



University of Brighton

newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences newsletter for spring 2008.

This academic year has been an exciting one for the school. Dr Hal Sosabowski's Even Bigger Bang Christmas Chemistry Magic Show, held at the Brighton Dome, entertained and educated 3,000 school pupils and their families with exploding ostrich eggs and seven-foot long test tubes that go 'woof'. Behind the spectacular experiments there were two important messages: chemistry is important in everyday life and is an interesting and rewarding career choice.

"Chemistry and the related sciences are essential to our lives and I believe will be instrumental in tackling effectively some of the biggest challenges that face us in the future," said Hal. "There is a national shortage of students studying science subjects and

I hope that this show will help to inspire the budding young scientists of the future."

The Brighton Dome was also the venue for the 21st European Conference on Biomaterials 2007. This event was co-chaired by Professor Andrew Lloyd, dean of the faculty and Dr Matteo Santin and Dr Gary Phillips from the school. The conference sought to encourage scientists, industrialists and clinicians to debate more widely on how we can improve the translation of scientific research from the laboratory to the clinic.

Over 500 delegates from 37 different countries explored the latest approaches in the development of high performance biomedical materials through award lectures, invited keynote lectures, oral and poster presentations.

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Getting to know us

The School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences offers undergraduate degrees in pharmacy, biomedical sciences, applied biomedical sciences, ecology and biogeography, pharmaceutical and chemical sciences and biological sciences.

Our graduates have gone on to establish successful careers with

businesses and organisations including Pfizer, the National Centre for Marine Research and the Body Shop.

The school's research was recognised as world-class in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). Income from research from 2001 has averaged at just over £1m each academic year.

Staff news

Clam's clue to the aging process

Gerontologist Dr Richard Faragher has teamed up with scientists from Bangor University's School of Ocean Sciences to examine a 400-year-old clam. The quahog clam, believed to be the oldest living creature discovered to date, may yield valuable information on the process and problems of ageing.

“Looking at the physiology of a species that already ages far better than we do will greatly aid our understanding of why our own bodies fail. Of the few ultra-long-lived animals on this planet, only the quahog is small and simple enough to be studied in an informative and humane way.”

New president

Professor Geoff Hanlon has been elected honorary vice-president for the Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM). Geoff will shadow the current honorary president, Dr Margaret Patterson, before taking on that role in June this year.

SfAM is an international organisation with approximately 1,700 members worldwide and is responsible for publishing scientific journals and holding meetings and conferences for the benefit of its members. Geoff said: “It is an honour to be elected president and I look forward to playing a leading role in shaping the future of applied microbiology in the UK.”

Work starts on new buildings

Demolition work has begun on the old prefabricated project block and pharmacy annexe on the north-west corner of the Cockcroft site. The new £22m building which will house the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences will start to rise from the ground later this year.

This new facility will house the university's biggest lecture theatre

with a seating capacity of over 300, multifunctional lecture rooms and a 'green roof' space incorporating a greenhouse. The new school, built on nine floors, will incorporate an entrance foyer and student communal study area, as well as clinical skills, clinical practice and teaching rooms, a histology lab, microscopy and NMR facilities and a microbiology research lab.

Student news

Third year Pharmacological Sciences student, Simon Helyar, has been awarded a scholarship funded by Heart Research UK worth £6,000. Simon will be working with senior lecturer, Dr Jon Mabley, on a project looking at the interaction between the environmental contaminants polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and diet on cardiovascular disease.

Heart Research UK awarded seven scholarships based on geographical areas and Simon came up against strong competition with East Anglia and Southampton. Simon said: "This has been a fantastic opportunity.

The scholarship has allowed me to spend more time in the laboratory to focus on writing a paper." This is to be published by the British Pharmacological Society later this year and presented at the national conference.

Karuna Askoolum, who graduated with an MPharm in 2006, will be delivering her final year project 'Perception of a rotational training programme by band 6 pharmacists in an acute NHS Trust' at the United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association spring conference.



Simon Helyar



Chris Sutherland

New courses for 2008

We have expanded our course portfolio this year by developing a new degree in Analytical Chemistry with Business which addresses the essential role played by analytical chemists in medicine, forensics, nutrition, biotechnology, environmental studies, archaeology and space science.

Graduates will acquire a unique combination of analytical and business skills that will equip them for graduate-level management programmes and a wide variety of careers.

Student profile

**Chris Sutherland,
Biological Sciences Level 3**

How has the course compared with your expectations?

I enrolled onto the Biological Sciences degree course to study a broad range of biological subjects with a view to refining and developing my areas of specific interest. I found the level of variety and the staff expertise very helpful and encouraging. The course met every expectation and was malleable allowing me the opportunity to major in ecology as well as develop skills in other areas, required in preparation for postgraduate study.

What have been the best things about studying your course?

The main highlight of the course in particular has to be the field trip to South Africa. As well as being hugely influential in my chosen career it also gave me an opportunity to meet new people and develop existing friendships between colleagues and fellow students who have also contributed to such a positive experience.



**Chris Sutherland,
Biological Sciences
Level 3**

For me the balance of theoretical learning and practical applications made the course interesting, relevant and enjoyable.



Further information about living in Brighton can be found by visiting www.brighton.ac.uk/accommodation



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Frequently asked questions about accommodation

What accommodation is available?

Students have the following options available to them.

Private sector

Offers genuine independence, choice of location, type of accommodation, budget and flatmates.

Halls of residence

Located on or close to the university campus so not far to travel to lectures. You will share with students also in your position. Currently demand outstrips supply so halls cannot be guaranteed.

Where can I find out more?

The university has an accommodation team that can help and advise you in finding accommodation. The accommodation contact number is 01273 644100.

Further information about living in Brighton can be found by visiting www.brighton.ac.uk/accommodation. If you have accepted an offer of a place from the university you will be sent out an accommodation handbook that covers the details of finding a home.

Fast facts on fees

How much will I need to pay?

Fees for 2008 are £3,145 for full-time undergraduate students from the UK. You don't need to pay your tuition fees whilst you are studying (although you can if you wish).

When do I pay?

You can 'study now and pay later' by taking out a student loan to cover the cost of both your tuition fees and living expenses. You don't have to begin repaying your student loan until you are earning more than £15,000 a year. Your payments are determined by what you are earning and not what you owe: if your earnings are below the £15,000 threshold your payments will stop.

Is there any support available?

If you have an annual household income of up to £25,000 you could qualify for a maintenance grant worth up to £2,835 a year. Partial grants are available to those with a household income between £25,001

and £60,005. We estimate that almost 50 per cent of students at Brighton will be eligible for a full or partial grant. This grant does not have to be paid back. You may also apply for a student loan for living costs. You have to pay this back in the same way as the tuition fee loan.

Is there any support available from the university?

All full-time undergraduate students from the UK and the EU with household incomes of up to £39,305 a year are eligible for a University of Brighton bursary worth between £520 and £1,050 a year. There are also 200 University of Brighton scholarships worth £1,000 each. These scholarships recognise the achievements of students since starting at the university.

Visit www.brighton.ac.uk/money to find out more.

www.brighton.ac.uk/pharmacy