Moving towards top 10

The University’s rise up the league tables continued: In The Times league table we achieved our highest ever position, rising to 13th overall. Exeter is aiming to be among the top 10 universities in the UK by 2012.

World-class research in every department

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise every subject area at Exeter was assessed as including world-leading (4*) research. Research grant income rose by 22 per cent in 2007/08 to £24.5 million.

Creating knowledge which benefits society

University researchers have made major contributions to our understanding of the health effects of chemicals found in plastic bottles, discovered new genes relating to height and obesity, identified new drug-free ways of treating depression and highlighted why equal pay still eludes women directors.

Top 5 for student satisfaction

Exeter returned another strong performance in the National Student Survey, retaining 4th place overall amongst full-service universities.

One of the most popular universities in the UK

Exeter had one of the strongest performances in the sector for student recruitment. Home undergraduate applications for 2009 are up by 19%. International undergraduate applications have risen by 129%.
Investing to build a world-class campus

Work began on delivering the University’s £450 million capital project. This includes a £48 million redevelopment of the centre of the Streatham Campus called the Forum Project, a £25 million investment in the Business School and £18 million for new facilities for Biosciences. The University is also working with UPP (University Partnerships Programme) to deliver a £150 million student residences programme.

Delivering economic benefit during the recession

The University will deliver £314 million worth of additional economic benefit to the economy in the 2008/09 financial year. It will add a further £83 million a year to the economy by 2012 bringing the total to just under £400 million a year.

Becoming more socially inclusive

We are raising entry standards and becoming more socially inclusive at the same time. This year the percentage of students from the lowest socio-economic groups increased from 17.5% to 20.2% whilst the average A-Level entry score rose from 396 to 411 points.

Putting sustainability at the heart of our strategy

Being a good ‘corporate citizen’ and taking a sustainable approach to development is becoming central to our thinking. We achieved the Platinum standard for Universities, based on the Business in the Community Index, for Corporate Social Responsibility.

An increasing contribution from Exeter alumni

More than £3.75 million was raised in philanthropic gifts – a 20% increase. Exeter is in the top 20 of UK universities for the percentage of alumni giving.
2008 was the year in which Exeter consolidated its position as a major research University and laid the foundations for a £450 million capital investment programme. We became a much more international University, forming new links with universities overseas and recruiting increasing numbers of students from countries such as China and Taiwan. Exeter also returned an exceptionally strong performance in UK student recruitment, increasing both applications and admissions. We have strengthened our international alumni network. Exeter is now in touch with more than 60,000 alumni in 150 countries.

The award of the 2007/08 University of the Year title had a positive impact on the University’s brand, particularly internationally. This was accompanied by gains in all of the major UK university league tables. In The Times league table we achieved our highest ever position, rising to 13th overall.

Our strong performance in the National Student Survey continued with Exeter retaining its 4th place overall amongst full-service universities. The Sunday Times reported that Exeter finance and accounting students were the most satisfied of any university course in the UK. This was the second year running that the most satisfied students in the whole of the UK could be found at Exeter, following on from the success of Sport and Health Sciences in 2007.

The results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise confirmed Exeter’s position as one of the leading research-intensive universities in the UK. Nearly 90% of Exeter’s research was rated as being at internationally recognised levels. Every subject area was assessed as including world-leading (4*) research. Exeter submitted 95% of its staff to the RAE – 636 in total – a much higher proportion than most other universities.

The University’s performance in the RAE was instrumental in delivering one of the biggest rises in the country in its annual government grant for research and teaching. The University’s total funding package for 2009/10 is £62.6 million, a rise of nearly 9% (the national average rise is 4%). This comprises £18.4 million for research and £44.2 million for teaching.

The rise in the quality of Exeter’s research was matched by an increase in the value of grants. The amount of research income from competitive bids rose to £24.5 million – a 22% increase.

Exeter has the most satisfied students in the UK for the second year running

Exeter’s reputation as one of the most popular universities in the UK was further enhanced as undergraduate applications rose by 2.3% for September 2008 entry. This was an impressive performance given that nationally admissions were down because of changes to the UCAS form which reduced the number of choices. Acceptances rose by a stunning 38%. For 2009 entry home undergraduate applications are up a further 19%. 

Vice- Chancellor’s Introduction

Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith

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Exeter’s increasing popularity is also driving up entry grades. More than a third of applicants for 2009 entry are predicted to get three As at A-level.

I am pleased to say that we are raising entry standards and becoming more socially inclusive at the same time. We increased the percentage of students from the lowest socio-economic groups from 17.5% to 20.2% whilst also improving the average A-Level score from 396 to 411 points.

Postgraduate numbers also saw a rise in 2008: postgraduate research numbers rose by about 8% to 1,235 and postgraduate taught by 15% to 2,935. In 2009 the University is pushing for a major increase in postgraduate research numbers by advertising 180 new PhD studentships and bursaries.

The University also saw a 126% rise in the number of international undergraduate admissions. International undergraduate applications for 2009 entry are up by a further 129% at the time of writing.

The University raised more than £3.75 million in philanthropic gifts during 2007/08. This is a 20% increase on the amount donated in the previous year. A total of 1,930 alumni, friends and parents made a donation to the University. Exeter is in the top 20 of UK universities for the percentage of alumni giving and is poised for top 10. Some 3.18% of alumni now give to us: only 10 UK institutions get more than 4%, but US universities remain well ahead of the UK in this respect. At Princeton, for example, 62% of alumni give.

Work began on delivering the University’s £450 million capital project. This includes a £48 million redevelopment of the centre of the Streatham Campus called the Forum project, a £25 million investment in the Business School and £18 million for new facilities for Biosciences. The University is also working with UPP to deliver a £150 million student residences building programme. In Cornwall we are making strong progress towards creating a new Environment and Sustainability Institute.

The recession has underlined the importance of universities to the local and regional economies. The University of Exeter will deliver £314 million worth of additional economic benefit to the economy in the 2008/09 financial year. If we grow as we expect we will add a further £83 million a year to the economy by 2012 bringing the total to just under £400 million a year.

Being a good ‘corporate citizen’ and taking a sustainable approach to development is central to our thinking. We achieved the Platinum standard for universities, based on the Business in the Community Index and have invested in people and resources to drive this work forward.

The recession means that a tough couple of years are expected on the financial front. Close attention will need to be paid to costs and further effort made to grow earned income. Sound financial planning means the University is well placed to weather the inclement economic conditions and continue to grow and develop in the years ahead.
A ‘Rising Star’ amongst Research-Led Universities

The results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise confirmed Exeter’s position as one of the leading research-intensive universities in the UK. Nearly 90% of Exeter’s research was rated as being at internationally recognised levels. Every subject was assessed as including world-leading (4*) research.

When the results are adjusted for the number of staff submitted, the University is ranked in the top 15 in the UK for research. Exeter submitted 95% of its staff to the RAE – 636 in total – a much higher proportion than most other universities. Times Higher Education described Exeter as a ‘rising star amongst research-intensive institutions’.

Exeter was one of 159 higher education institutions submitted to the RAE which measures the quality of research across the higher education sector. Since the last RAE in 2001 Exeter has shown significant improvements:

- 17% of our research is categorised as ‘world-leading’, 89% of our activity is at internationally recognised levels
- our English Department is the highest ranked in the sector for world-leading research, with Classics and Ancient History 3rd on the same basis. Accounting and Finance is 2nd in the sector, as is Archaeology (4* and 3* combined)
- 16 of our 31 subjects are ranked in the top 10, with 27 in the top 20

The RAE rates research across a five point scale ranging from ungraded to 4*.

World-class research earns major funding boost

The University’s performance in the RAE was instrumental in delivering one of the biggest rises in the country in its annual government grant for research and teaching. The University’s total funding package for 2009/10 is £62.6 million, a rise of nearly 9% (the national average rise is 4%). This comprises £18.4 million for research and £44.2 million for teaching.

The most significant element of the grant rise is in research funding, which has increased by 26% – the third largest increase amongst leading UK universities. The increase is the reward for improvements in research quality and quantity:
every subject area at the University now includes world-
class research.

The research funding element of the grant award is
determined by universities’ performance in the Research
Assessment Exercise.

Building capacity in the sciences

The University’s Science Strategy, which was announced in
2007, continued to develop in 2008. The Science Strategy is
seeking to invest a further £80 million of internal and external
income in five interdisciplinary themes of activity. They are:
climate change and sustainable futures; systems biology;
extrasolar planets; functional materials; translational medicine,
personalised healthcare and public health.

The University made an initial investment of £6.7 million
in new posts, £2 million in equipment and £2.8 million
in studentships. A total of 29 new academic posts were
advertised early in 2009 to build capacity.

Research income rises to £24.5 million

The amount of research income awarded to the University
through competitive bids rose to £24.5 million – a 22% increase on 2007. The average award increased to over
£85,000.

Growth in research activity has occurred across the
departments, with notable awards made in many areas
that involve interdisciplinary collaborations and links
with business and industry. Examples of these include:

- A £20 million grant to set up a new research centre to
  improve care in major conditions including heart disease,
diabetes, mental illness and childhood disability. The award
from the Department of Health was made to a partnership
of the Peninsula Medical School, NHS South West and
the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth. It has led to the
creation of the Peninsula Collaboration for Leadership in
Applied Health Research and Care (PenCLAHRC).

- £1.5 million to establish an Economic and Social Research
  Council (ESRC) Capacity Building Cluster in Sport, Leisure
  and Tourism. This interdisciplinary project is led by Professor
  Tim Coles, of the Business School, and Professor Roger
  Eston, of Sport and Health Sciences. It involves working with
  local and national businesses and establishes Exeter as the
  ESRC national centre of excellence for research in this area.

- A prestigious Science and Innovation Award, co-funded by
  the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
  (EPSRC) and the Higher Education Funding Council for
  England. In partnership with the University of Bath, the
  award will fund a £5 million Centre for Graphene Research.
  New staff will be recruited to work with state-of-the-art
  equipment to explore the physics and potential applications
  of graphene. This recently-identified material promises to
  revolutionise applications that are currently based on silicon
technologies. It has direct relevance to sectors such as IT
and communications, sensors, displays and ‘smart’ surfaces.

The du Maurier family papers 1816-1988 are held by the University.
• The Mood Disorders Centre (School of Psychology) has been awarded £3.6 million to create a new, internationally-competitive research facility aimed at improving psychological interventions for mood and personality disorders, such as depression and bipolar disorder. Led by Professor Ed Watkins, the project received funding from the Wellcome Trust.

• The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) has led the investment of over £1 million in five projects in Cornwall across a range of partnerships. Academics from the departments of History, Social Sciences and Geography secured funding for museums to redisplay important galleries and enhance their educational roles by creating websites that cater for different subjects and stages in the national curriculum.

• Following on from his previous success in knowledge transfer (turning research into marketable products and services), Dr Andrew Shaw of the University’s School of Biosciences has led on the creation of a further spin-out venture. Attomarker Ltd aims to exploit platform technologies which map individual immune systems. This can be utilised by doctors to instantly test a person’s health or by environmental scientists to check for pollution. The research was initially funded by a £3 million Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) grant. Now Attomarker has received a further £103,000 investment from the University’s strategic knowledge transfer partner Exomedica Ltd and the South West of England Regional Development Agency. The funding will be used to produce a prototype low-cost disposable chip for use in a test kit in GP surgeries.

• Mining giant Rio Tinto has acquired an exclusive licence for a software package developed at the Camborne School of Mines by Professor Hylke Glass. The software assists in the extraction of ore from large and possibly deep deposits.

The University has had another successful year in delivering the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) programme. With 18 KTP associates on placements, this makes Exeter one of the top performing institutions in the region for this scheme. Partnerships have been set up with a wide range of companies and involve academics from across the University’s departments. The programmes earned the University £1.8 million.

Exeter’s reputation as a leading centre for climate change research achieved a major boost as a result of hosting a major international conference with the Met Office. 200 of the world’s leading climate change researchers – from physicists to psychologists – met in Exeter for a three-day conference focusing on climate change impacts and adaptations.
Research that Matters

Research shows link between Bisphenol A and disease in adults

A research team from the Peninsula Medical School, the University of Exeter, the University of Plymouth and the University of Iowa has found evidence linking Bisphenol A (BPA) to diabetes and heart disease in adults. Their research was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and is the first time that evidence has emerged of the association between higher BPA levels and disease in adults.

BPA is a controversial chemical commonly used in food and drink containers. It has previously caused concerns over health risks to babies, as it is present in some baby’s bottles. BPA is used in polycarbonate plastic products such as refillable drinks containers, compact disks, some plastic eating utensils and many other products in everyday use. It is one of the world’s highest production volume chemicals, with over 2.2 million tonnes produced in 2003.

The research team analysed information from the US government’s National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 2003-2004, the only large-scale data available on BPA concentrations excreted in urine. The analysis found that the 25 per cent of the population with the highest BPA levels were more than twice as likely to have heart disease and/or diabetes, compared to the 25 per cent with the lowest BPA levels. Higher BPA levels were also associated with clinically abnormal liver enzyme concentrations.

While this study has identified a statistical association between BPA and adult diseases for the first time, much more research is needed. Future work needs to exclude the small possibility that the association is due to some other unstudied factor, or that people with these diseases somehow become more exposed to BPA. It is also unclear whether the liver enzyme changes are linked to liver damage.

You are what your mother eats

Research by the Universities of Exeter and Oxford provides the first evidence that a child’s sex is associated with the mother’s diet. Published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, the study shows a clear link between higher energy intake around the time of conception and the birth of sons. The findings may help explain the falling birth-rate of boys in industrialised countries, including the UK and US.

The study focused on 740 first-time pregnant mothers in the UK, who did not know the sex of their fetus. 56% of the women in the group with the highest energy intake at conception had sons, compared with 45% in the lowest group.
As well as consuming more calories, women who had sons were more likely to have eaten a higher quantity and wider range of nutrients, including potassium, calcium and vitamins C, E and B₁₂. There was also a strong correlation between women eating breakfast cereals and producing sons.

Astronomers capture first images of multi-planet system around another star

An international team of researchers, including Exeter’s Astrophysics Group, has become the first to capture images of a multi-planet system around a normal star, much like our own solar system. Their findings were published in the leading journal Science.

The images show three planets, each several times larger than Jupiter, orbiting a star known as HR 8799. The star is 130 light years from the Earth in the constellation of Pegasus. It is faintly visible to the naked eye and is encircled by a ring of dust. With a mass of 1.5 times that of the Sun, it is intrinsically brighter than the Sun and, at around 60 million years old, significantly younger.

More than 200 planets orbiting stars other than the Sun have been detected indirectly in the past decade. However, this is the first time that astronomers have been able to capture an image of a system of planets outside our solar system, which are known as extrasolar planets.

New treatment hope for people with recurring depression

Research shows for the first time that a group-based psychological treatment, Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT), could be a viable alternative to prescription drugs for people suffering from long-term depression.

In a study published in the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, MBCT proved as effective as maintenance anti-depressants in preventing a relapse and more effective in enhancing quality of life. The study also showed MBCT to be as cost-effective as prescription drugs in helping people with a history of depression stay well in the longer-term.

Funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC), the study was led by Professor Willem Kuyken at the University’s Mood Disorders Centre in collaboration with King’s College London, the Peninsula Medical School, Devon Primary Care Trust and the Medical Research Council.

New evidence debunks ‘stupid’ Neanderthal myth

Research by Exeter and US scientists has struck another blow to the theory that Neanderthals became extinct because they were less intelligent than Homo sapiens. The research team has shown that early stone tool technologies developed by Homo sapiens, were no more efficient than those used by Neanderthals. Published in the Journal of Human Evolution,
their discovery debunks a textbook belief held by archaeologists for more than 60 years.

Blades were first produced by *Homo sapiens* during their colonization of Europe from Africa approximately 40,000 years ago. This has traditionally been thought to be a dramatic technological advance, helping *Homo sapiens* out-compete, and eventually eradicate, their Stone Age cousins. Yet when the research team analysed their data there was no statistical difference between the efficiency of the two technologies.

A tall story: new research adds to growing body of knowledge of genetics of height

Scientists at the Peninsula Medical School in Exeter are beginning to develop a clearer picture of what makes some people stand head and shoulders above the rest.

A team of researchers who last year identified the first common version of a gene influencing height has now identified a further 20 regions of the genome which together can make a height difference of up to 6cm.

The results, published in the journal *Nature Genetics*, mean that scientists now know of dozens of genes and genetic regions that influence our height. This provides scientists with a fascinating insight into how the body grows and develops normally and may shed light on diseases such as osteoarthritis and cancer.

Unlike a number of other body size characteristics such as obesity, which is caused by a mix of genetic and environmental factors (so called 'nature and nurture'), 90 per cent of normal variation in human height is due to genetic factors rather than, for example, diet.

**Genetic factors control 90% of variation in human height**

Last year, a team of researchers including Dr Tim Frayling from the Peninsula Medical School and Professor Mark McCarthy from the University of Oxford identified the first common gene variant to affect height, though it made a difference of only 0.5cm.

Now, using DNA samples from over 30,000 people, many taken from the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium – the largest study ever undertaken into the genetics underlying common diseases – and from the Cambridge Genetics of Energy Metabolism (GEM) consortium and the CoLaus Study in Switzerland, the researchers have identified 20 loci (regions of genetic code), common variations of which influence adult height.
Equal pay still eludes women in the boardroom

Exeter psychologists have discovered that female executives earn smaller performance-related bonuses than their male counterparts.

The median total remuneration of the women in the study — including bonuses — was £257,000 a year, 19 per cent less than the £316,000 paid to the men. The study showed that women are rewarded by a significantly lower bonus when the company is doing well but they are also punished less when company performance is poor.

Clara Kulich, the lead author commented: ‘Men tend to be more confident and will go for a pay package that increases a lot when the company does well, whereas women don’t want to earn much less if it does badly.’

New style war obituaries for Helmand Province soldiers

The portrayal of casualties in Afghanistan and Iraq reveals a major shift in British public culture, according to research by an Exeter sociologist.

In acts of remembrance today, the soldier is personalised and domesticated, remembered as a father, husband, mother, daughter, son or wife. In the past, the war dead were portrayed primarily as soldiers and commemorated for their strategic role within the war fulfilling their act of duty.

Professor Anthony King argues: ‘Social groups recurrently mourn members who have sacrificed themselves in battle for the collective good. The dead provide an emotive focus which allows communities to remember together and it is this act that is changing dramatically and reflects a wider transformation in British public culture.’

Celebrating British Asian theatre

British Asian theatre arts were celebrated and explored at a major international conference held at the University of Exeter.

The event was the culmination of a four-year research project led by the Drama Department to address the lack of resources in the study of British Asian theatre.

More than 35 theatre practitioners participated in the event, exploring the history and development of British Asian theatre from past to present. In the talks and round-table discussions a range of themes were discussed including the role of music, language and dance, stage design, actor training, the influence of tradition on contemporary theatre, and the politics of funding.

The aim of the project, which was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, is to create new teaching materials and historical documentation on British Asian theatre.
University students finished 11th in the UK in the annual British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) competition. 48 teams took part. There were a number of successes with teams reaching semi-finals and finals, but men’s hockey proved to be the most successful club, winning the BUCS trophy and securing promotion to the national league.

There were a large number of personal sporting successes, too:

- Sam Foster represented GB Universities golf
- Charlotte Boggis played women’s rugby for England
- Lucy Boulton took a year out to compete on the world professional beach volleyball circuit, but just failed to qualify for Beijing Olympics
- Nicola Spencer made it to the squad of the GB U23 rowing team.

University Sports Performance Manager Nick Beasant was appointed manager of the GB U21 men’s hockey team for the Youth Olympics.

The Men’s Hockey 1st Team secured the Slazenger EHL National South Division title when they beat Bromley and Beckenham 6-0 in atrocious conditions at the University Sports Park. One of the team, Ian Haley, was picked for the South African hockey squad for the Beijing Olympics.

Funding was secured for a new £2.1 million cricket centre, which is due to be completed in spring 2009.

The University has been included on a list of possible pre-Olympic Games training camps for the 2012 London Olympics. It means facilities will be offered to national teams in the sports of badminton, basketball, road cycling, fencing, hockey, judo, table tennis and indoor volleyball.

250 students volunteer in local schools

The Connaught sports volunteer scheme has 250 students volunteering in local schools. It means that extra attention and support will be given in PE lessons and after-school sports activities in schools around Exeter. The schools involved in the scheme will have sports students available to help coach pupils and support teachers through encouraging and improving participation in sport. Director of Connaught, Mark Tincknell, is an alumnus of Exeter.

The number of students and staff who are members of the Sports Hall rose to more than 5,000.
A Top Ten Student Experience

Satisfied students vote Exeter one of the best

Students at the University of Exeter are among the most satisfied in the land according to the 2008 National Student Survey. Exeter has one of the highest National Student Survey rankings in the country and has maintained its top 10 position for four years running. In 2008, the University came 4th in the UK amongst full-service universities, just behind Cambridge. Nearly 220,000 final-year students from across the UK completed the National Student Survey. More than 100 universities took part.

Exeter scored in the top 10 in every category, including 4th for teaching, 5th for academic support, personal development, and organisation and management, and 6th for assessment and feedback. 19 of our subjects are in the top 10 nationally with Accounting, Finance, Management, Sport Sciences and Drama rated 1st in the UK and Archaeology, Business, Classics, Economics, English, Geology, Human Geography, Medical Technology, Physics and Theology in the top 5.

‘Exeter equipped this small-town Pennsylvania boy with an ability to communicate, learn, and relate to people from around the globe.’

American alumnus Michael Clauser (MA European Studies 2006)

‘I loved every single bit of university life at Exeter. One of my best memories from my first year was making it to 6am at the summer ball and walking down Cardiac Hill in the broad daylight in our ball gowns!’

Emilia Langston (Spanish and French 2004)

Applications and admissions rise

Undergraduate applications rose by 2.3% in 2008: this was an impressive performance given that nationally admissions were down because of changes to the UCAS form which reduced the number of choices. It built on an increase of 24% in 2007.

Exeter outperformed all of the members of its new ‘top 10’ competitor group of universities, which includes Warwick, Bristol, Southampton, Nottingham, Bath, York and Durham.

Acceptances rose by 38% making the University an increasingly popular first choice destination. Postgraduate numbers also saw a rise in 2008: postgraduate research numbers rose by about 8% to 1,234 and postgraduate taught by 15.5% to 2,335.

In 2009 the University will be pushing for a major increase in postgraduate research numbers by advertising 180 new PhD studentships and bursaries.

The University also saw a 12% rise in the number of undergraduate international admissions.
The University’s partnership with international student recruitment company INTO also saw increased business. A total of 15,523 students had registered to start courses by the registration deadline.

Employability improves

The University’s graduate-level employment rate improved again to 72%, up from 68.5% in 2007. This is an important area of performance which is coming under increasing scrutiny from potential students.

Exeter’s success has been aided by the constant development of new initiatives to help students become more employable, including the increased involvement of alumni in career-building programmes for students. For example, more than 600 students attended a ‘Wider Options’ careers and volunteering fair organised by the Careers and Employment Service and the Students’ Guild. The idea was extended into a Wider Options Week in February 2009, which saw many alumni return to the University to give students careers advice. Alumni also returned to campus to provide mock interviews to students, providing the skills to successfully navigate the job application and interview process.

The new post of alumni volunteer officer was created to provide more opportunities for alumni to volunteer at the University, for example, by giving careers advice and guest lectures. The creation of this position, unique within the UK higher education sector, symbolises the University’s commitment to engaging our alumni in improving the employability of our students.

The pilot phase of a new mentoring project involving students, alumni and members of the business community, will be launched in spring 2009. This project aims to match students with volunteers who can offer them wide-ranging career advice and support.

A new award designed to promote student employability was launched. Called the Exeter Award, it is designed to give recognition to undergraduates and taught Masters students for the activities in which they participate outside of their degrees. Sponsored by Ernst and Young, the Award has generated a great deal of interest from employers and other universities. By the end of 2008, some 2,800 students had registered to take part.

Exeter is Shell STEP Agency of the year

The Careers and Employment Service was presented with an Award of its own, becoming the Shell STEP Agency of the Year. This was recognition for the delivery of one of the UK’s largest STEP programmes in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset. The placements involve local small and medium-sized companies and give the undergraduate students who take part project-based work experience which can have a real impact on the success of the host companies.

The University placed a record 55 students with businesses all over the South West.
Exeter VC elected to lead the sector

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith has been elected the new President of Universities UK (UUK). He will take on the new role in August alongside his duties at the University. UUK is the body that represents UK universities and has 133 member institutions. He has also been appointed to the board of the South West of England Regional Development Agency.

450 pages of evidence and 31 recommendations were the result of the Vice-Chancellor’s work on widening participation/fair access for the National Council for Educational Excellence (NCEE). Established by the Prime Minister, the NCEE is looking at improving many aspects of education. Professor Smith’s recommendations were formulated with the help of the Sutton Trust and stress the need for policy to concentrate on the 350,000 children each year who fail to get five GCSE A*-C grades. Often the debate is dominated by the 3,000 state school pupils a year who could go to a ‘top’ university but choose a lower-ranked institution instead. The report also emphasised the need to undertake Widening Participation (WP) activity long before students take GCSEs. The recommendations were endorsed in full by the Prime Minister.

Regional, National and International Affairs

International links blossom

Increasing efforts are being made to ‘internationalise’ the University. Whilst one element of this is student recruitment, greater emphasis is now also being paid on developing international research links, partnerships and fundraising.

As part of a visit to the Middle East by the Vice-Chancellor and other key University staff, more than 120 guests from across the region attended an alumni event held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, in March 2008. Alumni had the opportunity to learn about activity at the University, and to network. Other highlights of the visit included meetings with the Crown Prince of Dubai and the Dubai Executive Council. The visit was part of efforts by the University to expand its presence in the Gulf region.

A very successful delegation to Taiwan led by the Vice-Chancellor strengthened the University’s links with an increasingly important market. Taiwanese students are the third largest group of non-EU international students at Exeter with around 100 coming here to study each year. While in Taiwan, the Vice-Chancellor met education officials, visited leading universities, delivered a conference address and hosted a reception for 90 alumni.
Following the successful visit to Taiwan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Neil Armstrong led a partnership visit to China. The purpose was to further ‘internationalise’ the University by forming links with Chinese universities. In Shanghai, meetings were held with Fudan and East China Normal Universities where Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed for Engineering and Education. MoUs are agreements for universities to explore ways of working with each other and hence fundamental to building international links. MoUs were also signed with Shanghai University of Sport and the Capital Institute of Physical Education.

In Beijing, Exeter is looking to establish a summer school with the Chinese University of Political Science and Law. Productive meetings were held with Tsinghua University where it is hoped to sign an MoU in Aerospace Engineering. Exeter’s rapid rise up the league tables has made such links possible.

**Vice-Chancellor elected President of UUK**

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**Du Maurier link for Cornwall Campus**

The first major new building on the Cornish Campus was named after the author Daphne du Maurier. Built as part of the first phase of the development of the Tremough Campus, which the University of Exeter shares with University College Falmouth, the building houses the Campus library as well as the University’s Camborne School of Mines and Centre for Ecology and Conservation. The name was approved by University of Exeter academics to reflect the local and international ambitions of the University in Cornwall. The name was approved by the du Maurier family.

Dame Daphne du Maurier’s son, Kits Browning said: ‘The du Maurier family are proud and honoured that the University of Exeter has resolved to call the Tremough Campus building after our mother. She herself never went to university, due largely to family influence and the mores of the times, but was very much in favour of higher education and would have been delighted and flattered by Exeter’s decision.’

The Tremough Campus is shared and jointly managed by University College Falmouth and the University of Exeter as part of the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) initiative, in an arrangement that is unique in the UK. The academic building that formed the second phase of the Cornish Campus was named the Peter Lanyon Building, after the successful Cornish artist, by University College Falmouth in 2007.

**Active role for Chancellor**

The Chancellor Dr Floella Benjamin presided over our very successful graduation ceremonies. She also presented the Floella Benjamin Awards which help to fund students’ employability initiatives and certificates for Professional Development in Leadership in Primary Care to GPs at the Royal College of General Practitioners in London.
A fantastic year for fundraising

The University raised more than £3.75 million in philanthropic gifts during 2007/08. This is a 20% increase on the amount donated in the previous year. A total of 1,930 alumni, friends and parents made a donation to the University. Exeter is in the top 20 of UK universities for the percentage of alumni giving and is poised for top 10.

As well as gifts from alumni and friends, Exeter received support from trusts and foundations, companies and legacies. We benefited from bequests from a number of benefactors ranging from £2,000 to £550,000. A number of individuals also pledged a legacy gift to the University.

We would like to thank the members of the University’s Fundraising Campaign Board, chaired by Nicholas Bull (Chemistry 1973), for their counsel in helping us to achieve this fantastic result.

How gifts are making a difference

The University is very grateful to everyone who has supported the University during the year. Donations are being prudently invested to support the current generation of Exeter students and fund world-class research.

A £500,000 gift is supporting research to combat the rice blast fungus, a disease that each year kills enough rice to feed 60 million people. The gift by Exeter alumni Leslie and Claire Halpin is funding the Halpin PhD Studentship Programme at the School of Biosciences.

Major gift supports PhD students in Biosciences

Legacy gifts put to good use

A £550,000 legacy from the late Professor Canon Roy Porter is helping his former department to remain one of the leading centres for research and teaching in Theology. Professor Porter helped to turn the Department of Theology into one of the most distinguished places to study in the country. His bequest has now been used to bring Dr Sam Bayro, an expert on Early Jewish Studies, from the University of Cambridge to Exeter.
Telethon tops £150,000

The Annual Fund telethon raised over £150,000 from alumni and friends. As part of the telethon, students phone alumni to talk to them about their Exeter memories and share the latest University news. A team of 81 students spoke to alumni living around the world during the year.

A total of 22 projects, ranging from scholarships to sports coaching courses for students, will benefit from the funding. Many of the projects will also help the local community.

The Annual Fund supported the following projects:

- numeracy and statistical help for students across all disciplines
- sports coaching courses
- simulation and role playing in Politics and International Relations
- Action After Stroke
- scholarship funding for PGCE exchange
- Law students help-desk
- extra-curricular Arts and Literature activities in Cornwall
- Be The Change advocates
- digital recreation of Library texts
- audience participation systems
- piano refurbishment
- vacation research scholarships
- Archaeology Exploration Fund
- Excited About Science
- Community Action new project starter fund
- HOST family visit support
- Investors in volunteers
- support for student societies (non-sporting) in Cornwall
- project workshop in Psychology
- development of Music ensembles in Cornwall
- high specification video camera.

Philanthropic giving increases to £3.75 million

Undergraduate student Raleigh Addington has worked on the University’s Annual Fund telethon campaign for three years.
Supporting sporting excellence

Donations from alumni and friends are helping to ensure that Exeter continues its long-standing reputation for sporting excellence.

Philanthropic support is funding scholarships for talented sportsmen and sportswomen and funding improvements to facilities. Work is being completed on a £2 million indoor cricket centre at the University. Honorary Graduate Sir Christopher Ondaatje has donated £250,000 towards the new centre. Once completed, the centre will provide first-class training facilities for students and members of the local community.

Golfing alumni raised more than £5,500 during the year. 40 alumni and three golf scholars attended the third annual golf day held at the Denham Golf Club in September 2008. In the past three years, the golf day has raised £15,000 towards golf scholarships.

As part of its ongoing programme of support for the University, Convocation, the University’s alumni association, funded sports scholar and triathlon competitor Amanda Dean. The funds allowed Ms Dean to purchase equipment and fund training.

Millhayes – a story of philanthropy

A plaque has been unveiled to mark the naming of a laboratory in honour of a significant benefactor to Exeter. The laboratory, in the Geoffrey Pope building, has been named the Millhayes Teaching Laboratory.

The naming recognises the generosity of an anonymous benefactor to the University. His support has funded research and the Millhayes Science Scholarships. This long-established scholarship programme supports students in their undergraduate studies in science subjects.

College of Benefactors grows

The year saw two more individuals honoured for making a major contribution to the University of Exeter’s mission.

Sir Christopher Ondaatje and Nicholas Bull were inducted into the University’s College of Benefactors at the summer graduation ceremonies in July. They join the founding member of the College, His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Mohamed Al Qasimi, who was inducted into the College in 2007. Membership of the College recognises outstanding individuals who have provided support to Exeter.
Supporting the alumni community

There have been more events than ever for alumni around the world in the last year, and we have many more planned for the coming year. We have a community of more than 60,000 alumni across 150 countries. We continue to work closely in collaboration with Convocation, the University’s alumni association, to build our alumni network. Some of the highlights of 2008 included:

- Finance Network Event at Butterfield Private Bank, London, in February
- Law Network Event at Slaughter and May, London, in April
- Gala Dinner at Middle Temple Hall, London, in May
- Benefactors’ Lunch, Exeter, in May
- Reception to launch the Business School Alumni Group at Fidelity, London, in October
- Exeter Alumni Ball (organised by alumnus Rob Walker and Abby Rudland), New Connaught Rooms, London, in October
- Media Network Event at Chelsea Football Club, in November.

We have organised a number of events for alumni across the world. International alumni events were held in Singapore, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Taiwan and Hong Kong. A global network of alumni country contacts has been established by our International Alumni Officer to help alumni network with each other. There are now nearly 20 alumni country contacts around the world in countries including USA, China, East Africa, the Middle East (contacts based in United Arab Emirates), Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Alumni network grows to 60,000 in 150 countries

Alumni make a difference

The University has benefited hugely from alumni and friends who have supported the institution in many ways.

A number of alumni have given their time, hosted an event or provided advice to current students. We would particularly like to thank the members of the Alumni Network Group, chaired by Anthony Salz (Law 1971, Hon LLD 2003) for their support.

This year we stepped up our efforts to encourage recent graduates to remain engaged with the University. For the 2008 graduation, we had an alumni stand at our Exeter and Cornwall
campuses, and we obtained updated contact information for more than 1,200 of our graduates. Thanks to Melody Dougan and Louise Clunies-Ross of Convocation for joining us on the stand.

We increased our use of the Internet as a medium to communicate with alumni, using tools like Google Earth, Flickr, Facebook and LinkedIn. We have plans to launch our own online community for alumni in 2009 which will provide an online directory and e-newsletter.

We worked to lay the foundations for new alumni groups based on interests, including the alumni business group, and a politics alumni group with a possible event at Westminster in 2009.

Sharing talent

We increased the opportunities for alumni to share their expertise with students and the University community. More than 4,000 alumni have offered to volunteer.

One of the highlights of the year was the autumn law talk series. Exeter alumnus and City lawyer Steve Edge (Law 1972), who is a Partner at Slaughter & May specialising in corporate law, returned to the University to give a career talk to students. He said: ‘It was a great pleasure for me to be invited back to Exeter and to have the opportunity to talk to students in this way.’

For more about the latest news and alumni activities, see www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni

Honorary Graduates

The University is very grateful to a number of Honorary Graduates who gave their time to Exeter during the year. Eden Project co-founder Tim Smit, an Honorary Graduate of the University, was the guest speaker at the 2008 Annual Gala Dinner at Middle Temple, London, in May. Mr Smit is the chief executive of the award-winning Eden Project, near St Austell, Cornwall. Acclaimed chef and University of Exeter Honorary Graduate Michael Caines MBE shared his culinary talents by giving a practical cookery demonstration to new students.

Top chef and Honorary Graduate Michael Caines shares his cooking abilities with Exeter students.
The past year has seen a great deal of change within the Guild, including a major internal restructure and the appointment of a new chief executive, James Hutchinson. The Guild also successfully completed a governance review which resulted in a new constitution and annexes passed by cross-campus referendum. These were approved by the University Senate.

The Guild was successful in gaining re-accreditation under the Investors in People quality standard. The Students’ Guild has also committed to a two-year assessment programme, SUEI, which helps Students’ Unions improve the activities and services they deliver to their members.

**Involved and Committed: the Students’ Guild**

More than 8,000 students are engaged in the Guild’s 125 societies, which range from the Chocolate Society to the International Society. Involvement in societies provides our students with the opportunity to organise and participate in a vast array of activities and events.

**Student Media awards success**

XMedia is the students’ media arm. It consists of a fortnightly newspaper, Exeposé; the campus radio station, Xpression FM; the student TV station, XTV; and the student-run website, XMedia Online.

More than 1,000 students are involved in XMedia and many recent graduates who gained experience through their involvement are now pursuing careers in the media industry.

XTV had a fantastic year and picked up a record haul of five awards at the National Student TV Awards (NaSTA). The awards were Best Comedy: Adam and Laurie Show; Best Title Sequence: Eurotrip; Highly Commended Drama: Finals; Highly Commended Open: Eurotrip Episode 3; and Highly Commended Music Video: Move Along.

During XMedia Week in early March 2009, half a dozen alumni with successful careers in television, radio and national print media returned to the University to give careers advice to current students.

**Societies flourish**

More than 8,000 students are engaged in the Guild’s 125 societies, which range from the Chocolate Society to the International Society. Involvement in societies provides our students with the opportunity to organise and participate in a vast array of activities and events.
RAG raises £42,000

RAG (Raising and Giving) organises some of the biggest events on campus from the annual Safer Sex Ball to the annual Charity Fashion Show to raise money for its five chosen charities.

Money is also raised through raids every other weekend, in which students visit cities all over the UK to conduct charity street collections.

In 2008 RAG raised £42,000 for charities including the Rainbow Trust, Operation Imprezza and Positive Action South West.

Celebrating 40 years of volunteering

Community Action provides students with the opportunity to give something back to the local community through volunteering. Community Action runs 11 projects with children, older people and the environment.

Exeter students celebrated the 40th anniversary of voluntary work through Community Action programmes in Exeter.

The Annual Fund provides ongoing funding in support of the Community Action minibus. The bus allows students to get to and from projects.

Democracy in action

A record number of students turned out to vote in Guild elections for the sabbatical officers for 2008/09. 27 students stood and 3,818 students voted, equating to some 26.6% of the student body. This was a record for Exeter and was the second highest nationally.

Students turn out to vote in record numbers

Working to study

The Works offers students an array of part-time, temporary and vacation job opportunities and enables students to enhance their employability. During the year 2007-2008, The Works had 6,511 student visits and advertised 2,165 opportunities to work.
Managing Success

Focused on top 10

The University’s corporate goals shifted towards becoming a top 10 university by 2012. Its previous focus had been on achieving a top 20 position in the UK and that target was achieved two years early.

Progress towards top 10 is being monitored by Council (the University’s governing body) against a new set of ‘Key Performance Indicators’ and a new set of peers. Exeter is now comparing its performance against universities including Loughborough, York, Bath, Warwick, Nottingham, London, and Bristol. The KPIs are: Research Assessment Exercise outcome, research income and number of postgraduate research students per staff member, undergraduate entry qualifications and progression/achievement, National Student Survey, undergraduate employability, international and postgraduate taught student population, and earned income.

Involving lay members in developing the University

For the first time in 2007/08 various areas of the University’s business, many of which had been governed by a committee in previous years, were governed through a new mechanism known as dual assurance. As its name suggests, this model involves two people. The first of these is a member of the Vice-Chancellor’s Executive Group, who takes responsibility for the management and development of policy in a particular area of business. The second member of the dual assurance partnership is a lay member of Council, knowledgeable in the same area, who provides assurance to Council that this activity is well-managed and that decisions have been reached following due process and appropriate consultation.

Council focuses on Top 10 by 2012

Council members’ dual assurance responsibilities are: Richard Hughes (finance and investment); Sir Robin Nicholson (research); Russell Seal/Bettina Rigg (human resources); Bettina Rigg (equality and diversity); Peter Lacey (infrastructure and capital programme, environmental sustainability and external affairs and corporate social responsibility); Bert Biscoe (Cornwall); Lucy Studholme (fundraising and alumni relations); Russell Seal (education, sport and wellness); Marc Jordan (arts and culture); Sally Wilcox (information services).

Funding the future

The University has signed up to a new £165 million loan deal with Barclays and RBS. Half of the total is for re-financing existing loans for student residences. The other half gives the University the option to draw down sums to help pay for new developments like the Forum and the Business School expansion.
The University’s beneficial impact on society has been measured using a Corporate Social Responsibility index. Exeter was awarded a Platinum ranking – the top mark. The work was part of a benchmarking exercise involving the South West’s higher education institutions. We are continuing this approach and are participating in the national Universities that Count programme.

The University invested in two important new posts – Sustainability Manager and Community Liaison Officer – who have made a considerable impact. A new website and brochure have been produced detailing the University’s CSR efforts. The brochure called The City and Your University was circulated to key stakeholders, organisations and groups locally.

Becoming more sustainable

Energy use is a major issue for the University. Absolute carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions have been reduced by 3% per year since 2005, which equates to a total saving of 3,800 tonnes of CO₂. The annual financial savings of the carbon reduction programme are in the region of £400,000. Long-term energy funding was obtained from the Carbon Trust, which will be match-funded by the University, and the first funds will be used for low energy lighting.

The University was shortlisted for the 2008 Times Higher Award for Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Development. The University was also shortlisted along with six other organisations for the Valpak Waste Minimisation Project of the Year in the National Recycling Awards 2008.

The People and Planet Green League (2008) showed Exeter moving up 29 places to 37th out of 120 higher education institutions.

Smarter purchasing of goods and services has so far saved the University more than £500,000 and other sustainable initiatives have been actioned or are being developed which include waste, resource efficiency, climate change and recycling projects.

Enhancing the campus

Managing the University’s 300 acres of grounds, which include a registered botanical garden and woodland, is challenging. The Biodiversity Policy and Guiding Principles were approved in the summer and provide the basis for our actions. The University retained its National Collection status for Azaras (evergreen shrubs and small trees native to South America). National Collection status shows our commitment to promote and preserve a cultivated species for use throughout the UK. We are also working with local groups and the city and county councils to improve the campus and surrounding areas.

Engaging with the community

Rory Cunningham has been appointed to the new post of Community Liaison Officer.

Mr Cunningham has been working closely with the Students’ Guild and local Resident Groups. One example of the practical effects of this work was the Reuse scheme, which encourages
departing students to pass on books, stationery, pots, pans, crockery and cutlery to their successors. More than two tonnes of ‘student stuff’ was given new homes rather than ending up in the local landfill site. Other initiatives have included working with the council, police and other bodies, leading to the student ‘Community Warden’ scheme, recycling and refuse campaigns.

Supporting business

Our work in the community also includes supporting the broader business community. The University hosts many business events including the Shaping the Future open lecture series and the Exeter Business Forum. The Innovation Centre provides business support to local business in conjunction with Business Link and around 100 organisations are part of the Business Leaders Forum. This is a membership network for senior business people, linking with academic expertise. Amongst other things, the University of Exeter Business School hosts Leadership South West – a regional centre of excellence in leadership and management development – which is supported by the South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) and The Learning Skills Council (LSC).

Involving our students and staff

Students and staff have played major roles in helping us to shape the future of the University by getting involved in a variety of initiatives. This has included:

• consultation about the Forum and other projects
• supporting environmental and energy projects
• raising money for charities and volunteering
• supporting Fairtrade Fortnight
• engagement with the local community and councils
• research into areas of global significance including climate change, health, medicine and the environment.
• using video/telephone conferencing for meetings and lectures as well as making the most use of IT, thereby saving time and other resources.

3,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide saved since 2005

The University, Students’ Guild and Exeter City Council promote a joint campaign to encourage students to recycle in the City.
Investing Through the Recession

The University has the capacity to invest more than £250 million in capital projects over the next three years and £450 million by the end of the next decade.

The University is making a major contribution to helping the region and the UK weather the recession by protecting — and creating — local jobs and security.

A number of major projects are planned:

1. New Business School building. The project will cost £18 million and is part of a wider £25 million investment in the School over the next three years. This expansion will enable the Business School to double its annual turnover to £28 million and will create more than 60 new jobs. The Business School is vital to the continued success of the University as a whole. It is already the number one Business School in the country for student satisfaction. Its research quality places it in the top 20 in the UK. Building work is expected to start in July 2009.

2. New labs and aquarium for Biosciences. This project is underway and will create world-leading facilities for Biosciences. It entails an £18 million refurbishment of the Geoffrey Pope building. The first stages of the project include creating a state-of-the-art aquarium facility and laboratories for research on ecotoxicology, cell biology and molecular genetics. £5 million has already been invested to improve the main teaching lab and a section of the research facilities. Work will be completed in the spring of 2010.

3. International students centre. Project number three has planning permission and work is expected to start in the summer of 2009. It is associated with the INTO University of Exeter partnership. This is a new venture which brings international students to Exeter a year earlier than normal to undertake pre-degree programmes of study. If they reach the required standard they will then progress to full degree programmes. It represents a £47 million investment in the city by INTO, which is a leading international student recruitment company. Central to the INTO project is a new study centre and associated student accommodation.
4. More on-campus accommodation. Project number four relates to a £150 million investment in more student accommodation on our campuses. The aim of the project is to free up more private rented accommodation in the city for local families. The proposed new accommodation – 2,700 places – would be delivered by a private sector partner, University Partnerships Programme (UPP).

5. A new heart for a top 10 campus. Project number five is the most ambitious and challenging. Called the Forum project, it will be a stunning new £48 million centrepiece for the Streatham Campus. It will feature an extended and refurbished Library, new learning spaces, ‘frontline’ student services, catering and retail outlets, a landscaped plaza and University reception. Leading architects Wilkinson Eyre were selected from over 40 firms who expressed an interest. Their proposals work with the natural features of our famously hilly campus. It is hoped to begin work in the January 2010 and complete the project by 2012.

Leading the way for Exeter’s Science Park

Plans for a new £120 million Science Park on the outskirts of Exeter have taken a major step forward with the announcement that the land for the project has been purchased.

The South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) has agreed to invest up to £19 million to enable Devon County Council to buy the 23 hectare site east of the M5, near Junction 29 at Redhayes, and provide the infrastructure to open up the Science Park by 2010.

Work to bring the project to this stage has been achieved through a partnership of the RDA, the University of Exeter, Devon County Council, Exeter City Council, East Devon District Council and the Met Office.

The Science Park will attract knowledge-intensive firms to Exeter and will also enable the development of new
businesses. It will link strongly with the University of Exeter Innovation Centre, which provides start-up units for new knowledge-intensive businesses. The University is committed to knowledge exploitation and the science park will help us to turn ideas generated at the University into marketable products and services.

Faster network takes shape

Digging and cabling work is underway across both the Streatham and St Luke’s campuses to provide the additional cable ducts needed for a £5.5 million network upgrade. Workmen are installing upgraded fibre optic cabling to provide the backbone of a new high-speed network and wireless access. The project will provide wired (and wireless) data and telephony services. A high-speed link was also installed between the Cornwall and Exeter campuses.

The University’s network needs are growing. Just five years ago, the amount of traffic that passed over the University network was 500 gigabytes; last year it was 10 terabytes, a twenty-fold increase (largely due to our use of ‘rich’ media – video, videoconferencing etc).

Science Park to help turn University research into marketable products and services

Cornwall Phase 3 makes progress

The University’s bid to establish a major new Environment and Sustainability Institute at the Cornwall Campus is progressing well. The bid is part of the third Phase of Cornwall’s European Objective One funding and a final decision is hoped for in 2009.

Research excellence will be at the core of its mission to innovate and to advance knowledge. The ESI will seek to generate world-class research into the causes and consequences of environmental change and how to manage its effects.
Appointments

The Registrar David Allen was appointed to the board of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. He is the first registrar ever to be appointed to the board of a funding council. David comes originally from Wales.

Changes were made to the role of the Deans to better reflect the University’s strategic challenges. In place of the current undergraduate and postgraduate Deans, from 1 August 2008 there are new Deans of Taught Programmes (undergraduate and postgraduate) and Research Programmes. Professor Jonathan Barry took on the taught portfolio and Professor Robert Van de Noort heads up research. Improving research student numbers is a key objective for the University.

Professor Tim Dunne is the new Head of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences: he took over from Dr Jonathan Barry.

Exeter alumnus Professor Andrew Hamilton is to be the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford. He will succeed Dr John Hood in October 2009. He is currently Provost of Yale University.

Alumna Caroline Lucas MEP was elected the first solo leader of the Green Party.

Alumnus Phil Hope MP was appointed Minister for Health in 2008.

James Hutchinson has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Students’ Guild. Mr Hutchinson was previously Chief Executive of the Student Union at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Roger Kain has been appointed to the council of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

Professor Richard Lamming has been appointed as the new Director of the School of Business and Economics. He was formerly Director of the School of Management at the University of Southampton.

Robin MacGregor is the new Director of the University’s Middle East Office based in Knowledge Village, Dubai. He was previously an International Officer at the University of Edinburgh.

Hugh McCann was appointed as Director of Estates Development. His role is to focus on management of the University’s £450 million worth of capital projects.

Geoff Pringle was appointed to the new role of Director of Campus Services. He was previously Director of Hospitality and Accommodation Services at Birmingham.

His responsibilities include residences, catering and retail outlets, as well as maintenance, security, cleaning and portering, and grounds management. Simon Malloy, Director
of Hospitality Services, will be taking planned early retirement in April 2009.

Exeter alumnus and former Chief Constable of Surrey, Bob Quick, has been appointed Assistant Commissioner Specialist Operations with the Metropolitan Police Service, with responsibility for Counter-Terrorism, Specialist Protection and Royalty Protection.

Professor Roy Sambles, of the School of Physics, has been appointed to the Board of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

Awards

The latest novel by Philip Hensher (School of Arts, Languages and Literatures) narrowly missed out on winning the Man Booker Prize. Called The Northern Clemency, the novel was described as an ‘early contender for novel of the year’ by the Spectator.

Research Fellow Robert Lambert was awarded an MBE for his services to the police. Prior to retiring from the Metropolitan Police in 2007 he was co-founder and head of the Muslim Contact Unit (MCU). He is currently writing up his PhD al-Qaeda Propaganda and Recruitment in London: An Insider’s Interpretive Case Study.

Professional Services was reaccredited with Investors in People. Over 98% of the people interviewed for the Investors in People Award achieved by Professional Services knew of the University’s objectives.

Professor Des Walling, of Geography, was awarded the prestigious Hydrologic Sciences Award of the American Geophysical Union for 2008. This is the senior award given by the 7,000 member Hydrology Section of the AGU, and it is awarded once a year for ‘outstanding contributions to the science of hydrology’.

Dr Robin Wootton, of Biosciences, was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society, for ‘eminent and distinguished service to Entomological Science.’

Deaths

• Dr Mick Day, former Senior Lecturer at the School of Education.

• Former University Treasurer Norman Hardyman died on Christmas Eve at Worcester Royal Infirmary from post-operative pneumonia following a fall. He was 78. He was Treasurer of the University for nine years and was awarded an Honorary Degree in 2002.

• Dr Patrick Jehu sadly passed away on 25 October after a long and brave fight against cancer. An applied linguist, he worked at the English Language Centre and INTO University of Exeter for over 10 years and also contributed to the French teaching work of the Foreign Language Centre.
• Former Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council Murray Laver died at the age of 93. His name will live on in the University since the Laver building is named after him. Murray Laver was Pro-Chancellor from 1981-87, and Chair of Council from 1985-87.

• Professor John Usher, Head of the School of Law. Professor Usher returned to the University of Exeter in 2004 – 37 years after beginning his career here – to become Head of School and Professor of European Law, after having held the Salvesen Chair of European Institutions at the University of Edinburgh for the previous nine years.

• Dr Derek Watts, a retired Reader in French and former Head of Department.

Honorary graduates

• Karen Armstrong (DLitt), leading commentator on religious affairs

• Sir David Attenborough (DSc), naturalist and broadcaster

• Don Boyd (DLitt), film director, producer and screenwriter

• Sir David Brewer (LLD), former Lord Mayor of the City of London

• Sarah Buck (DEng), the first woman Council member and President of the Institution of Structural Engineers

• Jonathan Dimbleby (LLD), writer, broadcaster and filmmaker

• Ken Follett (DLitt), best-selling author

• Ian Henderson (LLD), founder of the Exeter Investment Group and former member of the University Council

• Professor Sir Martin Harris (LLD), Director of the Office for Fair Access and Chancellor of Salford University

• Ruth Hawker (LLD), former Chair of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital Trust

• Rik Mayall (DLitt), comedian and actor

• Olga Polizzi (LLD), international hotelier

• Jonathon Porritt (LLD), environmentalist

• Dr Ahdaf Soueif (DLitt), bestselling author and a political and cultural commentator

• Mark Thompson (LLD), Director General of the BBC

• HE Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani (LLD), former Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (from 1962 to 1986).
Facts at a Glance 2007/08

15,525 Students
11,355 undergraduate
3,570 postgraduate
600 postgraduate certificate in education

Undergraduate Entrants by School Type
73% from State schools
27% from Independent schools

2,855 Staff
1,085 academic
1,770 support

£178,740,000 Turnover (net)
£24,500,000 research grants and contract income
£14,590,000 HEFCE research funding
£48,960,000 HEFCE/TDA T grant and other funding council income
£45,507,000 tuition fees and contracts
£51,793,000 other income
£6,600,000 less: share of income from joint ventures

Percentages calculated from FT, UG entrants in 2007 with school type known.
Mission Statement

The University of Exeter helps to shape the future by extending the boundaries of knowledge for the benefit of individuals, society and the environment. Our vision is to be a leading international university, recognised for the high quality of our research and the distinctive student experience we offer.

Our Key Characteristics

• Research intensive, recognised internationally for the excellence of our research
• Offering challenging programmes at all levels of study, highly attractive to students from varied backgrounds
• Providing an outstanding student experience which prepares students for meaningful employment and a fulfilling life
• Offering a high-quality, campus-based living and learning environment which is welcoming and inclusive
• Committed to making a positive, distinctive and measurable impact on society, and playing a leading role in the South West region
• An international university, in outlook and impact

Our Values – we aim to be

• Tolerant, humane and liberal minded, with the pursuit of truth, openness and equality and diversity at the heart of what we do
• A champion for our students, dedicated to their development and wellbeing
• Engaged with our graduates and rejoicing in their success
• Committed to being an employer of choice, providing support, recognition and reward for our staff
• Customer focused, providing the highest standards of service for students, alumni and external partners
• Outward looking, bold and creative, working in partnership with others to achieve success
• Self-determining through sound governance, self-investment, and with less reliance on the State
• Responsible, sustainable and ethical, meeting the needs of the present and leaving a better environment for future generations
• Always striving to be better than our previous best