Staff News

No. 21 February & March 2006

FROM THE MASTER

As regular readers of this column will be aware, the beginning of March is the time when we receive our annual funding letter from HEFCE. This is a critical moment for the College, since around 50% of our funding comes in this way. This year, for the first time, the information was made available electronically rather than by the traditional means in which a letter arrives on 1 March exactly.

Overall, our total grant increased by approximately 4% to just below £31 million. Interestingly, however, this overall figure masks a continuing trend in which our research funding from HEFCE continues to increase at a much greater rate than our teaching funding. Thus, whilst teaching funds increased by 2.5% compared to the previous year, our research funds increased by 8.5%.

This increase in research funds is due to our success in the last Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), coupled with the policy of progressively concentrating research funding in the highest ranked departments. Clearly, it indicates that the next RAE is not simply a matter of prestige for the College, but actually represents a vital source of funding.

For this reason, a number of initiatives have been introduced in order to strengthen our research activities and to enhance our submission to the 2008 RAE. In particular, we have introduced a new Junior Research Fellowship Scheme which is designed to fund promising young academics to develop their research and teaching careers. This is designed to strengthen particular key areas within the College. Following a competitive process in which all Schools were encouraged to apply, we are now recruiting for five of these Fellowships in different areas right across the College.

One of the new Fellowships is in the area of Chemical Biology which was highlighted as a key area for development in order to improve the research standing and RAE rating of the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences. To enhance this area further, we have also taken the opportunity provided by an early retirement to advertise for a Reader in Chemical Biology. This new initiative in Chemical Biology is closely linked with the work of UCL so that our new appointments will be associated with a critical mass of expertise in this key area.

As well as implementing the strategic plan for Schools which did not do well in the last RAE, it is also important to strengthen further those Schools which achieved a high RAE rating. In particular, I was pleased that another one of the Fellowships was awarded to the School of Psychology. Moreover, we are also currently advertising a new senior post in the School of Psychology in the area of Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) and this will be a joint Chair with UCL. This appointment will enhance our ongoing collaboration with UCL and will make use of the fMRI equipment which has been purchased jointly by ourselves and UCL using part of our HEFCE Capital Funding Allocation.

The strength of the College's research in general and the School of Psychology in particular is demonstrated by the award of the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education to Birkbeck on the basis of the work of the Brain Research Centre, which is a pioneering centre of brain imaging. I was delighted when, together with Professor Martin Eimer, I received the Prize from Her Majesty, the Queen, at a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace. On this occasion, we were also able to take with us staff and students from the Centre who were questioned by the Queen, Prince Philip and Princess Anne about their work.

Some of you may have seen the photograph on the website of me receiving the Prize from Her Majesty, the Queen, and it has been suggested that we should run a competition for the best "Private Eye" - type caption for this. This would perhaps present a means of identifying talented potential cartoonists amongst our staff, although they would need counselling about the perils of this as a career. It is already clear, however, that the enormous research talents which exist across the whole range of the College's activities are of enormous benefit to us both in terms of prestige and financially.

David S Latchman

Please send all items for inclusion in the Staff News to Chris Terrey, Secretary's Office, or by email: c.terrey@bbk.ac.uk

MAJOR RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH CLOSING DATES IN THE NEAR FUTURE

April

26	Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council – Responsive Grants cut-off date
27	Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Awards
28	Wellcome Trust – SCIART

May

4	Medical Research Council – Molecular & Cellular Medicine
5	Leverhulme Trust – Major Research Fellowships
11	Medical Research Council – Infections & Immunity

The College subscribes to the Research Funding Database, Research Research Ltd http://www.ResearchResearch.com to enable members of staff to keep up-to-date with research funding opportunities and news, both in the UK and Europe. Any student or member of staff with a "bbk.ac.uk" email address can log on to the site. Academic staff also have username and password accounts enabling them to set up email alerts under their specialist subject areas. If you have consulted the database and require further information, including advice on the Green Card procedure, please contact the Research Grants & Contracts Office on extension 6097 or by email to m.barthram@bbk.ac.uk

Research Grants & Contracts Office

GRANTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Dr U Coope, Philosophy
£50,000 from the Leverhulme Trust
Grant entitled "Philip Leverhulme Prize"
1.10.06 – 30.09.08

Dr N Derakhshan, Psychology
£85,718 from the Economic & Social Research Council
Grant entitled "Anxiety, Attention and Cognitive Performance"
01.06.06 – 30.11.07

Professor D Dickenson, Institute of Humanities
£34,070 from the European Commission
Grant entitled "INES – the institutionalisation of ethics in science policy, practices and impact"
01.02.05 – 31.01.07

Dr S Evans, Economics, Mathematics & Statistics
£2,800 + VAT from the DSTL
Grant entitled "Review Work on a Conflict Forecasting Model (PITF)"
01.01.06 – 30.01.06

Professor M Hunter, History, Classics & Archaeology
£312,420 from the Arts & Humanities Research Council
Grant entitled "Digital Library of British Printed Images to 1700"
01.03.06 – 28.02.09

Professor M Levene, Computer Science & Information Systems
£61,947 from the Department of Trade & Industry (subcontract from University College London)
Grant entitled "Process Envelopes for Cement-based Stabilisation/Solidification (ProCeSS)"
01.04.06 – 31.03.09

Dr X Liu, Management & Organizational Psychology
£22,000 from the Leverhulme Trust
Grant entitled "Mutual Productivity Spillovers in a Developing Country"
01.01.06 – 31.08.06

Professor D Moss, Crystallography
Approximately £186,477 from the European Commission
Grant entitled "IMMUNOGRID – the European virtual human immune system project"
01.02.06 – 31.01.09

Dr M Odlyha, Biological & Chemical Sciences
Approximately £174,572 from the European Commission
Grant entitled "SENSORGAN – sensor system for detection of harmful environments for pipe organs"
01.01.06 – 31.12.08

Dr G Roussos, Computer Science & Information Systems
Approximately £113,641 from the European Commission
Grant entitled "ASSIST: association studies assisted by inference and semantic technologies"
01.01.06 – 31.12.08

Dr N Wachsmann, History, Classics & Archaeology
£176,213 from the Arts & Humanities Research Council
Grant entitled "Before the Holocaust: the early concentration camps in the Third Reich"
01.10.06 – 30.09.09

Professor M Zakharyaschev, Computer Science & Information Systems
£94,885 from the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council
Grant entitled "Dynamic Ontologies: a framework for service descriptions"
01.10.05 – 31.03.07

Professor M Zakharyaschev, Computer Science & Information Systems
£134,517 from the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council
Grant entitled "Knowledge Representation and Reasoning about Distances"
01.10.05 – 31.07.07

JANUARY & FEBRUARY NEW STAFF

Mrs L Ashby, Secretary, Secretary's Office, 01.02.06
Miss E Balogun, Library Assistant, Library, 06.01.06
Mr V Behal, Clerical Assistant, Faculty of Continuing Education Administration, 04.01.06
Miss C Bradstreet, Postgraduate Editorial Assistant, English & Humanities, 09.01.06
Ms L Chan, Administrator, Computer Science & Information Systems 04.01.06

Please send all items for inclusion in the Staff News to Chris Terrey, Secretary's Office, or by email: c.terrey@bbk.ac.uk

Ms J Corsan, Administrator, Economics, Mathematics & Statistics, 04.01.06
Dr K Darko-Ampem, Library Assistant, Library, 05.01.06
Miss J Dunne, Administrative Assistant, History, Classics & Archaeology, 04.01.06
Miss C Fernandes, Administrator, Economics, Mathematics & Statistics, 16.01.06
Professor H Geman, Professor, Economics, Mathematics & Statistics, 01.01.06
Mr T Grossmann, Postdoctoral Research Assistant, Psychology, 09.01.06
Mr M Halling-Brown, Research Assistant, Crystallography, 01.02.06
Ms D Harding, Evening/Weekend Library Assistant, Library, 05.01.06
Miss E Hughes, Administrative Assistant, Geography, 09.01.06
Dr A Karmiloff-Smith, Professorial Research Fellow, Psychology, 01.01.06
Ms A Keating, Administrator – Foundation Degree Science, Biological & Chemical Sciences, 04.01.06
Mr R Kontchakov, Research Assistant, Computer Science & Information Systems, 01.02.06
Professor X Liu, Professor, Management & Organizational Psychology, 01.01.06
Dr A O'Reilly, Postdoctoral Research Assistant, Crystallography, 01.01.06
Mr G Robertson, Research Assistant, Crystallography 09.01.06
Miss C Sack, Research Officer, Psychology, 01.02.06
Mr M Sheremet, Research Assistant, Computer Science & Information Systems, 01.02.06
Miss H Smith, School Administrator, Geography, 09.01.06
Miss A Watson, Administrator, History, Classics & Archaeology, 16.01.06
Dr P Yule, Systems Developer, Psychology, 01.02.06
Mr Z Zhu, Teaching Assistant, Computer Science & Information Systems, 09.01.06

JANUARY & FEBRUARY STAFF LEAVERS

Mrs L Abraham, Senior Administrative Officer, English & Humanities, 12.02.06
Mr J Daltrey, Programme Manager, Faculty of Continuing Education Administration, 15.01.06
Mr A Dodkins, Attendant, Estates & Facilities, 21.01.06
Miss A Dyton, Course Administrator, Computer Science & Information Systems, 08.01.06
Miss J Finn, Clerical Assistant, Psychology, 06.01.06
Ms T Kelleher, Senior Library Assistant, Library, 08.01.06
Mr I Mair, Computer Assistant Economics, Mathematics & Statistics, 31.01.06
Dr A Mushtaq, Postdoctoral Research Assistant, Crystallography, 24.02.06
Dr B O'Hara, Postdoctoral Research Assistant, Crystallography, 28.02.06
Mr A Punaks, Alumni Officer, External Relations, 05.02.06
Miss R Sarcia, Income Assistant, Finance, 29.01.06
Ms A Stewart, Administrative Assistant, English & Humanities, 31.01.06

HONOURS AND DISTINCTIONS

Dr Isabelle Fremeaux, Lecturer in Media Studies and Programme Director for the Foundation Degree and BA in Media & Business Applications has won the Birkbeck Award for Innovations in Teaching.

VISITING PROFESSORS

Mr A Beevor, History, Classics & Archaeology, renewed, 01.10.05 – 01.10.10
Professor J Bennett, History, Classics & Archaeology, renewed, 01.10.05 – 01.10.10
Professor T Blundell, Crystallography, renewed, 01.10.05 – 01.10.08
Dr P Damesick, Geography, renewed, 01.10.05 – 30.08.08
Mr P Draper, History of Art, Film & Visual Media, renewed, 01.01.06 – 01.01.10
Professor R Evans, History, Classics & Archaeology, renewed, 02.01.06 – 01.01.11
Professor R Foster, History, Classics & Archaeology, renewed, 01.10.05 – 01.10.10
Professor P Goodfellow, Crystallography, renewed, 01.10.05 – 01.10.08
Professor C Herrup, History, Classics & Archaeology, renewed, 01.10.05 – 01.10.10
Professor R Jaenicke, Crystallography, renewed, 01.01.06 – 01.01.09
Professor C Joerges, Law, renewed, 01.10.05 – 01.10.08
Professor P Lindley Crystallography, renewed, 01.10.05 – 01.10.08
Professor P Murray-Rust, Crystallography, renewed, 01.10.05 – 01.10.08
Professor D Porter, History, Classics & Archaeology, renewed, 01.01.06 – 01.01.11
Professor S Satchell, Economics, Maths & Statistics, renewed, 01.10.05 – 01.10.06
Professor G Zoega, Economics, Mathematics and Statistics, 01.01.06 – 31.12.08

HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOWS

Dr J H Brinks, History, Classics & Archaeology, 01.09.06 – 31.08.09

Dr A M R De Dijn, History, Classics & Archaeology, 01.09.06 – 31.08.09

Professor K S Johnson, History, Classics & Archaeology, 01.09.06 – 31.08.09

Professor I Short, Languages, Linguistics & Culture, 01.01.06 – 31.12.08

ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOW

Dr J Stapleton, Law, 01.01.06 – 31.12.06

Please send all items for inclusion in the Staff News to Chris Terrey, Secretary's Office, or by email: c.terrey@bbk.ac.uk

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr J-M Dewaele, Languages, Linguistics & Culture
To present a paper entitled "Multilinguals' Language Choice for Mental Calculation" at the 31st International LAUD Symposium on Intercultural Pragmatics: linguistic, social and cognitive approaches. University of Landau/Pfalz, Germany. 27.03.06 – 30.03.06

Mr J-M Dewaele, Languages, Linguistics & Culture
To present a paper entitled "Do we need to Teach Phatic Communication in Foreign Language Classes?" at the Annual Conference of the Spanish Association for Applied Linguistics, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid, Spain.
30.03.06 - 02.04.06

Dr M Lorch, Languages, Linguistics & Culture
To present lectures at the Institute for Liberal Arts and the Science and Society Program at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.
06.03.06 – 10.03.06

Dr M Lorch, Languages, Linguistics & Culture
To present at the Brain, Behaviour and Cognition Colloquuim and lecture to the History of Science Society at Washington University, St Louis, Missouri. 03.04.06 – 07.04.06

RESEARCH CONFERENCE GRANTS

Dr A Bale, English & Humanities
To chair and convene a main panel on the poet John Lydgate at the New Chaucer Society Congress, New York, USA
£300, 25.07.06 – 01.08.06

Dr C Constantakopoulou, History, Classics & Archaeology
To chair a session and present the concluding final paper at a conference entitled "Networks of the Greek World", Crete, Greece
£300, 22.05.06 – 31.05.06

Dr E Dzelzainis, English & Humanities
To present a paper, entitled "Reason vs Revelation: feminism, malthus and the new Poor Law in narratives by Harriet Martineau and Charlotte Elizabeth Tonna" at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference at Rutgers, USA
£300, 29.03.06 – 02.04.06

Dr L Riall, History, Classics & Archaeology
To chair a panel on Spanish and Italian nationalism at a conference on nationalism at the American Historical Association in Philadelphia, USA
£300, 05.01.06 – 10.01.06

STAFF INFORMATION

Dr S Brady, History, Classics & Archaeology has had his thesis published as a book entitled "Masculinity and Male Homosexuality in Britain, 1861 – 1913" published by Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

Dr J Clark, Continuing Education, has been made a Visiting Research Fellow at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas from 13-03-06.

Dr J Gill, Central Computing Services was elected to the Board of the London Metropolitan Network (LMN) Ltd at the Annual General Meeting on 27.01.06, for an initial period of three years.

Professor M Hunter, History Classics & Archaeology has been elected a corresponding member of the Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences, Rue de la Sorbonne, Paris.

STUDENT PRIZE FOR 2006

Armitage Smith Memorial Prize
Dr J Sissons
Biological & Chemical Sciences
Prize of £100 awarded annually to a student who has spent at least one year conducting high quality research. Available in rotation to a postgraduate student from the Faculties of Arts, Science and Social Sciences

IN THE NEWS

If you would like to talk to External Relations about media coverage, whether it be for research, curriculum development, staff appointments or student stories, call Catherine Stevens, Media and Publicity Officer, on 020 7631 6569 or email c.stevens@bbk.ac.uk.

ESTATES AND FACILITIES

For the latest news regarding Estates & Facilities at Birkbeck log on to http://www.bbk.ac.uk/ef/news/index.shtml

AUA LONDON REGION – FORTHCOMING EVENTS

27 March - 12.00 noon until 2.00 pm - Martin Barnes of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education will deliver an interactive professional development session exploring the positioning of leaders in the HE Sector, at City University

May - (precise date to be confirmed) – a presentation on age discrimination and implications for staff and students, by a member of Pinsents-Masons

For further information, contact Esther McKaig ext 6359

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

CULTURAL STUDIES/CULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN EAST ASIA

A symposium jointly organised by the Japanese Cultural Studies Programme of Birkbeck and the Asia-Pacific Cultural Studies Forum of Goldsmiths,

Please send all items for inclusion in the Staff News to Chris Terrey, Secretary's Office, or by email: c.terrey@bbk.ac.uk

in co-operation with the Japan Foundation London, will be held on 17 and 18 March in the Conference Room of Japan Foundation London, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London WC1. Details from www.bbk.ac.uk/llc/subjects/japanese/ma_events/ma_events_il/

LECTURES AND SEMINARS IN LANGUAGES, LINGUISTICS AND CULTURE

Y Mouri, Professor of Sociology & Cultural Studies at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music, will give lectures and seminars in Languages, Linguistics & Culture from 14-03-06 – 24-03-06.

OBITUARY

The College regrets to announce the death of Mr Arnolfo John Caraffi, aged 93, on 19 February. Mr Caraffi was Secretary and Clerk to the Governors from 1952 – 1979 and was made a Fellow in 1979.

BIRKBECK LIBRARY

DIGITAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS: ENHANCING TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Do you want to know more about the electronic services available through the Birkbeck eLibrary? Would you like help in using the Library's electronic resources? The Library is putting in place a range of activities over the Summer Term to raise awareness of digital library resources and to support academic staff in using them in learning, teaching, and research. A programme of seminars and workshops will take place over the Summer Term and includes sessions on alerting services, open access initiatives, copyright, Oxford Scholarship Online, Economic and Social Data Service, digital repositories, and assessing the impact of your research. Further details are available at: www.bbk.ac.uk/lib/events.html

INTER-LIBRARY LOANS

From 24 April 2006, a charge of £1 will be made for each satisfied inter-library loan request. In order to comply with copyright legislation, the Library is required to make a charge for copies supplied to users including through inter-library loan. The income derived from the charge will be used to develop the collections in the Birkbeck Library. Special arrangements are being made for academic staff who need to use this service as part of their work. Lecturers will be able to obtain vouchers to attach to their inter-library loan request forms. The Library will be offering these vouchers for sale to Schools in blocks of ten. Schools will also be able to purchase these vouchers for their research students if they wish to do so.

CHILDCARE VOUCHER SCHEME

Recently we added a new staff benefit to our suite of employment policies - the Childcare Voucher Scheme. The Scheme is available to those staff who pay for childcare and who are parents or legal guardians of the child(ren). Birkbeck offers the scheme as a salary sacrifice, which is a new Government-backed scheme. Its aim is to reduce substantially the cost of childcare through a reduction in the payment of income tax and national insurance. A standard rate tax payer can benefit by more than £800 a year.

For more information on the Childcare Voucher scheme, including qualifying conditions and an application form, visit http://www.bbk.ac.uk/hr

Staff interested in the Childcare Voucher scheme may also be interested in considering related policies including "Family, Paternity and Parental Leave", "Adoptive Leave", "Flexible Working" and "Maternity". All policies include background information and the relevant application form; several of the policies include benefits in excess of statutory entitlements for qualifying staff.

INFORMATON ON HR POLICIES

If you have a question about any employment-related policies, or wish to suggest an area for policy development, do contact your Human Resources Advisor - Katy Halliwell for Schools in the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Robert Morrison for Schools in the Faculty of Science and Gareth Stirrat for the Faculty of Continuing Education and Central Administration.

STAFF DISABILITY SURVEY

During late March, all College staff will be invited to complete a Disability Survey. This survey will provide important disability-related information about the College's staff, as required under its statutory monitoring duty.

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 also requires the College to produce a **Disability Equality Scheme** by December 2006 (similar to the Race Equality Scheme that arose from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000). Essentially, this requires public organisations to establish and promote good working relations and sustained opportunities, for current and prospective staff, students or visitors, employed or served by the College in relation to disability.

As part of the College's approach to managing the production of information for the inaugural Disability Equality Scheme, we now wish to understand the level of disability amongst our staff. This

Please send all items for inclusion in the Staff News to Chris Terrey, Secretary's Office, or by email: c.terrey@bbk.ac.uk

information will help us develop and implement sustained Disability Action Plans to improve the representation and understanding of declared disabled staff. We will also be seeking to capture the ethnic origin of our staff as part of our annual reporting requirements.

The survey will be sent to staff by email and its completion will be invited via a secure online (intranet) format. Those staff who do not have email access, will be invited to complete a paper version of the survey for return to Human Resources. Full instructions will be provided.

All information received will be confidential and used only to fulfill statistical analysis and monitoring requirements. The data will be treated in line with the College's Data Protection Policy. A manager's brief will be circulated and more detailed information will be available from the Human Resources intranet site shortly .

We hope that the feedback information provided will help the College emulate its notable disability achievements in relation to students, for its staff.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Roy Ebanks
Diversity Manager (interim)
Human Resources

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES

According to the staff survey, improving internal communication is important to the Birkbeck community. In response to the survey a new "Master's Address" was held in October and was well attended. The Master is also now introducing a question and answer session into his regular staff lunches to improve communications.

In January, the first Internal Communications Working Group met to find more ways of improving internal communications. Chaired by the College Secretary, Keith Harrison, the group is initially looking at ways of improving the staff intranet, following the intranet survey (results of which are on the External Relations web site www.bbk.ac.uk/er). Future meetings will look at Staff News and social events.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Long Service and Retirement Tea
Monday 26 June at 3.00 pm
(Senior Common Room)

Master's Summer Party
Wednesday 5 July 2006 at 4.15pm

Master's Receptions for New Students
Tuesday 26 September at 6.00 pm
Thursday 28 September at 6.00 pm
(This year these events will be held at Mary Ward House, because Senate House is undergoing refurbishment).

Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

LONDON MARATHON

On 23 April James Brown of the External Relations department is running the London Marathon in aid of the Lords Taverners, giving young people, particularly those with special needs, equipment to play sport. Anyone willing to support James in his fundraising effort should visit www.justgiving.com/jblt for fundraising details.

CRICKET IS BACK

The Student's Union is delighted to announce the return of the Cricket Club after an absence of more than a decade. This follows the successful revival of the football team which is back in impressive form. To mark the return of the club and the start of the 2006 season, we would like to re-establish the annual match between staff and students that was a successful feature of College life in the past. Please show your support for cricket at the College. Members of staff who are interested in playing should contact Amit Trivedi on trivedi777@yahoo.com for more information. It would be particularly useful to hear from anyone interested in organising the staff side.

APPEAL FOR NEW AND OLD MOBILE PHONES

My appeal in the last *Staff News* for 'phones (with chargers where possible) has yielded some 12 'phones. Very many thanks to the kind people who have come forward. I shall be in Ghana in early April, and be able to distribute them to people in villages in the Volta Region, where they will make an inestimable contribution to the fight against poverty. Should anyone else have time to unearth an old 'phone (and charger), please do let me have it. As I say, the 'phones make a huge difference to people there.
Thank you in advance.

Penny Sewell, Languages, Linguistics and Culture, Room 214, 43 Gordon Square.

ACTIONAID RECYCLING

During 2005 Birkbeck College raised £1,384 through the collection of used printer cartridges and mobile phones. These donations have helped reduce local waste and global poverty by funding ActionAid's work and they look forward to hearing from us again.

Please deliver to the General Office, Malet Street.

Please send all items for inclusion in the Staff News to Chris Terrey, Secretary's Office, or by email: c.terrey@bbk.ac.uk