To provide support to alumni with respect to their continuing professional development

To promote social, academic and career networks amongst alumni primarily of the School

To maximise the opportunities presented by creating a vigorous alumni network to enhance the School’s relationships with employers around the world.

Professor Balasubramaniam will be working with a core team of Professor Rick Crawley (the School’s Director of External Relations), Susan Lucas, and Iain Cameron to establish the Alumni Office, and they will be working with colleagues in departments and on programmes who already undertake alumni activities such as newsletters and events.

We shall be contacting alumni shortly with news of an inaugural dinner and to invite you to participate to help make the Association a great success.

The School launched its new website on 10 June 2002 after many months of intensive development. The site has been completely overhauled, with a new, integrated look-and-feel. It’s a large and complex site, with well over a thousand pages. In addition to the things you’d expect like courses and degree programmes, you’ll find sections on the latest news and events taking place at LUMS, staff profiles, publications lists, information for employers about graduate recruitment, and a lot more too.

The design brief was to develop a site that featured consistent site-wide navigation to provide fast access to the major areas of information for employers about graduate recruitment, and a lot more too.

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The renewed 5-star status is an outstanding achievement for all of us at LUMS. We are one of the very few UK business schools with the research excellence to compete as a global educator. Our international programmes such as the European Bachelor in Business Administration and the International Masters in Practising Management are examples of our ambition for the future.

The maximum 5-star research rating applies to the entire School, which comprises six academic groupings, each of which either specializes in undergraduate, postgraduate and research programmes. They are Accounting and Finance; Behaviour in Organizations; Economics; Management Learning; Management Science, and Marketing. The School can justly claim to possess one of the largest communities of the UK’s best business and management thinkers.

Our current research strengths include an interdisciplinary emphasis on Organization, Technology and Learning within which particular themes are Knowledge Management, Networked Management Learning, and the Management of Exporters as well as research in Stock Market Valuation, Corporate Governance, Corporate Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Retail Marketing, Consumer and Industrial Buyer Behaviour, Operational Research, and International Business.

Professor Sue Cox, Lancaster’s new Dean, commented:-

“The renewed 5-star status is an outstanding achievement for all of us at LUMS. We are one of the very few UK business schools with the research excellence to compete as a global educator. Our international programmes such as the European Bachelor in Business Administration and the International Masters in Practising Management are examples of our ambition for the future.”

I am sure you will want to join with us in congratulating Mike Goggin for his success in winning the Association of MBAs Student of the Year Award 2001. Mike successfully completed the Executive MBA at Lancaster in October, and beat off competition from most of Europe’s top accredited Business Schools to win the award - a cheque for £1000 at a ceremony in London.

The final stage of the competition involved Mike and three other finalists, from London Business School, BSE Business School (Barcelona), and the Instituto de Empresa (Madrid). This is the second time in three years that LUMS has won this prestigious international award, with Gill Hall (FT MBA 1998) being a previous winner, an achievement of which we can be proud.

Mike is Programme Manager of Performance Recovery for Pricewaterhouse, a fact that not surprisingly was the subject of much comment and wave humour during the ceremony. But behind the superficial jokes Mike’s story is one of remarkable courage and determination, which clearly influenced the judges. Diagnosed with a serious illness after starting the EMBA, he was later a victim of burglary, included in which was his PC with all his MBA notes on the floor. To cap it all he was injured as a passenger in the Selby rail crash last year, a EMBA he was later a victim of burglary, included in which was his PC with all his MBA notes on the floor. To cap it all he was injured as a passenger in the Selby rail crash last year, a

Congratulations to Dr Steve Fleetwood, Senior Lecturer in Behaviour in Organisations, who has been awarded one of the University’s two Pilkington prizes for teaching excellence in 2002.

His award was made especially for his undergraduate teaching where he has engaged and enthused students in difficult subject matter using innovative approaches to course design and assessment methods and a undertaken a process of continual improvement based on analysis and feedback on the teaching and learning experience.”

With the new web site will come an on-line updating facility for graduates. Please do keep in touch and tell us if you change jobs or move house, either by email to s.cameron@lancs.ac.uk or by accessing the University’s on-line facility at ktru-main.lancs.ac.uk/public/alumni

September 2002

Dean launches Management School Alumni Association

Professor Sue Cox has asked Professor Balasubramaniam to head up a new Alumni Association for the benefit of LUMS alumni.

The aims of the Association will be agreed with representatives of the alumni, but initially will focus on the following:

- To promote social, academic and career networks amongst alumni primarily of the School but also alumni of the wider University now pursuing managerial and business careers, and between alumni and current students of the School

- To provide support to alumni with respect to their continuing professional development.

To maximise the opportunities presented by creating a vigorous alumni network to enhance the School’s relationships with employers around the world.

The design brief was to develop a site that featured consistent site-wide navigation to provide fast access to the major areas of information for employers about graduate recruitment, and a lot more too.

We have again produced a paper version of the Directory of alumni focusing on Masters and PhD graduates. A good proportion of graduates is included, with better coverage of more recent years. Find out what your classmates are doing now - do order a copy for only £3 (plus p&p inc) by sending your job and contact details, either by e-mail or through www.lums.lancs.ac.uk/pages/alumni/directoryof Alumni Office, Lancaster University Management School, Lancaster LA1 4YX, UK

Graduates

Directory of

Alumni

Office

Graduates

Alumni

Office

Lancaster

University

Management

School

Lancaster

University

Management

School

Lancaster University Management School (LUMS) has again been confirmed as one of only two UK business schools to have received the maximum rating for research quality in every Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and Wales since 1992 (HEFCE, 14th December 2001).

The maximum 5-star research rating applies to the entire School, which comprises six academic groupings, each of which either specializes in undergraduate, postgraduate and research programmes. They are Accounting and Finance; Behaviour in Organizations; Economics; Management Learning; Management Science, and Marketing.

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Forthcoming Conferences

The Lancaster Centre for Management in China was launched in mid 2001. In the past year, the Centre has arranged Seminars in the Management School, research visits to China and collaborated in the organisation of the China National Networking Day. Its first conference was planned for 3 - 4 April 2003 with the theme 'China: Past and Present'. For more information and registration forms, visit www.lums.lancs.ac.uk/pages/research/centres/chinacentre or email the conference organiser and Centre Director, Professor Alasdair MacBean (a.macbean@lancs.ac.uk). Outline papers (200 words) are invited by 30 October 2002.

Organizational Learning and Knowledge 5th International Conference (OLK5)

The conference, scheduled for 30 May - 2 June 2003, is the fifth in a series which the past has been held at Lancaster, Georgia Washington University, and the key School, University of Western Ontario. The aim is to consider recent advances in research and theory in the field of organizational learning and knowledge. Themes include the nature of learning and knowledge; the social processes of organizational learning and knowledge management; learning across boundaries; strategy, competitiveness and learning methodology. See the web site www.OLK5.org

3rd International Conference on Critical Management Studies

The conference theme: Critique and Inclusivity. Opening the Agenda, aims to open a space for interrogating the relations between critique and inclusivity and the place we will be addressing a variety of interrogations linked to the various dimensions in and between diverse specialists of management studies in ways that stimulate interactions and agendas and go beyond them. This range of critique from diversification, from labour process to philosophy, from technology to sexuality and gender.

See the web site www.cmstconference.org. Conference dates are 7 - 9 July 2003.

Email Teresa Wisniewska: twisniewska@lancaster.ac.uk for further information.

New Chinese Business Networking Initiative

This event, held in June 2002, was a three-day networking opportunity for business schools, students and current students.

Mr Huang Xiaoyong, Consul General for China in Manchester, has special guests and representatives from the Manchester Transport Ltd, Wulf Elektronik (Manchester), ANG Technologies (Birmingham), Hunter International Associates Ltd (Powys), Zetex plc and Business Link.

Presenters, manned by business students, academics and students. Mr Peter Nightingale, CEO of the China-British Business Council, outlined the work of the Council, stressing that the non-political nature of the Council made it effective.

Alstom Transport Ltd of Preston has won large contracts to supply metro trains to China, especially in Shanghai, which sees it as a city of major train transport growth. Mr Paul Lomax said: ‘To ensure effective joint ventures it is important that both partners have the same expectations, and that appropriate business decisions be made for each partner’.

Mr David Benstead and Mr Tod Wiggin of Zetex plc told of the pitfalls and learning in their Chinese joint venture experience. Commitment to long-term aims and pragmatic solutions has built a lasting future for them and their Chinese partner.

Academics from the School and from Leeds University described their research interests, which included purchasing non-performing Chinese businesses (Dr Luo Qi, Leeds), management and credit control (Dr Dermot Williamson), and the Chinese stock market (Prof Gary Xuj).

Balu’s contribution

It seems hard to believe, but after 33 years Professor V N Balasubramanyam is retiring - officially at least. Balu will be remembered by generations of undergraduate and graduate students as an enthusiastic and passionate teacher – known as the ‘Bomberg Express’ to some students – and as one of the leading practitioners in the field. He has recently been working on the Indian software industry, which has given him an opportunity to review his original hypotheses.

During his career he has served as Head of the Economics Department and Associate Dean for Teaching in the Management School, but his formal titles do not do justice to the wide influence he has had throughout the University. Colleagues have always valued his dedication to unnecessary bureaucracy, his devotion to the support of overseas students, and his wise counsel in all difficulties.

Alongside his professional career, Balu’s chief passion has been his continued work in partnerships. He has been a notable member of the staff cricket team and his room was always the first port of call for news on test matches.

Behind all this, he has enjoyed the support of his wife Dr Atabah Balasubramanyam, who has recently been working with him on his Indian software project, and his children, Maja, who has a doctorate from Imperial College, and Rajiy, who after studying at Oxford and Cambridge, won a national prize in her final year.

In retirement Balu will be able to pick and choose the teaching he enjoys, continue his research, and lead a new organisation designed to improve links with our Management School Alumni.

Top Publication

Professor Steve Arkroyd, Head of the Department of Behaviour in Organisations, has been appointed a UK editor of a prestigious new work of reference, “The Handbook of Work and Organization”, to be published at the end of this year by Oxford University Press.

Steve joins an international team drawn from Cornell University in the USA, Strathclyde in the UK and now, with his membership, LUMS, to edit what promises to be landmark work of reference. The book will contain more than 30 articles to be written by outstanding scholars in organization studies from around the world. We aim to make a definitive statement about the current state of knowledge in the field of work and organizations by summing up the achievements of the 20th century and looking forward to developments in the 21st century, says Steve.

The new reference book will follow on the back of the book he produced, “Managing the Process of Change: A Micro Level Approach to Organizational Change”, published in 1999 by Sage, which is now a standard text. The new handbook will feature such names as Barry Staw, Shabbir Carnevale, and Rajiv, who, after working on the Indian software industry, has given him an opportunity to review his original hypotheses.

Launching a Venture for High Flyers

Leading entrepreneurial companies from across the North West, including the North West MBA team, will be gathering in Lancaster in October 2001 for a Breakfast Seminar marking the launch of a new Venture Network for the region. The Venture Network was created by Charter Consulting and our Entrepreneurship Unit.

The seminars are aimed at developing a regional network where organisations can exchange views on the latest management thinking with like-minded business leaders, practitioners and academics.

The first Venture Network meeting focused on how organisations can become more enterprising and featured a presentation by one of the most innovative entrepreneurs in the North West, Martin Higginson, CEO of Monstermob Limited.

‘Both Charter and the University are pleased with the response to this event’, said Trevor Baring, Senior Partner at Charter Consulting. ‘We are already planning the next seminar which will be held in March next year.’

For further details contact Dr Luke Pitawara, Entrepreneurship Unit, 01524 599591 or Fiona Shepherd at Charter Consulting (01524 596889).
Dr Söhrke Bartram joined the department of Accounting and Finance as Lecturer in Financial Economics in May 2002 from Maastricht University, where he was a member of the Institute of Financial Economics. Previously he taught at the University of Saarbriüken, the University of Michigan, WHU Koblenz and the Ohio State University. His research interests centre around issues in international and corporate finance, especially financial risk management.

Professor David Collinson was appointed to the FME sponsored Chair in Strategic Learning and Leadership in January 2001. He isbased in our department of Management Development. He joined LUMS from Warwick Business School and has previously held appointments at the Universities of Manchester, St Andrews and Florida State. In 2001 David was also Hallsworth Visiting Professor at Manchester Business School. His research develops a critical approach to management, organisation and organisation studies, informed by a strong structuralist debate on power/subordination and gender/masculinity. David's research interests include: contextualised managerial control strategies (eg. controlling PRF outsourcing), the politics of time, space and surveillance of managers, employee survival strategies, workplace resistance, gender, men and masculinity and organisation and its role in organization. His current research focuses on the development of critical understandings of leadership and culture - see his new book for details of his publications.

Paul Graves joined Accounting and Finance as Departmental Administrator in September 2001. He has previously been a student of the University, graduating in 1988 with a degree in English Language, and a diploma in law and is a chartered accountant in the University's Academic Registry's office from 1990 to 1997. He has also worked for local government in the fields of European funding and economic regeneration.

Dr Stergios Levendis came to Lancaster in 2001 on completion of his PhD at the University of Strathclyde, being appointed to a Lectureship in Finance. His research interests include Accounting Information in Emerging Markets, Accounting Regulation, Corporate Governance, Voluntary Disclosure in Emerging Markets and the Implications of Accounting Disclosures.

Dr Maria Piacentini joined the School as a Lecturer in Marketing from Sydney, in August 2002. She gained her PhD from Queen Margaret University College in 1998, examining the food choice habits of socially communicating communities. The central focus of her research is consumer behaviour, and she is particularly interested in the symbolic aspects of consumption practices. Areas of application of this research fall in both non-profit and commercial domains, particularly related to consumer decision making, retailing and food choice practices.

Dr Nigel Loockt joined the department in December 2002 as lecturer in A-level. He holds an MSc in Information Management and his PhD focuses on e-business engagement projects with small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) at Lancaster. His role at LUMS is to develop an e-business teaching, mainly at postgraduate level, but also at undergraduate level through his research. Currently his research interests include information management, strategic information management and information management in contemporary virtual and digital enterprise communities. He has 14 years senior managerial experience, including 8 years as managing director of a healthcare supplier company and 2 years as a divisional managing director in a UK plc. He currently acts as non-executive director to a healthcare supplies company and is an active co-operative. Nigel is also a member of the Quaker's and Business Group.

Dr Drider Soopramanien was appointed as a Lecturer in Management Sciences in June 2003. He recently completed a PhD in Economics at LUMS. His PhD was on gender effects in the labour market and modelling the participation and occupational outcomes. He plans to carry out research in the field of consumer choice and behaviour. Before coming to Lancaster, Drider completed an MSc in Economics and Finance at the University of Bristol.

Dr Dermot Williamson also joined in December 2002. He studied in Scotland to join LUMS department of Accounting and Finance in September 2001. He taught international accounting at the University of Glasgow. He completed his PhD in perceptions of management control, chinased Chinese and British managers. His other research interests include operational risk management, credit control, and grounded methodology. Prior to becoming an academic, he was an accountant with the Royal Dutch/Shell Group in the UK, the Netherlands, and For East. His first degree was in Law from Dundee University. Dr Williamson is also an active member of the Lancaster Centre for Management in China which has part funded a recent research visit to China.

In the last academic year we have also said goodbye to some of our leading staff members. 


Professor V Balasubramaniam (Economics) who has supervised me for the past three years is leaving for University of Arizona. He has been welcomed by Dean Professor Sue Cox (Accounting) who has come to us from the University of Manchester.


Professor Aneel Farewell (Accounting) joined LUMS from Warwick Business School to take up a Chair in Organisational Theory. Mike has been at Lancaster for 14 years during which time he has played an active part in departments (School and College) and the University. He is a Life Fellow of Furness College and its lively alumni society. He has had a substantial impact on the business school. His research involves coaching, a leadership exchange and debriefing for strategic issues facing their organisations. It had to be fast. MDD proposed the use of lead2lead which involved a leadership exchange and debriefing for 700 executives.

Another change to report is that Dr John M ackness is leaving for Ivey Business School in Canada on October 2002, to take up a Chair in Organisational Theory. Mike has been at Lancaster for 14 years during which time he has played an active part in departments (School and College) and the University. He is a Life Fellow of Furness College and its lively alumni society. He has had a substantial impact on the business school. His research involves coaching, a leadership exchange and debriefing for strategic issues facing their organisations. It had to be fast. MDD proposed the use of lead2lead which involved a leadership exchange and debriefing for 700 executives.

The end result was that with little loss of management time, executives learnt a lot about leadership and coaches and others in similar positions resulting in improved understanding and awareness throughout the new company. The added bonus was that a ‘lead2lead network’ was set up in the organisation with all the participants sharing a common experience and having the language and knowledge to transfer learning to others. Several other companies are showing interest.

The programme is designed to deliver the MBB curriculum but also focus the debate, discussion and action learning work specifically towards the sponsoring companies. In this way there are gains for students and their sponsors.

The launch date is November 2002 and the contact is Professor Ramesh Mehta on 01524 53495, email: rmkh@lancaster.ac.uk
This NWDA-funded project is a key part of the European Community Programme aimed at developing countries in Asia with information technology related research in priority application areas. The new research project is joint with LUMS and the Centre for the Study of Technology and Organization (CSTO) at Lancaster University. It is being undertaken in partnership with the University of Lancaster Business School and the Ministries of Education in Sri Lanka and Laos, and contributes to the ‘ICT Economy’ and ‘ECommerce’ areas of the Community Initiative. It is being undertaken in partnership with the University of Lancaster Business School and the Ministries of Education in Sri Lanka and Laos, and contributes to the ICT Economy and E-Commerce areas of the Community Initiative.

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