DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE

Newsletter | April 2017 | www.eng.ox.ac.uk





Dear Oxford Engineer,



When I wrote to you in the spring last year, we were getting ready for the EU referendum. Twelve months on, we cannot deny that the result on 23 June 2016 has already had an impact on the University and the Department. We have a substantial number of European academics and researchers in the Department, and when I meet them they tell me that they feel less welcome than they did twelve months ago. The University and the Department have worked as hard as we can to reassure them on that score, and the University has appointed Professor Alastair Buchan, who has been Head of the Medical Sciences Division for the past eight years, as its Head of Brexit Strategy. Professor Buchan

is trying to steer a middle course between Brexit despair (no free flow of EU students or academics is an unmitigated disaster) and Brexit euphoria (the UK will regain the standing it had at the End of Empire and join the US in leading the western world).

One of the consequences of Brexit, regardless of whether it ends in triumph or disaster, is that we will need more graduate engineers trained in the UK. Having worked very hard at getting the University and colleges to agree to increase the number of undergraduates we admit each year from 160 to 180, I am now trying to respond to the demands of Rolls-Royce, Dyson, BT and other UK companies by setting the goal at 250. The extra places would be based on our world-leading excellence in robotics and our new option in engineering and entrepreneurship. Senior management in the University is very receptive but there is a lot of work ahead in trying to persuade colleges to offer more places to engineers. Anything you can do as alumni to help would be most welcome.

With respect to research, two of the key priorities in the Government's recently-announced Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund are robotics and medical technology, which can only be good for the Department. The real challenge for us will be responding in good time when the call for proposals eventually comes, probably in the middle of Finals and Prelims marking. . .

Another area of technology growth in which the Department has a stake, in the activities of several research groups, is the Internet of Things. I am delighted that this year's 43rd Maurice Lubbock Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Naomi Climer, an expert on this subject (see below). We will also have the Jenkin Lecture during the University's Alumni Week-end, to be given this year by Professor Katya Shamonina on the emerging topic of metamaterials and their applications.

If you would like to keep up with activities in the Department, please visit the 'News' section of our website: www.eng.ox.ac.uk. We also hope you will visit the Oxford Engineering Alumni (OEA) section of our website: www.eng.ox.ac.uk/alumni

I hope to see many of you at either the Lubbock lecture or the Jenkin lecture.

My very best wishes, Yours sincerely

L. Tarassenko

Lionel Tarassenko Professor Lionel Tarassenko CBE FREng FMedSci, Head of the Department of Engineering Science



Lord Jenkin of Roding, Patrick Jenkin (1926–2016)

Alumni will be saddened to learn of the death of Lord Jenkin of Roding who died aged 90 on 20 December 2016.

The grandson of our first Professor,
Charles Frewen Jenkin (elected 1908),
Patrick Jenkin was a good friend to the
Department, a benefactor and the Patron of our Centenary in 2008.

Patrick had won his parliamentary seat at Woodford in 1964 succeeding Sir Winston Churchill and occupied a range of posts at the Treasury and in Industry, Energy, Environment. One of his proudest achievements was to be the minister who authorised the project to build the Thames Barrier. In the House of Lords he was a long-time member of the Select Committee on Science and Technology, and he was involved with many institutions and charities related to science, engineering, environment and health.

A lasting mark of his appreciation of our work was his agreement in 2015 to a long-term loan of his grandfather's drawing instruments and a mirror galvanometer to the Department. They are now displayed in the Jenkin building ground floor lobby.

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The 43rd Maurice Lubbock Memorial Lecture 10 May 2017



The title of Naomi's lecture is: 'Will future communications technologies lead to cyber wars or a better world?"

Naomi is an engineer, whose career has been spent in the broadcast and communications technology industry including at the BBC, ITV and Sony both in Europe and the US. She is a Trustee and Past-President of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), Chair of the International Broadcasting Convention (IBC) Council and Chair of the UK Government (DCMS) Future Communications Challenge Group (FCCG) looking at the technology opportunities for the UK created by 5G and the Internet of Things. Naomi is a Governor on the Board of the National Film and Television School (NFTS), Commissioner on an independent commission on the Future of Work and also works as a consultant with the Board of Sony's UK Technology Centre.

In addition to Naomi's lecture, we will be staging exhibitions on projects being undertaken by final-year undergraduates and showcasing the Department's research under the theme of 'Technology After 5G'. This year we also have a special schools programme to engage and excite young women in Years 10, 11 and 12 to study STEM subjects and engineering at University.

For further details and booking please visit: https://lubbock2017. eventbrite.co.uk

Leaving a gift in your will to the **Department**

In the Department we educate the brightest and best students from across the world and undertake research across the depth and breadth of engineering science.

As we look to the future, we would like to ensure that our research endeavour and teaching provision is sustainable for generations to come.

A Legacy gift will help the Department continue to support internationally leading research programmes and exceptional students.

Your support will really make a difference. Whether large or small, for graduate scholarships, academic positions, or to support core activities, every gift is valued and appreciated.

If you would like to know more about leaving a gift to the Department in your will, please contact Hannah Curwell-Parry on (+44) 01865 682580 or email hannah.curwellparry@devoff.ox.ac.uk www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/donate/ legacies-and-bequests

Thank you

Your data

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Full details on how your data are held and used are set out in our Data Protection Statement at www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/ oao/dataprotection or you can request a hard copy from the address below. Some sensitive personal data may be held in DARS. If at any time you have any queries about the use of your personal data, or no longer wish to receive a specific communication, please contact the Database Team, quoting your Alumni Card number (if you have one), at: Development Office, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, United Kingdom: database@devoff.ox.ac.uk.

Oxford Alumni Weekend



15-17 September 2017

As part of the University's Alumni Weekend, the Department will present a number of activities on Saturday 16 September (a date for your diary). As already mentioned, these will include

the Jenkin Lecture by Katya Shamonina,

Professor of Engineering Science and Tutorial Fellow at Wadham College, on 'Metamaterials: beyond conventional', as well a strategic update from me on the 2020 Vision for the Department and the Oxford Engineering Alumni (OEA) Annual General Meeting. I will forward more details to you in the summer.

