Three decades in northern Norway

Hut life for Reading geographers
Welcome to the Autumn 2003 edition of Reading : reading, especially to this year’s graduates

Reunions
This has been the busiest ever summer for reunions. The Grand Reunion in July, run by the Alumni Office in conjunction with the Students’ Union, was a sell-out success. This was the first time an event has been run for recent alumni, and certainly won’t be the last. There was a big reunion for 1950’s alumni in September, also several smaller ones. You can see some pictures in the following pages, and more on our recently redesigned website www.reading.ac.uk/alumni.

Open days
The University Open Days for prospective students have gone from strength to strength. The two open days in June attracted 10,000 prospective undergraduates and their families, only to be surpassed by the September record attendance of 15,000. Visitors to the Whiteknights and Bulmershe campuses were able to see displays from both academic departments and student support services, and to sample academic lectures ‘From Captain Hook to Robocop’ and ‘Battlefield Detectives at Agincourt’ in the newly refurbished Palmer Building. See ‘Dates for your Diary’ (p3) for the next Open Days.

Year Secretaries
You may have noticed that we are not printing Year Secretary names any longer in the ‘Where are you now’ section of the magazine. For many years the University of Reading Society used to appoint a Secretary for each graduating year, to act as a point of contact for other alumni in that year. However over recent years this role has become impossible to fulfil due Data Protection problems, and nowadays contacts are made via the Alumni Office or the Alumni website email directory. Following a survey of Secretaries’ views, at the Annual Meeting of the University of Reading Society in May, a unanimous vote was taken that the role of Year Secretary should be abolished, and thanks were expressed to all Year Secretaries for their work over the years.

Please continue to let the Alumni Office know where you are and what you are doing, and if you haven’t already done so, let us have your email address – you can update this via the alumni website or on the update form enclosed with this magazine – and help us keep you in contact with your friends and the University.

Marion Armson, Alumni Officer

The University of Reading magazine

Editor
Ian Burn

Editorial board
Marion Armson, Matt Carey, Carol Derham, Veronica Kay, Brenda Morris and Sue Rayner.

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The views expressed in Reading : reading are solely those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the University, The Friends of the University, The University of Reading Society or members of the Editorial Board.

Cover image: Snowscape sunrise Okstindan, northern Norway.
Chemistry student Kate Barrow (23) has been named the 2003 Science, Engineering and Technology Student of the Year for her work on synthesizing an anti-leukaemia drug.

Her tutor, Dr Andrew Russell, was given the Best Lecturer Award – recognizing the vital role staff play in motivating students. Kate also spent a year working with Astra Zeneca, a world leading pharmaceutical company. This project was a study into producing part of a potent anti-leukaemic natural compound synthetically. Kate made impressive advances with this and the compound could ultimately be used commercially. In addition, two of the compounds made during the project may have future uses in pharmaceutical laboratories during the production of other drugs.

Kate, who attended the event with her parents, said: 'I wasn't expecting this. I would like to thank everyone at the University of Reading who has helped me get this far.'

Inspirational Dr Russell described Kate as 'a truly remarkable student'. He went on to say 'Inspirational events such as this can make the world of science and technology sexy and dispel the notion that chemistry is all about pollution, engineering about oily rags and physics about funny people that can't co-operate with others! The brilliant students here tonight would be an inspiration to any academic.' Presenting the award was Alan Clark, Chief Executive of the Engineering and Technology Board, main sponsors of the event. Said Mr Clark: 'These young scientists and technologists will create the wealth of this nation for years to come.'

£4M Investment for Innovation

Thrombosis research being undertaken by Dr Jonathan Gibbins is the first area to benefit from a new investment fund launched jointly by the universities of Reading, Brunel, Royal Holloway, Surrey and Sussex.

The Cascade Fund, established with funding from the UK Government and the partner universities, seeks to encourage entrepreneurial activity and provide financial and business assistance for academics to commercialise the outcomes of their research.

Dr Gibbins (left) has recently discovered new mechanisms that control blood clotting, and this may lead to the identification of new drugs or drug targets effective in the prevention of thrombosis. The investment will fund a market research exercise to establish whether these discoveries would be viable in a drug development programme.

Further information is available from: Veronica Kay, Business Information Officer; email: v.kay@rdg.ac.uk

Professor Brian Hoskins and Professor Keith Browning of the Department of Meteorology were among those selected as ‘Pioneers to the life of the Nation’; Britons who have made a significant contribution to society, on a national or local level.

They attended a reception hosted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace in October. The Royal Meteorological Society proposed Professors Hoskins and Browning as

Queen honours Met pioneers

Professor Keith Browning (above) and Professor Brian Hoskins (left) representing what has been achieved in the last few decades in the theoretical and observational area of meteorology.

Their contribution is seen in the practical areas of improved weather forecasts and understanding of climate change.

A surprised Brian and Keith said ‘We have never thought of ourselves as being pioneers! It is a real bonus in meteorology that research that you enjoy doing can quickly move to being useful’.
New museum for English Rural Life

Nutritionist’s work shines silver

Dr Parveen Yaqoob, a Reader at the University of Reading, has been awarded the prestigious Silver Medal of the UK Nutrition Society. She presented her Silver Medal Lecture at the Nutrition Society’s Summer Meeting at King’s College, London in July, attended by nutrition scientists from across the world.

Dr Yaqoob is a Reader in Cellular and Molecular Nutrition in the Hugh Sinclair Unit of the School of Food Biosciences at the University of Reading. ‘I am honoured to be recognised by the Society with such a prestigious award and would like to think that this will encourage other young scientists to study nutrition,’ said Dr Yaqoob.

Dr Yaqoob’s research career began with work she carried out on the effects of dietary fatty acids for her doctoral thesis at the University of Oxford from 1990–1993. Several novel papers were published from this research, which has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the effects of dietary fatty acids on inflammation and immunity. While at the Institute of Human Nutrition at the University of Southampton, she was part of a team which made a major advance by showing that fish oils could reduce inflammation in arteries, now thought to be one of the causes of a heart attack or stroke. The key results of this work were published in The Lancet.

Since joining the University in 1998, Dr Yaqoob has continued to increase her portfolio of published novel scientific work and invitations to speak at national and international conferences. She has also successfully raised a significant amount of research income, including funding to establish an independent research group. Her research examines the influence of dietary fats in health and disease, looking particularly at the anti-inflammatory effects of fish oils and the way in which they can help those with inflammatory diseases, such as arthritis and heart disease.

Queen’s Birthday Honours

In this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honour’s list the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gordon Marshall, received a CBE for services to economic and social research. Mr J Malcolm Stansfield, retired member of the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, received an MBE for services to agriculture and to the community of Berkshire. Malcolm was with the University for 22 years before he “retired” in September 2001. Since then he has continued as a sessional lecturer and has continued to serve agriculture throughout the UK and beyond. Malcolm is Chief Executive of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

Silver gilt at Chelsea

The School of Plant Sciences, combined with the Eden Project to produce a Silver Gilt award winning exhibition at this year’s Chelsea Flower Show.

The exhibit addressed the role that science can play in the conservation of endangered plants, using the analogy of a cottage hospital with a waiting room, intensive care unit, recovery bed and out-patients’ department.

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The ninth Grower of the Year awards took place on 27 February in front of a capacity audience of 800 people from the horticultural industry. Held at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London, the event highlights the very best in horticulture.

Walberton Nursery, Sussex entered the Science in to Practice category and achieved finalist status. The entry was on the strength of collaboration with The University of Reading through TCS project work. The on-site research began in June 2001 investigating methods of scheduling garden plant crops to meet customer specification.

Hannah Johnson, a recent graduate, is responsible for the day to day implementation of the work at Walberton, academic support is given by Dr Tom Harwood of the School of Plant Sciences.

Another Reading Alumnus, John Woodhead of Hilliers Nursery, Ampfield, Romsey, Hampshire has won this years Elsoms Seeds Lifetime Achievement award.

John qualified from the University of Reading with a BSc in Horticultural Science in 1971.

SAFFIE is a 5-year project investigating novel habitat management approaches, both in the crop and non-cropped margins. The project is based on the hypothesis that the manipulation of vegetation architecture, in the crop and non-crop areas, may be used to increase plant and invertebrate biodiversity and in so doing the abundance and availability of food sources and nesting habitats for farmland birds. CAER is leading on the plant and invertebrate work in the non-cropped areas and will be assisted by the British Trust for Ornithology who will monitor the birds. Other scientific partners include ADAS, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Central Science Laboratory, The Game Conservancy Trust, Jonathan Tipples, LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), Syngenta and the RSPB.

The industrial sponsors are the Crop Protection Association, HGCA, The National Trust, Safeway Stores plc, Sainsbury’s Supermarkets Ltd, Syngenta, RSBD and British Potato Council. DEFRA, SEERAD and English Nature are the Government sponsors of the project.

For further information on the SAFFIE project, please visit http://www.saffie.info/

CAER (Centre for Agri-Environmental Research) in the Department of Agriculture has been awarded a significant share in a £3.4m research contract, awarded under the DEFRA Sustainable Arable Link Programme.

Decline
The project, ‘Sustainable Arable Farming For an Improved Environment – enhancing biodiversity’ (SAFFIE), aims to explore ways to enhance farmland biodiversity. In particular, the research has been commissioned to address DEFRA’s Public Service Agreement to reverse the long-term decline of farmland birds by 2020.

Saving farmland birds

Christmas Holiday Lecture
Monday 22 December 3pm
Palmer Theatre, Whiteknights. “Fantastic Plastic!” by Averil Macdonald. What is the link between disposable nappies and flat screen TVs; Lego blocks and rubber trees; false legs and zero pollution cars; oil slicks and cress?

Free but by ticket only; contact Carol Derham in the Communications Office; tel: 0118 378 8004, email: c.a.derham@rdg.ac.uk.

Public Lectures
All in Palmer Theatre, Whiteknights.
Tuesday 16 December 8pm
‘Priests prelates and people: the history of European Catholicism’ by Dr Nick Atkin of the School of History.

Tuesday 27 January 8pm
Palmer Theatre, ‘Has the ozone layer been saved?’ by Professor Keith Shine.

Tuesday 24 February 8pm
Palmer Theatre, ‘Hitler to Saddam: the quest for international criminal accountability since 1945’ by Professor Michael Biddiss.

The Friends of the University
Wednesday 17 March 2004 at 2.30pm.
A visit to the Museum of English Rural Life, hosted by Caroline Gould. Members and their guests only. Tea at 4.30pm in the Blue Room.

Annual Meeting of The University of Reading Society
Saturday 5 May 2004.
The Friends of the University Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 30 June 2004 at 2.30pm.
Tour of new building and talks in Department of Psychology, Earley Gate, by kind permission of Professor J Wann. Tea at 4.30pm and Annual Meeting at 5.30pm in the Blue Room, Park House.
New ways to curing heart disease

Professor Gavin Brooks and Dr Katrina Bicknell (School of Animal and Microbial Sciences) went to the House of Commons to present some of their recent research findings to more than 100 MPs and members of the House of Lords. They were invited by Fabian Hamilton MP for Leeds North East and Trustee of the National Heart Research Fund (NHRF) along with colleagues from seven other universities and hospitals to promote the wide variety of research projects sponsored by the NHRF.

In the lead up to British Heart Week, June 8–16, the parliamentary reception successfully promoted the objectives of the NHRF, which include the advancement of medical research into the prevention, treatment and cure of heart disease and related disorders. Professor Brooks and Dr Bicknell currently hold a NHRF-funded project grant for work that aims to understand the molecular mechanisms that control the growth of heart muscle cells (cardiac myocytes).

More than 275,000 patients suffer a heart attack each year in the UK. Unfortunately, once the heart is injured, e.g. following heart attack, the heart is unable to repair itself since adult cardiac myocytes are differentiated cells that cannot divide and proliferate. Instead, surviving cardiac myocytes enlarge by a process called hypertrophy, which allows the heart to adapt to its increased workload. However, following major injury to the heart, excessive hypertrophy can occur that, in turn, becomes detrimental to cardiac function leading to heart failure and even death. A greater understanding of why adult cardiac myocytes do not divide, but instead grow by hypertrophy, might enable the development of new therapies aimed at controlling the growth of healthy myocytes that surround the damaged tissue, either by encouraging them to divide and regenerate new muscle tissue leading to repair of the heart or by preventing uncontrolled hypertrophy that might lead to heart failure.

The NHRF-funded research project has led to the discovery that cardiac myocyte hypertrophy can be prevented if a family of molecules, called CDC25 phosphatases, are inactivated.

Analysing theories of touch

Professor Naomi Segal, Head of the Department of French Studies, has received a grant to free her time in order to concentrate on her book Consensuality: the sense of touch and the hydraulics of gender. This is the first book in English to analyse the work of the French psychoanalyst and critical theorist, Didier Anzieu.

Anzieu describes the skin as both the metaphorical and physical boundary between the self and the world. Professor Segal will also be looking at the role gender plays in the way people view their skin – the ‘psychic armour’ that guards against injury and the fear of the ‘fluid’ of femininity which might pass between male or female bodies.

Imaginative illustrations

Members of the Imaginative Book Illustration Society (IBIS) toured the collections of the Department of Typography & Graphic Communication and the Library in March. Founded less than a decade ago, IBIS aims to encourage research into book and periodical illustrators and their publishers. Whilst the main emphasis is on the illustration of texts in English since the 1830s, IBIS embraces all aspects of illustrative art.

Selections from collections

On view in Typography were a selection of its collections, from a leaf of the famous Nuremberg Chronicle to the collection of woodblocks, tools, prints, manuscripts and books of the artist A W Seaby. A range of materials was also on view at the University Archives, including the artwork for book jackets from the Chatto & Windus papers, the John Lewis Collection of Printed Ephemera and drawings from the Heath Robinson Collection.

Networks work for business

Two new business networks, established by the University and key partners from the private and public sector are set to support growing regional activity in the life sciences and environmental technologies sectors.

Thames Valley Life Sciences Network (TVLSN) and Flexible On-Line Environmental Data Systems will stimulate growth in these high-tech sectors and promote the region as a centre for excellence. The networks are supported by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and business partners.

For information please contact Veronica Kay by email: v.kay@reading.ac.uk
Science for all

Yes we will have some bananas

The world’s favourite fruit, and the basic staple food for hundreds of millions of people in the developing world, the banana, is under severe threat from virulent pests and disease that could mean the fruit disappears forever in ten years time. This is the message that the media around the world have recently been declaring.

Dr Simon Gowen from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development disagrees that the banana will be extinct, but says that consumers are unlikely to be eating the same cloned variety of fruit that is eaten now, the Cavendish, which is virtually the only variety western supermarkets stock.

The Cavendish took over as the most popular banana in the 1960s from the Gros Michel, decimated by a form of Panama disease, known as ‘race 4’, that is now threatening the Cavendish. Dr Gowen knows of many more resistant varieties but there is currently no demand because supermarkets choose not to buy them.

However, the Cavendish is already under threat from the fungal disease, Black Sigatoka, but is protected commercially by as many as 40 sprayings a year of fungicide. These sprayings are not only expensive, but present a serious threat to workers and the environment. Race 4, however, is soil-borne and can not be controlled with fungicides. If this takes hold, the Cavendish may disappear altogether.

Through DFID (Crop Protection Programme) funded research, Dr Gowen and his colleagues are working on trials in Uganda of a new variety of banana currently known as FHIA 17 that is resistant to Sigatoka. Dr Gowen believes that if supermarkets and consumers understood that the fruit they are currently buying is heavily pesticide dependent and seriously undermining the economy and health of its producers they would be happy to purchase different varieties of their favourite fruit. If race 4 spreads further consumers may lose the Cavendish, but Dr Gowen hopes that the mistake of becoming dependent on one species of fruit can be avoided and consumers will be allowed to choose from the diverse range of varieties that are already grown in a more sustainable way.

Cloudy sting in the tail

Reading’s Meteorologists beat strong competition to be selected to take part in the Royal Society’s annual Summer Science Exhibition this year.

Strong winds during severe storms cause many millions of pounds damage in Europe in an average year. By piecing together events during European cyclones, including the Great Storm that swept over southeast England in October 1987, Professor Keith Browning and his colleagues have found that the most damaging winds are concentrated in a small region known as a Sting Jet. A stream of strong winds descends to the ground where there is evaporation at the tip of a tell-tale cloud feature. This cloud, hooked like a scorpion’s tail, gives the wind region its name, producing damaging wind gusts of 80 to 100 miles per hour.

Knowing how the Sting Jet behaves should allow forecasters to look at satellite images of storms and predict where the worst winds will fall within a few hours time. Eventually they should also be able to incorporate the understanding of this phenomenon into improved designs of the new generation computer forecast models.

The Reading scientists were on hand to answer any questions the public had about their work.

New lecturers’ winning ideas

The first winner of the newly-established Certificate in Further Professional Studies in Higher Education Project Prize was awarded to Dr Eleanor Highwood in the Department of Meteorology, for her project entitled Academic tutorials for BSc Meteorology undergraduates? A feasibility study. Eleanor received £500 to use for her further professional development.

Projects into an aspect of teaching and learning submitted as part of the Certificate programme (the University’s development programme for new lecturers) are eligible for the prize, which is awarded annually for the project considered most likely to influence teaching and learning within the School or discipline. The judges commented on the high standard of the entries, and congratulated Eleanor on her achievement.
Keeping Reading FC fit

Andrew Edwards, Lecturer in Exercise Physiology and PE in the Institute of Education has devised an extremely accurate tool for managers and coaches of Reading Football Club to accurately identify the strengths and weaknesses of their players in specific performance areas. In partnership with Niall Clark, sports scientist at Reading Football Club, Andrew has been able to utilise both fitness testing and dietary measurements to underpin the coaching and training of the professional footballers at Reading FC.

Professional football clubs have always worked very hard pre-season to prepare players for the demands of the coming season. In more recent years, fitness testing has become part of this process both in preparation for but also over the course of the competitive season. These tests provide the coaches of the club with objective evidence on the fitness status of their players where it is important to accurately gauge training intensities, monitor progress and identify players’ strengths and weaknesses.

From results derived from the test, Andrew and Niall are able to compare player’s fitness levels before and during the season, before and after injury and with other athletes.

Real mentoring experience

The Reading Experience is a customised work shadowing programme for students at Reading, designed to give them a genuine insight into the world of work. Unlike traditional work experience schemes, placements are negotiated to suit student and mentor giving more opportunity for exposure to a range of workplace experiences.

A pilot programme in 2002–03 linked students to mentors in career areas they had thought about following up after their degree. The University Careers Advisory Service sought volunteer mentors from companies of all sizes and sectors in the Thames Valley area, breaking down the myth that students only look to large blue-chip companies as potential employers. With a line up of 20 mentors, students from various disciplines spent time with professionals in a diversity of organisations, the scheme was highly successful and is set to run for another academic year 2003–04.

Ruth Doughty, HR Officer at Centrica mentored a sociology student contemplating a career in human resources. 'In my view, the Reading Experience provides an opportunity for undergraduates to gain a real perspective enabling them to make more educated decisions about the sort of career they may be interested in.'

Other mentoring projects included:
- A Politics & International Relations student getting involved with marketing campaigns in a brand new local entertainment PR company.
- A Biotechnology student being mentored by a Macmillan Cancer Genetics counsellor at the John Radcliffe Hospital.
- Typography students working closely with a busy design team at Yell.
- Environmental Science students learning about the global oil and gas industry with Foster Wheeler.
- History of Art student developing curatorial skills at the Stanley Spencer Art Gallery.

Following last year's success, the Reading Experience team are now seeking mentors to start programmes in October 2003. To find out more about taking part please contact Em Hughes in the Careers Advisory Service, tel: 0118 378 8354 or email e.l.hughes@rdg.ac.uk

Retirements

Mr David Frampton (above right) retired in July after 11 years as Registrar and Tutors’ Secretary, but after 30 years at the university, starting as Assistant Registrar in 1973; Mr Keith Freeman, programmer in the School of Applied Statistics after 34 years; Mr Keith Greenow, the University macebearer after 11 years; Dr Gerry Griffin after 28 years having joined the Department of Chemistry as a Research Fellow and ending with a greater variety of different roles than any other member of staff; Mr John Kibblewhite after 26 years as Technical Safety Officer.

Honorary graduates

In the summer degree congregations the following honorary degrees were conferred:
- Mr Tim Smit (right), Director of the Lost Gardens of Heligan and Chief Executor and co-founder of the Eden Project, received a Doctor of Science.
- Mr Paul Orchard-Listle, President of University Council since 1994, received a Doctor of Laws.
- Sir Dominic Cadbury, Chairman of the Wellcome Trust since 2000, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham and a member of the well-known Birmingham Cadbury family, received a Doctor of Science.
- Dame Rosalyn Higgins, a judge of the International Court of Justice since 1995, received a Doctor of Laws.
- Mr William Alexander, Chief Exec of Thames Water plc since 1997, received a Doctor of Science.

Staff obituaries

Ken Gladish

Ken Gladish died peacefully on 26 July. Ken had completed over 32 years of service in the University when he retired in 1994, the last four years as Head of the Department of Politics.

Sir Terry Frost

Ex University of Reading Professor and Honorary Graduate, Sir Terry Frost died on 1 September.

Born in Leamington Spa in 1915, Sir Terry was one of Britain’s most respected abstract artists, who honed his skills in a prisoner-of-war camp during the Second World War.

He became a full-time Lecturer at the Department of Fine Art at the University in 1964, and went on to become Professor of Painting 1977 to 1981.
Alumni news

‘50s reunion a winner

Alumni who had graduated in the 1950s were invited back for a nostalgic day on 13 September. Guests were able to choose from a varied programme of visits to the Cole Museum, the Library, the Harris Garden, the Museum of English Rural Life, and tours round the Whiteknights and the London Road campuses. These proved particularly popular as most alumni had studied at London Road whilst the development of Whiteknights was still in its infancy. The 220 alumni lunched in the Cedar Room, where they were updated on current activities by the Vice-Chancellor and also had a very amusing talk from Mr Paul Mills (Sci ’56). The day brought back memories for everyone, some of whom had not seen each other for fifty years. ‘My first visit to the University for 50 years – although I have met my contemporaries over this period, it was very odd to be with so many people of one’s own age! I think we all looked pretty lively.’ “A super day. We did not meet as many of our contemporaries as we hoped but those we did meet rolled back the years. Thank you to the reunion team’ ‘It was a great day. I enjoyed it very much. Will certainly come again – health permitting!’ This was a view shared by many and plans are already afoot to hold another gathering in five years time.

Many effort was put into organising this by Mrs Jill Williams née Preedy (Engl ’56) and the Alumni Office is grateful to her, the alumni helpers and to the volunteer guides from many parts of the University who helped make this such a memorable day.

See www.reading.ac.uk/alumni for more pictures.

Friends report

The departmental visit in July to the new Archaeology building, hosted by Professor Bob Chapman, was a great success. Many members of staff and postgraduates were on hand to provide tours, talks and demonstrations of current research being carried out on a variety of sites and projects. After tea, members attending the annual meeting heard from the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gordon Marshall, who kindly remained afterwards to meet several of the attendees.

Englefield visit
A visit was arranged in September to The Englefield Estate, hosted by Sir William Benyon and Lady Benyon. Fifty two members toured his impressive family home and garden and enjoyed a pre-booked picnic lunch.

Autumn talk 2003
The autumn talk in October, given by Dr Ken Norris, was entitled ‘Going but not quite gone-conserving endangered birds in the tropics’.

Spring talk 2004
The Spring talk will be on Wednesday 17 March 2004 at 2.30 pm at the Museum of English Rural Life and hosted by Caroline Gould. It will be a chance for members to view the microfilm reader which was purchased from a grant made by the association, and to hear about the new location of the museum. Other grants allocated in the financial year 2003–2004 were to Sibly Hall, the Chaplaincy Centre, the Department of Psychology and for the restoration of the University Bannerette.

Have you graduated in the last 3 years? Are you looking for that first graduate job or maybe to change the jobs or career you are currently in? Every week The University Careers Service compiles and sends out a weekly email jobs list to graduates. There is no charge for this service and it is very simple to arrange to receive it. Just log on to our website at http:// www.lists.rdg.ac.uk/mailman/ listinfo/cas-vacancies and insert your email details. The list is very diverse. It includes local, national and international employers. The list also covers vacancies in all kinds of job areas.
News from overseas branches

Barbados and Eastern Caribbean

Members of the British High Commission and DFID(Caribbean) will be starting a regional alumni society with a meeting for all who can attend. Contact Rob Holland, c/o the Alumni Office.

Malaysia and Singapore

For the third time in three years, Professor Kevin Warwick (Cybernetics) presented a series of talks on cyborgs and future possibilities of embedding technology in human bodies. Accompanied by Lindsey Horn (International Officer) and Neil Gasson (Cybernetics), Professor Warwick spent three days in both Singapore and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), giving talks at schools, Nanyang Polytechnic, the University of Teknologi Malaysia and the National Science Centre. The last two were public lectures with standing room only! All the talks included demonstrations by robots transported and looked after by Neil.

The visits were arranged through the International and Study Abroad Office with the very active support of and organisation by the British Council in both countries, with Professor Warwick representing both Education UK and the University of Reading. Professor Warwick has undertaken several previous visits, and future ones include a return to India early in 2004.

The reunion held in February attracted over 100 people. Shown here are Dr Rostis Saruswono, Vice-Chancellor of Petronas University (centre) and Overseas Secretary Dr Haji Iskander Ismail (right).

Overseas secretaries

Australia
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Reading: reading | issue 34