

1851 Royal Commission Alumni

E-mail Newsletter August 2006

Dear Royal Commission Alumnus,

Time has flashed past this year since the high point in February of the Commission's Alumni Reception at Buckingham Palace and the Science Evening, enjoyed by over 400 Royal Commission award holders and their partners. Nearly six months on it is certainly time for a summer newsletter to bring alumni up to date with activity in the Royal Commission.

The South Kensington Estate

The profile of and levels of activity on the Commission's legacy estate continue to rise. As well as the major development programmes of individual institutions and the ongoing plans to develop Exhibition Road, the major institutions are also starting work on a Government supported Carbon Neutral project to reduce their combined energy consumption. At the same time, a round of South Kensington anniversaries is coming up, including Imperial College's centenary and the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Victoria & Albert Museum, both in 2007.

Alumni Activity

Also in 2007 our Alumni Science Evening is planned for 13 February, when Professor Anne Dell, eminent biologist and Royal Commission Fellow, will be the keynote speaker. We also hope that we can continue to build on the events of this year to widen alumni participation in Commission activities in the future.

2006 Royal Commission Awards

The Commission's core activity – the granting of awards – continues, of course, and we have just completed granting the 2006 Fellowships and Studentships. The range and quality of applicants remains very high and once again we had a record number of applicants for Research Fellowships. The full list of new award holders, shortly to be announced in the press, is as follows:

Research Fellowships

Applied Science or Engineering

Dr Tom Lancaster	Physics	Oxford University
Dr Apala Majumdar	Mathematics	Oxford University
Dr Mark Travis	Molecular Biology	Manchester University
Dr Thomas White	Physics	St Andrews

Other Science Projects

Dr Matthew Fayers	Mathematics	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
Dr Rene Frank	Biochemistry	Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute
Dr Alan McConnachie	Astronomy	University of Victoria, Canada

Industrial Fellowships

Mr Amir Bahrami	TWI Ltd / University of Cambridge
Mr Martin Birkett	Thermal and Electrical Properties of Carbon Nanotubes and their Composites Welwyn Components Ltd / University of Northumbria, Investigation and Optimisation of the Performance Characteristics of Low Resistance Metal Film Resistors
Miss Sarah Hudson	Johnson Matthey Technology Centre / University of Southampton A comparative study of alloys & platinum for fuel cell applications
Mr Thomas Parnell (<i>ERA Foundation Fellow</i>)	Arithmatica Ltd / University of Warwick Perpendicular Read Channel and Advanced Detection Algorithms
Mr Christopher Poczka	Spirax Sarco Ltd / University of Sussex STAPS: Smart Trap Acoustic Performance Sensor

Industrial Design Studentships

Miss Kirsty Allan	Cranfield University
Miss Eleanor Davies	Royal College of Art / Imperial College (2 nd Year Only)
Mr Henry Ellender	Royal College of Art / Imperial College
Miss Laura Harrison	Royal College of Art / Imperial College
Mr Benjamin Males	Royal College of Art
Mr Yusuf Muhammad	Royal College of Art / Imperial College
Miss Katie Taylor	Royal College of Art / Imperial College

New Fellowship in Design

As well as granting an increasing number of awards in the above programmes, this year we have introduced a new 2-year Research Fellowship in Design. This will be awarded every other year in the intervening years from the Built Environment Fellowship. Full details are on the website and we are currently assessing applications for the inaugural 2006 Fellowship.

2007 Awards

In order to take the Commission's office procedures into the 21st century (and to cope with ever-increasing numbers of applications) we are planning to introduce a web-based application process for 2007 Research Fellowships. This will mean the possibility of both electronic submission and assessment of applications. We will be trialling it in the autumn before it goes live when the 2007 awards are announced on the Commission's website. We will also be giving greater encouragement for applications in engineering with the introduction of a new Brunel Research Fellowship – specifically for an engineering project. We will be extending the web application process to all other award programmes in later years.

Keeping in Touch

Finally, we enjoy our developing dialogue with previous award holders, so please keep in touch – including updating your details on the alumni website.

Meanwhile, Commissioners and staff send you every good wish.

Malcolm Shirley
Secretary to the Commission