Over the last eight years we have raised some £3.5 million in donations. Some of those monies – the capital sums - have been entrusted to our Foundation, to be invested. What have we done with the income?

Three major donors, Mr & Mrs Robert M Gregory, Sir Christopher Ondaatje and Professor Ronald Coase (the Nobel prize winner in economics) each gave us around a third of a million pounds, so their monies have been invested in perpetuity to create respectively the Gregory, Ondaatje and Coase scholarships. Thus have we converted these donations into perpetual boosts to scholarship.

But in addition to the capital sums, we have also received – from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous – a running grant that has amounted to around £1.5 million over the last eight years (£3 million or so over the last decade and half) to sustain the Clore Laboratory with core funding. We have used that money to foster diabetes research of international repute. The Clore Lab, moreover, has leveraged that core funding into raising a further £3 million or so in research grants. To him who hath …

We received another third of a million from the Weston Foundation, part of which paid for the feasibility study for the Medical School and part of which, coupled to the £160,000 we received from the Dixon Foundation via Lord Kalms, paid for the early salaries of Chris Woodhead and Anthony O’Hear as founding professors of education. On the back of that initial donation we have created a Department of Education, which has over 120 students this year, and to which we have attracted a number of other prominent educationalists including Professor Alan Smithers, Dr Pamela Robinson, Professor Dennis O’Keeffe and Professor Geoffrey Alderman. This year alone the Economist has run no fewer than five articles describing their research.

Some of our most poignant donations have come as legacies. Miss Phyllis Scotney, who was not known to us, died in 2002 leaving us £67,000. And this year Mr Edward Legg, an old personal friend of Professor John Clarke and Mrs Anne Matsuoka, as well as a Friend of the University, left us in excess of £130,000. Edward also left us his library of books on the history of Buckinghamshire, which are now housed in the Edward Legg Room at Verney Park.

One of the great joys in recent years has been the way our old friends have supported us. Sir Martin Jacomb our Chancellor gave us £25,000 towards the restoration of Prebend House. The late Sir Nigel Mobbs (who was the Chairman of Council) gave us personally (and via Slough Estates, now SEGRO plc) £55,000. And Mr John Desborough has continued to donate generous sums for scholarships, bursaries and the Business School.

But through recent appeals we have made new friends, with donations ranging from £50,000 from an anonymous donor towards the Medical School, to Lord Sainsbury KG who, as Chairman of the Linbury Trust, helped facilitate a gift of £150,000 towards restoring Prebend House, to another anonymous donor who has funded the professorship in skin cancer research now held by Tony Chu. The Legal & General Group have given £20,000 to the Business School, and Mr Stuart Wheeler has also donated £20,000 – and we are hugely appreciative.

Amongst the monies we have received over the last two years that have made the most immediate impact on our student body have been those raised via the Alumni Annual Fund and the Friends of the University, and for these generous gifts I thank each and every one of you who has given. In the centre of this issue you will see that we are beginning our third appeal for the Annual Fund.

Not only have many of you supported us financially, but practically as well. Many of our alumni visit us regularly, sit on Council, mentor the current students and provide me with the kind of advice and support that only Buckingham alumni can provide. Again, I can only thank you from my heart.

The cliché is that Buckingham is a family, whose close links benefit not only the University but the alumni themselves. Being old and grumpy I always pretend in public that, yes, we’re a family – but only a dysfunctional one. Yet I secretly suspect that we’re actually a happy one.
Council Election Results

We are pleased to announce that, following the recent elections, Suzanna Tomassi (MSc Service Management '02) and Marian Okunola (Law '08) have been chosen to represent alumni on Council. They will serve for a period of two years from November, 2008 to November, 2010.

Suzanna and Marian, of course, have a special responsibility for raising issues of interest and concern to other alumni. If you wish to get in touch with them to suggest matters that you think should be discussed at Council their emails are: suzanna.tomassi@buckingham.ac.uk or marian.okunola1@buckingham.ac.uk.

We congratulate Suzanna and Marian and are sure that they will make an important contribution to Council and to the University. We would also like to thank the other candidates for standing and for their interest.

John Clarke, Professor of History and Secretary to Council

Editors News

UBAA launch - Innovative Leadership in Challenging Times

After careful consideration the Steering Committee of the University of Buckingham Alumni Association have taken the decision to arrange the launch event next April in Buckingham rather than Geneva. In the current economic climate it was felt that more alumni would be able to attend an event held in Buckingham, on campus, than a rather more expensive event in Geneva.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Terence Kealey, and Professor John Clarke will be attending, as will many other academics. As this takes place during term-time there will also be many current students around and we hope you will have the chance to meet them.

A programme of events, talks and seminars with the overall title of Innovative Leadership in Challenging Times is being arranged for you and updated details will be posted regularly on the AlumNet website. Please see the schedule (on the right) and if you have any queries or would like to be involved in any way at all, do get in touch with Marian Okunola.

marian.okunola1@buckingham.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1280 820210.

Draft format for the weekend:

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2009
7:30pm - 11pm: Welcome Reception in OTM

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2009
10am - 6pm: Conference (using all of the Chandos Road Building + Exam Suites)
7:30pm - late: Gala Dinner @ Bicester Country Club
(www.bicestercountryclub.com)

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2009
10am - 2pm: Conference
2pm - 4pm: Tour of Stowe

Buckingham in the News

Buckingham tops national student survey
The UK's only private university topped a poll for student satisfaction with a total of 95.8% of Buckingham students telling the National Student Survey they were satisfied with their course. The Guardian, 11 September 2008

University scholarship can be won
The University has organised a ‘Dragon’s Den’ style competition to find an outstanding young person, who would not otherwise be able to afford to study at university, for an honours degree in Business Enterprise. The course allows students to start their own business with money donated by “Buckingham Angels”. Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser, 26 September 2008

Warm welcome for Duke
Students and staff at the University of Buckingham welcomed a member of the Royal family when HRH The Duke of Kent paid a visit. Dr Terence Kealey met HRH along with senior members of staff and the Student Union Committee. Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser, 24 October 2008

Degrees won’t be trusted until regulation changes
Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Terence Kealey discusses the inflation of degrees that is overseen by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and offers a few suggestions on how they could improve! The Guardian, 11 November 2008
Alumni at Work

I have had the privilege of studying at Buckingham University on and off over the last two decades. After completing an MA in Victorian literature, I returned to study MPhil (on J S Le Fanu) and then for a DPhil (in Anglo-Irish Literature).

I have been involved with commercial property in Brighton & Hove since 1982 and have always continued to be so despite my other commitments.

Since 1986, I had the opportunity of studying for a postgraduate degree with Professor Valerie Sanders, Dr John Drew and Professor John Clarke. While researching my MPhil, I was elected both to Council and Senate. I taught English at St Giles College, Eastbourne and as Head of English, at Goring Hall School, Goring-by-Sea. I also worked as Chief Supervisor for the Sussex Open Centre for Examinations, which administers the University of Cambridge’s TEFL exams.

Now I work for The Charleston Trust, Firle (country home of the Bloomsbury Group www.charleston.org.uk), where I do a variety of jobs and write for their magazine ‘Canvas’. This summer I did an interview for German TV talking about the importance of Charleston’s garden to Bloomsbury. I also work for the Lee Miller Archive, Chiddingly.

I still visit the university as I am fortunate enough to be involved with Dr John Drew’s excellent project – The Dickens Journal Online, which aims to put the journals on the web by 2012. After having had some work published, I am now organising the publication of my thesis as a book.

Paul E H Davis (English '88, '96, '08)

The Blur Group

Philip Letts, a student of Business Studies in Buckingham University from 1987-1990 has opened a company named The Blur Group. This company was incubated in New York Studios. The Blur Group Company includes blur photography and art, studios networks, media, consulting and more.

Philip Letts is now a leader in the Abstract photography art movement. To find out more about blur group visit www.blurgroup.com

Philip Letts (Business Studies '90)

My family and I have just left Hong Kong / Macau after 18 years, and we are now living in Christchurch, New Zealand. The main reason for our departure is the tremendous increase in environmental pollution in the SE Asian region over the last 10 years, and my fear of the effects of climate change on the future happiness and prosperity of my children. So far, we are delighted with our new home. There are many other benefits to living here - in particular the quality of education and sports for our kids, and a less stressful lifestyle for us adults. Money has never been my main motivator.

I have had the most interesting of professions for the last 12 years - being responsible for the installation and maintenance of the Shark Prevention Nets for the beaches of Hong Kong. I may not be able to find or develop a new business in NZ, which is intrinsically so interesting or varied - but I count myself lucky to have had the opportunities that I have had so far. My wife Monica, who has taught English at University for many years, is going back to school to do a Master’s in a different field. Change is good.

Tony Havens (Business Studies '84)
Vijay read law at Buckingham and was elected the President of Buckingham University Students’ Union in 1985. He also served on the Senate and Council of the University. Upon his return to Malaysia he was appointed Magistrate in the Judicial and Legal Service of Malaysia and subsequently commenced private practice under the name of T. Vijay & Co in Kuala Lumpur. He has written a book named “No Intention To Kill” which is selling for Ringgit Malaysia 19.90 or £3. The book (contents and cover) is available in email attachment format on request.

“No Intention to Kill” offers an extraordinary narrative of the experiences of an 18 year old girl, Herlina Trishnawati, who left her home in Indonesia and headed for Malaysia, a neighbouring country where she hoped to find work and a better future. Within two weeks of her arrival in Malaysia she found work as a housemaid for a childless couple in their mid thirties in the Subang Jaya district of Selangor. Two months after she commenced work, a fight to the death broke out between the lady employer and Herlina in the kitchen of their house arising out of the stresses of cultural and personal conflicts in the household. Herlina was charged, tried, convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of her employer, Cindy Soon Lay Chuan. This drama set in motion a further four years long appeal process through the Court of Appeal and finally the apex court in Malaysia - The Federal Court. T. Vijayandran presents the salient aspects of his 7 year legal battle from a professional perspective that is never short of the emotion that lawyers inevitably face in cases where a life is on the line.

Wendy Crawforth (BA History of Art and Heritage Management ’99), (MA Decorative Arts and Historic Interiors ’04)

I have now given up guiding at Waddesdon Manor, and work as an occasional volunteer at a wonderful little Museum near to Chalfont St Giles called the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Between my BA and my MA (3 years) I worked in Education there, also completing a Postgrad in Education in Museums at the University of London. The museum contains a collection of historic buildings and there are many weekends where historical reenactments can bring history alive for families today. Even without anything going on at the site it is a wonderful, calm and interesting place to visit. More information is available on their website - just type in their name.

Wendy says:
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Wendy Crawforth
(BA History of Art and Heritage Management ’99), (MA Decorative Arts and Historic Interiors ’04)

Helena Pickup (MA Decorative Arts and Historic Interiors ’03)
Assistant Curator, Waddesdon Manor

We would like to give you snippets of information on our History of Art & Heritage graduates in this, and forthcoming issues. We begin with Wendy Crawforth (to whom we apologise unreservedly for, on two occasions, giving her degree qualifications incorrectly) and Helena Pickup. If you graduated in HAH and would like to have a mention, please do let us know.

Wendy says:
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Wendy Crawforth
(BA History of Art and Heritage Management ’99), (MA Decorative Arts and Historic Interiors ’04)

Helena says:
I completed my MA in Decorative Arts and Historic Interiors in 2002 and am now Assistant Curator at Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire.

My role is very varied, including researching and writing material for exhibitions as well as leading study days and giving gallery talks. I have had the opportunity to work on many different aspects of Waddesdon's world-class collections - drawings, paintings, silver, porcelain and our collection of eight hundred rare books. I also lecture independently on 17th and 18th century social, art and court history and can be contacted at hjfpickup@yahoo.com.

Helena Pickup (MA Decorative Arts and Historic Interiors ’03)
Assistant Curator, Waddesdon Manor
Rashid Hossen is the only member of his family to deviate from the trajectory of his father and forefathers by refusing to specialize in jewellery or optics. He did his secondary education at St. Mary’s College where he obtained a Grade 1 at the final exams. Rashid wanted to study law and announced it to his elder brother Farouk Hossen, who replaced their father after he passed away a few months after Rashid Hossen's birth. He says Farouk Hossen “was very strict”, but to his surprise, his brother did not oppose his choice.

He was admitted to the University of Buckingham, one the best universities in England as classified by the Sunday Times. He completed his Law degree in 2 years, making him the first Mauritian to obtain the LLB (Honours) from this prestigious institution. He spent a while at the Academy of International Law in The Hague in the Netherlands.

Rashid spent one more year at the Middle Temple, obtaining a second class at the Bar before he returned to Mauritius to carry out his pupillage at Sir Hamid Mollan QC Chambers. He then joined the Public Prosecutor’s Office and during the Francophonie Summit, he was delegated to represent Mauritius at a Legal Conference in Bordeaux and Paris.

His career quickly took a significant turn as he was appointed Magistrate at the age of 25, thus becoming the youngest Magistrate on the island. During the 25 years that followed, he shuttled between the Crown Law Office and the District Courts before being selected to chair the preliminary investigations in the assassination of Azor Adelaide, one of the longest cases in the history of the country. The principal suspect was Sir Gaetan Duval, an ex Deputy Prime Minister and a lawyer-politician.

Rashid also presided over cases where Mr. Harish Boodhoo, an ex Vice-Prime Minister, was accused of spreading false rumours, and also a drug case, involving a Minister namely Mr. Michael Glover who was prosecuted by the movement Civique.

He feels there is no difference between presiding over a Court case and arbitrating a dispute at the Permanent Arbitration Tribunal or the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal, where he also chairs.

Rashid is married to Sarah, and they have two wonderful children named, Zeenat (16 years) and Abdul Azize (14 years).

Rashid Hossen (Law ’80)

Horseracing attracts everyone from Queen Elizabeth II to people of more humble lifestyles who enjoy the excitement of placing a bet.

University of Buckingham graduate Iain Holmes (Business Studies ’03) is hoping to use the sport’s universal appeal, as a way to promote Organ Donation. ‘While at Harvard (pre-med student) I thought it would be terrific to use a racehorse to promote organ donation awareness.

In the US there is an organ shortage, so with thousands of people attending racing every day, I thought it was a great vehicle to get the message out. I approached Donate Life, the largest organ donation awareness charity in the US with the idea, and it was met with great enthusiasm. I am currently in talks with a number of owners, about naming their horse ‘Denises Gift’ in honor of the most famous organ donor – Denise Darvell’

The idea is simple enough – the owner experience will not be changed at all, but every time someone learns about the horse it will help raise the important issue of Organ Donation.

To learn more please visit http://www.DenisesGift.com

Iain Holmes (Business Studies ’03)
I know a lot of you will be wondering what has happened to me as I have failed to write a piece since I left the student sabbatical post last year. I sincerely apologise for failing to say a good bye to everyone including all the wonderful alumni I met and spoke to while doing the job. It was a pleasure working with the ladies in the attic and I miss everyone.

Ever since I left Buckingham, I have been studying for a Master’s in International Business at the University of Birmingham. I really wished Buckingham had a similar programme, as then I would have remained loyal. However, studying at Birmingham has been a wonderful experience, as I have been exposed to a different university, different environment and met some wonderful people from all over the world. In fact, I met up with Deirdre La Touche (Law ’01) in Birmingham! She is doing wonderfully well and pursuing her law career with so much zeal. I am very sure you will be reading more about her in the near future!

At the moment I am doing my dissertation on what is called the Dissertation Leadership Programme (DLP) at the Birmingham Business School. As a part of the DLP programme I will be on placement with CommonTime, where I will have to conduct a market research for one of their products, which is a Mobile Business application. I will be working closely with the Business Development Manager and the Vice-President of Marketing. I can’t wait to get going and I hope to round up the project before the end of September.

And finally, I hope to give you all a surprise by next year. I know that Anne, Beth and Peter are trying to let the cat out of the bag but you will all have to wait I am afraid!

Ayomiku Babalola-Elewa (International Studies ’07)

Congratulations

David Greenaway formerly Senior Lecturer and Professor of Economics at Buckingham University (January 1979 - August 1987) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham University. We want to take the opportunity to congratulate him on his new position.
Births:

Ana and I are delighted to talk about our newborn son, Yago. Yago was born on 12 August 2008 and he weighed 7.7 pounds. We are so HAPPY. Ana is recovering from her c-section, bit by bit, as is only normal and should be expected.

“Albeit a little late in life, the long awaited for arrival of Yago gives us tremendous joy and fruitfulness for the future” CONGRATULATIONS to Ana for having made the most splendid baby!!!

Iñigo Paternina (Business Studies '90)

On 26 September 2008 our daughter Valentina was born in Hamburg. Her sister Philippa (18 months) is happy to have a new baby doll.

Clemens (Business '95) and Tissa Toepfer

Births:

Kendra and I are pleased to announce the arrival of our baby Christopher Lyttleton Sam, born on 25 September 2008 here in Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas. He was 7 lbs 12 ozs and 21 inches.

Christopher Lyttleton Sam (Law '97)

Engagements:

I would like to announce my engagement to Osi. The proposal was in Thai Silk restaurant at the O2 Arena at North Greenwich, our favourite restaurant, where we went to celebrate our four years’ anniversary. The wedding date will be announced later.

Olajumoke Oduoy (Information Systems with Operations Management '02)
Kevin and I got engaged in September while staying at a cowboy ranch at the Grand Canyon. This was during a month-long adventure in the USA, where we travelled to New York, Niagara Falls, Las Vegas and California.

Gabie Atamian (Business Studies with International Tourism ’99) and Kevin Smith

Marriages:

As we already mentioned last year Amélie and I were engaged in Paris on 14 July 2007. We are now delighted to announce that we were married on 24 May 2008. Our marriage took place in a small little town near the Mosel River called Traben-Trarbach. It was a lovely, wonderful day with the loveliest and most beautiful bride in the world! Together with our family members and a lot of friends (also from good old Buckingham days, Dominik Steffani and Maximilian von Below) we had a great weekend and wedding ball. We then spent our honeymoon afterwards on the Maldives.

Philipp Kleyser (LLM ’01)

Carl, my husband, and I met while I was studying at Buckingham. He is a Sound Design researcher from Wales. I came back to Japan in the next year but we continued our relationship and got married on 20 September. We had a wonderful ceremony in front of Buddha, as I grew up in a temple and my father is the priest. We also had a lovely party with friends in a restaurant. We thank all the people who support us, and promise that we will be happy.

Sueko Hiratsuka (Communication EFL and Media Studies ’07)

Lost Alumni

Miss Georgia Bailey (Australia) Accounting and Financial Management ’83
Miss Santhakumari daughter of M Thangevelu, (Malaysia) Law ’85
Miss Flora Fairbairn (British), History of Art and Heritage Management ’95
Mr Boaz Hadary, (Israel), Law ’90
Miss Ingrid Jackson, (British), Psychology with Biology ’93
Mr Jeremy Lacey (British), Biological Sciences ’95
Mr Masaru Nakata (Japan), Information Systems with French ’00
Miss Sarah Page (British), Business Studies ’85

If you know where these Alumni are, please do let us know.

Lectures

Winter Term: 19th Jan – 20th March

27th January
Anthony Crean, QC

17th February
James Elles MEP “The EU: perspectives and challenges ahead.”

17th March
John Cornwall. Amnesty Lecture with Maggie Paterson “The world under Apartheid”

Date to be confirmed
Annual SSAFA Lecture

Concerts

4th February
Jill Crossland, pianist

4th March
Charles Wiffen, pianist

Dates for Diary

Saturday / Sunday 25th , 26th April - UBAA Launch , Buckingham.
Thursday 7th May - Annual London Dinner, House of Lords.
Friday 19 June - London Summer Party, Carpenter’s Arms, Whitfield Street.

For further details email publicity@buckingham.ac.uk
University News

My Time at Buckingham University

I had little information about Buckingham University despite having visited Professor Norman Barry here back in the summer of 1992. Therefore I did not exactly know what to expect from this small, beautiful university town when I left Ankara on the 8 October 2007.

In November 2006 I got into trouble with the state establishment and its civilian extensions because of my criticism in a panel of Kemalism, Turkey’s official ideology. All I did was to say that Kemalism was not a step forward as the official Turkish propaganda claims and in the future the Europeans would question the deification of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in photos and statues. The day after my speech a lynching campaign was started by some sections of the Turkish media. I was dismissed from Gazi University. And later on I was taken to court on the charge of insulting “the moral legacy of Ataturk”.

In the hot days of the trouble I was recommended by some friends to leave the country immediately as I was receiving death treats. I hesitated to do this, thinking that a sudden departure would give the impression that I escaped and thus would harm freedom of expression in Turkey. I therefore stayed, despite all the problems. In time the event cooled down. However it was a very difficult period for my family and me. At a certain time, I felt that I had to leave for peace of mind and personal security.

When my international friends recommended the University of Buckingham I did not hesitate, even for a moment, and I must admit I have always felt at home here. Within a few days I got used to the environment and I very much appreciate the friendly atmosphere among students, academics, and staff. The University’s support of freedom of expression and academic freedom is also superb and in the winter term I gave a course entitled “Liberty and Islam” which I very much enjoyed!

I sometimes hear complaints that the university is too small. But I think being small creates some great advantages. Among them is the chance to feel like part of a family. Needless to say, after one academic year spent here I now have the feeling that I belong to the University of Buckingham.

Dr Atilla Yayla

Beloff Centre for the study of Liberty

Atilla Yayla’s visit to the University of Buckingham has been an important catalyst in the development of the Beloff Centre. As a prominent (indeed from the point of view of certain conservative forces in Turkey a rather too prominent) exponent of classical liberal philosophy and political economy, Dr Yayla was an ideal person to visit the nascent Beloff Centre for the Study of Liberty. Opposition to oppressive state influence and the desire to protect and nurture free civil associations were important principles motivating the founders of the University of Buckingham. Dr Yayla was an ideal person to visit the nascent Beloff Centre for the Study of Liberty. Opposition to oppressive state influence and the desire to protect and nurture free civil associations were important principles motivating the founders of the University of Buckingham. Dr Yayla’s visit is a reminder that this classical liberal outlook is never fully secure and will always require to be defended against complacency on the one hand and the attacks of the politically powerful on the other.

More visiting scholars from Turkey and elsewhere will be coming to the Beloff Centre in future months. In addition, Dr Yayla is organising a Festschrift in honour of another celebrated classical liberal philosopher who taught at the University for twenty-five years – Professor Norman Barry (see obituaries, page 15). The Festschrift will take place in Buckingham in March of next year.

Dr Atilla Yayla

Buckingham Graduate gains Internship at the Association for Liberal Thinking in Turkey

Lielya Sagnia, who graduated from the department of Economics and International Studies at the University of Buckingham last June, gained an internship at the Association for Liberal Thinking (ALT) in Turkey.

The Association for Liberal Thinking is the leading liberal think-tank in Turkey. Its aim is to disseminate liberal ideas in the country and to promote efforts to find liberal solutions to political, legal, and economic problems. ALT is conducting intensive educational activities and is heavily engaged in publishing.

At ALT Lielya Sagnia will assist Dr Atilla Yayla, President of ALT and Mrs Ozlem Yilmaz, Chief Executive. She will be in Turkey in September and October 2008 and will work in the sections of event organizations and publications.

ALT is considering the possibility of taking more qualified interns from Buckingham University in the future.

Dr Atilla Yayla (Visiting Professor)
On the morning of 9th and 10th of May 2008 all the students were happy to see that the Cellars were to be repainted. Eagerly waiting at the entrance we discussed the different colours to fit the different rooms. For most of us this was our first painting experience, so when we got into the Cellars to pick up our paint brushes, you could easily sense this feeling of uneasiness and anxiety among the students. Then we rushed into the room, and we painted it with our favourite colours. We listened to music, chatted, wrote our names on the wall, covered our clothes with paints and for the memory we took a lot of pictures. In a short period of time we finished the work. This was a great learning experience for us all. This knowledge had opened our minds as to the charitable ways in which our new found skills can be applied. Joining international humanitarian organisations like Habitat for Humanity, for example, working as volunteers and decorating our own homes were among the things we mentioned.

The cellar was formally opened on the 6 September 2008 and because of its location its name has been changed to ‘The Underground Lounge’. The idea behind the Lounge is simple; it is to create a comfortable atmosphere with lounge like feel for the convenience of students, staff and visitors.

With a donation from the Alumni Annual Fund, new furniture and materials have been bought for the Lounge. So far a 50 inch flat screen television has been purchased. Six two seater and three large seater sofas, plus a table tennis board have also been provided. A pool table has been donated by Marcus William (Student Union Administrator) and a piano by Ms Felicity-Roberts Holmes (Student Experience Manager).

First, let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Marian Atinuke Okunola. I graduated from the University of Buckingham this year (LLB ’08) and have recently started working in the Alumni Office as Alumni Annual Fund & Country Groups Co-ordinator.

It gives me great pleasure to be back in Buckingham, “on the other side” as some refer to it! It’s a good feeling to be able to give back to the University that was so instrumental in making my own achievements possible.

Although I enjoy working, as compared to the pressures of exams, I miss the people with whom I shared most my time as a student in Buckingham. Those days I will cherish. That’s what I hear from other alumni too. It’s a unique experience and I am so glad to be able to share in a piece of Buckingham’s history.

During my time so far, I have helped put together the University of Buckingham Facebook Fan Page, which I hope you all will view and become fans, in addition to an official Buckingham Alumni Group, which all alumni are welcome to join.

I have also been involved with the newly formed University of Buckingham Alumni Association (UBAA) and am a Steering Committee Member. This to me is an especially exciting project, which will be launched in April 2009. I hope to see you in Buckingham for that event (see page 2).

I am very passionate about the progress of the University and its Alumni and would appreciate feedback from all of you!!! Thank you.

Marian Okunola
Alumni Annual Fund & Country Groups Co-ordinator
Tel: +44 (0)1280 820210
marian.okunola1@buckingham.ac.uk

I will like to use this opportunity on behalf of the Student Union executives to thank some very special people for their contribution. Firstly, I thank every student who helped in painting the cellars. A Hall of Fame has been erected to remember all your efforts and contribution. I will also thank Anne Matsuoka of the Alumni Office for donating a substantial sum of money out of the Alumni Annual Fund (AAF) for refurbishing the cellars. I thank all members of the Student Experience committee, Felicity Roberts Holmes, Marcus Williams and Sheila Taylor of the Student Union for their numerous contributions and encouragement, which cannot be enumerated.

Roberts Utibe-Abasi
Former Student Union Committee President on behalf of The Student Union Executives (April - October 2008)
My first ‘instalment’ of the history of the town of Buckingham, published in the last number of The Independent, ended at the time of the Norman Conquest of 1066. By then, Buckingham was already some four hundred years old and had become a place of some importance, the ‘Capital’ of the county. In the recent past, its most important role had been military – as a strong point on the Saxon side of the frontier with Danelaw, facing its ‘opposite numbers’, Northampton and Bedford. But the frontier had now moved northwards and hence Buckingham’s military role was redundant.

More important, the Norman Conquest brought new landowners, a new and French speaking ruling class, more oppressive government, new arrangements in the Church and new styles of architecture. All in all, it must have been a terrible shock – certainly the greatest until the Reformation nearly four hundred years later.

So how would Buckingham respond? I like to think there are parallels between the history of the town and the history of the University. Like Buckingham itself, we too have had our shocks – for example the sharp fall in student numbers that resulted from the abolition of the binary system in Higher Education in the mid 1990s, followed shortly after by the effects of the East Asian financial crisis. The best way to respond is two-fold: to be flexible and to adapt, but also to stay true to what we know to be good, even if others do not see it that way. This has been the way the University reacted to its problems in the recent past and it is exactly what Buckingham did almost a thousand years ago.

Buckingham responded to the loss of its military role by seeking a commercial one. Already in Saxon times a small market had been held – at the top of what is now Elm Street. But in the centuries after 1066, a much larger market square was laid out in what came to be known as the Borough – still the centre of the town today. People came in from the surrounding villages to buy and sell and craftsmen set up their workshops. There were soon four guilds in the town. So the business side of Buckingham – still maintained in the University – has a long history. There were new buildings too; what is now the oldest in the town, the Chantry Chapel, dates from the twelfth century.

But Buckingham did not give up on what it knew to be good. It seems that some of the new Churchmen from France – who soon got most of the top jobs – were inclined to doubt the miracles, or even the existence, of Saxon saints like St Rumbold. Then, as now, good publicity was essential and the town commissioned a life of its saint from experts based at Worcester Cathedral. I suppose it was really equivalent to our Prospectus. In any case it seems to have worked – the cult of Rumbold survived and pilgrims continued to come in larger numbers, exactly the result we hope for from our Prospectus.

Yet while Buckingham survived and even prospered – it did particularly well in the fifteenth century, when the Church was remodelled, the first Castle House built and Barton’s Almshouses established – it was less successful than many other towns. Of course, we know that one of our University’s strengths is its small size, but we sometimes need to ask why we are not just a little larger. It is only if we can find proper answers to these questions that we can hope to grow. Medieval Buckingham was small because, unlike most larger towns, it was not on the coast or on a navigable river. Before the invention of mechanised transport, movement of goods by ship or barge was much cheaper and more efficient than over land. Thus Buckingham faced higher transport costs than its competitors. At least, however, that was a natural disadvantage.

Today the University suffers from an artificial disadvantage in the shape of the seemingly lower fees charged at other universities who are heavily subsidised by the state. I am sure that no-one in Medieval Buckingham wanted the town to be picked up in a whirl-wind and deposited on the coast somewhere – any more than we want to become like state universities. We have to live with disadvantages and see if they can be turned into advantages. Thus Medieval Buckingham turned to lace (a high value and quality product) and to leather (a good local market). There are all sorts of things this University should be doing but maintaining a high quality product and local recruitment figure prominently in our plans. Of course, the past never repeats itself exactly, but that does not mean that we should not learn from it.

Other parallels may occur to me for the next instalment.

John Clarke
Professor of History and Secretary to Council

We have to live with disadvantages and see if they can be turned into advantages.
My name is Jonathan Squire and I am currently a student at the University of Buckingham, studying for a MBA (Master of Business Administration). I have a scientific background with sales experience and am at present seeking a full time or internship opportunity in investment banking, (either at Analyst or Associate level) ideally within the energy sector.

Prior to the MBA I worked as a consultant for a Water and Air Hygiene company. This was a graduate role and after a six-month training programme I moved into a sales position, the responsibilities of which included: Project manager of a £200,000 water hygiene contract and sales targets.

Preceding this I was a student at the University of Hull, where I studied Marine and Freshwater Biology (BSc Honours), with an independent research project into marine behavioural studies on Lake Malawi (Africa).

In addition to the above I have worked part time within my family’s small retail lighting business. My other achievements consist of rowing for The University of Hull and completing the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Jonathan Squire (current MBA student)

It was to our great delight that we received a message from the University that the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Kealey, was coming to China and would host a dinner in Beijing for the university alumni. I have been away from the University for about 7 years, and haven’t seen the Vice-Chancellor since the graduation ceremony, and I was really looking forward to meeting him again. On the evening of 11th of October 2008, alumni gathered at the Beijing Great Wall Sheraton Hotel, where Dr. Kealey had reserved two tables. The evening was a very enjoyable affair, both for the alumni to meet the Vice-Chancellor during his visit to China, and also to catch up with old friends, and even make some new ones. The Chinese alumni from the University are now widely spread in various fields, such as education, law, film and television, IT and hotel management. The evening was highly entertaining, with many alumni swapping interesting and often humorous stories about their life and work in China. The Vice-Chancellor shared with us some very amusing anecdotes about his travels and experiences during his first trip to China. The dinner also gave the Vice-Chancellor the opportunity to inform the alumni about the current activities of the University. We were all pleased to hear that the university continues to go from strength to strength, which makes us all proud to be graduates of the University of Buckingham. All in all, I believe that everyone in attendance had a lovely evening, and we will be looking forward to the Vice-Chancellor returning to China, hopefully in the near future.

Mrs. Stephanie Keatley (Yan Wang, MBA ’00), Executive Vice Principal, Australian International School of Beijing

Mr. Paul Keatley (Information Systems ’01) Academic Quality Control Officer, Head of IS Program, National Institute of Technology, Beijing

The Heritage Game

‘The Heritage Game’ appeared in April 2008 and is a book that resulted from a pedagogic collaboration between a former Buckingham Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Alan Peacock and an alumnus, Ilde Rizzo.

Ilde Rizzo’s excellent performance in her examinations at the University of Catania led her to a fellowship to study Public Finance and Public policy at Buckingham. Initially she came for one year but Professors Keith Shaw, Martin Ricketts, David Greenaway and Alan Peacock were so impressed with her work that they invented a Diploma course, which led to advanced study.

Ilde graduated with a DPhil in Economics with Professor (then Doctor) Martin Ricketts as her superior. Her thesis ‘The Hidden Debt’ on the effect of population change on the growth in pension was published in 1990.

Now she is a Professor of Public Economics at Catania and an adviser to the Italian Government on Public Expenditure problems. She inaugurated a course in Arts Management with Economics, which has been awarded Scuola Superiore status by the Italian higher education authorities.

Sir Alan has given a series of lectures on the Economics of the Art as part of the course for several years.
The First Graduation Ceremony for SSST graduates

On 30th August, the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology celebrated the graduation of the first cohort in Computer Science and Information Systems. The ceremony was held in the grounds of a splendid historical Palace adjacent to the SSST building and was attended by a delegation of Buckingham academics. Headed by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Terence Kealey, there were a number of dignitaries including a representative of Baroness Thatcher and the Director of the Bosnian Academy of Science.

The Convocation was opened by the Chancellor of the SSST, Professor Ejup Ganic, with a speech that gave the historical background to the establishment of the SSST and the role that the University of Buckingham has played in shaping and realising the visionary model of an independent university excelling in teaching and research. He highlighted the successful achievements of staff and students, asking them to continue their contribution to enhancing the international reputation of the SSST.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Terence Kealey, gave a speech praising the graduates on their excellent achievements, and reminding them that they are also graduates of the University of Buckingham, also mentioning the importance of university independence for academic excellence.

The 57 graduates of Computer Science and Information Systems were then called to receive their certificates, after which a reception was held inside the splendid building. The impressive ceremony and the news that several graduates have already won scholarships for postgraduate programmes in renowned international universities, including Oxford, was a testimony to the success of the collaboration between the University of Buckingham and the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology.

The event was widely reported on local TV stations that evening and the following day the newspapers carried the story. Dr Kealey and I were interviewed by local television reporters.

It was indeed a joyful event, and when these graduates attend the Buckingham Graduation ceremony in February, to receive their degrees, we look forward to showing them the welcome they certainly deserve.

Professor Sabah Jassim
Head of Applied Computing Department, Coordinator of the SSST collaborative project

Being a part of the University of Buckingham certainly presents one with exciting new challenges. Amongst my diverse roles—’I have been a Director (BATS play ‘Jamie Bondage 002 and a half’), an Indian maiden (International Night), and a bunting expert (30th celebrations). But it is not every day that I get to use my Art School training and create a new person. In my daily work I am lucky to have regular dealings with the charming Debbie Milins, Head of the UK Marketing Department. We recently began working on a Students Guide, designed to encourage prospective students to ask the right questions when making a choice of university. Naturally in addition to this, the Guide is an introduction to the benefits of Buckingham’s alternative format. I mentioned to Debbie that some illustrations would be a good idea, and duly delivered some line drawn cartoons. Enter Max Buckingham. I once read that the cartoonists of Jessica Rabbit were seduced by their own creation and had a hard time keeping things in perspective. And I am starting to realise that Max has a life of his own. With his cheeky grin and an ‘every student’ look he is seen relaxing, at the bar, surrounded by students from all over the globe, confused over student finance, and finally, gleefully, graduating. His cheesy cartoon smile has proved popular and Max is now branching out into USB keys, cardboard cutouts, animation, presentations, and the Graduation Booklet. All I can hope for now is that he remembers his creator and that I get a mention in his memoirs. Sigh. Oh well, back to the drawing board!

Setara A.L. Pracha (English Lit ’04)
English Tutor and Researcher
Buckingham University
The big news of course is that for the third year in a row we came top in the National Student Survey (for satisfaction). There are many ways in which the raw data can be calculated, but this year all the different ways put Buckingham top, and the national newspapers followed the Times Higher’s lead in doing so. Indeed, we don’t just come top, we are in league of our own. This is very important because it speaks to one of the fundamental missions of the University which shows that independence translates into teaching excellence.

The next important item is that we have now registered more students (1010) than ever before (the previous record was 1009 when Lord Luce was Vice-Chancellor).

The impact on campus is not as impressive as in Lord Luce’s day as those figures include 130 part time students studying for the PGCE in the education school. Nonetheless the growth of student numbers is gratifying, and since we now accredit the degrees of about 700 students in our partner institutions in Sarajevo and Lucca, the numbers of students currently registered for University of Buckingham degrees is beginning to be substantial.

Lastly, news of the University’s contretemps with the Quality Assurance Agency (the university equivalent of Ofsted). The QAA has criticised our procedures for introducing new post-graduate programmes and for our lack of a central ethical committee (as opposed to departmental ethical committees).

The University believes that though it could always find areas to improve, the QAA’s judgement of limited confidence in those areas was flawed. Consequently the Vice-Chancellor exposed the faults of QAA in widely read articles in the Times Higher (http://www.time highereducation.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=403940&encCode=3554058161BC06907875JTBS737226611) and the Guardian (http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/nov/11/qaa-regulation-reform). The consensus seems to be that this is one of the roles of Buckingham - to challenge monopolistic state bureaucracies.

Anne Matsuoka
PR/Alumni Relations Officer
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Web: www.buckingham.ac.uk/alumnet

It was while I was at Buckingham studying for my PGCE that I realised how many of my fellow students worried about the ‘strugglers’ in their classes and wanted to know more about special needs. After sixteen years teaching children with learning difficulties I had met many SEN teachers who felt inadequate to help some pupils because their training had focused exclusively on dyslexia. With an increase in the diagnosis of dyspraxia, ADHD, dyscalculia, Asperger’s syndrome, Tourette’s and behavioural difficulties, a new course encompassing all these difficulties was long overdue. So I designed a comprehensive programme to help teachers, professionals and parents.

The Diploma of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators is an innovative new course which trains students to identify, assess and teach children with the seven learning difficulties most commonly encountered in mainstream schools.

Based on sound theoretical principles it is also one of the most practical courses available, offering students a battery of different teaching methods and techniques. Workshops give an unrivalled opportunity to create games and activities for children with learning difficulties and to test these in supervised teaching sessions in a specialist school.

The SENCO Diploma course starts in January 2009 at the University of Buckingham. Applicants need not be teachers but should demonstrate a level of education commensurate with the academic content of the course.

If you are interested in booking a place or finding out more about the course please e-mail me at katinaofford@aol.com

Katina Offord BSc (Hons), PGCE, Hornsby Dip SpLD

With a circulation of 8,500, the Independent would like to publicise the businesses of alumni.

The cost will be: quarter page £50 half page £100, full page £200

All in colour and based on A4 size sheet.

Please contact
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alumni@buckingham.ac.uk
Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we announce the untimely and premature death of Honourable Justice K.O. Odiete-Georgemann (Mrs) on 1 August 2008. Kita Odiete-Georgemann was one of Buckingham’s very first Law students, graduating in 1979. She then went on to study for a Master’s degree in Law at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, before returning to Nigeria.

Many of us had the opportunity of meeting her when she visited the University in 2003 and 2004. This privilege was recorded on our website and also in our Alumni newsletter, The Independent.

Justice Odiete-Georgemann was a pioneer in many ways and especially for transforming the face of Nigeria’s judiciary and justice through the realisation of women at the Bar and in the judiciary. She was one of Nigeria’s first female judges, appointed to the Nigerian High Court in 1995, following in the footsteps of the appointment of the first female judge, Justice Modupe Omo-Eboh, in 1969.

Justice Odiete-Georgemann was a significant part of social and legal change heralding the new era. Ten years after her appointment, in 2005, 185 judges out of 800 in Nigeria’s superior courts were women and in that same year Justice Aloma Mukhtar was the first woman ever to be appointed to the Supreme Court.

We will miss Honourable Justice K.O. Odiete-Georgemann greatly. The contribution she has made, to equality within the law as a profession and to greater justice in her judgements, will live on.

Obituary by Professor Susan Edwards
Dean of Law

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Obituary by Professor Susan Edwards
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It is with great sadness that the University learned of the death of Professor Norman Barry. As one of the foremost exponents of classical liberal theory in the United Kingdom, Norman established the foundation around which the study of politics developed at the University. His work as a scholar of Friedrich von Hayek, as a social and political theorist and as a writer in business ethics contributed greatly to the academic reputation of the University after his arrival in 1982. He received the 'Liberty in Theory' Lifetime Award from the Libertarian Alliance (LA) in 2005. Our condolences go to his colleagues, friends and family.

A graduate of the University of Exeter, Professor Barry lectured in Politics at Queen’s University of Belfast and at Birmingham Polytechnic (now the University of Central England) before being appointed as a Reader in Politics at the University of Buckingham in 1982. His books include Hayek’s Social and Economic Philosophy (1979), An Introduction to Modern Political Theory (1981), The Morality of Business Enterprise (1991), Classical Liberalism in an Age of Post-Communism (1996) and Business Ethics (1998). He was awarded a Chair in Social and Political Theory at Buckingham in 1984. He was also a visiting scholar at the Centre for Social Philosophy and Policy, Bowling Green State University, Ohio, and at the Liberty Fund, Indianapolis. He was a member of the Advisory Council of the Institute of Economic Affairs, London; the Institute for the Study of Civil Society, London; and the David Hume Institute, Edinburgh.

The funeral was held in Buckingham on 6th November, 2008 and was attended by staff, students, alumni, family and friends. The eulogy, which was given by Professor Martin Ricketts, can be read on the University of Buckingham’s website at www.buckingham.ac.uk. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family.

Dennis Lees was born in 1924 in Sandiacre, Derbyshire, the eldest of five children. He was married in 1950 to Elizabeth, a refugee from Nazi Austria whom he met while studying at Nottingham, until Elizabeth died in 1992. They had three children: David, Tessa (died 2006) and Alan. He is also survived by three grandchildren: Millie, Olivia and Daniel.

It is with sadness that the University learnt of the death of Professor Dennis Lees in the month of February this year. Professor Lees spent the last 15 years of his career as Professor and Head of the Department of Industrial Economics at Nottingham University, retiring in 1982 as Professor Emeritus. He was a long standing member of the Friends of Buckingham University.

Dennis Lees was born in 1924 in Sandiacre, Derbyshire, the eldest of five children. He was married in 1950 to Elizabeth, a refugee from Nazi Austria whom he met while studying at Nottingham, until Elizabeth died in 1992. They had three children: David, Tessa (died 2006) and Alan. He is also survived by three grandchildren: Millie, Olivia and Daniel.

He was probably happiest at Trent Bridge cricket ground or Attenborough Nature Reserve not far from his home in Nottingham, which he would visit every week with his brother Keith.
Obituaries

We were all very saddened to learn of the death of Sarah Holah on 19 September 2008. Sarah was a student on our degree programme in History with English Literature and graduated with a 2:1 in 1997. I still regard it as a great privilege to have taught Sarah. She was extremely intelligent and perceptive and could often bring a new perspective to discussions. In good times and in bad she brought a sharp sense of humour to any situation. Following her graduation she kept in regular contact with her friends here. Some of Sarah’s poetry was published in 1998 – and again revealed what a remarkable woman she was.

Sarah was sure that her time as a student had transformed her life. With her strong sense of social obligation, she was eager to pass on some of the skills she had acquired to the local community by providing advice on careers and other matters. For a while she worked with Aylesbury Vale Advocates. Sarah was a local girl and her family have close links with the University. Her mother, Diana is a ‘double’ Buckingham graduate and her daughter, Holly, now works for the University. We send our condolences to Diana and Holly and to all members of Sarah’s family. She was a remarkable person and we shall miss her very much.

Chief (Dr.) Barrister Zebulon Meshech Abule

Chief, (Dr.) Barrister Zebulon Meshech Abule, a beloved father and husband, passed away on 1st July 2008. Chief Abule was always very proud of being a graduate of Law from University of Buckingham, graduating in 1980. He set up and practised via his chambers in Nigeria and was also renowned as a successful international businessman, Peace Ambassador in the Niger Delta region as well as an elder statesman in Nigeria. He will be sorely missed.

Mr Elijah T Abule (Computer Science with Economics '96)

It is with great sadness that I tell you of the sudden death of Monique Heald, a member of the Clore Laboratory and the wife of Professor Mike Cawthorne. Monique has been a key member of the Clore Laboratory, developing its web site, using her journalistic skills to promote the Laboratory, providing information on research opportunities and organising some of the best conferences on diabetes and obesity that many scientists have ever attended.

Monique was an excellent scientist and undertook primary research in industry and academia. She worked in scientific publishing, including being managing editor of several peer-reviewed journals, before joining the Clore Laboratory where, among other things, she organised several national and international conferences.

Above all, she has been Mike's greatest supporter. Without her he could not have achieved so much, either at the University or during his career in the pharmaceutical industry. We offer Mike our condolences and promise of support through this difficult time.

Jon Arch, Deputy Director of Metabolic Research, Clore Laboratory

Scholarship fund established in memory of Monique Heald

Following the recent sudden death of Monique Heald, Information Resources Manager at the Clore Laboratory and wife of Professor Mike Cawthorne, a scholarship fund has been established in her name to provide scholarship for research students in science.

Donations to the scholarship fund can be made by cheque payable to the University of Buckingham and sent to Sarah Rush, Yeomanry House, University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG. Please use the gift aid form http://www.buckingham.ac.uk/news/newsarchive2008/images/gift-aid.pdf if you are a UK taxpayer.

To All Alumni

This publication is for you and if you would like input into the next issue, please send comments and ideas to Anne Matsuoka.

The next publication we produce will contain more information, updating you on where alumni are these days and what they are up to.

Please Note:
Copy for the next issue required by 1st February 2009

www.buckingham.ac.uk