the ‘second chance’ education of individual students by awarding one-off annual bursaries of £1,000 to help towards costs such as accommodation.

Just 12 students in total were handpicked after being nominated by their college or university to apply for an award.

“I was thrilled to be chosen for the bursary as it will really support me in my studies and open opportunities that would not have been possible without it,” said fashion and clothing student Patriciah.

The Schools of Architecture’s bi-annual one-week courses in cob building were highlighted in a recent feature in Period Living & Traditional Homes. Aimed at professionals, the courses are technical, practical and design-based.

The success of the cruise operations management degree has been highlighted by an article, by the University’s Mike Turner, in Catering South West. Numbers of students enrolling on hospitality management courses at the University have shown a marked increase, despite a national trend of falling recruitment. Mike contributes this to the institution’s focus on the importance of strong links between industry and education and offering degrees – such as cruise operations management – that are viewed as highly relevant to the hospitality industry.

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In the news

- The Times Higher Education Supplement chose the book In Search of the One Truth, contributed to by one of the University’s education experts, Mark Halstead, as its Book of the Week recently. The book is the result of a collaboration between Professor Halstead and 14 other scholars and discusses the concept of spirituality and how it fits into our daily lives.

- A week in the working life of Rob Sneyd, Professor of Anaesthesia at the Peninsula Medical School, was published in the Times Higher Education Supplement in December. Professor Sneyd’s ‘diary’ described his various responsibilities, which include his work with patients, and regional and national responsibilities for the Royal College of Anaesthetists, the Medical School, the Department of Health and other bodies.

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Somerset College of Arts & Technology (SCAT) hosted an evening reception to mark the launch of the University of Plymouth Colleges initiative. The event took place at the recently opened Conference and Enterprise Centre at SCAT’s campus in Taunton.

Alison Scott, Principal and Chief Executive of SCAT, welcomed the guests, who included Adrian Flook MP, Adrian Jennings, Director of Education at Taunton Deane Borough Council, and the Mayor, Councillor Andrew Govier. Alan Johnson, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further & Higher Education, gave an address at the gathering.

SCAT has been providing university-level education in partnership with the University of Plymouth for over 11 years.
A news round-up from the University's Enterprise team...

Turning ideas into business

The University’s Entrepreneurship Programme, piloted so successfully last summer, kicks off again in February with a series of specialist workshops. The programme enables members of staff and students with a business idea to access support and hands-on guidance from private-sector mentors, who will help turn their ideas into reality.

“I can wholeheartedly recommend the University’s Entrepreneurship Programme,” said budding entrepreneur Cheryl Burton, a former member of staff. “The presenters were excellent – not only highly regarded in their field but knowledgeable and entertaining too.”

Details of workshops are available from Dr Susan Boulton (email: susan.boulton@plymouth.ac.uk).

If participating in the programme inspires you to progress your business idea, the University’s Proof of Concept fund could assist you. The fund can provide awards of up to £5,000 to fledgling entrepreneurs for activities such as producing a prototype or undertaking market research.

The South West Regional Development Agency, which funds the Entrepreneurship Programme, is conducting a survey into the attitude of staff and students towards entrepreneurship. Taking the brief time required to complete the questionnaire – at www.plymouth.ac.uk/pages/view.asp?page=5456 – could make all the difference as the responses will be used to shape future support for entrepreneurs.

Profit from knowledge

The University is supporting Business Challenge 2004 by sponsoring the Profit from Knowledge award, which seeks to recognise companies in Devon and Cornwall that have achieved an outstanding result through the application of knowledge.

“We have a long history of working with businesses both by sharing our expertise and resources and by helping them to recruit appropriately skilled graduates,” said Tracy Wilson, Head of Marketing at University of Plymouth Enterprise. Through our Profit from Knowledge award, we look forward to recognising and celebrating successful knowledge transfer activities within businesses.”

There are six other prestigious awards comprising Business Challenge 2004, each designed to recognise outstanding business achievements. Not only do winners receive cash prizes to help develop their businesses, they also enhance their reputation, gain media exposure, and benefit from access to the best professional business advice and guidance.

Further information is available at www.businesschallenge.org.uk. The closing date for entries is 31 March 2004.

Higher impact

Plymouth is collaborating with 13 other higher education institutions (HEIs) across the South West in a programme that aims to improve the capacity of the HEIs to help businesses, particularly those of small and medium size, to improve competitiveness.

The South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) Higher Education Innovation Fund Higher Impact Programme will create a network of Business Account Managers in the HEIs, ensuring that firms in any part of the region can access world-class expertise that best suits their needs.

A news round-up from the University’s Enterprise team…

The event, which took place at Plymouth, was organised by Matthew Smith, Aimhigher Peninsula Programme Officer for the Torbay area, and the maths sessions were led by Dr Jenny Sharp from the School of Mathematics & Statistics.

Encouragingly, all the pupils said the visit had changed their perception of HE and 90% of them said they would now think about going to university.

The University launched its new website homepage design (see right) at the beginning of January.

The University is supporting Business Challenge 2004 by sponsoring the Profit from Knowledge award, which seeks to recognise companies in Devon and Cornwall that have achieved an outstanding result through the application of knowledge.

“Targeting the website at the University’s disparate audiences is a constant challenge,” said Web Editor, Mike Marker.

“With this design we’ve moved away from a montage approach and gone with a single striking image that will change with each visit. The images reflect a consistent theme that underpin the University’s academic credentials and appeals to all our users.”

Visitors will be able to keep up to date with the latest University activities thanks to the addition of a ‘news and events’ section on the front page.

“I’d like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the development and successful launch of our refreshed website,” said Mike. Mike can be contacted on ext 2396/email: michael.marker@plymouth.ac.uk

Graph plotting using a motion detector and getting to grips with mathematical ‘bracelets’ were just two of the activities that formed part of the recent Interactive Mathematics Taster Day for Year 9 pupils from Torquay Community College.

The event, which took place at Plymouth, was organised by Matthew Smith, Aimhigher Peninsula Programme Officer for the Torbay area, and the maths sessions were led by Dr Jenny Sharp from the School of Mathematics & Statistics.

The 13- and 14 year-old visitors met current higher education (HE) students and toured the University’s facilities, gaining an insight into campus life.

Calculating their next steps: Dan Harvey and Jodie Chamberlain of Torquay Community College with student ambassador Heather Milburn (centre). One of the companies supported by the University’s Enterprise programmes.

One of the companies supported by the University’s Enterprise programmes.

The contemporary new look highlights the diversity of opportunities at the University.

“The University’s Enterprise team’s Business Enquiry Service (0800 052 5600/email: businessservices@plymouth.ac.uk) is the first port of call for enquiries generated by the University’s participation in the programme.

For more information, contact Claire Cridford, Programme Manager, on 01752 233562/email: claire.cridford@plymouth.ac.uk

The fresh design follows a six-month period of consultation and development by the Department of Marketing & PR and the web team.

The closing date for entries is 31 March 2004.

Clare Cridford, Programme Manager, on 01752 233562/email: claire.cridford@plymouth.ac.uk

Further information is available at www.businesschallenge.org.uk.
Plymouth Chamber Music concerts

All concerts are at 7.30 pm in the Upper Lecture Theatre, Sherwell Centre, Plymouth campus. Tickets are £14 each (£9 students/registered unemployed) and available from the Security Lodge Reception/Alice Li (ext 3988) at the door on the night.

14 February

Emperor String Quartet. Programme includes Mozart: Quartet in C major, K157; Shostakovich: Quartet No3 in F major, Op73; Schubert: Quartet in G major, D887.

6 March


28 February

7.30 pm – Buckfast Abbey VOCES concert: Modern works set against Renaissance settings of the same texts. Music by Howells, Pizzetti and others. Performers: VOCES conducted by Martyn Warren (School of Geography) with Jonathan Watts (organ).

Free admission / programmes but there will be a retiring collection. Email: Voces.mail@virgin.net for details.

6 March

7.30 pm – St Andrews Church, Royal Parade, Plymouth University of Plymouth Choral Society. Email: simon.ible@plymouth.ac.uk for details.

other concerts

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6 March


April

Discourse power resistance: global issues, local solutions

Call for papers and other presentations (closing date 27 February). See www2.plymouth.ac.uk/conf/dpr for further details. Contact: cath.geden@plymouth.ac.uk.

13 January – 13 February

Monday to Friday (9am – 7pm), Sherwell Centre, Plymouth campus

Exhibition of botanical-themed paintings and prints by Wendy Jones. 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 4 February.

FOR SALE:

Ladies mountain bike.
Unwanted raffle prize - never ridden. £45 ono. Contact Lynne on ext 2984 or 01752 844552.

CAR PARKING

space, North Hill area, £10 per week. Contact Steve on 01803 782461/ 07974 783492.

Above: Dandelion by artist Wendy Jones.