Dr. Shaw, a lecturer in French Language for over 30 years, died in 2000 and left a gift of £150,000 to her old department. "Her life was devoted to teaching French," said a colleague and friend, Professor David Williams. Her gift was made without conditions, enabling the Department of French to decide the most effective way to use the legacy.

The gift has been translated into bursaries to help students who find themselves in need of financial support. Each Dr. Marjorie Shaw Bursary, worth £1,000, will support a student during their study year abroad, a crucial part of the French undergraduate degree.

Dr. Shaw's long and successful career at the University, including her close association with Tapton and Halifax Halls of Residence, has given many hundreds of alumni good reason to remember her with gratitude. David Bradshaw OBE, one of her very first students in 1947, remembers her with great respect and fondness. He recalls "a strong impression of her presence, energy, and love of teaching." By leaving a gift to the University, Dr. Marjorie Shaw has ensured that her positive influence will continue.

By leaving a gift to the University, Dr. Marjorie Shaw has ensured that her positive influence will continue. The Development and Alumni Relations Office is here to provide advice for alumni who wish to make a gift or leave a legacy in their Will to the University.

With your help we can continue to promote excellence, diversity and opportunity.

Miles Stevenson
Director of Development
Development and Alumni Relations Office
The University of Sheffield
277 Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2HB
Tel: +44 (0)114 222 1071
Fax: +44 (0)114 222 1044
Email: miles.stevenson@sheffield.ac.uk
Website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni
Discover Switzerland

Departing 8 July 2004  7 days
Twins: £1,899 per person  Single: £999

Collette offers you the opportunity to relax and enjoy the beauty, charm and history of
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Departing 3 October 2004  10 days
Twins: £1,999 per person  Single: £1,899

Experience the magnificent of the Canadian Rockies. This trip combines fabulous hotels and stunning scenery. We start in Calgary and then travel to the heart of the Rockies with two nights at the Chateau Lake Louise. Spend a night at the Banff Springs Hotel before heading into the heart of the Rockies aboard the Rocky Mountaineer Train for a two-day journey. With an overnight stop at Kootenay, you will spend two days viewing coastal forests, roaming rivers and lofty mountain peaks. We finish with a two-night stay in Vancouver and an optional day trip to Victoria Island to see Butchart Gardens.
Flights are available from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester or Leeds/Bradford at just £60 extra.
For full details, call Collette Worldwide Holidays on freephone 0800 092 1888, quoting 'Sheffield Alumni RL'.

All holidays are operated by Collette Worldwide Holidays, ATOL 4832, and include round trip air from London, hotel transfers and departure tax.
Approaching the entrance of the Medical School by the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, the curious observer will notice some old carved stone letters - *Ars Longa Vita Brevis* - set into a low wall. This Latin inscription, meaning "The art is long, life is short", was once above the entrance to the original Medical School in Surrey Street. It provides a direct link back to the start of the formal study of Medicine in Sheffield in 1828.

This year the University is celebrating 175 years of Medicine at Sheffield. Changes over these years have, of course, been dramatic and our teaching methods and research will certainly continue to develop at an ever-increasing pace. A milestone such as this provides an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved and to plan for the future.

The roots of the Sheffield Medical School began early in the 19th century with two rival medical schools. In 1828, through the generosity of subscribers, The Medical Institution in Surrey Street was established with a library and a programme of regular lectures. During the next 50 years it became apparent that the School had to expand and provide specialist courses. In 1883, a fundraising appeal was launched to raise £5,000 to incorporate the School with the newly created Firth College.

When the University of Sheffield opened in 1905, Medicine was one of 11 subjects available at the new buildings on Western Bank. One of the first decisions taken by the Faculty of Medicine was to admit female medical students, a move not made by some older universities until much later. The total intake for degree and diploma courses in 1905 was 114 students, of whom 30 were studying Medicine. The Medical School still possesses the first register, which includes details of Sheffield’s first female medical students - Lydia Morley Henry and Florence Elizabeth Millard. Another early graduate was William Barstow Allen (MB ChB 1914), who was the first Sheffield citizen to win the Victoria Cross.

The last century witnessed several landmark medical discoveries by both staff and alumni, including two Nobel Prize-winners. Sir Hans Krebs, Professor of Biochemistry, for his explanation of the pathway of energy production in cells - the Krebs Cycle - in 1953; and Chemistry graduate Dr Richard Roberts (StJ 1955, PhD 1965) for his discovery of split genes in 1980, which has revolutionised genetics. Dr Roberts disproved the long-held theory that genes are unique to plants and animals and are made up of continuous segments of DNA. His finding has important biological, medical and evolutionary consequences. Another Nobel Laureate with strong Sheffield connections is former Professor of Pathology, Lord Howard of Fonymo, who was jointly awarded the prize in 1949 for his work on the isolation and application of penicillin.

The appointment of Dr (later Sir) Edward Mellanby as Professor of Pharmacology in 1920 was of great significance. It was the first time that a full-time professor had been a member of staff at one of the teaching hospitals. Mellanby had his own clinical wards for his patients at the Royal Infirmary and, thus, Sheffield became one of the first English Universities to institute a full-time clinical chair. Mellanby’s discovery of vitamin D deficiency as the cause of rickets led directly to the eradication of this disease. After he left Sheffield, he became head of the Medical Research Council from 1933 to 1949.

Today’s Medical School is associated with the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust, serving a population of nearly half a million, and has close links with Sheffield Children’s Hospital and many surrounding NHS hospitals.

Professor Tony Weetman, Dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, reflects on the development of Medicine at Sheffield.

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Professor Tony Weetman, Dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, reflects on the development of Medicine at Sheffield.
Win a luxurious break for two in the Peak District

Complete our Alumni Questionnaire by 30 November 2003 (either by post or online at www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni) and your name will be entered in a draw to win a two-night stay at the Cavendish Hotel in Derbyshire.

Located in Baslow, on the Chatsworth Estate, the Cavendish Hotel was originally owned by the Duke of Rutland, until it became the Duke of Devonshire's property around 1830. It was rebuilt in the 1970s by the Chatsworth Estate when the original character was preserved. The Duchess of Devonshire selected the décor and furnishings, some of which came from Chatsworth House itself.

The Cavendish Hotel houses 23 en-suite bedrooms. All rooms overlook the Chatsworth Estate and are luxuriously appointed with twin or double beds, direct-dial phones, television, hairdryer, refrigerated bar and beverage facility. The Cavendish’s facilities also include the renowned Cavendish Restaurant, a board room and private dining room for segregated meetings and a putting green. For more information about the hotel, please visit www.cavendish-hotel.net.

The Cavendish’s sister hotel is the George Hotel in Hathersage (www.georgehotel.net), which dates from the 14th century. One of its most distinguished visitors was Charlotte Brontë, who was so enchanted by Hathersage that she used it in her character as a model for Jane Eyre, naming the book’s heroine after the Eyre family who previously owned The George.

Hospital Sunday, 1920. Medical students are seen raising money for the hospitals, particularly to combat tuberculosis, as part of the Medical School’s first RAG

Margaret Hodge MBE MP, Minister of State for Children, looked on as a local Year 9 student takes part in a clinical skills exercise.

“The development of the Medical School is at the heart of the University’s strategic plan.”

Thousands of students have come through the doors of the Medical School and gone on to practise Medicine throughout the world. We want to re-establish contact with our medical alumni and in the spring of 2004 are planning to hold a major reunion and open day.

Plans for the future include a total refurbishment of all research facilities in the Medical School and the co-location of all basic science research onto one site, adjacent to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. Part of this initiative is being funded by generous legacy gifts left by former students and grateful patients in their Wills. Philanthropic gifts have played a notable role in the history of the Medical School since its foundation and will continue to do so in the future.

Viglen has been a major supplier of PCs to the University of Sheffield for over 15 years, during which time they have provided many thousands of computers. They have always provided us with well-proven technology, which is why we are fortunate in having plenty of their engineers in the Sheffield area.” Peter Armstrong, Team Leader - PC Procurement - University of Sheffield

Viglen and the University of Sheffield Alumni Programme are proud to offer you fantastic discount prices on a range of desktops, notebooks and upgrades.

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*Viglen has been a supplier of IT for the University of Sheffield for over 15 years, during which time they have supplied students and staff with quality computer equipment with a reliable service. Henry James, IT Manager for the University, says, “This offer in particular is highly regarded and we are delighted to give our students the opportunity to purchase high-quality IT equipment”.

For more information about the hotel, please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni

Complete and return our Alumni Questionnaire by 30 November 2003 (either by post or online at www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni) and your name will be entered in a draw to win a luxurious break for two in the Peak District.

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Tel 08705 386 386 Email education@viglen.co.uk Web www.viglen.co.uk
**Third Queen's Anniversary Prize**

PIONEERING RESEARCH aimed at improving the quality of life of older people has gained the University a third Queen’s Anniversary Prize, one of the UK’s most prestigious educational awards. Part of the national honours system the Terminal Prize scheme recognizes outstanding achievement by UK universities and colleges in areas that benefit both the institution and the nation as a whole.

The winning bid addresses key health and social care issues arising for older people. These include the introduction of new techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis; developing new approaches to the care of people who are terminally ill or suffering long-term illness; understanding the causes of homelessness in older people; raising the effectiveness of care of older people in hospitals, nursing homes and domestic residences; investigating the impact of social and economic policies on older people; and improving rehabilitation therapies, services and outcomes.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bob Boucher, commented: “Our work in this field is having a real impact on public policy, leading to improved services for older people both in this country and abroad. The importance of this research can be linked to the fact that within five years there will be more pensioners in the population than people under the age of 12, for the first time in British history.” Sheffield is one of the few universities to have won the Prize on more than two occasions. The winning entry in 1998 described the pioneering work by the Humanities Research Institute in creating electronic editions of literary texts and historical manuscripts. In 2001, its successful bid focused on the protection of underground water supplies and the safe incineration of waste materials.

**Boeing and Sheffield at the competitive edge**

**Boeing**, the world’s largest manufacturer of satellites, commercial jetliners and military aircraft, has forged strong links with the University’s Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, the Centre which captures the essence of the University’s Innovation at the atomic level.

The key role of the Centre is to develop innovative processes for the manufacture and structural analysis of titanium and other novel materials for aerospace applications. This is crucial area of research as the aerospace industry strives to find lighter materials to improve efficiency of both commercial and military aircraft.

Established on a site adjacent to Sheffield City Airport, the Centre is the hub of Yorkshire Forward’s pioneering Advanced Manufacturing Park – Yorkshire and Humber’s high-tech site for advanced engineering and metals. Acting as a catalyst, the Centre is attracting a cluster of aerospace manufacturers and suppliers, creating a world-class community where new technologies and products are developed for the market-place.

The University’s special relationship with Boeing stands alongside its other major aerospace collaborations, in the form of two Rolls-Royce University Technology Centres and a BAE System-Airbus University Technology Partnership.

**Leading the way in widening participation**

THE UNIVERSITY is committed to widening participation in higher education. The latest performance indicators published by the Government have demonstrated a 36 per cent increase on the previous year. The figures confirm the University’s status as one of the UK’s top research-led universities. In the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise, 73 per cent (35 out of 48) of the University’s research subject areas were ranked in the top two grades, 5 and 5*, which indicates that the research activities meet international standards of excellence.

**Blue sky University**

A SPRING CLEANING of the University Library has been created by Professor Brendan Neiland RA, Keeper of the Royal Academy of Arts. From a rich array of works, Rerum Cognoscere Causas captures the spirit of the University as he experienced it and more hangs in the building it represents.

The title: this painting is the motto of the University and means “To Discover the Causes of Things” (from Virgil’s Georgics II). The winning bid addresses key health and social care issues arising for older people. These include the introduction of new techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis; developing new approaches to the care of people who are terminally ill or suffering long-term illness; understanding the causes of homelessness in older people; raising the effectiveness of care of older people in hospitals, nursing homes and domestic residences; investigating the impact of social and economic policies on older people; and improving rehabilitation therapies, services and outcomes.

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Pleasurelands
the magical, topsy-turvy world of the fairground

The fairground has long been a part of popular culture and every weekend, from Easter to October, over 200 fairs still take place in the UK. The tradition is living and dynamic, with a history stretching back 800 years. Indeed, a fair often predates the town or settlement in which it operates. Many of the technical advances of the past 250 years were first exploited by travelling showmen for commercial gain. They were responsible for innovations in entertainment such as the cinema and the widespread use of electricity, always something new and exciting to draw the punters in.

Behind all the spectacle and illusion are the lives of the showpeople themselves. A click with the popular romantic perception of the fair and the working fair is created by a strong sense of tradition and responsibility within a highly organised community. Sometimes, however, it is better to remind us that in the 19th century fair product and showmanship is a world far as remote as possible from the modern-day reality. 

The Archive now has a unique collection of photographic, printed, manuscript and audiovisual material covering all aspects of the culture of travelling showpeople. Their organisation as a community by their social history and everyday life, and the fields and machinery of fairgrounds. The Archive has a vital purpose: it collects and preserves the history of popular entertainment foundation travelling fairs; and secondly, it acts as an archival repository for today’s travelling showpeople. It has acquired an education administrator or loan system whereby venues access to their collections. The community has enabled her to collect material, both historical and contemporary, from a wide range of sources, including individuals and the national archives linked to the fairground.

All types of fairs are covered, including charter and prescription fairs such as Hull and Nottingham wakes holidays in the north of England, street fairs and travelling fairs in the Midlands, and private business events attended by the showpeople in association with a local fairs guild. A strength of the Archive is the depth of material relating to fairground families. One of the principal holdings comprises photographic material of the Shufflebottom family donated by Margaret Bird, Florence Campbell and Naini Smith, who were all members of the famous Wild West family. The collection dates from 1890 to the 1960s and covers three generations of the family showmen, including the founder, Texas Bill Shufflebottom, a Buffalo Bill impersonator from Yorkshire who masqueraded as the great American showman.

This family is featured in the Pleasurelands exhibition, a project developed by Kim Streets, Curator of Social History at the Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust, in partnership with Croydon Museum and Heritage Service, in consultation with the Archive. The exhibition and scope of the exhibition has encouraged many private collectors to be included. This has been especially important where the three-dimensional items are concerned, as these do not tend to find their way into public collections. Many rare and unusual articles will provide a valuable context and multi-sensory getaway, including decorative panels, carved animals, costumes, photography, and film and music, highlights include carved wooden horseman from a Vosper ride of the 1840s, films from the Shufflebottom collection and the story of Billy Buhness, the Sheffield Wall of Death rider.

The exhibition investigates a world where reality is suspended, where visitors shed inhibition and indulge their fantasies. The fairground is a world of reality, where reality is suspended, where visitors shed inhibition and indulge their fantasies. The fairground is a realm where reality is suspended, where visitors shed inhibition and indulge their fantasies. The fairground is a realm where reality is suspended, where visitors shed inhibition and indulge their fantasies. The fairground is a realm where reality is suspended, where visitors shed inhibition and indulge their fantasies. The fairground is a realm
The Alumni Foundation

Launched in 2000, the Alumni Foundation exists to channel donations from past Sheffield students to provide help for current students in a variety of ways. Gifts from alumni have helped to fund scholarships and bursaries, student services and facilities, and musical, sporting, dramatic and cultural projects.

To direct gifts and donations to areas of need, the Alumni Foundation has a grant-making committee, comprising alumni, staff and current students. Grants are usually between £500 and £2,000, but consideration is given to larger projects.

As you will see from the following success stories, the Alumni Foundation is an example of how relatively small donations can make large and immediate differences to the lives of Sheffield students. We are extremely grateful to all our past donors and hope that you will enjoy reading what has been achieved through your generosity.

A new IT centre for Solly

A new 24-hour IT Centre at Solly Hall of Residence will help to meet the ever-increasing demand for student computer facilities. A grant of £10,000 from the Alumni Foundation has enabled the University to set up a series of group workshops, aimed at students who prefer an alternative to one-to-one counselling. The four workshops are: Increasing Confidence, Drop-In Relaxation Sessions, Better Relationships, and Looking Up When You’re Feeling Down.

A grant of £1,500 has enabled the University Counselling Service to set up a series of group workshops on a variety of subjects.

Opportunity Bursaries

Today's students face many financial pressures and one of the Alumni Foundation's foremost aims is to help alleviate hardship. This year, the Foundation has selected one student from each of the seven faculties to receive a £2,000 Opportunity Bursary for the 2003/2004 academic year. The bursaries will enable the student to travel to the conference, and the Alumni Foundation will cover travel and accommodation costs.

The cut and thrust of competition

An Alumni Foundation grant of £300 has helped the Sheffield University Fencing Club to revive the Yorkshire Region Novice event. The competition was a great success, attracting 49 fencers ranging in age from nine to 45. It was made possible by a grant from the Alumni Foundation.

First for Sheffield at Model United Nations

This year saw the first delegation of students from the University of Sheffield take part in the Model United Nations Conference in Heidelberg, thanks to a £720 Alumni Foundation grant. The 12-strong team comprised students of different nationalities from a range of courses. They joined over 900 participants from around the globe to engage in debates and simulation exercises for various committees, such as the International Court of Justice and the UN Development Programme. Four of Sheffield's students won awards for debating.

Supporting Nightline

Nightline is the Union of Students' confidential telephone listening and information service, which operates every night during term time. A grant of £300 from the Alumni Foundation has enabled Nightline to expand its operations across the University. The Nightline logo and telephone number were distributed around campus during exam time.

To find out more or to make a donation, please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/foundation or contact Ruth Stanley, Development Manager. Tel: 0114 222 1075. Email: r.e.stanley@sheffield.ac.uk
Old friends - new technology
www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni

The network of Sheffield alumni is based on strong friendships made at university.

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One of the most important and popular services that the University of Sheffield provides for its alumni is the opportunity to re-establish contact with old friends. Work has now begun to develop the alumni website to make it even easier for you to seek out lost friends and make contact again. By Christmas we hope to have upgraded the existing Guestbook facility – where you can leave a message and search other visitors’ messages – into an Alumni Directory. Entries on the Alumni Directory will be fully searchable and when you find someone you would like to make contact with, you will be able to send them an email.

If, however, you find that the friend you are looking for is not registered with the online directory, we may still be able to help you locate them. By filling in the online Find an Old Friend form, we can search our database and try to contact them on your behalf. For reasons of privacy and data protection, we will not display or release any contact details. Emails will be sent by a secure system without displaying an address.

There are clearly a lot of new-build and refurbishment projects going on, or in the pipeline. What’s the thinking behind them? What attracted you to return to Sheffield as Vice-Chancellor in 2001? I’d seen how Sheffield had continued on the trajectory of improvement and success it was on before I left. So the attraction of leading a successful, broad-based university, which Sheffield is, were combined with the chance to shift to an even greater success. Of course, there’s a personal component too. I know what a lovely city Sheffield is. When the bicentenary history of the University comes to be written in 2005 how would you like your own legacy as VC to be seen?

I’ve already nailed my colours to the mast on this one and I’d like to think that the University will have moved well on the way towards, and hopefully achieved, the goal of being the leading UK university outside the Golden Triangle (Oxford, Cambridge and London). I’d like to think its contribution to the city’s economic wellbeing would be recognised, thanks to our successes in spin-out businesses and attracting inward investment – the partnership with Boeing in our Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre is a good example.

I’d like to think of similar friendships – our time in Sheffield has had a truly special influence on our lives.”

If you would like to get in touch with friends from Sheffield, visit the alumni website – www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni

What makes a Vice-Chancellor tick?
Jon Pyle, Head of Communications, interviewed Professor Bob Boucher to find out.

I particularly want to develop a programme of scholarships and bursaries to alleviate student hardship. This is an area where even modest gifts will make a huge difference to individual students’ lives, and one to contact our alumni to ask them to consider making a donation.

How would you like people to describe the typical 21st century University of Sheffield graduate?
I want our graduates to be noted for being innovative, entrepreneurial – and bright spirits in the workplace. So if people say that they noticed somebody doing a good, enterprising job in their company and found they came from the University of Sheffield – well, that’s what I want to hear from members of our alumni.

Finally, what’s the most valuable lesson your experience of leading a top university has taught you about life?
A great lesson – I'd say overall – is that leadership is about achieving great things through people; so you need to get good people working for and with you.

Associate with good people because there’s little in life you can do alone. Leadership is about providing the right environment, and ensuring the right people have the necessary resources to achieve their goals.

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Associate with good people because there’s little in life you can do alone. Leadership is about providing the right environment, and ensuring the right people have the necessary resources to achieve their goals.
A £5.5 million investment in the Goodwin Sports Centre has provided fantastic sports facilities for the University community, the people of Sheffield and top regional sports stars. They received a top 5* rating in the Sunday Times University Guide 2003.

This marked the beginning of a new era in sport at the University, the next stage of which saw a multi-million pound redevelopment programme and the formation of U Sport. October 2002 saw the formal opening of the refurbished Goodwin Sports Centre by Richard Caborn, Minister for Sport and MP for Sheffield Central. The core of the new facilities is a large fitness centre – S10health – with 150 stations and dedicated physio and fitness testing rooms. Other new facilities include an aerobics studio, the Matrix Indoor Bouldering Wall (one of the largest bouldering walls in the country), a multi-purpose activity room, floodlit tennis courts, plus refurbished squash courts, sports hall and swimming pool (including new pool-side sauna and steam rooms). In addition, the two existing synthetic turf pitches have been re-laid. They were joined in January 2003 by a third with a ‘new generation’ surface. The cost of these new facilities was £1.2 million. Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, led by Centre of Excellence Manager Gary Megson, and Chesterfield F.C., the two local football clubs, including Sheffield Wednesday and Chesterfield, are also making use of the facility.

U Sport is making huge strides in sport development and is involved with local football partnerships, including the Batheford Association and Sheffield's High Performance Volleyball squad. Budding British Olympians have free access to the facilities, via the British Olympic Passport Scheme.

A recent development is the relaunch of the University’s Sport Bursary Scheme. During the 2002/2003 session, U Sport offered free access to its facilities to eight students who showed promise in their chosen sport. This was to assist students in their pursuit of excellence. It is hoped that this grant will act as a catalyst for further donations.

The University is proud of its sporting facilities, which have been developed to meet the demands of the 21st century. “Sheffield is in the vanguard of UK universities in terms of sports provision,” says Tracy Baker, Head of Sport. “We now have the capacity to open our doors to the wider community and I hope that our alumni will come and experience all that the Goodwin Sports Centre has to offer.”
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY is bringing the 12th century monasteries of Yorkshire back to life, allowing visitors to see these historic sites in a way that has not been possible since the Middle Ages. The University’s Humanities Research Institute is recreating the buildings and their communities for the age of the World Wide Web.

The Cistercians in Yorkshire Project team is developing a web-based learning package analysing the life, history and architecture of the Cistercian Order, focusing on four of the Yorkshire houses with significant standing remains: Fountains, Rievaulx, Repton and Roche. At the heart of the project is a series of these dimensional, virtual reality recreations of their abbey churches and monastic buildings.

The architecture of each site, explained in the context of other local churches (and European Cistercian abbeys), will open visual and textual windows onto the Cistercian way of life experienced by the monks, the lay-brothers and their secular neighbours.

The Cistercians, or White Monks, played a major role in the religious and economic life of medieval England. Amongst the Yorkshire houses, Fountains and Rievaulx, both founded in 1131, were of notable importance and remain popular with visitors of all ages. Fountains Abbey is a World Heritage site. All the centres of the Cistercian way of life have the spiritual ideal of settling in the desert’; yet, the White Monks were to become significant land owners in Yorkshire (and beyond) and had an enduring impact on their local environment.

The Project, led by Dr Liz Foot of the Department of History, is sponsored by the New Opportunities Fund grant awarding £150,000 as part of the UK wide digitisation programme, which is designed to enable the learning materials and resources currently contained in galleries, libraries, museums, universities and other centres of excellence, to be directly accessible via the Internet. Visit the site at: www.cistercians.sheffield.ac.uk

A reconstruction of the abbey church at Roche from the west

An installation of Dinoponera ants. Photo: Dr Thibaud Monnin

THE LARGEST ANT IN THE WORLD, Dinoponera quadriceps from Brazil, measures three to four centimetres long. Researchers from the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences have discovered that the alpha female in each colony gives rivals a ‘kiss of death’ as a signal for their ‘mob’ to punish the offender.

The colonies are small, with only one breeding female. This female is the ‘mother ant’ and all the other ants in her group are normally her daughters. Male ants play no active role in colony life.

Dinoponera ants are different from most other ant species in that the alpha ant is not a queen, but a mated worker. This means that any female can potentially become the alpha ant, leading to increased rivalry within the colony compared to other ant species.

Francis Ratnieks, Professor of Apiculture, explains: ‘If the mother ant has her position threatened by another female, she will wipe the sting against the aggressor, leaving behind a distinctive chemical mixture. On detecting the scent, lower ranking females will punish the offender. The punishment sometimes results in death. Our study shows that ants can have similarities to humans in that both police their societies in order to prevent undesirable behaviour.’

The Dainton Building, which houses the Department of Chemistry, has been extensively refurbished and represents £3.9 million in extra funding.

An additional 866 postgraduate places will be introduced. This comes on top of the £5.5 million in extra funding awarded to increase undergraduate numbers.
Tom Stobart

Tom Stobart (pictured above at the University in 1934/1935) was awarded an OBE in 1953. Other expeditions followed the first ascent of Everest, including one to find the Abominable Snowman. Herren went on to establish himself as a leading cookery writer. "Spiced Flavourings" is still in print and is based on the extensive notes he made on his travels to 70 countries. He died in 1980.

Fifty years ago, Tom Stobart's ambition led him to record the first ascent of Everest. A graduate of the University of Sheffield, Tom Stobart completed his BSc (Hons) in Zoology in 1936. He then took up a Colonial Service Scholarship at Cambridge but left to train at the Film Unit at Dartington Hall in Devon. "In 1937 the film industry was one of the most difficult in the world to get into unless you knew the right people. I did not even know the first thing about film, let alone the right people. Moreover, what I wanted to do was not even something in the normal line of film work, and it certainly had never been attempted as a full-time job. I wanted to film original exploration and expeditions - and that was not normal work."

He travelled across Eastern Europe while putting together his first feature on Rivers, ending up in India where he joined the army, founding a unit to make films for the General Staff: the two years worked without sleep, weeks ends as well as weekends, interesting and rewarding work with travel all over India thrown in...I was learning my business in a way impossible in peace-time."

Following the war, he explored further, with expeditions to Africa, Antarctica and Australia. He commented: "I suppose of all things I ever wanted to do, to go on an Everest expedition was it. Now suddenly out of the blue had come news of a fresh attempt scheduled for 1953, and the possibility that a film would be required. I had sent a cable at Christmas, paid a fleeting visit to London in July, and had been provisionally accepted."

He was the last one of the 13-man core team to be allotted his place. Climbing Everest pushes even the strongest mountaineers to their physical and mental limits. In addition, filming the events as they unfold requires an exhausting effort. Tom was realistic when he started to plan the trip. "I was far from convinced that a professional quality film of a film crew expedition could be made at the cost of Everest at all...there were certain very obvious problems, first, the cold, the theoretical low temperature at the top of Everest - and nothing less would do as a basis for planning - was about 80 degrees of frost. Weight was a much more serious difficulty."

He took two main cameras, each weighing 8lbs, and four ultra-lightweight cameras of only 21/2lbs each. The main cameras were equipped with a 12" Bloomed Telephoto lens, capable of bringing into full-screen the figure of a man at a distance of 100-150 yards. Figures in clear light could be discernible at a distance of 4,000 feet.

"Ed Hillary came out of the Embassy and I filmed his introduction to Tenzing. I was filming an historic meeting."

The last decade has seen a dramatic regeneration of the centre of Sheffield. The £120 million Heart of the City project was conceived in 1994 with the aim of transforming the city with a vibrant new focus, attracting people and investment. The Peace Gardens next to the Town Hall, redeveloped in 2001, is the first phase and crowning glory of the Town Hall extension, known locally as the ‘egg box’. In its place is the largest glasshouse in any European city centre. Designed by Pringle, Richards, Thomas Architects, the building provides an indoor public garden in contrast to the summer Peace Gardens nearby. The dramatic timber frame is 70 metres long, 22 metres wide and nearly 22 metres high and is clad with 2,300 square metres of glass. A temperature gradient exists in the structure for 250 species of plants, including palms from Central America, Madagascar and China. Sheffield-born Michael Palin – author, traveller, former Monty Python member and an honorary graduate of the University – is patron of the Winter Gardens: ‘I loved the fact that it’s close to the Millennium Galleries, which is another very striking building. In the past there have been buildings in Sheffield that have not been that great and it’s fantastic that there are two examples of top-class architecture as close together in the city centre. It’s wonderful.’ The Garden was officially opened by the Mayor of the Queen on 22 May 2003.

Sheffield Botanical Gardens

Just a short journey from the city centre, the Winter Garden, Sheffield Botanical Gardens, is a major regional centre of botanical and horticultural excellence.

The Winter Garden

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A champion of Yorkshire's museums

Champion of Yorkshire's museums

She flies through the air

A noble champion of science

Stamp commemorates famous aviator

Accolades for the Hours

The Maltese connection

She flies through the air

A CAREER AS AN AERIAL ACROBAT isn't perhaps the first thing that comes to mind for most Physics graduates, but Michèle Lainé (BSc 1991, PhD 1997) was certainly one of the first people to do it when she left the University. She is now one half of the successful aerial dance duo Viva, performing all over the world at corporate functions and special events.

Michèle started gymnastics when she was two and reached international standard in four-piece artistic gymnastics when she was 12. A place at University limited her time in competition but the skills she has gained have been put to good use. She was a successful performance artist and a champion of science.

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In search of dark matter

All visible matter in the Universe makes up less than ten per cent of its mass, swirling around in what? Astronomers believe that the remaining 90 per cent must be invisible ‘dark matter’, in order for stars to move round in galactic islands, for galaxies to cluster together and for the Universe to look the way it does. The way to prove this theory is to investigate the dark matter itself. First of all, however, they need to find it.

Solving the mystery of the missing 90 per cent of the Universe was one step closer with the opening of the Boulby Underground Laboratory for Dark Matter Research. Over 1,000 metres beneath the North York Moors, the new facility is located in the working salt and potassium mine. Boulby, near Whitby in North Yorkshire, is one of only a handful of locations in the world in which scientists can search for dark matter. The laboratory has been awarded £3.1 million from the Government’s Joint Infrastructure Fund (JIF), providing enhanced underground laboratories and complementary surface facilities to create one of the world’s foremost research centres for identifying and isolating dark matter.

British scientists, including a team from the University of Sheffield led by Professor Neil Spooner, are playing a leading role in the worldwide race to discover the particles. It will be a major coup for UK science if the project is successful.

On the face of it, the new laboratory looks like any other high-tech environment. Computers and electronic equipment quietly work away, while researchers busy themselves at their desks, just about the only indication that this is no ordinary laboratory are their respirators. Professor Spooner explains detecting the elusive WIMP by playing billiards with an invisible cue ball: “You don’t actually see the WIMP or cue ball, itself, but you can see the recoil of the billiard ball as it hits.”

When a WIMP collides with the nucleus of an atom it will knock it backwards and the recoil energy released by the atom can be detected in one of three ways, depending on the detector material: there will be a slight rise in temperature; a slight electric charge released or a photon of light released. As WIMPs so rarely collide with matter, it is important to screen out as much background noise in the overall signal produced by collisions as possible. The location of the laboratory at the bottom of a mine screens out particles from space such as cosmic rays, and from radioactive substances. The Earth’s magnetic field deflects some of the particles coming in from space, further reducing any signal caused by other particles.

One of the main challenges is the removal of background noise. The laboratory is designed to screen out any background noise in the overall signal produced by collisions as possible. The location of the laboratory at the bottom of a mine screens out particles from space such as cosmic rays, and from radioactive substances. The Earth’s magnetic field deflects some of the particles coming in from space, further reducing any signal caused by other particles.

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The UK Dark Matter Collaboration consists of:

- The University of Sheffield
- CIIICRAC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
- Imperial College
- The University of Edinburgh
- Oviedo University
- Oxford College, USA
- Texas A&M University, USA
- UCLA, USA
- Instituto Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Russia
- LIP-Centra, Portugal

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**Briefly...**

**Today’s way to a PhD**

The traditional PhD journey of gaining a coveted PhD is set to change. New Route PhDs have been introduced by the University in response to changes in the knowledge and skills demands of research graduates in a rapidly expanding worldwide market.

These four-year courses combine a specific research project with coursework and professional skills development. A portfolio of 134 programmes on offer across a range of disciplines. A full listing of subjects is available at www.sheffield.ac.uk/pgresearch.

**Your smile can let you down**

First Impressions do count. Research conducted by a team from the University’s School of Clinical Dentistry, Guy’s, King’s and St Thomas’ Dental Institute has revealed that strangers tend to make snap judgments about intelligence, personality and success based purely on the appearance of teeth.

**Time Team in town**

Channel 4’s Time Team, researchers of family and local history, and users interested in the histories of individual communities. The Old Bailey Proceedings Online website – at www.oldbaileyonline.org – has been funded with the support of the Arts and Humanities Research Board and a £370,000 grant from the New Opportunities Fund.

**A prairie on your doorstep**

Forget the decking and blue wooden pergola. The latest way to bring innovation and excitement into the garden is to create a TV programme based purely upon the appearance of teeth.

The romantic notion of a wildflower meadow that includes a mix of grasses and flowering plants is achievable, but is relatively labour intensive. James and Nigel’s research has shown that grass is the greatest inhibitor of flowers, especially in nutrient-rich garden soils. Instead, by densely planting a mixture of colourful annuals and perennials, the team has created areas of happy co-existing flowers which do not suffer from competition from grass.

Once established, the meadow only need an annual tidy up in late winter. This gives the plants time to rest and knit together from the leaves and stolons, so that normal of their energy is wasted. The result could be described as utility in the later months of the year but, by choosing species such as Rudbeckia and Eryngium that look good in skeleton form, the meadow proves interest for a long period.

These are similar ways at at the Eden Project and at RHS Garden Wisley. “It is plain that for best results such meadows or ‘prairies’ must have a species mix tailed to them,” explains James. “It’s not an ecosystem there is no stability anyway – no perfect mix of plants, which, once found, will automatically perpetuate itself. Everything is in flux.”

**First Additional Text**

**Darwin letter discovered in filing cabinet**

A letter from Charles Darwin, lost for 100 years, has been rediscovered by Professor Tim Birkhead, a member of the Department of Zoology. The letter, along with another already known to belong to the University, is now published in the 13th volume of Darwin’s correspondence by Cambridge University Press.

Professor Birkhead explains: “I knew that the University owned one of Darwin’s letters and I decided to make a poster describing our lines of research. So I took the letter from our safe.”

In the letter, Darwin describes his correspondence with Henry Denny, an entomologist at Leeds City Museum. In his first letter, Darwin wonders whether Denny is aware of any evidence that body lice have developed into different species on the bodies of different races of humans. Denny cannot commit himself to a firm view, and in the second letter, Darwin extends his line of enquiry to species of lice observed on different species of domestic mammals and birds.

**Old Bailey court records now accessible**

A special project directed by Dr Bob Shoemaker of the University of Sheffield and Professor Tim Birkhead of the University of Hertfordshire, and involving the intensive efforts of dozens of experts and transcribers.

Shoemaker says: “The Old Bailey court records are a treasure trove of social, legal and family history because they tell us so much about the lives of ordinary people, outsiders and inhabitants in the margins of London society.”

They represent the largest single source of information about non-vile lives and behaviour ever published and provide valuable evidence of the circumstances surrounding crimes, the lives of the accused and their trials.

A series of learning packages, making the material accessible to students in schools and universities, researchers of family and local history, and users interested in the histories of individual communities.

The Old Bailey Proceedings Online website – at www.oldbaileyonline.org – has been funded with the support of the Arts and Humanities Research Board and a £330,000 grant from the New Opportunities Fund.
On 31 May 2005, the University of Sheffield will celebrate the centenary of the granting of its Royal Charter of Incorporation as a centre ‘for the advancement of knowledge, the diffusion and extension of arts, sciences and learning, and the provision of liberal, professional and technical education.’

A series of special events spanning the whole of 2005 will highlight this important landmark in the University’s history. The programme of open days, concerts, lectures, alumni reunions, a Centenary Ball and several formal events will have something for everyone – students, staff, alumni and friends.

Particular attention will be paid to two key dates: 31 May, Charter Day, marked by a special thanksgiving service in Sheffield Cathedral; and 12 July, Centenary Day, the anniversary of the opening of the University’s buildings at Western Bank by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.

Centenary History

An important event in the Centenary celebrations will be the publication of a major new History of the University. The story starts in the 19th century, with the development of the three separate institutions – Medical School, Technical School and Firth College – which combined in 1897 to form University College, Sheffield, and then the University of Sheffield following the granting of a Royal Charter on 31 May 1905. The book then traces the development of the University through the 20th century and into the new millennium. To shape the History, the University archives are being searched in depth. However, it is always the personal stories and anecdotes that bring facts and figures to life. The project team is conducting a series of interviews, and over 1,000 alumni have already responded to an email questionnaire about their experiences within Sheffield. This personal approach characterises the reader-friendly feel of the book. The earliest memories received so far are those of Lydia Merzky Henry (one of the very first female medical graduates, who received her degree in 1931), and the interwar ages range from 19 to 95.

For more information about Centenary 2005, please contact: Michael Hannan, former University Librarian and Director of Library Services, who has been appointed Centenary Director. He is working with colleagues across the University and the city to ensure that 2005 will be a year to remember. You can contact him via Helena Porter at: Tel: 0114 222 2005 or Email: centenary@sheffield.ac.uk

The Centenary History website, with details of the Centenary Programme, is available at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/centenary2005

For more information about Born in Sheffield, the story of the Jessop Hospital and women’s health services in the city, please contact Miles Stewart at: Tel: 0114 222 1206 or Email: centenaryhistory@sheffield.ac.uk or telephone Dr John Hawthorne, project administrator, on 0114 222 1306.

The Centenary project team would be delighted to hear from any alumni who would like to contribute reminiscences or who have memorabilia, including amateur films, which might be borrowed to help with the text or the illustrations. To contribute or to find out more about the Centenary History, please email: centenaryhistory@sheffield.ac.uk or telephone Dr John Hawthorne, project administrator, on 0114 222 1306.

Centenary medal returns to University

A special medal was struck in 1905 to commemorate the official opening of the University by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. An example, pictured left, has recently been acquired by Miles Stewart, Director of Development, at the University. He was alerted to the medal’s existence by Dr Melvyn Brooks (MB ChB 1969), who spotted it on an online auction. Melvyn and his wife Roma (née Bharier, LDS 1967) have lived in Israel for the last 30 years. By contacting the University, he has helped to save an interesting item of University memorabilia.

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Time capsule discovered

Perfectly preserved, it lay in the foundations of Firth Court for a century. Then, during the installation of new air conditioning, a builder’s drill went right through the lead and glass time capsule and its secrets were revealed. In June 1903, a casket was buried as part of the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of University College, Sheffield, as it was then known. Its discovery, almost 100 years to the day since it was buried, has come as a great surprise. The capsule had once contained a glass box holding papers. These included a set of plans of Firth Court and details of the procession of the Lord Mayor of London from the station to Western Bank to officiate at the ceremony.

Calling graduates of the 1930s

Hossein Farmy was a pre-war engineering student from Iran (then Persia). He graduated in 1938 with a BEng degree and went on to have a successful career in the USA. When he died in 2002, he left a legacy of over $60,000 to the University to provide scholarships which now carry his name. The University would be delighted to hear from many graduates who may remember Mr Farmy, particularly if they have a photograph of him from his student days. If you can help, please contact Miles Stewart at the Development and Alumni Relations Office (see page 1 for details).
Giving something back

The Union of Students has a strong tradition of community volunteering. For many years organised under the banner of Student Community Action, this element of the Union’s work was relaunched as Sheffield Volunteering in October 2002. The new name was chosen as it reflects the main motivation behind student involvement – “to give something back to Sheffield.”

Sheffield Volunteering exists to provide short volunteering opportunities for University of Sheffield students. A grant from the Higher Education Active Community Fund (HEACF) has transformed the existing volunteering programme and enabled many more students than ever before to play an active role in their local community.

The range of activities undertaken by student volunteers has dramatically increased during the last year, following the award from HEACF to fund new projects. Part of the Government’s Active Community scheme, the fund has been set up to enhance the role that universities play in their local community and to encourage greater involvement of students in voluntary activities. Sheffield Volunteering now manages 15 community initiatives and continues to recruit students for 50 local organisations. Student volunteers play an important role in helping local organisations to provide services to all sections of the community in Sheffield, including children and young people, people with learning disabilities, the homeless, refugees and asylum seekers and the elderly.

The focus of the organisation is in the Union of Students, with a staff of three administrators. They work closely with a student committee that meets regularly to decide policy. Kiran Sandhu, Chair of Sheffield Volunteering reports: “Since October 2002, we’ve dealt with over 500 individual enquiries about volunteering – that’s almost five per cent of the full-time student population.” These students come from a wide range of subjects and year groups.

At a time when many students need to find paid employment to help fund their studies, this level of commitment to volunteering is impressive. Many reasons are given for their involvement: “To... my skills to help others, to meet people who are not necessarily students and to put something back into the community.”

Many students are also aware that volunteering is an important addition to their CV. Research carried out on behalf of the national volunteering charity, TimeBank, by recruitment specialist Reed Executive, found that almost three quarters of employers prefer to recruit candidates with volunteering experience on their CV. Over half of the 200 companies surveyed said that voluntary experience can actually be more valuable than experience gained in paid employment.

Sheffield Volunteering offers a programme of hundreds of volunteering opportunities in schools, student-led initiatives and local charities. They are designed to fit in around studies and can become off events or short-term projects. A lot of students choose to volunteer between one and three hours regularly. Full training is provided and students receive their out-of-pocket expenses. In addition to developing lists of volunteering opportunities, Sheffield Volunteering also provides support for students to create and lead projects in the local community.

The success of Sheffield Volunteering is due to the energy and commitment of the student volunteers, the enthusiastic support of partner organisations and the launch of the HEACF initiative. The team is working hard to ensure that student involvement with local communities goes from strength to strength.

Here are three examples of the many activities undertaken by student volunteers each year:

**Just Do It**

In just two days in March 2003, 75 students gave over 450 hours of volunteering time to complete 11 tasks for nine local organisations. Sheffield Volunteering organised the event, provided funding, recruited volunteers and made sure that everyone was where they were supposed to be on time. The local groups planned the tasks, bought materials and supported the volunteers on the day. It gave students a taste of what can be achieved in just a few hours. As a result, many chose to take up regular volunteering.

**Saturday Playgroup**

An integrated project for three to eight-year-old children with learning difficulties and their siblings, the Saturday Playgroup was developed by students in 1994 and has been a registered play provision since 1996. To meet new CPSID regulations, the scheme now employs two qualified nursery nurses to co-ordinate activities. This change has meant that volunteers benefit from working alongside childcare professionals. The Playgroup is partly-funded by the Union of Students. The remaining funds are raised by Sheffield Volunteering and include a grant from the University’s Alumni Foundation.

**Tutoring and Mentoring**

Sheffield Volunteering created placements for 43 student tutors in four schools during the last year. Students were eager to share their subject knowledge and find practical application for their studies. A further five students acted as mentors to pupils at two schools, with the aim of raising their pupil’s aspirations, improving their self-esteem and developing better study skills.
News for Japanese alumni

A GROUP OF SHEFFIELD ALUMNI now living in Japan met up for a night out in Tokyo recently with Tony Ryan, a US Professor of Physical Chemistry. Tony visited Japan in July to present his Royal Society Christmas lectures series for Japanese television, and took some time out to talk Sheffield graduates about the latest developments at their University. The group enjoyed themselves so much that they are thinking about establishing a Japanese alumni group.

If you are interested in helping to form a Japanese alumni group, please email Helen Scarlett, at the University of Sheffield: hscarlett@sheffield.ac.uk

Calling all Singapore graduates

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD Alumni Association (Singapore), established in May 2002, invites local Sheffield graduates to join us. We need your help to fulfil our aims of:

- Organising networking events and reunions for fellow students, co-operation and unity among members
- Maintaining links with the University of Sheffield and supporting its programmes, where possible
- Promoting the University’s image in Singapore
- Providing information about the University for prospective students in Singapore

If you are interested in helping to form a Singapore alumni group, please email Helen Scarlett, at the University of Sheffield: hscarlett@sheffield.ac.uk

Uncovering writing talent in India

CMR 300 Entry were submitted for a national writing competition run by the University in India for its final year Arts students. The topic was ‘What makes an inspiring teacher’ and the eventual winner of the £100 prize was Dhruv Ahrora. His school, Delhi Public School, was also awarded £200 for the best entry. Dhruv was pleased with his success: “I completely completed my essay in a Psychology class and off I went. It was dedicated to my first teacher ever — Mrs Anson Chan, who was the kind of woman that everyone loved to hug. She was always willing to help.” Dhruv recently wrote his final year dissertation at St Anthony’s Men’s Senior Secondary School, Chennai, and is completing a Law degree at the University of Calcutta International School, both winning prizes of £200.

Developing links with Malaysia

THE UNIVERSITY of SHEFFIELD Alumni Association (Malaysia) has organised several successful events. All have been well attended by members and guests, including our inaugural Sheila’s Dinner and Dance and a ‘Sax and Cheese Evening’. Singapore alumni have worked hand-in-hand with the University and South East Asia Office, assisting in the September 2002 Pre-departure Briefing for Sheffield bound students and the University’s Graduation Ceremony held in Singapore.

Please contact us for more information:
C N (James) Oon, President,
5 Jalan Bunga Raya, Singapore 329450
email: singaporesheffield@yahoo.com

Alumni in the USA

ALUMNI who are now living in the USA for a living or regardless of paying US tax will be pleased to hear that we are taking steps to establish a method of tax efficient giving in America. Plans are underway to set up The University of Sheffield in America as a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt non-profit organisation. The University of Sheffield in America will enable US tax payers to make tax-deductible donations in favour of the University.

If you are an American tax payer and would like to know more, please email Helen Scarlett, at: hscarlett@sheffield.ac.uk

Developing International Alumni Relations

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD has over 100,000 alumni in more than 120 countries across the world. We are keen to develop new links with international alumni. If you are interested in forming a new international alumni group in a specific country or perhaps just helping out at student recruitment fairs, please contact:

Miriam Gerner
Development and Alumni Relations Officer
The University of Sheffield, 277 Glossop Road, Sheffield S10 2TN
Email: mgerner@sheffield.ac.uk. Website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni
honours and awards

Staff, students and alumni

Dr Nigel Rix, Director of Teaching in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in recognition of his ability to influence and inspire students, staff and the teaching profession as a whole.

Dr Bernadette O’Callaghan has been awarded the first EPSRC Senior Media Fellowship, enabling her to showcase her work through newspapers, TV, radio and the Internet. She also delivered the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, broadcast on Channel 4, in 2002.

Professor Tony Ryan (Chemistry) has been awarded the Philip Leverhulme Prize 2002, for his outstanding contributions in the field of sustainable energy.

Professor Barry Hunter (Genetic Medicine) was one of the first recipients of a Sheffield Star Community Award, in recognition of his dedication and expertise in coping for cancer patients at Weston Park Hospital.

Professor Elspeth Whitby (Biomedical Sciences) has been elected President of the Royal College ofPathologists.

Professor James Undrenwood (Medicine and Biomedical Sciences) has been elected President of the Royal College ofPathologists.

Dr Matthew Flinders (School of Health and Related Research) has been named as a British Academy Research Professor.

Professor Ian Kershaw (History) has been knighted for his services to medicine; and Professor David Hall (English Language) has been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society.

Professor April McMahon (School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences) has won the award for Outstanding Research Publication given by the American Educational Research Association for her International Handbook of Research in Medical Education.

Professor Sara Harrison (Genetic Medicine) has been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society.

Professor April McMahon (English Language) has been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society.

Professor Barry Hunter (Genetic Medicine) has been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society.

Professor David Newble (Medicine and Biomedical Sciences) has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

Professor Paul Dolan (Philosophy) and Professor Sally Shuttleworth (English Literature) have been awarded British Academy Readerships.

Professor John Vane Science Centre, and Professor April McMahon (School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences) has been appointed to the Department of Health’s Advisory Group on Genetics Research.

Professor Gordon Duff (Genetic Medicine) has been awarded the Walter Ahlström Prize 2002, for his outstanding contributions in the field of sustainable energy.

Professor David Newble (Medicine and Biomedical Sciences) has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

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I’m sure that fellow alumni will be as delighted as I am to receive this first issue of Your University – a sure sign that change is afoot in alumni relations at the University of Sheffield. Convocation gives the new magazine the warmest of welcomes. It means Convocation News will cease to be published, but we remain committed to regular contact with all our members.

Another way to keep up-to-date is via the Convocation website, so make www.sheffield.ac.uk/convocation a bookmarked favourite on your screen. The Convocation site is now professionally managed and will help to keep members informed in the work and thinking of Convocation. Indeed, a Convocation Committee is currently deliberating on the election of members of Convocation to serve on the Court of the University and hopes that it will propose an electronic electoral process. If you would like to play a more active role in Convocation, please do contact me.

The next few years will be challenging and exciting for the University and its alumni. The University will need the support of its alumni in a variety of ways. We all have something to offer, so please don’t be shy in coming forward with that offer. The first and probably most important thing you can do is to talk to us. Please do so.

Another member to serve on the University Council

Members are also invited to submit items for consideration or resolutions in accordance with the By-Laws. Nominations for election or business to be considered are to be sent to the Secretary & Clerk, Convocation, Freepost SN56, 9/12 East Parade, Sheffield S1 1AY, to be received no later than Saturday, 18 October 2003.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Convocation for the year ended Saturday, 15 November 2003 at 11.00am will be held at the University of Sheffield (exact venue to be notified when numbers attending are known) on Saturday, 15 November 2003 at 11.00am or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Business to be conducted will include a presentation by Michael Hannon on the University’s Centenary Celebrations in 2005 and an interim report from the Commission on the Elections for Court.

Nominations are invited for:

1. Chairman and Vice-Chairman
2. Secretary & Clerk and Treasurer
3. Members to serve on the Convocation Committee
4. One member to serve on the University Council

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In order to obtain the papers and be given details of the precise venue and agenda, would any member hoping to attend the AGM please notify the Secretary & Clerk either at the above address or by email at: rmwrigley@norrie-waite.com