

Friends of Imperial College Annual report

Wednesday 15 October 2003, 170 Queensgate, London SW7 2AZ

1 Introduction

We have had a very successful year since our last AGM 24 October 2002 with four evening lectures or symposia, one Behind-the-scenes @ Imperial College and two social events attended by altogether some 500 Friends, Guests alumni and staff and providing a contribution of £1575 to college charitable funds.

2 Organisation

During the year the college continued to develop the concept of the Imperial College Association. Renée Medney and I attended meetings of the Association in January and June. All students, alumni and staff are automatically members of The Imperial College Association and receive basic communications from the college including the twice yearly magazine *IC Matters* and emails. The Association is an umbrella organisation to which special interest chapters are affiliated. Chapters include the engineering, science, agricultural, medical and mining alumni organisations.

Friends, starting life as an organisation which provided a portal to the college for neighbours in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, is attracting more and more alumni to its programme of events which highlight some of the outstanding scientific developments at the college. It is therefore being seen as an important chapter in the new structure.

3 Past events

We have organised the following events during the year:

The railways of Britain: Quo Vadis (also AGM) 24 October

AGM followed by a coruscating analysis of the failures to invest in railways in Britain by Professor Rod Smith, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. A complimentary supper provided by the College Catering Department followed in the Senior Common Room.

Optimising function: moving beyond the power of positive thinking 5 December

Professor John Gruzeilier talked about how positive thinking through self-reinforcement of our natural brain waves is helping drug addicts to give up drugs, musicians to play better and sportspeople to reach peak performance. We heard from the Olympic Rower Simon Dennis and the International Pianist Samantha Newbold about how they performed at their peak.

Christmas party 10 December

In December we held our annual Christmas Party at which the Imperial College Choir sang some well known and lesser known carols.

Behind-the-scenes @ Imperial College: Materials 27 February

We were the guests of Professor John Kilner, Head of the Department of Materials, and his team to learn how defects give metals strength, allow superconductors to attain zero resistance and even make light bulbs shine; how apatites provides the strength in our teeth and bones and how scientists are seeking to repair and regenerate where it has been lost; how electron microscopes are used to check on the composition of aircraft turbine blades which are operating at far higher temperatures and speeds than were thought possible 40 years ago.

Can I control myself: Harnessing the hunger hormone 23 April 2003

Professor Steve Bloom talked about his work on how hormones affect our appetites and the possibilities of reducing the rising tide of obesity. He was joined by Dr Richard Ashcroft, medical ethics; Jacqueline Boorman, Olympic sports dietician; and Normandi Keith, Beauty Editor for *You magazine*

IC Art Show 11 June 2003

We held our annual summer art show in the in the Art Space in the Sherfield Building, organised by Therese Wright and Judith Richards, showing two artists David Walker and Peter Latimer. David exhibited some exquisite Italian, French and Scottish landscapes in pastels and oils. Peter showed some striking seascapes in oils.

Spinning Gold: innovation and wealth creation 23 September 2003

Dr Susan Searle, CEO of Imperial Innovations Ltd, talked about the college programme of patenting and spin out companies. She was joined by alumni Steve O’Dea and Bruce Garvin directors of a spin-out company Ceres Power; Professor David Klug, an Imperial academic and founder of Powerlase; and Richard Harris, alumnus and early stage investor.

4 Attendance

We have records of attendance for the following events during the year. Professor Gruzelier’s lecture was exceptionally well attended partly due to the support from an associated organisation Business Through Friendship. The numbers of alumni attracted to that evening and the Spinning Gold evening were high and auger well for the future.

	Gruzelier Lecture	Christmas Party	Behind the Scenes at Materials	Bloom Lecture	Spinning Gold
Friends	22	36	20	18	21
Alumni	46		7	13	52
Guest	61	14	6	42	16
Staff	8	7	2	18	5
Total	137	57	35	91	94

5 Membership

I have to report that our membership is, as of today, lower than this time last year. This is principally because we have changed the way in which the subscriptions are arranged. All memberships are now renewed as from the 1 October each year, rather than, as previously,, throughout the year. Not everyone has yet done so. We have 65 single members, 13 family members and 35 outstanding. I urge those that have not paid their dues for this year to do so and encourage their friends to join.

6 Recruitment

During the year we have been developing a recruitment campaign which we will be implementing during the year. A new brochure is to be printed shortly. It will be distributed to all graduates at Commemoration Day at the end of October. We are also aiming to attract those alumni that have attended our events to join as members.

We are seeking links to other organisations, similar to Business through Friendship, to arrange joint events. We have talked to a number of Resident's Associations, are advertising in the Knightsbridge Association Annual Report and met representatives of the Ismaili Centre in South Kensington.

The benefits of membership are:

- Learn about the very latest developments in science, engineering, medicine and management – in terms that a non-specialist can understand!
- Appreciate key social, economic and ethical issues surrounding scientific development in the 21st century;
- Gain privileged access to many of the facilities and programmes that are part of College life including the Sports Centre, Libraries, Language and IT courses and campus café's and restaurants;
- Meet and socialise with like-minded people.

I would like to thank Ian Mackenzie and Renee Medney the committee members who are particularly concerned with this programme.

7 Finance

We have made a surplus of £1575 of income over expenditure. This includes surplus from each of the events plus donations of £421.

I would like to thank all who have donated so generously during the year.

8 Future events

Your committee is working on a full programme for the coming year which includes

19 November Dr Olivia Judson, author of the hilariously funny and best selling *Dr Tatiana's sex advice to all creation* talking on the Evolution of Female Promiscuity

10 December Christmas party and carol singing in the Rector's House
170 Queensgate

9 Thankyou

During the year Liz Gregson who provided us with administrative support from within the Office of Alumni and Development has taken on other roles and her responsibilities have been taken up by Alison Hiller. The administrative support includes organising the promotion and ticketing of our events, organising and reporting on finance, arranging the events and supporting the committee and attending its meetings. I would like to thank them both for their hard work and enthusiasm during the year.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee who have contributed so much to the smooth running and success of the events. Rodney Allen, Anne Barrett, Marcus Gibson, Olivia Graham, James Joly, Dick Kitney, Ian Mackenzie, Renee Medney, David Philips, Philip Temple (who keeps our committee minutes) and Melanie Thody.

Roderick Rhys Jones

15 October 2003