

chi uni news

The newsletter for University of Chichester staff, schools and alumni

November 2005

It's official - we are now The University of Chichester!

On 13 October this year University College Chichester finally received official confirmation from the Privy Council that, with immediate effect, it is designated **The University of Chichester**.

This represents a considerable achievement for Chichester, West Sussex and the staff and students of the University. Chichester has been awarding its own taught degrees, at Bachelors and Masters level, since a prior approval of the Privy Council in January 1999. It will continue to award research degrees through the University of Southampton.

also a moment of humility in acknowledging the responsibilities the University carries for the local population, its contribution to the economic development of the region and stimulus for cultural enrichment."

Professor Robinson continued, "The task now is to build the University in partnership with the local community that in the words of our Corporate Plan is a University that, 'celebrates human achievements,

encourages personal responsibility, stimulates informed debate and nurtures the spirit through its curriculum, scholarship and respect for human dignity.' These are important and exciting challenges and the University aspires to be nationally recognised for educating graduates who are effective in their chosen careers and who make an active contribution to the general well-being of their

communities and to attract staff who are

exemplary in their commitment to learning and where appropriate, recognised as authorities by their academic peers."

Chair of the Governors, Mr Richard Bunker, said that the Governors were delighted with the announcement. "This is excellent news for the University, the city of Chichester and the region. It recognises the high standards of teaching and scholarship that are already being achieved and will provide a real stimulus for the further development of higher education courses to meet the needs of the region."

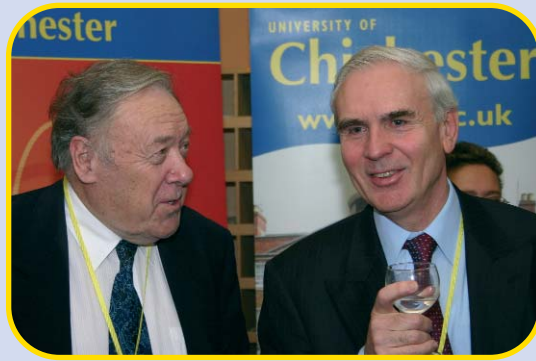
Throughout the coming year there will be a series of lectures, concerts, and performances to celebrate the achievements of the staff and students of the University of Chichester.



Chichester is amongst a group of institutions with degree awarding powers, that have been designated as a university following the Government's decision to emphasise the importance of teaching in higher education. Chichester is one of the smallest universities in England, with teaching and research strength in the public services, sport and culture.

Commenting on the news the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Philip Robinson said, "This important designation is a true reflection of the quality of work undertaken by all staff at Chichester. It is the success of their commitment to quality over many years and acknowledgement of the strength of scholarship necessary to validate teaching at university level. The moment is one to celebrate as the cathedral city of Chichester can now claim to be a university city. It is

Celebrations of our new University title



During November civic receptions were held on both the Bognor Regis and Chichester campuses in celebration of our new University title. Invited guests included Governors, senior members of staff and local dignitaries from West Sussex County Council, Arun District Council, Bognor Regis Town Council and Chichester District and City Councils.

On 1 December careers advisers from schools and colleges across the region, together with heads of sixth form colleges and Access course co-ordinators were invited to attend a celebration reception at the Chichester campus.

A celebration event for all University staff will be held on 13 January 2006 in the Students' Union ZeeBar.



New Governors appointed

The University has recently appointed three new members to its Board of Governors from 1st August 2005.

Rachel Hammond has a lifelong interest in young people having held significant appointments within GirlGuiding UK over the last 25 years. She has recently completed her voluntary role as County Commissioner for GirlGuiding Sussex West, and brings experience of leadership, PR and communication skills to the Board, as well as an excellent network of contacts in the Chichester area where she has lived with her family for 30 years.



David Longmore brings a wealth of experience to the Board of Governors, following his career in the HSBC Trust Company where his role included responsibility for risk management, audit and liaison with the Financial Services regulators. David has a practical understanding of corporate governance as well as a keen interest in local issues, both as a Magistrate sitting on the Adult and Youth Benches in Chichester and Worthing and other voluntary



organisations. David is a keen supporter of the local arts and has provided student accommodation for an international student of the University.



Bill Yardley is a Fellow of both the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Association for Project Management and additionally is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. He has wide experience in the property and construction business, having held a number of senior positions. He lives in South Wiltshire with his wife, three school age children and a golden retriever.

Richard Bunker, Chair of Governors, said that the University's policy to recruit new members to the Board through regional advertising had been very successful over the last five years, attracting Governors with the skills and expertise required to contribute to the strategic direction and sustainability of the only higher education institution in the County of West Sussex. The new Governors were already playing an important part in the development of the former University College Chichester as it reflected on the changes which would be needed to meet the expectations in the local community and regionally of a new University.

Chichester comes sixth in student satisfaction survey

In the first-ever national survey of student satisfaction, published in *The Times Higher* on 23 September, the University of Chichester was ranked sixth out of 93 universities.

The survey, which was commissioned by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), involved sending out questionnaires to all 287,425 final

year students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland who were finishing courses last spring.

The students answered 21 questions in six groups, relating to teaching quality, assessment and feedback, academic support, organisation and management, learning resources and personal development.

The Times Higher overall satisfaction rating was based on an average of the scores for the 21 individual questions in the survey.

Over 60 per cent of the students responded to the survey, giving a reliable overall picture of how they rated their university experience. The survey results will now be made available on the Teaching Quality Information website (www.tqi.ac.uk) for prospective new students, helping them to compare institutions and subjects, and make a more informed choice of where to study.

The University of Chichester places great emphasis on its high quality teaching, friendly atmosphere and supportive environment, and all of the staff were delighted to see these efforts rewarded in such positive feedback from its students in this latest national survey.

THES SATISFACTION RATING			
University	Teaching score	Assessment & feedback score	THES score
Open University	4.3	4.2	4.16
St Mary's College	4.1	3.9	4.04
Loughborough	4.1	3.7	4.03
Leicester	4.2	3.7	4.00
East Anglia	4.1	3.6	3.95
University of Chichester	4.2	3.8	3.93
Birkbeck	4.3	3.8	3.92
Hull	4.1	3.6	3.92
Wales, Newport	4.0	3.9	3.92
Exeter	4.1	3.6	3.91
Lancaster	4.1	3.6	3.91
Wales, Lampeter	4.2	3.7	3.91

Chichester leaps ahead in *The Sunday Times* university guide

For the fifth consecutive year the University of Chichester has continued to improve its ranking in *The Sunday Times* university guide.

In the latest league table of UK universities and higher education colleges, published on 2 October, Chichester is ranked 58th out of a total of 120 universities, leaping ahead ten places from its ranking of 68 in last year's table.

As *The Sunday Times* article commented, "With extremely low graduate unemployment too, it is no wonder the dropout rate is half the level expected by the funding council."

Marketing Department welcomes James Busson

James Busson joined the Marketing Department in September following two years working in property sales in the local area. He studied here at Chichester, graduating in 2002 with a BA (Hons) in Music.

James will work alongside our Schools Liaison Officer, Jo Wood, and his duties include visiting local schools and colleges to advise students about higher education and what the University of Chichester can offer them. He is also responsible for helping to prepare the prospectus content.



Childhood obesity project receives national recognition

The important, ongoing childhood obesity work by PE tutors at Chichester and specialists at St Richard's hospital was highlighted in a lengthy article published in *The Times* in October.

Senior PE lecturers Dr Suzanne Groves and Dr Julia Potter have been working on the New LEAF (Lifestyle, Eating, Activity and Fitness) Project in collaboration with Professor David Candy, a paediatric gastroenterologist at St Richard's Hospital – which has spent five years working with overweight children.



Dr Julia Potter



Dr Suzanne Groves



Professor David Candy

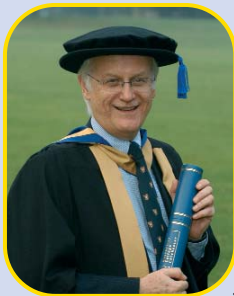
Their research found that dietary treatment alone is largely ineffective in treating childhood obesity. Activity sessions, on the other hand, where the fear factor has been removed from exercise, and schemes where families are involved, have proved far more successful in motivating the children to achieve fat loss.

A few days after the article appeared in *The Times*, the New LEAF project was also praised in a speech given by the Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP, Secretary of State for Health.

University of Chichester Honorary Awards 2005

An expert on children's health and nutrition, top Olympic divers, a local historian and a prolific author of children's books were among the recipients of this year's honorary degree awards, which were presented at the Chichester Festival Theatre in October with citations read by the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Clive Behagg.

Professor David Candy *Honorary Fellowship*



Professor Candy is an eminent scientist working in the field of children's health and nutrition. He is currently one of the leading clinicians working against the ever-growing problem of childhood obesity through his unique New LEAF (Lifestyle, Eating, Activity and Fitness) clinic at St Richard's Hospital in Chichester.

The New LEAF project is run in partnership with the University of Chichester and is currently the only childhood obesity project in the region that has produced sustained weight loss results.

Lindsey Fraser *Honorary MSc*

Leon Taylor *Honorary MSc*

Peter Waterfield *Honorary MSc*

Lindsey Fraser has made an outstanding contribution to British diving and coaching in the UK, winning UK Female Coach of the Year 2004. She was the team manager for Britain's Olympic divers in Athens in 2004.

Her most successful diver is Peter Waterfield whom she has coached since he was nine years old, firstly through to winning the Commonwealth Games in 2002, and then, together with his synchronised diving partner Leon Taylor, to winning the silver medal in the 10 metre platform synchronised diving event in Athens 2004. This was Britain's first Olympic diving medal for 44 years.



Peter Waterfield and Lindsey Fraser



Leon Taylor

Professor Malcolm Payne *Honorary Fellowship*



Professor Malcolm Payne has made a significant contribution to the Probation Service and to the voluntary sector in community work and mental health. He is an internationally recognised author of a number of books and articles. Professor Payne was Head of Applied Community Studies at the Manchester Metropolitan University until 2003 and he has recently returned to professional practice as Director of Psychosocial and Spiritual Care at St Christopher's Hospice, in South East London.

Dr Colin White *Honorary MA*

Dr Colin White is a local historian, Deputy Director of the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth and was the Director of Trafalgar 200 – a series of spectacular events commemorating Admiral Lord Nelson and the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Dr White is widely regarded as one of Britain's leading Nelson scholars. In April this year he published *Nelson – The New Letters*, a collection of over 500 of Nelson's previously unpublished letters that throw fascinating new light on his life and career.



David Wood *Honorary MA*



David Wood is an actor, playwright, composer, theatre producer and director, magician and prolific author of children's books, plays and screenplays. After attending Chichester High School for Boys, he began acting and writing at Oxford University in the sixties. He wrote his first play for children in 1967 and since then has gone on to write at least a further fifty. In the Queen's Birthday Honours 2004 Mr Wood was awarded an OBE for his services to literature and drama.

Professor Keith Jenkins gives his inaugural lecture

On Wednesday 9 November Professor Keith Jenkins, Professor of Historical Theory at the University of Chichester, gave his inaugural lecture entitled "Once Upon A Time": *On History* to an audience of invited guests.

It is a tradition within universities that on appointment a new Professor gives a public lecture in which they introduce an aspect of their specialist knowledge to a lay audience.

Professor Jenkins read Medieval and Modern History at the University of Nottingham, where, in the Department of Politics, he also wrote his Ph.D. on the relationship between politics and science in the works of Nietzsche, Freud and Sorel.



Professor Jenkins has written over thirty articles and book chapters, and his books have been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Turkish, Portuguese, Greek and Spanish, making him one of the most widely read philosophers of history in the world.

He has given research papers throughout Britain, Europe, the USA and Canada.