**Happy New Year**

The Christmas term was very busy and made all the more challenging with the snow and ice in December. The dedication of Biosciences’ staff in trying to maintain the teaching programme during these difficult times was obvious as only minor disruption was incurred. Now in 2011 we have new challenges to address. The School is preparing itself for the post-Browne era and is gearing up for the Research Excellence Framework (REF), where the quality of our research will be assessed sometime during 2013, with a submission by the end of 2012. Both the teaching reorganisation and REF planning will take dominant roles during the coming 12 months and will help us in strategic vision of ensuring that we provide all our students, both undergraduates and postgraduates, with a research-led training experience that will enhance their opportunities as the next generation of bioscientists.

**Biosciences newsletter**
While On Sabbatical...

Mike Geeves as part of his sabbatical year has been travelling.

Mike spent 2 weeks on a whistle stop tour of the USA during November. First in Boston to visit 3 sets of collaborators: Srba Mikhailov at Harvard School of Public Health to work on a 2 papers developing different approaches for computer models of muscle thin filament regulation. The work has been stalled for about a year and it needed a face-to-face meeting to restart. 2 days later to Boston Biomedical Research Institute to present two seminars and to lead a round table discussion

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New Post in Stores

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January 2011 Professor Alan Bull £11,986 from the Royal Society for a project ‘Biodiversity and natural products of actinobacteria from hyper-arid desert soils’

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Times Higher Education Awards

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Alan Bull’s Desert trip

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