



November 2007



Lizzy Allen

Artwork Designer Profiled on BBC 2

Lizzie Allen, resident designer-maker with the University's Artwork FashionLab, has been featured on the popular BBC2 programme Working Lunch. The show, screened on Friday lunch-time, 2nd November, included a profile of Lizzie and her work. Her witty and unique hand-printed wallpaper is currently receiving international acclaim, having created a niche in today's interiors market.

The BBC filmed Lizzie at the new print workshops in the School of Art and Design at Sion Hill, where the University has provided her with studio space. In the Working Lunch feature she talked about her progress in setting up her own business and plans for the future. The TV profile follows widespread national press coverage throughout 2007.

Lizzie's residency at the University has been funded for the past two years by the Craft Council's Next Move scheme. This is an innovative set-up project aimed at fast-tracking new designer-makers. For Lizzie it supplied workspace, access to equipment, grants, training and promotion opportunities in the University's supportive environment. She recently participated in 100% Design, the second consecutive year her work has been selected for the show.

School of Education's New Link with Children in Iran

The University's Assistant Dean of Education and Head of Partnership, Susan Haywood, has teamed up with an Iranian children's author to boost story-telling at schools in both countries. It's a joint research project between her and Taraneh Matloob, who heads the e-book section of the Children's Book Council of Iran.



Susan Haywood

Both women recently together visited two primary schools on the edge of Bristol, at Longwell Green and Whitchurch. They showed pupils aged eight to eleven an electronic animated version of a traditional Iranian fairy story. Although the tale was narrated in Persian, they found the English children could



understand it through the vivid pictures and their own cultural background.

Now Susan is planning her own journey to the Iranian capital, Tehran, in December, this time as Taraneh's guest, to carry out a similar experiment in reverse. They will show children there a traditional English story, also in electronic book form but narrated in English, for the Iranian youngsters to interpret. Again their response will be evaluated to make a comparison.

It's hoped the research on talking stories, as well as producing important and interesting results in itself, will lead to new links for the University and local schools with children and academics in Iran.

[New Encyclopaedia of Hinduism from Bath Spa Team](#)



Dr Mahinda Deegalle

Six years of dedicated hard work by colleagues from the Study of Religions department has resulted in a new Encyclopaedia of Hinduism. The 1,000 page tome, which has recently been published, contains the latest advances in scholarship, including new areas of study. It was edited by Professor Cush, Head of Study of Religions, Dr Catherine Robinson, the now retired Professor Michael York and, from the University of Wales, Newport, Dr Lynn Foulston.

The Encyclopaedia is a major project with written contributions from more than 100 international scholars, including five from Bath Spa. It contains over 900 entries, ranging from a few paragraphs to in-depth investigations of 5,000 words. The book covers all aspects of Hinduism, but differs from other works by its contemporary focus, including topics such as caste and untouchability, feminism, new religious movements, ecology and the Hindu radical right.

Another member of the Study of Religions Department, Dr Mahinda Deegalle, has been awarded a grant from the Research Council of Norway to study the ethics of war in a Buddhist context. Dr Deegalle, who is a Sri Lankan Buddhist monk, is to carry out the research in his native country.



In Sri Lanka he will examine the long-running and bloody civil war between government forces and the Tamil Tiger rebels. In particular he will look at the involvement of religion in the conflict.

Centre for Excellence Launched at House of Commons

Head of Lifelong Learning Jim Crawley (on right) was invited to the House of Commons for the official launch of a new government initiative in teacher training. He joined Lord Triesman, a minister from the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, for the ceremony on 25th October. Jim, from the School for Development and Participation, was chosen to represent Bath Spa and two other universities in the South West, UWE and Exeter. Together they have formed one of eleven new Centres of Excellence in Teacher Training, or Cetts, throughout the country. Cetts are networks or partnerships of organisations, including universities and FE colleges, which have been set up in every English region to improve the quality of teacher training. Jim Crawley has helped create the Switch Centre of Excellence, which comprises 40 teacher training institutions in the South West.



Jim Crawley (right)

Bath Spa Leads South West in Global GIS Day

New computer technology in geography teaching is helping put the University on the map. The School for Science and Environment is offering its expertise in geographic information system technology, known as GIS, to all sixth form study centres in the South West. It's in support of Global GIS Day on 14th November. GIS is a computer-based mapping tool that takes information from a database about a location, such as streets and buildings, and turns it into visual layers. The aim is to encourage awareness of GIS and the career opportunities it can bring.

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The University's GIS team is providing geography teachers with a dynamic poster to use as a teaching aid, together with "Geography Matters" leaflets for their students. In addition, students and teachers can access a new online web resource at www.rpsoc.org/information-zones/learning-zone/gisday and take part in a special competition. All this has been made possible by the University's close links with the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society and with Getmapping plc, who are sponsoring the webpage, prizes and teaching downloads.

Esther Edwards, the University's Subject Leader for GIS, says: "We are delighted to be participating in GIS Day and giving an insight to today's young people into opportunities for their tomorrows." The event is part of the National Geographic Society's Geography Awareness Week (11-17 November 2007).

New Student Study Skills Centre



A new centre offering study advice for all our students has been opened by the University. The Student Study Skills Centre (SSSC) offers learning support and advice on skills such as academic writing, scholarship, time management and oral presentations. With workshops and drop-in sessions available by timed appointment at both Newton Park and Sion Hill sites, or online on Minerva, students can access information and advice in a variety of convenient ways.

Joelle Adams, SSSC Co-ordinator, emphasises the student focus: "The Centre's mission is to improve student learning and experience with friendly, professional and confidential expert advice. We hope students will feel welcome and find our materials useful throughout their academic carers."

All Minerva users should be registered in the Student Study Skills Centre module. You can find more information, including workshop and drop-in times, on www.bathspa.ac.uk/studyskills. For specific inquiries please contact studyskills@bathspa.ac.uk or j.adams@bathspa.ac.uk.