• RECIPE FOR SUCCESS
Café feeds student ambitions

• ROYAL APPOINTMENT
Princess opens unique facility

• SHOOTING STAR
University honours Bailey

• OOH, MATRON!
BBC snaps up student nurses
Welcome to the December edition of UPfront

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

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

Front cover: James (far left) Chris (far right) Tanner with students who are training in Pilgrims Café. Richard Parkman, who manages the café, is on the left in the back row.

Contents

Page 3
• Pilgrims Café

Pages 4 – 5
• CETLs launch
• Princess opens new health building

Pages 6 – 7
• BBC snaps up nursing students
• Autumn graduations

Pages 8 – 9
• Faculty Focus – Arts

Pages 10 – 11
• Engineering the future
• Innovate provides imaginative solutions

Pages 12 – 13
• Record numbers attend Open Days
• Win a Christmas lunch

Pages 14 – 15
• All I want for Christmas is…
• UPSU awarded Investor in People

Film: I’m hooked on all the Harry Potters and Lord of the Rings – I like to be taken away into the unknown to switch off and escape. I’d also recommend The Shawshank Redemption and Life is Beautiful if you haven’t tried them – two truly inspiring films.

Song: I can’t choose just one; music is my raison d’être! I even write for Record Collector magazine. If I had to choose I’d probably be A Hundred Years by The Cure, or The Hiring Fair by Fairport Convention, or…ask me next week and they’ll have changed!

Read: Definitely all of the Harry Potters, but when I want to be grown up I say Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett. It’s a wonderful medieval novel set against the backdrop of a cathedral building.

Food: My best friend’s fajitas (accompanied by a bottle of wine and a good playlist on the iPod).

Destination: New York, New York, so good I’ve been there twice! For such a big city it has the welcoming feel of a small town.

Person: My husband ‘Bunny’.

Memory: All the good ones – life is for living after all and I’ve enjoyed it all so far.

Crush: Richard ‘the hamster’ Hammond, so cute he’s almost edible. (Top Gear fans will know what I mean!)

Whinge: Rudeness, cruelty, unfairness…

Tip: Carpe diem!
Culinary stars Chris and James Tanner performed the official opening of the university's Pilgrims Café in late October, and praised the specialist facility that is helping to train tomorrow’s hospitality managers.

The brothers, who opened the highly successful Tanners Restaurant in Plymouth in 1999 and are regulars on television, were joined by guest speaker Robin Morden, President of the Hotel & Catering International Management Association at the special event. They witnessed Plymouth Business School’s newly acquired facility in action and applauded the cafe for using both fair trade and local ingredients, commenting that everything – down to the milk – was traceable back to its source.

Pilgrims, which is in Gibbon Street and is open to the public, represents a major investment by the university in supporting the hospitality management curriculum at a time when student numbers in the subject are growing and new lecturing and technical staff are being appointed.

“The opening of Pilgrims Café highlights the importance of the hospitality management curriculum to the university and the South West,” said Professor David Head, Director of Plymouth Business School.

The new facility is where the fundamentals of professional food service management will be taught, but it is much more than a traditional training restaurant. It is where students will devise, plan, implement, manage, research and evaluate meal ‘occasions’ in order to meet a broad range of educational objectives.

Students will learn how to deliver high-quality meals quickly and safely to increasingly discerning customers in a highly competitive environment. The facility will operate as a model of best practice, with an emphasis on freshly prepared food that reflects the contemporary UK restaurant industry.

“It’s massively important because the students here are the future of catering,” said James Tanner, a regular on BBC’s Ready, Steady, Cook. “They have to learn the basics, such as making a good coffee, right through to the management side, for example in filing their tax returns.”

Pilgrims is open to the public between 9.30 am and 2 pm, Monday – Thursday, so why not pop in for lunch? Alternatively, you can sample one of the Thursday theme nights, which range from a Burns Night dinner to a ‘seafood special’. These must be booked in advance by telephoning 01752 233466.
The university officially launched its Centres for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETLs) recently, with an event illustrating how the extra £18 million in government funding for the centres will be used to boost the institution, the South West and higher education in the UK.

Guest speaker Dr Liz Beaty, Director of Teaching & Learning at the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), gave a speech, Rewarding Excellence in Learning & Teaching: the Vision for CETLs. She was, she said, delighted to be visiting the university again and stated that, “Plymouth has an excellent track record for teaching and its CETLs will have a major impact on the learning experiences of students throughout the country.”

The CETL directors and their teams were on hand to explain their plans to guests, who included Plymouth’s Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor David James and his wife.

In January HEFCE announced the creation of 74 CETLs to promote excellence across all subjects and aspects of teaching and learning in HE. The funding of £315 million over five years represents HEFCE’s largest ever single funding initiative in teaching and learning.

Plymouth was awarded all four CETLs for which it entered bids. In addition, the university is a partner in a fifth successful bid, led by Liverpool Hope University. The announcement was received as a sign of confidence in Plymouth and its role as a leading institution in the learning and teaching field.

The CETLs initiative has two main aims: to reward excellent teaching practice, and to further invest in that practice so that the funding delivers substantial benefits to students, teachers and institutions. Each CETL has a distinctive focus reflecting its track record of successful student learning.

The university’s four CETLs are:
- Professional Placement Learning
- Experiential Learning in the Environmental and Natural Sciences
- Higher Education Learning Partnerships
- Education for Sustainable Development.

The CETL in partnership with Liverpool Hope University is called LearnHigher. Predominantly, the funding received by the university is being used to further develop high quality academic staff, attract new staff and enhance buildings and upgrade laboratories and training facilities, including its planetarium, which will be transformed into a cutting-edge ‘virtual fieldwork’ centre for the use of students from local schools and colleges. The partner colleges that form University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC) will also benefit significantly from the funding.

For further information about the CETLs, just click on the individual CETL communities on the staff portal.

The Faculty of Education is one of the top teacher training education providers in the country, according to its results in Ofsted inspections.

The faculty has been celebrating after all three of its teacher education courses were awarded Ofsted’s highest grade for management and quality assurance in the latest round of inspections. The publication of the report into Primary Teacher Education at the university completes a full set of top marks achieved by the Teacher Education team and its school partners.

The latest report is on the Primary PGCE and the undergraduate BEd courses with their associated partnership schools, of which there are over 200 across Devon, Dorset and Somerset. In January the PGCE secondary programme achieved a confirmation of its grade 1, first awarded in July last year.

Ofsted has to assure the quality of teacher training across the country. Its findings for all of the university’s courses are ‘very good or excellent’. The reports highlight the buoyancy of recruitment to the primary courses, the success the university has in attracting male students to primary teaching, and the high levels of satisfaction that head teachers have with newly employed teachers.

“These reports confirm our place as one of the best teacher education providers in the country,” said Debbie Wright, Head of the School of Undergraduate & Initial Teacher Education.

To see the full report, visit www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports
The new £4-million, purpose-built centre for health studies shared by the university and the College of St Mark & St John (Marjon) had a royal visit in late October, when HRH Princess Anne was there to perform its official opening.

The Princess was taken on a tour of the Peninsula Allied Health Centre (PAHC), a collaboration between the Universities of Plymouth and Exeter, Marjon and the NHS Workforce Confederation.

Based on the Marjon campus, the building – which is unique in the UK – provides many opportunities for shared learning across health professions. A thousand students from Devon and Cornwall will be based there, studying subjects including podiatry, midwifery, physiotherapy, dietetics, and speech and language therapy.

“We are delighted with the new building,” said Professor Mary Watkins, the university’s Pro Vice-Chancellor and one of the driving forces behind the new centre. “Our commitment to modern, creative and inter-professional health education ensures that training meets both the present and future needs of the NHS.”

Princess Anne spent time talking with staff and students and saw demonstrations of state-of-the-art equipment, including the extensive kitchens used by dietetics students. The youngest person to meet the royal visitor was completely unaware of the significance of the experience – three-week-old Theo, son of Emma Marshall, a member of staff in the university’s Faculty of Health & Social Work – behaved impeccably throughout!

Above: Princess Anne meets podiatry students in the new PAHC building.

Left: The Princess with Bernhard Haas, Head of Programmes (Physiotherapy), watching physio students go through their paces.

Photos courtesy of Eric Purchess Photography.
Two Plymouth nursing students are making their debut on primetime national television, having been plucked from the hundreds of applicants clamouring to take part in a new BBC series.

At ‘audition’, Camilla Smallwood and Elizabeth Midgely so impressed the programme makers that they were chosen as two of just a handful of trainee nurses and doctors from across the UK to take part in BBC daytime’s first foray into ‘social history mixed with reality TV’.

The series, Thoroughly Modern Matron, is looking back at how trainee nurses and doctors were put through their paces in the mid-1950s. Elizabeth and Camilla were whisked back in time to a specially reconstructed 50s hospital ward, based in Belfast, where they experienced some of the training methods of the day – all under the watchful eye of a stern matron and ward sister.

The students had to abide by the rules, ethics and sensibilities of the old-style hospital, while dealing with ailments, medication and equipment which were completely alien to them. As Camilla explains, “Aside from the equipment, the attention to care and detail was one of the biggest differences. Uniform inspections took place at the end of each day with us standing in line, turning around and having our hair, hat and shoes checked. “Training was also a lot more ‘hands on’ – we only had one lesson a week in the classroom, whereas nowadays we have three months in class and three months on placement. There are big differences in help and support too. In the 1950s it was all about discipline and if you couldn’t do something, you just had to try and get on with it! I think now there is a more holistic and varied approach – 50 years ago it was a case of these are the facts, so just do it!”

The series also features interviews with retired doctors, nurses, consultants and matrons, who share their real-life experiences. But the serious side is balanced with many hilarious moments, courtesy of the students. One scene sees them trying on their uniforms for the first time. “We were told to put them on how we thought they should look but we completely botched it up,” said Elizabeth. “Collars were on back to front and our hats were completely wrong, to the extent that instead of six student nurses we looked more like vicars, chefs and sailors!”

As well as the hard work, the new friendships formed and the laughter, both students agree they will take away some lasting memories and lessons, which are sure to help shape them into ‘thoroughly modern matrons’.

In order to aid understanding, Research & Innovation (R&I) have created a useful summary diagram, ‘The Big Picture’, on their staffnet community – see http://staff.plymouth.ac.uk/research/fEC

In addition, R&I are running training sessions for staff who are new to research, or those who just want to brush up on key aspects of securing and managing research funding.

The training covers many aspects of research funding from finding funding, including writing proposals and costing with full economic costing (fEC), to managing projects, including financial reporting and managing people.

Watch out for more information on the course on the Research community pages at http://intranet.plymouth.ac.uk/research/intranet.htm

THE BIG PICTURE

ICAM, SRAs, fEC, pricing... for the many staff involved in research and consultancy these terms are cropping up more and more frequently, but what do they really mean?
Iconic photographer David Bailey, eminent international theatre director Eugenio Barba and education expert Professor Ted Wragg* were all at Exeter Cathedral to receive the awards from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roland Levinsky.

PR Officer Samantha McKay caught up with David Bailey – or Bailey, as he prefers to be known, who was busy having his picture taken by the university’s very own photographer, Lloyd Russell. She asked Bailey to name his favourite subject – and received a rather unexpected answer!

“I have always enjoyed taking pictures of politicians and Margaret Thatcher was incredibly charming,” he said. “They are the pictures that turn out better than you ever expected, when people surprise you. I even managed to get Bill Gates to crack a smile for me once!”

Bailey, who always carries a camera with him (“in case I see a shot I like”), now enjoys making short films and advertisements more than taking photographs. He and his wife, former model Catherine, split their time between London and Devon, where they have a house just outside Tavistock.

Asked if he had any advice for the university’s photography students, Bailey said: “I would say to current students that if you remain true to yourself – that is, take the pictures you want to take, not what you are expected to take – you can’t go far wrong.”

And then he was off. With a fashion shoot for American Vogue the next day and a shoot with Chancellor Gordon Brown booked in for his return, the legend with the lens is never in one place for long!

*Sadly, Professor Wragg has since died.

Balancing Act

Psychologists at the university are seeking volunteers to be interviewed for a study on how academic staff deal with the issues of work/home life balance.

The university took a lead role in the Higher Education Funding Council for England-funded, questionnaire-based study that examined stress in higher education institutions. The results indicated that academic staff are concerned about work/life conflict.

“This follow-up study is an attempt to examine work/life conflict in more detail: the consequences of work/life conflict and how individuals deal with the problems raised,” explained Pamela Jacobs, the Principal Researcher.

Pamela Jacobs and Research Associate Julie Griffin aim to recruit around 20 academic staff of both sexes who have children living at home. The interviews will last an hour and, in order to aid analysis, they will be taped. The content of the interview will remain confidential and participants can withdraw their data at any time during the study.

If you are interested in taking part, contact Julie on ext 3156/email: julie.griffin@plymouth.ac.uk
The project, part of the £50,000 refurbishment of the reception area of a surgical ward at Yeovil Hospital, saw the university’s Roy Tam working alongside Alex Coulter, Arts Co-ordinator at Dorchester Hospital.

“The aim of the refurbishment was to increase the well-being of patients by transforming the physical environment in which they are treated,” said Roy. “It provides a simple way-finding system, some seating for patients and visitors and a visually enhanced surrounding area with imaginative use of colour and lighting. Designers and manufacturers selected for the refurbishment all live and work within the South West.”

Roy’s reception desk (pictured) was made using computer numeric control, a method of making components by moving cutters around under computer control, almost like freehand. The method enables complex repeat parts to be made quickly and accurately.

To see the work of Roy’s students, visit www.3Ddesign.org.uk

A senior lecturer in 3D design has created a patient-friendly reception desk that is helping to make a big difference at a south-west hospital.

The Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship awarded to Professor Smiles is one of just 25 that are awarded annually. His three-year project is examining the evidence behind the assumption that great artists, such as Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Cézanne, produced their greatest work in old age.

“My research will question this assumption and others - for example, the idea that the late work of some artists, including Goya, Degas and Matisse, was the result of some traumatic event or debilitating illness,” said Professor Smiles. “I will be asking whether the idea of this special sort of creativity in old age is a genuine phenomenon or a critical construction, full of assumptions about creativity, genius, gender and the work that great art performs”

Professor Smiles intends to produce a book based on his research and hopes to put on an exhibition at some point in the future, drawing together examples of ‘late work’ by a variety of artists.
Demonstrating the enormity of ice caps and the vastness of prairies to student learners is all in a day’s work for one member of staff. Adrian Smith is not a geographer though, he’s subject leader for three of the university’s graphic design degrees.

Adrian combines his role as subject leader with his work as the consultant designer to the Oxford University Press (OUP) Cartographic Department, which produces a complete range of best-selling educational atlases. Adrian’s involvement with atlases and map design began with work he did for the Automobile Association on regional maps, motorway strips and junction mapping. It was when he joined OUP that he began his long association with educational atlases.

“By employing new techniques of origination we were able to drastically reduce the production time and increase the quality and immediacy of atlases for schools,” said Adrian. “In 1990, when the new Oxford School Atlas I designed won The Times Educational Supplement Information Book of the Year prize, OUP confirmed its place as a leading atlas publisher. It also assured my role as OUP’s atlas consultant and designer, alongside Dr Patrick Wiegand of Leeds University, who is the editorial advisor.”

The ever-changing national curriculum has provided Adrian with a succession of design challenges. “The quality and sophistication of our output has been considerably enhanced by IT and printing developments, and I have enjoyed the particular challenges of designing for the international market,” he said.

Adrian and his OUP colleagues use nationwide teacher focus groups to inform atlas content, and strive to be both authoritative and as up-to-the-minute as possible.

“Designing atlases is highly complex, utilising colour, line, shape, image, scale, projection and considerable amounts of supporting graphics – all at the appropriate language level of the target audience,” explained Adrian. “I have an ongoing fascination with how successfully I can portray the earth and its condition through my design.”
The Faculty of Technology has received a Royal Academy of Engineering grant – worth £100,000 – to set the ball rolling to shift teaching practices across the UK’s more traditional university courses. The aim is to help engineering students make use of their creativity to solve real, modern engineering dilemmas.

The groundbreaking initiative goes some way to answering general concern over how to make engineering graduates even more employable. Practical experience has become synonymous with employability and the creation of a new, contemporary design module, ‘Energy and the Environment’, aims to ensure graduates will be ready to tackle the ultimate dilemma of how to resolve man’s future energy needs from both a technological and moral perspective.

Project leaders Dr Wayne Hall and Dr Paul Robinson have appointed three visiting professors – John Gittus, Geoff Skates and Robert Stone – to develop high level, practical, industry-led support for the initiative.

“The programme will be offered to all accredited engineering courses at Plymouth, before being disseminated across the UK,” explained Dr Hall.

The three main outcomes of the project will be: a new first-year module devoted to integrated system design, common to all accredited engineering courses at Plymouth; an interactive website allowing the module and various case studies, including the student group work, to be available to other universities and colleges in the UK, and a web resource to which all universities and colleges can contribute.

To find out more, contact Dr Wayne Hall on ext 3653/email: wayne.hall@plymouth.ac.uk

Helping students to embrace creativity in the first year of their traditional engineering courses is the key to future employability, according to experts at the university.
Innovate, the university’s Centre of Expertise for Creative Industries, recently opened its impressive new base at the Tamar Science Park.

Director Martin Woolner (above) explains what Innovate is all about. “By using the dynamic and original thinking of people in creative arts and bringing it together with the university’s research skills, Innovate transforms ideas into imaginative and tangible solutions. We work closely with colleagues across all faculties, combining expertise in cutting-edge digital technologies with established creative techniques. Our services enjoy a diverse range of applications.”

Through consultancy, project management, collaborative research and development, creative concept and product realisation, Innovate is currently collaborating on a variety of research, product design and evaluation projects in partnership with the public sector, museums and galleries, and engineering companies.

One particularly exciting example of Innovate’s work is with Plymouth City Museum, carrying out 3D scanning and rapid prototyping of ancient bone fragments held there. Found on the River Plym in Cattedown, the bones are thought to be between 30,000 and 40,000 years old, making them possibly the oldest remains in the UK. This process will lead towards the reconstruction of skeletal remains and their potential dating.

Specialist resources available through Innovate include:

- rapid prototyping
- 3D non-contact scanning and digitising
- high-resolution concept model-making
- Computer-aided design, computer-generated imagery (spell both out in full) and animation
- vacuum casting and production moulding

A visit to Innovate is the best way to appreciate its capability and the resources and expertise it can bring to finding creative solutions. For more information, contact Centre Manager Roslyn Porter on 01752 764486/ email: innovate@plymouth.ac.uk

In the News

Northern birds make better mates, according to research by a group of experts including a Plymouth marine biologist, Dr Stephen Votier. The study on bird migration was published in the prestigious international journal, Science. The leading American publication’s coverage of the project, conducted by the university, Queen’s University Belfast and the University of Glasgow also gave rise to media interest in the South West, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Emergency Care student Russell Cooke recently swapped the streets of Plymouth for the frozen wastes of the Arctic Circle, as reported in the Plymouth Evening Herald. Russell, who works for the Westcountry Ambulance Service, was selected to accompany the crew on the Royal Research Ship the James Clark Ross, to provide medical assistance while the crew undertook research. Russell treated dental, ear and soft tissue infections and a number of minor injuries caused by the freezing temperatures. Treating his colleagues, he said, gave him plenty of practical experience he can apply to his degree studies.

Knowledge is the key to success for local companies – that was the verdict from the media after the university hosted the 2005 annual South West Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP). The successful event, which showcased graduates sharing their expertise with local businesses, had an impressive write-up in the local press and a national publication, Investment Now. In addition, KTP Manager Emma Hewitt graced Radio Devon’s airwaves, bringing recognition for her hard work.

Cash-strapped geography students donated the price of a ‘pie and a pint’ to raise money to send two South African teens to their local university. The touching story was picked up nationally by the Press Association and Independent Radio News, as well as the local print and broadcast media.
Entrepreneurship was the ‘buzz word’ in the autumn as the university got involved in National Enterprise Week. Research and Innovation’s IP and Entrepreneurship Manager, Dr Susan Boulton says it’s been a busy time...

Building on our reputation for supporting entrepreneurship, the university was at the heart of things during National Enterprise Week, as we once again sponsored Enterprising Plymouth.

We exhibited at the Enterprising Plymouth exhibition at Plymouth Guildhall, where Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Steven Parisien, was a keynote speaker. He also joined the ‘who’s who’ line-up of guests at the Enterprising Plymouth dinner, where the Business Ideas Challenge* was launched and our Enterprise Fellowship Award was presented by the Vice-Chancellor.

We led the Inspiring Entrepreneurship event at the Eden Project, where aspiring entrepreneurs were addressed by founder, Tim Smit. The week also saw us host a Personal Enterprise Show, and Dr John Chudley, Director of Research & Innovation, hosted an evening celebrating successful business alliances with Plymouth’s outstanding ‘Beacon’ companies.

National Enterprise Week may be over, but our support continues. Back by popular demand is the fourth in our series of highly successful Entrepreneur workshops, based at the Plymouth Campus.

For more information visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/entrepreneur

A total of 1,700 prospective students visited the university’s campuses over the course of October and November with their families and friends. Visitors came from as far away as Glasgow and Northern Ireland to see our facilities and surroundings, and as usual, there was excellent attendance from our local area.

One visitor’s feedback summed up the thoughts of many: “Thank you for providing a well-organised, structured and informative day. The university was immaculately clean and the students and staff friendly and enthusiastic.”

“These positive results can only be achieved with the support of staff across the whole university, so thank you all,” said Nicola Ayer, Schools Liaison Officer.

*The Business Ideas Challenge is intended to help turn business ideas into reality. It is open to University of Plymouth staff and students, partner college students, Combined Universities in Cornwall staff and students and alumni who have graduated since 2000, as well as Tamar Science Park Tenants. More information is available at www.plymouth.ac.uk/bpchallenge, where you will find an application form.
GLAD TIDINGS

Two lucky members of staff will be enjoying a free Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, courtesy of Isaac’s on the Plymouth campus.

The restaurant, which is currently taking bookings for Christmas lunches on 12, 13 and 14 December, is offering one member of staff and a colleague of their choice a three-course meal each (usual price £8.25 a head) as a competition prize.

The meal includes soup and a roll, roast turkey with trimmings, roast potatoes, brussel sprouts and carrots, followed by a choice of Christmas pudding or apple and cinnamon crumble.

Simply send your answer (by post or email) to the question below to Paola Simoneschi, PR Manager, Marketing & Communications Department, Hepworth House, Plymouth campus/email: paola.simoneschi@plymouth.ac.uk, by 5 pm on 5 December. The first correct answer out of the hat wins the prize.

Question:
What are the names of Santa’s reindeers?

Isaac’s Christmas meal is also available as a two course option, priced £6.75. If you’re saving yourself for Christmas Day, or simply don’t have time to enjoy the full treat, why not choose the turkey lunch for just £4.25?

Avoid disappointment by booking early – call Isaac’s on ext 3790.
“I couldn’t ask for more really – a little more fun, frolicks and new friends, just like I’ve enjoyed in the last year!”
Melanie Lonsdale, Active in Communities Co-ordinator

“A lifelong membership to the Ferrari team – with a personal induction by Michael Schumacher!”
Faye Doris, Academic Lead, Midwifery, School of Health Professions

“All I really want is the reassurance that, just for once, absolutely no disasters will happen in the New Year.”
Julia Honey, Personal Assistant, Faculty of Technology

“All I want for Christmas is peace and goodwill everywhere!”
Dr Awadhesh Jha, Reader, Biological Sciences

“A Sony HD camcorder with which to video our son’s first Christmas to send to my parents in the States...and someone to tile our bathroom.”
Anthony Caleshu, Anthony Caleshu, Senior Lecturer in English and Creative Writing, Faculty of Arts

“An end to the Research Assessment Exercise!”
Dr Alan Peterson, Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Social Science & Business

“A 2006 Monaco Beaver Marquis so I can join the snowbirds travelling the wild, wild wastes of the USA.”
Dr Rob Burton, Market Research Manager

“To be able to claim that I’m closer to 30 than 40 (I wish!).”
Dr Karen Gresty, Senior Lecturer in Biological Sciences

“Some decent weather so I can take my dog out for longer (in broad daylight for a change) - he’s getting tubby around his middle again”
Alice Li, Publications Assistant

Never mind socks from auntie and soap-on-a-rope from the colleague you’d prefer not to get in a clinch under the mistletoe, what do UPfront readers really want to find in their stocking this year?

“All I want is snow on Christmas Eve.”
Becky Morris, Employer Liaison Administrator, Careers Guidance

“All I want for Christmas is...”

“A 2006 Monaco Beaver Marquis so I can join the snowbirds travelling the wild, wild wastes of the USA.”
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Dr Awadhesh Jha, Reader, Biological Sciences

“All I want is snow on Christmas Eve.”
Becky Morris, Employer Liaison Administrator, Careers Guidance
The event aims to bring together PhD students to present their work to date, promote the research culture within the two schools, and offer masters students a taste of what a PhD could offer them.

There will be presentations of research under the following themes:

**School of Sociology, Politics & Law**
- ethics, evidence and policy-making in the 21st century
- partnership policy: issues of information flow
- social divisions: issues of race and gender

**Plymouth Business School**
- international business and management
- shipping and logistics
- financial management
- issues in human resources

In addition, there will be sessions ranging from obtaining funding to preparing for a viva.

The day is free for staff and students, who must register by 19 December. Send your details (name and course/supervisor) to: SPL: mark.pearson@plymouth.ac.uk or PBS: andre.buehler@plymouth.ac.uk

The Students’ Union (UPSU) has achieved the prestigious Investor in People (IIP) award in recognition of the commitment it has shown its employees.

IIP is a national quality standard that sets a level of good practice for improving an organisation’s performance through its people.

UPSU employs nearly 50 full- and part-time staff and up to 180 student staff. It offers a diverse range of services to students, ranging from representation and a free advice centre through to bars, shops and reprographic facilities.

“Our whole emphasis has been on training our staff and enhancing their skills – which in turn helps us to become more successful as an organisation and to deliver a continuously improving service to students,” said Brian Barlow, Central Services Manager. “All of us are pleased beyond belief to be successfully assessed against the Investor in People standard. It’s been most gratifying to know that the whole process has been so well received by staff and that they’ve participated with such great enthusiasm.”

“This is fantastic news and confirms the high quality of commitment the UPSU shows to its staff,” said Professor Roland Levinsky, Vice-Chancellor.

“My congratulations go to everyone involved in making UPSU such a success.”

**Small Ads**

**FOR SALE:** 4-bed, 2-bath semi in quiet cul-de-sac in Elburton. Large south-facing garden, UPVC, GCH, fully refurbished throughout. New fitted kitchen with all appliances. Garage and shed, plus parking for 2 vehicles. Move abroad means no chain. £229,995. Contact Shona Clayton on ext 2932/email: shona.clayton@plymouth.ac.uk

**HOLIDAY COTTAGE:** Sleeps 2 – 4. Trefor, N Wales, in lee of Eifl mountains and an area of outstanding natural beauty. Two beaches within 10 mins’ walk. 10 miles from Pwllheli and within easy reach of Snowdonia. Available May – Aug inc. £170 – £250 pw. Contact Brian Cheal on ext 3207/brian.cheal@plymouth.ac.uk

**DO YOU LIKE TO SING?** Why not try harmony singing with us? The Patchworkers are a friendly group who meet at Kingdon House, Tavistock, every Tuesday from 7.20 pm. Sessions are light-hearted and fun, led by Joanna Wren, a natural voice practitioner who believes everyone can sing! Contact Joanna on 01822 613085.
The Plymouth Business School (PBS) welcomed the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Mr Patrick Nicholson, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Sally Nicholson, for a special visit recently. PBS is the major provider of business education in the South West and a significant percentage of its undergraduate students come from the Plymouth area.

During their tour the VIP visitors found out about the facilities the School has to offer and chatted to students.