



May 2007

News from Bath Spa University

South Quays



The University's proposed development of a new site at South Quays has been subject to lengthy delays and, despite emphatic support from the Board of Governors to our continued commitment to South Quays, there is an increasing recognition that a favourable outcome is by no means guaranteed.

The future of the site has been discussed with various agencies including Bath & North East Council (the owners of the site), the SW Regional Development Agency, English Heritage, the Bath Preservation Trust, and the Environment Agency. Bath & North East Somerset Council had hoped to sell part of the South Quays site directly to BSU, but no longer feels able to do so. Among the problems which have confused the issue have been the sensitive nature of new developments in Bath and the designation of the site as being of significant risk in the event of flooding.

In view of these unresolved issues the University has not submitted a planning application for South Quays. The cost of doing so is very high and at this time the likelihood of success is limited.

The vision for the new South Quays campus was to accommodate up to 1,200 students covering subjects in the arts and technologies, 800 of which would be transferred from Newton Park and Somerset Place.

The Vice-Chancellor commented: "This University makes a very significant contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of Bath and the region. South Quays would provide an ideal springboard for equipping even more students for work in small and medium-sized businesses in the region's creative and cultural industries. I remain convinced that there would be exciting future opportunities should it become possible to realise this vision for a new site as a home for digital courses and as a basis for our work with businesses. In the meantime we are working on contingency plans and all staff and students need to know that we will continue to deliver sound courses to all our students, whatever course of action is finally taken."



Visit by Boris Johnson MP

Boris Johnson MP, Shadow Minister for Higher Education, visited Bath Spa University on Friday 4 May.

The Shadow Minister's visit was at the invitation of Vice-Chancellor Professor Frank Morgan in order to demonstrate the features and benefits



of a 'teaching-led' university and discuss Conservative policies for higher education.

During a full day-long programme Boris Johnson was able to meet staff and students at both campuses. He admired the specialist Artswork teaching facilities and was impressed by a rehearsal of music, dance, drama and poetry for a student Showcase performance that was taking place that night in the University Theatre

The day finished with a lively question and answer session in the Student's Union, where around 200 students packed in to quiz the well-known MP.

Boris Johnson was full of praise for the University after his visit. "It was a joy to see the .. range of talent at Bath Spa on Friday. ...It is truly a fabulous place in which to learn and to teach"

Patronage for University Theatre

The University Theatre has attracted patronage from internationally-renowned figures from the arts world.

Television and film director Ken Loach and actors Stephanie Cole and Clive Mantle have all lent their support to the student actors and directors by becoming Theatre Patrons.

Stephanie Cole commented: "I am delighted to be a patron of the new exciting venture. Bath is an important centre of the arts and the University having a Theatre can only add to the importance of Bath as a centre of excellence."

Stephanie Cole and Clive Mantle were both present at a student Showcase of music and theatre (expertly directed by Emma Gersch) on Friday 4 May, to which an audience of business and community representatives were also invited. The invited guests were clearly delighted by the talent on show, and enjoyed a post-production reception hosted by the Vice Chancellor.

Commercial sponsors for the Theatre are now being sought as part of a package of promotional opportunities for local businesses.





Professor Frank Morgan Vice Chancellor

Quarriers Charity

From the Vice-Chancellor

Quarriers is a national charity providing support to vulnerable adults and children who are disadvantaged, have a disability or are excluded from society. In Bath Quarriers runs a respite home (Beaumonts) for children with challenging behaviour living in the B&NES area. The project currently provides a service for 20 young people.

Quarriers is launching a major fundraising initiative this year and has been designated as Bath FM's 'charity of the year'. I am chairing a committee comprising representatives from Quarriers, Bath FM and other interested parties from the local business community, set up to facilitate and coordinate the various fundraising initiatives.

The University's Volunteer Challenge has identified a number of ways in which staff and student volunteers may like to support the charity, and further information may be obtained from Laura Hopper, Volunteer Challenge Coordinator (email l.hopper@bathspa.ac.uk, ext. 5705).

Staff may also like to consider supporting Quarriers in their personal fundraising efforts – information about the charity may be found at www.quarriers.org.uk. If you plan to do this, please let the Vice Chancellor's Office know.

Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAP)

Since 1992, the University has been able to award taught degrees up to the level of masters in its own name. It has had an arrangement with the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE) to enable it to provide supervision for research degrees. Whilst UWE has delegated much of the administration to us, the degrees are still awarded by UWE. We have now met the quantitative criteria necessary for an application for our own research degree awarding powers (RDAP), and have applied to the Privy Council for the powers. They seek advice from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). On the basis of our "Critical Self-Evaluation" (CSE), QAA has determined that we have a *prima facie* case, and has consequently appointed a team of assessors to advise them in detail on how far the University meets the criteria. The assessors are Professor Robert Harris (Assistant Director QAA, formerly Professor of Politics at Hull University); Professor Tony Davies (Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Swansea); and Mrs. Pamela Boulton (formerly Head of Quality Enhancement at the University of Derby). The assessment is based on the CSE; scrutiny of papers produced by the University and its





committees in the course of their business; meetings with Governors, managers, and academics; meetings with research degree students; observation of formal meetings; and any information in the public domain (such as the reports of other assessments of various kinds). The assessors have made their first visit and have examined a great deal of documentary evidence, and their observation of committees in action is underway.

The assessors think it likely that they can conclude the observations by July 2007. They were highly complimentary about the relationship between staff and research students, and indeed about the quality and commitment of students and staff themselves. The assessors plan to produce their report in time for QAA to give its advice to the Privy Council in December 2007. This will mean that the University could begin to award Bath Spa PhDs as early as summer 2008.

Readers can see more information, including the University's own critical self-evaluation, at <http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/services/academic-office/quality-and-standards/RDAP/>.



I'm a Creative, Get Me Out of Here!

Over 150 students and staff attended a day of workshops, presentations and networking opportunities for anyone interested in the creative and cultural industries. On 2 May 2007, **I'm a Creative, Get Me Out of Here!** brought together organisations from across the South West, as well as key University services including Careers, Business Support and Volunteer Challenge, to provide information on the range of support and opportunities available after graduation. Presented by Artswork, the University's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in the creative industries, the day provided personal insights into life beyond University from speakers from a cross-section of the sector including Holby City actor Tom Chambers (pictured), BBC Interactive guru Leigh Aspin and Guardian News & Media's Martin Prendergast and three recent BSU graduates now working with leading creative businesses.



Following the event, students commented that they had enjoyed "an excellent day of information" and "an exciting opportunity to meet industry professionals", whilst staff hailed the event "utterly brilliant", "an excellent initiative" and "a clearly successful and well attended event"

Industry partners were clearly impressed by the quality of the University's provision and, particularly, our students. "I was very impressed by their creativity in ideas and general enthusiasm", said one. Another was taken by their "energy, and motivation, and also ability to think outwards and internationally." One colleague wished they had had this kind of opportunity whilst they were at University, adding, "it could have saved me



years of finding things out the hard way!"

Copies of the 32-page I'm a Creative Get Me Out of Here! programme, which includes the impressive ArtsMatrix Creative Industries Information Resource, are available on request from the Artswork office.

Staff Congratulations

Professorships

Congratulations to the following members of staff on being conferred the honorific title of 'Professor': Gavin Cologne-Brookes; Tim Middleton; Fiona Montgomery; John Newsinger; Stephen Ward.

Promising Researcher Fellowships

Congratulations to Jo Turney (Art and Design) and Elaine Lam (Education) on the award of this year's Promising Researcher Fellowships.

BSU Teaching Fellowships

Congratulations to the following on the award of a BSU Teaching Fellowship: Tracy Brain and Steve Coombs (experienced staff); Emma Gersch and Karla Shacklock (Rising Stars).

PedR Funding

The following project leaders have been supported in their bids for PedR funding:

Steve Coombs: 'Critical Thinking Scaffolds as e-learning templates'

Jo Dahn: 'School of Art and Design Gallery Project'

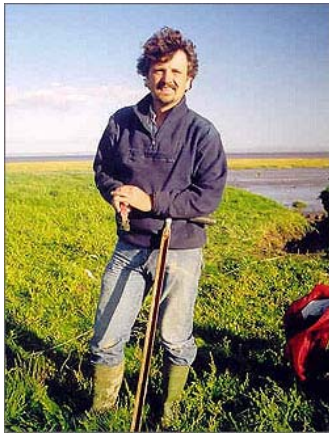
Graham Morgan: 'Evolving E-learning through New Learning and Teaching Strategies'

Fiona Montgomery and Cliff Williamson: 'Podcasting'

Mim Hutchings: 'Learning under Control: the Extended Lifelong Learning Inventory'

Esther Edwards: 'Designing Inclusive Fieldwork'

Tilly Mortimore: 'Establishing Inclusive Support Practices for Disabled Students across the University'.



Staff in the news

Prof Simon Haslett

Simon Haslett's public conference marking the 400th anniversary of the worst flood to ever occur in the British Isles attracted a great deal of media interest from local and national press, TV and radio.

The conference was held at the University of Wales in Newport, South Wales, a coastal area badly affected by the 1607 flood. It presented the science behind the flood and discussed the lessons we should learn from it. The conference also featured a number of expert speakers exploring different aspects of flooding and tsunami modelling.

Simon's research, undertaken with his collaborator Dr Ted Bryant from the University of Wollongong in Australia, captured the public's attention when, in a scientific paper published in 2003, they suggested that the 1607 flood was perhaps 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'. With the occurrence of the Indian Ocean tsunami on Boxing Day 2004, Haslett and Bryant's theory of a possible European tsunami became topical and attracted international interest.

Prof Iftikhar Malik

Professor Malik's latest books, *Crescent Between Cross and Star* and *Jihad, Hindutva and the Taliban* were recently launched at an Oxford University Press event attended by around 60 guests.

Professor Malik is a regular contributor to international media coverage of Afghanistan, India-Pakistan relations, Muslims in the West, Iraq, and the EU. Since 9/11, he has given 560 media interviews and public lectures on these and related topics to the BBC (24, World TV, World Service {English, Urdu and Hindi}), Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Sky, CNN and several others.

Student successes

EEBO award

Bath Spa graduate Caroline Murray has won second prize in an international competition to find the best essay based on pre-18th century British printed books.

The Early English Books Online (EEBO) Essay Competition is an annual award for the best undergraduate essay anywhere in the world using



material from the online resource EEBO, which makes available the texts of over 100,000 editions printed in Britain or in British languages prior to 1701. This is the first time an essay from a Bath Spa student has been submitted, and Bath Spa University becomes only the second UK university ever to have produced a prize-winning student in the competition.

Sally Nicholls

Bath Spa graduate Sally Nicholls has been awarded a six-figure publication deal for her first novel *Ways to Live Forever*. Sally graduated last year from the Writing for Young People Master's course. Her publication deal is with Scholastic UK, one of the world's largest publishers and distributors of children's books. Publisher Marion Lloyd described Sally's book as a "phenomenal and unique" debut novel. The novel will be published in January 2008.

Showing Off To Thieves

Four Commercial Music students have signed their first major record deal after winning an international competition run by one of the world's leading videogames companies, EA Games.



The band, *Showing Off To Thieves*, was named European winner of the 2007 Burnout Bandslam, sponsored by EA Games. The competition received entries from more than 2,100 bands from all over Europe, and culminated in an intense public ranking process, with over 2,500,000 MySpace users participating, followed by final selection by an expert panel. *Showing Off To Thieves* consists of Phil Maggs (bass), Tom Lloyd (drums), Andy Bradshaw (guitar), and Bath Spa graduate Andy German (voice). They formed in 2005 and began recording together as part of the Commercial Music degree course.