

nonesuch

winter 2007



health



justice



empowerment

Bristol: global impact

Welcome

Dear friends

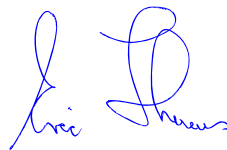
The new-style *Nonesuch* may be smaller, but we think it packs quite a punch. Reaction to the first issue was very encouraging and I suspect that this, the second in the revised format, will prompt at least as positive a response. This issue has a dominant theme: how the University of Bristol helps to make the world a better place.

The impact of a large organisation like ours is sometimes expressed in the dry language of outputs against inputs, audit measures, performance indicators, quality assurance and the rest. All very necessary, of course, but *Nonesuch* shows there is another way of presenting evidence and of being accountable – one that is more about stories than data and people than formulae.

Bristol will always respect pure scholarship and blue-sky research that may or may not produce practical benefits at some point in the future, but the University is no ivory tower. It prides itself on nurturing people and research that are engaged with the needs and concerns of the world beyond Woodland Road and its environs.

I hope you enjoy the magazine. Remember that you can catch up with news about the University and its impact at any time via the online news service at bristol.ac.uk/news.

With best wishes



Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004)
Vice-Chancellor





Inside

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Features

8 Bright minds change the world

Ten ways research at Bristol is making the world a better place.

12 The nation's doctor

What really matters to the man in charge of the nation's health, Chief Medical Officer Sir Liam Donaldson (MB ChB 1972, Hon MD 1999)?

15 A journey towards justice

Lara King (BA 2007) talks to the law students giving hope to prisoners who believe they are innocent.

21 The accidental entrepreneur

Ian Anderson (PhD Computer Science 2005-) is harnessing new technology to empower people with disabilities.

24 The pursuit of truth

Eve MacFarlane talks to Alison Smale (BA 1977) about her life in journalism.

34 Into the deep

Josh Burrows (Classics 2005-) catches up with freediving record holder, Sara Campbell (BA 1995).

Regular items

2 The big picture

4 News

18 How I became a campaigner

19 How to save the whales and dolphins

20 From the collections A different take

27 Student view

37 Parting shot

Alumni update

28 Books

29 Alumni news

30 Legacy

31 Your news

32 Obituaries

36 Events

Cover image by Hannah Ford

Modelling the climate: An artist's impression of one of Bristol's computer model simulations of the end of this century showing atmospheric circulation patterns.



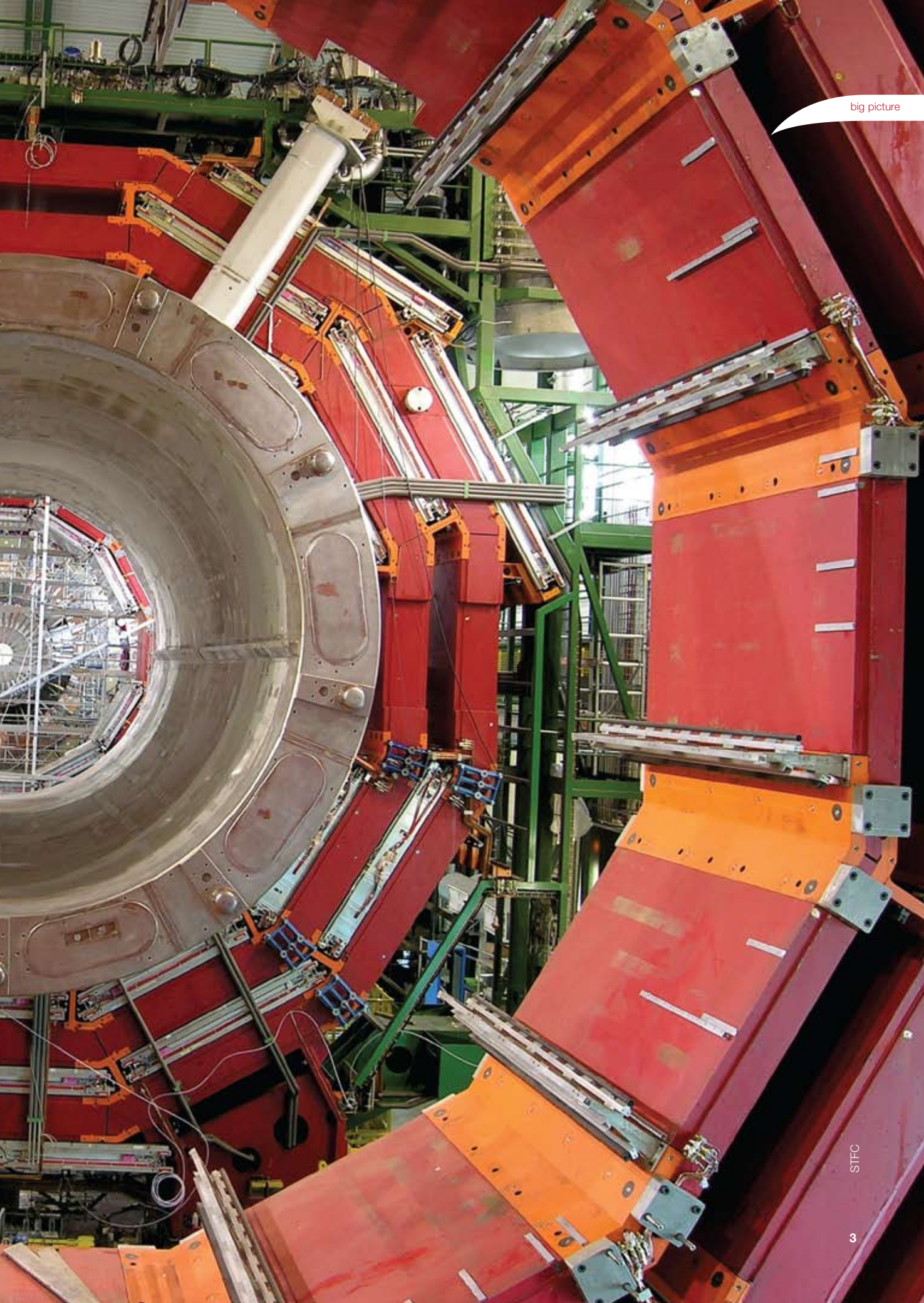
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The big picture

Part of the CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid) detector, which is one of the four detectors at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

About 95 per cent of the Universe is missing: only five per cent of the matter that physics predicts should be present is visible. The rest is what we call 'dark matter'.

One hundred metres beneath the Swiss-French border lies a 27-kilometre circular tunnel containing the world's largest scientific experiment. When it's switched on early next year, it is hoped that the Large Hadron Collider will find some of the missing dark matter and, indeed, explain why matter exists at all. Bristol physicists are working at the heart of this remarkable project.



News

If you would like regular news updates, why not sign up for our enewsletter? Email 'enewsletter' to alumni-publications@bristol.ac.uk.

IN BRIEF

Tropical Bristol

September saw the official opening of the Tropical Zone at the University's Botanic Garden in its new location at The Holmes, Stoke Bishop. The Tropical Zone is the latest part of the Botanic Garden's extensive 604-metre-square glasshouse to be developed.

Thousands sign up to learn languages

A record number of people have signed up to learn languages at the University's Language Centre. More than 1,500 members of the public have enrolled for lifelong learning classes for the autumn term.

Bristol scores high in research stakes

A recent article in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* reports that Bristol was awarded the highest number of grants from the Natural Environment Research Council and Economic and Social Research Council of all UK institutions in 2006-07. The article also reveals that Bristol was sixth overall in the league table for the total number of grants awarded by the research councils.



■ Bristol 37th best university in the world

Bristol leapt from 64th to 37th place in a newly published league table of world universities and was named one of the most improved universities in the world.

The *Times Higher Education Supplement* – QS World University Rankings are based on

the results of a survey of more than 5,000 academics in a series of different disciplines. Their views are combined with the opinions of almost 1,500 international companies as well as data on the expertise of professors, staff/student ratios and the number of international admissions.

■ Million-dollar chips

What started as an undergraduate computer science project is now a major semiconductor business that may revolutionise the consumer electronics market.

XMOS Semiconductor has secured \$16 million venture-capital funding. Spun out of research from the Department of Computer Science, XMOS has assembled a world-class team of entrepreneurs and scientists led by CEO James Foster and Professor David May. Co-founder Ali Dixon (MEng 2004) was studying computer science at the University just three years ago and has now seen his project form the basis of one of the University's most significant enterprises.

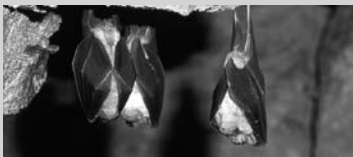
XMOS has created a new category of semiconductors, which it calls Software Designed Silicon (SDS). SDS is designed for consumer electronics applications that need high performance, low manufacturing cost and extreme design flexibility. The new design is set to revolutionise the consumer electronics application-specific integrated circuit and application-specific standard product markets.

'When I was studying I was really excited to see my project materialise into such a significant reality,' said Ali Dixon. 'The Bristol region contains the largest cluster of microelectronics design companies in Europe so being based here was the right place for me.'

■ Origins of greater horseshoe bat uncovered

Genetic work carried out as part of a University research project on the National Trust Purbeck Estate in Dorset has found that the UK's population of greater horseshoe bats originated from west Asia 40,000-60,000 years ago.

After taking tiny, harmless tissue samples the project found that greater horseshoe bats colonised Europe before the last ice age. Samples were taken from sites across the species' natural range from the UK to Japan, including Purbeck. DNA was extracted, sequenced and compared between different populations.



■ Turning maths into art

A steel sculpture based on one of the most famous objects in chaos theory has been created by Dr Benjamin Storch, an artist who works with silver and steel. The idea was provided by Bristol mathematicians Professor Bernd Krauskopf and Dr Hinke Osinga.

Storch turned the maths into art and created a beautiful twisting and winding ribbon of stainless steel. His sculpture 'Manifold' represents a mathematical object known as the Lorenz Manifold, a complicated surface that emerges from a famous model of chaotic weather systems.



From left: Bernd Krauskopf, Benjamin Storch and Hinke Osinga

■ New initiative to tackle animal diseases

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has awarded £1.4 million to the Universities of Bristol and Warwick to investigate and find controls for foot-rot, an endemic disease in sheep.

Foot-rot is a painful hoof infection which eventually leads to lameness in sheep and is estimated to cost the UK sheep industry £31 million per year. Approximately 10 per cent of the 16 million sheep in Great Britain are lame at any time and much of this lameness is caused by foot-rot, an infection of the bacterium *Dichelobacter nodosus*. Currently little is known about how the bacterium survives on the sheep and in the environment.



■ Student boosts profits

A company saw its profits soar by £62,000 when student Matt Clarke (German and Italian 2005-) joined it for a three-month placement.

Bristol-based Kings Heavy Haulage recruited Matt in July, and he soon wowed his employers with his creativeness in developing the company's marketing department. The modern languages student designed billboard adverts, initiated a customer loyalty scheme, set up the firm's website and pioneered a hi-tech quote system. His efforts earned him a place in the final of the Shell Step Awards for the UK's Most Enterprising Student.



■ Nobel prize for climate change scientists

A Bristol graduate and three Bristol academics contributed to the work of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was recently awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize (jointly with Al Gore).

Richard Betts (BSc 1991), one of the lead authors of the report, said: 'This news came as a complete surprise to me last Friday, which turned out to be a very good day indeed because half an hour after hearing about the Nobel Prize, I heard I'd been promoted to a new position of Head of Climate Impacts here at the Met Office Hadley Centre'.

Professor Colin Prentice in the Department of Earth Sciences was the co-ordinating lead author in the Third Assessment Report's chapter on the carbon cycle and atmospheric carbon dioxide. Joanna House in the Department of Earth Sciences worked with Professor Prentice on that chapter and was also one of the lead authors of the Synthesis Report and a contributing author on the fourth and most recent report (Chapter 7, 'Couplings between changes in the climate system and biogeochemistry'). Both contributed to the Fourth Assessment Report as reviewers of several chapters.

Professor Sandy Harrison in the School of Geographical Sciences was a contributing author in the Third Assessment Report's chapters on 'Model Evaluation' and 'Observed Climate Change'.



The 2007 production of *The Room*

■ *The Room*: fifty years on

The first play by Nobel Prize-winning playwright Harold Pinter (Hon DL 1998), *The Room*, which was first staged at the University fifty years ago, was restaged in May this year in the same room in the Wills Memorial Building. One of the performances was recorded by the British Library Sound Archive as part of its Theatre Archive Project. The project, which is supported by the University's Alumni Foundation, hopes to track down those involved with the 1957 production to capture their memories for a series of oral history interviews which will be conserved at the British Library and University's Theatre Collection. The original cast and backstage team, audience members, reviewers and anyone else with memories of that first production are invited to contact the project team. Contact Jamie Andrews on jamie.andrews@bl.uk.

■ Heart of gold

Student Daniel Towie (Medicine 2004-) has been awarded a highly competitive scholarship from Heart Research UK. The scholarships, worth £7,000 each, were awarded to seven medical students from different regions of the UK planning to undertake a research project relating to cardiovascular disease. Daniel was chosen to represent Bristol and is the first Bristol student to be awarded one of the scholarships. Daniel will study a type of amino acid, homocysteine, which is believed to increase the production of oxygen free radicals, potentially damaging the heart.

■ Top teacher

A Bristol graduate has been named the best secondary school teacher in the country at an award ceremony in London. Ian Jamison (BA 1989), who has taught religious education at Kingsbridge Community College for the last eight years, was nominated for the Teaching Awards by his pupils. He is described as a rarely gifted teacher who instils an interest and enthusiasm for the subject.

■ I predict a riot

A four-piece band, which was formed by Guy Stevenson (BA 2006) and Cillian Logue (LLB 2006) while they were studying at Bristol, has seen its myspace profile surge after myspace bosses made it a featured band. Since then, the Gin Riots profile page has received around 2,500 hits a day, sparking interest from record label Fierce Panda, the label that kick-started Coldplay's career. The band is currently touring Italy and is due to tour the UK early next year. See myspace.com/theginriots.

■ Expulsion from Chagos

Former British High Commissioner to Mauritius, David Snoxell (BA 1966), returned to the University in November to give a lecture on the history of the Chagos Archipelago. In the lecture 'Expulsion from Chagos: Regaining Paradise', David explained how the islands were excised from Mauritius in 1965 in order to create a US base on Diego Garcia. The 1,500 Chagossians were deported between 1967 and 1973 and dumped in Mauritius and the Seychelles. David described this as one of the worst violations of fundamental human rights perpetrated by the UK in the 20th century.

■ Just an illusion?

A Bristol graduate fused technology, mind-reading, illusion and comedy to create a sell-out, five-star rated show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this year. In *Everything Happens for a Reason*, Chris Cox (BA 2005), 'The Magician' of BBC Radio 1's Chris Moyles' Show, delves deeper into the minds of the audience. The show deals with the concept of fate and chance.

■ Enter the dragon

An online gaming company set up by Emmie Matthews (BSc 2001) and her business partner Ed Stevens (both pictured below) received the single largest investment ever awarded on the BBC's reality TV programme *Dragons' Den*. Aired on 22 October, the programme made an investment of £200,000 in the online gaming site www.gamingalerts.co.uk. Dragon Theo Paphitis was so impressed with their project that he agreed to invest all the money on his own.



■ Game on

A game idea developed by computer science graduates Tom Dowding (MEng 2004) and Richard Wilson (MEng 2004) has won Channel 4's 4Talent New Mobile Game Developer award.

At the recent Golden Joystick Awards, their company Mobile Pie pitched their game concept to a panel of industry experts from Channel 4, EA Mobile and O2 UK. Their novel camera-based game idea saw off the competition from nine finalists from around Europe. The game, 'Let it Grow', allows players to care for and share their own flower. Using the camera on their phone, colours from the real world must be captured to nurture and evolve the plant. The players can then share their creation with friends via their Facebook profile page.

■ Corresponding with Ted Hughes

Letters from poet Ted Hughes to Nick Gammage (BA 1980) feature in *The Letters of Ted Hughes*, which was published by Faber this November.

Nick wrote his dissertation on the poetry of Ted Hughes while studying at Bristol and during this time began a correspondence and friendship with Ted, which lasted until the poet's death in 1998. In the intervening years, Nick had a number of articles published about Ted's work and edited *The Epic Poise: A Celebration of Ted Hughes*, which was published by Faber in 1999.

■ Edinburgh jewels

A Bristol graduate's first professional production won Most Outstanding Show at the Edinburgh Fringe Award this year. Sophie Lifschutz's (BA 2006) play *Retreat* was described by the *Fringe Review* as 'a real gem of a play, with wonderful psychological tension, humour and mystery out of which emerges a tale of regret and deceit'. Following its Edinburgh success, the play enjoyed a run at the New End Theatre, London in October.

Another Edinburgh success was *Cirque Du Sabotage*, a circus themed comedy romp by double act Anna Emerson (BA 2005) and Lizzie Bates (BA 2005) (pictured below).



IN BRIEF

Earth observation achievements

The Royal Geographical Society (RGS) has honoured Professor Paul Curran (PhD 1979, DSc 1991) for his international achievements in earth observation. Paul was presented with the RGS Patron's medal, one of the highest international awards for geography, science and discovery, in June. He is currently the Vice-Chancellor of Bournemouth University.

Strictly come dancing

Lavinie Thiruchelvam (LLB 1997) organised the biggest dance festival in Asia this year. The Kuala Lumpur International Dance Festival was held in June and boasted performances by professional dancers from all over the globe.

Booker nomination

Nikita Lalwani's novel *Gifted* was nominated for this year's prestigious Man Booker Prize for Fiction. It's a coming-of-age debut in which 14-year-old Rumika Vasi struggles to fulfil her mathematical gifts and her family's demands on her, while also finding friendship and romance.

Encyclopedia of life

David Patterson (PhD 1976) is heading up the informatics foundations for the grand 'Encyclopedia of Life' project – a project that will deliver a website for every species in the world within the next 10 years. David was a member of the staff in the Department of Zoology before moving to the University of Sydney to run the School of Biological Sciences. Find out more at www.eol.org.

Bright minds change the world

Imagine your favourite charity. Perhaps it tackles poverty. Maybe it saves the environment. It might even be dedicated to finding a cure for a disease that takes the lives of thousands every year. Now imagine a charity that does all these things and more. Can't think? It's Bristol University. There are hundreds of ways in which research at Bristol is making the world a better place. Here are ten of them.

“ Young people are the future. Strong leadership of learning is critical to their aspirations and our society. We can help provide young people in Bristol with the qualifications and skills they need to participate fully as citizens of the 21st century. ”

Rosamund Sutherland (BSc 1968), Professor of Education

POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Social exclusion deprives people of choices and opportunities to escape from poverty, and denies them a voice to claim their rights.

What is Bristol doing?

A Bristol research team, led by Professor Ruth Levitas from the Department of Sociology, is best known for its work on the major survey 'Poverty and Social Exclusion in Britain: The Millennium Survey'. This ground-breaking piece demonstrated, among other things, that three million adults and 400,000 British children are not properly fed by today's standards.

social and familial relationships and health and wellbeing. All major survey data sets were assessed against the B-SEM. The analysis demonstrated that few surveys include the range of information necessary for a proper consideration of social exclusion and that there is a need for a purpose-built set of questions that can be added to existing large scale surveys.

Ruth and her team are members of the Bristol Institute for Public Affairs (BIPA) which aims to influence and study public affairs and policy.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Bristol is a vibrant, creative and successfully regenerating city. With two leading universities, Science City status, a cluster of high-tech companies and strengths in the media and cultural industries, it possesses a powerful concentration of academic interests. As yet,

More recently, the same team produced a report that redefined how social exclusion is measured. The team constructed the Bristol Social Exclusion Matrix, or B-SEM, which takes a broad view of social exclusion, moving away from the usual narrow focus on inclusion through paid work to include questions of civic participation,

these resources haven't been fully harnessed to support the region's primary and secondary schools.

What is Bristol doing?

The University has created the Bristol Centre for Creative Leadership, which will play



a pivotal role in developing creativity, confidence and innovation in Bristol's schools. It will bring together teams of teachers, governors, parents, local businesses and educationalists to tackle the challenges of educational underachievement in the region.

WATER-BORNE DISEASE



The World Health Organization has estimated that water-borne disease causes 1.8 million deaths annually, of which 1.5 million are of children under five. Over one billion people lack access to safe water. Most do not even know their water is unsafe.

What is Bristol doing?

An international consortium led by Bristol is building Aquatest, the world's first low-cost, easy-to-use diagnostic tool giving a clear, reliable indication of water quality. The test results will be displayed as coloured bands in a small, hand-held device and may show, for example, that water is safe for adults to drink but not for children.

The project will be led by Dr Stephen Gundry, Director of Bristol's Water and Health Research Centre. The large, interdisciplinary team will have a wide range of expertise, from engineering to microbiology. The consortium has just received a \$13 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop the project.

THE STATUS QUO

The world cannot stand still. Imagine if our culture stagnated, became dormant. New ideas, new ways of looking at the world are crucial. We need those people, often writers and artists, who push the boundaries of what is accepted as the norm. They can help us to understand the world and to question it. Great art can be subversive and upsetting. It can also be transformational.

What is Bristol doing?

Bristol's pioneering Department of Drama equips students with the power of expression alongside a belief that they have something important to say. And this fertile ground has produced some of the most ground-breaking playwrights of recent times; writers who have used the power of drama to inspire change. Kevin Elyot (BA 1973), Sarah Kane (BA 1992) and Mark Ravenhill (BA 1987) are just a few of the playwrights to emerge from Bristol and produce work that has had a huge impact on the public consciousness.

Kevin Elyot is best known as the author of the 1994 play *My Night with Reg*, one of the first productions to successfully engage audiences with the growth of HIV and AIDS in the UK. Sarah Kane's biographical play, *4-48 Psychosis*, dealt with clinical depression.



ANIMAL WELFARE

The fate and future of the animals we share this world with are inextricably linked to our own. We have a moral obligation to make sure that all animals – from those we eat to domestic pets – are looked after to the highest standard possible.

What is Bristol doing?

The Bristol Welfare Assurance Programme (BWAP) is a system developed and set up by the University that incorporates animal welfare assessment techniques into conventional organic farming certification schemes. This lets consumers know how animals have been treated. BWAP has set up forms and flowcharts for assessors to use, 'smart' record forms that manage medicine records, and health plans that make sure that farmers comply with legal standards.

BWAP is part of Bristol's world-renowned Animal Behaviour and Welfare Group, which is at the forefront of research into the scientific assessment of animal behaviour and welfare and the ethical issues that surround animal use in society.

Bristol's Vet School is leading the way in animal welfare assessment in the UK and is the only one to have specific welfare teaching in the veterinary curriculum – a huge credit to the University's foresight in this increasingly important field.

**Chris Laurence MBE (BVSc 1968),
Veterinary Director, The Dogs Trust**

UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

Autism is a lifelong condition that affects about one in 100 children in the UK. Individuals diagnosed with the condition experience significant difficulties in social interaction and communication. The impact of these difficulties is far-reaching – on the individuals themselves, their carers and broader society.

What is Bristol doing?

Dr Liz Pellicano from the Department of Experimental Psychology is making a splash with her research into how autism develops. Until now, most research in this area has focussed on the causes of autism rather than understanding it as a developmental disorder. The findings of her work will help to

shape better policy responses to autism. It will also provide carers and parents of children with autism with answers to some of their every day concerns such as whether an autistic child will ever have a 'real' friendship or hold down a job.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Cardiovascular disease accounts for almost half of all deaths in the UK – that's one quarter of a million people per year. The most common is coronary heart disease, which results from a 'furring up' of the arteries that supply the heart with blood.

What is Bristol doing?

Coronary artery bypass grafting remains the most effective way of treating coronary heart disease. This involves taking a piece of vein from

the patient's leg and bypassing the blocked segment. Unfortunately, the vein does not adapt well to its new role as an artery, and wall thickening occurs or the new vein itself furs up.

Prolonging the lifespan and quality of the vein graft has been an area of intense investigation by researchers at the Bristol Heart Institute for several years. They have found that covering the vein graft with a porous synthetic sheath prevented wall thickening almost completely in experimental models. Thickening

of the veins is caused mainly by smooth muscle cell growth. Bristol researchers have engineered a (harmless) virus to introduce a gene called TIMP-3 that not only reduces movement of smooth muscle cells to the vein wall, but also destroys those already present.

The Bristol Heart Institute brings together experts from across the University and associated hospitals. It is pioneering new treatments involving the latest in gene technology and innovative cardiac surgery.

“
Bristol is a major force in climate change research. Their leadership of the National Energy Research Council's QUEST programme is both visionary and practical – a rare combination which will deliver important new science.”

Dr Richard Betts (BSc 1991), Head of Climate Impacts, Met Office

CLIMATE CHANGE

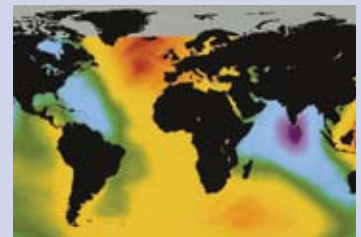
There is a growing consensus about the reality of climate change. Rising temperatures and sea levels, coupled with expected increases in extreme weather, could be disastrous to our environment, our livelihoods and the very existence of some communities.

What is Bristol doing?

Bristol is a world leader in the 'whole systems' approach, integrating many world systems, such as the oceans, atmosphere, ice sheets and biosphere, into numerical computer models of the changes the world will experience. These models simulate climate changes in the past, present and future

in an increasing level of detail, deepening our understanding of the processes involved. The more we know about the processes that underlie the Earth's response to climate change, the more accurate the climate models' predictions will be.

Bristol academics across the disciplines are at the forefront of research into our changing climate.



OSTEOARTHRITIS

Osteoarthritis affects up to 20 percent of people over the age of 65 and is a major cause of pain and disability in the elderly.

What is Bristol doing?

Bristol scientists successfully grew human cartilage from a patient's own stem cells for the first time ever. This means that people suffering from the severe form of the osteoarthritis could in the future have cartilage transplant operations.

Professor Anthony Hollander (PhD 1990) (right) and his team at Southmead Hospital took stem cells from the bone marrow of pensioners undergoing replacement operations because they have arthritis. They took just over a month to grow the cells into a half-inch length of cartilage. The new technique is expected to overcome the problems of cartilage being rejected after transplants because the patient's own stem cells are used.

In ten years' time, stem cell research is expected to provide treatments for a range of diseases, including Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's. Bristol researchers are currently conducting a number of clinical trials, including one that will test whether stem cells will repair heart muscle cells – the first trial of its kind.



“When you're doing a long-term research project, you work hard until you get a success like this. It's a relief, but then it's nose to the grindstone again.”

Professor Anthony Hollander
(PhD 1990)

Last year, Peter Fleming (MB ChB 1972, PhD 1993) Professor of Infant Health, was named one of the UK's pioneers of science in a book for his research into cot death, which has prevented at least 100,000 infant deaths worldwide. The book, *Eureka UK*, celebrates 50 years of life-changing work by academics.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES



Universities tend to concentrate their enterprise efforts on technology that will create wealth. But what about the kind of work that might not attract mainstream venture capitalists, but which is still worth developing because of the social or environmental benefits it will bring?

What is Bristol doing?


Three years ago, Priya Virmani (PhD 2007) became concerned about the chemical ingredients used in her favourite cosmetics and was inspired to set up Priya – a cosmetic range that finally ticks all the ethical boxes. All the ingredients will be organic. No animal testing is involved and even the packaging is set to be earth-friendly. The products are being manufactured in India, with all workers along the supply chain being paid at least 30 per cent above the national minimum wage of the country. Ten per cent of profits made will go back to the local community, supporting health initiatives.

Priya scooped a £6,000 prize for her product at the University's 2007 New Enterprise Competition and that's when her idea blossomed into a reality.

Bristol launched its Social Enterprise Scheme last year. Social enterprises receive up to £100,000 of Enterprise Development funding each year. The projects range from landslide prevention to technology enabling people in developing countries to access web information via a mobile phone in their local language. ■

The nation's doctor

What really matters to the man with his finger – literally – on the nation's pulse, Chief Medical Officer **Sir Liam Donaldson (MB ChB 1972, Hon MD 1999)?**



“ I loved my time in Bristol. It instilled values, purpose and a sense of the importance of learning. I will always be grateful. ”

Does being ultimately responsible for the health of the population of England daunt you?

I am the 15th in a line of succession of Chief Medical Officers dating back to Victorian times. This gives me a sense of the post being more important than me. I have tried to uphold the traditions of the job and champion the big health and healthcare issues of the day. And, vitally, to speak out without fear or favour if necessary.

What do you think is your single greatest achievement since coming into office?

I am proud of my work to create the concept of clinical governance and put healthcare quality and patient safety high on the healthcare agenda. I am also pleased that my Annual Reports have set the public health agenda in many key areas.

You have championed the need for action on key areas of the nation's health. Your call for action on the need for smoke-free public places and workplaces resulted in the recent ban on smoking in public places. What is your next target?

Obesity is undoubtedly today's major challenge. I set the debate rolling in my 2002 Annual Report when I described it as a 'time bomb' threatening the future health of our population. Individual responsibility for health is important but we need to create the right culture and environment to make the healthy choices the easier and preferred ones.

Do you think that the NHS is in better shape than it was in 1998?

Undoubtedly. Access to care is much faster, quality and safety are

higher up the agenda, stronger public health programmes are in place and we have had some major breakthroughs in prevention such as the meningitis C and cervical cancer vaccines.

What do you see as the main problems facing the NHS today?

Meeting the increasing needs and demands for healthcare that face every developed country; re-orientating the service towards promoting health and preventing disease, not just treating sick people; and dealing with some very specific problems that worry people, such as healthcare infection.

You want everyone to be treated as organ donors after death unless they explicitly opt out of the scheme. Were you surprised by the strength of opposition to your idea?

The majority of the public seems to support the idea. Not everyone will agree with such a policy because it raises powerful emotions. Yet, if we do nothing our countrymen and women will continue to die from treatable conditions.

You have not been afraid to take on some of the sacred cows of medicine: how doctors are regulated and how patients are protected. Do you think you have the support of the majority of the doctors in the UK?

Unfortunately, the nature of a big national job is that there are too many people to get to know personally: there's one of me and 80,000 doctors. Inevitably I am seen through the prism of the media and the medical press. That often gives a distorted view of my opinions, my policies and my motives. That is a source of great regret because when I have the opportunity to speak to doctors face-to-face I usually

find that they see my point of view and appreciate how much I support their professionalism and commitment.

You created a new system of training doctors, Modernising Medical Careers, which has caused great controversy.

What drives you on with this plan against such opposition?

My original report, *Unfinished Business*, set out to reform the disastrous senior house officer grade in which many people languished for years with no clear plan and no proper education. Implementation of this led to a new Foundation Programme that was successfully implemented last year. It has a strong new curriculum which is admired internationally. People told us that we could not reform the early years of postgraduate medical training without restructuring the later training. This process of redesign covered 58 specialties and was led by the specialties themselves, the programmes being approved by the regulators. The process of implementation in moving so many trainees from an old to a new system of training went wrong. The application process was poorly designed; international medical graduates were allowed to compete with UK graduates (which was against national policy) and the timescale for implementation was too truncated. The principles behind the new training scheme are still sound and widely accepted. We now need to ensure that they are more appropriately captured in the structure and processes for the future, learning fully from this bad experience which caused such distress to so many young doctors.

Continued over page >

What is a ‘good doctor’ and how can we ensure that everybody has access to one?

A good doctor is someone who puts the patients’ interests first at all times, who ensures that they have access to the most up-to-date knowledge, who recognises the limits of their skills and competence and who works effectively in teams. The proposal on regular revalidation of all doctors (and the standards underpinning this process) will help to ensure this.

You have championed improving patient safety – engaging with victims and their families, politicians, policy-makers and professional leaders worldwide – and this led directly to the establishment of the World Health Organization World Alliance for Patient Safety, which you have chaired since its launch in 2004. What led to your tremendous focus on this? Has your crusade been easier or harder than you thought it would be?

Patient safety is now a global endeavour. It has taken off beyond my wildest dreams. I am so pleased to have played a part in this.

What about infectious diseases and environmental hazards? Is this a big part of your role?

It is. Infectious diseases used to be a professional backwater. Over the last 20 years it has moved from the professional to the personal and the political and is now a very high-profile issue. Think of vCJD, SARS, meningitis, *E.coli* and pandemic influenza and you think of headlines and major public concerns. When that happens, the Chief Medical Officer needs to be at the centre of things.

The Government accepted all of the recommendations in your report on stem cell research in 2000, which resulted in new legislation regulating the use of stem cells for research. How important was this development?

At the time, I described stem cell research as a new medical frontier. I think that even more so now. I cannot wait for the future to arrive with the potential for the relief of so much suffering.

What are your priorities in the coming year?

Help to restore the credibility of the training programmes, implement the reforms to medical regulation, continue to champion patient safety and better clinical governance, and develop effective responses to the challenges of obesity and health inequalities.

You have been in the job for nine years; how much has it changed you?

It has been such a privilege to do the job. I’ve learned a great deal and I will miss it enormously when I eventually leave it. I still feel the same person but the enormous burden of responsibility and the ever-present risk of a crisis have made it a very high-pressure job, which will have taken its toll on me somehow.

How was your time at Bristol? And how did it set you up for a life in medicine?

I loved my time in Bristol, both in the wider University and the Medical School. It instilled values, purpose and a sense of the importance of learning. I will always be grateful.

If you suddenly decided that you were going to stop being Chief Medical Officer

tomorrow, what would your dream job be?

Chairman of Newcastle United FC, but unfortunately I don’t have the money.

Professor Gareth Williams, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, has three questions for Sir Liam.

Do you feel that today’s medical graduates are fully equipped for working in the NHS of the 21st century?

I think we need to continue to widen the skills and philosophy of the profession and its graduates. We need to recognise that modern healthcare is about assuring the quality and safety of healthcare, preventing disease, and forming genuine partnerships with patients. These are not traditional clinical skills but they need to be part of the attributes of a doctor of the future.

Do you regard the free movement of doctors within Europe as an opportunity or a threat?

It is a reality that I think we have to turn into an opportunity and work closely with our colleagues in other European countries to find the synergies.

What advice would you give to a sixth-former thinking about doing medicine?

It is a rich and fulfilling profession that will repay your commitment to it in the currency that really counts – knowing that you have made a difference to people’s lives. ■

A journey towards justice

Lara King (BA 2007) talks to the law students giving hope to prisoners who believe they are innocent.



From left to right: Innocence Project members Madeleine Williams (Law 2005-), Amanda Bell (Law 2005-) and Jessica Wood (Law 2005-)

The Howard League, penal reform, commercial law and miscarriages of justice: if anyone can overhear the earnest debate between this smartly dressed group on the Covent Garden terrace where we meet (late, of course, so they can finish work), they'd be forgiven for assuming they were listening to the cream of the country's bright young barristers and smart solicitors. But beneath the dapper dress and legal lingo, these are law students, albeit ones who have exchanged the classroom for the courtroom in a new project.

The University of Bristol Innocence Project (UoBIP) has been running since January 2005. It is a dedicated, student-led, pro-bono legal clinic that teaches law through exposure to 'live' clients. Groups of students investigate individual cases in which prisoners claim factual innocence, seeking grounds for possible appeal and, potentially, making an application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

'Teams of 8-10 students tackle individual cases,' explains law student and UoBIP member Samantha Lim (Law 2005-). 'The team will review the case thoroughly by casting fresh eyes over the evidence and trying to find any new evidence that may have been overlooked. We also have regular meetings with local criminal defence lawyers in Bristol to report back on our work and discuss the next steps.'

This concept of teaching law beyond textbooks was brought to Bristol, and to the UK, by Dr Michael Naughton (BSc 1996, PhD 2003). After completing his undergraduate degree here, Michael stayed on to undertake a PhD in miscarriages of justice. 'Although it started off as a

theoretical study, as soon as I started to meet and engage with the people involved I realised nobody was trying to do anything practical to resolve the problems,' Michael explains. When his research was published, letters began to stream through his door from prisoners who he knew 'had nothing else left to do' but write to him about their plight. High-profile correspondents included Barry George, imprisoned for the murder of Jill Dando, and the family of Michael Stone, imprisoned for the murders of Lin and Megan Russell.

'I didn't want to stop at writing academic articles and books,' Michael says. 'I wanted to share information and knowledge with the people who needed it, to give a voice to the people who don't have a voice.' When he took up a teaching post at the University in 2004, he finally had a platform from which to do this. 'I was able to access all of the resources that the University has to offer, and the students are the greatest resource of all.'

Joseph Oppenheimer (LLB 2007) and Gabe Tan (LLB 2007, MSc Socio-legal Studies 2007-) were among the core group of students who began sifting through the letters with Michael in late 2004, picking out cases that warranted closer examination. 'The project evolved very quickly, and it was a very steep learning curve for us,' Joe recalls. 'We knew nothing about miscarriages of justice, because it simply isn't covered by degree courses.' Inspired by the US, where every state has its own Innocence Project, Joe's group went 'from watching videos to tackling our first real case in just a few months. The law degree course has a tendency to be very theoretical, but the project immediately gave us a feel for the

kind of work we could be doing when we qualify.'

By the time Amanda Bell (Law 2005-) and Jessica Wood (Law 2005-) enrolled in 2005, the Innocence Project bug was spreading. 'Michael ran a talk on the project at the start of term,' recalls Jess, who had become interested in miscarriages of justice after reading Sally Clarke's *Stolen Innocence* in preparation for her course. 'I think he expected 10 or 20 people. About 150 turned up. We ended up having to apply formally to get a place on the project.'

And the project's popularity has not been contained within Bristol. 'It was like a virus,' Joe says. 'It came from Michael and spread to us, and then other universities started catching it just as quickly.' To assist other universities in developing their own projects, Michael launched the Innocence Network UK (INUK). 'At the end of 2005, there were three Innocence Projects in the network,' he recalls. 'At the end of 2006, there were seven. By the end of this year, there will be 20. Bristol invented the wheel, but we share it with other projects so that they don't have to reinvent it every time.' This help takes the form of Michael's INUK starter pack, which is now sent out to all potential projects. It includes sample letters, details of protocols that all projects must abide by, and a copy of the Innocence Project handbook that Michael originally developed for his own students.

When any UK Innocence Project receives an enquiry, details are stored on a centralised INUK database, and members can search the system for local or relevant cases to work on. Enquiries are subject to stringent

vetting, but the database currently holds almost 500 eligible cases and is growing all the time. Michael also has an ever-expanding little black book of experts prepared to offer their services, from forensic scientists to private detectives. The students on the project are also coming to be recognised as experts in their own right. This year, Joe and Gabe were guest speakers at the Annual Conference of the Society of Expert Witnesses, and the pair joined Amanda, Jess and fellow UoBIP member Madeline Williams (Law 2005-) to be featured in a BBC documentary.

An episode in the *Rough Justice* series focused on the students' work on the case of Simon Hall, convicted in 2003 for a murder he insists he did not commit. 'I don't think an hour's film could ever have truly done justice to a case with so much background,' Jess reflects. 'But for him, it did something amazing. Overnight, he received 120 letters of support and thousands of hits on his website. That can only be a good thing.'

For the students, the show was an opportunity to publicise Simon's case, meet experts such as leading human rights lawyer Kier Starmer QC, get better access to paperwork (which Jess describes as a 'constant battle' in most cases) and experience life as lawyers with a BBC budget. And when asked about her most memorable moment as an Innocence Project member, Amanda doesn't hesitate. 'Going to see Simon in prison,' she says. 'Seeing him was completely different to just knowing he was in there. It was very emotional. Afterwards, I could be in a nightclub or walking down the street and I would just think, he's

still in there. We were careful to emphasise to him that what we can do is limited. But he told us that it didn't matter, because we had given him hope, and that was enough to get him through the day.'

At three years old, the project is still an infant in the legal world, but the students are also full of hope that eventually it will overturn a case. 'I can't guarantee that cases will be overturned by the work of the Innocence Projects,' admits Michael. 'I believe they will, but I can't guarantee it. What I can guarantee is that the students involved are going to learn the limitations of the legal system in a way they would never have been able to before. And what they'll do with this, no one knows.'

As these future courtroom champions finish their drinks and prepare to leave (ready, of course, for another early start tomorrow), it seems that they share Michael's belief. 'Even if students don't make an impact on an individual case, it changes what we think,' Joe says. 'Whatever we do in the future, we will carry this conscience and awareness with us, and we spread it to everyone we meet. Mike has given us a really firm foundation with the project, but more than that, he's passed on his passion. And once that's inside you, it's there to stay.'

'I don't think any of us are doing this for our CVs,' says Amanda. 'In ten years' time, maybe it'll be about status, or money or school fees. But right now? This is when we're most passionate.' There isn't a lawyer in the country who could argue with that. ■



Gabe Tan (LLB 2007, MSc Socio-legal Studies 2007-) with Dr Michael Naughton (BSc 1996, PhD 2003)



Anne Craven from INNOCENT and Michael with Paul Blackburn. Paul had his conviction quashed in 2005 following a 27-year battle with the court since his conviction at the age of 15



Mike O'Brien, one of the Cardiff Newspaper Three



Michael with Paddy Hill, one of the Birmingham Six



How I became a campaigner

Anne Weyman (BSc 1965, Hon LLD 2005) is Chief Executive of the Family Planning Association (fpa). She is Honorary President and Founder of the Sex Education Forum and was awarded an OBE for services to family planning in 2000.

Starting out

I was always interested in social issues, even when I was quite young. My great motivation was, and still is, a desire to understand the world around me. That's why I chose to study physics at Bristol. I thought science would have the answer, but I found that it became too abstract.

After university I went on to do accountancy. In 1968 I was admitted to the Institute of Chartered Accountants. However, I still wanted to play a part in changing the world and increasingly I wanted to understand the world from a social point of view. So in 1972 I went to the London School of Economics to study sociology. I thought social research was a good way to change the world. Then I realised I was a doer; I liked to get on with things. At this point I moved to the voluntary sector to work for Amnesty International as Head of Finance and Administration. I was taken on for my accountancy and management skills. I began to influence social policy, especially around health and women's rights, through my activities outside work. My next post, Company Secretary and Information and Public Affairs Director at the National Children's Bureau, enabled me to develop my interest in children's rights and family policy, while continuing to use my financial and management skills.

Becoming a campaigner

When I started working for **fpa** my campaigning and leadership skills were really brought together. The organisation was going through a difficult time when I arrived in 1996. It was deeply divided on many issues. Today it's very united. We're clear about what we're doing. We've broadened our remit, raised our profile and increased our influence.

We've also seen a huge change in the position of sexual health on the Government's agenda. When Labour came to power in 1997 the public health policy paper made no mention of sexual health. Other campaigners at the time were very negative. They said: 'What's the point of fighting? The Government isn't going to do anything'. My response was: 'Well it certainly isn't going to do anything if we don't make a fuss'.

The big issue for us now is that people think Britain's abortion and contraception services are all okay, but they're not. Abortion law has not kept up with the great advances in the methods available, so services are not attuned to women's needs.

Highs and lows

The high of being a campaigner is when you get success – it's fantastic. The low is when you

go round the same argument time and time again and people trot out the same reasons why something can't be done.

I am hopeful that we are about to see improvements and changes in abortion law. It really is awful that women are being denied the best possible service because of an antiquated law. I hope that the law's going to change and, if it does, I'll get great satisfaction from the fact that I've played some part in this.

What you need to make it

To be a good campaigner you need to be clear about what you're trying to achieve and you need to be in it for the long haul. You need to be determined and resilient.

Working for something you believe in is the best job you can possibly have. You may not earn much money, but nothing beats it. There are amazing people in this sector and it's been a privilege working with them to achieve the things we have. ■



www.fpa.org.uk

How to save the whales and dolphins

Our expert: **Mark Simmonds (BSc 1980)**, International Director of Science for the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS).



Understanding the threats

There are some special challenges associated with the conservation of whales and dolphins (collectively known as cetaceans), but securing public sympathy is typically not one of them. Cetaceans, particularly dolphins, are widely appreciated. However, as the UK's overweight pet population testifies, it is easy to kill with kindness if there is a basic lack of understanding of an animal's needs.

Most of us know very little about the marine environment beyond the beauty, diversity and scale conveyed by natural history programmes. It is understandable then that many of us mistakenly view the sea as a vast, homogenous body in which it should be possible for animals as intelligent as cetaceans to just move away from any threats. However, cetaceans have specific habitat requirements which make this impossible – for example, some have ranges that expose them to threats across international

boundaries. As a result, activities such as fisheries, leisure and commercial boat traffic, marine industry (including fossil fuel exploration and extraction) and military sonar can have significant impact on populations. Not to mention the pervasive impact of climate change.

Addressing the threats

Ultimately, saving the whales and dolphins requires: a sound knowledge of their biology; the political will to save them (possibly at the expense of some marine industrial development); national, and international, legislation to underpin conservation plans (with adequate enforcement mechanisms); and a healthy marine environment.

The best way to ensure that there is a political will to prioritise cetacean conservation is to harness the undoubted public enthusiasm and goodwill. Policy makers have a duty to respond to public concerns.

What you can do

As a concerned individual, you can:

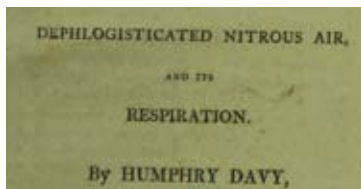
- ensure your voice is heard by writing direct to the relevant politicians;
- support groups, such as the WDCS, allowing us to increase the impact of our campaigning at venues such as the International Whaling Commission and at home in government circles too;
- avoid going to captive cetacean shows or swimming with captive dolphins;
- ensure any whale/dolphin-watching trips are approved and that the boat owner complies with good practice;
- strive to cut your greenhouse gas emissions;
- always take your rubbish home from any trips to the seaside.

In the end the whales and dolphins will only survive if we wake up to the problems that they are facing and work hard to keep them around. ■

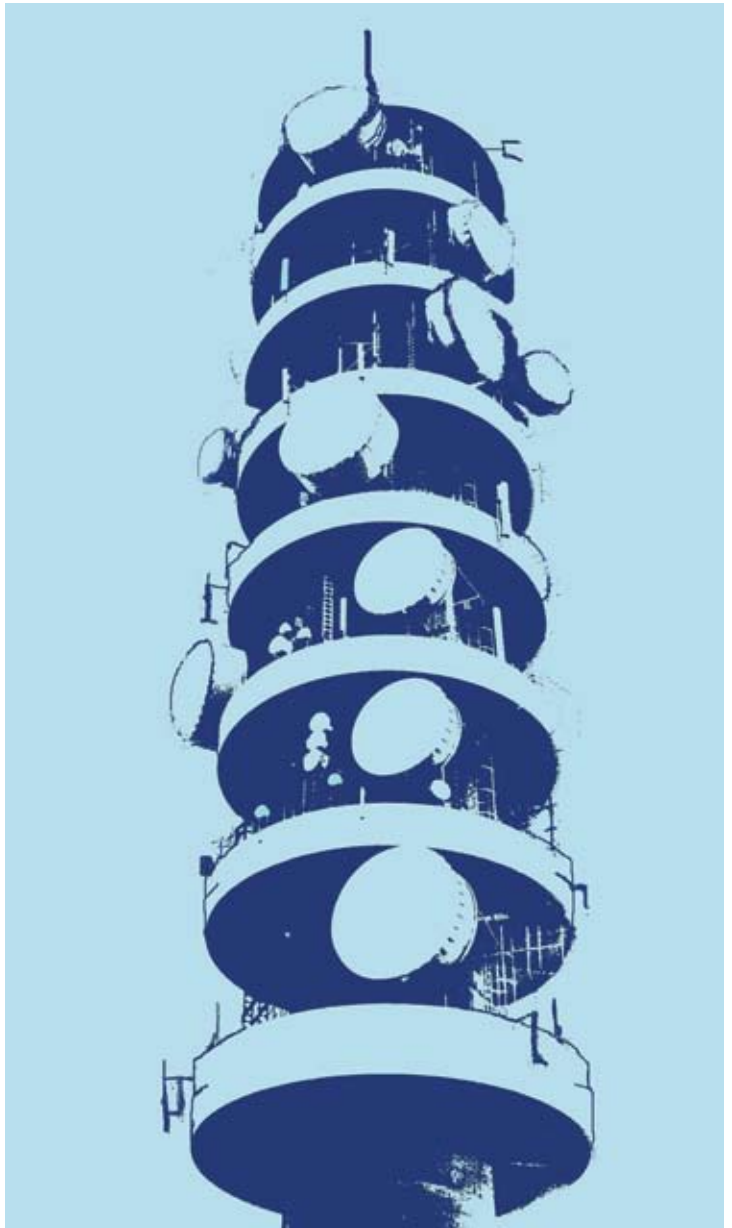
www.wdcs.org

From the collections

The Pneumatic Institute



This book from the Garner Bequest in the Chemistry Library is a record of experiments carried out in the Pneumatic Institute in Dowry Square, Hotwells by Humphry Davy, the brilliant young assistant of Dr Thomas Beddoes, an idealistic practitioner and a leading investigator of the therapeutic uses of gases. The names of Coleridge and Southey appear among the willing guinea-pigs whose experiences are recorded and remind us that Davy and Beddoes moved in the circles of the liberal intelligentsia. Joseph Cottle, the printer, achieved renown as the publisher of these Romantic poets. Davy himself saw through the press works by Wordsworth and Southey. James Watt made the gas-making apparatus, and financial backing for the Institute came from Josiah Wedgwood. By early 1801 Davy's promise had taken him to the Royal Institution in London. ■



A different take

• Amy Kimber (BA 1999) has
• released a set of limited-edition
• textiles based on some of
• Bristol's most loved modern
• landmarks. The first two
• designs in the series feature
• modern prints of the Colston
• Tower and the BT Tower and
• are now available to buy as
• tea-towels. Designed as an

antidote to the more mainstream
Bristol souvenirs available, they
are proving a hit with Bristol
students and alumni alike.

The tea towels are available
from the Here Gallery and Iota
on Bristol's Gloucester Road or
online at

www.arcticcircles.co.uk. ■

The accidental entrepreneur

Ian Anderson (PhD Computer Science 2005-) is harnessing the power of new technology to help people with disabilities regain their independence. Lara King (BA 2007) reports.



What will be the revolutionary gadget of 2008? If you're about to place your bets on the dinkiest digital camera or most miniature mobile, you would be well advised to consult Ian Anderson first. While most companies are competing to produce the smallest and shiniest technological toy, this is one enterprising inventor determined to introduce substance into an industry dominated by style.

'Over the last ten years I've watched technology develop around me, and I realised that the science behind the gimmicky gadgets and status symbols could actually be used to improve the quality of somebody's life,' explains Ian, an ambitious Bristol PhD student. 'But no one was bothering, and that frustrated me.' To fight this frustration, he founded award-winning start-up company Pure Ability Limited, which makes state-of-the-art wearable computing technology for the healthcare industry.

So far, his reads like any other corporate CV. But while many entrepreneurs will tell you they became business people quite by accident, the accident that led Ian to his career was of a potentially devastating kind.

Ten years ago, Ian broke his neck in a road accident and was left paralysed. His army career was cut short and as he adapted to life in a wheelchair he was also forced to adapt his home, his car and his outlook. 'After the accident, I was in shock,' he admits. 'I never sat down and decided to develop the kind of business I have now. I never made a decision to become associated with the disability. But I wanted to do something.'

Although he hadn't set foot in a classroom since his GCSEs, the 'something' he decided on was education. Ian completed an undergraduate course in computing at the University of the West of England, before moving to the University of Bristol to embark on a PhD in mobile and wearable computing. It was during his time at Bristol that he began to consider how he could apply his academic knowledge to some of the issues that face him and the 40,000 other sufferers from spinal cord injury across the UK.

'For me, Bristol was an extremely open and friendly environment,' he says. 'Everyone who starts university is scared, everyone is away from home, everyone is out of their comfort zone. Because of this, universities are the most open-minded places in the world.' And because of this, Ian met people who shared his view that independence should be made possible for everyone.

In 2006, Ian and fellow student Paul Duff (PhD Computer Science 2005-) submitted a business plan for Pure Ability to the University's annual New Enterprise Competition, which is designed to promote entrepreneurial endeavours amongst students and staff. They won. 'The competition gave us our first injection of cash and took us from the land of PhD overdrafts into viable business territory,' says Ian, whose prize included six months of rent-free office space along with a £15,000 grant. 'But it meant more than money to us. It was reassurance that our business plan had genuine potential, and that it wasn't just a feel-good idea.'

Within a week, Pure Ability had been registered as a limited

company, and the boys were ready to turn ideas into action. Working with engineer Andrew Flook and commercial director Chris Groves, the team developed its first product line, Sensagest.

Standing for 'sense' and 'gesture', Sensagest is based around an innovative touch-sensitive fabric which can detect the slightest movement. It allows devices to be controlled from a single intuitive and accessible interface and without the need for buttons, it can be operated by people whose movement is restricted.

Fuelled by the frustration Ian had felt with the systems in place during his own hospital stay, the team used the technology to develop a nurse call system. 'The traditional nurse call system in hospitals involves pressing a button on a device attached to the bed,' Ian explains. 'What about patients who have limited motor function? It's impossible for them to press a button, and so it is impossible for them to call for assistance. But the alternative is actually very simple.'

The Sensagest nurse call system can also detect changes in condition, such as a wet bed, and relay this information to a care worker. But for Ian, the greatness of the gadgetry lies in the potential for independence. 'The Sensagest device is connected to a small wearable computer, which can be programmed to communicate with devices near the bedside,' he explains. 'Disabled patients are not only able to call for assistance, but are also empowered to control other equipment, such as televisions or lights, without relying on already overstretched nursing staff.' The nurse call product is currently undergoing NHS trials,



Ian Anderson with Andy Flook, Sensagest's engineer

but the Pure Ability team believes the technology has the potential to be used in homes as well as hospitals.

They are not the only ones to have faith in Ian's innovation. In November 2006, Pure Ability won the 'Winner of Winners' competition, awarded to the best business idea across the universities of Bristol, Bath and the West of England. Earlier this year, Sensagest also received national recognition at the Medical Futures Innovation Awards 2007, scooping the Best Independence Innovation Award along with the top spot in the Bone and Joint Innovation Awards category. 'An award like this means that people are starting to understand why our products are important,' says Ian. 'People are starting to realise that the best gadgets aren't necessarily the ones

that sell in their millions and are in everybody's stockings at Christmas.'

If Ian has his way, however, it won't be long before these life-changing gadgets don't look out of place alongside more glamorous gizmos. 'Most of today's gadgets ooze style and are the kind of things you want around your home,' he says. 'But for some reason, disability technology has been left behind, and the majority is functional, unappealing and expensive. Pure Ability is giving these gadgets a makeover. My goal is that, in five to ten years, other companies will be forced to follow suit or face going out of business.'

Ian speaks like a true entrepreneur, but a bursting bank balance has never been his goal, and no money has been withdrawn from Sensagest funds for personal

“Over the last ten years I've watched technology develop around me, and I realised that the science behind the gimmicky gadgets and status symbols could actually be used to improve the quality of somebody's life.”

salaries. 'I like the idea of being a social entrepreneur, and knowing that my work could make a difference to others whose lives have been changed forever is what motivates me,' he says. 'I still find the fact that I am now solving problems I first became aware of when I broke my neck a little strange, because I never set out to do this. But I think being an entrepreneur is all about fusing knowledge with personal experience.'

Ian and his team are now developing more products for release in early 2008. This accidental entrepreneur aims to help people with disabilities regain their independence through his inventions. And for the thousands of people in this position, Ian's own determination and achievements may be just as inspirational as the product. ■

The pursuit of truth

Eve MacFarlane talks to Alison Smale (BA 1977) about her life in journalism and the power of the word to do good.

“
**You plunge yourself
 into strange places.
 It’s an incredibly
 exciting experience.
 It’s definitely
 dangerous.**”



Alison on assignment in Brcko, Bosnia, 31 August 1997

There’s just one type of professional I envy: the foreign correspondent. I imagine a life of daring adventures, smoky bars, camaraderie. And all for that noble cause: the pursuit of truth – glamorous *and* worthy. So when Alison Smale (BA 1977), managing editor of the *International Herald Tribune (IHT)*, agrees to be interviewed for *Nonesuch*, the green-eyed monster in me stirs.

Although now firmly desk-based in the *IHT*’s head office in Paris, Alison cut her teeth at the coal face. She started her journalism career as a foreign correspondent in 1978, working in Bonn for United Press International (UPI). In 1981 she switched wires – reporting for the Associated Press (AP) out of Bonn, Moscow and, finally, Vienna. During this time she covered some of the key events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, including the transition from Andropov through Chernenko to Gorbachev in the Soviet Union and the rise of Slobodan Milosevic and Serbian nationalism. In 1998 she moved to the US to join the *New York Times* as assistant foreign editor, becoming deputy

foreign editor in 2002. In 2004 she crossed the pond again to take up her current role.

It’s been quite a ride. It’s a tough lifestyle and certainly not a career for the faint-hearted. So what inspired her to take this path? As a child Alison loved ‘language, travelling, writing and discovering things’ and with the encouragement of a ‘treasured’ history teacher she lighted on journalism. She studied German and Politics at Bristol. ‘It was an important time for me, as it is for many people,’ she says. She did a bit of writing for the local BBC radio station, but it was the year she spent in Munich as part of her German course that had the biggest impact. She describes a life-changing visit to Berlin, east and west, organised by the West German Government. ‘I was completely fascinated,’ she remembers. ‘How can it be that these people have lived in the same city, shared the same lives, language and history – yet one half lives with truth and freedom and the other doesn’t? What does that do to people?’ After graduating, fired up to

begin her career in journalism, Alison applied for fast-track training programmes with the BBC, Reuters and some provincial newspapers. None were interested. But Stanford University was. Alison landed one of only 12 places on its Masters programme in journalism and won a full scholarship. It was the beginning of a life long relationship with American journalism.

During her first stint as a correspondent in Bonn, Alison visited friends who were working for UPI in Moscow. Twenty-four hours in the city and she was hooked: ‘I was utterly fascinated by this strange, bizarre place and was determined to work there.’ She spent four years based in the city, a time she describes as ‘intense’. She was interrogated twice by the KGB. She also met, and fell in love with, a Russian pianist and composer who is now her husband. ‘We had lots of adventures,’ she recalls.

The next port of call was Vienna, where Alison became AP’s bureau chief for most of Eastern Europe. She describes this

period as 'lots of fun in miserable places'. Alison and her fellow correspondents were pretty much left to themselves. 'No one was really paying attention to us,' she remembers. 'Editors weren't asking us what we were doing. They are small countries, they weren't making the news.' Alison and a few other correspondents, including fellow Bristol graduate Misha Glenn (BA 1980), spent their time travelling the region, trying to make sense of what was happening.

It was no coincidence that Alison was in Berlin the night the wall fell in 1989. 'I wasn't actually assigned,' she says. 'I'd been watching events unfold and I knew what was going to happen. I came through Checkpoint Charlie with the first East German woman to cross. That's the only time in my life I've ever pinched myself and thought: "Is this really happening?"'

I wondered how it felt to be recording these historic events as they happened. Did she feel a great weight of responsibility? 'The fall of the Berlin Wall was an overwhelming night. It was powered by adrenalin and exhilaration. But that's not where you really feel the responsibility. It's when it's more complicated. Like the outbreak of war in the former Yugoslavia. The politics are tough to understand and when they become clear to you, you have to make them clear to others – people who haven't spent hours in smoke-filled bars in the Balkans trying to understand the situation.' For Alison, clarity is the key here. 'There's no point in journalism if what you're saying isn't clear. What's the point in risking your life if you haven't even been understood?'

The life of a foreign correspondent has been described as 'dangerous and lonely and difficult and exhilarating'. Does she agree? 'It's all of those things and a lot more,' she says. 'You plunge yourself into strange places. It's an incredibly exciting experience. It's definitely dangerous. You're entrusting your life to strangers. You need to have an aptitude for reading human beings. You need to know your limits, to know when not to go down the road when a mercenary tells you that there's fighting down there.' And the job's attraction? 'I liked the idea of being paid to be people's eyes and ears in places that they're not able to go. I like to chronicle things. And I'm tremendously curious. Human behaviour endlessly fascinates me.'

Her next move, to the *New York Times*, was no surprise. However, her promotion to managing editor of the *IHT* was a bolt from the blue. 'When the *New York Times* bought out the *Washington Post*, and therefore acquired full control of the *IHT*, I thought I might make that move sometime, but I honestly wasn't expecting to be offered the job when I was,' she says. Yet, it is an obvious fit – what with fluency in French, Russian and German. And she's very much enjoying the role. 'I love working for a paper that is not of any one country,' she explains. 'There are no sides. You just look at the issues affecting the world.'

Alison is highly regarded as an editor and much praised by her colleagues. One correspondent at the *New York Times* described her as: 'smart as hell, totally reliable, calm in a storm and fiercely supportive of tempest-tossed reporters'.

There have been huge changes in media in the last few years, with the growth of online news and user-generated content. Does she see these changes as a threat? 'Blogs are great,' she says. 'But there's still a need to produce quality reporting. You have to keep trusting in quality journalism. As things become more complicated, it needs a practiced eye to make sense of it.'

Truth is something Alison is passionate about, so it's not surprising that when I ask her if she has any advice for aspiring foreign correspondents, her response is: 'I don't want to sound preachy, but truth is really important. We've been given language for a reason. Use it precisely. The temptation nowadays is to press a button and move information around from one place to another. You must resist. You need to make sure that you know it's the truth, or at least that you believe it's the truth. Journalists do make mistakes – journalism is, after all, called the first rough draft of history – but you need to check your facts as much as possible.'

And for those who need to get their foot on the rung? 'Travel and practice trying to describe your experiences,' she advises. 'Part of my application to Stanford University was a diary I kept of my rail trip through Europe in my early 20s.'

So with the interview over and my head full of tales of adventure and thoughts about the power of the word to do good in the world, I find myself in Waterstones, selecting a Moleskine journal from the shelves. Just the kind a foreign correspondent might use. ■

**A day in the life of
Alison Smale over page >**



A Day in the Life of ... Alison Smale, Managing Editor, *International Herald Tribune*



A spacious flat just off the Champs Élysées, a jet-setting existence that takes me to Asia at least once a year, a loving, wonderfully gifted Russian pianist-composer husband, a talented 15-year-old daughter and an interesting job: what more could anyone want?

Answer: time to savour and appreciate each part of this busy life.

Take last Wednesday, as I write. Lucy, our daughter, up for breakfast, off to school. I'm reading the paper. Next, a dash to the Club Med gym round the corner (to try and work off inevitable effects of French cuisine and wine). By 9 am it's off to the *IHT* offices in Neuilly, a wealthy western suburb of Paris where Nicolas Sarkozy got his start in the late 1970s as France's youngest mayor.

At the *IHT*, the day usually starts with a telephone news conference with our Hong Kong newsroom, which oversees the Asian editions of the *IHT*. For about half an hour we discuss stories from all parts of the paper – from sports to business, science to culture, news to features – and pick the Page One lineup. Then it's upstairs for another round of email, looking at stories that have arrived in our inbox overnight from *The New York Times* (which took full

ownership of the *IHT* in 2003) and calling reporters in Europe to begin shaping the news report for the editions published in Paris at 9 pm and 11 pm our time for distribution throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa – and across the Atlantic.

Normally, that European outlook first gets discussed by senior editors at our noon meeting. On this particular day, I am not attending since a car awaits to take me to LCI, a French all-news TV channel, for an hour-long broadcast discussing Sarkozy's ongoing visit to the United States with two other analysts.

Then it's back to the office for a quick lunch and more discussion of our many challenges: how to keep publishing a quality daily newspaper in 36 different print sites around the world, for distribution in well over 100 countries, build out the website for the digital age (all readers of this article are actively encouraged to go to iht.com to see a real international news report) and coordinate all that with New York, the engine of our operation.

Afternoon sees me take a plane to Frankfurt for a fascinating conference on China and its new role in the world, the subject of a special report I have overseen

in today's editions, timed for the conference where the *IHT* is copiously and freely available in our never-ending quest for readers among the global business elite. Dinner is a multilingual affair in the bowels of the somewhat utilitarian (if doubtless super efficient) new Deutsche Boerse, or German stock exchange: a lively German economist specializing in new and emerging markets, a Russian actress and her Russian TV star husband, Brits from various walks of life, based everywhere from Hong Kong to the UK, a German journalist. Eventually, my *IHT* colleague based in Frankfurt arrives and we repair to a bar in the city center to mull over the latest in banking news (the dimensions of the subprime crisis), exchange family news and ponder the next set of stories we hope will distinguish the *IHT* from the crowd.

(Footnote: the next day starts with a real measure of the modern world: I host a breakfast at (gulp!) 7:30 am for a fascinating discussion of China's role in Africa. If anyone had told me in Bosnia in 1997 that this would be my fate in a decade, I can freely admit that I would have laughed and said they were dreaming!) ■

www.iht.com

Student eye

Hannah Isaacs (BSc 2007)
on Bristol students' work in developing countries.

Many of you have heard of Student Community Action's work in the region. Many of you know about the 100,000-hours plus that Bristol students give back annually to the city in which they live through volunteering. Not so well publicised is the work that we as a student body do overseas – helping people in developing countries to lead better lives with improved opportunities.

For over 20 years the Hodgkin Scholarship programme has existed within the Students' Union as a way of encouraging Bristol students to think more globally and to become aware of the difference in standards of education around the world. The Scholarship is given to students from developing countries where they cannot receive a higher education for political or social reasons. Past and present students and staff raise funds to pay for the scholars' living expenses and travel costs, and their tuition fees are funded by the University.

Scholars are funded for a one-year Masters programme, usually in the Graduate School of Education, and are expected, after their year at Bristol, to impart their knowledge to fellow countrymen and women on their return home.

This year's scholar is Peter Vuni, a head teacher from the Sudan who has been living and working in refugee camps around the



region for a number of years. I must admit, it is an unforgettable moment when you meet someone like Peter. It has been a privilege to meet a person whose life experience is so different from my own and who has been given this opportunity to change the lives of others by the generosity of the University community.

A new and exciting development this year is the RAG 'Kili Climb'. For the first time in its 83-year history, RAG will be fundraising for international charities. Working with two African development projects, the Kili Climb will see 30 Bristol students volunteering both time and effort to raise an impressive £2,250 each.

Volunteers will fly out to Nairobi in August 2008, before embarking on a seven-day trek to scale Mount Kilimanjaro, the world's largest free-standing mountain. They will then have the chance to visit some of the projects being helped by the fundraising, including Tanzanian schools benefiting from Books 4 Tanzania,

a volunteer-led charity that sources books for rural libraries.

But we don't just contribute funding. Bristol Volunteers for Development Abroad is a society that 'promotes sustainability, by working successive years in the same area, on projects targeting environment, health and education initiatives in developing countries'. The volunteers' work takes them on annual trips to places such as Thailand, Rwanda and Uganda where they engage in teaching English and health education. Eight students were involved in a scheme in India following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, participating in reconstruction work and childcare programmes.

It is truly impressive that so many Bristol students do so much globally, and it is such an important role that we play. As the University itself becomes more international, so do the projects we as students involve ourselves in, and it makes me proud to be a part of this community. ■

In print

A selection of recently published books by Bristol alumni.



***Big Secrets for Not So Little Girls* by Miranda Shearer (BA 2006), published by Orion, £12.99.**

A practical living handbook full of hilarious stuff covering travel, jobs, boys, love and hate, sex, glamour, fashion no-nos, parties, cooking, nasty habits, things that go terribly wrong, and lots of other weird bits and pieces. There's advice, inspiration, funny thoughts, things people forget to tell you ...

***Sylvia, Queen of the Headhunters* by Philip Eade (BA 1988), published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson General, £20.00.**

Sylvia Brooke was also known as Her Highness the Rane of Sarawak, the notorious wife of the last white Rajah. One of the more exotic figures of the 20th century, she was described by the press as 'that most charming of despots', and by her own brother as 'a female lagoon'. This book chronicles her extraordinary life.

***Opera (Eyewitness Companion Guides)* by Alan Riding (BA 1964), published by Dorling Kindersley, £16.99.**

Spanning 400 years of musical drama from the late Renaissance,

and including such classical masters as Verdi, Puccini, and Bizet, this is the complete visual guidebook to the great operas, their composers and performance history.

***Palliative Care in Severe Dementia* by Julian Hughes (MB ChB 1988), published by Quay Books, £29.99.**

This book deals with the issues holistically, looking at the physical, psychological, social and spiritual aspects of care. Written by experts in the field, with some very practical advice, it also places a heavy emphasis on the ethical issues that arise for professionals and for families in the care of people with severe dementia.

***The Bradt Travel Guide to Kosovo* by Gail Warrander (LLB 1993) and Verena Knaus, published by Bradt Travel Guides, £14.99.**

The first dedicated solely to Kosovo, this guide provides full coverage of the young, fast-growing capital, Pristina, tips on living in Kosovo, including cultural norms, accommodation, food and communications and information on Kosovo's ski resort, Brezovica, which offers some of the best skiing in southeastern Europe.

***Catalonia: a Cultural History* by Michael Eade (PhD 1996), published by Oxford University Press, \$25.**

This book illuminates the cultural and literary history of Catalonia – from the stunning modern architecture of Barcelona, to the medieval Benedictine abbey at Montserrat, to the ancient Roman ruins of Tarragona.

***Welcome to the Working Week* by Paul Vitos (BA 2000), published by Orion, £18.99.**

Meet Martin Sargent. He hasn't got a girlfriend (not anymore, anyway);

he hasn't got a flatmate (see point one) and he definitely hasn't got the gift of tact. But he has got his mates (against all odds), an office crush and a mum who wants him to welcome Jesus into his life. But most pressing of all, Martin's got a disciplinary meeting for improper use of work email.

***The Well-tempered Clavier* by William Coles (BA 1986), published by Legend Press, £7.99**

Seventeen-year-old schoolboy Kim is an idle drifter at one of Britain's most extraordinary institutions, Eton College – crammed with over a thousand boys and not a girl in sight. He has a wild one-month affair with his piano mistress. Twenty-five years on, he recalls that heady summer.

Witness Testimony: Psychological, Investigative and Evidential Perspectives, by Anthony Heaton-Armstrong (LLB 1972) (chief editor), published by Oxford University Press, £49.95. Testimonial evidence remains the greatest source of information available to those who try cases in court. The assessment of the reliability and accuracy of contentious evidence given by witnesses has always been fraught with difficulty for judges and juries yet it has been the subject of scant academic study. *Witness Testimony* provides a comprehensive and easily accessible guide to the decision-making and actions across the spectrum of practitioner involvement in the criminal justice process, from initial investigation through to courtroom proceedings.

Alumni news

A weekend in Buckhorn

Nineteen alumni and their partners enjoyed an action-packed weekend in the Kawartha Lakes area of Ontario this September. The group canoed on the lake, visited a nearby art gallery and attended a Pow Wow at a nearby Indian reserve. John Bull (BSc 1958) said: 'For the most part those attending were regulars, having been to previous events in Ontario, but it was gratifying to broaden the net to welcome some newcomers who we hope will have been inspired to return to future gatherings.'



Old hands meet new heads

In August, New York-based Bristol alumni and soon-to-be Bristol students gathered at the fifth Bon Voyage Party. It was hosted in midtown Manhattan at Twins Bar & Grill by Tony East (BSc 1959, PhD 1964), Ian Sellick (BSc 1975) and Wendy Vandame (BSc 1974).

The event was well attended by both new students and by local alumni. Among those on hand to 'raise a glass' were students Chris Holland, Amanda Goodman, Jonathan Cristol and Ian Turlin, aided and abetted by alumni Michael Pollock (BSc 1971), Andy Millard (BSc 1983), Carrie Maier (MSc 2005), Leslie Stevens (BSc 1975), Ben Court (MEng 2006), Caroline Hepker (BA 2000), David Byron-Brown (BA 1980), Eric Westerlund (JYA 1985) and Samantha Silver, among others.



Left to right: Wendy Vandame (BSc 1974), Sioned Evans, Francois Vandame (History of Art 2007-), Ian Sellick (BSc 1975), Chris Holland, Bruno Vandame, Michael Pollock, C Stephen Lloyd (BSc 1982).

New memorial lecture in child health

Pioneering paediatrician Dr Beryl Corner OBE MD (Hon MD 1996) left £10,000 in her will to establish a memorial lecture in child health to be called 'The Beryl Corner Memorial Lecture'. She also left medical books for the library.

Into the blue and digging deep – access all areas

Bristol alumni are getting 'behind the scenes' access thanks to a new alumni events programme.

Over thirty Bristol alumni met for a tour of the world-famous Bristol Blue Glass working factory in Bristol on 20 September. The tour included a talk explaining the manufacturing process, along with

demonstrations of glass blowing. In June another group of alumni joined a student dig at Berkeley Castle. The visit, led by Dr Mark Horton from the University's Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and BBC 2's *Coast* series, included a guided tour of the castle as well as the chance to join in the dig.

The next 'behind the scenes' event – a visit to the University's Theatre Collection – is scheduled for 6 March 2008.

Pioneers' party

Nearly 60 people attended a Bristol Pioneers reception in October, which celebrated Bristol's Department of Drama and the many achievements of its alumni. The evening was held at the Groucho Club in Soho where the Pioneers were guests of Club member Nick Hurrell (BA 1985).

Guests heard a talk from Martin White, Professor of Theatre, and Matthew Warchus (BA 1988). Matthew has directed over 50 productions including the original 1996 production of *Art* and the stage production of *The Lord of the Rings* now at Drury Lane.

Donors giving £1,000 or more to the University in a single academic year are recognised as Bristol Pioneers, a group whose generosity and commitment has enormous impact. In 2006/07, 136 Bristol Pioneers gave more than £760,000 to Bristol.



Professor Martin White and Matthew Warchus

A dramatic legacy

‘Dr Thorpe’s kind legacy will make a huge difference to the prospects of DramSoc this year. We can now afford to reach a wider audience, create bigger productions that will allow more people to be involved, and generally give a little more back to our members, who put a lot of time into the theatrical world here at Bristol.’

Nick Blakeley (Drama and English 2005-), President of DramSoc



Derek Thorpe on graduation day



On the 1951 UBDS Tour. From left to right: Gerry Matthews (LLB 1952), Derek Forbes, Derek Thorpe, Norman Lloyd Edwards and Jean Bell (BA 1955)

If you would like further information about how to make a legacy to the University, please contact Laura Serratrice on +44 (0)117 331 7560 or laura.serratrice@bristol.ac.uk

Dr Derek Thorpe passed away on 25 March 2006. If anyone remembers Derek from their Bristol days and would like to make contact with his family, please contact the Campaigns and Alumni Relations team on +44 (0)117 331 7560.

Dr Derek Thorpe (BSc 1951, PhD 1953) came to Bristol to study science, but from his very early days at University his real passion was drama. While at Bristol, his happiest times were, without comparison, those he spent with the University of Bristol Dramatic Society and Players, which was as active then as its modern incarnation, DramSoc, is today. Derek took a very active role in the society and was involved in acting as well as backstage activities, especially lighting. In 1951 he travelled around the South West with other society members for the first-ever UBDS tour and was, among other things, the official tour photographer. Six more tours were to follow this first, very successful one, and those trips were the source of lasting memories for Derek and the cause of his enduring affection for Bristol.

After leaving university, Derek pursued a fulfilling career in chemical engineering and worked for governmental organisations; he travelled extensively on business, mostly to Iraq. He lost touch with the University for a number of years after graduation, but kept in contact with at least some of the friends he had made at Bristol. When the University contacted Derek in 1994 to ask for his support for the University’s Annual Fund, he was delighted to be able to help current students to experience the great opportunities that Bristol has to offer. As a result he made

regular unrestricted gifts over ten years, and he also left a portion of his estate as a legacy, this time specifically for the benefit of DramSoc.

Derek’s legacy is being distributed to society projects through the Alumni Foundation. Over the years the foundation has given grants ranging from £100 to £1,000 to projects such as a 50th-anniversary production of *The Room* by Harold Pinter; a performance of *The King of Prussia* at the National Student Drama Festival; and a production of *The Little Mermaid* at the Edinburgh Fringe, to name but a few. But DramSoc is about a lot more than staging performances. It also embraces the abilities and interests of students from a variety of backgrounds and gives everyone the opportunity to make an impact, whatever role – writing, acting or backstage production – they have decided to take on. For many drama students the society is a real testing ground where new skills can be learnt – but most of all it’s great fun to be part of.

The University is indebted to Derek for his gifts during his lifetime and for his generous legacy to DramSoc. His support means that many worthwhile projects will be made possible in the coming years, and many more students will have the chance to enjoy those extra-curricular activities that make Bristol buzz. ■

Your news

John Tan Chor-Yong (LLB 1958) lives in Singapore. After graduating he lectured in law and then set up a successful legal practice. After 25 years he retired from law and started painting, jewellery designing and manufacturing and dealing gem stones. He is married and has two grown-up children.

Robert Giddings (BA 1958, MLitt 1965) retired from teaching as Professor Emeritus, Media School, Bournemouth University. His publications include books on 18th-century literature, Dickens, colonial wars and war poets. His autobiography *You Should See Me in Pyjamas* was published in 1981.

Sheila Ormell (BA 1958) retired in 1995. Since then she has taught EFL and guitar, as well as much private coaching and supply teaching at Colfe's Preparatory School. In her spare time she paints, enjoys her seven grandchildren and plays guitar in an ensemble.

Robert Dunning (BA 1959, PhD 1963), FSA FRHistS, Editor of the *Victoria History of Somerset 1967-2005*, has been appointed a deputy-lieutenant of the County of Somerset.

Andrew Barker (BSc 1968) has taken up a new role in Melton Mowbray to help existing Christian churches look at fresh expressions of the Christian church and their missions for the 21st century. Alongside this he is Pastoral Advisor to Nottingham Chinese Christian Church, visiting lecturer to Cliff College Derbyshire and Trustee of Malt Cross in Nottingham.

Veronica Kitching (BDS 1968) spent 30 years treating Berkshire's special needs patients, retiring at the end of September 2000 with Mental Health Officer status – a first, she believes, for a dental surgeon.

Gillian Perkins (née Longfield) (BA 1968) is Director of the

Cambridge Music Festival. She still uses some of the rather old music books acquired at Bristol. Her younger son is reading English at Bristol now, and in keeping with the family tradition he finds lots of time for music, playing in many of the city's jazz clubs and at student gigs.

Charles Sisum (BSc 1968) worked for several decades in teaching and leadership roles, latterly as a secondary school head teacher in Sheffield. He has now returned to his Bristol student days' stamping grounds, living in Redland with his wife Heather. He currently works for Bath Spa University, in the Continuing Professional Development Department. Charles can be contacted on c.sisum@bathspa.ac.uk.

Chris Laurence (BVSc 1968) has been awarded the MBE for services to animal welfare in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Chris works for the Dogs Trust as its Veterinary Director and was nominated for the award by DEFRA for his work on animal welfare legislation in recent years.

Professor Helen Nicholson (BSc 1976, MB ChB 1979, MD 1986) became Dean of the Otago School of Medical Sciences at the University of Otago in February 2007.

Julia Goddard (BA 1978) trained as a secondary school teacher. After working in Paris, London and Vancouver she is now in her sixth year at Wycombe Abbey School in Buckinghamshire, teaching French and German.

Rob John (BSc 1978) taught chemistry at the University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the great famine of the mid-1980s. After being kidnapped by anti-government rebels in 1984 and held for six weeks, he ended up working in international development for most of his professional life. His involvement in micro-credit led him to run a venture philanthropy foundation in Oxford.

He is now a freelance consultant in venture philanthropy and social entrepreneurship and a fellow at the Skoll Centre, Said Business School, University of Oxford.

Phyl Chandler Winn (BA 1978) is married to the artist and writer Christopher Winn. For the last five years she has examined speech and drama candidates around the world for Trinity Guildhall. She is currently working in Australia.

Jill Helke (BA 1978) joined the Foreign Office after Bristol. She worked in Beijing as Vice Consul from 1983 to 1985. In 1993 she moved to the UN in Geneva as Head of Humanitarian Section and Head of Chancery. In 1999 she was loaned to the International Organization for Migration as Special Assistant to the Director General, and subsequently Executive Officer (Chief of Staff) – the position she now holds – in the Office of the Director General.

Margaret Hollingworth (MB ChB 1978) has been awarded an MSc with distinction in Audiological Medicine from University College London.

Andrew Keuls (LLB 1978) lives in Negros, the Philippines, with his wife, five teenagers, 14 dogs and two cats. He retired in 2003 to concentrate on poor golf and investments. He remains active in local charities and orphanages. He has five hedge funds and just opened his office on Richmond Green, London.

Gary Storey (BSc 1978) moved to South America in early 1979 and has spent his entire career in South and North America. He currently lives in Patagonia, Argentina where he runs his own oilfield service company.

Steve Rawlins (MSc 1983) lives in Woodchurch near Ashford in Kent with his wife, Heather, and four children. Having worked in the City from 1981 to 1998 as a foreign exchange dealer he now trades in financial markets from home.

Jeremy Page (MA 1983) recently

hosted a number of celebratory readings for the cult literary magazine *The Frogmore Papers*, which he co-founded with Andre Evans (LLB 1980) in 1983. Events included readings at the famous Troubadour Café in London and the Komedia in Brighton.

Katrina Deane (née Locke) (BSc 1983) lives in California with her husband Peter. They have two daughters, both of whom are active in equestrian sports. She works as a database and software consultant in the environmental engineering field.

Petrina Frost (née Clayton) (BA 1983) completed a diploma in counselling and is building up a practice in south Devon.

www.devon-counselling.co.uk

Steven McArdle (BSc 1983) is Assistant Head Teacher and Head of Sixth Form at Durham Johnston Comprehensive School. He is married and has two children. His daughter has just completed an MA in International Politics and Development at the University of East Anglia.

Andrew Richards (BSc 1983) finished his PhD at Princeton University in 1992, then spent the next 13 years at the Centre for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, Juan March Institute, Madrid. He travels extensively in Europe and South America and is immensely proud that his niece, Emma Tannahill, is now in her second year at Bristol studying biology.

Denise Hurst (BA 1983) married Nick Hastings. She has three daughters and is training to be a psychoanalytic psychotherapist.

Tim Jeffares (LLB 1983) is currently resident managing partner for Clifford Chance in Tokyo, having returned here at the beginning of 2004. His practice remains focused around financial institutions and, in particular, leverage finance work.

Tony Juniper (BSc 1983) has announced that he will step down

from his present role as Friends of the Earth's Executive Director in 2008.

Azim Lakha (MB ChB 1983) works as a GP in Northampton. Previously he worked in Canada. He is married to a GP and has two sons.

Thomas Oliver Moncrief, son of **Stephen Moncrief (BSc 1991)** and Jacqueline Moncrief, was born on 4 May 2007.

Amanda Hopkins (MA 1994, PhD 2000) teaches a range of subjects in the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies and the Department of French at Warwick University. She co-edited, with Cory Rushton (PhD 2005), *The Erotic in the Literature of Medieval Britain* and edited *Melion* in *French Arthurian Literature IV: Eleven Old French Narrative Lays*.

Benjamin Fawkes (BEng 1996) married Alayne Hadwick on 13 May 2007 at Buxted Park, East Sussex. They now live together in Southwater, near Horsham, West Sussex.

Zachary Thomas Ingold, son of **Jo Ingold (BSc 1999)** and **Chris Ingold (BA 1997)**, was born on 8 June 2007.

Zubin Kumar Dhar, son of **Govind Dhar (BSc 2002)** and **Jyoti Dhar (née Kumar) (MB ChB 2004)** was born on **22 April 2007**.

Lost friends

Ninie Achalakul (MB ChB 1962) would like to regain contact with **John Halazonetis (MB ChB 1962)**.

Mairona Liston (BA 1961) would like to regain contact with **David Brier (BA 1961)**.

Peter Lucas (BSc 1987) would like to regain contact with **Mark Dallen (BSc 1987)**.

Obituaries

The University extends its sincere condolences to the friends and families of those listed below for whom the University has received notification of death. Please email any notifications of deaths to alumni-obituaries@bristol.ac.uk.

Alumni (in order of degree date)

Want, Dr Ernest (MB ChB 1936) died 5 September 2007, aged 94.

Daniel (née Spicer), Mrs Muriel

Kathleen (BA 1938) died July 2007, aged 90.

Titt, Mr Reginald Arthur (BSc 1938) died 6 May 2007, aged 90.

Bevan, Dr Tom Harry (BSc 1940, PhD 1948) died 15 June 2007, aged 88.

Jackson, Mr Charles Edgar Probert (Dip Eng 1943) died 4 June 2007, aged 82.

Newlove (née Harris), Mrs Josephine Florence (BSc 1946, Dip Ed 1947) died 31 May 2005.

Parsons, Mr Kenneth Francis (BSc 1948) died 3 April 2007, aged 80.

Porter, Mr John (BA 1948) died 14 May 2007, aged 78.

Coles (née Stone), Mrs Pauline Emilie (BA 1949) died 12 May 2007, aged 80.

Richardson, Miss Sylvia Frances (BA 1949) died 10 October 2007, aged 80.

Siebel, Dr Mathias Paul (BSc 1949, PhD 1952) died 8 June 2006, aged 82.

Harding, Dr Bryan James (BA 1950) died 21 June 2007, aged 78.

Palfrey, Mr John Raymond (BSc 1950) died 16 June 2007, aged 81.

Beavan, Mr Gordon Cornelius Granville (BSc 1951) died September 2006, aged 81.

Bebbington, Dr Alan (BSc 1951, Cert Ed 1954, MSc 1968, PhD 1976) died 1 August 2007, aged 78.

Crookes, Mr William Aubrey (BSc 1951) died 6 September 2007.

Ford, Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey (BSc 1952) died 1 April 2007, aged 83.

Parkhouse (née Bodycombe), Mrs Joy Draper (Testamur in Social Study 1953) died 21 April 2007, aged 78.

Dye, Mr Barry Veness (BA 1954, Cert Ed 1955) died 2 November 2006, aged 75.

Orme (née Axten), Mrs Patricia Helen (BVSc 1954) died 1 August 2007, aged 76.

Banner, Mr Hugh Irving (BSc 1955) died July 2007, aged 73.

Greenham, Dr Leighton Williams (BVSc 1955, BSc 1957) died 28 August 2007, aged 77.

Lewis (née Craven), Dr Shirley Ada (MB ChB 1955, Diploma in Public Health 1961) died 8 July 2007, aged 74.

Banning, Mr Seymour Henry (BA 1956) died 9 July 2007, aged 74.

Sheppard, Mr Roland James (LLB 1956) died 23 May 2007, aged 72.

Blacker (née Proffitt), Mrs Florence June (BA 1957, Cert Ed 1958) died July 2007, aged 72.

Darby, Mr Anthony James (BA 1957) died 7 September 2007, aged 73.

Douglas, Dr Henry Guy Kennedy (MB ChB 1957) died 10 August 2007, aged 75.

Durston, Mr Colin (BSc 1957) died 6 August 2007.

Inston (née Dyer), Mrs Rita Rosemary (BA 1958) died 19 April 2007, aged 70.

Sanders, Mr Kenneth John (BVSc

1960) died 2006.

Kuchemann, Ms Christine Frederike (BSc 1964) died 4 April 2007, aged 65.

Baker, Mr Malcolm David (BSc 1968) died 22 August 2007, aged 61.

Ensor, Mr Patrick De Normann (BSc 1968) died 1 July 2007, aged 60.

Coughtrey (née Rixon), Mrs Kathleen Joy (BA 1976) died 18 July 2006, aged 51.

Achike, Mr Godfrey Okechukwu (LLM 1977) died 2003, aged 71.

Goddard (née Dunmur), Mrs Margaret Linda (BVSc 1977) died 25 August 2007, aged 52.

Pearce, Mr Timothy (BSc 1977) died 24 July 2005, aged 50.

Barry (née Nottidge), Ms Harriet Susan (BA 1978) died 15 June 2007, aged 51.

Jasiewicz, Miss Dosia M "D" (BA 1979) died November 2006, aged 50.

Hilton (née Hughes), Mrs Carolyn Jane (BA 1991) died 12 August 2007, aged 37.

Maguire, Ms Jacqueline (MEd 1995) died 18 July 2007, aged 48.

Shaba, Mrs Mercy Lusungu (MEd 1996) died 28 September 2006, aged 56.

Butler, The Hon Genevieve Synolda (BSc 1998) died 27 April 2006, aged 28.

Chambers, Dr Catherine Louise (MB ChB 2000) died 15 July 2007, aged 34.

Clarke, The Rev Christine Vera (MSc 2000) died 26 December 2006, aged 61.

Allen, Mr Clifford Banister (MSc 2001) died September 2007, aged 87.

Staff and Friends

Hoffenberg, Emeritus Professor Sir Raymond KBE, MD (Hon MD 1989) died 22 April 2007, aged 84.

Metford, Emeritus Professor Callan James died 29 March 2007, aged 91.

Milligan, Dr David Edmond (Senior Lecturer in Philosophy 1959-1991) died May 2007, aged 77.

Perry, Dr Graham Colin (Senior Research Fellow, Clinical Veterinary Studies 1967-2001) died 28 September 2007.

Alumni Travel Programme

IMA has pioneered alumni travel in the UK, and alumni from Bristol have travelled with us all over the world. Our tours are designed for people with a general interest in the country that's featured, but all our itineraries have a strong educational element which is provided by our accompanying expert lecturers.

Egypt and the Western Desert

21 September - 6 October 2008, £1,950

Beginning with a visit to St Anthony's and St Paul's monasteries in the Eastern Desert, the tour continues with a cruise along the Upper Nile. Included in the tour are visits to the Pyramids - Luxor, Karnak and the

Valley of the Kings. We also feature a unique excursion through the oases of the Great Sand Sea of the Western Desert.



A Private Mediterranean Cruise of Turkey

21 June - 2 July 2008, £1,390

This is an excellent value 12 day cruise in Asia Minor using our own private yachts. It features the mountainous shores of ancient Lycia, southern Turkey, which preserve the best archaeological sites of the Classical world amid spectacular scenery.



Galapagos Islands Cruise and Ecuador

1 - 13 January 2009, £3,250

After a visit to colonial Quito, with its many churches and protected buildings, and a tour along the Avenue of the Volcanoes, the group will fly to the Galapagos Archipelago for an eight day cruise through the Islands. You can combine this with a visit to the Ecuadorian Amazon Rainforest.



Into the deep

Sara Campbell (BA 1995) is the current holder of eight British freediving records. *Epigram* Editor Josh Burrows (Classics 2005-) caught up with her in a break from training.

“

I find it fascinating that my body is capable of diving to over 80 metres and working without oxygen for almost four minutes, and I can still come up smiling.”

Freediving is divided into a number of disciplines. What are the ones you compete in and what are the differences?

I compete in the deep disciplines: Constant Weight, where I use a monofin; Constant Weight No Fins, which is like vertical breaststroke; and Free Immersion. The term 'constant weight' refers to the fact that we are allowed to wear weights to help us descend and to counter the buoyancy of our wetsuits, but we have to return to the surface with the same amount of weight. I wear two kilos of weight around my neck for all my dives. Free Immersion is where I pull myself down the rope and then back up again using only my arms.

With all your recent success, what do you feel is your greatest achievement of all?

The whole record attempt week in June this year, when I set a total of five records in four days, was pretty special for me. And although my deepest record is 70 metres Constant Weight, I've actually dived to well over 80 metres in training, and it felt easy. Knowing that I've still got room to dive deeper is a great feeling.

There must be tremendous dangers in your sport; have you ever been in serious trouble?

Actually, contrary to what many people think, freediving isn't 'tremendously dangerous'. I never dive alone, and I increase my depths by small increments each time so I always know I'm going to make it back to the surface.

What is vasoconstriction and how does it affect you?

It's part of what we call the mammalian dive reflex. When seals and dolphins dive, their peripheral blood vessels (in what would be the equivalent of our

arms and legs) contract to ensure maximum blood flow to their heart and brain. We have the same reflex. You can actually feel it happening – it's like a tingling or heaviness that moves up your arms and legs towards your core.

What are you thinking about while you're diving?

I'm totally focused on each dive. There is a fairly complex sequence of events that happen with each dive, which I need to concentrate on. The first 10 to 15 metres I'm swimming hard to get to a depth where I'm no longer buoyant and therefore can conserve energy and move more slowly. Between 20 and 30 metres, I'm pushing the remaining air in my lungs into my mouth. I then close my epiglottis and focus on using that air to equalise my ears. From that point, I'm heavier than the water and can freefall, which means I can save loads of essential oxygen. On the return to the surface my focus is to remain completely calm, and I keep telling myself that I'm strong and have plenty of energy and air.

What's the appeal of taking a dangerous plunge to inky depths?

Freediving for me is a combination of the ultimate physical challenge, mental strength and meditation. I find it fascinating that my body (all five feet of it) is capable of diving to over 80 metres and working without oxygen for almost four minutes, and I can still come up smiling.

What are your favourite places to compete and train?

My main training place is the Blue Hole near Dahab in Egypt, which is stunning. There's an arch that reaches from the bottom at 95 metres up to 55 metres, so on each deep dive I get to see it, with the sunlight streaming through from the open sea. There's a family

of tuna living down there, and it's always nice to see them. I would love to dive the two other Blue Holes (in Belize and the Bahamas) and explore other places.

What records have you got your sights set on?

I'm happy just doing my thing, training and seeing where I'm going to find my limits – somewhere below 80 metres, I'm guessing. The current women's world record is 88 metres so people are starting to speculate whether I might be the next contender for THE BIG ONE!

How were you involved in sport at Bristol?

I was a complete couch potato. I've always been a keen swimmer, but was too lazy to join the squad as the early morning training sessions were a complete no-no for me. Anyone who knew me at Bristol will be hugely shocked to read that I now hold eight British records in any sport, let alone such an extreme one.

From what age were you involved in diving?

I did my first scuba course only six years ago in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt and thought I would give up my day job in PR and head off to become an instructor. For some reason that never happened, and four years later I found myself on a week's yoga and scuba holiday in Dahab, one hour north of Sharm. I decided to stay and teach yoga out there, and never came back. ■

Read more about Bristol's sporting alumni in the first edition of *Replay*, the sport, exercise and health magazine for alumni. If you haven't received a copy, email publications-alumni@bristol.ac.uk.

Events

Unless otherwise stated, get more information about all Bristol alumni events at

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events

Saturday 12 January 2008

Southern California Reunion

An evening celebrating all things British for Bristol alumni living in the US. The venue will be the King's Head pub in Santa Monica, where you can indulge in bangers and mash, fish and chips, baked beans on toast and a pint of Bass Bitter. For more information, contact John Binsted at jbinsted99@comcast.net.

Tuesday 5 February 2008

History of Art event

An evening reception for History of Art graduates, hosted by Caroline Oliphant (BA 1979), Director of the Picture Department at Bonhams Auctioneers. It provides the perfect opportunity to say farewell to former Dean of Arts and long-term Head of the Department, Michael Liversidge.

Thursday 6 March 2008

Behind the Scenes: Visit to the University of Bristol Theatre Collection

6.00 – 7.30 pm

7.00 – 8.30 pm

This behind-the-scenes visit will provide a unique opportunity to see some of the 500 years worth of items in the University's Theatre Collection. The evening will feature highlights of the collection not normally on public view including Sir Laurence Olivier's signed gloves from *The Entertainer*, set designs for *Look Back in Anger* and William Poel's drawing on which the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre was based.

Tickets are £5 per person and include drinks. Please reply quickly

as numbers are limited to 12 per session.

Saturday 15 March 2008

University of Bristol Football Reunion

Bristol football old boys are invited to come back to Bristol to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Old Bristolians Football Club. The reunion will kick off with a five-a-side tournament at Coombe Dingle involving members of UB AFC past and present, followed by a dinner at the Avon Gorge Hotel. For more information, contact Dan Eames (BA 1996) on +44 (0)1823 445416 or email

daniel.eames@clarkewillmott.com

26 April 2008

Sports Weekend

There will be alumni matches in many sports including rugby, football, hockey, lacrosse, basketball and netball. All alumni are welcome to come and cheer on the teams. In the evening there will be a celebration dinner.

Friday 4 to Sunday 6 July 2008

Convocation Reunion Weekend

All alumni are invited to return to Bristol for the annual Convocation Reunion Weekend. There will be a programme of activities from Friday afternoon through to Sunday.

This weekend is the ideal time to organise a reunion with your old University friends. If you would like help organising a get-together and reaching friends you have lost contact with, email laura.merlino@bristol.ac.uk or call Laura on +44 (0)117 331 7139.

Further details of the weekend will be published in the Spring *Nonesuch*. You can also visit our website to keep track of how the weekend develops. Special invitations will be sent out to those

who graduated in 1958, 1968, 1978 and 1983 in the New Year.

Friday 4 and Saturday 5 July 2008

Two reunions for the price of one – OpSoc

Roger Savage (BA 1962), President of OpSoc 1961-2, is organising a reunion for OpSoc members from 1959-63 (although earlier members are also welcome). The event will be held on Saturday 5 July.

Roger was also Co-Director of UBDS Players Tour 1962, many of whom were also OpSoc members, so he is suggesting a get-together on the previous evening, Friday 4 July 2008, for those who took part in the tour. For more information, contact Roger Savage on +44 (0)1785 850967 or email roger.savage@homecall.co.uk.

Centenary celebrations

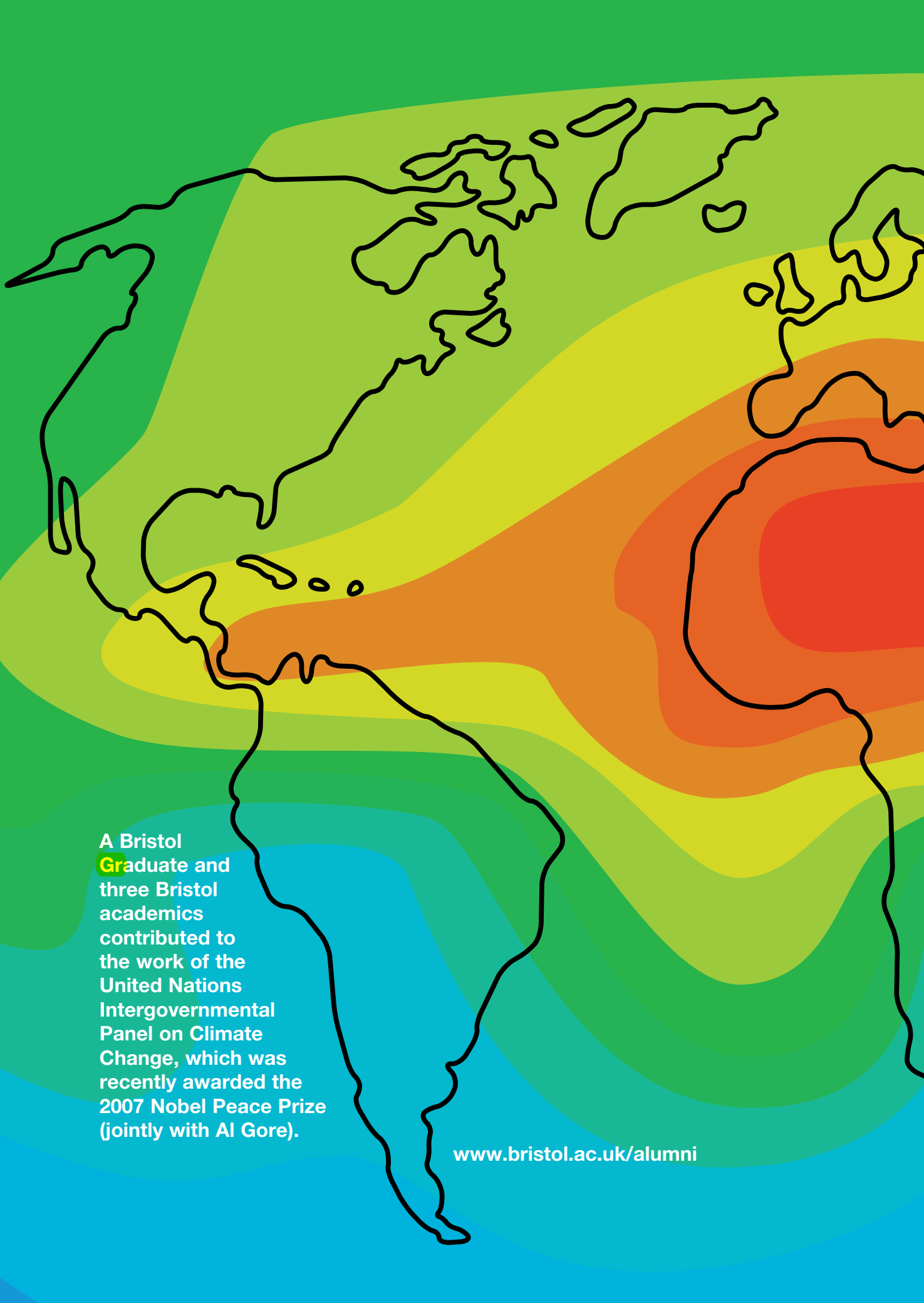
In 2009, the University will be celebrating its centenary. We are holding a special Centenary Reunion Weekend for all alumni on 3-5 July 2009.

The University organises an extensive programme of events which alumni are very welcome to attend. Visit www.bristol.ac.uk/events for more information.



Professor Roy Severn (right), from the Department of Civil Engineering, with Academician Ishkinsky, from the Soviet Academy of Sciences, in June 1988. They are pictured looking through a concrete armour unit used for coastal protection, something that the University was researching at the time.

Professor Severn recalls Ishkinsky's astonishment at the quality and style of Bristol's domestic housing. 'Do the ordinary workers live in those?' he asked as Professor Severn drove him back to the railway station.



A Bristol Graduate and three Bristol academics contributed to the work of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was recently awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize (jointly with Al Gore).

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni