

Children 'do better in grammars'



Children who go to grammar schools in England achieve better grades than those of similar ability who are not in selective areas, recent research by Bristol researchers shows.

The study, 'The result of 11+ selection: an investigation into opportunities and

outcomes for pupils in selective LEAs' by Adele Atkinson, Paul Gregg and Brendon McConnell from the CMPO, suggests that pupils from poorer backgrounds do particularly well, but relatively few children from the poorest families go to grammar schools. The research was widely reported in the media.

Top job for alumnus

At just 35, Dr Jameel Khadaroo (MSc 1998) has landed an enviable job: Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, the country's central bank. Following his PhD at Bristol, Jameel joined the Department of Economics at the University of Mauritius before taking up his current position. He is the author of numerous papers and has been a consultant to the World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat and the UNDP on issues relating to the Mauritian economy.

Read an exclusive Q & A with Jameel inside.

Prize for student's research into obesity

CMPO student Stephanie von Hinke Kessler Scholder (PhD 2005-) has won the International Health Association prize for the best paper in health economics by a PhD student. Stephanie's research is on the economics of childhood obesity. It investigates whether economic factors are part of the explanation for the increase in childhood obesity in the UK.

Welcome

As I write this, one of our main buildings is a building site and the staff have moved elsewhere. By the time you read this, many of the staff will have returned and 'C Block', which is accessed by hundreds of students daily, will be nearing the completion of its radical transformation. After the enlarging and redevelopment has been completed, the ground floor will have a more professional feel and be much more fit for purpose. Part of this redevelopment will create a new, fully equipped room for PhD students.

In 2006/07 we ran two new Masters programmes: Finance and Investment, and Accounting, Finance and Management. Both are proving popular, with significantly more students due to start this year.

Buildings and programmes are not the only new things in the School this year. We continue to develop in many other ways. The Centre for Public Organisation (CMPO) has been involved in winning a number of large research grants over the past year. New research projects have started in every department, and there has been quite a turnover in our teaching fellows.

The other articles in this newsletter will give you more of the flavour of the School; it is certainly a vibrant place to be at present. As ever, we are keen to keep in touch with our alumni and we always value your comments and contributions.

Dr Steve Lyne

Head of the School of Economics, Finance and Management

Inside



CMPO news

Hot off the press

The latest issue of the CMPO's bulletin, *Research in Public Policy*, has just come off the press. It includes a number of articles written by speakers at the Public-Private Partnerships workshop run by the CMPO in November 2006. You can download it from the CMPO website.

Podcasting research

The CMPO is making its key findings available to the public as downloadable podcasts. A number of podcast interviews with the authors of articles in *Research in Public Policy* have been released, as well as interviews with CMPO researchers and visitors on their recent research findings. These interviews are free to download from the CMPO website and people can subscribe to a newsfeed. In the not too distant future, the CMPO plans to podcast a number of conference presentations, as well as move all of its news reports to the newsfeed. To find out more about the podcasts and to subscribe to the newsfeed, visit www.bristol.ac.uk/Depts/CMPO.

Staff update

Daniella Acker (PhD 1998) has been appointed as Professor of Accounting and Finance. Her recent research has focused on two main areas: the effects of the tax system on corporate capital structure and the implications of basing empirical research on monthly share returns data.

Professor Tony Brewer has been elected to the executive committee of the European Society for the History of Economic Thought.

Professor Jon Temple has been elected to the Council of the Royal Economic Society for the period 2006-11.

Professor Carol Propper (BSc 1977) has been appointed to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and to the chair of the ESRC Research Grants Board.

Fabien Postel-Vinay has been appointed co-editor of *Labour Economics*, the journal of the European Association of Labour Economists.



Women in charge

A series of seminars was held this year to examine the role of women in management and organisational history. Mary Phillips and Ann Rippin from the Department of Management organised the event. 'The reason for doing this was simple,' they said. 'There is a real gap in scholarship on the contribution of women in the history of organising and we wanted to start to close it.'

The seminar series was organised chronologically, starting with self-organising women in the medieval and early modern period and ending with a facilitated panel discussion of the perennial question of whether women organise differently to men and what that might mean. A number of former students from a range of different organisations took part in the discussion.

Raising awareness of management

Senior human resources and organisation development managers from industry and the public sector joined University staff and potential students at the launch of the Department of Management's revised part-time degrees in May this year. **Dan Doherty (PhD 2004-)** (right) described the department's approach to education. **Ann Rippin (MSc 1994)** highlighted the MSc in Management Learning and Change and **Humphrey Bourne** introduced features of the revised MSc in Strategic Management.



Reader in Economics Sonia Bhalotra has been awarded a research grant from the ESRC-DFID scheme to investigate the paradoxical fact that Muslims have lower childhood mortality rates than Hindus in India; the usual predictors of mortality risk suggest that the opposite should be the case.



Q&A

Dr Jameel Khadaroo

Dr Jameel Khadaroo (MSc 1998) was appointed Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius earlier this year.

When did you become interested in economics?

At secondary school, I was exposed to the theory of demand and supply and I realised that economics is about decisions made in everyday life. Which book to buy? Take the bus or walk?

Why did you choose to study economics?

The intellectual challenge was appealing. In addition, my mathematical inclination played into my choice. I also felt that a good knowledge of economics could enable me to 'make a difference' to the lives of my fellow Mauritians.

Why Bristol?

The international reputation of the University, the conducive and friendly environment, and a scholarship all led me to study with the greatest satisfaction at Bristol.

What do you miss most about Bristol?

The highly intellectual environment and friends from around the world.

How useful has your PhD from Bristol been?

It has fully equipped me to face the exigencies of an increasingly competitive labour market. Applied econometrics, my area of specialisation, has provided me with the right mix of theory and application thereby enabling me to operate efficiently both within and outside of academia.

How would you rate the Economics Department?

It is without doubt among the very best in the UK and is visible on the international front for its quality of research and training.

What attracted you to the post of Deputy Governor at the Bank of Mauritius?

My work and research came to the attention of the Prime Minister,

Dr Navin Ramgoolam, who recommended to the President of the Republic, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, that I be appointed as Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius. I feel privileged indeed by this appointment. Congratulations, Bristol.

You moved from academia into the world of banking. Have there been any challenges in making this move?

My primary responsibility at the Bank of Mauritius, where I handle the monetary policy dossier, is in line with my academic background, hence no major difficulty on the technical side. However, my new role also has to do with managing several divisions and this has necessitated that I quickly develop soft skills.

Have you got any tips for young, aspiring economists who want to work in banking?

Work hard and work smart. Success will be yours.



St Louis, Mauritius
istock

Alumni update

Simon Aird (BSc 1993) is now a Managing Director for Credit Suisse in Hong Kong. He moved there in 2003 after spells in London and New York with Credit Suisse and HSBC.

Isabel Denny (BA 1968) has recently had a book published, *The Fall of Hitler's Fortress City – The Battle for Königsberg 1945*.

Tony Hoskins (BSc 1971) set up The Virtuous Circle, a corporate reporting, corporate social responsibility and reputation consultancy in 2000. His book, *The ICSA Company Reporting Handbook*, was published in July.

John Mace (BA 1965) was elected leader of Lancaster City Council.

Ian Pain (BSc 1986) is Financial Director of DX. Previous to this, he worked in the investment team at the Prudential's private equity arm.

Alan Riding (BA 1964) now lives in Paris. Alan says: 'I slid away from economics into journalism. I also wrote books and recently left journalism to write about the cultural life of Paris during the Nazi occupation.'

Keith Ryan (BA 1963) said: 'I am trying to trace my 1960-63 excellent management accounting teacher who lived in Bristol, Mr V Cornwall. Thanks to him, I enjoyed the subject and worked in it for 35 years.'

David Spurling (BSc 1970) has completed his 11th and 12th books, one on accounting and another on business studies. He has formed a college in Nairobi which runs degrees and professional courses.

Alastair Tyler (BSc 1987) is a member of the academic board representing the views of 170 tutors for the ifs School of Finance. He is also Director, Media and Entertainment, at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Mei Wai Wong (BSc 1994) now lives back in Singapore. She is currently General Manager at Fraser and Neave, a conglomerate in Asia.

A change is brewing

An Economics and Politics degree is not the traditional qualification for entering the brewing industry, but when **Bob Douglas (BSc 1975)** was offered early retirement by his then employer, ACAS, in spring 2006, he was faced with deciding what to do next.

'After over 20 years with ACAS, I was more than ready for a change in direction, and this new direction was decided over a number of conversations with friends on local golf courses. In the course of these, I discovered that a former ACAS colleague and a friend of his were both as keen as me on the idea of starting a microbrewery.

We moved into our premises in May 2006 and started brewing about one month later. It has been one massive learning experience and also hugely enjoyable. It's an interesting and stimulating industry to be in, very friendly and old-fashioned in many ways. The hardest thing has been establishing our name in what is becoming a very crowded marketplace, but we are gradually building up our customer numbers, mainly around our East Midlands

base. This year, we have been asked to supply one of our beers (Early Bird) to the Great British Beer Festival at Earls Court. We are trying to use English ingredients to reduce beer miles – this is easy enough with malt but many hops are now imported, so we do without them and use the traditional English varieties.

We intend to continue to develop the business, as locally as possible, and to enjoy doing what we all see as a worthwhile and positive job.'

www.magpiebrewery.com



Above: inside the Magpie Brewery; Bob Douglas and his wife, Carol Douglas (née Jackson) (BSc 1976)

Taking the helm at *The Telegraph*

William Lewis (BSc 1990) was appointed Editor of *The Daily Telegraph* in October last year. The former *Sunday Times* business editor joined the newspaper last year as joint deputy editor. He oversaw the completion of the paper's move to Victoria in central London after being made editorial managing director in the summer. William also worked at the *Financial Times* for more than eight years, where his roles included global news editor and mergers and acquisitions editor.

Editor: Pam Franklin

School of Economics, Finance and Management, 8 Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1TN.
Tel: +44 (0)117 928 8415
Email: email_econ-alumni@bristol.ac.uk
www.bristol.ac.uk/efm

If you need part or all of this publication in an alternative format, eg in Braille, in larger print or on tape, please contact the Campaigns and Alumni Relations team.
Tel: +44 (0)117 331 7496.

