1. We accepted an invitation to join the Russell Group of leading research-intensive universities.

2. Exeter was named the Sunday Times University of the Year and rose to seventh place in the newspaper’s league table, its highest ever position in any league table.

3. Our Chancellor Baroness Floella Benjamin welcomed Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to Exeter to open the Forum, our new £50 million student services centre, witnessed by 10,000 staff, students, alumni and visitors.

4. We delivered our £380 million capital programme, including a £25 million investment in Biosciences, a £25 million Business School building, a £47 million international students centre, more than £100 million of new student accommodation and, of course, the Forum. In Cornwall, we opened our £10 million new student services building, the Exchange, and the £30 million Environment and Sustainability Institute.

5. We created nearly 350 new jobs last year. The total number of (full-time equivalent) staff increased from 3,077 to 3,421, an increase of 11.1 per cent. As of January 2013 we were advertising a further 170 posts. The vast majority of these were lectureships, professorial posts and research posts.

6. In the National Student Survey, which measures student satisfaction at 118 Higher Education Institutions, we ranked sixth overall in the universities list and third for teaching quality.

7. Our annual research income from grants and contracts grew to around £50 million – double what it was in 2008.

8. Our fundraising campaign, Creating a world-class University together, closed a year early having raised in excess of £25 million.

9. Our students voted History’s Tim Rees ‘Best Lecturer’ and English ‘Best Department’ in the Students’ Guild Teaching Awards. Senior Designer Delphine Jones was voted ‘Heroine of the Year’ in the Professional Services Awards.

10. The next Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has seven contributors from this University – more than any other academic institution in the world.
Vice-Chancellor’s introduction

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the opening of the Forum. Our Chancellor Baroness Floella Benjamin welcomed Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. After seemingly weeks of torrential rain the sun shone for the 10,000 students, staff and visitors who witnessed the occasion. It was a huge effort to organise the visit and a great example of teamwork: from the cleaners, maintenance and grounds staff who ensured the campus looked stunning, to our award winning chefs who cooked a Devon and Cornwall themed lunch, to our students who gave a number of fantastic music, dance and drama performances. It was truly a day that will live long in the memory.

We delivered more than £380 million worth of investment in new facilities

2011/12 was the year in which we delivered our £380 million capital programme. In addition to the Forum, which provides new library, learning and retail space, we added a fantastic new Business School building, a transformation of facilities in Biosciences, a new Mood Disorders Centre and the INTO international students centre to our academic facilities. We also completed a new ‘student village’ at Birks and Duryard and finished the major part of new residences at the other end of the campus at Lafrowda. In Cornwall we watched the new Environment and Sustainability Institute rise from the ground and opened the Exchange, an expansion of library and other student-focused facilities.

We joined the Russell Group of leading research-intensive universities

The most significant event of the year was Exeter’s invitation to join the Russell Group of leading research-led universities. This is great news for staff, students and alumni and reflects all of the hard work that has gone into strengthening the University over the past ten years. Further good news quickly followed when we learned we had been named Sunday Times University of the Year. The newspaper said Exeter had ‘consistently embodied the best in British Higher Education’ over the past decade.

We strengthened our position as a top 10 UK university

We further cemented our position among the UK’s top 10 universities, making it to seventh in the Sunday Times league table and tenth in the rankings produced by The Guardian and The Times. This led to a top 10 position in Times Higher Education’s ‘Table of tables.’ The magazine described Exeter as ‘one of the big winners.’ We also rose in the international rankings and are now ranked in the top 200 universities in both the THE and QS world university rankings, which puts us firmly among the world’s top one per cent of universities. Exeter climbed 28 places in the THE international league table and from 207th to 182nd in the QS. League table position has contributed powerfully to strengthening our brand: the number of external visitors to our website, for example, increased by 80 per cent in 2012 to 5.7 million. Nearly three times as many people visited our website on A Level results day compared to the previous year.

Nearly 600 of our lecturers were nominated by their students for Teaching Awards

It was fantastic to see our students vote in such numbers in the Guild Teaching Awards. A record 2,021 individual nominations were received for 588 individual members of staff. The Awards celebrate excellence by both teaching and support staff. Amongst the winners were Tim Rees, of History, who was voted Best Lecturer whilst English was voted Best Department. The Teaching Awards illustrate the University’s continuing strong performance in teaching quality and overall student experience. This was further underlined by the National Student Survey, which measures student satisfaction at 118 UK Higher Education Institutions. Exeter is ranked sixth overall in the universities list and third for teaching quality. The University has never been outside of the top 10 since the survey was launched.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the opening of the Forum
Vice-Chancellor’s introduction

We celebrated the success of our Professional Services staff

Our Professional Services staff, who work across fields from Finance and HR to Campus Services and Academic Services, also make a vital contribution to our success. The second annual Professional Services Awards saw Senior Designer Delphine Jones, from our Communications and Marketing team, named ‘Heroine of the Year’ and the Forum project team were named ‘Outstanding Team of the Year.’

We launched the University of Exeter Medical School

One of the biggest developments of the year was the decision by Exeter and Plymouth universities to end their partnership in the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry. The demerger, which took place in the summer, saw the creation of the University of Exeter Medical School (UEMS) and the Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry. From 2013 Exeter will admit 120 UK medical students and 10 international students a year, with Plymouth admitting 80 UK medical students and six international students and 64 dental students a year. Exeter students will continue to work in healthcare settings around the South West, including, Exeter, Torbay and Tiverton. The formation of UEMS has gone extremely well with the first round of applications exceeding last year’s total for PCMD. We had 1,770 applications, which equates to nearly 15 for every place.

We increased our market share of the top students in a challenging environment

The introduction of £9,000 tuition fees for UK Home undergraduates and the government’s decision to allow universities a free hand in recruiting students at A Level grades of AAB and above meant a very challenging year for admissions in 2012. A highly competitive recruitment round saw many universities seeking to free themselves of government number controls by recruiting as many AAB students as they could. Fate also took a hand with a fall in the number of students nationally achieving AAB grades, leaving many universities short of their admissions targets. Exeter did well in such a fierce environment increasing its market share, albeit with a slightly smaller intake than in 2011.

We were named Sunday Times University of the Year

Winning the Sunday Times University of the Year award highlighted for me how many people contribute to the University’s success. Not just our staff, but also our governors, our students, our alumni, our suppliers, our research funders, our business partners, local councils and communities.

None of this could have been achieved without our talented and hard-working staff

The University’s staff have performed marvels to transform Exeter over the last 10 years. During this period student numbers have increased by 50 per cent, turnover has more than tripled and research income has risen fivefold. This has meant a lot of hard work and we realise many staff members have had to perform under a great deal of pressure. We have done our best to be a family-friendly employer and to support staff with difficult and challenging roles. We have also launched a staff association, which now has nearly 1,100 members, and a range of wellbeing initiatives through our Sports Park. We recognise there is more to do in this area and one of the major themes of 2013 will be to better support staff and reduce workplace stress. We want a happy, healthy and engaged workforce as well as a high performing one.
Vice-Chancellor’s introduction

Our alumni also made an enormous contribution to our success....

Amongst our alumni I would particularly like to thank His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi, the ruler of Sharjah, Dr Dennis Gilling, and Les Hapan. Our development campaign, Creating a world-class University together, closed a year earlier having raised £25 million. Planning is now advanced on the next campaign in which we hope to raise substantially more to support our world-class activity.

...possibly the most successful [year] in the history of the University

...and so did our governors

We bade a sad farewell to our Chair of Council Russell Seal, who had been a member of Council, our governing body, since 1999. He had a profound influence on this University and was a major factor in its rise up the league tables over the past decade. He described the past year ‘as possibly the most successful in the history of the University.’ Russell is succeeded as Chair of Council by Sarah Turvill, an Exeter Law graduate (1975) and the Chair of Willis International Ltd, a leading global firm of insurance brokers. I am sure everyone will join me in giving Sarah a warm welcome and we are working with her on the next stage of the University’s development. Finally, in 2013, we said goodbye to our Registrar and Deputy Chief Executive, David Allen, who has made an enormous positive impact on the University in the 10 years he was here. He put students at the heart of all that we do and was tremendously supportive of me; the best professional support I have ever experienced. We wish him luck in the future.

Left: Russell Seal, our former Chair of Council who stepped down in 2012. Right: Mr David Allen, Registrar and Deputy Chief Executive.

Members of Council *

From left to right

Front row:
1 Professor Neil Armstrong *
2 Mr David Allen *
3 Professor Sir Steve Smith *
4 Miss Sarah Turvill *
5 Mr Peter Lacey *
6 Mr Richard Hughes *

Second row:
7 Sir Robin Nicholson *
8 Dr Sarah Buck *
9 Mrs Judy Hoggett OBE *
10 Dame Sue Leather OBE *
11 Mr Marc Jordan *

Third row:
12 Mr Pete Hodges *
13 Mr Nick Davies *
14 Ms Sally Wilcox *

Fourth row:
15 Professor Nick Talbot *
16 Professor Stephen Baynes *
17 Mr Nicholas Bull *
18 Mr Andrew Connolly

Fifth row:
19 Ms Bettina Rigg *
20 Mr Michael Broderidge
21 Professor Mark Ormston
22 Professor Janis Kosek

Top row:
23 Mr Geoff Pringle
24 Mr John Allwood *

Not featured:
Professor Debra Myhill *
Professor Ken Evans *
We invested £230 million in research

We opened a number of major new research facilities and began planning for others:

- The Sir Henry Wellcome Building for Mood Disorders Research provides state-of-the-art facilities to carry out experimental and applied clinical research into mood disorders. The Centre is a partnership between the NHS and the University and the new £3.6 million building was funded by the Wellcome Trust Capital Awards in Biomedical Science initiative.

- The £2.6 million Centre for Additive Layer Manufacturing creates complex or bespoke parts and complete products by building them up one layer at a time in specialist machines. It can even be used for chocolate! Great press excitement was generated when it was announced that Dr. Liang Hao had founded Choc Edge Ltd, a company which will develop and sell unique 3D chocolate printers.

- In Cornwall the £30 million Environment and Sustainability Institute has been completed and is due to be opened formally in spring 2013. The Institute has an interdisciplinary approach to tackling environmental change, which is a major theme of our research. University researchers are playing a hugely important role in helping the world adapt to and mitigate climate change.

- We also announced plans for a £50 million interdisciplinary Living Systems research centre to be built on the Streatham Campus to help understand how cells operate and how diseases are caused. The Centre’s research will bring a new approach to understanding how diseases operate in the human body by applying engineering principles to living cells.

We developed a new strategic approach to humanities and social sciences research

Six interdisciplinary research themes have been identified to address global challenges through a multi-disciplinary approach in the humanities and social sciences. The themes and leading Professors are: Medical Humanities (Mark Jackson), Identities and Beliefs (David Horrell), Science, Technology and Culture (Stephen Hinchliffe), Environment and Sustainability (Neil Adger), Individual and Social Change (Manuela Barreto), and Global Uncertainties (Steve McCorriston).
We have worked on more than 1,000 projects with businesses and our income from collaborative work exceeds £30 million.

We are working in partnership to train the next generation of researchers.

As competition for research funding increases and funders are becoming more selective, we are increasingly working with strong research partners such as Bristol and Bath universities. During the year this enabled us to secure funds for postgraduate research students through new doctoral training centres. For example, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has awarded £4.2 million to a new partnership to establish the South West Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) as a centre for international excellence in training for bioscience and food security research. This unites the universities of Bristol, Bath, and Exeter with Rothamsted Research to train future generations of scientists. We are now part of two major doctoral training centres, the other being with the Economic and Social Research Council.

Our increasing strength in science and technology is reflected by the doubling of awards granted from the BBSRC in the last year.

We ensure that our research makes an impact.

Exeter’s research has always had a major impact on society, but it is becoming increasingly important to find ways of showcasing the impact we are having.

The inaugural Exeter Impact Awards celebrated the diverse range of research taking place across the University. The Awards recognised success in knowledge exchange, collaborative working and partnerships, which have led to benefits for the wider economy, society, health and wellbeing and industrial partners. Regional experts, students and alumni were involved in the judging process.

Impact will be a key component of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework which judges the University’s research against all other UK universities. Over 120 case studies of our significant impact have been developed.

We are working to encourage public engagement in research.

We were successful in our bid to Research Councils UK for £300,000 to become a centre for public engagement in research. This will ensure that our researchers will find it easier to link their research with communities in the South West and beyond. The grant will support a three-year programme to establish new structures and processes across the University and develop the ‘Exeter Catalyst’.

We have developed more than 1,000 projects with business.

Collaboration has been a key to our success over the last year, not just with other Higher Education institutions but also with businesses, charities and public bodies. We have worked on more than 1,000 projects with businesses and our income from collaborative work exceeds £30 million. Our partners include household names like Unilever, Shell and Coca Cola as well as local companies like Mulberry.

We are investing £2.4 million in developing innovative projects with businesses and community organisations.

The Open Innovation Platform was launched providing financial support to enable engagement with business and industrial partners by supporting the development of collaborative relationships leading to long-term, sustainable growth in research and business development.

The platform has been incredibly successful, with 96 projects approved to date, working with over 100 organisations, ranging from micro-SMEs to community organisations and large multinationals. Of the £2.4 million funds available, just over £1.4 million has been allocated in the first year alone. Examples of successful engagement include:

- Dr Sam Vine, a sports psychologist, and partner Flybe have joined forces in Flybe’s state-of-the-art flight simulators to study the way in which pilots react to stress in emergencies. As well as the direct implications for flight safety, the project has the potential to influence Flybe’s training curriculum, providing Flybe with a unique selling point for their new academy based in Exeter.

- Professor Gabriella Giannachi and the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter have developed an interactive website that consists of a map, a game and a searchable archive of Victorian artefacts. To encourage exploration and learning, a game using a collection of wood carvings from medieval churches was built which asks players to link images of the collection to locations within churches on Dartmoor.
We are supporting business enterprise...

The Innovation Centre based on the University of Exeter campus is home to more than 40 businesses. As well as encouraging engagement with the University, the Innovation Centre offers a range of business support services to early stage and growing businesses and is home to a number of high-profile new businesses including Fantasy Shopper and Crowdcube, the UK’s first crowdfunder company. It also provides Research & Development and Lab facilities for large multinational organisations such as the Laboratory of Government Chemists, Greenpeace and Renishaw. The University is a partner in SEiSquared, the enterprise partnership between the universities of Bristol, Bath, Exeter, Surrey and Southampton. Between us we are incubating more than 300 companies.

...and working with our partners to build a new Science Park for Exeter

The University has been heavily involved in plans to develop a Science Park to the east of Exeter. Planning permission was granted for a new Science Park Centre to host a new group of innovative businesses.

Exeter Science Park will be the cornerstone of a knowledge-based economy which is currently seeing unprecedented growth rates. The Exeter area is seeing a tremendous investment in start-ups and in R&D across a range of science and technology disciplines ranging from ecotoxicology to environmental sustainability and from clinical trials to climate adaptation. The University of Exeter Science Park will be to act as an innovation hub for a range of science and technology disciplines ranging from ecotoxicology to environmental sustainability and from clinical trials to climate adaptation.

We are helping student entrepreneurs to develop their own products and businesses

In recognition of the increased interest in entrepreneurship from students and graduates, we have developed a range of enterprise skills development, practical training and an environment in which ideas can be tested and businesses started.

Our Employability and Graduate Development team has joined forces with the Students’ Guild and the Innovation Centre to ensure that enterprising students can develop a wide range of transferable enterprise skills which can be put to use in starting their own small businesses while at university.

For example, Engineering graduate, Jacob Marsh, identified a gap in the market when the newly developed Raspberry Pi mini-computer first went on sale. The Raspberry Pi is delivered as an unprototyped printed circuit board and Jacob initially used his skills in 3D design, and the facilities at the University, to produce a case which he could produce in low volume using a 3D printer. The designs went on sale via his website in late March and he received nearly 300 pre-orders in the first day. The unexpected scale caused Jacob to alter his plans for manufacturing in order to cope with the demand which has led to sales of about £200,000 so far. ModMyPi received space and business advice from the Innovation Centre and the introduction to a mentor to help with the strategic development of the business. In addition, Jacob has received a grant award which has been matched by the business to fund the design and prototyping of the second version of the Raspberry Pi case.

Teaching and learning

The advent of £9,000 Home undergraduate tuition fees for 2012 placed even greater emphasis on providing students with a teaching and learning experience of the highest quality.

Exeter has always been among the leaders for student satisfaction, never having been outside the top 10 in the National Student Survey. The senior management team has sought to build on this strength by putting student engagement, participation and involvement at the centre of its strategy. The Students’ Guild is involved at the earliest stages of strategic planning and given a major role in making spending decisions through a specially created Budget Scrutiny Group. This has led to a remarkable degree of partnership, joint thinking and team work. This is exemplified by a new joint post between the Students’ Guild and University to support student engagement and to promote Students as Change Agents.

80 of our staff received fellowships recognising their teaching excellence

Although Exeter has never been outside of the top 10 universities in the National Student Survey, we continued to focus on improving quality, introducing standards for turn-around times for marking and minimum teaching contact hours. Some 85 University staff were awarded Higher Education Academy (HEA) fellowships to acknowledge excellent teaching and high quality student support, including the first three Principal Fellowships to be awarded in the UK.

We increased the number of lecturers by more than 10 per cent

We also completed a major recruitment drive to improve the student:staff ratio which resulted in a 10.3 per cent increase in the number of lecturing staff.

We changed the shape of the academic year to a 12 + 12 + 7 week term pattern. This is designed to reinforce the intellectual and academic rigour of the first year, and includes in 2012/13 a Grand Challenges programme for first-year students.
teaching and learning

We centralised our student services in the Forum....

We invested in our student-centred facilities, most notably opening the Forum, which now provides high quality accessible student services at the heart of the campus plus additional library, learning exploration, study and retail space. The Forum was exhaustively developed to revolutionise student services at Exeter, which were previously scattered around the campus. We also invested in our student-centred facilities, most notably opening the Forum, which now provides high quality accessible student services at the heart of the campus plus additional library, learning exploration, study and retail space. The Forum was exhaustively developed to revolutionise student services at Exeter, which were previously scattered around the campus.

...and put students at the heart of all that we do.

In addition to creating a single hub for services like careers, international student support, finance etc, customer service has been built into the training of the Forum team. For example ‘floor walkers’ are on hand to help students with queries and save them having to queue and special e-kiosks have been developed which provide students with answers to the most common queries. The Forum was also designed to change the dynamics of the campus by creating a ‘centre of gravity’ for students with a large indoor space and terraced piazzas. The result is a stunning and environmentally friendly piece of architecture which draws on best practice in student services from around the world.

We were top 10 again for student satisfaction.

As well as these stunning physical resources, our Colleges and Professional Services have worked hard to augment the academic quality of the education we deliver. Particular attention has been paid to the quality of teaching, assessment, feedback, return of work and learning resources. All of this work bore fruit with a further improvement in this year’s NSS where we came sixth overall and third for teaching quality out of 118 Higher Education institutions.

Our efforts to help students find jobs resulted in a third more students seeking careers advice.

The improved visibility and access of student-facing career and employability provision, now based in the Forum Career Zone, has seen unprecedented increases in footfall. And queries dealt with by careers staff. Footfall was up by 33 per cent on 2011 during Freshers’ Week. The new space made available within the Forum Career Zone has also proved invaluable in terms of providing high-profiled space for fairs with a specific focus.

Further evidence of quality came with the Quality Assurance Agency institutional review which commended the University for the enhancement of student learning opportunities (one of relatively few institutions to date to gain commended status). This is great recognition of all the work that has been accomplished on student engagement. The review also confirmed that the University’s academic standards and the quality of students’ learning opportunities meet UK objectives.

We are investing more than £5 million to help students from poorer backgrounds go to university.

We continue to attract students of high achievement and potential. Widening participation in Higher Education and ensuring fair access remained central to our plans which were approved by the Office for Fair Access (OFA). The access agreement set out the University’s targets for attracting more students from a wide range of backgrounds. In 2012/13 we will spend £5.5 million on financial assistance – this will help to support almost one-third of new Home/EU undergraduate students. We will also spend £1.15 million on outreach activities. By 2015 the amount spent on financial assistance will have almost doubled to more than £10.3 million.

10 of the best...our students vote for the most supportive staff.

The third annual Guild Teaching Awards saw students nominate 588 staff for excellence in teaching and support. Students clearly understand the value of excellent teaching and the key role that cutting-edge research plays in helping them to become great learners, analysts and critical thinkers. Some 30 staff went on to the shortlist from which the following winners were selected:

- Best Lecturer: Tim Rees from History
- Best Subject: English
- Best Research Environment: Archaeology
- Innovative Teaching: Ian Cook from Geography
- Research-Inspired Teaching: Francesca Stavrakopoulou from Theology and Religious Studies
- Best Feedback Provider: Yelena Gedge from Modern Languages
- Supportive Member of Staff: Susan Margetts from Politics
- Best Employability Support: Sarah Hodge from Biosciences, Cornwall Campus
- Change Agents Champion: Jenny Wren from the Business School *
- Best Postgraduate Teacher: Bert Bond from Sport and Health Sciences

Russell Seal, our former Chair of Council, was also honoured with a Special Recognition Award for the immense hard work he has put into enhancing the academic experience for students during his tenure.

We earned a prestigious award from the Association of Graduate recruiters – the first university ever to do so.

Improving the job prospects of students was another major focus of 2011/12 and we became the first University to win the prestigious ‘Blue Ribbon’ award at the Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR) Annual Conference – the ‘best of the best’ of all award winners for work in student employability, graduate development and graduate recruitment. This is the top award voted by career-minded students and employers. Past winners include IBM and the Bank of England. This builds on previous successes of winning the AGR-HE sector award and national awards for work placements and social enterprise.

* Sadly Jenny Wren passed away in March 2013.
Our total income rose by 4.4 per cent to £257 million.

Total income increased by 4.4 per cent to £257 million, driven by increases in tuition fee income (15.3 per cent) and income from research grants and contracts (7.8 per cent). Reductions to public funding of teaching has its greatest impact in 2011/12 having commenced in 2009/10 and accumulating through to 2014/15. However, from 2012/13 higher tuition fees for Home/EU undergraduate students will begin to flow through to offset these reductions. The University has maintained an impressive trajectory of growth in recent years, despite cumulative reductions to its funding.

Our research income has been growing at a rate of 15 per cent a year over the last five years.

While growth in income has slowed in recent years, the University’s record has been impressive with research income growing at an annualised rate of 15 per cent per year over the last five years and teaching income by nearly 12 per cent per year over the same period, with a resultant increase in research intensity.

Our international tuition fee income increased by 34 per cent.

Teaching block grant fell by £4.2 million over the year, compensated for by increased tuition fee income of £12.5 million, principally driven by growth in international student fees of £10.4 million. The University intends to maintain its international student body at 4,000 full-time equivalent students to enable diversification of markets and subject disciplines whilst improving the quality of the intake. Tuition fee income from Home/EU undergraduates increased to £18 million reflecting growth in student numbers whereas fee income from postgraduate students fell to £10.9 million reflecting a declining market.

Income from research grants rose to nearly £50 million.

Research grants and contract income rose to £49.9 million while indirect cost recovery was 26.5 per cent of income. Growth of research income is expected to continue in coming years as the University reaps the benefits of investment in staff and its science, humanities and social sciences strategies, aimed at optimising the submission to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF2014) in expectation of enhancing research quality, volume, league table position and block grant funding. Staff costs increased by £12.6 million as a result of increased research volume but also investment in staff as part of the University’s REF2014 strategy. Pay awards remain at realistic levels in the context of reductions to public funding. The University adopts a performance approach to the reward of staff setting aside one per cent of its staffing budget to distribute to staff under a merit pay initiative and a further one per cent for a staff bonus. Both were fully provided for in 2011/12.

The University’s share of income from joint ventures increased to £15.8 million, contributing £1.6 million to the University’s surplus for the year.

We are developing a new investment strategy.

The University has begun to identify a series of investment priorities, both revenue and capital, to enable its strategic priorities to be delivered. Cash generated from operating activities, after servicing debt, will enable these investment priorities to be delivered. The key performance indicator for finance will be based on cash earnings. Over a five-year period earnings have more than doubled although they fell in 2011/12 to £19.2 million as a consequence of reductions to teaching grants ahead of the new £9,000 fee regime and investment in staffing ahead of REF2014.
2011/12 was an outstanding year for the University of Exeter and for our efforts to be recognised as a university of global standing. Improvement in UK rankings, an invitation to join the Russell Group, and the benefits of £380 million of new infrastructure have all helped attract ever greater numbers of international staff and students to the University. We also made further strides in our ambition to be recognised as a World-100 university, rising 28 places last year to 156th in the Times Higher Education (THE) global rankings. Of particular note is that Exeter is already in the Top 100 when it comes to internationalisation, being ranked 57th by the THE for ‘International Outlook’ and 73rd for ‘International Students’.

Our international students contribute more than £88 million a year to Exeter’s economy

In April 2012 we published The Economic Impact of the University of Exeter’s International Students. The purpose of the report was twofold: i) to demonstrate to the local community how the spending patterns of international students is driving investment into the city and region, thereby creating and supporting local employment; ii) to contribute to the debate concerning reform of the Tier 4 (students) immigration system. We were able to demonstrate that the University’s non-UK students contribute over £88 million a year to Exeter’s economy and support 2,880 jobs, equivalent to 2.8 per cent of all employment in the city. In addition, such students in our campuses in Exeter and Cornwall contribute over £1.04 million each year to the wider South West economy, supporting 3,280 jobs across the region.

Increasing numbers of our students spend part of their studies abroad

A commitment to boost the number our students participating in some form of study abroad opportunities lies at the heart of the University’s Internationalisation and Education Strategies. Data published by the British Council in spring 2012 showed that Exeter was sixth in the UK in terms of the numbers of students studying and working abroad on Erasmus schemes in 2010/11. 361 of our students participated in Erasmus that year, moving Exeter ahead of Bath, UCL, Warwick and Edinburgh. Only the larger universities of Nottingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield sent out more students.

Our International Summer School continued to grow

For the third year running, the University ran its International Summer School towards the end of the academic year. Growth of this programme has been remarkable. From our inaugural cohort of 23 students in 2010, we trebled the population to 67 students in 2011, and further expanded the cohort by more than 60 per cent in 2012. 108 students from leading universities joined us last year. 210 applications were received in total for entry onto the five pathways (Law, Climate Change, Shakespeare, International Management and Sports, Performance and the Olympic Games).

Our international student population grew to more than 5,000

The University of Exeter has made tremendous progress in recruiting international students in recent years. Investment in the International Strategy of 2006 and the Internationalisation Strategy of 2009 has resulted in a massive expansion of the international fee-paying population. From just over 1,000 international fee-paying students in December 2006, the population had more than tripled to 3,600 by December 2011. This figure was up 17 per cent compared to the year before – our top 10 recruitment markets being China, Hong Kong, India, Vietnam, USA, Malaysia, Russia, Singapore, Thailand and Nigeria. Since the December 2011 census was taken, over 350 additional international students joined us on INTO Exeter credit-bearing programmes, taking the overall international fee population close to 4,000. If we consider the wider ‘non-UK’ population across our three campuses, Exeter had an ‘international’ full-time population of 5,106 students.

Fee income from international students rose to £46 million

This growth is generating very significant revenues for the University. International fee income for 2011/12 was just below that of Home/EU (£45 million) versus £47 million. International fee income has increased by 45 per cent over the last two years, whereas fee income from Home/EU students declined by 1.5 per cent over the same period, although this will now change with the introduction of the new £9,000 Home/EU fee regime in 2012.
We supported our staff in forging new international links

Helping connect our faculty with leading counterparts around the world is at the heart of the Internationalisation Strategy.

We continue to invest heavily to support academic colleagues in building research links with the world’s leading universities.

45 Outward Mobility Academic Fellowships were awarded in the 2011/12 academic year, tenable at 43 leading institutions in 10 countries.

We are building stronger ties with India...

Our investment and engagement with India stepped up a gear in 2011/12. The Vice-Chancellor led a University delegation to India to launch officially our Bangalore Office. The event was co-organised by the British Deputy High Commission Bangalore and hosted by Minister of State for Universities and Science the Rt Hon David Willetts MP. The launch attracted 200 guests. As part of our engagement with the country, we released a 40-page booklet – Exeter and India: A Collaboration – at the event. During the four-day visit to Bangalore, the Vice-Chancellor signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM-B), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS).

Exeter also won four UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) grants during the year. These will help develop projects with partners, including split-site PhDs in both Archaeology and Drama (with IAS), Engineering (a project involving mobile sensor networks with IISc) and Business (staff exchange with the University of Delhi).

...and developing closer ties with leading universities in China

Since Exeter opened its Project Offices in Shanghai and Beijing in July 2010, under the auspices of the China Britain Business Council, our engagement with China has developed rapidly. For example, our relationship with Tsinghua University has blossomed in the last academic year. Research links between Tsinghua and Exeter have expanded to cover 10 subjects, with faculty in Engineering, Psychology, Geography, the Business School, the Medical School and College of Humanities visiting Tsinghua in the course of the year. The Vice-Chancellor also visited East China Normal University (ECNU) and renewed a three-year partnership agreement. It confirms six research synergies between the two universities, including research links in Geography, Politics, Education and Psychology.

Engagement with partners in Hong Kong became both broader and deeper during 2011/12. For example, the Vice-Chancellor signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). The partnership has traditionally been based on student mobility. While student exchanges and summer school visits continue, the relationship also offers collaborative research opportunities, with the Materials research group at Exeter working with HKUST’s Mechanical Engineering department.

Our engagement with the USA is developing fast

Our engagement with the United States continues to develop. We are now collaborating with the Fulbright Commission in two funding schemes to bring leading American scholars to Exeter each year: the Fulbright-Exeter Scholar Award and the Fulbright-Exeter Postgraduate Award. The Vice-Chancellor and senior team visited the United States in May 2012 to undertake partnership and development activity. During the visit the Vice-Chancellor signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the President of Brown University in Providence. Exeter has a number of diverse faculty-led research links underway with Brown, one of which led to the funding of the Exeter-Brown PhD Studentship in High Frequency Spintronics, an Exeter PhD jointly supervised by Exeter and Brown faculty, open to Brown and Exeter students. During the year Exeter joined Brown’s Global Forum network, open to Brown’s international partners, to facilitate faculty mobility.

We are top ten for international student satisfaction

The international student experience is at the heart of the Internationalisation Strategy and the University invests significant time and resource in this area. More than 1,000 international and 2,400 UK students responded to the annual exit ‘barometer’ survey. They reported high levels of satisfaction in their overall experience – 88 per cent of international students (up 1 per cent) and 90 per cent of UK students (up 2 per cent) – making us 9th in the UK for international students. 78 per cent of international and 80 per cent of home students would recommend Exeter to others thinking of applying.
contribution to the south west region

The continued growth of the University has been a major asset to Devon and Cornwall during the UK’s continued economic stagnation. At a time when the public sector has been contracting and many businesses have struggled, the University increased its economic contribution to over £400 million, creating 350 more jobs and helping many local businesses through contracts awarded as part of the £380 million capital development programme. At their height, the various building projects on the Streatham Campus created jobs for 1,000 people. The University has become central to the economic health of the two counties.

We helped forge a bright new future for the Exeter Northcott Theatre

The University also makes an important cultural and artistic contribution to the region. We worked hard behind the scenes to secure a sustainable future for the Northcott Theatre, which was threatened with closure due to funding cutbacks at Arts Council England (ACE). We were delighted when ACE awarded the Theatre £25,000 per year for three years. The money will enable the Exeter Northcott to continue its popular year-round family programme and continue to present high-quality national companies. The University of Exeter will be investing a further £360,000 in the Northcott over the next three years. This is on top of the £2 million we have invested in the Theatre since 2003. This makes the University the second major funder, after ACE. The University was also very pleased to welcome back the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra to the Great Hall after a year’s absence while Forum works were underway.

We worked with local people to ensure students are integrated into their communities

Our Community Liaison Officer Rory Cunningham managed a range of schemes and initiatives to enhance student integration off-campus. The Community Liaison Team produce the Mylexeter Community Guide for all students living in private accommodation and the Student Community Wardens provide a range of information and peer support to students. Local residents are kept up to date with events and news via the StreetWise newsletter and a newly launched e-newsletter promoting on-campus activities, events and opportunities.

The University has been active in the local community in many other ways. For example, students, staff and Exeter residents have joined forces to reinvigorate land at Queen’s Crescent, St James, Exeter. This builds on a series of gardening days organised by local food-growing charity Harvest. The University also donated materials.

We continued our support for Exeter Pride, which entered its fourth year, and is open to everyone (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or straight). There was a Rainbow Flag Parade through the city centre and entertainment at Exeter Phoenix and Gandy Street. Staff and students represented the University at Pride, in the parade or helping in other ways.

Other community activities offered by the University and its students included:

- A family music afternoon to teach a rhythm piece called ‘Olympic Rings’, later performed in the Great Hall as part of a concert involving local school children, Exeter University Groups and musicians from the EMG (Exeter Music Group) Symphony Orchestra.
- A celebration of the year of the Dragon with the Chinese Student Scholars Association, the University and the Students’ Guild.
- The Big Bang South West, a high profile and fun celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for schools, with science shows and an interactive exhibition arena. Staff from Physics, Biosciences, Geography, Psychology, Sport Sciences, Engineering and Computer Sciences took part.
- In Cornwall, the Tremough Campus Culture Festival took place, featuring Honorary Graduates Tony Robinson, Alan Cotton and Neil Canning. University staff appearing included Nicola Thomas from Life and Environmental Sciences, on Cornwall’s creative heritage, and Chris Gill from Classics and Ancient History and Nicky Britten from the Medical School, on healthcare and wellbeing in the classical and modern worlds. There was a costume-in-context drama about Titanic, and a live celebration of folk singer Woody Guthrie’s centenary. It was associated with the Daphne du Maurier Festival in Fowey.
- The Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) launched a public Lecture Series in Cornwall. The first lecture, by the ESI’s Professor Robbie McDonald, addressed the controversial topic of ‘Managing badgers and controlling TB’. Sean Fielding, Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer, was chosen to be on the board of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership.
fundraising and alumni relations

During our last campaign, Creating a world-class University together, and ever since, we have seen a marked increase in the number of alumni working with us – contributing to University life in so many ways.

This has included our hugely successful volunteering programme, directly benefiting our students as well as contributing to work across the institution. More than 1,000 alumni directly supported us with their time, with thousands more joining us at events and responding to our communications.

We would like to thank all those who have supported the University, either through a financial gift or volunteering their time – or, very often, both.

We raised £25.5 million through our campaign, Creating a world-class University together

The campaign, Creating a world-class University together was a huge success, with over 1,000 volunteers and 4,941 donors contributing. So much so, that while it was due to have continued until 31 July 2012, it actually closed a year early on 31 July 2011.

Together, we succeeded in raising £25.5 million for the University (target £23 million) and received more than 8,000 hours of volunteering time (target 2,012 hours). In addition, 216 supporters generously included us within their wills.

We are now working closely with our community of supporters and colleagues to put in place the right foundations for future philanthropic support.

We have a growing band of committed alumni willing to give their time and expertise to help the University develop

Our alumni support a wide range of activities – such as careers talks, mentoring individual students and helping University governance by serving on Council or other boards. All of our alumni volunteers contribute and make an impact by improving the lives of students at Exeter and driving through our objectives, directly and indirectly. It is an impact recognised beyond the University, and we were very proud when Nicholas Bull (Chemistry, 1972) won a 2012 European volunteering award for his committed support of Exeter throughout the last campaign.

Over and above the actual hours given, Exeter’s volunteering programme has proved an exceptional way of involving both students and alumni in the life and work of the University. For example, it helps students visualise their own potential for success by hearing from a graduate who has achieved this success for themselves. It has also resulted in an enormous amount of goodwill generated towards Exeter by its graduates and supporters. We are extremely proud of our alumni, for their generosity and their contribution.
Money raised through our Annual Fund made an impact

More than 2,000 alumni and supporters gave to the Annual Fund during 2011/12, making it one of our most successful years ever. More than £260,000 was raised to support 30 projects across all three campuses.

All the projects are designed to enhance the student experience and are chosen by a panel of students, staff and alumni. Projects supported have included a Healthy Halls Programme, which encourages and educates students living in halls to be active and healthy, as well as the Volunteering Programme in Cornwall. This project encourages students to engage with the voluntary sector both nationally and internationally, which improves their social awareness and creates vital employability skills.

More than 180 parents of current students contributed over £16,000 to the Annual Fund this year. A special appeal to parents of final-year students raised a further £5,000 for the Library: each student is remembered with a special graduation bookplate placed inside every book donated.

Our telethon saw 80 students call more than 14,000 alumni around the world

In 2011/12, we recruited 80 students to call alumni as part of our annual telethon campaigns. They called over 14,000 alumni across the world, achieving a pledged total of over £107,000. Student callers also received more than 119 offers of volunteering, and responded to over 340 alumni requests.

The telethon couldn’t take place without the support of current students, who work as callers during term time. It provides a great opportunity for our students to engage with alumni and to learn about the opportunities available after graduation.

The telethon is an enjoyable and sociable experience for our students, and it also provides them with employability skills.

The Class of 2012 joined our fundraising efforts

The “Class of 2012” project directly involved students graduating in 2012, enabling them to leave a legacy of their choice and mark their time at Exeter.

We launched our Alumnae Group to encourage more women to become engaged in university life

Our Alumnae Group leads on activities increasing alumnae involvement in university life. It also runs activities that encourage alumnae to support each other in their personal and professional development, and in tackling specific challenges facing women in the workplace. More than 100 alumni attended the launch event, an evening focusing on Exeter’s research into the ‘Glass Cliff’ phenomenon. All alumni, male and female, are welcome at Alumnae Group events.

We grew our international network of alumni and launched a new group in Hong Kong

Our international alumni support us by planning a range of activities around the globe, including social and professional networking events. They also support recruitment activities, speaking with prospective students. We now have more than 70 ‘country contacts’ who act as ambassadors for Exeter in more than 40 countries. We are especially pleased that 2011/12 saw the launch of our Hong Kong Alumni Group.

Claire and Les Halpin have donated more than £1 million.
We admitted new members to our College of Benefactors

In acknowledgment of the importance of philanthropy, the University invites its most generous donors to become members of the College of Benefactors. Induction into the College is the highest honour the University can bestow upon its donors. January 2012 marked the seventh occasion in which members have been welcomed into the College. Our two new members are:

• Santander, which through its Santander Universities global division, has generously supported the University by funding travel bursaries, studentships and research initiatives – with total funding and pledged support for the University of nearly £500,000. This generous philanthropic funding has supported exchange programmes for both students and academics, and provided bursaries for Year Abroad students visiting Latin America and Iberia.

• Alumnus Anastasios Leventis (Classics 1994) in his capacity as trustee of the A.G. Leventis Foundation. Established in May 1979, the A.G. Leventis Foundation is the outcome of the vision of the Cypriot entrepreneur Anastasios G. Leventis (1902-1978), who had set out the primary objectives of action for his eponymous foundation since its inception, with a focus on society, education and culture.

Since then, it has remained faithful to these ideals and supported a number of projects across the University of Exeter, including studentships, a lectureship and the ‘Leventis Room’ within Classics.

The Gillings Family Foundation generously donated £1 million to support our Medical School

The University of Exeter Medical School has attracted significant support, boosting planned investment in the School to nearly £33 million. This includes a £1 million donation from the Gillings Family Foundation, headed by Exeter graduate Dr Dennis Gillings.

Dr Gillings, who studied for both a Bachelor’s Degree and PhD in Mathematics at Exeter, said: “I have been hugely impressed by the growth and development of Exeter into one of the UK’s top 10 Higher Education institutions. The Medical School provides an exciting opportunity for Exeter to become a leader in medical education and research. Our investment will help the University attract the brightest and best staff to work in Devon and Cornwall.”

Alumni couple’s donations exceed £1 million

Alumni couple Claire and Dr Les Halpin made a further generous gift to the University, taking their support for Exeter’s Halpin Scholarship programme, Biosciences and the Business School to more than £1 million. Les also has also given in excess of 140 hours of his time working with staff, students and fellow alumni.

Magnaporthe grisea – also known as ‘rice blast fungus’ – each year kills enough rice to feed 60 million people, in some of the world’s poorest countries. Thanks to the generous support of Claire and Les Halpin (Biology 1979 and Mathematical Statistics and Operational research 1979, Hon LLD 2011 respectively), Exeter researchers are leading the way in understanding the molecular biology of the disease, helping develop effective and durable controls.

Claire and Les have donated an additional substantial gift to the Halpin Scholarship Programme – which supports research scholars from rice-growing nations – ensuring that the expertise developed at Exeter will have a direct impact where it matters most. “Les and Claire are great and inspiring friends of the University,” commented Susie Hills, Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

Further support for our Medical School came from the Wellcome Trust and Wolfson Foundation

Medicine in Exeter has also attracted support from the Wellcome Trust and the Wolfson Foundation. The construction of a £19.75 million medical research and education centre on the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital site is progressing as planned. The University is investing £15 million, with the remainder of the cost being met by a grant of £4.75 million from the Wellcome Wolfson Capital Awards Initiative. The new centre will bring together a number of the University’s world-leading medical research and education teams in state-of-the-art facilities, and is scheduled to open in early 2014.
sport
The British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) championships saw the University of Exeter finish in seventh place, our highest ever finish. Gold Medals were achieved by the Badminton Men’s 1st team (Western Conference Cup), the Basketball Men’s 1st team (Western Conference Cup), Women’s Football (Western Conference Cup), Men’s Hockey 1st team (Champions), Men’s Hockey 4th team (Western Conference Cup), Judo (individuals), Karate (individuals), Women’s Rugby 7s (Champions), Women’s Volleyball (Western Conference Cup), Windsurfing (individuals) and the Yachting team (Champions).

There were Silvers for the Men’s Hockey 2nd team (Trophy), Rowing, Skiing, Surf and Windsurfing and bronze medals for Cycle Track Racing (two medals Individual and Team racing), Equestrian, the Surf team and Windsurfing.

The University also hosted the 2012 BUCS Conference (Enhancing the Student Experience through Sport) and the BUCS Awards Dinner 10-13 July 2012. Over 400 delegates attended.

Our students earned national and other representative honours:

• Tom Sargeant (captain) and Matt Chambers were selected for the England Students Rugby Union
• Mike Pope and Rob Hackled, English Universities Rugby 7s
• Amber Reed, Senior England Women’s Rugby Union
• Emily Zaborski, (Captain), U19 Scotland Lacrosse
• Clare Jones and Hannah Leger (vice-captain), English Universities Netball
• Luke Treharne, Wales Students & GB Rugby 7s
• Poppy Davis, Charlotte Benjamin and Sarah Brook, English Universities Rugby 7s
• Isabela Soanowski, 1st and 3rd Junior Commonwealth Games Fencing
• Luke Evans, England Students Rugby League
• Nico Ranaghan and Hugo Fraser, Wakefield Trinity Wildcats Rugby League
• Henry Slade, England U20s Rugby Union
• David Wise and Tom Loake, English Universities Netball
• Tom Carson, James Royce, Chris Ras and Nick Cooper, GB Super League Hockey (Saxon Tigers), Gareth Davies (Caledonian Cougars)
• Annabel Driver, England U21 Hockey squad
• Sarah George, Amber Reed and Lucy Demaine were all in the victorious England U20s team at the USA Nations Cup in the Summer of 2011

University Director of Badminton Helen Ward has become Coach to the England National U15 age group and has travelled with the squad to France, Germany and Denmark.

Assistant Director of Sport Nick Beaumont has been nominated by GB Hockey to be part of the Team GB British Olympic Ambition Programme, which is looking to develop coaches and athletes in preparation for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

We played our part in the Olympics:

Lucy Boulton (Exercise and Sports Science, 2010) is a former Beach Volleyball Scholar and supported her teammates’ London 2012 selection.


Sarah Thomas (Exercise and Sports Science, 2002) is now an internationally acclaimed Hockey player and has gained 50 caps for GB. She represented Team GB at London 2012.

Robin Williams (current Maths PhD student) was selected for the Blind Football Paralympic 5-a-side squad for London 2012.

The University was chosen as a training venue for the Ghanaian Paralympic team over the summer 2012.

Crystal Lane (Exercise and Sports Science, 2011) will be in contention for selection for the GB Para-Cycling squad at Rio 2016.

We are building for the future with a further £8 million investment in sport:

A further £8 million is being invested in new and improved facilities at the Sports Park on Streatham Campus. This includes a new health and fitness studio, two new exercise studios, a new team changing pavilion, hockey pitch resurfacing, covering for the tennis/netball courts and a new entrance.
environment
environment

Balancing growth with environmental impact is one of the University’s biggest challenges. Great efforts were made throughout the year to mitigate the impact of the University’s £380 million building programme, create buildings that are as environmentally friendly as possible and re-instate and enhance local habitats. The University was awarded a First Class Award for the fourth year running and ranked 24th out of 145 in the People & Planet Green League 2012. Kay House Duryard, our new state-of-the-art music facility, won one of the first ever ‘Greenbuild’ awards, which celebrate excellence in sustainable buildings.

Our commitment to the environment was recognised by a £1 million grant to further improve energy efficiency

Exeter’s commitment to the environment was recognised by the Higher Education Funding Council when it became one of only four universities to be awarded a £1 million grant through HEFCE’s Revolving Green Fund. We are using it to improve the carbon performance of Cornwall House, through building fabric, lighting and renewable energy. Students and staff will continue to use the building as a social space, however they will also play a key role as the building becomes a living laboratory for learning and research. HEFCE also awarded the University an £83,000 grant for small-scale energy efficiency projects across the estate.

Our Students’ Guild achieved the Gold standard in the NUS Green Impact Awards

The Students’ Guild has also put sustainability at the heart of its strategy, achieving Gold in the national NUS Green Impact Awards. The team, led by Norrie Blackeby, made many improvements throughout the year including lobbying IT suppliers to reduce packaging as well as launching the Exeter Community Garden.

Staff delivered more than 750 new sustainability actions

A total of 22 teams from across the University took part in the Green Impact environmental accreditation scheme, to make their work practices greener. Through Green Impact, they carried out 774 new initiatives to increase sustainability. Green Impact is run locally by the University, audited by students, and managed by the National Union of Students.

On the buses: our students and staff increased usage by 40 per cent

Efforts to persuade more people to cycle and use public transport have been bearing fruit. 40 per cent more people are coming by bus to the Streatham Campus since the University worked with Stagecoach and Devon County Council to improve the service. This includes financial support for the D and H bus services and service enhancements including larger capacity buses. In 2010 the University invested over £100,000 in new cycle parking across the Exeter campuses. This, plus Cyclescheme and the widespread distribution of cycle maps, has seen a 60 per cent increase in the number of bikes parked on the Exeter campuses.

Our campus earned a second Green Flag

For the second year running, the University received a Green Flag Award in recognition of our well-managed, high-quality green spaces. Judges were impressed by the establishment of a Community Garden on Higher Hooper Lane (off car park B) by members of the Students’ Guild, the University and the local community. Local people also helped plant hedgerows and Redhills Community Primary School helped create a wildflower meadow as part of the Birds and Bees campaign.

We helped wildlife to flourish on our Exeter and Cornwall campuses

The Birds and Bees campaign collaborated with WildSoc to build and install bird boxes and homes for solitary bees across the Streatham Campus. This will increase the biodiversity on campus and create a legacy for WildSoc, with monitoring the boxes becoming an annual activity, which will feed into the Campus as a Living Laboratory initiative.

At our Cornwall Campus, the first ever BioBlitz discovered and identified more than 400 different species of flora and fauna. Students and staff from the University of Exeter, Falmouth University and FXU worked with local families and wildlife organisations. The list of species recorded so far includes cave spiders, kingfishers, badgers and Cornish Elm.

Our Business School won a Green Gown award

The University of Exeter Business School has won a prestigious Green Gown award for its ground-breaking One Planet MBA programme. This is the first Green Gown win for the University.

Campus Services achieve top environmental management accolade

Campus Services has been awarded the ISO14001 certification for its Environmental Management System, making the University one of a relatively small group of universities to have achieved the standard. The ISO14001 accreditation highlights the robust policies and procedures in place which allow the service to clearly demonstrate its improvements in environmental performance. The ISO14001 certification looks at all aspects of the organisation, from legal requirements through to grounds management, environmental communication, construction and refurbishment.
Professor Patrick Devine-Wright of Geography, was selected as a member of the new Social Science Expert Panel for Defra and DECC. The panel’s purpose is to bring high quality, multidisciplinary social science advice to both departments.

University of Exeter physicist Professor Steve Eichhorn won the Rosenhain Medal in recognition of his distinguished achievement in materials science.

The Higher Education Academy (HEA) announced that two of our lecturers have been awarded National Teaching Fellowships. Senior Lecturer in Psychology Dr Paul Farrand and Director of Education for Sport and Health Sciences Dr Richard Winsley have been awarded the fellowships, which are the most prestigious awards for excellence in higher education teaching and support for learning. Each receives £10,000 towards professional development in teaching and learning.

Professor Lora Fleming at the European Centre for Environment and Human Health was awarded the 2012 American Public Health Association’s Student Mentoring Award for exceptional talent in mentoring trainees.

Professor Brendan Godley in the Centre for Ecology and Conservation was awarded a prestigious prize from the Zoological Society of London for his outstanding contributions to conservation science – the 2011 ZSL Marsh Award for Marine and Freshwater Conservation.

Professor Jim Haywood was awarded the Buchan prize for work on measurements and modelling of the impact of Saharan dust in climate.

Honorary degrees were awarded to 14 notable people at the graduation ceremonies on 16-23 July. From the world of media we welcomed Armando Iannucci, comedy writer and broadcaster; journalist Nik Gowing, and Steve Backshall, adventurer and TV presenter. Bryn and Emma Parry OBEs, who founded Help for Heroes, were honoured. Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, Judge Demetrios Hadjihambis, Sir Michael Pownall, retired Clerk of the Parliaments, and Alan Milburn, former MP and now social mobility ‘tsar’ also received honorary degrees. They were joined by John Hirst of the Mkt Office, Professor Dame Athena Donald, Dr Russell Hamilton from the Department of Health, Cynthia Carroll, from Anglo American plc, and Iain Grey, Technology Strategy Board. Corporate tax lawyer and Easter Graduate Steve Edge was awarded an honorary LLD in January 2012.

Will Katene in the Graduate School of Education was awarded a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship Award. Sabina Leonelli in Egenis was elected to the Global Young Academy, an organisation which selects 200 top early-career scientists to identify science-related issues of relevance to policy and society.

Dr Gordon Murray, Emeritus Professor of Management (Entrepreneurship) in the Business School, was awarded the OBE for his services to business.

The EPSRC awarded two out of four of its first ever Fellowships in Manufacturing, each worth around £1 million, to Dr Geoffrey Nash and Dr Harish Bhaskaran in the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences.

Professor Sir Paul Newton CBE, our Chair in Security and Strategy Studies and Director of the new Strategy and Security Institute, was knighted in the Military Division of the Honour’s List.

Dr Aude Alapini Odunlade in Physics won the Institute of Physics’ inaugural Early Career Communicators’ Award. Dr Michael Pakenham, Honorary Fellow, was conferred as an Officier de L’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Republic for his lifetime work in the fields of Art and Literature.

Professor David Richards, of the Mood Disorders Centre, was elected for a three-year term as President of the European Academy of Nursing Science and is one of only two nurses to be appointed as an NIHR senior investigator from 2012 onwards.

Professor Dionisius Agius of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy.

David Allen, the Register and Deputy Chief Executive, was awarded an OBE in the New Year’s Honours List, for services to higher education.

A new book by the Chancellor, Baroness Floella Benjamin was published by Frances Lincoln children’s books. Sea of Tears is her first novel.

Greta Bosch in Law, was awarded a Senior Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy via the University of Exeter ASPIRE scheme – a fellowship granted for leaders in education.

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Council member and alumnus Nicholas Ball won the CASE Volunteer of the Year Award for his leadership of the university fundraising campaign.

Professor of Education Wendy Robinson won one of 15 doctoral studentship awards from the Higher Education Academy.

Professor Roy Sambles was awarded the Faraday Medal of the Institute of Physics in recognition of his pioneering research in experimental condensed matter physics.

Professor Dragap Savij was elected to the IWA Strategic Council – the global network of over 10,000 water professionals.

Joanna Alfaro Shigueto received the Whitely Award for inspirational conservation leadership, worth £30,000. Joanna is a recent graduate of the Centre for Ecology and Conservation at the Cornwall Campus.

Professor David Stephenson and Professor Jim Haywood in Mathematics won prestigious research prizes from the Royal Meteorological Society.

Professor David Stephenson was awarded the Adrian Gil prize for making a significant interdisciplinary contribution and bringing statistical rigour to the analysis of weather and climate.

A University of Exeter spin-out company Simpleware Ltd was awarded a Queen’s Award for Enterprise in Innovation for its new approach to converting 3D image data into high-quality computer models (CAD, Rapid Prototyping, CFD and Finite Element models). The award recognises Simpleware Ltd’s achievements in applying computer simulation techniques to complex structures and objects, such as the human body, composite materials, and soil, for which no computer aided drawings (CAD) are available.

The winners of the second annual Professional Services Recognising Excellence awards were: the Forum Project team (team of the year and Registrar’s award); Estate Development Services Mitigation team (customer service and Registrar’s award); The E-SR1 team (innovation); The Campus Living Laboratory team from Campus Services (environment); Paul Grogan, Academic Services (value for money) and Delphine Jones, Communication and Marketing Services (Hero/Heroine of the Year).

Event Exeter won the ‘Commercial University of the Year’ award at the first College and University Business Officers Awards. The awards were launched to help recognise and reward the non-academic areas in Higher Education which through business and innovation, support the core work of a university. Event Exeter is the commercial trading arm of the University, representing our portfolio of venues.

The Realising Opportunities partnership between the universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Exeter, Exeter, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Warwick, York and King’s College London won Widening Participation Initiative of the Year in the THE Awards.

Academic Services was accredited with the Customer First Standard in recognition of excellent customer services offered to students and staff on the Exeter and Cornwall campuses.

The Students’ Guild was awarded Investors in People Bronze for 2011.

Following a four-day assessment, Professional Services successfully retained their Investor in People status. The whole ethos of IP is to ensure staff feel involved and valued when working at the University, as well as providing a business tool framework.
celebrating graduation

‘Oh what a proud moment for any parent! You see your son looking tall, handsome and, for a change, smart stride up on stage and so many memories crowd in. It seems quite incredible that this is the tiny, squalling bundle of 20+ years ago and which you still remember like yesterday. Then there’s the first day in reception class, the oversized blazer he wore to start secondary school, the sulky teenage years, the exam panics, the heartbreaks and the puttings-back-together for which it turned out he still needed Mum. And at last here he is, a lovely young man, clever, articulate and life’s early lessons well learned. So much invested by him, parents, friends and teachers and ready to set out, with hope and optimism, on Life’s choppy seas. Oh dear! It’s amazing the hall isn’t awash with tears of emotion!’

Graduation is one of the highlights of the academic year with degree congregations taking place in January and July. More than 10,000 people (students and guests) attend the ceremonies, which are presided over by our Chancellor Baroness Floella Benjamin. Here are just a few of the comments from our students and their guests.

‘Just wanted to thank you for making my son’s graduation ceremony this afternoon so very special for the whole family.’

‘Whilst graduation day was always going to be memorable, you helped make it that extra bit special.’

‘We were extremely fortunate and privileged to see our son graduate and for him to be welcomed by you with so much warmth and generosity was breath taking.’