• IMPACT MATTERS
Widening participation on the up

• HEADLINE NEWS
Graduate successes to shout about

• INCLUSIVE ACTION
Supporting students with disabilities

• RIGHT FORMULA
National maths appointments add up
Kim Downs, Cleaning Operative, Hospitality Services, lets us into her top ten

**Film:** Both the Bridget Jones films. Light-hearted and hilarious. And both star Hugh Grant – I think he’s lovely.

**Song:** It has to be Robbie Williams’ ‘Angels’.

**Read:** I like autobiographies best – probably because I’m a nosy person!

**Food:** Seafood, especially when on holiday abroad. But you can’t beat a home-cooked traditional roast.

**Destination:** My all-time favourite so far is Mexico – I went there last Christmas and it was out of this world.

**Person:** All of my family. I adore each one of them. Also, my friend Julie, who has been there for me – in good times and bad – for the past 20 years.

**Memory:** Lots – but the one that really sticks in my mind was in Lanzarote in 2004, when we had a helicopter ride around the island and up to the volcano.

**Crush:** It has to be my partner of six years, Ian.

**Whinge:** The government. What can I say? I could go on for years!

**Tip:** Using a few eye drops on a spot will reduce the redness.
In the South West, there was a sharp rise of 24 per cent in successful HE applicants from lower social groups between 1999 and 2004, according to the latest UCAS data. With GCSE results continuing to improve across the region and numbers participating in post-16 education and training increasing, the social class gap between applicants from the region is beginning to narrow.

“There were around 70,000 participants in over 3,000 Aimhigher events in the South West between August 2004 and July 2005 – nearly twice as many as the previous year,” said Vanessa Fitzgerald, Head of Access & Widening Participation at the university. “In Cornwall, Devon and West Somerset, the Aimhigher Peninsula Programme managed and co-ordinated by us reached 23,296 participants. This measures a relationship with the programme – such as through mentoring experiences – rather than involvement in a one-off activity.”

The university contributes to all strands of Aimhigher and leads some key areas, such as Raising Aspirations pre-16 years, Engaging Ability (Disability), and Community Outreach through student volunteering. Staff working in these areas engaged almost 10,000 people in taster visits, residential experiences, talks and link activities in 2004-5. Aimhigher materials also reached a huge audience, with the website – www.gr8choice.org – recording 27,000 hits and 46,240 copies of teacher/advisor-focussed materials distributed during the same period.

While Aimhigher sows the seed, the university’s WP efforts focus more, though not exclusively, on narrowing the social class gap post-16,” said Vanessa. “Last year the central team of three officers was involved in work with compact schools, as well as running the Mature Students’ Enquiry Service, Access to HE course liaison visits, summer schools and mentoring experiences. They worked intensively with 7,431 people.”

The year also saw the team doubling their efforts through faculty- and college-focussed activities, such as Education’s residential course for black and ethnic minority sixth-formers and Social Science & Business’s taster events in business, law and tourism.

“Impact isn’t only about numbers though,” said Vanessa. “The vast array of qualitative evidence reinforces the good news story behind this far-reaching work. The university’s contribution to widening participation, and the social inclusion agenda in the South West, really is something to celebrate. These activities bring with them positive effects on the university’s own student recruitment and performance in student retention, as well as our profile and relationships within the communities we serve.”

It’s official – widening participation (WP) and Aimhigher activities are having a positive impact on recruitment to higher education and the social class profile of students entering HE.
The exciting announcement that the Peninsula Medical School has won its bid for a dental school is good news for both the school and Devon and Cornwall.

“We are all absolutely delighted at this news,” said Professor John Tooke, Dean of the Medical School. “Knowing how much unmet dental care need there is in Devon and Cornwall spurred us on in this intense competition.

“The news of our success is particularly encouraging given that it coincides with an announcement that the Medical School has been successful in achieving a further 20 per cent expansion in our undergraduate numbers, bringing our intake to 214 a year. Given the criteria for this competition included quality of provision and evidence of innovation it is a strong endorsement of the exciting approach to clinical education we have adopted at Peninsula, from which dental students will now benefit.”

The new dental school will train 62 dentists a year, starting in 2007. Their programme, like that of the Medical School, will be designed afresh, ensuring that graduates are equipped to deal with the oral health needs they will meet on qualification and be able to respond to new treatment and evidence as they emerge.

“This is truly brilliant news for Plymouth and the South West,” said Plymouth MP Linda Gilroy. “It is a tribute to the great reputation of the Peninsula Medical School. Plymouth really is buzzing and this is further proof that our success is recognised by the government. I am very proud of the work the university and our fast-growing medical sector are doing here. We are at the very forefront of medical development and training; which is great for the city’s health and for its economy too.”

For more information about the Dental School visit www.pms.ac.uk/dentistry

Three members of staff have been appointed to senior positions in the new National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (NCETM).

David Burghes, Professor of Mathematics Education, will head up the academic side of the centre, joined by Dr Ted Graham, Assistant Director (HE and 14 – 19 age group), and Rob Smith, Assistant Director (Liaison with Schools).

The NCETM will provide a much-needed infrastructure to establish programmes of professional development for teachers of mathematics. Its starting point will be developing knowledge of the subject and how it is taught in a way that is co-ordinated across all age groups and in collaboration with existing providers and initiatives.

The centre will have a web portal to support activities, along with resources at regional and local level. The £15-million three-year government programme to drive the centre will be formally launched in June. Until then, the focus is on identifying regional ‘pathfinder’ schools; identifying and training network hubs, schools and colleges, and instigating links with business and commerce.

For more information, visit www.ncetm.org.uk
University of Plymouth graduates have been hitting the headlines locally, nationally and internationally for their considerable talents.

Top of the world

Geography graduate Tom Angel soon hopes to be on top of the world – quite literally! He was selected from hundreds of applicants to be part of the Ice Warrior expedition that is making the first attempt in history to reach all four North Poles in the same season.

Tom – a mountain footpath worker – is part of the team that is taking new route to the Geomagnetic North Pole, covering over 250 miles of sea ice from Alert in northeast Canada to the Pole situated on the Darling Peninsula of Ellesmere Island. On route, the squad will report on the reality of global climate change as they come across it, applying the latest technologies and undertaking scientific investigations.

To keep track of the expedition’s progress, visit the website at www.ice-warrior.com

Video star

Meanwhile, Laith Bahrani, who studied medialab arts at Plymouth, has seen interest in his work soar following media coverage of his simple but captivating video for Nizlopi’s chart-topping single, The JCB Song. As well as gaining column centimetres in the local newspapers, Laith has been profiled by the Guardian, and – with plans to develop his company Monkeehub into a worldwide brand – we’re certain to be hearing more of him in the future.

WashDryIron

American network NBC was quick to pick up on the news that product design graduate Oliver Blackwell (left) has invented the world’s first drumless washing machine. WashDryIron, as Oliver calls his creation, washes and dries clothes in an upright position, removing 83% of creases in the process.

Since seeing the story appear everywhere from the Daily Express to ITV’s The Five O’Clock Show, Oliver has been contacted by investors keen to be part of the invention that could banish that most boring of household tasks.
The Director of Nursing and Therapies at the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trusts is officially a Woman of Achievement.

Denise Samuels (pictured), who recently won the Faculty of Health & Social Work-sponsored health category in the Cornish Women of Achievement Awards*, believes that nurses make a valuable contribution to clinical practice and are at the heart of the NHS (not only in Cornwall). She has used her focus and experiences to ensure that nurses are now taking the lead in challenging roles within the trust and are forming an integral part in the redesign of healthcare systems for the future.

As the main provider of nurse, midwifery, health professional and social work education in the South West, the Faculty of Health & Social Work was the natural sponsor of the award.

Also celebrating a win was Ellen Winser, a governor of the university. Ellen, who won the business category, was one of the first women to be admitted to the London Stock Exchange, and the first woman to become a partner in a London stockbroker firm. She is chair of the board of Sutton Harbour Holdings plc, whose subsidiary, Air Southwest, provides Cornwall with vital links to the rest of the country (and Ireland) and is central to

Open art

Whether you use your creative talents at a professional level or for a hobby, why not submit your work for the forthcoming Open Art Exhibition?

Sherwell Gallery on the Plymouth campus will host the exhibition, which will be open to the public. Work must be submitted by 10 May – a panel will then select the best items to go on display between 22 May and 15 June.

As well as wall-hanging space, there will be a limited space for small 3D work that can fit into a cabinet.

“This is an opportunity for us to showcase the very best of the creative talent we have,” said Nicola Griffin, the university’s Conference Manager, who is organising the event in collaboration with Peninsula Arts.

“You don’t have to work in the arts to enter. Everyone is encouraged to submit work for consideration, and we will endeavour to show as many diverse pieces as possible.”

To request an entry form, email n.griffin@plymouth.ac.uk

WINNING CONCEPT

Dr Richard Dryden, of Biological Sciences, recently won the ‘design and concept’ category in the Concept Boat Competition at the London Boat Show. The annual event attracts entrants from all over the world, aiming to ‘encourage everyone involved in the design, development, production and use of a small craft to influence the future’.

Richard’s winning design was Flèche, an inexpensive craft to help encourage families to take up sailing.

Beating stiff international competition means a great deal to Richard. “I’m delighted to have won,” he said. “The judges’ comments were very encouraging and since they have such wide-ranging expertise in marine matters, design and business, I feel more confident now about the potential of my design.”

Richard is using the prize money to buy materials to make a full-scale prototype of Flèche. “I’ll also treat my family to thank them for their support and make up for the years of sail-making and resin-mixing in the living room!” he said.

A senior lecturer has scooped first prize in a prestigious international boat design competition.
keeping Newquay Airport thriving. She freely gives her time and unstinting support to numerous projects and organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors across Cornwall.

*The awards have been developed by Sue Wolstenholme of Ashley PR, in association with the Western Morning News.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

The hospitality business is notoriously tough so it helps to have tips from the top – and that’s exactly what hospitality students got when local celebrity chefs Chris and James Tanner were on campus recently.

The brothers, (James, above left, and Chris) who built up Plymouth’s highly successful Tanners restaurant from scratch in their twenties, gave a seminar entitled Owning & Expanding a Restaurant Business.

The seminar was held in the university’s Pilgrims Café, which was officially opened by Chris and James last year.

Their audience of students and staff from the Hospitality & Tourism Group heard how money was so tight in the early days of the restaurant that the brothers even did car boot sales to raise money for items such as cutlery and napkins!

Chris and James are enthusiastic about Plymouth and its latest developments, which include their ‘funky’ new Barbican Brasserie at the Gin Distillery.

Top marks!

The School of Computing, Communications & Electronics is celebrating after receiving the best possible marks in a recent review of its accredited courses.

The Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) gave its vote of total confidence – and the all-important maximum five-year accreditation – to the school’s undergraduate degrees, giving particular praise for staff-student relationships, excellent learning resources and facilities, staff expertise, and the professional standard of project work showcased on an open day.

“It has always been our view that education of undergraduates is a team effort between staff, industry and the students themselves and this has been vindicated by the IEE review,” said Senior Admissions Tutor, Dr Peter White. “The positive feedback from our industrial partners confirms our belief that graduates from Plymouth are amongst the best.”
Pay & reward

The new Pay & Reward Project has been underway for the last 18 months to prepare for implementation of the national Framework Agreement for the Modernisation of Pay Structures.

This requires all higher education institutions to work in partnership with their recognised unions locally to modernise pay and grading arrangements, including implementation of:

• a new single salary structure, replacing our current academic, AP&C, technical and manual structures, and

• an analytical job evaluation scheme. HERA (Higher Education Role Analysis) is the scheme the university will use.

“Over the last 18 months we have undertaken job evaluation of over 170 posts,” said Personnel Advisor Emma Richardson: “We have used the information to identify a rank of posts and develop generic role profiles for support staff. These will be used together with nationally agreed academic role profiles to ‘match’ the majority of posts and determine the appropriate new grade individual staff should move to on the new salary structure. We are also developing the new salary structures for the university.”

It is intended that training for line managers on how to match posts to the generic role profiles will be rolled out in April and the matching phase of the project will be undertaken during late spring or early summer. This process has been designed to keep the implementation simple and transparent, and it is expected that most staff will be matched to a profile and new grade equivalent to their current salary.

The new salary structure will be effective from 1 August 2006, and it is planned that any appeals regarding assimilation to a new grade will be dealt with in the autumn term.

As the project progresses, staff will be kept informed by email – details will also be available on the Pay & Reward community on the portal:
http://intranet.plymouth.ac.uk/newpay/intranet.htm

Out Now!

With an eye-catching cover design, the 2007 undergraduate prospectus is already winging its way to prospective students in the UK and further afield. Its arrival – in February – meant that Plymouth was one of the first universities to have its new prospectus available at all the recruitment events held throughout the UK.

The cover features an abstract design, which was selected following market research among year 12 and 13 students as well as mature students.

Schools Liaison staff have already taken the prospectus to events in the Channel Islands, Manchester and London to name just three locations. Copies of the prospectus can be ordered from the Marketing & Communications Department by sending an email to suzanne.dixon@plymouth.ac.uk

Left to right – Iola Thomas, Amy Blount and Cassandra Hickling of the Marketing & Communications Department with the new prospectus
If there’s one educational value that Judith Waterfield (pictured) advocates, it’s inclusiveness. And the drive to achieve this has meant a very eventful year for her department, the Disability ASSIST Service (DAS).

Judith heading up DAS, which has responsibility for supporting 2,000 disabled students – a massive remit when you consider that this figure is double the national benchmark. Yet despite representing such a huge number, Judith sees DAS as providing a personal service. “We play a crucial role as the front-facing service for disabled students,” she said. “They can come and talk about the issues they don’t want to raise in a more public arena or with their academic staff in the first instance. We’re here as an advocate or point of liaison.”

As well as providing one-to-one support, DAS carries out assessments for the Disabled Students’ Allowance and dyslexia, and plays a key role in admissions and examination provisions. It is also key to the development of strategies for promoting inclusiveness, working with other central services and academic staff.

**HIGH PROFILE**

The department’s most high-profile achievement during the past year was being short listed for the prestigious Times Higher Education Awards - DAS was a finalist in the Outstanding Support for Students with Disabilities category, putting forward the innovative SPACE project pioneered by Judith. SPACE promotes inclusiveness by developing inclusive assessments to be used by disabled and all students. “Rather than disabled students having to apply for special provisions during exams or in-class tests, DAS has worked with academic departments to look at the inclusive approach of offering students an assessment choice,” explained Judith. “Last year, 146 disabled students at Plymouth used this new approach and more than one in ten recorded an increase in marks of ten per cent. The aim is to bring these issues into the centre of higher education rather than dealing with them on the periphery.”

DAS hosted the SPACE Final Project Conference in November, which attracted top assessment experts Lewis Elton and Brenda Smith as guest speakers. Despite the national interest, Judith says the biggest highlight was the students’ input: “The disabled students who’d taken part in the research and case studies held a discussion and talked passionately and honestly about their experiences – that was extremely powerful.”

The goal for inclusiveness is ongoing with the next project underway – putting in place the Disability Equality Scheme in response to the university’s duties under the new Disability Discrimination Act. Judith and Mel Landells, Head of Equality & Diversity, have been working tirelessly to write and implement this, with input from two working parties, representing staff and students. “We had a great response to our request for volunteers and both groups have really engaged with the process,” said Judith. “We want to make our scheme realistic but meaningful.”

**BUSY TIME**

You’d think with this much going on the department might adopt a slower pace over the next few months, but not DAS. Its involvement with four national and European projects, including areas such as dyslexia and disabled graduate employment, continues, and Judith has also been invited to speak at international conferences in California and Tasmania. Both invitations directly link to the exemplary work she and her department have been doing.

Judith is also involved in the Centre for Excellence in Professional Placement Learning and is concentrating on her National Teaching Fellowship. “It’s been quite a busy time all in all,” she concluded – with typical modesty.
Jan Wiltshire’s undergraduate dissertation so impressed the Landscape Research Group that not only was she awarded a prize, she was invited to take up postgraduate studies with the art history team.

Jan’s study, ‘Heart of Whiteness: Towards the Antarctic with William Hodges’, was, in the words of tutor Dr Gemma Blackshaw, ‘an original piece of academic research that showed sophistication in the study of landscape’.

As a young man William Hodges travelled with Captain Cook as the official artist on the voyages of Resolution and Adventure. He was the first artist to attempt to make an artistic representation of Antarctica.

“Jan is an excellent addition to art history’s thriving research culture,” said Dr Blackshaw.

Above: Student Jan Wiltshire

HEAR ALL ABOUT IT!

A new system has been introduced to help ensure that all university-wide email messages for staff are timely and relevant.

Postmaster messages have been replaced by news alerts, which will be sent out from the Press Office in the Marketing & Communications Department instead of from Computing Services. (Postmasters will continue to be sent by Computing Services when staff need to be informed of network issues.)

News alert requests should be made by submitting a request form, after reading the new protocol document that sets out the criteria which news alert requests must meet. A protocol has also been implemented for staff announcements on the portal - requests for these must also be made by filling
The ‘Beat Back’ anti-bullying workshop programme is the first project for psychology graduate Nick Hammond’s Wishing Well Theatre Company. The ten-week programme aims to address the growing issue of bullying nationwide, using a blend of psychology and drama to encourage the students to get involved. “Our aim is to educate, entertain and research,” said Nick, who is due to start the university’s MA in Performance Practise in September. “The programme guides the students through various drama techniques, such as improvisation and mask work, to investigate the causes and solutions to bullying. At the end of the ten weeks, students will have gained the knowledge to identify bullying and protect themselves – and others – against it.”

The students take part in imagination and character-building exercises and a series of role plays around the issue of bullying. They then work together to bring their own devised pieces to the stage and perform what they have learned to their entire class or even the whole school. “Young people can then share their views and experiences of bullying through the safe medium of drama and voice to a bigger and wider audience,” added Nick. “This means we are not only reaching those in the workshop, but the entire school. “We know through our own and third party research that drama used in this way is extremely effective. With the right team of people, behavioural changes can take place almost straight away. With consistent work over a period of time these changes can be long lasting.”

The project had its first outing at Highfield Community School earlier this year and Nick hopes that the successful completion of the Plymouth run of the projects will lead to nationwide rollout. He has already had interest from as far afield as London and Hertfordshire.

For further information visit www.wishingwelltheatre.co.uk
There are increasing regulatory, policy and public pressures for improved environmental performance of buildings, so we need to ensure we conform in the way we design, construct and use buildings,” said Paul Lumley, the university’s Energy & Environment Manager.

“The university has opted for a system known as BREEAM – the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method, which looks at buildings holistically, from transport links to energy conservation and sustainable procurement. It is probably the world’s most widely used means of reviewing and improving the environmental performance of buildings.”

So how does BREEAM work?
It assesses the performance of buildings in the following areas:

- overall management policy, commissioning site management and procedural issues
- operational energy and carbon dioxide (CO₂) issues
- indoor and external issues affecting health and well-being
- air and water pollution issues
- transport-related CO₂ emissions and location-related factors
- greenfield and brownfield sites
- ecological value, conservation and enhancement of the site
- environmental implication of building materials, including life-cycle impacts, and
- water consumption and efficiency.

“Developers and designers are encouraged to consider these issues at the earliest opportunity to maximise their chances of achieving a high BREEAM rating,” said Paul. “Credits are awarded in each area, according to performance. A set of environmental weightings then enables the credits to be added together to produce a single overall score. The building is then rated on a scale that ranges from ‘pass’ to ‘excellent’.

“So far, the university has started two BREEAMs - one for Rowe Street and one for the Students’ Union extension – and the scores look likely to be categorised as ‘very good’. It is possible

KTPs are a national initiative, designed to help innovative companies take advantage of university expertise – putting companies in touch with talented recent graduates and academics whose leading-edge research and expertise can really make a difference. In turn, this opportunity helps the graduates get a foot on the career ladder.

A new KTP supported by Professor Neil James and Dr David Plane has recently begun with Parker Hannifin plc. The two-year project involves applying new materials technology and manufacturing processes to the redesign and production of a tube fittings product range and developing a new generation of smart control systems incorporating wireless technologies.

The KTP team, based within Research & Innovation, is now exploring two exciting new opportunities:

The university is passionate about delivering world-class teaching and research, an ethos that extends to its partnership activities - we are recognised as one of the most successful providers of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) in the UK, as KTP Manager Emma Hewitt explains...

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

There’s a substantial amount of building work taking place on the Plymouth campus. Developments such as the Rowe Street building and new facilities for the Faculty of Education are great news for the university and the city – but are they such good news for the environment?

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Speedy & secure

A new service will mean faster delivery of copies of articles straight to your desktop.

The Secure Electronic Delivery (SED) service – which comes into play on 24 April – means that if you request a photocopied article via Inter Library Loans you will no longer collect the copy from the library counter. Instead the team will forward you a British Library email containing the file of your request. Users will be able to obtain articles from their university email account wherever they are.

The very small proportion of articles that can’t be delivered this way will be delivered as photocopies – at a cost of five pence per sheet.

Information on how to set up, receive and manage SEDs will be available from the Library and on the staff portal.

Equality Update

The university has received a prestigious award for advancing academic women’s careers in science, engineering and technology (SET).

The bronze award from the Athena Project’s SWAN (Scientific Women’s Academic Network) Charter recognition scheme enables the institution to identify itself as an employer of choice, not only to staff but also students, funders, research councils and industry.

The university has worked closely with Athena since 1999, which has both complemented and informed the work undertaken.

“We look forward to continuing to work with Athena and the SWAN recognition project to maintain and develop our charter status,” said Mel Landells, Head of Equality & Diversity.

Mel worked with a self-assessment panel of 12 staff to compile the university’s application to the scheme, by evidencing areas of good policy and practice in trying to eliminate inequalities between men and women in SET subjects.

The award was presented at the Royal Society on 15 March, on the occasion of the third Royal Society Athena lecture.

More information about Equality & Diversity is available on the staff portal at http://staff.plymouth.ac.uk/equality/Athena/intranet.htm

• one-year partnerships involving postgraduate researchers who have been awarded their higher degree or are awaiting the results of their dissertation or thesis, specifically to implant their research topic into a company while gaining valuable commercial experience, and

• work with businesses and organisations who could benefit from transferring knowledge, skills or technology arising from the university’s arts and humanities research.

Income and research outputs generated through involvement in KTP count fully towards the 2008 RAE as long as one member of the supervision team is submitted. In addition, many KTPs have led to MPhils, conference and journal papers, with several of MPhils transferring to PhDs supported by the same academics.

For more information, contact Emma on ext 3504/email emma.hewitt@plymouth.ac.uk

The SU extension may even achieve ‘excellent’.

The Estates Service is heavily involved with managing building projects. Its Director, Chris Bunce, is pleased with the progress achieved so far. “We have a duty to ensure that sufficient attention is paid to the environment in everything we do,” he said. “Where practicable all new university buildings will achieve a BREEAM score of excellent.”

Good news for the university, Plymouth and the environment.
The university’s growing number of media stars continues to keep the Press Office phones ringing. Here’s a round-up of recent news that has hit the headlines…

Front man for the rock band - Senior geology lecturer Dr Iain Stewart featured on the cover of the Times Higher Education Supplement. The academic and TV presenter went on to give a full-page interview to the leading national publication telling the country just why geology really does rock.

High-profile opinions - The Guardian sought comment from the university for its recent UCAS Extra supplement. While Dr Peter White, Senior Admissions Tutor, gave his opinion on Clearing, Dr Ian Tunbridge, Dean of the University of Plymouth Colleges, was quoted on the value of the partner college route. Mention was also made of the ocean yachting degree.

Not the weakest link - First-year mathematics and education student Subita Curnow took on catty quiz queen, Anne Robinson. Subita showed her she certainly wasn’t The Weakest Link as she made it into the final – only to lose out on the cash prize to a lecturer from another university. Cruel irony!

Where there’s controversy there’s opinion - University Chaplain, David Vardon Evans joined the national debate surrounding Jerry Springer – The Opera as he shared his thoughts with the nation on BBC 1’s religious affairs programme, The Heaven & Earth Show.

New head

Cornwall College has a new CEO and Principal, John Latham (pictured).

John, who took up his role as head of the largest college in the country on the 1 March, was previously at the University of Liverpool, where, as Chief Operating Officer, one of his most significant achievements was the establishment of a campus in China.

“I have been tremendously impressed by the energy and quality of the staff and have also really enjoyed talking to students,” he said. “It is vital that we put the student experience at the heart of everything Cornwall College does”.

Sustainable centre

The public was granted a sneak preview of the much-anticipated Genesis Centre at Somerset College recently. Genesis is a sustainable construction centre for the South West and is already being heralded as ‘a listed building of the future’. A team from the university is involved in researching the performance of various aspects of the building, inserting probes in the straw structure of the seminar rooms to monitor performance over time.

Visitors from educational establishments worldwide are already visiting the pioneering centre to develop ideas on moving the sustainability agenda ahead in their own organisations and communities.

To find out more, visit www.somerset.webhoster.co.uk/genesis05/
The event was supported by the Geological Society South West Regional Group, with representatives (including several Plymouth graduates) from 16 organisations giving presentations. Organisations included the Environment Agency, Tarmac and the British Geological Survey. 200 students attended, as well as prospective students and parents who were attending the Geology Preview Day.

“The Careers Service works with departments to organise similar events,” said Careers Advisor Kate Colechin. “So far this year we’ve helped to organise fairs for Art & Design, Law & Criminal Justice, and the teacher recruitment, among other activities.”

If you’re interested in arranging an event for your department, visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/careers for details.

Students’ Union Finance & Communications Officer Kris Talikowski brings us the latest news from UPSU...

Organised by the School of Earth, Ocean & Environmental Sciences and the university’s Careers Service, the GeoCareers Fair provided an opportunity for geology and earth science students to find out more about working in the geoscience sector.

ELECTIONS
The SU’s annual elections attracted more interest among students than ever – the huge swell in voters being due, in part, to the introduction of online voting via the website and the lure of a prize holiday to Dubai!

The new line-up is shown below.

BROADCAST
During election week we held the AGM, which was broadcast live in the internet, in collaboration with EdalT and using the Goodmood system recently trialled by the university. The broadcast was a pilot. We hope that in the future this system will enable students from all sites and partner colleges to join meetings, have their views heard and even vote on SU policy.
First-year business studies student Andrew Clewer is £500 better off, thanks to his participation in a national study.

Andrew was chosen at random from students who entered responses to an online questionnaire that is part of a major research project being carried out by the Higher Education Careers Service Unit. The study, called Futuretrack, aims to improve understanding of the processes leading to career learning and decision-making among students and graduates, and careers guidance and development interventions intended to support these.

For more information, visit the website at www.hecsu.ac.uk