

 The winners



● **MARKETING INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR**

Tricia Wombell, director of marketing and communications, Leadership Foundation for Higher Education
Clive Parry, sales and marketing director, SAGE

● **BUSINESS INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR**

Arthur Francis, dean of Bradford Management School
Magnus Goodlad, chief operating officer, IP Group

● **WIDENING PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR**

Deian Hopkin, vice-chancellor, London South Bank University
Sir David Watson, professor of higher education management, Institute of Education, University of London
Jackie Fisher, principal, Newcastle College

● **YOUNG ACADEMIC AUTHOR OF THE YEAR**

June Purvis, professor of women's history, Portsmouth University
Alex Danchev, professor of international relations, Nottingham University

● **YOUNG RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR** ● **RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE YEAR**

Peter Atkins, fellow and professor of

chemistry at Lincoln College, Oxford
Philip Esler, chief executive, Arts and Humanities Research Council

● **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

David Way, director of operations, Technology Strategy Board
Andrew Ramsay, chief executive officer, Engineering Council

● **OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR EARLY-CAREERS RESEARCHERS**

Alison Hodge, university partnerships director, QinetiQ, and chair of CBI's inter-company academic relations group
Robert Burgess, vice-chancellor, Leicester University
Dave Delpy, chief executive and deputy chair, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

● **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Sir David Watson, professor of higher education management, Institute of Education, University of London
Jackie Fisher, principal, Newcastle College
Deian Hopkin, vice-chancellor, London South Bank University

● **OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Alex Kemp, disabled students

officer, National Union of Students
Sean Moran, director of UK services, National Deaf Children's Society

● **OUTSTANDING STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT PACKAGE**

Sir Martin Harris, director, Office for Fair Access
Rhianon Evans, director, Action on Access
Ian Summers-Noble, chair, National Association of Student Money Advisers

● **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Baroness Rennie Fritchie, consultant on strategy and leadership, Mainstream Development
Linda Holbeche, director of research and policy, Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development
Sir David Watson, professor of higher education management, Institute of Education, University of London

● **OUTSTANDING ICT INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR**

Alison Alden, deputy registrar and director of information services, Bristol University, and chair of the Integrated Information Environment Committee of the Joint Information Systems Committee (Jisc)
David Baker, principal, College of St Mark and St John; and chair

of Jisc's Content Services Committee
Sarah Porter, head of development, Jisc
Norman Wiseman, head of services and outreach, Jisc

● **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

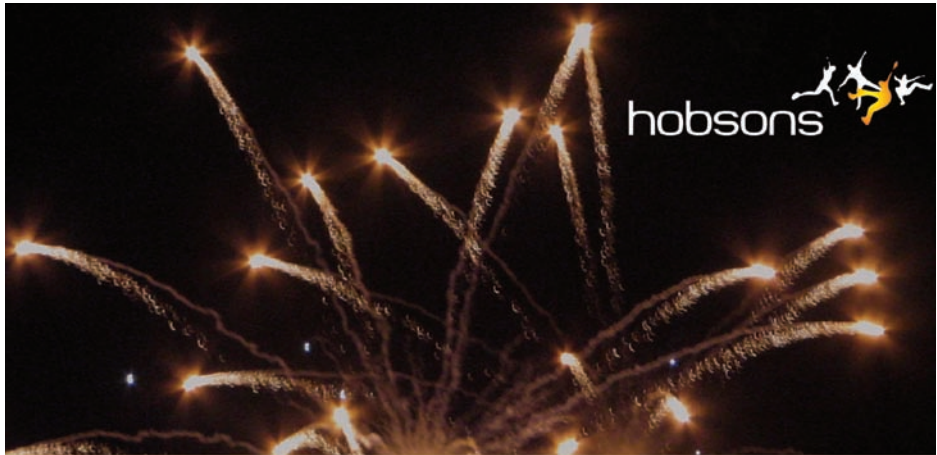
Sara Parkin, Forum for the Future
Jill Butcher, director, strategy and sustainable development, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

● **EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN THE ARTS**

Sir Christopher Frayling, rector of the Royal College of Art and chairman of Arts Council England
Tom Shakespeare, research fellow, Newcastle University, and North East regional chair of Arts Council England
Althea Efunshile, executive director, Arts Planning and Investment, Arts Council England and former director of the Government's Children and Young People's Unit

● **UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR**

● **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**
Gerard Kelly, Editor, *The Times Higher Education Supplement*
Baroness Helena Kennedy, barrister and Labour peer
Bernadette Porter, former rector of Roehampton University



Hobsons is delighted to support the Times Higher Awards 2007

Hobsons wishes to congratulate the University of the Year

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LONELY HEARTS-STYLE MAILING CAMPAIGN

LEICESTER UNIVERSITY

Faced with a drop of 3 per cent in the number of undergraduate applications in both 2005 and 2006, Leicester University decided to tackle the challenge by getting personal. It devised a lonely hearts-themed campaign that reached over 16,000 households in June of last year.

Its direct-mail flyers presented the university's "synergistic" approach to teaching and research. Written in the style of a lonely hearts advert, the copy stressed Leicester's "passion" for "enthusiastic and energetic students".

The campaign attracted an impressive 9.2 per cent response rate and boosted attendance at open days by 65 per cent over the year before. More than 6 per cent of those who received the direct mailing applied for entry in 2007.

Entries for this award were judged by Clive Parry, sales and marketing director at publishers SAGE, and Tricia Wombell, director of marketing and communications at the Leadership

"Leicester University ran a campaign that was well planned and executed but was also clearly driven by a detailed understanding of the existing perceptions of their institution"

Foundation for Higher Education.

They said: "The entries for *The Times Higher* Marketing Initiative of the Year showed that higher education institutions are becoming increasingly professional in marketing themselves. While all the campaigns had strong elements, two entries stood out as being particularly strong on all the criteria we reviewed and were accompanied by detailed supporting information: Manchester Metropolitan University and Leicester University.

"MMU made a particularly strong effort to get organisational buy-in into their campaign and performed an impressively detailed post-campaign analysis of its effectiveness — an essential part of any campaign as marketing rightly becomes increasingly accountable.

"However, Leicester pips Manchester Met to the post with a successful multi-phase direct-mail-based campaign that was well planned, executed and evaluated but was also clearly driven by a detailed understanding of the perceptions of their institution and of the benefits of studying at Leicester that they wanted to communicate to their prospective students."





APATECH

QUEEN MARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

ApaPore, a safe and effective bone-graft material that approximates human bone, could mean an end to worries over the short supply of human bone confronting the medical profession. The manufacturer, ApaTech Ltd, expects ApaPore to improve the quality of medical procedures.

The product is a practical application of research from the Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Biomedical Materials at Queen Mary, University of London, which set out to engineer the optimum structure and chemistry for a natural-bone substitute.

ApaTech is now a world leader in bone-graft technologies. Its products are used in 18 countries in a wide range of orthopaedic and spinal applications.

“ApaTech is addressing an important area of unmet medical need and has delivered significant technical progress within the past year, combined with continued strong revenue growth”

Magnus Goodlad, chief operating officer at IP Group and an award judge, said: “ApaTech is addressing an important area of unmet medical need and has delivered significant technical progress within the past year, including [US] Food and Drug Administration clearance for its Actifuse product, combined with continued strong revenue growth and a product launch in the US.”

The other judge, Arthur Francis, dean of Bradford Management School, called ApaTech “a worthy winner from a strong field of candidates for this award”, adding that it gave “an impressive all-round business performance”.

The judges gave a special commendation to Ingenia, a spin-off from Imperial College London, that has developed a new anti-counterfeiting technology. They said: “The company is very new, but it has done all the right things to exploit this novel technology, in terms of obtaining funding, intellectual property protection and finding appropriate global partners that should enable it to establish a large market for the technology very quickly. It is poised to be a worthy contender for the award next year.”



THE TIMES
HIGHER
Awards 2007



NUstART

NAPIER UNIVERSITY



Napier University has helped people from some of Edinburgh's most disadvantaged areas to discover their artistic talent and potential for higher education. Its NUstART initiative, which is run in areas where university attendance is not the norm, offers drop-in workshops for people of all ages throughout the week. These regularly attract about 80 aspiring artists, and there are plans to set up more groups in Edinburgh and the Lothians. Earlier this year, NUstART artists sold more than 50 paintings with a total value of £4,000 and raised £1,250 for charity.

NUstART has six accredited modules that help people enter degree courses at Napier or elsewhere. There are plans for spin-off ventures such as a permanent gallery.

One judge, David Watson, professor of higher education management at the Institute of Education, University of London, and former vice-chancellor of Brighton University, said: "This is a highly original programme that has established a strong network of external partners. Its impact is clear and likely to increase further in the future."

Fellow judge Deian Hopkin, vice-chancellor of London South Bank University, said: "This

"This is a highly original programme that has established a strong network of external partners. Its impact is clear and likely to increase further in the future"

scheme is high on innovation. It has a real edge to it and a strong focus on the student."

Representing the award's sponsors, David Eastwood, chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, said: "I am delighted to see Napier University win this award for a scheme that helps people build their self-esteem and discover their creativity through painting and drawing. It is an excellent example of an innovative scheme that has had a real impact on students' lives and their progression to higher education."

The panel highly commended the University of the Arts London, which teamed up with the Central School of Speech and Drama to run a men-only summer school in fashion, design and higher education. The project deserves praise, said Eastwood, because fashion is "a subject into which it is particularly difficult to recruit men".





RICHARD TOYE

COLLEGE LECTURER AND DIRECTOR
OF STUDIES FOR HISTORY
HOMERTON COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Richard Toye “has done something very difficult, especially for a younger scholar: he has taken a subject about which a lot has been written and written it afresh. He has made it his own”, said Alex Danchev, professor at the School of Politics and International Relations at Nottingham University, who helped judge this award.

In his book *Lloyd George and Churchill: Rivals for Greatness*, Toye, 34, managed “adroitly” to weave a good story out of what, Danchev said, might have seemed “a well-worn

theme, or rather several good stories — not only the relationship between the two men, but also their own image of the relationship and their deliberate manipulation of it”.

The work outlines how the two political giants were united in many key political developments and analyses the hostility, as well as admiration, these collaborations earned them. Toye contrasts the characters, arguing that Lloyd George was a notorious philanderer who sold honours to raise money for party funds but was a wonderful



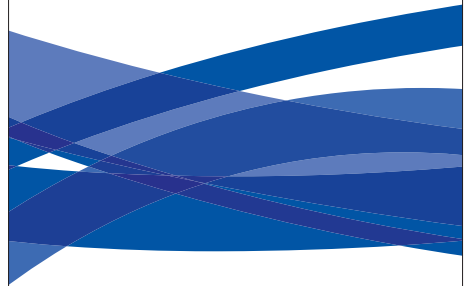
The Research Councils need a skilled and motivated workforce to maintain a healthy and vibrant research sector and fulfil research grants. To achieve this, Research Councils UK works with a wide range of organisations and groups across higher education to ensure researchers have the skills they need to work and manage their careers. The UK GRAD programme is a key part of this.

RCUK’s sponsorship of the Award for Outstanding Support for Early Career Researchers, in association with UK GRAD, aims to recognise the groundbreaking work being undertaken by higher education institutions in building a better future for UK research and researchers.

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listener, speaker and organiser. Churchill was, by comparison, irreproachable in his private life but lacked Lloyd George's gift of empathy. Toye then challenges the predominant sentimental view of David and Winston, the inseparable friends who never felt personal bitterness, however much they might have differed on policy.

Danchev's colleague on the judging panel, June Purvis, professor of women's and gender history at Portsmouth University, said: "This is an extremely readable, lively book that explores

the complex personal and political relationship between two great male politicians who helped to shape 20th-century Britain. The changing shades and hues of their relationship are documented in fascinating detail."

Ziyad Marat, deputy managing director and publisher of sponsors SAGE, said: "We are delighted to be the first publishing company to reward the achievements of the higher education sector by sponsoring this Award for Young Academic Author of the Year."



QAA

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education is delighted to be sponsoring the award for Outstanding Support for Overseas Students 2007.

QAA supports the efforts of all higher education institutions in making sure that their international students get the best possible opportunities while studying in the UK. We recognise the important role this plays in ensuring that Britain remains a leading player in higher education worldwide.

Visit www.qaa.ac.uk for information on the work of QAA.

Registered charity numbers 1062746 and SC037786



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JON WILLIAMSON

READER IN PHILOSOPHY

SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN CULTURE

AND LANGUAGES, KENT UNIVERSITY

Last year, Jon Williamson set up the UK's first Centre for Reasoning with the aim of taking the growing interdisciplinary interest in reasoning to a new level.

More and more academics in a broad range of disciplines are studying and researching reasoning, but they are not sharing their findings. Williamson hopes to change this situation through the centre. "Unfortunately, it is not uncommon that researchers in any one of these areas are unaware of relevant research that is going on in the other areas," the 35-year-old told *The Times Higher* in a recent interview.

His research has practical and direct influences in the social and health sciences. He is currently working with oncologists at University College London and Cancer Research UK to improve cancer care by applying objective Bayesianism. The idea is that probabilities such as recurrence of a patient's cancer and the probability that an individual will respond to treatment must be considered in treatment decisions.

Williamson attracts a level of funding — more than £184,000 in the past two years — that is almost unheard of in his discipline.

He was recently promoted from lecturer to reader in philosophy at Kent University. His four main areas of interest are the philosophy of causality, the foundations of probability, logics and reasoning and the use of causality, probability and logics in artificial intelligence, science and mathematics.

One of the award's judges, Philip Esler, chief executive of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, said: "Jon Williamson's cutting-edge philosophical research offers penetrating new understandings of causation in complex systems that have direct applications in areas ranging from healthcare to engineering."

The other judge, Peter Atkins, fellow and professor of chemistry at Lincoln College, Oxford, added: "He shows a highly commendable vigour in propagating applications of philosophy and in establishing a journal and a research centre."

"The cutting-edge philosophical research offers penetrating new understandings that have direct applications in areas ranging from healthcare to engineering"



THE TIMES
HIGHER
Awards 2007



MEASURING GAMMA RAY BURSTS

LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY

Gamma ray bursts are one of the mysteries of the universe. But they are becoming less mysterious thanks to research being undertaken at Liverpool John Moores University.

In just six months, the LJMU team built an instrument that can measure these bursts, the most powerful explosions in the universe, which shine with the light of a billion billion suns for a few brief seconds.

Gamma ray bursts can occur in any direction at any time anywhere in the universe. Members of the team consider the rays “perfect extraterrestrial laboratories” in which new discoveries in physics can be made — but to be used as such they must be caught within minutes. To capture these ephemeral phenomena, the LJMU team developed and built Ringo, a “fast-track” instrument that can measure polarisation in a single shot using a fast-rotating polarising lens and prism. Traditional polarimeters are unable to measure rapidly varying sources such as the bursts.

Ringo was fitted on to the Liverpool Telescope in 2006 and set ready to wait for a burst. Within a few months, gamma rays from a burst known as GRB60418 were captured by the Liverpool

telescope. At just 203 seconds after the onset of the gamma-ray explosion, the Ringo polarisation measurement was 100 times faster than any previously made.

Philip Esler, chief executive of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, said the team had made a “brilliantly innovative discovery into the fundamental nature of the universe that could have profound impacts in the decades ahead”.

Fellow judge Peter Atkins, fellow and professor of chemistry at Lincoln College, Oxford, said: “Definitive experiments in cosmology are hard to implement and envisage, and the judges were impressed by the extent of teamwork involved in achieving a successful outcome.”

The runner-up in this award was a Leeds University team that modified a bacterium that resides in the human gut in order to make it produce human-growth factors to treat inflammatory bowel disease.

“Brilliantly innovative discovery into the fundamental nature of the universe that could have profound impacts in the decades ahead”



THE TIMES
HIGHER
Awards 2007



POLO

LEEDS UNIVERSITY

The Prediction of Labour Onset device (Polo) is a tool that can give doctors and pregnant women accurate information to determine the date and time when a baby will be born.

Polo was invented by IVMD, an Inverness-based spin-off company from Leeds University, which says it will make planning for childbirth easier for expectant parents and save hospitals millions of pounds by avoiding the need for them to take in women who are still a long way off giving birth.

The award judges could see its value. David Way, director of operations at the Technology Strategy Board, called it a “promising, innovative proposal, with real financial and quality-of-life benefits”. Fellow judge Andrew Ramsay, chief executive of the Engineering Council UK, described it as a “valuable and worthwhile innovation with real evidence of success”.

Polo, which was ten years in the making, uses small patches attached to a woman’s abdomen to measure electrical signals in the womb wall. Computer equipment then analyses the data, giving doctors the clearest possible picture of a baby’s due date, up to two weeks beforehand. It is expected to save lives by allowing doctors to

“The Prediction of Labour Onset device is a valuable and worthwhile innovation with real evidence of success”

keep a careful watch on those most susceptible to giving birth prematurely. It is less invasive and more accurate than previous testing methods, which use an assessment of the patient’s history, levels of discomfort, frequency of contractions and cervical dilation.

The device successfully passed a trial on 60 women at Leeds General Infirmary. IVMD patented Polo’s analytical software this year. Researchers are now working on a handheld device that women can use at home.



THE TIMES
HIGHER
Awards 2007



Support for early-careers researchers



GRADSKILLS

ST ANDREWS UNIVERSITY



St Andrews University's GRADskills initiative helps early-career researchers build up their research capabilities and increase their employability. It offers researchers more opportunities to get involved in policy changes, move between academia and industry, engage with wider audiences, be innovative and entrepreneurial, access national and international awards and funding and undertake cutting-edge research.

The programme runs workshops and courses throughout the year. In May, it ran a day-long conference, *University Research Futures 2007*, that was attended mainly by PhD students. Speakers included leading policy advisers, knowledge-transfer experts, research funders and experienced academics. At the conference, researchers could explore collaborative links with others. The GRADskills initiative has increased interest in generic skills across the graduate community at St Andrews.

One of the award judges, Alison Hodge, director of QinetiQ University Partnerships, said: "St Andrews aims to develop the skills of PhD students and research staff through an annual Research Futures conference,

using a mix of speakers from a wide range of organisations. "Some 300 participants attended in 2007 and gave excellent feedback. Podcasts have already been exploited for wider dissemination.

"The distinctive feature was the extensive use of highly relevant and important external speakers. Exposure to such networks at this early career stage is vital and unusual."

Fellow judge Robert Burgess, the vice-chancellor of Leicester University, said: "St Andrews has provided an innovative programme for postgraduates and postdoctoral researchers. The evaluation of the programme also demonstrates the strength of this initiative."

Alun Roberts, a spokesman for the UK GRAD Programme, which sponsored the award with Research Councils UK, said the sponsors were "delighted that the judges have selected a practice that demonstrates such outstanding support for early-career researchers, innovating in delivery and having impact among both postgraduate researchers and research staff".

He added: "It also showed the use of evaluation to inform ongoing development to ensure relevance and quality."





KENT LAW CLINIC

KENT UNIVERSITY

More than 7,000 people, many of whom are unable to afford legal services, have been represented by Kent Law Clinic, a free service run by undergraduates at Kent University.

The 15-year-old project “is deeply rooted in the educational experience of students, has had a positive and growing impact on the community, and widespread professional support,” said judge David Watson, professor of higher education management at the Institute of Education, University of London.

The benefits to clients are many: students take personal responsibility for their cases, from interviewing to appearing as advocates in employment and benefits tribunals and county courts, as well as attending courts up to the Court of Appeal. For students, working for the clinic boosts chances of academic success — those who do so are two and a half times more likely to gain first-class degrees.

Last year, the centre fought its biggest case, that of 27 former Tesco employees against the company, and dealt with 936 queries, almost double the average annual number since the clinic began.

There are two clinics: one at the university’s

“The project is deeply rooted in the educational experience of students, has had a positive and growing impact on the community, and widespread professional support”

main campus in Canterbury and the other at its Medway campus at Chatham Maritime. It also offers new outreach and advice sessions elsewhere and has established a service for unassisted litigants in housing cases, based at the county court.



THE TIMES
HIGHER
Awards 2007



MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY

Middlesex University's London North Aimhigher Disability Programme visits schools and colleges to run information sessions for disabled pupils. Its "ambassadors" have worked with some 300 pupils and a similar number of parents.

The programme offers disability awareness sessions and attainment-raising workshops to help improve study and organisational skills and essay writing, sometimes in the form of intensive "transition schools". It also offers free resources tailored specifically to disabled students, such as the *Guide for the Successful Transition into University for Students with Asperger's Syndrome and Autism*, published a year ago.

Judge Sean Moran, director of UK services at the National Deaf Children's Society, said: "The team at Middlesex clearly showed the impact of their work in terms of outreach into the community, using disabled students as 'ambassadors' and an innovative three-day transition schools at Middlesex to provide disabled pupils with guidance and practical tips for progression into higher education.

"The success rate for the majority of these pupils successfully applying for university

"This showed excellent awareness of transition issues, particularly for 'statemented' disabled pupils. Inclusion of students on the autistic spectrum, an often ignored group, is very important"

placements is proof positive of the outstanding contribution being made."

Fellow judge Alex Kemp, disabled students officer for the National Union of Students, said: "This is an innovative widening participation strategy, with strong focus on disabled students, that has produced excellent results. It showed excellent awareness of transition issues, particularly for 'statemented' disabled pupils. Inclusion of students on the autistic spectrum, an often ignored group, is very important."

Highly commended in this award category was SMARTlab at the University of East London, which develops technology for disabled people to assist in their learning and research in the university and elsewhere.





LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

For this award, which Loughborough University has won for the second year running, *The Times Higher* commissioned the most thorough research on student experiences at UK universities. Opinionpanel Research interviewed some 22,500 full-time undergraduates, more than three times the number for last year's poll.

Unlike the National Student Survey, which interviews only final-year students during a given fieldwork window and focuses on teaching and learning, *The Times Higher* survey paints a broader canvas. Students from all course years take part, and polling runs throughout the year. Respondents are questioned on a wide range of activities, which they nominate as comprising and defining the student experience.

The concept of student experience was broken down into 21 attributes and members of a student panel were asked to rate how their university performed on a seven-point satisfaction scale on each of these.

Loughborough's strengths lay in the same areas as last year — community atmosphere, extracurricular activities and societies and a good environment on campus and around the university and university union.

“It will be the continuing professionalism of our academics that will guarantee our students’ future success in leading the lives they choose”

Also for the second year running, Cambridge University came second. In third place was Glasgow University.

Heather Jackson, head of client services at the Higher Education Academy, which sponsored the award, said: “*The Times Higher* awards focus on what matters most to the Higher Education Academy — the student learning experience. The UK's universities and colleges enjoy a well-deserved reputation across the world for excellence.

“The HEA is delighted to act as sponsor of the awards and to celebrate the best of higher education in the UK. We are delighted to join *The Times Higher* in recognising and rewarding people who have made outstanding contributions to that experience. It will be the continuing professionalism of our academics that will guarantee our students’ future success in leading the lives they choose.”





Outstanding student financial support package



PORTSMOUTH UNIVERSITY

offa
office for fair access

Portsmouth University's nomination represents "an excellent example of well-targeted financial support aimed at a specific group of chronically under-represented students — in this case, care-leavers and the previously homeless", according to Sir Martin Harris, award judge and director of the Office for Fair Access, which sponsors this category.

The area around the university has a high proportion of children in care. To help them, Portsmouth introduced targeted support for care-leavers and previously homeless students. Its Student Finance Centre has worked with social workers, staff and clients of the local Foyer for Homeless Young People to identify barriers to entering higher education.

"I was particularly impressed with Portsmouth's integrated approach, both in engaging professionals in the field of care and homelessness and in co-ordinating services across the university"

A £1,000-a-year bursary plus tailored services has led to many care-leavers and previously homeless students progressing well through degrees. The university has established a working group, comprising student finance, marketing and student housing, to develop integrated support for care-leavers and previously homeless students across all services.

Sir Martin said: "I was particularly impressed with Portsmouth's integrated approach, both in engaging professionals in the field of care and homelessness and in co-ordinating services across the university. They are already seeing early signs of success in their excellent retention rates and in feedback from the students."

The judges highly commended Wolverhampton University's Regional Cashback Bursary, a one-off £1,000 payment offered regardless of income to first-year students on degree-level courses.

"I particularly like the extent to which the regional schools and colleges have engaged with the scheme, along with other partners in Aimhigher and Connexions, to create maximum awareness among the target population," Sir Martin said.





LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY



QAA

Loughborough, which topped the poll for best student experience, won a second trip to the podium by impressing again with its services for international students, including careers and visa advice and a welcoming student union.

This award was polled by the International Graduate Insight Group, widely known as i-graduate. As a part of its International Student Barometer project, staff reviewed feedback received from 27,813 international students during May and June 2007. Students rated their own experience against 55 separate measures in a confidential reporting process.

William Archer, director of i-graduate, said: "All participating UK universities performed well, and each received individual feedback on the findings. Six with particularly strong ratings for student support were shortlisted for the award. Loughborough received the highest satisfaction ratings from its international students for support across a specified range of measures.

"Strong support is no longer peripheral or [just] nice to have — it is pivotal to the student experience. Any problem, if tackled well enough, will ultimately reflect positively on the

"Strong support is pivotal to the student experience. Any problem, if tackled well enough, will ultimately reflect positively on the institution"

institution. If support is lacking, small problems become big issues overnight. For students from other countries, the significance cannot be overstated — the impact of good or bad support is often multiplied by the number of miles from home. So it is right for *The Times Higher* Awards to recognise excellence in this arena. Congratulations to Loughborough from all at i-graduate on this well-deserved award."



THE TIMES
HIGHER
Awards 2007



INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY

Chosen by judges for its “great focus” on international leadership development, Aberdeen University’s International Leadership Development Programme exists to strengthen the operational and strategic skills of recently appointed and aspiring leaders.

The judges praised its practical activities and projects in international contexts such as its knowledge transfer activities.

The programme is innovative in raising awareness of the internationalisation of higher education, and to this end participants learn about leadership overseas. Recent visits to the Netherlands and Hong Kong offered the chance to see industry-university collaboration and approaches to leadership required for successful partnership that could be relevant to Scotland.

Judge Sir David Watson, professor of higher education management at the Institute of Education, University of London, said: “We were really impressed by the innovative qualities of this application. We particularly liked the focus on international leadership development. The project includes good practical activities in the international context for transferring learning through university-industry collaboration.”

Fellow judge Linda Holbeche, director of research and policy at the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, said: “This application demonstrated strong strategy development and implementation, including a thorough and coherent approach to stakeholder management and an innovative approach that is producing practical benefits to all concerned.”

Ewart Wooldridge CBE, chief executive of sponsors the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, said: “We are pleased to be able to sponsor the award for outstanding leadership development for the second year running. As former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said recently: ‘Good leadership is more important than ever’, and with this award we are able to support and celebrate the really excellent achievements in the world of higher education.”

“This application demonstrated strong strategy development and implementation, including a thorough and coherent approach to stakeholder management”



**THE TIMES
HIGHER
Awards 2007**



CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

An impressive range of Web 2.0 innovations is put to practical use in Birmingham University School of Dentistry's Content Management System. It allows students to access resources from and put coursework directly on the IT system and to benefit from a range of other functions, including the ability to download staff and students' educational podcasts from iTunes. They can even create virtual patients and give them a range of conditions.

Interactive captioned videos and informative blogs made by students help other students — as well as an increasing number of professionals — to prepare for unexpected clinical situations at short notice. An open-access virtual microscope allows students to access images, magnify them and provide interactive self-assessment tools.

CMS was set up to foster independent learning, an area of particular importance given the school's remote location in relation to the main university campus, the expansion of outreach teaching placements and the large number of part-time teaching staff. It has been configured to take account of the fact that dentists and dental students are often on the

move, and the material is tailored for access from various types of computer hardware, from full-size PCs to mobile devices.

"I chose the winners because of their imagination and innovation," said judge David Baker, principal of the College of St Mark and St John and chair of content services for the Joint Information Systems Committee.

"It seemed clear to me that the people involved really had moved us forward in terms of the application of ICT to learning and teaching in a way that, in the final analysis, none of the other shortlisted entries had done.

"The winners provide an exemplar for higher education, which we believe can be rolled out across a wide range of subjects. This is just what the judges wanted to see. It was a difficult decision: the standard and quality of all the entries made the final selection a challenge."

Fellow judge Norman Wiseman, head of outreach and services at Jisc, said: "The e-course team at Birmingham's School of Dentistry has done a great deal of excellent and innovative work, and their innovations deserve to be recognised in this way."

JISC



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HIGHER
Awards 2007



BRISTOL UNIVERSITY

“More universities are thinking about sustainability across the board — on campus, in the curriculum and research, and in interactions with local and other special interest communities,” observes judge Sara Parkin, founder director of Forum for the Future.

And leading the way, Ms Parkin’s panel of judges decided, is Bristol University. Since the institution adopted its environmental policy in 2003, it has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 18 per cent, water use by 23 per cent and waste-to-landfill by over half. In the past year, its ten-person energy and environmental management unit has developed alternative approaches to cooling buildings, using technical fixes such as liquid pressure amplification to reduce energy consumption. Through events and policy initiatives, the institution has helped to push forward the green agenda in Bristol.

In 2005-06, the university launched an undergraduate unit in sustainable development, which is open to students from all faculties. Last year, it added a further unit, examining sustainable development perspectives in earth sciences, philosophy and law.

Ms Parkin said: “Bristol University leads the

way for the 2007 awards because its entry clearly sets out its achievements on the campus, in curriculum and research and in its engagement with the city of Bristol over the past year.

“As well as good investment in and action on environmental performance on the campus, this year focusing on air conditioning, Bristol has recognised the importance of ‘sustainability literacy for all’ by launching — and last year developing further — a new ‘open to all students’ multidisciplinary unit.”

The university’s involvement in the local community helps “a wide range of people across Bristol to join other initiatives with the city, to tackle the shared challenge of climate change”, Ms Parkin said.

The judges’ “very close second” was Sheffield Hallam University.

“As well as good investment in and action on environmental performance on the campus, Bristol has recognised the importance of ‘sustainability literacy for all’”



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QUEEN MARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



Performing Medicine, which brings together medicine and drama, was established a year ago, and it has since programmed and delivered more than 40 different arts-based workshops within the medical school curriculum at leading medical schools. These include Barts, King's College London and Imperial College London.

The workshops use theatre and performance to teach medical students how to use their bodies and voices more effectively when dealing with patients and colleagues. They also introduce students to use of the arts in healthcare settings and raise the possibility of using the arts as a platform to discuss cultural issues relevant to healthcare, such as identity, sexuality and cultural sensitivities.

The collaborative venture brings together theatre and performance company The Clod Ensemble, the School of English and Drama at Queen Mary, University of London, and Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry. It is one of a kind in the UK.

"I was very impressed with the way Queen Mary's had used arts to make an innovative contribution to the training of doctors," said judge Tom Shakespeare, a member of the

national council of the Arts Council and chairman of Arts Council England, North East. "This represents a combination of great partnership, practical benefit and creativity, and it stood out as distinctive from the very good set of submissions from other universities."

Fellow judge Sir Christopher Frayling, the chairman of Arts Council England, described the winning entry as "an outstanding example of art and higher education joining forces, with benefit to both sides". He called it "a superb achievement — just what the awards are for".

Another judge, Althea Efunshile, executive director of arts planning and investment at Arts Council England, said: "It is very rewarding to see that the majority of entrants have received support from the Arts Council. We are committed to partnerships that encourage excellence and innovation in the arts and will continue to work regionally and nationally to develop collaborations between the higher educational and arts sectors."

"This represents a combination of great partnership, practical benefit and creativity"



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EXETER UNIVERSITY



Exeter University has always had a lot going for it: academic reputation, one of the UK's most picturesque campuses and social cachet.

So when Steve Smith became vice-chancellor in 2002 and launched rapidly into a major restructuring of the university, some may have been tempted to advise: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Five years on and £140 million later, the changes have resulted in Exeter nearly doubling in size, and have helped the institution secure its reputation as a university that is going places.

Three main ventures caught the eyes of our judges, Baroness Kennedy, the barrister and Labour peer, Bernadette Porter CBE, former rector of Roehampton University, and Gerard Kelly, editor of *The Times Higher*.

First is the university's Cornwall Campus, near Falmouth, from which the first cohort of students graduated this year. Delivering much-needed higher education opportunities to people in the far west, the campus is located 100 miles away from Exeter's main site. It was a joint initiative with University College Falmouth and is part of the wider Combined Universities in Cornwall project, which also involves Plymouth

University and other higher and further education institutions.

Another partnership also came good. The Peninsula Medical School, a joint venture with Plymouth University set up in 2002, last year awarded degrees to the first cohort of its students.

Finally, there is the £14 million Great Western Research project — led by Exeter and involving all the South West's higher education institutions — which has boosted postgraduate development in the region. So far money has been committed to provide 74 PhD studentships and 20 three-year research fellowships.

Porter said: "Exeter impressed me greatly, as the three projects are a good mixture of widening participation, institutional collaboration and research development. It celebrates three very diverse kinds of achievement."

"Exeter impressed me greatly. The projects are a good mixture of widening participation, institutional collaboration and research development"

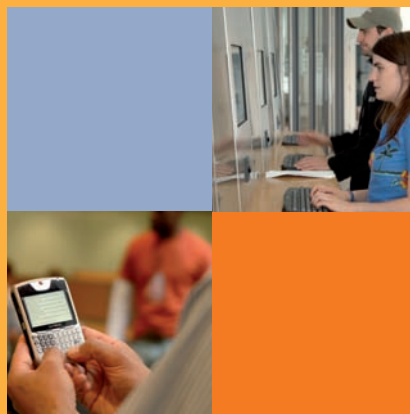


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SIR PETER MANSFIELD

Sir Peter Mansfield, the physicist and Nobel laureate, has been on a remarkable journey since leaving school aged 15 with seemingly limited prospects.

The southeast London boy, who was born in 1933, told his teachers at the former William Penn School in Peckham that school was not for him. His intention was to train as a printer — a well-respected trade but not one that required a university education.

But, evidencing education's power to change lives, Sir Peter later returned to study, taking A levels at night school before winning a place to study physics at what was then Queen Mary College (now Queen Mary, University of London). He graduated in 1959 and gained his PhD three years later.

Sir Peter joined Nottingham University in 1964, where he has remained, currently enjoying his role as professor emeritus.

It was at Nottingham in the 1970s that Sir Peter pioneered magnetic resonance imaging, a technology that has since changed the face of healthcare. MRI scans are now a standard diagnostic tool for many diseases and conditions.

In time-honoured scientific tradition, he tested what was then unknown technology — and

which many feared would be injurious to human health — on himself, thereby capturing the world's first MRI scan of the human body.

"I gave the order to press the button for a single pulse. There was a click and I felt nothing, so we carried on with the scan," he recalled.

Sir Peter won the Nobel Prize for Physiology in 2003, with the late Paul Lauterbur, for their work on MRI. In honour of this and his many other achievements, Nottingham's Magnetic Resonance Centre is named after him.

Judge Baroness Kennedy said: "Here is a man who left school at 15 and ended up winning a Nobel prize. What an incredible and inspirational story. Sir Peter was for me the one who stood out in a hugely impressive field of finalists for this year's *Times Higher* Lifetime Achievement Award."

"Here is a man who left school at 15 and ended up winning a Nobel prize. What an incredible and inspirational story"



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We are delighted to join the THES in recognising and rewarding people who have made outstanding contributions to that experience. It will be the continuing professionalism of our academics that will guarantee our students' future success in leading the lives they choose to lead.

Paul Ramsden
Chief Executive
The Higher Education Academy

