



Inauguration Event at Bath Abbey

Friday 13 January was a special day for Bath Spa University as it marked its official inauguration at a splendid celebratory event in Bath Abbey.

Few of the staff, students and invited guests at the event could fail to be moved by the magnificent rendering of 'Zadok the Priest' by the University choir and orchestra as the academic procession (joined by the Mayor of Bath) made its grand entrance into the glorious setting. Speeches followed from the Vice Chancellor ('Celebrating our past and looking to the future'), Chair of Governors Ms Stella Pirie ('Bath Spa University – its regional role'), and Students' Union president Dean Copley ('The student view'). Further music from the orchestra and choir, conducted by Professor Roger Heaton, was played during the ceremony.



Amongst the many highlights of the celebration were the official declaration of university status made by Deputy Vice Chancellor Tony Dewberry, and the award of Bath Spa University's first Honorary Fellowship to one of its most famous recent graduates, Olympic gold medal winning athlete Jason Gardener, MBE, who was introduced in an oration by Professor Rob Mears, Head of School of Social Sciences.



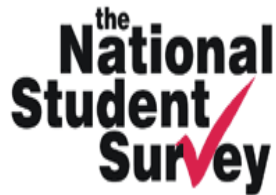
The ceremony was skilfully 'compered' by Registrar Chris Ellicott.

Described by Vice Chancellor Prof Frank Morgan as a "wonderful day for everyone connected to this university" and "a culmination of years of commitment", the day will long be remembered by all who attended.



Official photographs of the day will shortly be made available at www.bathspa.ac.uk/about/launch along with a video of the event.





National Student Survey Results

The National Student Survey - organised by the Higher Education Funding Council for England - revealed a high level of satisfaction from students across the UK about the overall quality of their courses, with Bath Spa students amongst the most satisfied in the country. The survey forms part of a new Teaching Quality Information (TQI) website (www.tqi.ac.uk) designed to help potential students make informed choices when considering which universities to apply to.

Compared to national averages Bath Spa results consistently rank in the top quarter of scores for all universities - and its results for students' satisfaction with teaching were ranked joint third in the country. Final year students also rated the way they were assessed and the amount and quality of feedback they received much higher than the national average.

Category	Score	UCAS	Other Universities
1. Overall satisfaction	4.5	4.3	4.2
2. Satisfaction with teaching	4.6	4.4	4.3
3. Satisfaction with facilities	4.4	4.2	4.1
4. Satisfaction with staff	4.5	4.3	4.2
5. Satisfaction with course	4.5	4.3	4.2
6. Satisfaction with assessment	4.6	4.4	4.3
7. Satisfaction with feedback	4.7	4.5	4.4
8. Satisfaction with support	4.4	4.2	4.1
9. Satisfaction with value for money	4.3	4.1	4.0
10. Satisfaction with overall experience	4.5	4.3	4.2

Alongside the National Student Survey Bath Spa University also carried out its own internal survey on how its students felt about the quality of their educational experience. The survey canvassed student views on all aspects of the student experience, including course organisation, workload and assessment, facilities and student support. The results of this echoed the positive results of the national survey, with 86% of students saying that they would recommend the university to a friend.

If staff would like any more information about the student survey please contact Julian Martin, Quality Enhancement Officer.



Building Programme Progress at Newton Park

Moreton and Performing Arts studio

Colleagues will recall that the new @Moreton catering facility was handed over last September ready for the eager influx of new customers. Phase two of that redevelopment scheme at the centre of Newton Park, the Performing Arts studio project, is currently on programme and is due to reach completion in Autumn 2006. That will provide a new 250 seat flexible auditorium space with a range of performance teaching options including movable seating and a well equipped control room, sound and lighting systems. It will also



provide three new performance teaching studios for Drama and Dance, full changing and green room facilities, backstage facilities with a scenery dock for set construction and a breakout space at the front of the building. Phase Three will comprise a comprehensive hard and soft landscaping scheme to replace the old Moreton car park including terraced grass banks when Principal Contractor Kier Western Ltd have removed their compound.

Library and ICT

Phase four of the complex project involving ROK Ltd as principal contractor in the re-ordering and refurbishment of our Newton Park Library and ICT facilities is due to reach practical completion stage at the end of March 2006. Colleagues will be interested to know that the NatWest ATM cash machine will be accessible again from the end of January 2006. Your patience and co-operation during the re-ordering works involving a long pedestrian diversion around the back of Main House to access the Library is much appreciated.



Energy management challenge for staff and students

Bath Spa University has pledged to invest substantial resources into an energy management programme designed to help reduce the impact on global warming and climate change.

The impact of climate change - caused by carbon dioxide emissions produced when fossil fuels are burned to produce energy - is well documented: rising sea levels, more flooding extreme weather patterns. Along with other businesses (which collectively are responsible for about a half of the UK's carbon emissions) universities have a clear responsibility to help reduce carbon emissions and conserve energy.

Bath Spa's challenge is to reduce its 'Carbon Footprint' by 10% by 2008. The Carbon Footprint measurement is a new way of looking at how much energy the University uses - and how much can be saved.

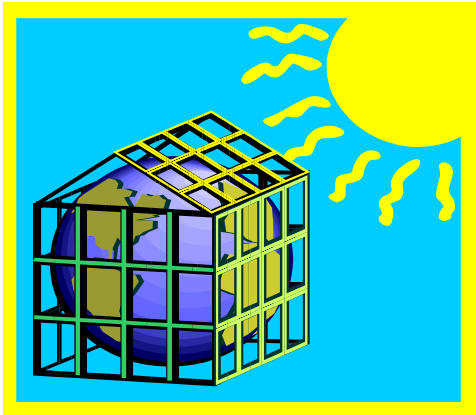
The University has been working closely with the Carbon Trust (an organisation that works with businesses and the public sector to help them reduce their carbon emissions) and local sustainability





consultants B:SSEC (building services sustainability and environmental consultancy) for over a year. B:SSEC director Paul Bennett explains:

“We have been building up a picture of the University’s Carbon Footprint and how actual carbon reductions can be realistically achieved. The reduction of the University’s Carbon Footprint not only reduces the impact on the environment, demonstrating Corporate Social Responsibility, but also makes good business sense as the cost of energy is on an upwards trend and the medium and long term security of energy supplies is uncertain.”



Bath Spa’s Carbon Footprint is directly proportional to its use of gas and electricity. A reduction of 1kWh of gas (the equivalent output of a small radiator in operation for an hour) saves 190g of carbon - visualise this as 103 one litre bottles in the atmosphere. Similarly a reduction of 1kWh of electricity (the equivalent output of a typical classroom lighting installation in operation for an hour) saves 430g of carbon - visualise this as 234 one litre bottles in the atmosphere.

Aside from corporate and social responsibilities, the business case for reducing carbon emissions is strong: around £30,000 per year would be saved by a 10% reduction in emissions. This reduction can be achieved by:

- Implementing an energy management programme.
- Encouraging a responsible low carbon culture where:
 - Lights are switched off when not in use or when daylight levels are sufficient.
 - Electrical machines are switched off or powered down when not in use.
 - Doors and windows are closed in winter to save heat with radiators turned down when too warm.
- Fixed electrical and heating system alterations and improvements.

A Carbon Footprint webpage will be set up to provide information on Bath Spa’s carbon saving programmes and projects and show progress towards our targets:

www.bathspa.ac.uk/about/environment

Hopefully all staff and students will rise to the challenge and we will achieve our aim.