



Research Committee events

University soirée and presentation planned

● New Lecturers' Research Soirée

The Research Committee and Training and Staff Development Unit are holding a research soirée for new lecturers on Tuesday November 4 from 4–5.30pm in the Delta Suite at the University Staff Club.

The aim of this soirée is to bring together the different departments and people who have an interest in newer research initiatives. Each participant will be invited to submit on one side of A4 a résumé of their research interests, to be displayed at the soirée, to facilitate communication between researchers relatively new to this University.

These summaries of research interests will be published on the Virtual Research Office page following the event.

The soirée will be chaired by Professor David Wood (Psychology) and chairman of the Research Committee's Humanities Strategy Group. Dr Richard Aldrich (Politics) and Ian Campbell (Manufacturing Engineering and Operations Management) will be giving their first-hand experiences, as previous recipients of awards when they were new lecturers to the University, of obtaining and benefiting from these awards from the Research Committee.

The objectives for this soirée

are to bring together relatively new lecturers from all faculties: to identify research 'hot-spots' to form the basis of pan-Nottingham applications for new project support; to appreciate strategic issues determining the policies of funding bodies; to allow researchers to exchange summaries about their work and plans and to influence future initiatives aimed at supporting new researchers.

If you wish to attend the soirée you should contact Sue Renshaw either by phone on ext 15741 or by e-mail to: Susan.Renshaw@nottingham.

● Presentation by Professor Ron Amann, chief executive of the Economic and Social Science Research Council

Professor Amann, chief

executive of the ESRC, is visiting the University on Friday November 7. He will give a presentation about the ESRC's role, its methods for supporting research and the latest thinking that will determine how research funds are allocated in the future.

The presentation will take place in the Senate Chamber, Trent Building, at 2 pm. All those who have an interest in the ESRC, whether considering applying for a project grant or being part of a team that is applying for multidisciplinary programme grants or a student in receipt of an ESRC grant, should attend this presentation. There will be opportunities to question and discuss with the ESRC chief executive current priorities and future funding opportunities.

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Departments merge to form new School of the Built Environment

The Department of Urban Planning is being merged with the Department of Architecture and Building Technology to form a new School of the Built Environment.

The new school, to be launched tomorrow, will be headed by Professor Saffa Riffat and consists of the Institute of Architecture, Institute of Building Technology and Institute of Urban Planning.

The aim of the school is to bring together architects, engineers and planners to carry out interdisciplinary teaching and research in innovative ways to meet the need of the construction industry for the 21st-century.

Meet the need

Academic staff of the three institutes will be based in the building currently occupied by the Department of Architecture and Building Technology — Wortley Hall — while the Urban Planning building, Paton House, will

become a centre for postgraduate studies.

“The merger of the two departments will allow more effective use of resources including secretarial staff, technicians, computer and workshop facilities,” said Professor Riffat.

“Students from the three disciplines will use the same studio space and will be encouraged to work on their design projects as part of a team involving architects, engineers and planners. This should allow better integration of architectural design, planning and services — a feature often lacking in many modern buildings.”

This month, the school launched a new MSc course in renewable energy and architecture, which encourages architects and engineers to work together to design buildings which use ‘environmentally-friendly’ technologies for heating, cooling and power generation.

In October next year, the school intends to launch an innovative degree, MA Eng, which will produce graduates with a dual qualification in architecture/building services engineering.



● Professor Saffa Riffat

Accreditation of the new degree will be sought from the RIBA/CIBSE. It is also intended to launch in the near future another interdisciplinary degree involving architecture and planning.

Campus welcomes World Games

The University was chosen as one of five venues this summer to host the 1997 World Games for people with cerebral palsy.

The event — known as the Robin Hood Games because of its association with Nottingham — attracted nearly 900 competitors from 37 countries to take part in nine different sports.

“To welcome elite athletes to the University is an honour and these athletes were elite in every sense of the word,” said Diane Hardwick of the Sports Centre. “Many of them already have their sights set on Sydney 2000 and several are already paralympic medallists in their own right.”

The University was selected as a venue for the boccia and swimming competitions, while other events — including athletics, football, powerlifting, canoe slalom and sprint, table tennis, bowls and cycling —



were held at other venues within the city.

The Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CP-ISRA) is one of the youngest international organisations for sports for the disabled, but has one of the largest memberships. It works alongside other disability sports federations to give an identity to people with cerebral palsy and provide greater opportunities to show that even those with a severe disability can compete at the highest levels.

Cerebral palsy is a condition of great

complexity. Brain damage, usually caused at or around birth, has many effects and lack of balance and co-ordination, communication difficulties and many other conditions may result.

Normal learning patterns in terms of movement and co-ordination are never experienced, consequently, participation in sport poses particular challenges.

Specific coaching techniques are required and,

for the purpose of competition, classification is necessary — allowing for groups of people with similar types of abilities to compete against one another.

“Taking place over nine days, the games took place in a wonderful atmosphere of friendly rivalry, team spirit and genuine joy and camaraderie shown by all teams as they celebrated one another’s triumphs and commiserated with each other in their disappointments,” said Diane.

EMCC cooks up tasty partnership

Staff at the East Midlands Conference Centre have cooked up a tasty partnership with the prestigious Hilton Park Lane.

In a bid to give the EMCC service extra sparkle, the conference and banqueting team has invited leading industry specialists to take part in its latest quality review.

Hilton Park Lane director of banqueting David Irving spent a day shadowing EMCC front of house manager Michael Wilcockson in a 'no secrets' review and plans are now in the pipeline for EMCC chefs to visit London and to work in the Hilton kitchens.

"Regular quality reviews provide us with an opportunity to make improvements and changes which we feel will offer added value to our customers," said conference manager Malcolm Youngson.

"We were delighted when the Hilton Park Lane agreed to share their expertise



● **Malcolm Youngson, Conference Manager at the EMCC**

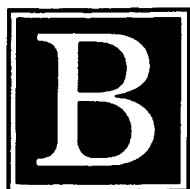
with us by providing an outsider's opinion on our conference and banqueting

Top London hotel shares tricks of the trade

operations. The feedback received so far has proved extremely useful."

He said that as Investors in People, the EMCC was committed to developing its staff in line with the objectives of the business and the Hilton Park Lane partnership provided everyone with an opportunity to review both their operation and ways of working.

"In an extremely competitive business it is vital that we do everything we can to ensure total customer satisfaction," he added.



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Blackwell's University Bookshop

Sutton Bonington Campus
Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Courtyard update

An end is in sight to the extensive work being carried out on the Trent Building. Estates staff have promised.

It has been a long hot summer of noise, dirt and scaffolding for staff who work in the building, but the courtyard and refurbished main entrance will re-open to through-traffic on Monday November 3.

The programme of refurbishment has included cleaning the stone facade of the listed building, relaying and replanting the courtyard and improving disabled access.

However, the project ran into problems part-way through when the stone supplier hit a bad seam and could no longer guarantee the consistency of the stone. Another supplier had to be found quickly and work phased to coincide with supply.

"We can only apologise to those who have been affected by work both inside and outside the Trent

Building — we have done our best to bring the project back on track as quickly as possible," said Director of Estate Management Chris Jagger.

"It has been a particularly sensitive project because Trent is a listed building and we had to ensure that all work was carried out sympathetically. However, we have researched what the original 1920s layout of the courtyard would have been and the new planting and turfing scheme brings us closer to those plans — I'm confident that the result will be worth the wait."

The service road at the rear of the building will be closed for two or three weeks from November 17 to allow workmen to complete cleaning of the final elevation, but diversions and traffic flow arrangements will be made (see next **NewsLetter**).

Any other remaining work will involve only short periods of closure outside normal working hours.

All public and inaugural lectures will in future be advertised on the back page of **NewsLetter** in the "What's On" section.

The aim is to promote the lectures to a wider circulation, therefore the customary public and inaugural lecture card will no longer be published.