



The team from left to right: Simi Arora (LLB 2006), Celine Lachmann (International Law 2005-), William Moss (LLB 2006), Joyce Chan (MA 2006) and Fahad Al-Nawab (Law 2004-)

Mooting success

Bristol's team was in the top two in the 2006 UK finals of the Jessup International Law Moot Court. Coached by Dr Nicholas Tzagourias, the team went on to represent the UK at the world finals in Washington DC in March, where they came 70th out of 110 teams.

Held every year since 1959, the Jessup is the best-known international moot competition, with over 2,000 students participating from more than 90 countries. The competition is co-ordinated by the International Law Students' Association, with sponsorship from a range of organisations.

This is the second time in recent years that a team from Bristol has entered the competition. In 2004 the team came fourth in the UK.

welcome

As you will see from this issue of *lawgrad*, the academic year 2005-06 has been one of substantial achievements for the School of Law. So much has happened that we have had difficulty in packing all of the news into this issue.

Next year promises further exciting developments. The recruitment of three additional senior staff, reported elsewhere, will further enhance the school's teaching and research.

This expansion means that the school will reoccupy some of the offices and the teaching accommodation in the Lewis Wing of the Wills Memorial Building, which it vacated in the early 1990s. This will enable an expansion of computing facilities and increase the study space provided for research students.

We hope that some of our alumni will get involved in our plans for the 2008 celebrations (see page three). These should provide a good opportunity to meet many old friends and to see how the school is adapting to the challenges of the new century.

Professor Keith Stanton
Head of the School of Law

Leading the way in socio-legal studies

The school achieved a major success this year when the Economic and Social Research Council recognised the new MSc in Socio-Legal Studies. As a result, students wishing to undertake the MSc and then progress to research in socio-legal studies are now eligible to seek funding from the Council to study at Bristol. Bristol can now justifiably claim to be at the forefront of socio-legal training in the UK.

We are sorry to report that Professor **Jan Grodecki** died in May 2006. He was appointed as a lecturer in the Faculty of Law at Bristol in 1949 and rose to senior lecturer before leaving to be the first Professor of Law at the University of Leicester in 1965.



Think global

Last year, international law student **Kate Grady (PhD 2005-)** was shortlisted for the Higher Education Active Community Fund Volunteering Awards for co-ordinating a project called 'Think Global'. Here she describes the project.

Think Global is a project run through Student Community Action at the Students' Union. It trains student volunteers to go into local schools and educate 14 to 16-year-olds about the United Nations (UN). Pupils learn about the UN's history and development and become leaders of fictional countries on the verge of war about water rights, demonstrating the UN's role in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Hannah Wright (BA 2006) and I are the project co-ordinators, which includes training the volunteers and organising

placements in schools. Volunteers come from across the University with varying amounts of knowledge of the UN when they start the project.

I was inspired to start Think Global as I'm a director of a non-governmental organisation based in London, called the United Nations Association (UNA), which is the leading independent authority on the UN in the UK.

Education lies at the heart of UNA's work. Having run the project for two years, I cannot overstate how inspiring it



Kate Grady (PhD 2005-) and **Hannah Wright (BA 2006)**

is to see the pupils enjoy our workshops and the creative ideas they bring to international dispute settlement.

The project has progressed in only two years, with the number of volunteers growing and our nomination for a volunteering award. The volunteers gain vital transferable skills – communication and presentation skills and improved confidence – while the pupils experience the vital role that the UN plays in international peace, environmental protection and development.'

International law research

The Arts and Humanities Research Council has awarded two major research grants, worth £556,000, to staff at the school for research into international law. Professor Malcolm Evans and Dr Julian Rivers have been awarded £80,000 to investigate the

changing nature of religious rights in international law and Professor Evans and Professor Rachel Murray have been awarded £476,000 to fund an investigation into the UN Optional Protocol to the Torture Convention.

New staff

- **Professor Panos Koutrakos** joined the school as Professor of European Union (EU) Law in August. Professor Koutrakos came from the University of Durham. His specialism is EU external relations and his appointment will strengthen the school's teaching and research in this area.

- **Ken Oliphant** joined in September as the City Solicitors Educational Trust Reader in Tort. He came from the University of Cardiff.

- **Dr Paula Giliker** will take up the post of Reader in Comparative Law from 1 October 2006. She will come from St Hilda's College, Oxford.

Learning curve for law

A joint project between the School of Law, the Widening Participation Office (WPO) and the Meriton Centre (a local pupil referral unit for young mothers) was featured on BBC Radio 4's *The Learning Curve* in April this year. The girls who took part in the project, their headteacher, Lois Bibbings from the School of Law and Lucy Collins from WPO were all interviewed for the programme.

Peter Clarke (LLB 1977), Deputy Assistant Commissioner and head of the anti-terrorist branch at the Metropolitan Police, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for his work in relation to last year's 7 July bombings in London.

Regulating the web

The Centre for IT and Law has been awarded £10,500 by the Society for Computers and Law, and £5,000 by the Economic and Social Research Council, to fund a Policy Forum on 'Decentring internet regulation: the changing role of government and the private sector in determining and enforcing acceptable online behaviour'. The forum will bring together academic, commercial, government and regulatory contributors selected on the basis of their expertise in the fields of regulation theory, internet law and commercial/regulatory practice.

Anniversary celebrations

In 2008, the School of Law will be 75 years old and plans to mark this significant anniversary are moving ahead. Current plans include a republication of the history of the first 50 years of the school and the production of a second volume covering the years from 1983 to 2008. In addition, an appeal will be launched to produce an endowment fund for the Law Library. The school would welcome ideas from alumni about how to take the 2008 celebrations forward. Please contact pat.hammond@bristol.ac.uk.

inbrief

PRIZE FOR MARINE INSURANCE BOOK

Professor Francis Rose received the 2005 British Insurance Law Association (BILA) Book Prize for his book *Marine Insurance: Law and Practice*. This was written with assistance from Dr Stephen Watterson and Professor Gerard McMeel. It is the most comprehensive integrated account of the English law and practice of marine insurance for nearly a quarter of a century.

ALUMNI GIFTS FUND MAURITIUS SCHOLARSHIP

Gifts made by alumni have allowed the school to offer two scholarships to students from Mauritius to study for the LLB. The scholarships will attract some of the best Mauritian students to study at Bristol and the school would like to thank those alumni whose donated.

STUDENTS SHINE AT LAW COMPETITION

Bristol students scooped the first and third prizes in the 2006 UKELA (United Kingdom Environmental Law Association) Andrew Lees Prize Competition.

This major award is judged by leading environmental solicitors, barristers and academics. First prize was awarded to Benjamin Bundock (LLB 2006) and third prize to Jonathan O'Neill (LLB 2006). Benjamin's essay will be published in the UKELA environmental e-law journal.

Innocence project: **update>>>**

The University of Bristol Innocence Project (UoBIP) – the first dedicated innocence project in the UK – is a legal clinic which teaches law through exposure to 'live clients'. It is a collaborative venture of undergraduate law students working under academic supervision with guidance from local criminal solicitors. The solicitors provide possible avenues for further exploration, and the students then investigate individual cases in pursuit of grounds for possible appeal and/or an application to

the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Left: Paddy Hill, one of the Birmingham Six, at the launch of the UK Innocence Network

In October 2005, in collaboration with Bristol, two further innocence projects were established at Cardiff Law School and the University of Leeds Law School.

A dedicated workshop on the practicalities of setting up an innocence project was held at the Clinical Legal Education Organisation Conference at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies on 14 July this year. In response to the number of enquiries UoBIP has received, a 'Core Training for Innocence Projects' is currently being organised under the umbrella of the Innocence Network UK. It will be held on 12-14 October this year and will be hosted by Julie Price, Director of the Cardiff Law School Innocence Project. It is open to existing innocence projects and others interested in the initiative. Please contact Julie Price directly for more information: priceja1@cf.ac.uk.



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News of graduates

Laurence Oates (LLB 1967) gave the Seventeenth Annual Lecture in the School of Law in March. Laurence, who is the Official Solicitor and Public Trustee, talked about 'Life, death and the law'.

The 'Solicitor to the Stars', **Gerrard Tyrrell** (LLB 1977), has not appeared in our columns for some time now. Gerrard has now moved from show business to royalty, having acted on behalf of Prince Charles in legal proceedings against *The Mail on Sunday* for publishing extracts from the Prince's private diary (*The Guardian*, 19 November 2005).

Former Law Club President **Andrew Langdon** (LLB 1985) has now achieved even greater office. Sitting as a Recorder at Dorchester, Andrew was featured in *The Times* (2 August 2006) criticising the ease by which a man, whom he imprisoned for five years, had been able to spend (and lose) large sums of money on internet betting.

Of course, not all our graduates choose a career in the legal profession. Having worked at BT for 18 years, **Bill Blakemore** (LLB 1978) is now an independent consultant working in the field of international (particularly European) public sector projects.

According to an article in *The Daily Mail* (8 July 2006) on the work of her father, Leonard, it is revealed that **Elizabeth (Gigi) Cheshire** (LLB 1985) works as an accident and emergency doctor.

Toni Summers Hargis (LLB 1983) has published a book entitled *Rules, Britannia: An Insider's Guide to Life in the United Kingdom*. Reviews at Amazon.com describe the book as 'a godsend to Americans trying to negotiate the minefield of British life ...'. Toni lives in Chicago with her husband and three children.

David Bermingham (LLB 1984) is now living in Houston.

Also based in Texas – this time Dallas – is **Alex Kermisch** (LLB 1986). Alex is a Training Performance Consultant for AchieveGlobal. She is in touch with **Jon Ashbridge**, who is a partner at Maxwell Batley and lives near Windsor.

Eduardo Lessa Bastos OBE (LLM 1980) is a senior partner in a Rio de Janeiro law firm and involved with the University Candido Mendes.

Juarez (Waz) Lowe (LLB 1995), whose qualifications include the impressive-sounding 'MBA Thunderbird', is working for his father's education and technology company in Malaysia.

After several years in Kuala Lumpur at Maxis Communications Berhad, **Simran Raina** (LLB 1997) has moved to Sydney and joined the corporate, communications and technology practice of Gilbert and Tobin as a telecommunications lawyer. Simran is interested in making contact with other Bristol alumni in the area.

Anthony Seymour (LLB 1983) was re-elected at the Council Elections last May as a Councillor in the London Borough of Harrow. He keeps in contact with **Simon Lacey** and **Tony Youd** from his year.

It can now be confirmed that Neil Doncaster, Chief Executive of Norwich City Football Club, is our very own **Neil Doncaster** (LLB 1992). Neil tells us that he still has the impressive boots he had as a student, but he now only uses them to go walking at weekends.

Jim Newberry (LLB 1996) has left the RAF and now flies an Airbus for a British Airways subsidiary. Jim recently returned to Bristol to speak at an event organised by the University's Careers Advisory Service on possible avenues of employment for law graduates not wishing to enter the profession.

Kiron Reid (LLB 1992) is a Liberal Democrat councillor for the Anfield Ward of Liverpool City Council.

Barbara Mauthe (LLB 1992) is a lecturer in the School of Law at Lancaster University.

Mertie Calvert (LLB 1995), who works as Manager of Legal Services (North) for the world's largest diamond company, De Beers, was named 'In-House Lawyer of the Year' at The Lawyer Awards in June.

Having left Eastenders, **Kim Medcalf** (LLB 1996) has been appearing with Dame Judi Dench in Sir Peter Hall's *Hay Fever* at the Haymarket Theatre.

Lucy Payne (LLB 2000) is still working in disaster management. In addition to being Senior Lecturer in Emergency Management at the University of Hertfordshire, Lucy runs her own business 'which makes me about three old pence a year but sounds good'. Lucy has told us that she still awaits an invitation to give a lecture entitled 'From Bristol to carnage and beyond'.

Shruti Gupta (LLB 1999) works at the Law Society as a Policy Advisor in the Law Reform and Legal Policy department.

Following graduation, **Jim Hadfield** (LLB 2002) went to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and is now a Platoon Commander in the Light Infantry. Another 2002 graduate, **Robert Smith**, has obtained pupillage at 9 St John Street, Manchester.

In response to an article in the last edition of *lawgrad*, **Penny Storey Jewkes** (LLB 1972) has written to tell us about her experience of being interviewed for a place at Bristol. Penny was asked the following: 'If a man were shooting at a tree and another man stepped in the path of the bullet and was killed, what plea should the shooter make?' Penny answered 'Insanity' on the basis that anyone who shot at a tree must be mad. Penny also says that she was asked whether she intended to get married and start a family – a question which most certainly would not be recommended in the University's Effective Interviewing training nowadays.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we report the death in February 2006 of **Christopher Hurd** (LLB 1984).

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you would like to contact old friends or any of the alumni featured in *lawgrad*, please contact the Campaigns and Alumni Relations Office. Email development-alumni@bristol.ac.uk or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni.