“Elite without being elitist...
The stand-out choice in a very tough competition.”

*Times Higher Education Winners’ Brochure*
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A momentous year for the University of Leicester

Introduction by Professor Robert Burgess, Vice-Chancellor

Members of the University always knew that 2007-08 would be a significant year as it officially marked the 50th Anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter. In practice, it was a momentous year for the institution with awards, achievements, new buildings and the development of further plans for ambitious schemes.

Leicester has always set great store by ensuring that it provides a high quality student experience and this was realised once again. We achieved top scores in the National Student Survey (the largest independent survey of students commissioned by government) that put us in second position next only to Cambridge among mainstream English universities teaching full-time students. It is very satisfying and encouraging to know that the University is very highly regarded by its students.

Similar accolades are also given to our research activities where competitive grants have been won through peer review. In 2007-08 the University’s researchers won £55 million of new research grants and contracts which clearly demonstrates that their work is greatly valued by their peers. It is these awards that lead to new scientific discoveries, major contributions to scholarship and to policy and practice, some of which are recorded in the pages that follow.

Such work also leads to many awards for the institution, for departments and for individuals. In this academic year the Division of Marketing and Communications won the Times Higher Education Award for a direct marketing campaign – an accolade that placed us at the forefront of UK universities.

Departments led research nationally and internationally in areas such as medical science, physics and museum studies. It is this work, and that of other departments, that was showcased in the highly successful ‘Celebrate Leicester Day’ that attracted over 6,000 visitors to our campus. It was a splendid opportunity for members of the public to learn about our work and to visit new facilities, including the new David Wilson Library which was available to view. It attracted many compliments from the public that have also been matched by the comments of staff and students who have the pleasure of working in it on a daily basis.

The Library was the biggest building project (at a cost of £32 million) in which the University had ever engaged and was greatly assisted by our successful fundraising campaign that has been aided by alumni, long-standing friends and supporters of the University.

This year also witnessed considerable success for individuals with members of the University receiving public honours, awards from learned societies and invitations to serve on national and international committees. In turn, we have also given Distinguished Honorary Fellowships and Honorary Degrees to a wide range of people, many of whom are closely associated with us. In particular, during our anniversary year it was a very special pleasure to reward local people for their distinguished service and support to the University.

Finally, at the end of the 2008 calendar year our success was climaxed by winning the Times Higher Education University of the Year Award and receiving a visit by Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh to open the David Wilson Library exactly fifty years after their initial visit to the University following the granting of the Royal Charter. This visit is recorded in this issue of LE1 and will also form part of the gathering record in 2008-09 on which there will be more to write in the next Annual Report.
At a glittering gala dinner in Park Lane, London, on October 23, in the presence of Higher Education Minister David Lammy, the University of Leicester was named University of the Year for 2008-9. The accolade followed a year of success in the 2007-8 academic year that saw the University achieve record research grant income, record student recruitment and its highest ever league table position.

“Leicester’s turnaround in the last decade has been extraordinary, and it is encouraging to note that the university has risen through the league tables without feeling the need to compromise on its widening participation initiatives. [Leicester] now has a strong claim to being among the elite. Leicester was able to evidence its commitment to high quality, a belief in the synergy of teaching and research and a conviction that higher education is a power for good. The stand-out choice in a very tough competition.”

JUDGES’ CITATION
Leicester's success in league tables has been remarkable – rising in each of the four main national tables to occupy its highest ever position in each. But it is not just in the UK that the University’s work has had impact. Leicester features prominently amongst the world’s top 200 universities (ranked 151st in the Shanghai Jiao Tong Table and 177th in the Times Higher World University rankings for 2008).

The University of Leicester’s position in the league tables: 2004-2008

“It’s no wonder everyone is so pleased to be there.”
GUARDIAN MAY 2008

“A first class university.”
INDEPENDENT COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUIDE APRIL 2008
Teaching that inspires

The 2007-8 academic year saw record application levels and intakes at the University. Undergraduate applications rose sharply for the second successive year resulting in an intake of over 3,000 new full-time undergraduates and, in addition, over 1,600 full-time postgraduate students. With part-time and distance learning students the University, for the first time, grew to over 20,000 students in October 2008.

Despite rapid growth in demand, evidence indicates that the quality of the student experience has been maintained. The 2008 National Student Survey – the country’s largest and most comprehensive test of student opinion – conducted independently of institutions themselves, revealed student satisfaction at Leicester remained amongst the highest in the country. 92% of full-time students taught at Leicester were satisfied with their experience – a proportion bettered in England only by Cambridge amongst mainstream universities.

National Student Survey 2008: Top mainstream English Universities

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<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>% satisfied</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Cambridge</td>
<td>93</td>
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<td>University of Leicester</td>
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<td>Loughborough University</td>
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<td>University of Kent</td>
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<td>Aston University</td>
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<td>Lancaster University</td>
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<td>University of Reading</td>
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<td>University of Sheffield</td>
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Research that changes the World

The University’s world-class research is diverse and significant in its impact. For example, recent work has demonstrated links between hormones and heart disease, discovered new techniques for lifting fingerprints from metals (for example bullets), highlighted that Renaissance England possessed unprecedented diverse and flourishing satire and comedy, and demonstrated that diet has a significant impact on the evolution of species.

In October the *Times Higher Education* released their annual world ranking of institutions. Leicester was one of the few British institutions to rise – up eight to 177th in the world. Within the table a study of research impact conducted by QS for the THE revealed Leicester’s research enjoyed very significant impact within the sector.

Research impact: Top 10 British universities for citation levels relative to size
(source QS/THES October 2008)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>QS’s citation per academic score</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Cambridge</td>
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<td>UCL (University College London)</td>
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<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imperial College London</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Bristol</td>
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<td>University of Sussex</td>
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<td>University of Leicester</td>
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<tr>
<td>King’s College London</td>
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<td>University of Edinburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Glasgow</td>
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Funding for research activity 2004-08

After a rise of over 60% in research awards between 2005/6 and 2006/7, the University entered the 2007/8 academic year anxious to continue to grow its research base. The year delivered further growth taking research grant awards past the £55m mark for the first time.

A selection of research grants 2007-08

An interdisciplinary group from Archaeology and Ancient History, Computer Science and Museum Studies led by Professor Lin Foxhall was awarded £1.38 million by the Leverhulme Trust for research into Craft Traditions in the Ancient Mediterranean and beyond.

Professor Richard Baker (Health Sciences) led a cross-faculty group working with the NHS which was awarded one of seven £10 million awards by the National Institute for Health Research for a Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research & Care (CLAHRC).

Professor Anthony Brookes (Genetics) was awarded £1.57 million EU funding to lead an international project on Genotype to Phenotype Databases.

Projects led by Professor Mike Watson, Dr Julian Osborne and Professor Martin Turner (Physics & Astronomy) received awards totalling £3.4 million from STFC for post-launch support of XMM-Newton, Swift and XMM Epic.

Professor John Schwabe and Dr Nick Barley (Biochemistry) received a £1.35 million award from the Wellcome Trust to conduct research into molecular mechanisms and biological roles of transcriptional repression by the SMRT/NCoR complex.

Dr Edmund Chattoe-Brown (Sociology) received funding of £278k from ESRC for his project “SIMIAN: Simulation Innovation: A Node”.

Professor David Ekserdjian (History of Art) was awarded £133k by the Leverhulme Trust for his research project “The Italian Renaissance Altarpiece: Between Icon and Narrative”.

An interdisciplinary group from Archaeology and Ancient History, Computer Science and Museum Studies was awarded £1.38 million for research into Craft Traditions in the Ancient Mediterranean and beyond.
One of the greatest losses of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 was our grip on reality.

New research from the Centre for American Studies at the University of Leicester is examining the impact of the atrocity on language, literature – and our perception of the world. >>
words
In September 2001 Catherine Morley was a student, and she clearly recalls the visual impact of the terrible 9/11 atrocity which seemed to be almost the stuff of fiction.

“I was standing in front of a television shop and every single television was showing the same image of a plane crashing in to the side of the World Trade Centre. I was hooked! Obviously it was a dreadful, terrible and traumatic thing and a horrifying terrorist attack. But at the same time I thought, ‘Wow – this is a real DeLillo moment that has almost been anticipated by his fiction!’

Don DeLillo writes fiction on terrorism –and a decade earlier had written about how the future belonged to terrorists.

Now a lecturer in the School of English at Leicester, Dr Morley is not alone in her reaction to the terrorist attacks. As writers were called upon to make sense of what the world had witnessed, many commented on the surreal nature of the attacks.

“What was immediately striking about a great number of these writers’ responses was the emphasis on the visual or on the actual spectacle of the attacks. Many writers described themselves as impotent, as though they were frozen in front of the television screen or, in the case of the New York writers, watching from some city vantage point. Indeed, for many writers in the weeks and months after the attacks, the heightened visibility of the attacks seemed to render them ‘too real’. So the problem for the writer was how to write about events which seemed to defy the logic of traditional narrative realism, and which presented a story that the whole world was already familiar with through an unending televisual loop.”

Dr Morley argues that the widespread soul-searching of writers in the days and weeks after the attacks is an important gauge of the public position of the writer in the contemporary world. In contrast with the later fictional responses to 9/11, most of the immediate responses to 9/11 were non-fictional and subjective, describing various writers’ proximity to events. One of the most rehearsed observations of the image of the planes hitting the towers was the unreality of these events, leading some writers to argue that the attacks can only be seen as a kind of fiction, and suggesting that one of the greatest losses of the terrorist attacks was our sense of reality.

Another casualty of this war was the ability of language to articulate what we had witnessed. As Dr Morley puts it: “In light of this attack on American soil, the first foreign attack since the Second World War, it is not surprising that American writers became more subjective and less dispassionate in their immediate responses, presenting raw personal grief and their perceived sense of the futility of their literary endeavours. There was a general feeling among writers that words would inevitably fail in the face of the extremely visual nature of the attacks.”

For writers whose stories harness the raw emotion provoked by the attacks, language seems redundant in the face of the terror and the televisual spectacle: “Words alone cannot untie the knot of grief nor can they adequately compete with images of mass devastation. So in their groping sense of confusion, these writers’ stories offer an aesthetic of rawness. At the same time, though, the events of September 11 engendered a new reality, so close and so familiar it was ‘unreal’. When reality becomes a nightmare, realism itself falls apart. And in this context the textual combination of the literary and the visual might come closest to capturing the terrible trauma of 11 September 2001.”
In Dr Morley’s seminar groups, discussions about writers’ responses to 9/11, and about the ability of language to capture the totality of our experience, have made for some lively discussions.

“Students are very interested in it,” says Dr Morley. “I think this is because it still feels very relevant and of course they all remember it well. In fact, I find that I am integrating quite a lot of 9/11 fiction into my courses all the time.”

Her studies reveal that 9/11 not only influenced our sense of realism and our ability to express this realism – it also led to the manipulation of language, and a rhetoric – ‘infected with fear.’

Indeed, Dr Morley’s analysis of US government documents finds an ‘extraordinarily pervasive rhetoric of fear.’

She examines different literary responses to the culture of fear and the so-called ‘war on terror’ looking at how they explore government surveillance, infringement of civil liberties and the role of the media in the new global environment of distrust. Her research reveals how US military rhetoric and government-fuelled paranoia are conflated within the fiction of the post-9/11 era.

The effect, says Morley, is to make a rather deliberate, if subtle, point, which acknowledges the complicity of the West in the propagation of the current state of fear.

Indeed, argues Morley, “It has done so to such an extent that the raised terror alerts which are regularly announced by the global media seem to have engendered a heightened sense of reality, bordering on the surreal in its capacity for inspiring terror.”

Literary artists continue to add to the body of comment on what was a terrible historical event. And their reactions, embodied in the fictions produced after 9/11, continue to challenge our perceptions and provoke new discussion.
Building self-esteem in young children is critical for their future success. Research projects at the University’s School of Education to enhance reading, maths and storytelling skills are already yielding impressive results.

A pilot project that began five years ago with just 20 children in Leicester, with the aim of improving their maths and reading skills, is now set to roll out across the country.

The project is the brainchild of University of Leicester lecturer Rose Griffiths whose initiative has led to collaboration with Booktrust, an independent national charity that encourages people of all ages and cultures to discover and enjoy reading.

Rose set up the Letterbox Club – a pilot project in which looked-after children were sent a parcel once a month for six months containing a selection of stationery items, one or two books and a maths activity. Each Letterbox Club parcel arrives in a brightly coloured package, addressed to the child.

The Club’s aim was to improve each child’s attitude to school and their attainment in reading and mathematics and, before they took part, each child, their foster carer and class teacher completed a questionnaire checking attitudes to school, personal book ownership and library membership. Participating children’s reading and maths were also assessed.

Five years on and results published by Booktrust and the University of Leicester reveal a marked improvement in the educational outlook of children in foster care that participated in the project, in reading and maths.

The project received major funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to work with 50 local authorities and over 1500 children during 2007 and 2008. From 2009 the Letterbox Club will be open to every local authority in the United Kingdom, on a subscription basis for each child enrolled.

Rose Griffiths said: “The Letterbox Club is such a simple idea, but right from the beginning five years ago, when we just worked with twenty children in Leicester, it was obvious that it had a very positive impact on how children felt about themselves.”

Benefits for children are also expected through another project in the School of Education inspired by the work of Jane Hislam and her story projects for under fives.

Ingrid Spencer aims to work with Early Years children developing their skills in storytelling by themselves.

Ingrid said: “When children are literally finding their own voice and being heard by an audience of their peers, it can build a strong sense of personal advocacy – having meaning in the world.

“Storytelling is an ancient art, quintessential to sharing and recreating group histories and bonds, and in twenty-first century Britain can highlight similarities in culture in multi-ethnic communities.

"An often used example is the story of Cinderella which is first recorded 5000 years ago in China, but versions of the story occur in every human community. It is a 'fairy tale' but it is not fluffy; it deals with grief, parental death, neglect and abuse, the difficulties of step-families – core issues affecting the majority of the world’s children.

“Being truly listened to is a very powerful experience and cannot help but engender greater self esteem. Through repetition, memorising and developing a toolkit of rhetorical tricks, they will become more literate in multiple senses.”

Ingrid’s research will explore the best ways to train students’ native telling powers and develop their ear for finding words that must be heard.
Each child who joins the Letterbox Club gets a parcel once a month. Image: Marizul/Booktrust
www.letterboxclub.org.uk
Out of this

Above: Saturn in visible light with the UV auroral oval imaged by the Hubble Space Telescope superposed (Credit: NASA and JT Clarke)

Below: Saturn with its moon Titan. The view was acquired with the Cassini spacecraft wide-angle camera on October 26, 2007 (Credit: NASA/JPL/Space Science Institute)

“One of the good things about Saturn is its moon Titan, which orbits in the outer part of the magnetosphere, and is big enough that its gravity can twist the orbit around. It’s a marvellous game of space billiards in which the spacecraft orbit can be altered through a whole set of different regimes. It’s allowed us to do a very thorough exploration of Saturn’s system.”
Stan Cowley, Professor of Solar-Planetary Physics and Head of the Radio and Space Plasma Physics Group at the University of Leicester, is acknowledged internationally as an outstanding scientist, a leader in his field and someone who has made major breakthroughs in the field of solar-planetary sciences.

These accolades have come in the wake of some of the highest awards his world has to offer. They include the UK Royal Astronomical Society Gold Medal and the Julius Bartels Medal from the European Geophysical Union, both awarded in 2006, and Fellowship of the American Geophysical Union (1995).

“It’s nice that people approve of what you’ve done and that they are glad to say so publicly,” Professor Cowley said. “But the reason that scientists work is for love of their work, not to get awards.”

The research he and his co-workers do is a combination of theory, modelling and data analysis, which is rather unusual, he says. Most people only tackle one or two of these. “I like to have a foot in all these camps because one informs the other,” he said. “It’s the scientific method in microcosm. You develop theoretical ideas, make mathematical models, analyse data to test those models and the results from those analyses inform further theory and modelling.

“We develop and test models with actual data. Or we discover phenomena in data which we don’t understand and use that to develop theoretical ideas. Sometimes the work is mainly theory and modelling and at other times mainly data analysis, depending on the phase of the space missions in which we are involved.

“We were waiting for Cassini to get to Saturn, we started to develop ideas based on previous fly-bys. Saturn’s outer environment is roughly comparable to Earth’s, with layers of atmosphere, ionosphere, and magnetosphere, ending up in the solar wind at large distances, but the processes that dominate in this system are significantly different, so we have to learn new tricks.”

Cassini is one of a number of space missions with which Professor Cowley has been involved for many years. When he came to Leicester in 1996 from Imperial College, involvement in Cassini was one of several international projects he brought with him.

“We play on the international scale. I believe there’s no point in doing what we do unless we’re at least aspiring to be the best in the world at doing it. The ethos is that we compete on the world stage, or we’re not competing.”

Professor Stan Cowley
Department of Physics and Astronomy
The mission is run jointly between NASA, ESA and ASI, its aim to orbit Saturn, studying the planet, its environment, and its moons.

“These missions take a very long time from inception to fruition,” Professor Cowley warned. “I’ve been involved in Cassini since the first meeting we set up in January 1990. It was launched in 1997 but didn’t arrive at Saturn until 2004. The mission was originally designed for four years, and has just expired, but now it has been extended to 2010 and maybe beyond that, so we still have much more data to come, flying through and studying different regions of Saturn’s environment. Ultimately the spacecraft will be destroyed in the planet’s atmosphere.

“One of the good things about Saturn is its moon Titan, which orbits in the outer part of the magnetosphere, and is big enough that its gravity can twist the orbit around. It’s a marvellous game of space billiards in which the spacecraft orbit can be altered through a whole set of different regimes. It’s allowed us to do a very thorough exploration of Saturn’s system.

“There is the remote possibility of conditions that could harbour life on Saturn’s moons. For example, we have detected plumes of icy material that are squirting out in geysers from the moon Enceladus, which is the source of one of the outer rings of Saturn. It may mean there is some sort of sea underneath the icy crust. This is one of the major discoveries from the Cassini mission.”

Other research Stan Cowley brought to Leicester includes his work on the ESA missions, Cluster and Rosetta. Cluster is a group of four spacecraft orbiting Earth and relaying detailed information about how the solar wind (a stream of hydrogen plasma from the Sun) is affecting our planet. Rosetta will be the first mission to explore a comet at very close quarters when it arrives in 2014.

The NASA Juno mission began about two years ago. The spacecraft is due to be launched in 2011 and will begin orbiting Jupiter in 2016. Professor Cowley is working on this project with Emma Bunce from the University’s Space Research Centre. They are developing ideas of what they might find out about the structures in the magnetosphere, particularly what electrical current systems may flow between Jupiter’s magnetosphere and ionosphere, and how these relate to Jupiter’s auroras.

While his work on the outer planets is mainly exploratory – ‘getting to know our back yard, which is a pretty useful thing to do’ – closer to home the work of Professor Cowley’s group has a great deal of practical relevance.

Space weather is ruled by the variability of what the Sun happens to throw at the Earth, which is continually varying, as Professor Cowley explained. “Sometimes there are enormous outbursts flung in the direction of Earth, which cause magnetic storms that affect the magnetosphere and ionosphere and through them the Earth’s atmosphere.”
“That is increasingly important because spacecraft used for a host of applications fly through this variable and potentially hostile environment. This includes spacecraft used for communications, meteorology, intelligence, and remote sensing of the land, oceans and atmosphere. Ionospheric disturbances also affect technologies that rely on long-distance radio propagation, such as over-the-horizon radars and direction-finding systems. All of this makes our work not only scientifically interesting, but also important practically.”

Has he ever had a ‘Eureka moment’?
“Most of the time you just do your work taking modest steps that can certainly build into something major. But I do remember particularly a time when I was walking the dog in the park and the ‘light bulb went on’. It was the most important idea I had about how the Earth’s system operates. I had to rush home and write it all down. Of course, these sudden thoughts are always the result of having thought about a problem for years beforehand.”

Professor Cowley believes the scope of the work his research group does in solar-planetary physics is broader than elsewhere in the UK. “We not only do theory, modelling and analysis of satellite data, but also build and operate radars to study the ionosphere in the polar regions where it is most effected by the solar wind. We coordinate these observations with spacecraft measurements such as those from the Cluster mission. We are also working with colleagues in the Space Research Centre to develop a lightweight camera to image the Earth’s auroras from orbit.

“We play on the international scale. I believe there’s no point in doing what we do unless we’re at least aspiring to be the best in the world at doing it. The ethos is that we compete on the world stage, or we’re not competing.”

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On 4 December 2008, Her Majesty opened the new David Wilson Library at the University of Leicester. The Royal Standard flew above the University as The Queen, accompanied by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, arrived to the tumult of cheers, applause and waving flags from the radiant crowds of students, staff and children…

“The Royal couple were fascinated to hear from students and staff how modern libraries combine cutting-edge technology alongside medieval manuscripts and the earliest printed books.”

Christine Fyfe, Librarian and Pro-Vice-Chancellor
5. Third year computer science student John Pickering converses with Her Majesty

6. Hundreds of people, including schoolchildren, gathered for the historic occasion

7. Her Majesty with Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess

8. Distinguished Honorary Fellows Jean Humphreys (left) and Wendy Hickling converse with Her Majesty and Sir Peter Williams
The research by Dr Svetlana Andrianova and Professor Panicos Demetriades at Leicester, with Anja Shortland at Brunel University, challenges traditional views, that government owned banks are politically motivated, associated with financial instability and low growth, and a feature of developing countries.

They point out that state-owned banks are seen by investors as a ‘safe haven’ in economies where the private banking system is perceived as failing, even when they offer low interest rates. This is borne out by the huge demand for Northern Rock savings accounts during the recent financial crisis, to the extent that the bank had to turn away potential depositors. Similarly, in Russia the state savings bank, Sberbank, attracts many more investors than the private banking sector, in spite of its lower deposit rates.

Professor Demetriades explained: “Recent events make it easy to see why the ‘political view’ of state banks is problematic. The positive correlation that arises in a cross-country relationship between government ownership of banks and financial crises frequently reflects reverse causality, ie private banks that fail end up under government ownership because no other investor would buy them.

“Moreover, the financial crisis that preceded the government takeovers of banks is normally followed by severe recessions. To ascribe the blame to governments is like arguing that hospitals are the causes of ill health because they are associated with illness.”

In a paper published in the February 2008 issue of Journal of Development Economics, based on data taken from 108 countries in a World Bank survey of banking practices and
regulation, the researchers suggest that in times of crisis state banks are popular with investors, who may perceive private banks as opportunistic and unregulated.

The number of government-owned banks is therefore higher in countries with weaker regulatory institutions and with a previous history of banking crises, and an increase in state banking is positively associated with previous banking crises, often involving private bank failures.

Regulatory quality and disclosure were found to be inversely related to government ownership of banks while political variables were insignificant, suggesting that government ownership is more the symptom of regulatory weaknesses than the desire of politicians to control banks.

The research concludes that if attempts are made to privatise government-owned banks without putting in place a sound institutional infrastructure, investors may simply withdraw their money from the banking system altogether. Top priority should therefore be given to rebuilding regulatory institutions to contain opportunistic behaviour by banks and to regain public confidence. In a world in which financial markets are increasingly complex and global, this would require an unprecedented degree of international co-ordination by regulatory authorities.
“The ability to use high resolution microscopy, to see what is actually going on in cells, is critical to research. So having this facility at Leicester allows us to compete at world level.”
Professor Andrew Fry
MOLECULES MAKETH MAN

The Department of Biochemistry at the University of Leicester has become a leading research and teaching centre in the UK. Housed in the new Henry Wellcome Building, it is justly proud of its facilities and its expertise, which are acclaimed across the world.

With its strong research reputation, acknowledged both internationally and throughout the UK, the Department’s key focus is the study of proteins and nucleic acids and their interactions with each other and with small molecules, from the fundamental context of the atomic level to the whole organism. This article illustrates current examples of work on the structure and dynamics of molecules at the atomic level, on the biochemical reactions of single molecules, on the function of molecules within cells and their importance for whole organism physiology.

Bringing together these various approaches in one Department means that researchers in Leicester can tackle important questions for understanding the mechanisms behind diseases, how drugs work, and ultimately how molecules maketh man. Much of the work leads the world in its field and crosses interdisciplinary and international boundaries.

Structural biologist Professor John Schwabe’s laboratory is using state-of-the-art techniques to understand the molecular mechanisms through which hormonal and metabolic signals control our physiology, and how this goes awry in disease. His group draws people from around the world: “We have really productive collaborations with scientists in the US, Japan and Europe, as well of course as those in Leicester,” he said.

The Henry Wellcome Laboratories for Structural Biology are superbly equipped with a considerable investment in robotics and instruments for both X-ray diffraction and NMR spectroscopy. These resources allow Professor Schwabe’s group to use cutting-edge techniques to understand, in the greatest detail, how these important proteins function.

The NMR facilities are primarily supported by funding to three research groups, including that of Dr Mark Carr. The structural biology facilities at Leicester are among the best in the world, according to Dr Carr, who studies the functions of proteins, the ‘molecular machines’ of cells, particularly those associated with diseases like TB and cancer. “Such resources allow us to work at the edge of what’s possible, relying on a combination of sophisticated, expensive equipment and in depth technical expertise” he said.

“We have really productive collaborations with scientists in the US, Japan and Europe, as well of course as those in Leicester.”
Professor John Schwabe
A unique facet of Dr Carr’s research is the exceptional partnership he has built up with the pharmaceutical company UCB Celltech. “This partnership matches the best University scientific expertise with the ability of pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs that benefit people,” he said. “The pooling of scientific expertise and infrastructure has the potential to deliver something immensely worthwhile.”

Much of the work in the Department spans the broad field of Molecular Cell Biology, often with a direct relevance to understanding what goes wrong in cancer. Professor Andrew Fry’s research group focuses on the control of cell division, and is internationally consulted as a leading laboratory. Many current cancer treatments act by killing all dividing cells and are not necessarily specific for the cancer cells, hence the severe side effects. One of Professor Fry’s aims is to understand the molecular control of cell division and as a result identify proteins which can be targeted in specific tumours, leaving other cells unharmed.

Something that has helped him to establish this reputation is a state-of-the-art Microscopy facility. “The ability to use high resolution microscopy, to see what is actually going on in cells, is critical to research. So having this facility at Leicester allows us to compete at world level,” he said.

Dr Catrin Pritchard’s expertise is in modelling cancer in different systems to understand how the disease develops at a very basic level. In particular, she is studying the protein BRAF, which induces cell growth, becoming hyperactive when mutated in cancer. BRAF is particularly implicated in melanoma and in certain forms of colorectal cancer.

In collaboration with colleagues from the Institute of Cancer Research in London, Dr Pritchard is testing inhibitors to reverse the effect of BRAF. These have proved effective in the laboratory. “The implications of this for cancer treatments are huge,” she said. “Some of the inhibitors are already undergoing Phase 1 clinical trials and we hope they will ultimately be effective in the clinic.”

Of growing interest internationally is the advance in technology that allows the study of single molecules at work, since this can provide insights that the study of populations cannot. Professor Ian Eperon’s pioneering research, a collaboration with fellow biochemist Professor Clive Bagshaw, uses single molecule methods to try to unravel the order in which hundreds of proteins

Surface features of a key protein regulator of bone remodelling (sclerostin), which is shown with the binding site for heparin highlighted (A) and with heparin bound (B). The interaction with heparin localises sclerostin to cell surfaces and the identification of its binding site and other functional surfaces by NMR spectroscopy is important for knowledge-based drug discovery, for instance in the treatment of osteoporosis. This work is an example of the successful collaboration between UCB Celltech and Dr Carr’s group.

Evolution of melanomas through several distinct stages. The first stage involves the formation of benign or dysplastic nevi – more commonly known as moles – that are characterized by increased numbers of melanocytes. These precursor lesions can progress to melanoma in situ that grows laterally – the so-called radial growth phase. The third phase is the vertical-growth-phase in which the melanoma penetrates into the underlying tissue, leading to malignant disease. Moles can remain dormant for many years and it is believed that the transition from radial-to-vertical-growth phase is the crucial step involving mutation of the BRAF gene. Inhibition of BRAF is thus a key therapeutic strategy for the treatment of melanoma. (This work is funded by a Cancer Research UK programme grant to Dr Pritchard).
assemble onto a molecule of RNA to catalyse and regulate the reactions of RNA splicing.

The splicing of RNA – a temporary copy of DNA – is required because genes contain lots of sequences that interrupt the bits that make sense in gene expression. By splicing the RNA in different ways, one gene can produce several proteins. We have only as many genes as much simpler organisms, and evidence suggests that it is alternative splicing that has allowed complex organisms to evolve.

While Professor Eperon’s main interest is increasing our understanding of life, there can be useful spin-offs. He has invented a method that might treat spinal muscular atrophy and cancers. He collaborates widely outside the University, and also with other prestigious research groups in the University, including Space Research, NanoScience, Chemistry, Cell Physiology and Pharmacology, Cardiovascular Sciences and Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine. This results in the best of shared knowledge and techniques from each.

Looking to the training of the next generation of biochemists, the Department has been offering a highly successful Masters degree in Cancer Cell and Molecular Biology since 2005 to add to the pre-existing course in Bioinformatics run in conjunction with the Genetics Department and Maths and Computing Science. The popularity of the Cancer MSc is partly because, exceptionally, the majority of the course is lab-based. “We started it because, when we looked at other MSc courses, no one was offering a specific course in cancer biology,” said Dr Raj Patel, “and we have been able to build on the emerging combined strength of the University and the University hospitals as a centre of cancer research.”

Looking back, Professor Eperon said, “With that of the previous heads has been crucial right across the board in evolving the Department to its current position of strength and we owe them a lot. Looking forward, the last four years have seen a major evolution of staff, including ‘new blood’ lecturers and RCUK fellows, which has produced a strong international feel to the Department and the combined research expertise that this youthful refreshment has brought augurs well for the future.”

Dr Harrison has added “Actually Gordon Roberts’ influence, together with that of the previous heads has been crucial right across the board in evolving the Department to its current position of strength and we owe them a lot.”

Large protein complexes in the nucleus of cells control whether or not particular genes are active. This image shows the molecular architecture of one of the components of these regulatory complexes and reveals how four copies of the protein fit together. Structures such as these help us to understand how these key complexes are assembled and the molecular mechanisms underlying their activity. (This work is funded by a Wellcome Trust programme grant to Professor Schwabe.)
The Year 2007-08

A selection of highlights from the academic year

August 07

- Professor Robert Burgess, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, took over as the Chair of the Higher Education Academy.

- A group of Chemists from the University developed a way of purifying biodiesel made from vegetable oils, which is cheap, simple and low in toxicity. The team, led by Professor Andrew Abbott is able to remove glycerol, the main by-product of vegetable oil-based biodiesel, using ionic liquids made in part by vitamin B4 (choline chloride).

- The University was ranked among the top 20 teacher-training establishments in the UK – climbing six places to 14th in the country out of 73 institutions. The table was compiled by the Centre for Education and Employment Research.

- Dr Andrew Ellis and Dr Shengfu Yang, both of the University’s Department of Chemistry, discovered a niche way of making nanoparticles that cannot be formed in any other way. Working with Professor Chris Binns and Dr Klaus von Haeften in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, they are developing a technique involving the use of helium nanodroplets. Their work could have extraordinary implications in electronics, medicine, the measurement of atmospheric air and the cleansing of car exhausts.

September 07

- The University launched its 50th Anniversary programme highlighting events taking place during the autumn term. A host of activities was planned for the year to celebrate the University College of Leicester being granted its Royal Charter on May 1st 1957 and so becoming the University of Leicester.

- A member of the University sat on a review of UK national space policy. The review, held at the British Association for the Advancement of Science, followed a nine-month investigation by 23 independent scientists, industrialists and educators – including Emeritus Professor Ken Pounds from Leicester – from around the country. The report called for “a strategic approach to space activities” that the committee felt was currently lacking in the UK.

- A new catalogue of X-ray sources, the largest of its kind ever made, was released providing a unique data set that will aid the understanding of our violent universe. The 2XMM catalogue has been created by the XMM-Newton Survey Science Centre, a consortium of institutions led by the University of Leicester, on behalf of the European Space Agency (ESA). The catalogue contains source detections drawn from 3491 observations made with the European Photon Imaging Camera (EPIC) on ESA’s XMM Newton spacecraft between February 2000 and March 2007.

- The University was shortlisted for University of the Year by the Sunday Times University Guide.

- A geologist from the University discovered a creature that is 425 million years old during research in ancient marine rocks in Herefordshire. A new arthropod with exceptionally preserved soft-parts in 3D was discovered by an international team including Professor David Siveter, of the Department of Geology.

- Chips on fish teeth from 10 million years ago have revealed new insights into fish diets and their influence on fish evolution, according to new research involving Leicester biologists and geologists which featured in Science.
October 07

Research led by Dr L Miguel Martins of the MRC Toxicology Unit at the University of Leicester and Dr Julian Downward of the Cancer Research UK London Research Institute showed that the products of two genes called HtrA2 and PINK1 co-operate in preventing breakdown of cell function that could otherwise lead to Parkinson’s symptoms. The research was published online in Nature Cell Biology.

Dr Paul Symonds and his research team based at the University and at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust identified two genes associated with adverse reaction to breast cancer treatment. The research could mean people who might react badly to radiotherapy could be warned in advance or alternative treatments be sought. There is no test at present for an abnormal reaction to radiotherapy and no one in the past has proposed such a test.

A new think-tank was launched at the University bringing together expertise from different disciplines in order to tackle climate change and other environmental issues. The Centre for Environmental Research (CERES) will provide access to world-class research into the way people affect the environment and how environmental change in turn affects the way we live.

Scientists from the University discovered a long lost ancestor of the barnacles and lobsters – from over 500 million years ago. Professor David Siveter, of the Department of Geology, was part of an international team that made the rare find in China.

The University was selected as the hub of a worldwide network of researchers to investigate one of the causes of cancer. The study into the ‘smoking gun’ trail of devastation caused to the body by substances known as ‘free radicals’ will also impact on our understanding of heart disease, neurodegenerative disease and arthritis.

A Big Green Week celebrated the launch of the University’s Environment Team. It also aimed to raise awareness amongst staff and students of environmental issues on and beyond the campus, and to demonstrate how to make their lifestyles greener, their carbon footprint smaller and their environmental consciences clearer.

November 07

The University of Leicester Students’ Union was, for the third consecutive year, shortlisted for ‘Students’ Union of the Year’ award. This was the first time that a students’ union has ever been shortlisted three years in a row.

University of Leicester Geologist Dr Mark Purnell, with Canadian colleagues, reported, in the journal Geology, a new, exceptionally preserved deposit of fossils in 425 million year old Silurian rocks in Ontario. The fossils include complete fish (only the second place on earth where whole fish of this age have been found), various shrimp and worm like creatures, including velvet-worms.

A collaborative study between the universities of Leicester and Nottingham exploited the connection between surnames and DNA to show a remarkable degree of Viking ancestry in parts of northwest England.

The University won its first Times Higher Education Award for a direct mail marketing campaign that increased attendance at open days, as well as generating more applications to the University.
December 07

- Following ground-breaking research showing that neurons in the human brain respond in an abstract manner to particular individuals or objects, University researchers have now discovered that, from the firing of this type of neuron, they can tell what a person is actually seeing. Dr Rodrigo Quian Quiroga from the Department of Engineering and colleagues are currently able to record simultaneously from up to 100 neurons in the human brain.

- Plants use changes in light quality to make their own 'antifreeze', a new University study has shown. The research in the Department of Biology reveals that plants react to change in light quality in order to develop freezing tolerance.

- Dr William Toff, Senior Lecturer in Cardiology, gave expert evidence to the House of Lords inquiry on Air Travel and Health. He told the committee that, for the average traveller, the use of aspirin is a relatively ineffective intervention in the prevention of DVT.

January 08

- The University is playing a key role in a national project to create a genetic map of the UK. The map will shed light on the history of Ancient Britons and modern day disease.

- University researchers are pioneering use of military radar signal processing methods to help victims of stroke – the third most common cause of death in the UK. The Leicester study has discovered that techniques used in radar systems can be modified and have the potential to improve early diagnosis and effective monitoring of stroke victims.

- A new agreement in the East Midlands gave guaranteed opportunities at university for people training for vocational skills. This agreement was signed by universities and colleges in Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Rutland. It is part of a commitment to widen access to higher education for those engaged in vocational learning.

- Research led by Leicester into childhood obesity in secondary schools and the factors that deter young people from adopting healthy lifestyles concluded that the influence of peer pressure, cost of healthy foods, taste and hunger satisfaction and image proved to be a formidable barrier to the wholesale adoption of healthier ways of eating and exercising among young people.

- Geologists from Leicester proposed that humankind has so altered the Earth that it has brought about an end to one epoch of Earth's history and marked the start of a new epoch. Jan Zalasiewicz and Mark Williams and their colleagues on the Stratigraphy Commission of the Geological Society of London presented their research in the journal *GSA Today*. In it, they suggested humans have so changed the Earth that on the planet the Holocene epoch has ended and we have entered a new epoch – the Anthropocene.

- A revolutionary new technology developed by engineers at the University
after over 12 years’ research promises to make safety a sure thing in equipment as diverse as cars, aircraft and medical equipment. The new patented technology invented by the researchers has led to the development of a new product family called “RapidiTTy”. A company – TTE Systems Ltd – has been spun out from the University to develop and market this product. TTE Systems Ltd aims to transform the way engineers develop systems which contain “embedded processors”.

February 08

The three Leicestershire-based universities announced a major new initiative to boost engagement with local and regional businesses. For the first time in the East Midlands, the “Three Universities for Business” initiative brought together the complementary professional and technical expertise, and wide range of specialist services from De Montfort University, Loughborough University and the University of Leicester. This will enable local and regional companies to easily identify opportunities for engagement with the universities to support their business performance.

A journal based in the Sociology Department at the University was rated by Thomson ISI as the world’s most cited social science journal over a decade. Social Science and Medicine, published since 1967, came top of the top 20 out of 629 journals, with 3,761 papers cited a total of 42,554 times to date, between 1997-2007. The Thomson ISI rating recognises the international impact of the journal among a wide range of social science journals covering such disciplines as sociology, anthropology, political science, law and education.

New techniques for detecting emboli (harmful blood clots/air bubbles in arteries) developed at the University have played a major role in dramatically reducing stroke rates after carotid endarterectomy. This is an operation designed to remove narrowings in the main arteries supplying the brain before they can cause a stroke.

A University scientist announced a major advance in understanding of a cancer that strikes at infants and young children. Professor Martin Dyer’s team identified a series of ten novel chromosomal translocations in children and young adults with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL).

March 08

Scientists at the University claimed a new advance in their fight against the resurgence of TB in Britain. They isolated the molecular ‘weapons’ of the bacterium and are now assessing ways to make the bacterium impotent. Scientists in the University’s Department of Biochemistry are focusing on two proteins in the TB bacterium which, it is thought, allows it to thrive in white blood cells.

In a separate study on TB scientists identified how the killer bacterium makes itself immune to a key component of the only effective treatment against the disease. Research published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry involving teams from the Departments of Biochemistry and Chemistry showed how the TB bacteria becomes resistant to one of the only available treatments for the killer disease.

A medical team from Leicester established for the first time a predictor for pregnant women who may have miscarriages and those who won’t. Their research was published in the highly prestigious Journal of the American Medical Association. The researchers measured the levels of a naturally occurring ‘cannabis’ (an endocannabinoid) known as anandamide in women who presented with a threatened miscarriage (bleeding in early pregnancy with a viable baby) and found that those who at the time of the test had significantly higher levels of anandamide subsequently miscarried.
April 08

- Leicester led a study that identified for the first time that the TB bug lays down body fat that may help it survive passing from one person to another and, in the process, the bacteria increase their resistance to the action of anti-TB drugs. This finding challenges the established view that the TB bacteria coughed up in sputum by infected individuals are rapidly multiplying.

- A highlight of the University’s 50th anniversary celebrations, Celebrate Leicester Day, attracted over 6000 people, with staff, students, alumni and members of the public on campus to enjoy a wide range of activities. It was the largest public event held at the University in over a decade.

May 08

- A geographer from the University produced for the first time a map of the scorched Earth for every year since the turn of the Millennium. Dr Kevin Tansey created a visual impression of the fire scars on our planet between 2000 and 2007. The map reveals that between 3.5 and 4.5 million km2 of vegetation burns on an annual basis. This is an area equivalent to the European Union (EU27) and larger than the country of India, that is burnt every year.

- Forensic researchers at the University of Leicester and Northamptonshire Police joined forces in a bid to beat the criminals. The collaboration between the University of Leicester Forensic Research Centre and the Northamptonshire Police Scientific Support Unit, which has already produced some ground-breaking results, was formally launched.

- A University researcher discovered how Properdin, a protein in the blood linked to defence against meningitis, plays a more vital role than previously understood in the body’s immune defence system. The published research has helped to advance medical understanding of how the body defends against disease and heals itself.

- Construction and building materials giant Aggregate Industries announced it was sponsoring students at the University. Group Chief Executive of the Markfield-based company, Bill Bolsover, visited the Department of Geology to present bursary awards to 11 geology students. The bursaries, which will be given annually, are part of a new initiative designed to strengthen links between the University of Leicester and Aggregate Industries.

June 08

- Children who can read and have good phonetic skills – the ability to recognize the individual sounds within words – may still be poor spellers. In a paper published in Cortex, Elizabeth Eglinton and Marian Annett, at the School of Psychology of Leicester show that this subgroup of poor spellers is more likely to be right-handed than other poor spellers.

- The advertising of alcohol, the marketing of alcoholic products, peer pressure and parental influence all play a part in the level of alcohol consumption among young people. These are the findings of a team of University of Leicester experts who have been investigating the effect of alcohol advertising on young people, which also indicate that advertising seems to be most effective in the case of alcopops and cider.

- Measuring and diagnosis of high blood pressure (hypertension) should be done using systolic blood pressure only in patients aged over 50 years, rather than using both systolic and diastolic as is current practice. Three hypertension experts, including Professor Bryan Williams of the University, put the proposal forward.

- World famous scientist Stephen Hawking made history at the University of Leicester giving its biggest ever lecture, attended by over 1000 people, during the University’s 50th anniversary year.
Forensic scientists at the University, working with Northamptonshire Police, announced a major breakthrough in crime detection that could lead to hundreds of cold cases being reopened. Honorary research fellow Dr John Bond conducted a study into the way fingerprints can corrode metal surfaces. The technique can enhance – after firing – a fingerprint that has been deposited on a small calibre metal cartridge case before it is fired.

Suicide mortality in England and Wales is highest in skilled trades and elementary occupations, which include agricultural workers, construction workers, and plant and machine operators, a new study involving Leicester Professor Howard Meltzer found. A higher proportion of deaths due to suicide was also recorded among health professionals compared to the population as a whole. The study used mortality data collected by the Office for National Statistics to examine suicide by occupation between 2001 and 2005.

Migrants coming to the UK from Eastern Europe have not caused unemployment or stopped UK workers from finding jobs, according to research co-authored by a University economist. The research concluded that new migrants have not had an impact on the numbers claiming unemployment benefits in the UK, or had a significant impact on wages.

Staff and students at the University of Leicester celebrated as the University and Union achieved Fairtrade Status.

Chancellor of the University Sir Peter Williams presented the final report of his review of early maths teaching.

The University was 14th in the Times Good University Guide – up seven places.

For the second year running, a GENIE training video, produced to help teach laboratory techniques to biological sciences students, received a Gold Award from the Health and Science Communications Association (HeSCA). The film on how to make and run an agarose gel for the analysis of fragments of DNA picked up the award at the HeSCA annual meeting in New Haven, Connecticut. This award follows last year’s success at the HeSCA awards.

The government’s analysis of factors driving up the prison population was deemed inadequate and highly misleading according to a report written by Professor Carol Hedderman of the University of Leicester. Professor Hedderman, a former Assistant Director of research in the Home Office, challenged the government’s explanation for the factors driving up the prison population set out in the Review of Prisons by Lord Carter.

A new fossil discovery – the first of its kind from the whole of the Antarctic continent – provided scientists with new evidence to support the theory that the polar region was once much warmer. The research was carried out by an international team and involved Leicester.

The University unveiled its 7th annual sculpture show set in the magnificent botanic garden.

Bumble-bees go ‘off colour’ and can’t remember which flowers have the most nectar when they are feeling under the weather, a new study involving Leicester biologists and geneticists revealed.
Honours and Distinctions

Four members of the University were recognised in the Queen’s Birthday Honours, Professor David Barnett (Cardiovascular Sciences) was awarded a CBE for services to the NHS, visiting Professor Mayur Lakhani (Health Sciences) was awarded a CBE for services to Medicine and Dr Michael Chamberlain (University Treasurer) was awarded an OBE for services to the Church of England. Professor Chris Dyer (Historical Studies/Centre for English Local History) was awarded a CBE for services to scholarship.
In the Queen’s New Year’s Honours list Dr Angela Lennox (Health Sciences) was awarded a CBE for her services to healthcare.

Professor Annette Cashmore was awarded the University’s fifth National Teaching Fellowship.

Professor Paul Monks has been invited to serve as a member of the scientific steering committee of the International Global Biosphere Programme.

Professor David Ekserdjian (History of Art and Film) has been appointed as the National Gallery’s Liaison Trustee on the Board of Tate.

Professor Martin Halliwell (Centre for American Studies/Department of English) has been elected a Fellow of the English Association.

Professor Ray Bull (Psychology) has won the award for Distinguished Contributions to Academic Knowledge in Forensic Psychology from the British Psychological Society Division of Forensic Psychology.

Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys (Genetics) was one of the 2008 Millennium Technology Prize Laureate winners and has also been awarded the Gold Award by the Association of Colleges in recognition of the contribution that Further Education has made to his career.

Professor Ian Postlethwaite (Pro-Vice-Chancellor/Engineering) and Dr Emmanuel Prempain (Engineering) have been awarded the best paper award by the journal *Automatica*.

Professor Emma Raven (Chemistry) has been awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry’s Industrially Sponsored award for Reaction Kinetics and Mechanisms.

Simon Jowitt (research student, Geology) Ed Lewis (MGeol Applied Environmental Geology 4) and Elly Shaw (MGeol Applied Environmental Geology 4) won half of the available prizes in the Helio Resources Competition for student mineralogy.

Professor Richard Baker (Health Sciences) has been awarded national Institution for Health Research Senior Investigator status. There are only 100 such appointments.

Professor Lauder has retired as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine after 24 years at the University and 10 years as Dean. He leaves a lasting legacy in the form of the Ian Lauder Clinical Skills Centre which provides a state-of-the-art environment for medical students and healthcare professionals alike to develop the core competencies required to practice medicine.

Mr Roger Bettles has succeeded Mr John Foster OBE as Chair of Council.
Degree Celebrations

January 2008

Distinguished Honorary Fellowship

Dr Wendy Hickling, OBE holds a unique place in the history of the University of Leicester. Not only has she devoted her time unstintingly to the University for many years, but – in 1958 – she was the first ever Leicester graduate.

Dr Wendy Hickling

July 2008

Distinguished Honorary Fellowships

Sir Patrick Moore, CBE, Hon FRS
Astronomer, broadcaster and Leicester Honorary Graduate

Sue Townsend, FRSL
Author, broadcaster and creator of Adrian Mole

Jean Humphreys
long-standing supporter of the University

Sir Patrick Moore

Honorands

Bill Bryson (Doctor of Letters) Author and Chancellor of Durham University

John Sydney Carter, FRBS (Doctor of Letters) Internationally renowned sculptor, based in Leicestershire

Professor Antony Chapman, CPsychol, FBPsS, AcSS (Doctor of Science) Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff and Leicester graduate

Sir Patrick Moore

Nicholas Corah, OBE, DL, FRSA, Companion, Institute of Management, FIoD (Doctor of Laws) Industrial leader and champion of the East Midlands business community, also known through his work for the community

Rigby Graham (Doctor of Letters) Leicester-based artist whose work has been exhibited internationally

Jennifer, Lady Gretton, JP (Doctor of Laws) Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire

Philip Hammersley, CBE, CEng, MIMechE (Doctor of Laws) Former Chairman of the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

Freda Hussain, MBE (Doctor of Laws) Former High Sheriff of Leicestershire and retired Principal of Moat Community College in Leicester

Lord Janner of Braunstone, QC (Doctor of Laws) Former MP for Leicester North-West, 1970-74 and Leicester West until 1997

Archbishop Vincent Nichols (Doctor of Letters) Archbishop of Birmingham (Roman Catholic), Titular Bishop of Othona

Councillor Manjula Sood, (Doctor of Laws), Lord Mayor of Leicester, High Bailiff of Leicester and a Leicester graduate

Jean Humphreys

Jean Humphreys

Tarique Ghaffur

Tarique Ghaffur

Sue Townsend

Sue Townsend

Bill Bryson

Bill Bryson

John Foster, OBE (Doctor of Laws)
Former Chair of the University's Council

Tarique Ghaffur, CBE, QPM (Doctor of Laws)
Former Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Superintendent of the Leicestershire Constabulary

Jennifer, Lady Gretton
Statistics 2007-08

Student Numbers 2007-08

TOTAL REGISTERED STUDENTS .....................................................19,375
  Undergraduate ..............................................................................9,935
  Postgraduate ..................................................................................9,430

Distribution of Full-time Students
  Home/EU ..................................................................................8,303
  Overseas ......................................................................................1,742
  Full-time Undergraduates over 21 on admission ................................1,036
  Taught Postgraduate Students ......................................................8,329
  Postgraduate Research Students ...................................................1,111
  Distance Learning Students .........................................................7,514
  Full-time Students ........................................................................10,045

Staff Numbers 2007-08

TOTAL..................................................................................................3,665
  Full-time academic staff .................................................................751
  Part-time academic staff .................................................................40
  Full-time research staff .................................................................377
  Part-time research staff .................................................................51
  Full-time academic related staff .......................................................426
  Part-time academic related staff ......................................................95
  Full-time support staff ..................................................................913
  Part-time support staff ..................................................................1,012

Income 2007-08 (Total £205,312,000)

- Funding body grants £66,107,000 (32%)
- Tuition fees and education contracts £57,580,000 (28%)
- Research grants and contracts £41,513,000 (20%)
- Other income £38,180,000 (19%)
- Endowment and investment income £1,932,000 (1%)

Visitor
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

OFFICERS AND SENIOR STAFF 2007-08

Chancellor
SIR PETER WILLIAMS, CBE, FREng, FRS

Pro-Chancellors
R H BETTLES, BDS, DDH, LDS, MCD, DDPH
G N CORAH, OBE, DL, CiMgt, FinstD, FRSA

Vice-Chancellor
PROFESSOR R G BURGESS, BA, PhD, AcSS

Treasurer
M A CHAMBERLAIN, OBE, LLD, FCA

Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor
PROFESSOR M P THOMPSON, LLB, LLM

Pro-Vice-Chancellors
PROFESSOR J C FOTHERGILL, BSc, MSc, PhD, CEng, CPhys, FIEE, MinstP, FIEEE
MS C FYFE, BA, MA, MBA

PROFESSOR I POSTLETHWAITE, BSc, MA, PhD, FREng, CEng, FIEE, FinstMC, FIEEE

Deans of the Faculties

Dean of Arts
PROFESSOR E J SHATTOCK, BA, MA, PhD

Dean of Science
PROFESSOR A R HILLMAN, BSc, DPhil, CChem, MRSC

Dean of Social Sciences
PROFESSOR P M JACKSON, BA, PhD, AcSS, FRSA, FCMI

Dean of Law
PROFESSOR D BONNER, LLB, LLM

Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences
PROFESSOR I LAUDER, MB, BS, FRCPath, FMedSci

Graduate Dean
PROFESSOR K C LEE, BA, MSc, PhD, FRSA

Registrar and Secretary
D E HALL, BA

Director of Library Services
L JONES, BA, MA, MPA
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>The University is named University of the Year 2008-09</td>
<td>by the <em>Times Higher Education</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leicester increases its position in all four national university</td>
<td>league tables: <em>Independent</em> (12th), <em>Times</em> (14th), <em>Guardian</em> (14th) and</td>
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<tr>
<td>league tables: <em>Independent</em> (12th), <em>Times</em> (14th), <em>Guardian</em> (14th) and <em>Sunday Times</em> (18th)</td>
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<td>HM The Queen opens the University's new £32m David Wilson Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leicester launches a £1 billion development framework plan – designed</td>
<td>to continue the transformation of our estate – and one of the largest</td>
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<td>schemes in the sector</td>
<td></td>
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<td>University of Leicester launches UK's first course on human space</td>
<td>flight to be taught by NASA astronaut</td>
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<td>50th Anniversary celebrations at the University draw thousands to</td>
<td>the campus for a range of exciting and stimulating events</td>
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<td>the campus for a range of exciting and stimulating events</td>
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<td>A journal based in the Sociology Department at the University</td>
<td>(<em>Social Science &amp; Medicine</em>) is rated by Thomson ISI as the world's</td>
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<tr>
<td>(<em>Social Science &amp; Medicine</em>) is rated by Thomson ISI as the world's</td>
<td>most cited social science journal over a decade</td>
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<td>leading selective universities to lead work identifying talent and</td>
<td>ability amongst students from disadvantaged backgrounds</td>
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<td>ability amongst students from disadvantaged backgrounds</td>
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<td>The 2008 Research Assessment Exercise identified Museum Studies at</td>
<td>Leicester as having the greatest cluster of world-leading researchers</td>
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<td>compared with any discipline in any university in the UK</td>
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