



inventors corner



Dr Molly Stevens tells Reporter about her life-changing year

The last year has certainly been an eventful one for Dr Molly Stevens, Reader in Regenerative Medicine and Nanotechnology and head of the large eponymous research group.

Dr Stevens has become the mother of twins as well as a founding scientist in a new company, BCT Ltd, which develops tissue engineering products. In scientific circles, she had already made a name for herself—being voted one of the world’s top 100 scientific innovators

under 35 by *Technology Review* magazine in 2004 and receiving the Philip Leverhulme Prize for Engineering in 2005, as well as several other notable awards.

BCT will develop synthetic biologically active tissue engineering products, aimed initially at the orthopaedic and maxillofacial markets. She is confident that additional interaction with the orthopaedic industry and surgical teams will be of great benefit to her core research group at Imperial.

Dr Stevens believes that her research group’s success lies in a focus on high quality innovative work and the group’s multidisciplinary nature, resulting in new exciting ideas emerging all the time. She is excited about seeing a number of the therapies that she is working on help patients in the future.

Asked how she balances her many responsibilities, Dr Stevens says: “It comes down to a lot of organisation, creativity and hard work, but it is also a lot of fun. The members of my research team are excellent and without their hard work and motivation, balancing everything would be an impossible feat.”

She adds: “I would strongly encourage more women in academia to feel that they can balance their work role with a family. We need to encourage institutions across the UK to provide much more support to female academics. I have a large number of excellent female researchers in my group, one of whom has just had twins herself.”

— CHARLOTTE STONE, INNOVATIONS

▶ *Imperial Innovations may be able to help you find an alternative commercial application for your research. For further information, please visit www.imperialinnovations.co.uk or contact the technology transfer team on 020 7581 4949.*

Celebrating long service



Mr Ashok Jamdagni

A part-time student job turned into something more permanent for Physics Research Officer Ashok Jamdagni who is celebrating 40 years’ service with the College. Ashok joined the High Energy Physics team during his evenings off to provide analysis of Bubble Chamber films. He was offered a full-time post and has since played a key role in projects including the ZEUS experiment, providing programming and hardware support for a Central

Tracking Detector based in Hamburg, Germany. “I’ve stayed so long at Imperial because the atmosphere is fantastic and the people are so nice,” says Ashok, who faces a further milestone this year. He is training for his first marathon—at Tresco on the Isles of Scilly on 22 April—running with colleagues to raise money for cystic fibrosis. Ashok also hopes to spend more time on his other interests including swing jazz, golf and athletics.



Mrs Louise Green

“I knew from my first day here that it suited me and I wanted to stay,” says Louise Green, Academic Administrator in Civil and Environmental Engineering who is marking 20 years’ service.

Louise joined the College as a junior clerk in the Registry’s Admissions Office, moving to Civil Engineering as Admissions Officer in 1989. Her promotion to academic related grades in 1991 marked her increased responsibilities handling undergraduate

admissions and development of her post. Louise has a long commute into Imperial from Milton Keynes and in 2004 helped found a local rail user group to bid for better travelling conditions. She also enjoys walking—particularly in the Lake District—whenever she gets the chance and is something of a ‘foodie’, encouraged by her husband who’s a chef!

Obituaries



Professor Patrick Purcell

It is with great regret that *Reporter* records the death of Professor Patrick Purcell, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, just before his 78th birthday. Pro-

fessor Purcell was an Irish-born academic and researcher in social computing, the application of digital media, and human-computer interaction (HCI). Based in the Department for the last 13 years, he was previously Professor of HCI at the University of Ulster (1990-94), a visiting professor at the MIT Media Lab (1982-90), and a

senior research fellow and tutor in design research at the Royal College of Art. His book, *Networked Neighbourhoods: The Connected Community in Context*, was published last year and considered the impact of the internet on familial and social relationships, the way people work and live, and even their civic involvement.

According to Sir Christopher Frayling, RCA Rector and Chairman of Arts Council England: “Patrick was a pioneer of computing and design long before art and design education caught up with the digital age. As a result, he was something of a prophet without honour in his own country.” He was known for being supportive of his colleagues, and especially students, and will be sorely missed.

▶ Visit www.ee.ic.ac.uk/inmemoriam/patrickpurcell for Professor Purcell’s memorial website.

▶ *The Editor is pleased to accept brief appreciations in remembrance of colleagues, reserving the right to edit these before publication. Please email a.platt@imperial.ac.uk*

Mr Martin Gill

An interest in geology and an inspirational leader are behind Martin Gill’s 40 years’ service for Imperial. Martin, a Research Technician in Earth Science and Engineering, says: “I enjoyed geology at school and, in fact, followed my chemistry teacher to Imperial. My Principal for many years was Professor Doug Shearman who was both inspirational and wonderful to work with.” Martin started in the sedimentology section, but now divides his time between running the gas chromatography laboratories and, once a week, overseeing X-ray powder diffraction in the Natural History Museum. He walks to work every day from his home in Battersea and, away from College, enjoys watching ballet, theatre and film, as well as travelling overseas whenever possible.



Staff featured have celebrated anniversaries during the period 7 to 27 February 2007. Data is supplied by HR and is correct at the time of going to press.