



February 2009



New Head of Art and Design Takes Charge

Pradeep Sharma, appointed as Head of the School of Art and Design, is taking up his post in late February. He joins Bath Spa from the University of Glamorgan, where he was in a similar role.

He succeeds Professor Ron George, who will now be in charge of the University's new Corsham Court Centre.

Pradeep is a specialist in design management with a career focus on creativity and innovation, particularly in the creative industries. His background encompasses science, engineering and business as well as the arts. He has worked not only as an academic but also as a semiconductor physicist, product designer, brand strategist and consultant.

Pradeep spent more than a decade in New Zealand, where he was involved in developing a national design agenda and fostering strategies for creative cities. He established the first design management postgraduate degree in the southern hemisphere with a core focus on systems thinking in design, strategy and innovation.

A particular area of interest for him is the role of art and design in the community, business and culture, and the role of the art school in nurturing future talent. He is currently also a design associate with the UK Design Council, working with businesses to develop design skills within their organisation.

University Chosen as Language Teaching Support Centre



Bath Spa University has won a contract, awarded by the Government, to provide advice and support for school language teachers throughout the South West. The Department for Children, Schools and Families selected Bath Spa as one of nine regional centres across England to support foreign language teaching in all primary and secondary schools, together with sixth form and further education colleges.

The new South West Regional Support Centre for Languages will benefit from teacher training expertise in the School of Education, which runs a specialist training programme in Secondary Modern Languages teaching.



Philip Campagna, Course Leader for Secondary and Key Stage 2/3 PGCE Modern Languages at Bath Spa, will also be Director of the new Regional Support Centre, to be located at the University's base for teacher training next to Culverhay School.

He said: "This will put Bath Spa University not only on the regional map but also on the national map for language teaching - on an equal footing with Cambridge University and other universities like Westminster and Newcastle, which have also been awarded the same status as regional centres.

"All the other centres will be run by university language departments. Ours is the only one with the advantage of being run by a university teacher training department, which already works closely with schools all over the South West."

With languages due to become a compulsory part of the curriculum for all primary schools, the South West Regional Support Centre will help primary teachers take on board this extra responsibility. The Centre will also ease the transition for secondary schools as they prepare for an expected increase in languages study post-14.

Two Bath Spa Graduates Pipped for Children's Book Prize

The winner of the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize 2009 was announced on 18 February – and for the second year running the shortlist included two authors who are graduates from a creative writing course at Bath Spa University.

Last year the Waterstone's Prize went to Sally Nicholls, who studied on Bath Spa's MA Writing for Young People, for her first novel *Ways to Live Forever*, while a fellow graduate from the same course, Marie-Louise Jensen, was also nominated for *Between Two Seas*.

For the 2009 award Marie-Louise was again shortlisted, this time with her latest book *The Lady in the Tower*, alongside yet another former student on the MA Writing for Young People course, Elen Caldecott. Elen made the shortlist for her debut novel *How Kirsty Jenkins Stole the Elephant*.

However this year's winner was *The Thirteen Treasures* by Michelle Harrison.

Marie-Louise Jensen, who lives in Bath, has set her new novel *The Lady in the Tower* in 1540, during the era of King Henry VIII. A teenage girl living in Farleigh Hungerford Castle is trying to save her mother, who has been locked up by her father after a terrible accusation.



Marie-Louise Jensen: Shortlisted



Elen Caldecott, who lives in Bristol, was inspired to write *How Kirsty Jenkins Stole the Elephant* by her experience as a museum security guard. While patrolling the galleries she dreamed up a 'what if' scenario about a stuffed elephant and a little girl's promise to her late grandfather.

Julia Green, MA Writing for Young People Course Leader, is thrilled about this latest success for her ex-students.

She said: "The achievement by Sally Nicholls and Marie-Louise Jensen in both being shortlisted for the Waterstone's Prize 2008 was remarkable. When Sally won it that was icing on the cake. It's so exciting that Marie-Louise was shortlisted again in 2009, joined this time by Elen. All these graduates from our course are wonderful writers and fully deserve such recognition of their talent."

Dan Davies Becomes Visiting Professor in New Zealand



Prof Dan Davies

The School of Education's Head of Research, Prof Dan Davies, is to spend three months' study leave as a Visiting Professor at the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

He will be there from March until May collaborating with Ian Milne, head of the New Zealand Association for Science Education. The pair will jointly research and write a book on creativity in primary science education.

They will also both be involved in school-based research to evaluate, develop and refine a model of classroom science activity devised by Ian Milne, which he has called 'creative exploration'. Prof Davies will work with some teachers and PhD students, looking at their understanding of the nature of science and its relationship to technology in both the 'real world' and the classroom.

Prof Davies will also speak at four conferences across New Zealand, presenting the outcomes of a project in Bristol on active learning approaches to scientific inquiry.

Bath Spa Writers to Perform at Literature Festival

Some of the UK's best new writers are studying for an MA in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University. You can be among the first to hear their work - during Bath Literature Festival 2009.

New Writing: You Heard It Here First is a selection of readings from this year's students on the MA course, who may become the published and



Tessa Hadley: Bath Literature
Festival 2009

feted authors of tomorrow. It takes place at the Rondo Theatre in Bath on Wednesday 4 March at 8.30 pm.

The Literature Festival also offers an opportunity to hear last year's graduates from the Bath Spa Creative Writing MA read from a newly published anthology of their work. *New Writing: The Anthology* will be launched at the Guildhall on Saturday 7 March at 7.30 pm.

For a second year the Festival includes the *Bath Spa University Stand Up Poetry Series*, hosted by poet and Bath Spa lecturer Tim Liardet. The event, at the Victoria Art Gallery on Thursday 5 March at 7.30pm, will feature Tim in discussion with fellow poets Vicki Feaver and Catherine Smith.

Novelist and short story writer Tessa Hadley, who lectures in Creative Writing at Bath Spa, is also involved in the Festival. She and Hermione Lee will be taking part in *Retrospectives: Henry James & Edith Wharton* on Sunday 1 March in the Guildhall at 2.30 pm.

Tessa Hadley will also present a discussion between two writers, Sulaiman Addonia and Samir El-Youssef, in *Writers of the World: Love and Politics* at the Guildhall on Thursday 5 March at 4.30pm.

Bath Literature Festival 2009 runs from 28 February until 8 March. Tickets can be booked via the box office, on 01225 463362, or online: www.bathlitfest.org.uk

Student Jasmine Runs Bath Juggling Convention

Bath Spa student Jasmine Williams has come up with a highly original idea for her creative enterprise project on the BA Creative Writing course. Jasmine, in her third year at BSU, is organising Bath UpChuck – the city's first juggling convention for 20 years.

The event, suitable for anyone interested in learning circus skills, is being held at the Founders Sports Hall on the University of Bath campus at Claverton Down on Saturday 28 February. The one-day convention will consist of workshops and games during the day, from 11 am, followed by a show with professional jugglers in the evening at 7.30 pm.

Jasmine learned to juggle only two years ago and describes her own skill level as "mediocre". However, if the juggling convention is successful and proves her ability as a creative entrepreneur, she hopes to make it an annual event in Bath.

For more details visit the Bath UpChuck website: <http://www.bathupchuck.co.uk>





University Goes Even Greener

BSU has launched two new sustainable transport initiatives – a Cycle-to-Work scheme and a car-sharing scheme. Both were introduced as a result of feedback from the Transport Survey, carried out among staff and students at Newton Park in November 2008.

The Cycle-to-Work scheme allows eligible staff to make great savings on the cost of a new bike. Payments are spread over 12 months and made before tax and N.I. contributions, resulting in typical savings of between 31% and 41%. One condition is that the bike should be used mainly for commuting to work, but it can be ridden for leisure purposes too.

Popular demand has also led to the introduction of a car-share scheme called Car2Spa. It is designed for BSU staff and students who travel alone to any of the University's campuses. A proven system, liftshare.com, is being used to bring together potential car sharers. Car2Spa is free to join, reduces pollution and traffic congestion and can make the journey to work more enjoyable.

You can find out more about both schemes on the Transport page of our Environmental website.

There is also a new tax-efficient way to reduce your individual carbon footprint – via the UK's leading woodland conservation charity, the Woodland Trust. By signing up to Payroll Giving you can opt for donating to the Woodland Trust, who will then plant trees to help offset your carbon footprint. Donations are deducted before tax, so each £1 you give will only cost you 80p.

To sign up visit www.payrollgiving.co.uk

Norwegian Teachers' Visit Survives the Snow

Although snow forced the University to close on Friday 6 February, that did not deter the organiser of a visit by more than 50 Norwegian schoolteachers.

The School of Education's Assistant Dean and Head of Partnership, Susan Haywood, could no longer continue at Newton Park with her sessions on the use of ICT in classroom teaching. Instead she switched them to her Norwegian guests' hotel, the Francis, in Bath city centre.

The party of 56 teachers, all from one secondary school in Bergen, were still able to benefit from Bath Spa's specialist knowledge and expertise – despite the atrocious weather conditions.



ICT Workshop at Francis Hotel



Visits to 10 schools in the Bristol and Bath area had to be cancelled because all the schools were closed. However the rest of the two-day programme went ahead almost as scheduled, albeit with a sudden change of venue on the second day.

Susan Haywood said: "The Norwegian teachers were courteous and understanding and very impressed that we could still put on a day of ICT advice across the curriculum. We responded to the situation at short notice and still provided a good programme for them, despite all the difficulties."

It is hoped the visit will lead to teachers from other schools in Norway coming to Bath Spa University for this kind of expert help.

Student Sculptors Exhibit at Walcot Chapel

Five enterprising sculpture students from the School of Art and Design mounted an exhibition of their work in a Bath art gallery. The group, all in their third year studying Fine Art (Sculpture), held the show at Walcot Chapel from 3 to 8 February.

The students are Dawn Stringer, Carlie Forsyth, Viki Matkin, Eloise Jones and Stephanie Bengry-Howell. Their exhibition attracted 80 people, including the Mayor of Bath, to a private viewing. It was followed by a great response from the general public during the week, with a total of 150 visitors coming along.

The exhibition, entitled 'Intentions', explored themes of space, transformation, decay and change by placing common everyday objects in a different context. These included Dawn's piece, 'Still Life', which consists of cards falling out of a chest of drawers.



Dawn Stringer and 'Still Life'