



## September 2007



## Graduation 2007

The sun managed to shine on some, if not all, of the annual Graduation ceremonies this year.

An Honorary Fellowship was awarded to Alan Carter, who was a member of the academic staff of the University for 20 years, and Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design for the last ten years of his career. His award was in recognition of his outstanding service to the University.

Speaker at the ceremonies was Professor Rod Morgan, a Visiting Professor of the London School of Economics and since July 2001 Professor Emeritus of the University of Bristol. Professor Morgan regularly speaks in the UK and internationally on criminal justice-related issues and in particular on youth justice, penal policy, and the prevention of torture.

Two sets of identical twins were among the graduates: Tracey and Laura Johns, aged 21, graduated in Media Communications/English Literature and English Literature/Psychology respectively, while Tania and Emma Christopher, also aged 21, both graduated from the Education with Music course. All four students graduated with an upper second class honours degree.

Staff successes included a PhD for both Stephen Ward and Mimi Thebo. In total around 2,300 students gained degrees and diplomas this year.

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## Recruitment for September 2007

Application figures remained healthy this year but slightly more vacancies were open in Clearing this year than last, mainly because of unusual patterns of conversion from offers to acceptances (in particular, there is some indication that a higher proportion of on-time applicants may lead to a slightly lower conversion rate). Most Honours degree courses continued to convert well – this year English Literature and Psychology were particularly strong - but Combined Awards courses again appeared less popular than single honours courses, a trend in recent years. Recruitment to established Foundation Degrees was generally good, but many new Foundation Degrees came on-stream late in the recruitment cycle making recruitment difficult.

Because of the increased number of courses in Clearing, Registry admissions staff worked extremely hard during the Confirmation and Clearing period to secure a satisfactory outcome. At the time of writing, the

University looks to have met its overall targets for recruitment to Honours degree courses and continues to recruit to Foundation Degrees.



### OFSTED success for PGCE Primary

Bath Spa has been awarded the highest grade from Ofsted following an inspection of its primary teacher training programme.

The grade 1 judgement, representing "outstanding" provision, was accompanied by a report that was extremely positive in tone and content. It followed a week-long visit by a team of inspectors from Ofsted, during which all aspects of the primary teacher training were examined.

High praise was given to the role of primary schools working in partnership with the University to deliver the programme. Trainees spend nearly half of their year-long training programme in some 350 partner schools around the region, and the input of these schools into the Primary PGCE programme is key to its success. The Ofsted report makes specific reference to the first rate contribution of school staff and the role of school-based mentors in making schools such good training environments.

Amongst other strengths the report highlighted the "excellent programme structure", "the outstanding attention given to meeting trainees' individual needs", and the fact that "trainees benefit from excellent role models who demonstrate effective classroom practice. As a result, they are inspired to teach well and show an obvious sense of enjoyment in their learning."



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### NTF Award for June Bianchi

June Bianchi from the School of Education has been awarded a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship (NTF) from the Higher Education Academy – one of only fifty Fellowships awarded nationwide.

The NTF Scheme is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and recognises and rewards individual excellence in teaching in higher education in England and Northern Ireland.

June was chosen from **223** nominations submitted by higher education institutions across England and Northern Ireland, and will receive an award of £10,000 to support her learning and teaching.



June has initiated and developed a wide range of courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels across the School of Education. Her Postgraduate Certificate in Education for secondary school Art teachers achieved immediate success, drawing highly complimentary comments from students, external examiners and Ofsted for the quality of her teaching. She has extended the role of visual art and arts education within the School of Education, with other departments of the University, collaborating with a wide range of other educational institutions, arts agencies, artists and arts venues within a local, national and international milieu.



She commented: "I'm delighted to have been awarded the National Teaching Fellowship. In my role at Bath Spa I have been able to initiate a number of arts outreach projects linking my work as an exhibiting artist with my art educational teaching and research. This has provided exciting creative connections enriching my work with undergraduate and Masters students of art education, as well as those training to teach Art & Design at all levels. With the prize money I will be able to further develop the international scope of my arts outreach work and am initially planning a project which will make links between Bath Spa University, and arts and educational institutions based locally and in India."

Bath Spa lecturers have had notable success in the NTF Scheme, with no fewer than five recipients of the award since it was launched in 2000.

June will receive her award at a ceremony and dinner in London on 19 September.

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### **Bobby Anderson wins national award**

Bobby Anderson, School of Historical and Cultural Studies, has won the prestigious Higher Education Academy (HEA) National Award for History Teaching in HE for 2007.

The aim of the award is to recognise and reward history teachers who have made an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of history teaching and student learning through their work in national, regional or institutional contexts, and to draw their achievements to the attention of the history community as a whole.

Bobby commented: "I'm delighted to have been judged by my peers as deserving of this prestigious award and would like to thank my colleagues for providing me with such a supportive and innovative environment that has enabled new methods of teaching and learning to flourish."



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### **Lucy English reaches Slamming Final**

Lucy English, School of English and Creative Studies, won a place in the first ever BBC Radio 4 poetry slam finals. At the southern region semi finals in London she competed with eight other slammers and was the third highest scoring poet. The judges included Mimi Kalvati and the rap poet Polar Bear. Along with Keith Jarrett from London and Disraeli from Brighton Lucy will meet the northern region winners for the final showdown.

The finals were held at the Arnolfini in Bristol during the Bristol Poetry



Festival on 8 September. The event will be recorded live and broadcast the following week on 13 September at 11.30pm.

The semi finals were also recorded live and were broadcast on Thursday 30 August.

Bath Spa is the only UK university to run a performance poetry module as part of its curriculum, and the students too are achieving considerable success. Five students collectively forming the Bath Spa Poets performed at the Battersea Arts Centre in London at the invitation of Apples and Snakes, the UK's leading performance poetry agency. Gordon Egginton, Tracy Wall, Emerson Leese, Ed Parshotham and Jason Curley performed a set at a showcase evening on 29 June alongside some big names in the poetry world.

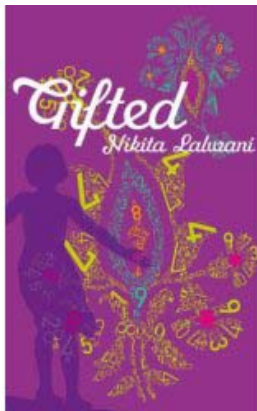
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### Student reaches Man Booker Prize Longlist



Nikita Lalwani, who graduated from Bath Spa University's MA Creative Writing course in 2005, and is currently enrolled for a PhD at the University, was included in the longlist of 13 books for the Man Booker Prize for fiction for her debut novel, *Gifted*.

The Booker Prize is one of the most prestigious awards in contemporary fiction. The Prize attracts worldwide publicity, and past winners of the award have seen their novels reach the top of the best-seller lists in many countries. The longlist of 13 books, the 'Man Booker Dozen', was chosen from 110 entries, of which 92 were submitted for the prize.



The novel was conceived on the MA course, and a first draft was Nikita's manuscript submission for the course. She is delighted by the success of her novel: "Being at Bath Spa was something invaluable and indefinable for me. I was worried that going on a creative writing course might be a bit like being in a slightly sick, 'show us your underwear' form of group therapy. I was very wrong. Instead I was thrust into the company of some of the most interesting writers around - the current spread of tutors in the department - who have managed to create a space where ideas really are exchanged rather than reduced to templates. Regular dialogue with Gerard Woodward, for example, was a privilege that had a currency all of its own. I wrote more than half of the novel there and am indebted for the way in which being on the course made writing the centre of my life."

**Former student commissioned for pop video**



Unusual events were witnessed on the evening of 7 September at Somerset Place. Artificial rain fell and bright lights hovered in the air. It was not an alien invasion as you might suppose, but the shooting of a pop video featuring the band McFly, who were required to play in a backlit downpour. The shoot involved a 20 ton Bowser full of water (which failed to make it up Sion Hill until it had dumped half its load, so residents might be forgiven for thinking that a rather selective storm had passed.)



The director, Nick Bartleet, graduated from Graphic Design in 2004 with a First Class Honours degree in New Media. His long and difficult journey to set up his company Pixel Loft appears to have paid off with this MTV commission for a major pop promo. Filming on the site of your old degree course can be seen as a token of fond loyalty or an astute piece of location scouting. Either way, the video was made and the university benefited from seeing one of their own making good.