

January 2007



South Quays

The latest developments in our plans for a new campus at South Quays are being discussed by the Board of Governors at a meeting on 31 January. A further issue of Online, devoted to the new campus plans, will be issued to keep staff informed of developments after that meeting.

Undergraduate Applications

Undergraduate applications have increased yet again! Compared to this time last year applications are up by an extremely healthy 33% - and indeed, are up 9% on the total figure for last year. 'On time' applications (those received at UCAS by 15 January) are still being received and considered, but it is unlikely that any 'late' applications this year will be successful in securing a place to study here (with a few exceptions, notably for Foundation Degrees). In order to avoid exceeding our HEFCE contract (which would result in financial penalties) it is likely that we will also need to adopt a firm line when considering applicants who fail to achieve the grades stipulated in their offer from us.

Innovation Awards 2006

On 11 December recipients of the Bath Spa University Innovation Awards received their prizes from Vice Chancellor Professor Frank Morgan. The award winners (who went through a rigorous selection panel of academics and business people) have developed projects related to aerial surveying, waste water and the environmental context of archaeological sites. They each received awards of £5,000.

The competition was open to students and staff at the University, with the aim of encouraging innovative projects with business.





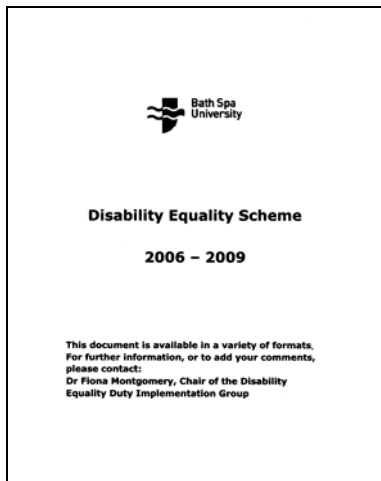
Disability Equality Scheme Launch

The University's Disability Equality Scheme was launched in December at a celebratory event to which staff, students, disabled organisations and Governors were invited.

The Vice Chancellor told the guests that the commitment which Bath Spa was taking was considerable. He stressed that this went beyond the requirement of the legislation and constituted a real challenge, but that the university record to date was very sound and constituted a good basis for our future work.

Fiona Montgomery and Amanda Leon have spearheaded the University's response to the disability policy. Dr Montgomery commented: "The new Disability Equality Duty places legal obligations on us - and indeed on all public sector organisations - to make disability equality part of our culture in practical and demonstrated ways. Our cause for celebration was the outstandingly enthusiastic approach of all in the University to this new legislation. Far from seeing this as yet another administrative burden, staff and students have unreservedly embraced the opportunity to embed disability equality in everything we do." Amanda Leon added: "As an organisation, we have to understand fully the issues facing disabled people and the barriers they can face. We all have a part to play in ensuring that all members of our community are treated equally and fairly".

The Disability Equality Scheme, which includes an Action Plan, is available on-line at: <http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/services/vc-office/disability-equality-scheme.pdf>





Students' Union shop award

For the second time in three years the SU shop has won the national Neighbourhood Shop of the Year awards run by dairy firm Robert Wiseman. It won the Best Institutional Retailer category, and shop manager Ruth Wheeler was presented with a trophy at the award ceremony in Scotland in December. In order to win the competition the shop had to be nominated by its customers, and then impress first a mystery shopper and then an independent national judge and a representative from Robert Wiseman Dairies.

Ruth said that staff were delighted to win the award, and that to win it a second time came as a complete surprise.

Full Tilt successes



The Full Tilt Theatre Company has again achieved sell-out audiences and critical acclaim for its productions. *Heresies*, which played at the Bristol Old Vic, was listed as second in top five shows by The Times newspaper. The Venue review described it as “an intense, moving evening of which all involved should feel proud.”

Further good news sees the Theatre Company take their production *Agamemnon* on tour starting in May this year at the Tacchi Morris Theatre in Taunton.

Songwriting Award



2nd Year Commercial Music group JUB has won second prize in the MBF songwriting awards 2007. Luke McDonnell, Sam Dixon, Richard Webb and Nick Burns performed their songs ‘Tonight’ and ‘Wake Up’ (written as part of their first year studies) in front of a panel of music industry judges at the live final in London.

This is the third consecutive year Commercial Music students have reached the finals in the MBF awards.



Remembering Britain's worst flood

Simon Haslett from the School of Science and the Environment has organised a public conference to mark the 400th anniversary of the worst flood to ever occur in the British Isles.

In January 1607 a disastrous flood hit a 570km stretch of coastline from North Devon, around the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary, to Cardigan in west Wales, killing around 2000 people. Research by Simon and his collaborator Dr Ted Bryant from the University of Wollongong in Australia suggests that the flood might have been caused by a tsunami and not a storm as earlier writers had thought.

The BBC made a programme about their research which was broadcast in 2005 as part of their popular Timewatch series, entitled 'Killer Wave of 1607', and the theory of a possible European tsunami attracted international interest. The programme has been repeated in January this year as part of the commemorative events.

University Theatre Award

The University Theatre has won an award in the B&NES Building Control Building and Design Quality Awards 2006. Don Foster MP will present awards for building quality (Kier Western Ltd) and design quality (Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects LLP were the Design Team leaders with Buro Happold and MDA) at a ceremony in the Bath Guildhall on 23 February.

Dr Kay Wood

Kay Wood has been selected by the Higher Education Academy as an Associate of the national subject network for sociology, anthropology and politics. The Associate Director, Helen Howard, congratulated Kay on the "national recognition of her work to improve teaching and learning."

Dr Mahinda Deegalle



Mahinda Deegalle has recently participated in the Victoria and Albert Museum and The British Museum documentary on the 'Gilded Bronze Image of Tara' for BBC4 series of "Masterpieces of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka" produced by Fulmar TV and Film. Earlier, he travelled to India and presented a paper on 'Unethical Conversions' at Thinking Together of WCC held in Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu and a presentation on 'Violence and Buddhist Religion' at the International Interreligious Consultation on Religion and Violence at the international Gandhian Institute for Nonviolence and Peace, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Ceramics News



Keith Harrison from Ceramics has been awarded an AHRC grant of £13,383 for the documentation and dissemination of his recent installation at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Recent graduate Concetta Gallo has been commissioned by Habitat who will be launching a product range of ceramics and furnishings in her name this year.

Christmas @Moreton



Christmas may seem a distant memory but staff and students who enjoyed the Christmas lunch will be pleased to know that the Christmas raffle raised £200 for Clic, Sargent. Santa had a busy time, visiting the children at the Day Nursery after giving out presents in the Refectory.