Inspirational Women at Leicester
Celebrating International Women’s Day March 2015

Wednesday 11 March 2015, 12.30 – 1.30pm

Introduction: Professor Paul Boyle, President and Vice-Chancellor
Speaker: Dr Angela Lennox
Presentation of Awards: Professor Henrietta O’Connor
Venue: Ogden Lewis Seminar Suite, Fielding Johnson South Wing

www.le.ac.uk/womenatleicester
Today’s event has been organised to mark International Women’s Day by celebrating the achievements of women at the University of Leicester. We invited staff to nominate inspirational women at Leicester for an award that recognises their achievements. Over sixty nominations were received. All of the nominations highlighted both the achievements of the women but also their collegiality and support for others. The twelve women who have been included in the final gallery are all high achievers in their fields and have all made a huge contribution to the University of Leicester.

This publicity for this year’s International Women’s Day campaign at Leicester has featured a woman who had pioneering role at the university. Professor Olive Banks from Sociology was awarded a Chair in 1972 and was the first woman at Leicester to become a professor. On her
retirement in 1982, she was still the only female professor here. Now, over thirty years later there are fifty-five women professors making up some 24% of all professors at Leicester. This represents an improvement but we still have a long way to go. We, at Leicester have ambitious plans for gender equality and are committed to implementing measures to support this ambition. The University holds a Bronze Athena Swan award and has applied for the Silver award. Within STEMM departments there are nine departments with Bronze awards and one (Health Sciences) with a Silver Award. This progress is not confined to STEMM as the Department of Museum Studies has recently secured a Gender Equality Charter Mark at Bronze Level.

We are excited that in November 2015 the Athena Swan Charter will be extended beyond STEMM departments and expanded to include the measurement of equality for all staff, not just academic women. It is a goal of the university that all departments are working towards these awards. The work required is significant and often means changes to working cultures and practices that are firmly embedded. We hope that today’s event will inspire staff and students to think about how each and every one of us has a commitment to ensuring that our workplace is an inclusive and equal one where opportunities are open at all. If you would like to be more involved in making these changes please contact me: hso1@le.ac.uk

Professor Henrietta O’Connor
Co-Chair of the Equality and Diversity Committee

Contents:

Professor Liz Anderson (Department of Medical and Social Care Education) ……… Page 6
Professor Helen Atkinson CBE, FREng (Department of Engineering) ……………… Page 8
Rajinder Bhuhi (Career Development Service) ………………………………………… Page 10
Professor Hilary Burgess (School of Education) ……………………………………… Page 12
Professor Mary Dixon-Woods (Department of Health Sciences) …………………….. Page 14
Professor Lin Foxhall (School of Archaeology and Ancient History) ……………….. Page 16
Dr Turi King (Department of Genetics) ……………………………………………….. Page 18
Philippa Lambden (Stanhope House Day Nursery) ………………………………….. Page 20
Dr Emma Parker (School of English) ………………………………………………….. Page 22
Professor Catrin Pritchard (Department of Cancer Studies) ………………………… Page 24
Frances Stone (Residential and Commercial Services) ………………………………. Page 26
Bridget Towle (Chair of Council) ……………………………………………………….. Page 28
Liz began her career as a Nurse, Midwife and Health Visitor. She completed a PhD within the Department of Child Health, University of Leicester, on temperature regulation relating to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Following a period of working within NHS community research, Liz pursued an academic career as a Senior Lecturer within Leicester Medical School, bringing new insights to medical education. This involved designing community learning on poverty and disadvantage, disability inequality and team-based collaborative practice. Liz has worked on National Boards, leading medical education, such as Disability Inequality and Interprofessional Education (IPE). She is currently patient safety domain lead in the Department of Medical and Social Care Education. Since 1994, Liz has been a leading national protagonist of community practice learning and IPE. She was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy in 2007 and a personal Chair in 2013. Liz has managed her career within a busy family life with a husband who regularly travels. She has three children who all progressed through Stanhope Nursery.
Professor Helen Atkinson
CBE, FREng
(Department of Engineering)

Helen was made CBE in the Queens New Year’s Honours 2014 for services to engineering and education. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the highest honour for an engineer in the UK, in 2007. At the time she was one of only 29 women fellows alongside 1400 men. She was the first woman President of the Engineering Professors’ Council (the body which represents engineering in universities throughout the UK) in its fifty year history and has also served as a Vice President of the Royal Academy of Engineering. In 2010 she won a national award as a Woman of Outstanding Achievement in Science, Engineering and Technology for ‘leadership and inspiration to others’.

Helen has three children who are now grown up. She worked part-time for thirteen years whilst her children were small and has hugely enjoyed the ‘juggling act’.

She is Head of the Engineering Department at Leicester and chaired the £17M project to rebuild the Percy Gee Students’ Union between 2008 and 2011.

Helen was made CBE in the Queens New Year’s Honours 2014 for services to engineering and education. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the highest honour for an engineer in the UK, in 2007. At the time she was one of only 29 women fellows alongside 1400 men. She was the first woman President of the Engineering Professors’ Council (the body which represents engineering in universities throughout the UK) in its fifty year history and has also served as a Vice President of the Royal Academy of Engineering. In 2010 she won a national award as a Woman of Outstanding Achievement in Science, Engineering and Technology for ‘leadership and inspiration to others’.

Helen has three children who are now grown up. She worked part-time for thirteen years whilst her children were small and has hugely enjoyed the ‘juggling act’.

She is Head of the Engineering Department at Leicester and chaired the £17M project to rebuild the Percy Gee Students’ Union between 2008 and 2011.
Rajinder Bhuhi  
(Career Development Service)  

Rajinder is Enterprise Project Manager within the University’s Career Development Service. She has over 15 years of experience of project management, business start-up support and business development services, business coaching and guidance. Over the past 8 years, Rajinder’s passion to support individuals to reach their potential has resulted in securing over £1.5 million in funding to deliver enterprise and employability programmes to our students and graduates. Projects such as Enterprise Inc and WISE (Working Social Enterprise) have supported growth in existing businesses, created sustainable business start-ups, created jobs, added value to the economy and changed people lives.

Rajinder was a member of the founding board and from May 2011-2013 was the Chair and Director for the The LeicestHERday Trust. The Trust was formed to encourage and celebrate women throughout Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland as well as provides excellent contacts and links through an extensive network. It is very proud of all the women that have volunteered giving their time and energy into empowering women, enabling a direct positive effect on family, friends and the community. Rajinder has also been a School Governor at a city secondary and a county primary school.

She has taken a break from her board positions enabling her to focus on supporting her family life for now, although, she continues to aid women’s organisations across the city such as Eva Organisation for Women and New Day New Dawn and the Zinthiya Trust.
Professor Hilary Burgess
(School of Education)

Hilary joined the University of Leicester in September 2010 as Director of Studies in the School of Education. Before taking this post, she worked for The Open University where she was Director for Postgraduate Studies in the Centre for Research in Education and Educational Technology (CREET). Hilary has worked as a Senior Lecturer in Primary Education for Westhill College in Birmingham, and has taught in primary schools in Coventry and central London. Hilary’s research focuses on schools as learning communities and mentoring in primary and secondary schools. She is co PI for a large TEMPUS project that is focusing upon Capacity Development for Faculties of Education in the Middle East and North Africa. She supports a wide range of doctoral students on both the PhD and EdD programmes, on a range of topics surrounding Continuing Professional Development and Mentoring. She was Chair of the National Network for EdD Directors from 2005-2013.In 2013, Hilary was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy. She has served as a Council Member for BERA (2009-2012), was a member of the BERA Conference Committee and is currently Editor of the BERA Newsletter Research Intelligence and in that role attends the BERA Academic Publications Committee. In 2014 Hilary took flexible retirement and now works part-time in the School of Education.

Work-life balance is an issue she has never managed to resolve but earlier in her career Hilary greatly appreciated the support of colleagues and other professionals who provided help in many ways. So in turn, much of her work now aims to open doors for young researchers and teachers who are setting out on their own journey to enhance their professional development and educational practice.
Mary Dixon-Woods is Professor of Medical Sociology and director of the SAPPHIRE group, Department of Health Sciences, University of Leicester, and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of BMJ Quality and Safety. She leads a programme of research focused on patient safety and healthcare improvement, healthcare ethics, and methodological innovation in studying healthcare. She is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, a visiting professor at Imperial College’s Centre for Infection Prevention and Management, and a visiting associate professor at Dartmouth College. She was, in 2012, one of the first recipients of a Welcome Trust Senior Investigator Award, given to “world-class scholars asking the most important questions at the interface of science, medicine and the humanities”. In 2015, she was an expert group member on patient safety at the World Innovation Summit for Health. She is a fellow of the UK’s Academy of Social Science. Mary has taught medical students for over 20 years, and has drawn on her experiences of making social science interesting, engaging and relevant for them to inform her current work nationally and internationally to influence patient safety policy. She really enjoys the teamwork involved in large multi-method research projects, especially the bringing together of different perspectives to generate new insights that would otherwise be impossible.
Professor Lin Foxhall
(School of Archaeology and Ancient History)

Lin is Head of the University of Leicester’s School of Archaeology and Ancient History and also Professor of Greek Archaeology and History. She was educated at Bryn Mawr College, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Liverpool, and has previously held academic posts at the University of Oxford and University College London.

Lin has been the lead on the major interdisciplinary Tracing Networks Research Programme funded by the Leverhulme Trust and is co-director of the Bova Marina project in southern Italy. In 2001 she received the award of MBE (Hon) for her leadership of ‘Ringing in the Millennium’, a project to restore historic church bells throughout the British Isles funded by the Millennium Commission. In 2005 she was awarded a Humboldt Research Prize, and has been a visiting professor at the universities of Aarhus, Denmark and Freiburg, Germany. She has published extensively on gender in classical antiquity, most recently, Studying Gender in Classical Antiquity (2013 Cambridge University Press), as well as on agriculture, landscapes, material culture and the ancient economy. She has been married for 35 years to a very patient but equally busy archaeological academic at a different university. Consequently their three daughters became active participants in field work from an early age, developing many useful skills, though they had to do without holidays and birthday parties. Nominated for her outstanding professional achievements but also because her research interest brings the life of women in the past into light.
Dr Turi King  
(Department of Genetics)

Turi is a Canadian who read Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge before moving into molecular genetics, gaining a distinction in her MSc at the University of Leicester. Returning to Cambridge to take up a PhD, she gave it up when she found she was pregnant with her first child. After working part-time in genetics in Cambridge, Turi returned to Leicester on a Wellcome Trust Prize Studentship and gained her PhD on the link between surnames and genetics. Her PhD thesis was awarded the School of Biological Sciences PhD Prize.

All of Turi’s work combines genetics with the fields of archaeology, history, geography and forensics and she is now a lecturer in Genetics and Archaeology in the University of Leicester, the first such cross department/college post. She is passionate about communicating science to the public and has appeared in, or advised on, numerous radio and TV programmes. Turi is the Genetics expert on the Richard III project, leading the international team that carried out the DNA analysis on the remains, confirming that DNA from the skeleton matched two of the descendants of Richard III’s family. Turi won the Alumni Association’s Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award 2014 for her achievements in genetic research and her pivotal role in the discovery of Richard III. Among other projects, she is now carrying out whole genome analysis on Richard III as well as studying his microbiome. Turi is also the proud mother of four school-aged children.
Philippa Lambden
(Stanhope House Day Nursery)

Philippa Lambden is the owner of Stanhope House Day Nursery on Regent Road and has been running the nursery since 1980. The service she has provided at a crucial life stage has been an important factor in facilitating the careers of many academics and professional services staff at the University of Leicester.

Stanhope House Day Nursery was started by the University of Leicester Student Union in 1975 and accommodated in a University-owned building on Regent Road where it is still located today. It operated initially on a somewhat informal basis, with parents running a rota to provide meals for the children, until Philippa was appointed as Matron by the Student Union and a committee of parents who continued to manage the nursery. In 1982 the Student Union relinquished responsibility and the parent committee appointed Philippa as nursery manager. The nursery continued to operate in this way until 2004 when OFSTED extended their remit to include nursery provision. It then became unfeasible to continue running the nursery by committee and Philippa made the decision to run the nursery as a private business.

Nevertheless, the legacy of Stanhope as a University nursery has continued and the vast majority of children at the nursery are children of University staff or students. The quality of care provided by Philippa and her staff is well-known and the long waiting-list is testament to the popularity of the nursery.
Emma is a founder member of the international Contemporary Women’s Writing Association (which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2015) and Co-editor of the award-winning Oxford University Press journal, Contemporary Women’s Writing. She has appeared on BBC Radio 4’s ‘Woman’s Hour’ and, through collaboration with associates in universities around the world, helped to establish contemporary women’s writing as a legitimate academic field in countries such as Japan, China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. She also works on the Leicester-born playwright Joe Orton. In 2014, her 50th anniversary edition of Orton’s first stage play, Entertaining Mr Sloane, was featured in the Guardian, on Radio 4’s ‘Loose Ends’, in Stonewall’s Friends magazine, in the Leicester Mercury, and on BBC Radio Leicester. Dr Parker was interviewed by the BBC’s Arts Editor, Will Gompertz, in the University’s Joe Orton Archive for a special feature on Radio 4’s ‘Today’ programme, helping to bring the University’s Special Collections to national attention and to further establish Leicester as a centre for culture and the arts.
Catrin graduated with a first class honours MA in Biochemistry at Oxford University followed by a PhD at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London. She undertook two postdoctoral fellowships in the San Francisco Bay area, firstly at the University of California San Francisco and then at the DNAX Research Institute in Palo Alto. She returned to the UK in 1995 gaining a Royal Society University Research Fellowship, which she held at the University of Leicester. Her fellowship continued until 2003, during which time she had maternity leave to have her two children. She obtained a permanent lectureship at Leicester in the Department of Biochemistry in 2003, progressed to Reader in 2005 and was awarded a Personal Chair in 2009.

Catrin’s long-held research interests are in oncogene-driven cancer development with particular emphasis on mechanisms of oncogenic RAS/RAF driven tumour induction. She has held several CR-UK funded programs of research to develop mouse models of oncogene-driven cancer and is using these models to understand mechanisms of early cancer development, with particular focus on the role of the tumour microenvironment. Her major goal is to translate her findings to human cancers, particularly lung and colorectal cancers, and to work with clinicians to identify novel interventional approaches and biomarkers of disease.

Catrin became the Director of Cancer Research at Leicester in 2011 within the College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology and has now taken on the role of Science Director in the recently established Cancer Research UK Leicester Centre (from April 2014).
Frances Stone  
(Residential and Commercial Services)

Frances took the helm of the department in 2006/7 becoming the first female Director of Residential and Commercial Services, since when she has grown the business by 75%. She has turned it round from making a loss to returning almost a £4m surplus in 2013/14, building new residences, reshaping the department, refurbishing aged outlets and reinventing commercial areas. Frances constantly challenges convention and relentlessly strives to achieve more, building, developing and steering the team to do the same. Frances completed her MSc in Training at the University of Leicester’s Centre for Labour Market Studies which she studied via distance learning while continuing in her full time role at the University.

Frances’s achievement in the sector is also fantastic, becoming the first female Chair of CUBO (College and University Business Officers). She also sits on the British Property Federation’s Student Accommodation Committee, ANUK Committee of Management and Higher Education Estates Association Forum, and is a former board member of The University Caterer’s Organisation (TUCO). Through her success, Frances inspires more colleagues within the industry to realise their potential and is a true role model for women who wish to succeed in business.
Bridget Towle  
(Chair of Council)

Bridget is Chair of Council and Pro Chancellor at the University of Leicester. She previously served as the University's Treasurer from 2009 to 2013 and is the first woman to have held these posts since the foundation of University College, Leicester in 1921. After graduating from Exeter in Economics, Law and Politics she taught with VSO in Uganda. On returning home she joined a knitted garment manufacturing company having studied textile technology, and later management, at Leicester Polytechnic. She became the firm's marketing director and then joint managing director. Surprisingly at that time there were only three UK public companies that had women managing directors. Later she was elected to serve for five years as Chief Guide and Chair of the Board of Girlguiding UK, the country's largest voluntary youth organisation. She was awarded a CBE in 2001, holds honorary doctorates from the Universities of Exeter and Loughborough and is a Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire, as well as being Vice President of Girlguiding UK.
Inspirational Women at Leicester

Celebrating International Women’s Day March 2015

Women’s Forum

• A new platform which has been set up to supports women’s work and contributions at the University.

• Come along, join the debate and shape the support what you would like to see for women at the University of Leicester!

• To register your interest, please contact Doris Eikhof d.r.eikhof@leicester.ac.uk

For more information
Professor Henrietta O’Connor,
Department of Sociology,
University of Leicester, University Road,
Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK

t: +44 (0) 116 252 5952
e: hso1@le.ac.uk
w: www.le.ac.uk/sociology

© University of Leicester

All information in this document was correct at the time of going to press. However, changes and developments are part of the life of the University, and alterations may occur to the programmes and services described in this document.