

Our commitment to training has led to new technologies, award-winning staff and world-class science.



Where there's muck there's brass

Converting cow manure into electricity is the latest spin on the Midas Touch from a young team from Cranfield University. Their idea for an efficient and original use for slurry won the Environment Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES), which is funded by NERC and targeted at environmental researchers.

The YES scheme, based on the successful Biotechnology YES initiative, is a three-day workshop where teams receive training on a range of skills related to commercialising their science. On the final day teams present a business plan based on hypothetical science to a panel of equity investors to secure funding, and win a range of prizes.

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Freezing assets

With 80,000 hits on the British Antarctic Survey's new online recruitment system it is easy to see why they won the award for 'Best Human Resources Practice' in the

Recruitment Confederation awards for the East of England. They also won two categories in the national Public Sector People Managers' awards.

Mapping campaign wins national award

The Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern handed the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland the award for best public information campaign at a awards ceremony held in Mansion House, Dublin.

The award was for a publicity campaign for a major three-year geological mapping programme, the Tellus Project, covering the whole of Northern Ireland. The project involved a plane flying just 56 metres above ground. The campaign involved 80,000 letters, TV and radio appearances, newspaper articles and dozens of presentations to government departments, farmers, schools and general interest groups.

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People and prizes

Plymouth Marine Laboratory director Professor Nick Owens becomes director of the British Antarctic Survey in summer 2007 following Professor Chris Rapley's retirement.

New Year's Honours

NERC Council member and Defra Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor Howard Dalton received a knighthood.

Ed Jenner, chairman of NERC's Science and Innovation Strategy Board, received an MBE.

Former director of the British National Space Centre and former Council member, Dr Colin Hicks, received a CB.

David Highley, now retired from the British Geological Survey, received an MBE.

Dr Nicola De Paola, Durham University won the 'Outstanding Author' award for the best paper published by the Journal of the Geological Society of London by a young author.

Professor Nicholas Barton was awarded the Darwin prize by the Royal Society.

Professor Phil Ineson, Centre for Terrestrial Carbon Dynamics, won the Marsh Award for Ecology presented by the British Ecological Society.

Dr Huw Sheppard, British Geological Survey, was awarded the 'Young Author of the Year' by The Geological Society in February 2007 for the best scientific

Staff, students and fellows

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Directly employed staff*	2,600	2,727	2,736	2,659
Staff in HEIs**	773	690	1,216	1,227
Fellows	77	84	98	97
PhD	1,033	1,042	1,032	996
Masters***	330	325	335	383

Notes:

* Total number of individuals

** Staff in higher education institutions employed on research grants.

*** This data is based on numbers of students directly funded by NERC. It does not include studentships funded through cross-council programmes, where another research council administers the award.

Clockwise from left:

The Cranfield University team who won the Environment Young Entrepreneurs Scheme.

The team from the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland receiving their award from Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

The British Antarctic Survey's new director Professor Nick Owens.

Professor Sir Howard Dalton at the Rothera aquarium in Antarctica.

paper published in the Journal of the Geological Society of London by a researcher under the age of 30.

Dr Joanna Wragg, British Geological Survey, received the Allan Ure Bursary Award, awarded to young scientists in the field of environmental analytical chemistry, by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Dr Gary Wealthall, British Geological Survey was appointed a Nottingham Ambassador in February 2007.

Professor Sarah Wanless, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, won the Zoological Society of London Marsh Award for Conservation.

Former Chief Executive Sir John Lawton was awarded Honorary Fellowship of the Zoological Society of London.