Catch up with friends from Sheffield

Sheffield Reunited – the online directory of Sheffield alumni – is fast becoming a hive of activity, with over 4,300 people now registered users. The more people that join, the better it gets!

You can post your own message for visiting alumni to read, update your contact details quickly and easily, and even contact lost friends via the secure email forwarding service. Sheffield Reunited is easy to use, with full instructions provided on the website.

But remember, you have to be registered to take part in Sheffield Reunited, so please visit:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/sheffield-reunited

www.sheffield.ac.uk/sheffield-reunited and use your unique alumni number (find this on the questionnaire accompanying this magazine or request it via the Sheffield Reunited website) to register.

And don’t forget to activate your email forwarding account so that lost University friends can be reunited with you.
Welcome to the 2006 issue of Your University magazine.

2005 was certainly a year to remember as the University celebrated its Charter Centenary. A year-long programme of events celebrated 100 years of excellence and thousands of alumni, staff and friends attended prestigious lectures, came back for reunions or took part in special events and dinners in the UK, the Caribbean, the United States and Asia. Many had not been back to Sheffield since graduating and the Centenary Year gave them the opportunity to reconnect not only with old friends but also with the University.

Sheffield has always been an international university and, talking to alumni in China, Malaysia and Hong Kong, I was particularly struck by the huge amount of pride our overseas alumni have in their University. Sheffield – both the city and the University – has a very special place in their hearts and they are fiercely proud of its reputation and successes. As one alumna said, “It's a university which educates with warmth and brings out the best in its students.”

This year it is the turn of the Union of Students to celebrate its centenary – it can trace its history back to February 1906. Sheffield's Union has regularly been voted the best in the UK, providing excellent support, recreation and learning opportunities for our students.

The original Union building was paid for by the Sheffield benefactor Alderman JG Graves. In 1894 he donated £15,000 and said, “It gives me pleasure to offer to undertake to bear the costs of the building as a personal gift to the students of the University, present and future, in the hope that it may add to their pleasure and comfort in their student years, and help towards pleasant memories of Sheffield and its people in years to come.” This tradition of support from alumni and friends continues and you can read about some of the current projects which have received generous funding from today's beneficiaries in the following pages.

A theme running through the magazine is that of knowledge transfer. The University is building strong, mutually beneficial relationships throughout the country and region, as well as nationally and internationally, in a spirit of innovation and enterprise. Examples include the work of the Office of Corporate Partnerships, the Sheffield Bioincubator, and the Channel exhibition.

We also look at plans to overhaul our provision of student accommodation. A new 'Student Village', comprising a range of modern, safe, conveniently located rooms and flats, is scheduled for completion in 2008/09 and will replace some of the more out-dated Halls of Residence.

Finally, please remember to 'update your details' if anything has changed. You can use the enclosed questionnaire, complete one online, or better still, log on to Sheffield Reunited and make your changes there (www.sheffield.ac.uk/sheffield-reunited).

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of Your University. Please get in touch if you have any comments or suggestions.

Miles Stevenson
Director of Development

The Development and Alumni Relations Office is your contact point at the University. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact us:

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: alumni@sheffield.ac.uk
Website: www.sheffield.ac.uk

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Editor Kate Horton Public Relations
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Simply the best

Highlights from the first century of student representation at Sheffield

The University’s first elected student president took office in 1906. Since that time, the Union of Students has developed into one of the UK’s undoubted success stories of the student world.

**1906-1926**

- **Day students:** 585 (1906) 857 (1926)
- **Male:female ratio:** 74:26 (1906) 66:34 (1926)

**Student Representative Council (SRC)** formed in 1906, with FG Belton as its first president.

Male and female students initially occupy separate common rooms in the Main Building. Later they are allocated 4 Leavygreave (men) and 1 Northumberland Road (women) as social facilities.

In the early years, girls are chaperoned at dances in Firth Hall, which ended at midnight.

SRC persuades the University to purchase playing fields at Norton in 1910.

Rag starts in 1920, with medical students raising money for local hospitals.

SRC becomes Union of Students in 1921. National Union of Students founded a year later.

20 student societies in 1910/11, ranging from Association Football to Women’s Christian Union.

**1926-1946**

- **Day students:** 857 (1926)
- **Full-time students:** 1,355 (1946)
- **Male:female ratio:** 66:34 (1926) 79:21 (1946)

First Rag magazine, called *The Star*, produced in 1926; 85,000 copies printed in 1929. Renamed *T'Wikker* (after the Wicker Arches) in 1930.

Warden of Endcliffe House suspends female student in 1926 for returning late on three occasions.

Arrows launched in 1929 and goes on to become longest running arts magazine outside Oxbridge, before folding in 1993.

Ali Yousef, an Egyptian, was first international student to become President in 1935.

Union of Students’ Building opened in 1936 and named after its benefactor, local businessman JG Graves.

Darts (*'little arrows’*) published as a student newspaper in 1946, having first appeared as duplicated news sheets during the war.
1946-1966

Full-time students: 1,355 (1946)
5,181 (1966)

Male:female ratio: 78:21 (1946)
72:28 (1966)

1940 issue of T'Wikker changes hands for £1 a copy after it is banned by the University for its 'offensive' material.

Students march to oppose apartheid in 1959.

Union President Julian Allitt marries the Vice-Chancellor's daughter, Eleanor Robson, in 1969.


Student Reception set up in 1960 to show prospective students round the campus.

New Union of Students' Building opens in 1962, containing 'the longest Union bar in the country'.

Sabbatical post of President becomes full-time and paid in 1960.

Student Community Action established in the 1960s to encourage student volunteering in the local community.

Saturday night 'hops' replaced in the 1960s by gigs featuring the Kinks, Yardbirds, Manfred Mann and the Drifters.

Pyjama Jump – the combined pub crawl and night-club pyjama party – begins in 1965.

Union Building revamped in £4 million conversion, completed in 1996.

First International Cultural Evening held in 1972.

Pin-ups in T'Wikker cease in 1975 following protests from the Women's Liberation Group.

Nursery established in 1976 after campaign by Union.

Firth Court occupied for eight days in February 1977 over international student fees.

Darts and Arrows win 'Best College Newspaper' and 'Best College Magazine' at The Guardian/NUS Student Media Awards in 1982.

Darts performed unannounced at the Union, 1972

'Give it a go' introduced in 2000, enabling students to 'pick and mix' sports and leisure activities.

183 student societies in 2005/06, ranging from Alternative Ironing to Wannabe Information Professionals.


1966-1986

Full-time students: 5,181 (1966)
8,091 (1986)

60:40 (1986)

Union President Julian Allitt marries the Vice-Chancellor's daughter, Eleanor Robson, in 1969.


Student Reception set up in 1960 to show prospective students round the campus.

New Union of Students' Building opens in 1962, containing 'the longest Union bar in the country'.

Sabbatical post of President becomes full-time and paid in 1960.

Student Community Action established in the 1960s to encourage student volunteering in the local community.

Saturday night 'hops' replaced in the 1960s by gigs featuring the Kinks, Yardbirds, Manfred Mann and the Drifters.

Pyjama Jump – the combined pub crawl and night-club pyjama party – begins in 1965.

Union joins the University in 2,000-strong protest march in 1982 against government cuts in funding.

Octagon Centre opens in 1983 as a shared facility with the University.

Pioneer 'Rights and Advice' welfare service set up in 1983.

End-of-year celebrations, 2000

'Give it a go' introduced in 2000, enabling students to 'pick and mix' sports and leisure activities.

183 student societies in 2005/06, ranging from Alternative Ironing to Wannabe Information Professionals.


1986-2006

Full-time students: 8,091 (1986)
20,923 (2006)


Six of the seven sabbatical posts taken by women in 1993.

Themed club nights in the 1990s include 'Mrs Thatcher's Big Night Out', 'Pop Tarts' and 'El Tel's Midweek Fixture'.

Nursery established in 1976 after campaign by Union.

Firth Court occupied for eight days in February 1977 over international student fees.

Darts and Arrows win 'Best College Newspaper' and 'Best College Magazine' at The Guardian/NUS Student Media Awards in 1982.

Darts and Arrows with their 1982 media awards

New-look Union Building

Union Building revamped in £4 million conversion, completed in 1996.

Last Pyjama Jump and last Rag Parade held in 1996 and 1997 respectively.

Robbie Williams, INXS and Nirvana headline in the Union at the end of the 1990s.
Miwako has been living in Sheffield for six months with her husband, a visiting professor in the University, and today it is her turn to entertain fellow international wives at their weekly social gathering. Wearing a traditional kimono, she gives an engaging demonstration of the Japanese tea ceremony in all its finery. Watching on is Marion Maitlis (Hon MA 2003), who 33 years ago helped set up the Overseas Wives Club to provide a social outlet for women whose partners are studying for masters and doctoral degrees in the University, or are visiting scholars in academic departments.

“The club has grown in size over the years, so that now we have 95 members representing 28 countries,” said Marion, its first and only chairman. “We encourage our overseas wives to share their cultures and traditions with us, and our weekly presentations have included talks on Outer Mongolia and Indian wedding customs, lessons on Tai Chi and Ikebana, sampling of Siberian dumplings and the national dishes of Korea and Libya, wonderful Mexican dancing and a performance by a Chinese opera singer.”

The success of the club is also down to the commitment of the support staff, among whom is Rosemary Boucher, wife of Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob Boucher. “Most of our helpers are connected with the University in one way or another and they enjoy sharing their interests and life experiences with overseas wives,” said Rosemary. “We organise parties at Christmas, outings to places such as the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Cutlers’ Hall, bring-and-buy sales, and informal coffee mornings in helpers’ houses. The walking group makes frequent visits into Derbyshire and I have set up several University Book Groups, which bring together female staff and overseas wives.”

The Overseas Wives Club is part of a comprehensive network of support services provided by the University and the Union of Students for the partners and families of international students. The English Language Teaching Centre runs regular classes for overseas wives and husbands, and the Student Services Department deals with visa extensions when they are needed. “This year we organised a ‘Meet the Parents’ day for the first time as part of our International Intro Week,” said Deborah Green, Assistant Director of Student Services. “The event was a great success, with overseas wives, husbands and partners getting to know each other and about living in Sheffield.” Deborah’s team also publishes a popular newsletter for international students and their families, and offers guidance on part-time study opportunities at the University.

In the Union of Students, welfare support for international students and their families is provided by Jo Holliday and her colleagues in the Student Advice Centre. An important aspect of their work is the complex issue of immigration. “Some of our international families run into difficulties when trying to enter Britain, and we liaise with the appropriate agencies to iron out the problems,” said Jo. Her team also offers guidance on housing matters and employment issues – such as the right of partners to work in this country – and helps international families find appropriate childcare facilities. Both Deborah and Jo are long-serving members of the Board of UKCOSA (UK Council for International Education) – a reflection of their national standing.

Among the major social activities organised by the Union of Students are the International Food and Cultural Evenings, and the International Ball. “We are always pleased to welcome international families to these events and to our Intro Fiesta,” said Gajendri Raviprakash, the Union’s International Sabbatical Officer. “Their enthusiasm and sparkle contribute so much to these happy occasions.”

“It’s difficult to put in words how significant this club has been for me. I met wonderful friends. I learnt about different cultures and different ways to do things. I shared experiences. I developed confidence speaking English and I broadened my knowledge about British culture. The International Wives Club has provided me with memories for the rest of my life.”

Alejandra Fuentes, from Chile

Home from home
Caring for overseas families at the University
Lik Peng, a lawyer turned hotelier, began his collection of designer chairs with a purchase from a London market; he now usually brings one home from every business trip. They are an integral part of the hotel’s décor and contribute to its distinctive and quirky style. Opened just three years ago, Hotel 1929 has attracted rave reviews from international style and travel magazines: “1929 is unarguably the most hip, happening and aesthetically cool boutique hotel in Singapore and Asia” FHM, “The hotel flirts with decadence without slipping into its full blown embrace” The Asian Wall Street Journal.

Hotel 1929 was one of the first boutique hotels in Singapore, following the principle of ‘small is beautiful’. Each of the 32 bedrooms is distinctive, from the furnishings to the bathrooms. Two suites on the top floor have outdoor hot tubs set in tropical roof gardens, which overlook the bustling streets of Chinatown. “The property came up for sale,” explains Lik Peng, “and it’s a great building. The frontage, built in 1929, was a row of shops and we converted five units into the hotel. My proudest achievement has been surviving this experience, and actually getting somewhere with it! I now also own the New Majestic Hotel in Singapore, which has recently undergone a multi-million dollar conversion.

“For me, the impetus came when I was in my third year of practice as a lawyer, when I realised that I would always be solving someone else’s problems. I think lawyers by their training and by their nature are conservative creatures. I had to unlearn a lot of that. I wanted the autonomy to try the things that really interest me, whether it is restaurants, hotels or travel. I think the biggest challenge after the funding was learning the ropes. Running the hotels is the most humbling experience because, all the way from staffing, to management systems to IT systems, to furnishings, room layouts, every layer has its own complexity. It’s been a steep learning curve and you sort of have to run to catch up. Having said that, I think coming from a law background is a great help to me.

“Opening Hotel 1929 was tough for us. We opened in the midst of SARS. We had a full house from almost day one and then within two weeks everything just disappeared. And nobody could tell us how long it was going to last. However, it did mean that we had to learn right from the start how to operate leanly. We were a new organisation and we were relatively quick to adapt.”

Lik Peng’s achievements were recognised when he was named New Tourism Entrepreneur of the Year in the Singapore Tourism Awards in 2004. He obviously has ambitions for the future: “I like to see Hotel 1929 as a model to expand into other markets, hotels, restaurants, that sort of thing. To succeed, it takes a mixture of guts, luck, sheer determination and faith – most importantly faith.”

Chairs are a passion for Loh Lik Peng. This Sheffield graduate (LLB 1995) has scattered a range of classic, vintage designs throughout his Hotel 1929, in Singapore’s Chinatown. The foyer alone contains an Arne Jacobsen ‘Swan’, a Pierre Paulin ‘Tulip’ and a Paul Volther ‘Corona’. Elsewhere, highlights include a Joseph Hoffman ‘Kubus’ sofa and examples by Charles and Ray Eames.
Sheffield moves up world ranking of universities

The University is rated eighth in the UK and eighteenth in Europe, and has moved up four places to sixty-fifth in the world in an annual academic ranking of the top 500 universities worldwide. Researchers at China’s Shanghai Jiao Tong University evaluated the universities using several research performance indicators, including the number of highly cited researchers, academic performance, articles in Science and Nature and the number of Nobel Prize winners.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob Boucher comments, “The University’s ranking is indicative of our ongoing achievement of excellence in research and teaching. For research, we have top 5 and 5* ratings in 35 subject areas embracing 85 per cent of our academic staff, and in terms of teaching, 29 of our subjects are graded as excellent, which is the third highest number in the UK.

“It is part of our mission to be internationally recognised as a world-class research and teaching centre across a wide range of disciplines, and I’m pleased to see that this year’s ranking recognises our commitment to this goal.”

Students are doing it for themselves

Regeneration Project aims to provide long-term housing for Sheffield’s homeless by converting derelict houses into liveable homes. As a start-up business, Sheffield SIFE is organised like a regular firm with an executive board made up of students and a non-executive board of leading regional business people. Tomas Tuominen, a second-year Mechanical Engineering student and Sheffield SIFE Managing Director, explains, “By supporting student-run enterprise and involving ourselves in hard-nosed business we are set to become financially self-sustaining and fully able to provide unique services to local organisations and groups. The range of initiatives we are running reflects the existing level of imagination and flair in the team and this will continue to grow as our projects succeed.”

SIFE is a global organisation involving student entrepreneurs on more than 1,800 university campuses in more than 40 countries. For more information on Sheffield SIFE, visit www.sheffieldsife.org.

On the Primacy of the Square

Aluminium is the material from which precision engines are machined and constructed, to the finest tolerances. It is also the “clay of metals” to the sculptor Mark Firth. On the Primacy of the Square, now sited on the main staircase of Firth Hall (pictured right), was commissioned by the University for its Centenary from this great-great-grandson of its first benefactor, also Mark Firth, the Sheffield steel magnate.

“This is a very specific piece for the building, and the city,” he explains. “I am made aware on a daily basis of what made Sheffield famous. My bevel protractor, micrometer, squares, rulers, calipers and indexing tools and my cutting tools were all made in Sheffield. The piece is a glorious right angle, a device that embodies the beauty of precision and suggests an essential purpose. It has connotations of measurement and industrial function – the traverse of a Vernier gauge, trammel bars or the cross-slide of a machine tool. The piece is machined from aluminium, for lightness and brightness, and the striations from the milling machine cause it to twinkle in the light, lifting the space that it occupies.”

Mark Firth has exhibited his work regularly in Britain and Europe, with occasional shows in Canada and the United States. His sculpture is in numerous public and private collections internationally. View his work at www.mark-firth.com or from his London gallery at www.jillgeorgegallery.co.uk.
Politics celebrates

The Department of Politics celebrated its fortieth birthday in November 2005, with a series of public lectures on contemporary political issues. Speakers were Professor Steve Smith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter, and one of the leading theorists of international relations in the UK, Lord Roy Hattersley (LittD 1998), former Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and political commentator, and Madeleine Bunting, columnist for the Guardian. This final event was followed by a dinner attended by former and current staff and postgraduate students, which was addressed by the Vice-Chancellor and the department’s best-known alumnus, David Blunkett MP (BA 1972).

Professor Michael Kenny, who joined the department as its new head in 2005, comments, “These lectures confirmed our commitment to bridging the divide between the study and teaching of politics and the debates and controversies that shape political life more generally.”

The department has gone from strength to strength in recent years, establishing itself as one of the best for teaching and research in political science in the country. It received a top 5*A rating in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise. There are now 25 full-time academic staff, including 10 professors. The department is especially known for its strengths in the fields of political thought, British politics, international politics, public policy and political economy.

Recent developments include two new research centres – the Centre for International Politics, and the Centre for Political Thought and Ideologies. A new undergraduate degree in International Relations and Politics and a Masters in Political Theory, taught in co-operation with the Department of Philosophy, are exciting additions to the department’s portfolio of courses.

New Jobshop on campus

The University’s Careers Service and the Union of Students have joined forces to help students find jobs while they study. The new Student Jobshop advertises part-time job vacancies, and a team of experienced staff provides help and advice.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob Boucher, who opened the new facility, comments, “The Jobshop is superb and is already proving very popular with our students and local employers. We are totally committed to supporting students in their search for jobs to help them with their personal development as well as their finances.”

Pop Tarts in London

Suffering withdrawal symptoms from a lack of Pop Tarts? There is now a solution – Pop Tarts London! The idea came about when some friends from the University were talking about how they missed the good old days (and nights) of Sheffield student life, now that they had proper jobs. With the help of a small events company called Club Nostalgia, a group of recent graduates brought a taste of Sheffield to London. The night of 24 September 2005 saw the biggest yet Sheffield reunion, with over 1,000 graduates flocking to an authentic recreation of the Pop Tarts club night at the Camden Centre, King’s Cross.

“People bumped into old friends they’d known from halls, lectures or societies,” said Toby Hammond, one of the organisers. “There were shrieks of laughter as people saw the glitterball-speckled hall, complete with a large projector screen showing scenes from student life at Sheffield.”

“The bar was really busy all night,” says Katherine Preston (BMedSci 2002), “and by midnight we started to run out of some drinks and had to invent new combinations like Gin & Ribena – but no-one seemed to mind! We were also delighted to raise £1,000 for the Sheffield Alumni Foundation, which will help to fund student hardship bursaries and other worthy projects going on at the University.”

Visit www.poptartslondon.co.uk for details of the next event.

A quintet of Politics’ professors: (left-right) Patrick Seyd, Martin Smith, Mike Kenny, Tony Payne and Andrew Gamble
The Alumni Fund in action

More than £300,000 has been raised for student projects across the campus.

Helping a new generation of Sheffield students realise their potential.

“We are delighted that, to date, more than 2,000 alumni and friends have chosen to continue their involvement with the University and help students of the future by making a donation to the Alumni Fund.

“Since the Alumni Fund began in 2003, you have generously supported us with donations totalling over £300,000. Thanks to this support, we can ensure that the University continues to be a place of opportunity for our students – to achieve academic ambitions, to form new and lasting friendships, and to explore and develop new ideas, skills and talents.

“The projects featured on these pages are just some of the ways in which your donations are transforming the lives of current Sheffield students. Thank you so much for your continued support. By donating to the Alumni Fund you ensure that, even after you have graduated, you can still make a real difference to the life and work of the University and its students.”

Ruth Stanley
Development Manager – Alumni Fund

Centenary Scholarships

One of the most important ways in which your donations are helping to transform the student experience at Sheffield is through the creation of Centenary Scholarships for academically bright but financially disadvantaged students who might otherwise not be able to afford to study at university. Several scholarship-holders have now finished their degrees, including Rob Walker (BSc 2005): “I’m currently working as a software developer on a graduate scheme for a large IT company in Manchester. So far I’m really enjoying my work, the best part of which is the network of friends I’ve made on the scheme.”

Since 2003 donations from the Alumni Fund have created bursaries for 65 students.

Your gifts have also enabled one of our current students, Victoria Feest (Zoology) to really go places – literally. Her scholarship enabled her to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime field trip to Borneo, to study the diversity and co-existence of the Parashorea tree with other tree species. During the trip, Victoria and her group of fellow students were also able to observe the jungle wildlife first-hand, including Borneo’s native orang-utans.

“I had an absolutely amazing time in Borneo – it was by far the best experience of my university life. Thank you so much to all the alumni who made this possible for me.”

Victoria Feest, third-year student, Zoology

Contact

To make a donation to the Alumni Fund, please complete and return the Alumni Fund flyer included in this magazine. Alternatively, for more information please contact the Alumni Fund Manager Ruth Stanley on tel: 0114 222 1075, or email re.stanley@sheffield.ac.uk.

Victoria Feest (second from right) and her study group in Borneo
Enhancing student life

Alumni donations have also helped to maintain the tradition of first-class extracurricular activities at Sheffield. As the Union of Students celebrates its centenary this year, we are proud that more than 50 student clubs, societies and other student-run projects have benefited from Alumni Fund grants. These include:

- The Japan Society, who received a grant to stage a day of Japanese music, dance, food and culture
- The Sheffield Sabres American football team, whose grant enabled them to buy new team helmets
- The new Union of Students’ women’s magazine Wanda, which tackles issues such as equal opportunities, safety around campus and breast cancer awareness
- Sheffield Volunteering’s annual Sports Day for children from disadvantaged areas of Sheffield

Creating a 21st-century learning environment

Unrestricted donations from the Alumni Fund also help us to provide the very best study facilities and equipment for our students. The University is currently involved in its largest and most ambitious capital development programme, including the new Student Residences and the Information Commons (see pages 10 and 25). Your gifts make a real difference to these projects, which feature cutting-edge design, state-of-the-art IT and environmentally friendly building materials.
One of the most exciting and imaginative building schemes in the hundred-year history of the University got under way at the start of 2006. When it is completed in three years’ time, students will be able to choose from a wide range of modern accommodation that offers flexible catering arrangements and centralised social facilities.

At the heart of the £160 million project – one of the largest of its kind in the UK higher education system – is the recognition that students nowadays demand greater choice in accommodation and catering provision, in what is a highly competitive market place. Only nine per cent of the existing accommodation at Sheffield is en-suite, for example, and up to 30 students can be using communal bathrooms and pantry facilities in the halls of residence. At Earnshaw there is a one-in-four chance that students will be sharing a room.

There is also a significant financial angle, with backlog maintenance costs in the halls of residence and flats currently standing at £15 million, and rising at the rate of about £1 million a year. And even if this work is carried out, the University would still be left with building stock that in some cases is past its sell-by date.

So how is the project being financed? “The University has passed on both the risk and the reward to Bovis,” says Registrar and Secretary Dr David Fletcher. “Bovis in turn have joined forces with HSBC to form Catalyst Higher Education (Sheffield) Ltd. and they will be financing the project by means of a bond launch. In this way, the project is kept off the University’s balance sheet.”

The scheme involves the demolition of Earnshaw, Sorby and Ranmoor Halls of Residence, together with Wolfson Flats and Woodvale Flats, and their replacement by state-of-the-art accommodation for single undergraduates, mature students and families. When the project is completed in 2009, a total of 3,540 new study-bedrooms will be in place – 2,360 on the Endcliffe site and 1,180 on the Ranmoor site.

In addition, refurbishment work will be carried out on Stephenson Hall, Crewe Flats, Endcliffe Vale Flats and Crescent Flats, all of which the University is transferring to Bovis, and on the remaining University-owned residences, including Halifax Hall, Broad Lane Court, Mappin Court and St George’s Flats.

“The new accommodation will be built in phases and to a completely different design from that in our existing halls,” explains Pat McGrath, Head of Accommodation and Campus Services. “Students will be accommodated in ‘cluster units’ containing six people on average. The units will include en-suite study-bedrooms, a kitchen/dining area and a lounge. Family units will be available on both the Endcliffe and Ranmoor sites, together with studio accommodation for couples.

“We are also making major changes in our catering and social facilities for students. Each site will include a central Hub building, with restaurant, cafe, bars, meeting rooms and a 24-hour IT centre.

Dr Roger Allum, Director of Public Relations, investigates the University’s strategy for student accommodation.

The future of Student
These new facilities will complement existing social provision in Halifax and Stephenson Halls.

Bovis will be responsible for building and refurbishing the residences, and for maintaining them up until the year 2046. For its part, the University will undertake the day-to-day running of the buildings and provide for the welfare needs of students. This will take the form of a network of student representatives acting as mentors in each accommodation block, co-ordinated by an experienced professional trained in pastoral care.

The scale and potential of the project provides considerable scope for the University in the accommodation market. "We will be delivering a thoroughly modern scheme which uses the Endcliffe and Ranmoor sites much more effectively than in the past, to the benefit of both our students and our conference delegates," says Pat McGrath. "Residents in the energy-efficient buildings will enjoy views of the parkland setting on both sites, which will be enhanced by the selective planting of over a hundred trees."

Rachel Evans, Welfare Officer in the Union of Students, welcomes the flexibility and choice that the new accommodation will offer to students. "The open-ended catering provision in the Hubs is a significant improvement on the current arrangements, both in terms of the range of food that will be available and the longer hours of service," she says. "The Union also supports the idea of students being able to choose between en-suite accommodation in the new residences and the traditional study-bedrooms in the refurbished halls and flats."

"The impact of the project on the local economy has been an important consideration in the planning process," says Dr Fletcher. "We have worked long and hard to address issues raised by local residents, and they are playing a full and active role on our Construction Interface Group which monitors the progress of the project."

The rebuilding and refurbishment work on the Endcliffe and Ranmoor sites is one element in a three-pronged Student Residences Strategy that has been adopted by the University. "Our decision to concentrate University-owned accommodation mainly on the Endcliffe and Ranmoor sites means that we are now in position to sell many of the student houses that we own, and to place restrictive covenants on them so that they can revert to being family properties," explains Pat McGrath.

"Altogether, 130 of these houses are being sold, together with University flats on Riverdale Road, Taptonville Road, Victoria Street and Crookesmoor Road. We are also selling Tapton Hall of Residence, as its location on Crookes Road is too remote for incorporation into the complexes on the Endcliffe and Ranmoor sites."

The third arm of the Residences Strategy has involved the University negotiating leases with property developers for bed-spaces in new-build flat complexes in the city centre. "We have been able to secure favourable rent levels for single students and families," says Pat McGrath, "and they will now be spoilt for choice in deciding where they want to live when they come to study at the University."
Knowledge transfer –
Let your University provide solutions to your

During their time at Sheffield, students are often unaware of the full range of activity that goes on beyond the lecture theatre door. Each year, academics are involved in delivering research projects and consultancy contracts worth in excess of £80 million. Many of these are undertaken with and for the benefit of business, industry and the public sector. These partners range from major blue-chip companies on the one hand to small, regionally based organisations on the other. Whatever their size, by accessing the University’s knowledge base, they are improving their productivity and competitiveness.

The University can help with:

• **Problem solving** – we will investigate, identify and propose solutions to your business problems through collaborative and applied research, consultancy and associated government supported schemes.

• **Recruitment** – from student projects and work placements to the recruitment of graduates, improve the quality of your workforce.

• **Training** – access training targeted to the needs of your business.

• **Licensing** – access a wide portfolio of existing intellectual property that can be licensed for exploitation.

• **Testing and equipment** – utilise an extensive array of equipment, including prototype and purpose-built kit.

• **Company visits and showcase events** – we can showcase current research or help brainstorm priorities and novel approaches to long-term business challenges.

• **Networking** – benefit from our global networks with other universities, government organisations, charities and companies.

**Contact**

Tel: 0114 222 1459
Fax: 0114 222 1457
Email: ocp@sheffield.ac.uk
Website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/business

**Case Studies**

**Kroto Research Campus**

The Kroto Research Campus, adjacent to the Mappin Building, brings together experts from scientific, engineering, and medical disciplines to carry out cutting-edge research. This inward investment project is the result of close collaboration between the University, Yorkshire Forward, Sheffield First for Investment and Renaissance South Yorkshire. The project will attract global businesses to Sheffield to work on innovative solutions to advanced industrial problems. The site provides 18,000 square metres of research facilities, plus business incubators, commercial laboratories and cleanroom space for leading-edge start-up companies. Space is also available for firms to develop bespoke facilities. The Nobel Prize-winner Professor Sir Harry Kroto (BSc Chemistry 1961, PhD 1964, DSc 1995) said, “This is an imaginative and ambitious venture by the University of Sheffield and it is a great personal honour to me that the programme carries my family name.”

Visit www.krotoresearchcampus.com for more details.

**Novel battery**

The University operates its own Proof of Concept Fund to help academics realise the commercial benefit of their research. Professor Peter Wright (Engineering Materials) received backing from the fund to develop a prototype lithium battery, utilising the novel solvent-free polymer electrolyte materials that have been developed in the University over the past three years. Professor Wright explained, “The funding was awarded at a critical point when we had a large commercial organisation interested in the technology.” Solvent-free lithium batteries promise to reduce considerably the hazards in battery use and fabrication, and offer improved battery life and energy storage capacity. A patent has been granted, and the battery has generated significant worldwide interest.
Once they have graduated, our alumni may work for a private company, a public sector organisation or their own business. They may face the challenge of developing a new product or service or have a problem that could benefit from specialist input. One source of expertise is the University. As Michelle Nolan, Director of the Office of Corporate Partnerships (OCP), explains, “We want to encourage our alumni to access the expertise available here at Sheffield. Our academic staff can take on consultancy roles, become involved in research projects and work collaboratively with businesses.”

The OCP is the gateway for public and private sector organisations wanting to access knowledge and expertise at the University. The office also provides a focal point for the University’s relationships within the city of Sheffield and the region. “Our links with the business community focus on knowledge transfer and operate on many different levels,” continues Michelle. “The University has an important role to play in the process of stimulating enterprise and economic growth, and informing public policy. Our world-class research generates a wealth of new knowledge and technologies that can benefit the economy and the community at large.

“This is also a two-way process. We are keen to involve business in work undertaken in the University. There are opportunities to fund academic posts, sponsor capital projects or even bring your knowledge directly to students through lecturing and mentoring. I would be delighted to hear from alumni who want to investigate the possibilities of working with us, either as customers or simply in helping to ensure that our teaching and research has an impact beyond academia.”

Recruitment of care staff
Anchor Trust, the largest not-for-profit provider of housing, support and care in England, collaborated with Professor Pam Enderby (School of Health and Related Research) to identify evidence-based best practice in relation to recruitment and retention of care staff. This work was supported by a Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) grant – one of the government’s most successful technology transfer schemes – which provided funding to help Anchor Trust recruit a recent graduate to work on this joint project. Jane Ashcroft, Managing Director of Anchor Trust, commented, “The KTP scheme has been an excellent way to establish a mutually beneficial collaboration with our partners at the University of Sheffield. Now that a partnership is in place, we hope that it will mark the start of an extended alliance that will continue to support the development of our business through high quality research.”

Ants and BT
Ants use chemical, visual and even magnetic cues to orientate themselves when out foraging. These complex biological systems are of great interest to industry. Researchers from British Telecommunications (BT) provided funding to bring Professors Mike Holcombe (Computer Science) and Francis Ratnieks (Animal and Plant Sciences) together to investigate how natural complex systems work, with the long-term aim of developing new algorithms and computer programmes to handle such systems. These may be applied to networks as complicated as those used by, for example, mobile phones. The team has concentrated on the activities of Pharaoh’s ants, which produce elaborate trail networks throughout their foraging environment.
A time in their life when they may not be biologically disadvantaged. Plan Ahead works by measuring three hormones in the blood and calculating the resultant Ovarian Reserve Index. This is then plotted on a predictive curve and is accurate for up to two years, enabling women to make a more informed decision about whether they need to try for a baby sooner rather than later.

Professor Bill Ledger, who developed the test, says, “My hope is that Plan Ahead will help many women avoid the anguish caused by the early or unexpected arrival of declining fertility and menopause.”

The Bioincubator does not confine its range of activities to working with young businesses. Large pharmacological companies are also able to benefit from tenancy by gaining access to partners with pipelines of innovative research, which could enhance their own business and mitigate the risks inherent in research and development.

As Dr Mark Tock, the Bioincubator’s Manager, explains, “This is a really exciting period for the bioscience industry in the region, as it receives increased funding and support from both public and private quarters. We welcome contact from alumni involved in the business and bioscience sectors, to engage with us and to share their expertise – we would be especially delighted to offer them a home for their own bioscience enterprises.”

For further information visit www.sheffieldbioincubator.com, or call Dr Mark Tock on tel: 0114 222 7447.

Business incubation is an important vehicle for encouraging business growth. The £6.9 million Sheffield Bioincubator, housed in a landmark building on the University campus, is offering start-up companies the opportunity to develop their ideas and accelerate commercialisation.

“The Sheffield Bioincubator is a cutting-edge facility at the heart of one of Europe’s foremost bioscience research bases,” comments Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob Boucher. “This facility is providing the infrastructure and support a young company needs to succeed. It is a prime example of how agencies can collaborate to assist young bioscience businesses in achieving sustained growth.” The Bioincubator has been created by the University of Sheffield in partnership with Objective 1 South Yorkshire, and is supported by Yorkshire Forward, Sheffield First for Investment, and Business Link South Yorkshire.

The Bioincubator was officially opened by Minister for Science and Innovation Lord Sainsbury, at a special ceremony on 10 February 2006. He said, “I congratulate all involved with this project for having the vision – and acting on it – to create a new facility which has the potential to give local networks, Stuart Gall, Commercial Director of Biofusion, explains, “The Bioincubator is an important vehicle for encouraging business growth, and has provided us with many of the resources needed to create successful products. It means that we can house not only ourselves here, but also the start-up companies we will be backing. Young companies can work alongside us and then expand into their own space as they develop.”

Another tenant, Lifestyle Choices, has launched a test that is helping women to plan to have their first or subsequent children at a time in their life when they may not be biologically disadvantaged. Plan Ahead works by measuring three hormones in the blood and calculating the resultant Ovarian Reserve Index. This is then plotted on a predictive curve and is accurate for up to two years, enabling women to make a more informed decision about whether they need to try for a baby sooner rather than later. Professor Bill Ledger, who developed the test, says, “My hope is that Plan Ahead will help many women avoid the anguish caused by the early or unexpected arrival of declining fertility and menopause.”

One such business is Biofusion, established by the University to commercialise intellectual property. It has benefited from the facility’s extensive services, which range from top-class laboratory and office spaces to access to specialised business support and resources. Stuart Gall, Commercial Director of Biofusion, explains, “The Bioincubator is an important vehicle for encouraging business growth, and has provided us with many of the resources needed to create successful products. It means that we can house not only ourselves here, but also the start-up companies we will be backing. Young companies can work alongside us and then expand into their own space as they develop.”

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**Crossing boundaries**

*Channel* – a collaboration between the Department of French and Cupola Contemporary Art – strengthens cross-Channel cultural links.

Exploring the cultural identities and practices of artists working in France and the UK, *Channel* has been an exciting project for Dr Amanda Crawley Jackson: “The exhibition developed from a research project I have been working on with Karen Sherwood of Cupola. We joined forces thanks to the Knowledge Transfer Opportunities Fund, which enables people from the University to work with commercial partners to develop ideas and share expertise.

“The exhibition, which was on show from May to June 2006, deals with the themes of nomadism, migration, residence and settlement. It explores the idea of people in space – how space is inhabited and experienced; how space inflects identity; how space can also be a non-space or an ‘other’ space. The artists come from a variety of backgrounds – Algerian, British, French. They work in France and the UK, as well as between countries. The plurality of their identities undermines the idea of there being a ‘French’ art. The exhibition sought to open up a debate regarding the space of practice and creation, and how this contributes to a sense of identity through networks and channels.”

*Channel* was held at two sites: Cupola Contemporary Art, Hillsborough, and the Sylvester Works, in the Cultural Industries Quarter. The artists included Lucy Orta, Natacha Lesueur, Valerie Jouve, Greyworld, Maud Haya Baviera and Djamel Tatah. The University’s Alumni Foundation and Arts Council England, Yorkshire, were among the sponsors.

The exhibition was accompanied by a series of seminars and public talks, hosted by the Humanities Research Institute, and a screening of work by young French film makers, organised by Jude Goldrei (BA 2003). The research project will conclude with a publication that explores the knowledge transfer at the heart of the project.

*Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said:*

“*I am delighted to support the University of Sheffield’s international art exhibition. This is a wonderfully innovative project. The centrepiece arts exhibition, by some of the best contemporary artists, provides a bridge between Britain and France, the University and its city.*”

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**Natacha Lesueur**

(1) *Sans titre* (photograph, 150x118cm), 2001

Since 1993 Natacha Lesueur has been using the body as a surface of inscription. Her preoccupations are with the body, appearance, clothing and the intimate relationship between the body and food. She is an internationally exhibited artist and currently lives and works in Paris.

**Djamel Tatah**

(2) *Sans titre* (oil and wax on canvas, 162x97cm), 2000

Living and working in Paris, Djamel Tatah’s work appears in several public collections, including the Pompidou Centre. For the past 15 years he has concentrated on the representation and stylisation of isolated human figures.

**Greyworld** (3)

Andrew Shoben (BA 1995) is the ‘enlightened dictator’ of the art group Greyworld – perhaps best known for The Source, a 32-metre installation that opens the London Stock Exchange’s financial markets every morning.

He studied French at the University, having lived in France for some time, and chose Sheffield primarily because of the friendliness of the student ambassadors who entertain him on his first visit. The degree also meant he could spend a year in Paris, where he set up Greyworld.


Now based in London, the group makes work for urban spaces that is both engaging and playful. Greyworld have exhibited around the world, with permanent installations in 12 countries. For *Channel*, Greyworld’s Urban Sketches installation makes the space and its inhabitants the subject of the work and its authors. A hidden camera records each spectator and the programmed visual experiments alter their reflection. Watch yourself literally melt into the crowd, before bursting into flames or dissolving into blue ripples.

Visit www.greyworld.org for more details.

**Maud Haya Baviera**

(4) *Ville saleée* (colour photograph), 2003

Maud Haya Baviera studied at the University of Lyon and Sheffield Hallam University, and now lives and works in Sheffield. Producing photographs and video works, she is fascinated by aspects of Britain and British culture.
YOUR News

Sorby abseil

Staff, students and alumni took part in an abseil challenge down Sorby Hall of Residence on 1 April 2006, all in the name of charity. Over £7,000 was raised for the Weston Park Teenage Cancer Trust Unit and Edale Mountain Rescue Team. Pat McGrath, Head of Accommodation and Campus Services, said, "This is a fitting celebration, prior to the hall's demolition. Since it opened its doors in 1961, Sorby Hall has been home to over 20,000 students and countless conference delegates. The abseil brought staff, students and graduates together to celebrate its long and colourful history." See page 10 for news of the Student Residences Strategy.

New look for Weston Park Museum

Weston Park Museum is being transformed by a £17.3 million redevelopment project to create new facilities and displays of the city’s collections. Formerly the City Museum and Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park Museum has been an important cultural landmark in Sheffield for over a century; it will reopen later in 2006.

The archaeology, natural history, art, decorative art and social history collections will be displayed in themed exhibition spaces – Sheffield Life and Times, What On Earth!, About Art, Treasures and Arctic World. The Harold Cantor Gallery will house a programme of temporary exhibitions to complement the collection displays. Egyptian mummies, a traditional butcher’s shop, the Weston Park Weather Station, Snowy the polar bear, and living ants and bees are just some of the attractions.

For more details, visit www.sheffieldgalleries.org.uk

Gifts of silver

During its Centenary year, the University received two pieces of silver from two distinguished Sheffield institutions – the Sheffield Assay Office and the Cutlers’ Company.

A silver bowl was presented by Christopher Jewitt on behalf of ‘The Guardians of the Standard of Wrought Plate within the Town of Sheffield’; and John Tissiman, the Master Cutler, presented a centrepiece, which features engravings of the heraldic shields and buildings of both the University and the Cutlers’ Company.

Weston Park itself is undergoing a major refurbishment, following an award of over £2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project involves Sheffield City Council working in partnership with local people, the Friends of Crookes Valley and Weston Park, the University, Weston Park Museum and the Children’s Hospital.
Beyond the search engine

Retrieving text-based information from the web is now achieved without a second thought. Type the relevant word or phrase into a favourite search engine and a list of options appears. The Department of Information Studies is one of the leading centres worldwide for developing systems that search a variety of other types of information – images, geographic data and chemical compounds.

Working in collaboration with pharmaceutical and agrochemical companies, the Chemoinformatics Group develops new algorithmic techniques for processing databases of chemical and biological structures. These techniques are then used by the companies to find molecules in their databases that are likely to be biologically active. This process, known as virtual screening, is an extremely cost-effective way of searching for new drug compounds. Professor Peter Willett comments, “The problem is how to present a query to a database in a form a computer understands, and how to compare that query with the stored information. Molecules are obviously three-dimensional, and we are able to search chemical databases by presenting the computer with a three-dimensional representation of a molecule. The processor then searches for matches, which might lead to new drug discoveries.”

Information retrieval of another kind is being investigated by Professor Steve Whittaker and his team. One of the members of the 17-strong international consortium involved in the AMI (Augmented Multi-party Interaction) project, the team is concentrating on aspects of Human Computer Interaction. The project is dedicated to the research and development of technology that will augment communications between individuals and groups of people. “We are working on systems to improve human-to-human communications, particularly during business meetings that take place between participants in several locations,” explains Dr Simon Tucker. “One of the project’s aims is to produce searchable and intelligent meeting archives, to enable efficient summarisation. The project encompasses studies of social interaction and human behaviour on the one hand, and the most advanced image and speech processing algorithms and search techniques on the other.”

For further details visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/is

Giant scorpion in Scotland

A gigantic fossil arthropod track way has been discovered by Dr Martin Whyte (Geography). Of international importance, the exact location is being kept secret pending further research. Dr Whyte explains, “I came across a block of sandstone and noticed a strong central groove with three rows of crescent shaped footprints on either side.”

Dr Whyte immediately realised that these gigantic tracks could only belong to a type of eurypterid or water scorpion, *Hibbertopterus*, from the Lower Carboniferous Period (330 million years ago). Fossil parts from scorpion-like creatures have been uncovered previously in the same area.

It is the largest walking track way of an invertebrate yet found and shows that these animals were able to come out of the water – until now most scientists believed that *Hibbertopterus* was only aquatic. The tracks were made by an animal with a head shield which was 60 to 70 centimetres wide, with a body length of about 16 metres. “The deep central groove was made as it dragged its tail along. If it had been underwater the tail would have been buoyed up by water,” says Dr Whyte.

What’s in a voice?

Many people with serious psychiatric illnesses hear auditory hallucinations (false voices), which are a cause of severe disability and distress. These hallucinations are most often described as a male voice, but the reason for this was unknown until a team from the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences unlocked the secrets of the human voice. A study conducted by Dr Michael Hunter and Professor Peter Woodruff found startling differences in the way that the brain interprets the sound of voices. The female voice causes activity in the auditory section of the brain and the male voice sparks activity in the ‘mind’s eye’ at the back of the brain.

This is caused by variations between the relatively simple male voice and the more complex and melodic female voice. Brain scans showed that when a man hears a female voice, the auditory part of his brain ‘reads’ the voice and creates a mental image of the speaker. But when a man hears a male voice, his ‘mind’s eye’ compares the voice to his own, helping to determine gender and other characteristics. The research concludes that the reason people who hallucinate hear a man’s voice is that the brain finds it much harder to spontaneously create a false female voice.

Dr Hunter comments, “This research could also explain why female voices are considered to be clearer than male voices. This could be linked to the fact that female voices are interpreted in the auditory part of the brain, and are therefore more easily decoded.”
Sheffield won gold in the Entente Florale, in recognition of the city’s ambitious wider green agenda.

Sheffield was chosen as the only city to represent the UK in 2005 by judges at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and their co-organisers of Britain in Bloom. They were particularly taken by the bold planning decisions not to develop lucrative central sites, but to use them instead for iconic environmental features such as the Peace Gardens and Europe’s largest temperate glasshouse, the Winter Garden.

John Charlton, Director of Sheffield City Council’s Street Force, comments, “The city made a deliberate decision to change. We have a long-standing heritage of great parks, but now we have extended that to add some colour and improve the appearance of the streetscene and public open spaces. We insist on sustainable planting and quality environmental features to soften the impact of new development projects.”

John and his team seized the opportunity that the Entente Florale presented. A steering group, including members from both of Sheffield’s universities, oversaw the project. “Our involvement in the competition raised the city’s profile nationally and across Europe. We have now been asked by the Entente Florale committee to act as a reference city for environmental excellence, which is a wonderful accolade for Sheffield.”

The competition aims to assess how well each entrant conserves, maintains and develops its built and natural environment. Attention is also paid to initiatives that impact on environmental sustainability, regeneration, education and training, and neighbourhood renewal.

A group of 15 judges arrived in Sheffield in July 2005 to make their assessment. They came from as far afield as Germany, the Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Hungary and Croatia and were given a comprehensive tour of the city, including a helicopter ride over the Peak District. They were impressed with the manner in which the city embraced and built on the historic links between its industrial past and the natural environment. Examples included the floral statues of the Buffer Girl and Steel Man placed outside the Town Hall and fountains in the Peace Gardens, which are modelled on crucibles from the steel industry, with cascades of water representing the city’s river valleys. At the subsequent awards ceremony, the head of the judging panel commented that Sheffield “has a clear vision of being a green industrial city with environmental sustainability at its heart.”

Sheffield also won a special award for the most meaningful contribution to the quality of life for disabled people, which was given specifically for the work of the Green Fingers Group at Crown Hill, who work alongside the Street Force horticulturalists based at Norton Nurseries.

The Entente Florale success was due to the enthusiastic involvement of residents, community organisations, learning centres and businesses. “The public were behind us,” says John. “There are hundreds of volunteers across the city who all do their bit throughout the year, people who try to make a difference in their own area.”

Blooming marvellous!
Representing Britain in Europe
four million bulbs have been planted across Sheffield by schools and voluntary groups, adding a fantastic splash of spring colour.

"The change in attitudes in Sheffield towards the environment has been dramatic," John adds. "Four or five years ago, we didn't even enter Yorkshire in Bloom. It has been a real pleasure to lead the whole In Bloom project and to take part in this regeneration. Wildlife is already returning to the city – fish and otters have been sighted along the River Don. We are now developing plans for the next ten to fifteen years, building on our success. These include ideas for a major new park on the prominent hillside overlooking the Sheaf Valley to the rear of the railway station. This will be the centre piece of Sheffield's green network."

- The Sheaf Valley project has been submitted to the Living Landmarks project for funding: viewers of ITV's The People's Millions will be able to vote on which project gets a multi-million pound grant in November 2006 – make your vote count for Sheffield!

The campus in full flower

Paul Fletcher, the University's Landscape Manager, oversees the development and maintenance of 300 sites across the campus. A member of the Entente Florale steering group, he was involved with the competition plans, as well as developing the University's grounds for the Centenary celebrations. He explains, "We worked hard to enhance the environment of the main campus and adjacent highways and public open spaces. The RHS were very complimentary about our work around Firth Court, and the high level of student and staff participation in all stages of the project." 2005 saw over 1,000 trees planted across the University, as well as hundreds of bulbs. New planting schemes involving herbaceous plants are also underway. Major developments include the water feature on the Brook Hill roundabout and the planting of the pedestrianised area linking the main campus to the Portobello area.
Professor Harold Lawton

Professor Harold Lawton, who died on 24 December 2005 aged 106, was a scholar of the French Renaissance who devoted much of his life to France and its culture. In recent years, he had won attention as the last surviving Allied soldier captured on the Western Front.

He was conscripted in 1916, and in April 1918 was at the front line at Armentières. Outflanked by the German advance, he was captured, one of 90,000 Allied soldiers during this period. He recalled, “We were held in a field for several days before we were taken to a fortress known as ‘the Black Hole of Lille’. It was absolute hell.” After 12 days he was taken to Germany, ending up at a POW camp at Minden.

Back in Britain following the Armistice, Professor Lawton studied at Bangor before pursuing research in Paris during the 1920s. His doctoral thesis, on the influence of the Latin playwright Terence, remains a landmark in this field. He moved to Southampton University in 1930, succeeding to the Chair of French in 1937. Professor David Walker, Head of French at Sheffield, continues the story, “In 1950, Professor Lawton took up the Chair of French here, remaining until his retirement in 1964. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, was a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and contributed through his shrewd judgement and far-sighted administrative skills to the process of preparing Sheffield for the student expansion of the mid-1960s.”

Dato Dr Ikmal Hisham Albakri

The prominent architect Dr Ikmal Hisham Albakri (1930-2006) was the first Malaysian to complete the Diploma in Architecture at the University, in 1956. He returned to Malaysia in 1957 to join the Public Works Department and led the team that designed the National Mosque. He set up Kumpulan Akitek in 1964, which became one of the most successful practices in the country.

Dr Hisham held several posts in the Federation of Malaya Society of Architects (later the Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)). For his contributions to PAM and the profession, he was honoured for his Distinguished Service to the Institute and the Profession of Architecture in 1978 and received the PAM Gold Medal in 1992. He was also President of the Commonwealth Association of Architects (1987-1989) and a founder member of the Architects Regional Council Asia.

Dr Hisham was awarded an honorary degree (LittD) by the University in 1992. He last visited Sheffield in 2005. Miles Stevenson, Director of Development, took him for lunch and remembers, “He asked if we could walk via Wilkinson Street. He stopped outside number 79 and asked me to photograph him. It was here that he had lived for several years whilst at the University – a happy time that he remembered with huge fondness.”

Guy Adams

In a poll in the Press Gazette of worst dressed journalists, Guy Adams (BA 2000) was named and shamed for his ‘jaunty sock collection, moleskin trousers and a line in sharp suits’. The wardrobe of this successful journalist – Guy is the editor of the Pandora column in The Independent – obviously caught the attention of his peers.

Guy edited Steel Press during his final year at Sheffield. National competitions awarded him the accolade of Best Student Reporter in 1999 and 2000 (Steel Press was Student Newspaper of the Year). “I must admit that I wasn’t too troubled by the demands of work on my English Lit degree. Instead I read as many novels, plays and poems as possible. I used to play football with [Professor] Dominic Shellard in a Sunday league, with little success. But thanks to him, I can now talk about theatre with some semblance of knowledge, which comes in handy in my present job.”

Guy joined The Independent as a gossip columnist in 2001. In his current role since 2004, he writes about the worlds of politics, the arts and show business. “It sounds like a tremendously debauched job, but I try to behave when I’m out on the celebrity party circuit, as I have to turn in a column five days a week. I move to a new post within the paper later in the year – not sure what yet, but watch this space!”
Professor Gillian Gehring

When Gillian Gehring was appointed Professor of Solid State Physics at Sheffield in 1989 she was only the second woman physics professor in the UK. The number is now 25 and rising but women still represent a small fraction of all UK physics academics. This is a situation which she is helping to change by encouraging more women into science. Professor Gehring received an OBE in 2005 for ‘services to physics and to equal opportunities’.

“Physics is essential to economic growth, and the UK will benefit by having women as well as men fully included in physics and related fields,” she commented before leading the UK delegation to the first international Conference on Women in Physics. “Although the situation differs widely from country to country, there is a remarkable consistency in one sobering pattern: the percentage of women in science decreases markedly with each step up the academic ladder and with each level of promotion in industrial and governmental laboratories.”

Professor Gehring is a member of the Royal Society Relocation Committee, and the Diversity Committee and the Women in Physics Group of the Institute of Physics. She is also acting chair of the Gender Equality working group of the European Physical Society.

Her research focuses on magnetism. “Recent research has been on new magnet technology to improve the heads that read information on computer hard disks. We are also developing MRAM technology – MRAM-based computers can hold their content when turned off, enabling an ‘instant-on’ computer. I retire in 2006 but, as I have grants running, I expect to continue as an active research scientist for many years to come!”

Tracy Moseley

Ranked as the world’s top female downhill mountain biker, Tracy Moseley (BSc 2000) had a brilliant season in 2005 – “I am lucky to do what I do. People think I’m mad but it is a fantastic sport.”

Downhill mountain biking is a dangerous occupation. Competitors race against the clock down courses with gradients of one in four, reaching speeds of 50 miles per hour. “It can be hard mentally as well as physically,” says Tracy. “You have to take calculated risks all the time. But the benefits are worth it – the adrenaline rush makes up for the danger. I’ve travelled to some amazing places, in New Zealand, Brazil, the USA and Europe. The only downside is living out of a bag for eight months a year; it’s nice to come home for some normality!”

Access to ideal mountain biking terrain in the Peak District was one of the reasons why Tracy chose Sheffield. Already a junior champion, she combined competing with the workload for her degree in Animal and Plant Sciences. “I had a brilliant time at the University; Sheffield is a great city. I focused on human biology as I’m fascinated by anatomy – probably because it is so relevant to my biking. I was lucky to receive a sports scholarship for two years.”

Tracy has been racing full-time since graduating. “I didn’t expect to carry on so long, but I’m really enjoying it. I’m starting to think about what I’ll do when I retire, which will hopefully involve the sport in some way. But my main focus this year is the World Championships in New Zealand in August.”

Follow Tracy’s progress via her website at www.tracymoseley.com

Sally Preston

As Sally Preston (MEng 2000) did not want to specialise in either the arts or the sciences, she decided to combine the two through studying Structural Engineering and Architecture at Sheffield. “People tend to think engineering isn’t creative,” she explains. “But this is a misconception. You have to be able to communicate and produce elegant solutions to problems. The degree meant I could combine mathematics and creative design. When I graduated, I had an idea of carrying on to become an architect, but I spent a year with Buro Happold as a structural engineer and the profession sucked me in. I’ve been with the company ever since.”

Sally won the accolade of Young Structural Engineer of the Year in 2005. This Institution of Structural Engineers’ award is made annually to the nominee who has demonstrated outstanding performance and who shows exceptional promise for the future. Sally was put forward for her work on Palestra, a 12-storey office development in Southwark, London.

In a male-dominated industry, Sally is straight-forward in her approach to the potential difficulties. “I went to an all girls’ school and then ended up on a course with 14 male students and me; and of the 200 engineering students, there were just six women. I didn’t notice any problems – people are people and you just get on with the job. The imbalance shouldn’t deter young women from pursuing a career in engineering. I’d recommend the course at Sheffield – it was challenging but I got a lot out of it, and the city is fabulous.”
Professor David Shepherd, Director of the award-winning Humanities Research Institute, reports on the exciting developments taking place in arts and humanities research at the University.

Heralding a new age
Arts and humanities research today

In March 2006, in a move that signals the University’s continuing strong commitment to arts and humanities research, the Humanities Research Institute (HRI) left its cramped accommodation on the fourteenth floor of the Arts Tower for spacious new premises on Gell Street. The refurbishment of a splendid Georgian pavilion (with Grade 2 listed status from English Heritage), with an innovative extension topped by Sheffield’s first green roof, was made possible by major funding from the government’s Science Research Investment Fund, matched by a generous donation from a benefactor in the United States (US).
The HRI, established in 1991, received a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education in 1998 for ‘taking a lead in widening and transforming access to the humanities in the UK and internationally’. With its international reputation for the application of innovative digital technologies, the HRI has supported a large number of projects that allow textual resources to be worked on in ways previously unimaginable. Perhaps the most notable example is the Proceedings of the Old Bailey Online, which allows trials held at England’s most famous criminal court (from 1674 to 1834) to be searched in a variety of ways. This makes the work of academic researchers and family historians faster and more accurate. The Old Bailey website (www.oldbaileyonline.org) now receives more than three million hits every month, and demonstrates the huge importance of humanities research outside the confines of the higher education sector.

In its new home, the HRI will continue, through our specialist electronic publishing house (www.hrionline.ac.uk), to marry leading-edge academic endeavour with technological innovation. But for me, it is just as important that the Gell Street building allows us to fulfil the broader mission suggested by the institute’s title. The move offers an opportunity for a step change in the nature and level of our activity. We must now look to offer a vibrant interdisciplinary ethos capable of stimulating world-leading excellence across a broad range of arts and humanities research. Our new facilities will help us to build the partnerships – local, national, and international – that realisation of this vision requires.

These new facilities include state-of-the-art conference and seminar rooms, complete with Access Grid equipment for advanced video-conferencing and data manipulation, in the green-roofed extension. At the request of our US benefactor, this extension has been named the Douglas Knoop Centre in honour of the Professor of Economics at the University from 1920 to 1948. Knoop was a remarkable scholar with a wide range of interests and a generous benefactor in his own right to the University. He was also Master of the Quatuor Coronati Masonic Lodge, and it is therefore fitting that the Douglas Knoop Centre should house the Centre for Research into Freemasonry (CRF). Established within the HRI in 2000, the CRF is the first centre devoted to the academic study of freemasonry to be established in a British university. Directed by Professor Andrew Prescott, the centre undertakes and promotes objective scholarly research into the historical, social and cultural impact of freemasonry, particularly in Britain. The results of this work are disseminated by publications, lectures, broadcasts and the internet (see www.freemasonry.dept.shef.ac.uk).

The new HRI building was formally opened on 24 May 2006 by the Chief Executive of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, Professor Philip Esler, and by a representative of our US benefactor. We have arranged a full programme of events to mark our move to the new building, including a series of lectures entitled ‘Setting the Agenda: The Arts and Humanities in the Twenty-First Century’. Details of this series, and of other activities such as exhibitions, conferences and research seminars, may be found on the HRI’s website at www.sheffield.ac.uk/hri.
Convocation

The publication of Your University has now become an established part of the University’s year. Critically to Convocation, it is the only time we are able to reach our members in a printed form.

For that reason, I start this annual letter with the serious plea that every member of Convocation should make it a priority to ensure that the University has your latest email address. To do so is simple: go to www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/services/update.html and fill in the form. I cannot over emphasise the importance of doing this and of keeping it up-to-date. Convocation’s Executive is convinced that the only viable way we will be able to keep in touch regularly – to involve each of you in forming our views and enabling you to play your democratic role – will be by the web. In the next 12 months, we will improve our website, maintain it regularly and post material both for your information as well as seeking your comments.

To start my letter in this way may be even more of a surprise than for you to realise it is again from me. In last year’s edition, I signed off, expecting my period of service to end in 2005. However, for a number of reasons, the Executive thought it advisable for me to serve a further year. There were initiatives reaching critical stages and it was thought that continuity was important. A good decision or not, it meant I had the privilege of representing Convocation throughout the University’s Centenary Year, participating in what was a highly successful and memorable series of events. Now, in 2006, it is the turn of the Union of Students to celebrate their Centenary. They have so much to celebrate, being recognised as the best UK students’ union. Now almost 25,000 strong, with a turnover of more than £10 million and an unequalled range of services and facilities; it is a very different organisation than many of us will remember. Whatever your memories, the Union will have touched your life and may have played as influential role in your career as all your academic success.

Last year, I mentioned discussions between Convocation and the Sheffield University Association (SUA). These have gone well and I have every expectation that in 2007 the two organisations will become one; working together not only fulfilling their current roles but extending their activities to meet the needs of the twenty-first century. This year, one of our projects is to work with the University to communicate its brand. The University’s brand values reflect the perceptions of all its stakeholders, and each of you is an important University stakeholder. The visual identity is an important means of communicating those brand values; the role of the one introduced by the University in 2005 is to embody the perceptions and reactions to the University voiced by prospective and current students, staff and alumni. It was clear that all were keen to keep evident the University’s heritage, but felt that the defining spirit of the University is its people, their friendliness, confidence and potential.

So I conclude again, thanking you for the opportunities you have given me and reminding us all of the debt we owe to the University of Sheffield.

Yours sincerely

Peter R Downey
Chairman of Convocation
Email: thedowneys@talktalk.net

SUA update

As you will have read in January’s Notes and News, and on our website, discussions have taken place with Convocation exploring the idea of combining the two organisations. The reason is twofold: our annual revenue is insufficient to continue Notes and News, and there is confusion due to the multiplicity of alumni organisations.

It is currently envisaged that the timetable for such a change, if adopted by both organisations, would be such that the January 2007 edition of Notes and News will be the last to be published as a separate document. Since the University quite rightly is only prepared to sponsor one annual magazine distributed to over 120,000 alumni worldwide, it is envisaged that Notes and News, in a much shorter version, will be contained within Your University. The primary function of SUA in its combined form would be that of organising social events and so would continue with our current local programme and possibly functions further afield. We would also encourage the formation of subgroups of alumni overseas.

As we move into the electronic age it is intended that the dissemination of news, particularly relating to social events, will be via the website. Email will also be used for those of you willing and able to receive communications. So as they say – watch this space!

Mike Bennett
Editor of Notes and News
Website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/suafs
Information Commons
Setting a new standard for learning and study

The University of Sheffield is creating a new learning experience for its students and staff in a single spectacular building.

The Information Commons is a new concept that means that students will benefit from integrated access to printed learning resources and IT facilities in the same place at the same time, 24 hours a day. The new £17.8 million facility is designed to complement the University’s established library and information technology services, adding a new dimension to its service to students.

Located on the corner of Upper Hanover Street and Brook Hill, the seven-storey building is due to open in early 2007. It will provide the latest IT resources, including over 400 PCs and pervasive wireless networking and IT-equipped classrooms, well-equipped spaces for teaching and learning, 1,070 study spaces, 100,000 of the most in-demand books, and a 70-seat cafe.

Why Information Commons?
Information Commons is a new name expressing an old concept of community. Since the Middle Ages, the word ‘commons’ has meant a shared resource. So ‘Information Commons’ means a shared information resource for the University community.

CILASS
The Information Commons will also provide accommodation for CILASS, the Centre for Inquiry-based Learning in the Arts and Social Sciences – one of the University’s nationally-funded centres of excellence in teaching and learning.

A fresh approach to learning resources
Professor Paul White, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, comments, “The Information Commons will be a facility of which this University can be enormously proud. It confirms the extent of our commitment to the quality of the student experience and it will represent a major architectural addition to the campus on a key gateway site.”

Visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/infocommons for further details.
Varsity head to head

Sporting stars from the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University competed in the city’s biggest student sporting event, Varsity 2006. The competition, celebrating its tenth anniversary, saw two weeks of fierce sporting rivalry. For the first time, local school children took part in a number of sporting activities and enjoyed front-row seats for all of the matches.

The challenge involved more than 30 teams in 53 separate fixtures, which took place at Sheffield’s top sporting venues, including Abbeydale Sports Ground, the English

Effective research commercialisation

What do skis, gas explosions and pills have in common? They are all the subject of successful research projects undertaken by staff in the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering. Simon Butler, Business Development Manager, describes the resulting patented products.

“The revolutionary new designs for skis and snowboards, created by Dr Peter Styring, will be marketed through the spin-out company Wildfire Snowsports Limited. The skis are up to eight per cent faster than conventional skis on snow, and up to 50 per cent faster on dry-ski slopes. Finlay Mickel, the British Olympic 2006 downhill skier, came twenty-fifth in the Men’s Downhill at the Torino Winter Olympics. He could have won the gold if he had been wearing these skis.”

“Dr Bruce Ewan has developed a novel system that can be used to suppress explosions in chemical process plants, onshore and offshore oil operations and coal mines. Following the explosion at the Buncefield Petrol Depot in December 2005, the Health and Safety Executive have offered Dr Ewan full support for further work on his device. It responds passively to the explosion event, using the explosion’s own initial energy to create the conditions for its suppression. Excess pressures are reduced by at least a factor of ten.”

“Visual On-line Sizing (VOS), patented by Professor Mike Hounslow and Dr Agba Salman, allows pharmaceutical companies to manufacture tablets more efficiently. An important early stage in tablet manufacture is the granulation phase, where the active ingredients are turned into granules before being compressed. It is important to know the size of the granules before making the tablet. Current systems require a sample to be taken and fed into a particle size instrument.”

This means that the granule process is stopped temporarily while the sample is taken, wasting time and money. VOS measures the size of the granules without stopping the process to take a sample.”

For further details, contact Simon Butler on tel: 0114 222 6515 or email: simon.butler@sheffield.ac.uk.

Messiaen revealed

“Hill and Simeone will be a hard act to follow, and their accessible and human portrait is unlikely to be surpassed in the foreseeable future.” So reads a review of Messiaen in the International Record Review. Written by Professors Peter Hill and Nigel Simeone (Music), the book unlocks the secrets of one of the leading composers of the twentieth century, Olivier Messiaen.

Professor Hill is a former student of Messiaen and is regarded as one of the world’s finest interpreters of his music. He says, “As keen enthusiasts of his work, we were delighted to be given the opportunity to explore in great depth the composer’s life, something that no one had ever done before.”

“This book would not have been possible,” comments Professor Simeone, “without the unprecedented access to Messiaen’s private archive granted to us by the composer’s widow, Yvonne Loriod-Messiaen, to whom we are tremendously grateful.”

The book, published by Yale University Press, draws on a wealth of previously unexamined documents, including musical sketches, writings and lectures, diaries and photographs, many of which are published for the first time.
Nobel Laureate opens revolutionary labs

Nobel Prize-winner Professor Sir Paul Nurse FRS officially opened the Wellcome Trust and the Wolfson Foundation Facility for Molecular Life Sciences at the University on 3 November 2005. The facility, which spans the Departments of Biomedical Science and Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, will revolutionise multi-disciplinary research in developmental genetics and biomedical science, regenerative medicine, molecular biology, genetics and microbiology.

The new facility provides state-of-the-art laboratory space for pioneering research in the molecular life sciences. This ranges from studies on the genetic basis of diseases like cancer, muscular dystrophy and Parkinson's disease, research on the microbial pathogens that cause infectious disease, on disease states such as CJD and Alzheimer's, through to fundamental studies on plant biology and photosynthesis. It will be used by the University's Centre for Developmental and Biomedical Genetics, the Centre for Stem Cell Biology, the Krebs Institute and the Robert Hill Institute.

Obituaries

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of the following academic staff, friends and supporters of the University:


- **Professor Frank Ellis OBE**, clinical oncologist, graduate (BSc 1927, MSc 1928, MB ChB 1929, MD 1944) and honorary graduate (DSc 2005), died on 30 January 2006, aged 100.

- **Dr Oliver Gilbert**, Reader in the Department of Landscape at the time of his retirement in 1993, and a member of staff from 1968, died on 15 May 2005, aged 69.


- **Professor Peter Finlay James**, Chair in the Department of Engineering Materials at the time of his retirement in 2002, and a member of staff in the Department of Glass Technology from 1970, died on 2 July 2005, aged 65.

- **Professor Harry Kay**, Head of the Department of Psychology 1960-1973 and Pro-Vice-Chancellor 1967-1971, died on 14 December 2005, aged 86.

- **Charles Millen**, Lecturer in the Department of Mental Health and Learning Disability at the time of his retirement in 2002, and a member of staff from 1972, died on 15 October 2005, aged 56.

- **Emeritus Professor Keith Miller**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering from 1977 until his retirement in 1997, Head of Department 1977-1987, honorary graduate (DEng 2005), died on 26 May 2006, aged 74.

Stem cells research

Colin Blakemore, Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council, visited the University on 26 January 2006 to open a new laboratory at the Centre for Stem Cell Biology (CSCB). The £2.5 million facility is capable of producing embryonic stem cell lines that can be used in medical treatments. It represents a crucial step towards using these stem cells to treat degenerative and chronic conditions such as diabetes and Parkinson's disease, and to repair tissues after accidents or cancer.

The new laboratory will build on the OCSB's expertise in stem cell science, which has seen the Sheffield team derive six embryonic stem cell lines for research since 2003. The stem cell lines have been deposited in the UK Stem Cell Bank for use by scientists across the world to develop regenerative medicine techniques to counter and treat disease.
A circus and fairground attractions delighted thousands of people at the focal point of the University’s Centenary celebrations.

Party in the Park, and all

Weston Park was the venue for the Party in the Park, organised as a big ‘thank you’ to University staff for their hard work and commitment. Linda Morewood, Centenary Manager, explains, “This was an excellent way for University staff and their families to get together and celebrate the Centenary in 2005. The range of attractions ensured that there really was something for everyone to enjoy and remember from this special year.” The party was extended for an extra two days so that local schoolchildren could join in the fun, as part of the annual Sheffield Children’s Festival.

Linda has now had time to assess the success of the year-long celebrations. “We worked hard to make sure the programme of events was attractive to the people of Sheffield as well as our own staff, students and alumni. We have been able to foster relationships that will hopefully continue to grow in the future. I am so delighted to have been involved, and glad that we have given so many people so many happy memories.”

The Centenary programme also generated large sums of money for local charities and projects. The final total for the Tall Ship Challenge was £30,000, which is now being used by the Department of Human Communication Sciences for work with children with speech difficulties. University runners in the Sheffield Half Marathon raised £15,000 for Bluebell Wood Children’s Hospice, and £1,000 was donated to Yorkshire Cancer Research from the raffle at the Centenary Charity Ball. The sale of 500 Joe Scarborough limited edition prints, of *Our University*, provided funding of £17,000 for student hardship Centenary Scholarships.

“The Charter Centenary Year was a brilliant opportunity to celebrate the University’s achievements over the last hundred years. I was delighted at the level of participation from staff, students, alumni and the people of Sheffield. We reconnected with many alumni and forged new friendships throughout the region. Linda Morewood and her team delivered a Centenary Programme which is the envy of many other universities.

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**Centenary Gala Concert**

The University Orchestra, Chorus and guest choirs delivered a memorable performance in the refurbished City Hall. The impressive £12.5 million restoration provided a fitting venue for this musical tour de force.

**Centenary Charity Ball**

The Stapleford Big Band provided the music for this stunning evening, held in the Octagon Centre. The Bishop of Sheffield, The Right Reverend Jack Nicholls, was on hand to draw the raffle.

**Centenary Quiz Night**

Almost 600 alumni, staff, students and friends, making 100 teams, took part in this fun event in the Octagon Centre. Quizmaster Professor Tony Ryan presided over the evening, which saw a team from the Red Deer pub, the well-known watering hole on Pitt Street, come out on top.

**Mitchell and Kenyon Collection**

Dr Vanessa Toulmin, Director of the National Fairground Archive, hosted two evenings (by popular demand) devoted to the films from this unique archive.
Our University 2006/2007

Centenary Lectures

A programme of 11 Centenary Lectures attracted capacity audiences.

“...We have a history extending more than 175 years in higher education and we now enter our second century as a university. I am confident that the University will continue to flourish and maintain its pre-eminent position in the higher education sector. We combine our long tradition of excellence with informality and friendliness. This is a distinctive and important characteristic that makes this institution so special.”

Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob Boucher

Centenary Achievement Awards Ceremony

At a special ceremony held in Firth Hall, Centenary Medals and certificates were presented to individuals for outstanding achievement. The recipients were people from South Yorkshire, and University staff and students. The event aimed to recognise those whose efforts and contributions to society would not normally be publicly recognised.

Centenary Lectures

A programme of 11 Centenary Lectures attracted capacity audiences.

Speakers included novelist Joanne Harris (PGCE 1987, LittD 2004); Dr David Whitehouse, of the Corning Museum of Glass; and Professor John Wood, of the Council for the Central Laboratories of the Research Councils.
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Linda Smith

The comedian, writer and broadcaster, and graduate of the University (BA 1982), died on 27 February 2006, aged 48.

Linda Smith came to Sheffield in 1979 to study English Literature. Frances Gray, Reader in Drama, says, “I remember Linda very well. She was a last-minute arrival into the newly established drama curriculum and in the first production did a small cameo role as a goddess in which she looked very striking. Later, I did an all-woman production of The Taming of the Shrew, in which she played the Shrew’s father – she was by far the tallest in the group and the performance moved closer every day towards a nicely barbed impression of Prince Philip.

“We met a few times after she started working in comedy – I can remember her playing with my son and doing a routine about toy monsters just for him. One occasion I can recall vividly was the day after the Labour election defeat by Thatcher in 1992, when she did a gig at a working men’s club here. ‘Monster Raving Loony Party did well, didn’t they?’ she said. ‘Never thought they’d win.’”

Linda joined Sheffield Popular Theatre in 1983, where she met her partner Warren Lakin, the founder of the group. She made the city her base for the next ten years. “Sheffield moulded Linda,” says Warren. “She was embedded in its culture and heavily into the music scene, including Cabaret Voltaire and Pulp. When she was a student, she tended to live on the east side of the city, away from the usual student areas. She loved the people, and often made references to Sheffield in her work. We moved to Broomhill after we got together, and the flat was a meeting place for like-minded people. She thought it was the greatest thing to be involved in the world of comedy.”

Mike McCarthy, joint artistic director with Linda, commented in an interview for the Sheffield Telegraph. “Her commitment to, and love of, Sheffield and its people was reflected in her work with the theatre. Following the miners’ strike Linda and Warren championed a robust style of popular theatre that drew heavily on the rich cultural tradition of Sheffield’s East End; touring shows like East Side Story – The Darnall People’s Show and Absolutely Attercliffe to full houses in libraries and other community venues across the city. But Linda is probably best known in the city for her creation of The Chuffinelles, a political cabaret show.”

Linda took a show to the Edinburgh Fringe for six years from 1988. Her national prominence began as a panellist on radio shows, at first on Radio Five Live’s The Treatment, then on Radio 4, on Just a Minute, I’m Sorry I Haven’t a Clue and The News Quiz. She was voted ‘Wittiest Person on the Planet’ by listeners to Word of Mouth in 2002. Her TV appearances included Have I Got News For You, They Think It’s All Over, Room 101 and Call My Bluff.

She was diagnosed with cancer in 2002. In an obituary for The Independent, comedian Mark Steel wrote, “Linda Smith will be remembered for her charm, her wit, her subtle destruction of pomposity, her subdued but burning English rage; and for her familiarity.”
Chinese alumni

"We are all proud as alumni of a university with one hundred years of excellence. We all cherish our unforgettable memories of studying and living in Sheffield. We would like to develop a close network of our alumni in Shanghai and help maintain strong links with our university. We would like to share our happiness and success with our alumni who have the same aspiration as we do.

“We are looking forward to hearing from you. Please send your name, your degree subject and an email address to the following email address: sheffieldalumni@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you soon!”

Promoting education in Zambia

Professor Maurice Chimfwembe Lundu (PhD 1982) is working on a project to establish the Kasama Institute of Business and Technology in the rural Northern Province of Zambia. His vision is to provide education and skills that will lead to employment in this under-developed area. "I am keen to hear from any former classmates from the Department of Information Studies, or alumni who have a soft spot for Zambia, who may wish to contribute towards this worthwhile project," he says. Contact Professor Lundu at lundum@zamtel.zm for further details.

Elephants of Success

Koh Seng Choon (BEng 1986) has established himself as a successful author of self-help books, published by Marshall Cavendish. His Elements of Success series is selling well in Asia, with the Business volume reaching the bestseller list in New Delhi in 2005.

Based in Singapore, Seng Choon writes to share the expertise he has developed in his management consultancy business, which focuses on India and China and the dynamics of family businesses. Working with large and small enterprises, he has had plenty of opportunity to see what makes a successful entrepreneur; and has developed a formula for success in business called ‘The Element of Success’:

\[
\{ \text{Love} + \text{Time} + \text{Knowledge} + \text{Money} + \text{Health} + \text{Opportunity} \} = \text{SUCCESS}
\]

A taste of Japan

Will Christophers, a third-year Japanese Studies student, saw his dream come true when his food outlet Willyaki began trading once a week outside the Union of Students’ building. With help from the Sheffield Enterprise Agency’s start-up team, he has established a Japanese fast food franchise, selling takoyaki (a batter-ball containing octopus). “Takoyaki is one of my favourite foods and originates from the Kansai area, as I do. This way we can offer good food and provide students with opportunities to run and work for Willyaki. It is hard for Japanese students to get a part-time job in England, so I thought this would be the perfect answer.” The stall sells the traditional recipe, as well as a chicken, a vegetarian and even a chocolate version. A percentage of the profits is donated to Sheffield Children’s Hospital. Will plans to take Willyaki on the road across Europe in August 2006.
Korean Studies experts in Sheffield

The University welcomed the Association for Korean Studies in Europe to Sheffield for its biennial meeting in July 2005. This is the largest regular gathering of researchers who meet to discuss the politics, society, culture and history of Korea. Hosting the meeting was especially significant because 2005 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of Korean Studies in the School of East Asian Studies. In addition to the European delegates, participants also came from the USA, Japan, Taiwan, and both North and South Korea. The conference was funded substantially by the Korea Research Foundation of South Korea and was formally opened by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and the President of the Korea Research Foundation.

International college for Sheffield

The University has established a new international college in Sheffield. Based on the North Campus, Sheffield International College provides a range of intensive, high-quality academic preparation programmes designed specifically for international students seeking entry to the University.

A joint venture between the University of Sheffield and Kaplan International Colleges, the college offers access to the University’s world class education and recreation facilities, as well as specialist academic and student support services. The integrated programmes enable students to improve their English language skills while studying an academic programme. This, together with three entry points each year (January, May and September), provides an outstanding opportunity to fast track entry into the University.

Studying at Sheffield International College involves small classes and personalised tuition in a caring and friendly environment. The comprehensive academic and student support services are all designed to give students the best opportunity to succeed in the college and in their future studies at the University.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob Boucher comments, “The establishment of Sheffield International College represents a further advance for Sheffield. By improving access to the University for talented students from around the world, it will reinforce our position as a destination for the most able students.”

Visit www.sic.org.uk for further details.

- Sheffield International College provides Foundation Studies and Graduate Diploma (pre-Masters) qualifications in two areas of study: business, law and social sciences; and science and engineering.

Mexican honorary graduates

The University hosted two special ceremonies in Mexico in November 2005. Graduates who were unable to attend their degree congregations in Sheffield were presented to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bob Boucher. He also conferred honorary degrees on Jaime Parada Avila (DeEng), the Director General of Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, the science and innovation arm of the Mexican government; and Alberto Bustani Adem (PhD 1987, DeEng), President of the Monterrey Campus of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.

University events across East Asia

Professor Xie Shengwu, President of Shanghai's Jiao Tong University, received an honorary degree (DSc) at a special ceremony held in Shanghai on 30 September 2005. The event was followed by a congregation for the presentation of graduates in Beijing. The Chinese events were preceded by a visit to Hong Kong, where Dr William Mong, Chairman and Senior Managing Director of the Shun Hing Group, received an honorary degree (DeEng).

Whilst in Asia for these events, Professor Boucher and other University representatives attended reception events for alumni in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Calling our international alumni

The University of Sheffield has over 120,000 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, contact:

Development and Alumni Relations Office
(see address on page 1)

Email: alumni@sheffield.ac.uk
Website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni

or to help at promotional events:

Steve Webber
International Office
The University of Sheffield
8 Palmeiron Road
Sheffield
S10 2TE, UK

Email: steve.webber@sheffield.ac.uk
Website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/international

Students ‘Bummit to the Baltic’

Two groups of 150 students took up the challenge to hitch-hike from Sheffield to Riga, Latvia – all in the name of charity. The event was organised by the Union of Students’ Rag society. The mission was to travel the 1,500 mile journey in eight days, with only £15 each to spend. The challenge is guaranteed to raise a minimum of £30,000 to be split between Children of our Future, a Latvian-based charity, and also The Poppy Project, a charity helping women affected by human trafficking in the Baltic region and in the UK. This is the third year of Bummit, with previous trips to Budapest and Bucharest proving to be great successes.
**HONOURS and AWARDS**

The Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Bob Boucher**, has been elected Treasurer of the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

**Dr Janet Brown** (Genomic Medicine) has been awarded the ACP McElwain Prize in medical oncology by the Association of Cancer Physicians.

Final-year Masters students **Adam Burrell** (Chemistry) and **Krishnaa Mahbubani** (Chemical and Process Engineering) have each received the prestigious Salters' Graduate Prize, made annually to graduates most likely to succeed in industry.

**Charlie Cornwallis** (BSc 2001, PhD 2005) won the Business Plan Competition run by the White Rose Centre for Enterprise. His company, Wild Expeditions Ltd, provides training in wildlife research in locations around the world for budding biologists.

**Professor Tony Crook** (Town and Regional Planning) has been elected an academian of the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences.

A play by **Anne Dilley** (BA 1996), entitled *Unspoken Commandment*, reached the final selection phase of Channel 4’s competition, *The Play’s the Thing*.

**Professor Peter Fleming** (Automatic Control and Systems Engineering) has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

**Professor Andrew Gamble** (Politics) has been awarded the Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for Lifetime Contribution to Political Studies by the Political Studies Association.

**Phil Harper** (MEng 2001) was the first recipient of a £40,000 ERA Foundation Award from the Royal Academy of Engineering, set up to support entrepreneurial researchers in electrotechnology.

**Norman Harris** (BEng 1960) has been elected Chair of the Process Industries Division of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

**Dr Thomas Helleday** (Institute of Cancer Studies) has been awarded the 2005 Eppendorf Young European Investigator Award for his discovery of a new treatment for certain types of inherited breast cancer.

**Graham Hughes** (LLB 1968), Land Registrar, HM Land Registry, received an OBE.

**Craig Hurst** (LLB 1998) successfully completed the gruelling Marathon des Sables in April 2006, a 150-mile foot race across the Sahara desert. He ran in aid of the charity Facing Africa.

A biography of William Empson by **Professor John Haffenden** (English Literature) was selected as Book of the Year in *The New Statesman*, *The Spectator*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*. It also won the 2005 Association of American Publishers Professional and Scholarly Publishing Award for Biography. *William Empson: Among the Mandarin* includes an account of his extraordinary adventures in Japan and China during the 1930s. The later sections of the forthcoming *William Empson: Against the Christians* will cover his years as Professor of English Literature at the University.

**Professor Andrew Gamble** (English Language and Linguistics) has been elected a member of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters.

**Professor Philip Ingham** (Biomedical Science) was awarded the Genetics Society Medal 2005.

**Judith Jackson** (Architecture) received an MBE for services to young people in South Yorkshire, in respect of girl-guiding.

**Dr Helen Joensbury** (MB ChB 1969, MEd 1997) (General Practice and Primary Care) received an MBE for services to healthcare.

**Professor Sir Ian Kershaw** (History) was awarded the Society of Authors’ Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography, for *Making Friends with Hitler: Lord Londonderry and Britain’s Road to War*.

**Professor Julian Kinderlehrer** (Law) is the only UK-appointed member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and Technology.

**Dr Martin Lennard** (Clinical Sciences South) has been elected a Fellow of the British Pharmaceutical Society.

**Professor Andrew Linn** (English Language and Linguistics) has been elected a member of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters.
Mrs Justice Julia Macur (LLB 1978) has been appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire on her appointment as Justice of the High Court.

The University has received a Contribution from Industry Award from the Yorkshire and Humberside Federation of Disability Sports Organisations for its work with disabled children. Students from the Management School have organised an annual athletics event for local children with disabilities, through the charity Disport, for the last 12 years.

The University’s Marketing and Communications team won the coveted ‘Marketing Department of the Year’ award in the 2005 HEIST Awards for Education Marketing.

Emeritus Professor Keith Miller (Mechanical Engineering) has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the University of Central Lancashire, and an honorary doctorate by the University of Sheffield. Also see Obituaries, page 27.

Hull Trains has named one of its Pioneer Trains after Professor Stuart Palmer (BSc 1964, PhD 1969, DSc 1986), Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Warwick. The naming took place in honour of his breakthroughs in the field of ultrasound research while he was at the University of Hull.

Professor Ian Peake (Genomic Medicine) has been awarded the ISTH Distinguished Career Award at the 20th Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis.

Professor Roger Plank, Professor Ian Burgess and Dr Zhaohui Huang (Architecture) received the Raymond C Reese Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Professor Malcolm Press (Animal and Plant Sciences) has been awarded the British Ecological Society’s President’s Medal.

Professor Mark Rainforth (Engineering Materials) has been elected Vice-President of the Royal Microscopical Society.

Professor Robert Read (Genomic Medicine) has been appointed to the Chief Medical Officers Scientific Working Group on Pandemic Flu.

Professor Keith Ridgway (Mechanical Engineering) received an OBE for services to manufacturing industry. He was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Dr John Roberts (BEng 1969, PhD 1972) has been awarded the Institution of Structural Engineers' Gold Medal.

Dr Anthony Rossiter (Automatic Control and Systems Engineering) was awarded an Engineering Teaching Prize by the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Dr Carolyn Staton (Clinical Sciences South) won the British Association for Cancer Research Award for Translational Research.

Professor Neil Strickland (Pure Mathematics) was awarded the 2005 Whitbread Prize by the London Mathematical Society.

The Student Health Centre won two prizes at the Royal Institute of British Architects’ Yorkshire Awards 2005. The building’s architects, CPMG, took the top prize in the education/medical category, and CPMG also won a special prize for the building’s brickwork.

Professor Jeremy Till and Professor Sarah Wigglesworth (Architecture) received the Royal Institute of British Architects Sustainability Award for their ‘straw bale’ house in Holloway, London.

Professor Sir James Underwood (Pathology) received the British Medial Association’s 2005 Student Textbook Award for the fourth edition of General and Systematic Pathology. He has also been honoured with the Cunningham Medal of the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology.

The University Conference Office has won a national marketing award for its conference facilities brochure at the Venuemasters Awards Ceremony.

The Waste Incineration Centre (Chemical and Process Engineering) won the American Society of Mechanical Engineers 2005 Pioneer Award.

Soprano Elizabeth Watts (BA 2001) won the first prize of £10,000 at the 2006 Kathleen Ferrier Awards.

The International Union of Soil Science will award a medal every four years to commemorate the contribution of Dr Richard Webster (BSc 1854) to pedometrics.

Professor Mike Wells (Genomic Medicine) has been made a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians ad eundem.

Second-year student Hannah Whitfield (Geography) won the 2005 Regional Science Association International: British and Irish Section Undergraduate Student Award for her dissertation on ‘Socio-economic polarisation in the Wirral’.

Professor Peter Willett (Information Studies) won the American Chemical Society’s Award for Computers in Chemical and Pharmaceutical Research.

Emeritus Professor Tom Wilson has been awarded an honorary degree by Gothenburg University, Sweden, for his contribution to the development of library and information research.

Dr Mark Winter (Chemistry) won the MERLOT Classics Award for Chemistry, for the contribution made to digital scholarship by his website WebElements.
Letters

May I say how much I welcome the new and revived approach to alumni relations that the University is now pursuing? I am sure this must be good for the University, and it is certainly welcomed by people like me. I have always aimed to keep in touch with Sheffield since graduating. For most of those 40 or so years that has been done mainly through personal contacts and through the good offices of the SUA and Convocation, both of which organisations deserve praise for their work but obviously have only achieved limited coverage. The setting up of the reconstituted Alumni Office is a welcome development.

Adrian Birtles (BEng 1964), Isle of Wight

I am just reading Your University 2005/2006. There are some articles in it showing the reasons why alumni chose Sheffield University. Personally for me I want to say thank you to this university. In 1997, two years after the accession of Austria into the EU, I wanted to study in Great Britain. I sent several requests to different universities – Sheffield answered within two weeks, explaining in detail what to do in order to join. They did a very good job. Half a year later I started my studies and I had one of the best times of my life.

Monika Hirsch (Erasmus student 1997), Austria

Archie Vivian Jubb, my grandfather, was born in 1880. He qualified for entry to the Sheffield Medical School but, with two years still to go, his financial situation suddenly became critical due to his father’s bankruptcy. He went to discuss his difficulties with the Bursar. There he found that his final two years’ tuition had been paid by an unknown benefactor. He never did discover who it was but suspected one of his professors, who would occasionally hand him a warm jumper to ‘pass along to someone who might need it’. His examinations were always taken in London, and he graduated in 1905. He settled in the small village of MacGregor, just west of Winnipeg in Canada, where he stayed for the rest of his life.

Enid King, USA

Rag recalled

Sheffield born and bred, I remember my mother taking me as a child to Western Bank to see the Rag processions. Later, as an Engineering undergraduate, I indulged my creative instincts by designing two Rag floats to challenge the flamboyance of the architects’ enterprises of the early 1900s. The first was a Mississippi riverboat in 1905, which won the prize for the best float. This was surpassed in 1906, the year of ‘Suez’, by a colossal Sphinx. Its back incorporated a canopied stage on which belly dancers could perform. We were indebted to the generosity of firms supplying materials and to the volunteer drivers.

Ken Swallow (BEng 1957), Nottinghamshire

Centenary DVD

I would like to let you know how much I enjoyed the Centenary DVD, celebrating Sheffield as I knew it – a wonderful institution, and my time there was only too short. I was the Foundation Professor of Chemical Pathology from 1974 until 1977, and hold those few years very precious indeed in my life, not only from the professional, academic point of view, but also for the many ways in which my family was made to feel completely at home. I have visited many times over the last 28 years and have maintained many valued friends and contacts.

Emeritus Professor T John Martin AO FAA FRS, Australia

Copies of the free Centenary DVD, featuring scenes from Centenary events and interviews with staff, students, alumni and honorary graduates, are available in both PAL and NTSC formats from the Development and Alumni Relations Office. email: development@sheffield.ac.uk.

YOUR Letters

We welcome letters from our alumni for inclusion in the next issue of Your University. Please send contributions to:

Miles Stevenson
Development and Alumni Relations Office
(see address on page 1)
Email: alumni@sheffield.ac.uk
To order, either download an order form from www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni (click the link to University Merchandise) or contact us on 0114 222 1030. Completed order forms should be sent to Steel City Scholars, Student Recruitment, Admissions and Marketing, 8 Palmerston Road, Sheffield S10 2TE, with payment by cheque or £ sterling draft made out to ‘The University of Sheffield’. Copies may also be collected from the office, by arrangement.

Read all about it!

Published last year as part of the Centenary celebrations, Steel City Scholars is a fascinating and richly illustrated account of the development of the University from its earliest days to the present.

480 pages: 650 photographs, drawings and maps.

Meticulously researched, the book draws on the reminiscences of hundreds of present and former staff and students, whose insights bring colour and variety to the narrative.

Each chapter covers a distinct phase of the University’s history, depicting student life alongside academic achievements and the physical growth of the campus.

Steel City Scholars is written with warmth, style and humour by Helen Mathers, a history graduate of the University (BA 1974, PhD 1980).

PRICE: £25.00 plus p+p (UK £6.50; Europe £10.00; rest of the world £14.00).
All legacies left to the University are exempt from inheritance tax.
To find out more, or request a copy of our Legacy Brochure, please contact:

Helen Scarlett
Development Manager
Development and Alumni Relations Office
The University of Sheffield
277 Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2HB

Tel: + 44 (0) 114 222 1074
Fax: + 44 (0) 114 222 1044
Email: h.scarlett@sheffield.ac.uk
Website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni

Sheffield undergraduate Elizabeth Baggeley has been offered a helping hand as she studies for her BSc degree. This year she received a financial prize for achieving the best first-year exam results in Chemistry. "I received the letter as I was leaving the house to go to town with my dad, so I took it with me. We stopped off in a little cafe for breakfast. I was so surprised when I opened it. I started to explain to my dad what the award was for, and he told me to ‘keep my voice down because everyone in the cafe could hear’. As you can imagine, I didn't mind the whole cafe hearing! I was, and am, very proud of it." Elizabeth’s prize was provided by Chemistry graduate Dr Eric Wharton (BSc 1965, PhD 1968). Eric received a scholarship when he was at Sheffield, and wanted to help other students to follow in his footsteps to academic success. He decided to fund an annual prize, the Wharton Prize, named in honour of his parents, Harry and Eva Wharton. As well as providing the annual prize, Eric and his wife Sue have decided to make provision to continue giving, by including a gift to the University in their Wills. Their forethought and generosity will provide prizes and scholarships for bright and deserving students in perpetuity.

Well-planned Legacy gifts make a real difference to the future of our University and our students. Please consider supporting future Sheffield students with a gift in your Will.

A legacy to Sheffield
We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us