

As a result of Charlie's dedication to the photocopying account and the two successful parties, ASA finances were in a very healthy state entering the New Year (2003). Such affluence required another celebration and "The Booze Cruise" idea was born (woe betide ASA if the students ever become teetotal). Part subsidy by ASA meant that the ticket prices were very reasonable and the minimum of 50 places was filled. No secrets can be revealed about what went on; it is sufficient to say that it didn't rain and we didn't lose anyone overboard into Loch Lomond. There was a short video recording of Martin (one of the MScs) dancing (??) but that has now been forwarded to "You've Been Framed".

ASA finances are still healthy and this year's Christmas Ceilidh was just as much of a success ... even with the French interpretations. We hope that you will continue your support and we look forward to another year of memorable events. Any ideas, contributions, donations and all your encouragement should be addressed to Sandra Laffon - Ms. Fiesta. Viva ASA!!!!

Nail biting finish to Institute match

Ben North

Once again, after a bit of encouragement from keener and more impressive members, the staff were able to field a side of 11 against an eager and talented student team. Three mainstays on the staff team came over from the Institute's Howietoun Fish Farm. Despite benefiting from abundant Latino talent, the students could not keep Howietoun's Chris from scoring the first goal for the staff twenty minutes into the game after a defensive mix-up in the student ranks. Strong defence and an efficient off-side trap (all those hours on the training field paying off!) in the second half kept the staff ahead until the last minute when Javier pushed through a goal for the student team. In ten minutes of extra time no 'golden goal' was scored, but the students shone through, winning the penalties 1-0. Refereeing, as ever, Charlie kept control of the game, and was grateful not to have to take anyone to hospital this year. The cheering crowd enjoyed the match and a few beers with the teams afterwards. Will the winning team benefit from such MSc-student talent next year? Come and join in.



Bryony Dixon nee Banks **PhD 2001**

I completed my PhD in 2001 at the IoA. I am currently working as a post-doc at Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Centre, Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Government. I'm involved in 3 different projects, the first is a microsatellite project looking at the population genetics of the saucer scallop (*Amusium balloti*) in Australia and New Caledonia, the second is a microarray project looking at disease resistant genes in barramundi and the third project is investigating genes involved in regulating moulting in sand crabs (*Portunus pelagicus*) and mud crabs (*Scylla serrata*). Bribie Island is just north of Brisbane, and BIARC is conveniently located about 300m from the beach. See you all out here for some collaboration!

Hannah Chubb **MSc Aquatic Pathobiology** **2002-2003**

After the masters course in Aquatic Pathobiology I moved to St Andrews to start work as a research assistant in the fish muscle research group at The Gatty Marine Laboratories. I am currently involved in a Norwegian funded project looking into the growth of the striated portion of the King Scallop adductor muscle. I am enjoying both work and living in beautiful St Andrews.

Tom Dixon **PhD 2003**

2003 was a very productive year for myself and Bryony. All started well with the completion of my PhD at the Institute, and continued in that direction in April when we headed off for a new life down under. After taking a small side-step, I am currently employed as a post-doc by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Livestock Industries in Brisbane, Queensland, working on disease resistance in sheep. The position utilises many of the techniques I gained whilst in the IoA, including gene expression studies, DNA

marker work and science communication, and is further expanding my skills in the fields of immunology and mammalian biology. The lifestyle down here is treating us well with several trips through NSW and Victoria with work, and a bit of personal travel to Magnetic Island, Sydney and Fraser Island in between times. Combine all of the above with our new found hobby of barbecuing, and we now feel quite at home down here!



Nicola Hastings **PhD 2003**

In June 2003 I submitted the final copy of my thesis for examination and was successfully awarded the Ph.D. on the 15th of July. During this time I began a post-doc position at the Roslin Institute (Edinburgh), the position focuses on mastitis resistance in cattle and involves QTL analysis. However, I have also been involved in a number of other projects at the Roslin Institute including typing the MHC polymorphisms in the RoBoGen herd, a specific herd owned by the Roslin Institute and bred for scientific purposes, and recently I have received a grant to study the genetic basis for the decline of fertility in dairy cattle. The latter project will not only help to employ me but it will employ a new member of staff to help with the technical side of the project. I have also moved house to Roslin village where I'm enjoying both country and city life, although I do still miss everyone at the Institute of Aquaculture and living in Stirling.

Marine Herlin **MSc Aquaculture 2002-2003**

Thanks for your e-mail asking what I am doing: I have started, since the 1st of October, a PhD under the supervision of both David Penman and Brendan Mc Andrew. The title is "sex determination of Atlantic cod and Atlantic halibut". I am at the moment reading in my new office D16.

Emmanuel Leguay
MSc Aquatic Veterinary Studies
2002-2003

I have just finished writing and correcting my French thesis. It was a big work. At the same time I was looking for jobs in Polynesia and New Caledonia and other parts of the world where the veterinary degree is recognised. In the meantime I will work as a cow vet for 4 months, then I might ask for free work in ornamental fish farming for a couple of months. But as it's free I have to work a lot before. There are quite a lot of opportunities in what I want to do but mainly in the US.



Richard Lloyd
MSc Aquatic Veterinary Studies
2002-2003

Thought I'd give you a quick progress report. I'm currently in the US doing a 2 month externship in the veterinary department at the New England Aquarium in Boston which has a large collection of fish, invertebrates, penguins, marine mammals and some reptiles. It also runs a rescue and rehabilitation department to deal with strandings on the Eastern Seaboard coast, so a lot of my work here the last couple of weeks has been involved with stranded sea turtles that are late migrating and become 'cold stunned' in the dropping water temperatures. I have also met up with Scott Dowd (MSc Aquaculture last year) who works here as an aquarist - I've attached a picture that you may like of the 2 Stirling graduates stomach tubing a 50lb Redtailed Catfish!

Lorna Marshall
PhD 2003

Whilst writing up the old PhD thesis I defected to the FRS Marine Lab in Aberdeen during December 2002. I ran away to work with Schering-Plough Aquaculture (formerly AVL) and I now conduct research in various areas of vaccine production. I managed to submit the thesis in July 2003 and survived the Viva in September, so I'm now a fully paid up member to the PhD club! I'm currently still working with SPA in Aberdeen, but live in Stonehaven (I'm beside the sea at last!!) as I couldn't cope with the city.



Eunice Pérez Sánchez
PhD 2002

Thank you for inviting us to share our progress. If there is a chance for sharing in the next issue of Aquaculture News, I can say I am glad to be back at home where I resumed my post at the Juarez University of Tabasco.

I am now a member of the Postgraduate Committee and I am temporarily coordinating the interdisciplinary lab for undergraduates.

On the research side, I am collaborating with the University of Campeche, a fellow Mexican institution, in a GIS and Remote Sensing project to assess the catchment area of the Candelaria and Grijalva-Usumacinta rivers for several purposes including aquaculture.



Professor Christina Sommerville was appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, replacing Professor Lindsay Ross on 1st August 2003.



Mags and Jimmy, had a healthy baby boy, Connor Crumlish Turnbull, on the 12th of September 2003. Everyone is well and despite a bit of sleep deprivation having a lot of fun.



Mini-Taggarts

Introducing Alexander Findlay and Adam Mackenzie Taggart, born on 11th July 2003. Both boys are happy, active and thriving. Both parents are happy, active and near exhaustion.