

Friends of Imperial College Annual report

Tuesday 27 September 2005, Sir Alexander Fleming, London SW7 2AZ

1. Introduction

We continue with our aim of helping the College with one of its five strategic intents “to communicate widely the significance of science in general, and the purpose and ultimate benefits of its activities in particular.”

We have continued during the year with our programme of lectures, visits and social events.

2. Organisation

The major change this year is that your committee has taken on the responsibility for the organisation of our membership and activities.

We have a service level agreement with the Office of Alumni and Development, OAD, which provides us with some administrative support through the College database of alumni and supporters and publicity through its website and regular e-bulletins.

Most importantly we are responsible for our own finances.

As part of the change we have engaged the help of Graham Rainford who will be helping with the administration of membership, finance and events.

We intend that much of the communications with our members will be through the internet thus reducing administration costs.

We have launched a new website at www.friendsofimperial.org.uk which will list all our events and provide downloadable booking forms and other information. Events will continue to be available on the College website.

3. Past events

We have organised the following events in the Academic Year 2004 to 2005:

Wednesday 16 February, 2005

Behind the Scenes @ Mechanical Engineering

A visit to see what is going on behind the scenes at the top ranked Department of Mechanical Engineering at the invitation of Professor Rod Smith.

The department was ranked top in the UK by both The Guardian and The Times last year and this visit will offer a fascinating glimpse of the contribution mechanical engineering is making to our lives in the 21st Century.

Wednesday 15 December 2004

Lasers – Light up your life!

Dr Karen Bultitude and Dr Ilya Eigenbrot spoke at the Imperial College Christmas Lecture for children *Lasers – Light up your life!*. Dubbed 'The Solution in Search of a Problem' when lasers were first invented 40 years ago, they have become tools of the electronic age: used

in CD players, telecommunications, guidance and measuring systems, printers and very much more.

After the lecture, Friends celebrated with dinner at Hugo's Restaurant opposite the College main entrance.

Tuesday 9 November 2004 from 6.45pm

THE BIG BANG

Dr Simon Singh MBE, author of the UK no. 1 bestseller Fermat's Last Theorem and The Code Book. He is an alumnus of the College and gave a lecture to a crowded lecture hall based on his latest book *Big Bang*.

Monday 13 December 2004 18:00

Christmas music, carols and readings in the Tanaka Building – main entrance.

A number of members joined in with the revelry

Wednesday 16th February

Behind The Scenes @ Imperial Mechanical Engineering

Professor Rod Smith will introduce a tour of the department where we can see the work of the department and the way it is changing to meet new challenges.

Tuesday 14th March 2005

On the path to a cure for rheumatoid arthritis

Professor Sir Ravinder Maini, Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, was Knighted in 2003 and won the Crafoord Prize from the Swedish Academy of Sciences in 2000. Last year he was awarded the Lakser prize. He is recently retired as director of the Kennedy Institute for Rheumatology at Imperial College London, where he led a team of researchers over a 15-year period looking for new treatments for rheumatoid arthritis.

May 2005

Is sustainability achievable – ever

Julia Marton Lefevre Executive Director of LEAD International. (Leadership for the Environment and Development) founded by the *Rockefeller Foundation* and hosted at Imperial College gave a powerful analysis of the problems facing the world and how they might be tackled by each and everyone of us.

4. Membership

In August membership stood at 93 (87 last year and 78 the year before) including 27 alumni

5. Finance

We took over our finances this year and the College transferred £2,663.08 in to our account. This sum represented the membership fees for the year.

The committee is recommending reducing the membership subscription from £35 a year £60 for a family membership to £25 with a reduction to £20 if the member has an email address

or pays by standing order. This means that we will have to nearly double our membership this year in order to maintain our income.

6. Future events

We have a programme published well in advance this year which is available downloadable on the web at www.friendsofimperial.org.uk. The programme also includes a membership form. We hope that our members and others will circulate it widely and encourage their friends to join.

In brief the programme is

Tuesday 27 September 2005 7.00pm

The emergent mind

Emeritus Professor Igor Aleksander FREng

Tuesday, 8 November 2005, 6.30 - 9.00 pm

Private View - Andre Derain: The London Paintings

Courtauld Institute Gallery, Somerset House, Strand.

Monday 5 December 2005, 7.00 pm

Christmas Carol Party

Richard Dickens, Director of Music

Friends of Imperial College in association with Imperial College Women's Club.

Tuesday 17 January 2006, 7.00 pm

Mad cows, monkeys, and Chinese ducks – the birth of new epidemics

Professor Roy M Anderson FRS, Chair in Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence.

Tuesday 22 March 2006, 6.30 pm

Behind-The-Scenes @ Aeronautical Engineering

Professor Richard Hillier, Chair of Compressible Flow, Head of Department

Wednesday 3 May 2006, 7.00 pm

Engineering: some vital inputs to society; transport, energy and risk

Professor Rod Smith FREng Chair of Mechanical Engineering, Head of Department

Wednesday 19 July 2006, 6.30 pm

BEHIND-THE-SCENES @ BIO-MEDICAL ENGINEERING

Professor Chris Toumazou, Chair of Analog Circuit Design and Director of the Institute of Bio-medical Engineering

7. Thank you

I would 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, James Joly,

Professor Richard Kitney, Dr Ian Mackenzie, Renee Medney, Philip Temple and Melanie Thody.

Our particular thanks go to Professor David Philips who has retired from the committee after many years very valuable service also to Olivia Graham who has always been concerned to make sure we had a programme issued well in advance. This year for the first time we have. I would like to thank them both together with and all our members.

Roderick Rhys Jones

9 November 2004