



May 2009



*Aerial photos of central London  
and Bath from the project*



### 3D Britain Becoming a Reality Thanks to University

A new digital 3D map of the whole of Britain is being created – thanks to the expertise of staff and students at the University. A team from the School of Science and the Environment have developed new ways to produce more accurate mapping and 3D visualisations from aerial photography more quickly and at a lower cost than ever before.

The work, involving Bath Spa students led by academic staff Alexander Koh and Christos Piperagkas, will lead to improved technology in a range of applications from satellite navigation to TV weather forecasting.

It's the result of a three-year partnership between Bath Spa University and the UK's leading provider of aerial photography and digital mapping, Getmapping LLP. The University obtained a Knowledge Transfer Partnership grant of £200,000 from the Department of Trade and Industry and Getmapping to carry out the project.

Alexander Koh, Principal Lecturer in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information at the University, has also collaborated with Getmapping to devise a new type of camera for capturing oblique aerial photography. Known as the Azicam, it's the first to capture multiple images of buildings using a single camera from an oblique angle.

Oblique aerial photography is already being used by about a dozen councils to help with surveying and town planning. It will also be invaluable for all the emergency and security services in future, including police, fire and ambulance.

The Bath Spa students have also carried out research and development for a new national project called the People's Map. Several councils so far, including Bath and North East Somerset Council, are adopting it to re-draw and update the digital map of their own local area.

All this work forms part of the students' Geographic Information Systems degree course, having been incorporated into their modules and assessment exercises. It has also led to work placements during the course and jobs for many of them after graduation.

Alexander Koh said: "This partnership means that our students are getting experience of real life projects. Getmapping and the DTI have helped us by paying for the technology and data, while the University has helped create the products."

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*Student helpers at exercise class  
for stroke patients*

### **Student Volunteers Assist Stroke Patients**

A group of student volunteers from Bath Spa University have been involved in a pioneering scheme to help people who have suffered a stroke.

The six students were specifically trained to help professional instructors with a new exercise and lifestyle course organised by a national charity, the Stroke Association.

The course was an eight-week national pilot project delivered in several venues around Bath and North East Somerset. It offered advice and support to people making lifestyle changes following a stroke. The aim is to build confidence through supervised exercise, information on life after a stroke and advice about coping in the long term.

The Bath Spa University volunteers are mostly studying related healthcare courses in the University's School of Social Sciences. They all received specialist training from a Stroke Association professional to assist the qualified instructors.

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### **Bath Spa Students at Auschwitz**



*Entrance to Auschwitz*

Third year students from the Cultural Studies department had a sombre but unforgettable experience when they travelled to Auschwitz. Their visit to the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps in Poland was part of a course module, 'Cultural Manifestations of Evil and Wickedness'.

The students, with module leader Dr Fiona Peters and fellow tutor Dr Richard Stamp, started their field trip in Krakow, where they toured the Jewish quarter of the city and the Krakow ghetto, from which thousands of people were transported to Auschwitz.

On arrival at Auschwitz the Cultural Studies party passed under the infamous sign, 'Arbeit Macht Frei' ('work brings freedom'), erected by the camp commandant Rudolf Hoss. Their guided tour of the site gave them a sense of its significance for people around the world. The different languages of the tours, the school parties bearing Israeli flags and the governments who 'sponsor' its buildings all testify to the international importance of the place.

At Birkenau the camp's gaping gates fed by railway lines provide one of the most recognisable images of the Holocaust. Dr Stamp said: "We were particularly struck by the massive scale of this 'factory of death': the lines of prisoners' barracks that stretched into the distance and the tracks that carried millions to the gas chamber. This was a trip that resonated with us all and that we will never forget."

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### Liquid Soap is Launched

An online TV soap has been launched at Bath Spa University. Liquid Soap, a comedy series produced and performed by students and set entirely in the toilets of a university café, will be webcast in five minute episodes from next autumn.

At least 15 episodes a year are planned, with a new one being released every fortnight during term. The project is led jointly by drama lecturer and EastEnders producer/director Chris Jury and Artswork Media director Nic Jeune.

With students writing the scripts plotlines will cover everything from relationships and fights to politics and mental health.

Nic Jeune said: "A soap can reflect and react to the lifestyle, interest and concerns of the core audience like no other form of TV drama. By combining the structure of a soap with an edgy comedic style we hope to engage directly with the student audience."

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### Grace Plays Starring Role at Theatre Royal

A second year Performing Arts student, Grace Miller, had rave reviews for her performance in the musical *Oliver* at Bath's Theatre Royal. She played the main female character Nancy in the production by Bath Operatic and Dramatic Society.

The Bristol Evening Post's theatre critic wrote: "Every soloist came through crisp and clear, with Grace Miller as Nancy - the tart with a heart - particularly noteworthy."

Grace told BSU Online: "I really enjoyed going out every night before the biggest audiences I've ever played to. It was fantastic, although also very daunting, and it's given me a huge amount of confidence."

This summer she will join a professional theatre company, Chapterhouse, touring the country with outdoor productions of *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Sense and Sensibility*.

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### Music Student Hits Right Note for Business

Commercial Music student Sam Dixon won the £1,000 top prize in the University's Business Plan Competition. His winning idea was a guitar tuition course aimed at children in primary school.



Grace Miller as Nancy



*Sam Dixon receives his award*

*Go'Go Guitar* is a 16-week course designed with innovation, fun and inspiration in mind to keep young beginners interested in learning to play the guitar. It generates income through the sale of course materials and tuition fees from lessons.

Sam, who beat off competition from 23 other student entries, has worked as a music teacher in local schools for a year and saw a gap in the market for his guitar course.

Fiona Cassidy and Anne Egan, studying Graphic Communication, carried off the £500 Merit Award with their proposal for a visual art activity hub called StudioXYZ



*Ruffled Umbrella*

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### University Helps Student Performers to Go Professional

Bath Spa has chosen two groups of students to set up their own professional stage companies on graduation – with financial backing from the University. The students, from the School of Music and Performing Arts, are being offered expert support for this pioneering project, which is one of the first of its kind for a UK university.

The scheme, called the Launchpad, was initiated by Emma Gersch, senior lecturer in Drama and Performing Arts and teaching fellow for Artswork. It's aimed at nurturing and developing two graduate performance companies to become fully professional self-sufficient business organisations.

After a business plan competition, in which student groups were invited to pitch rival ideas, two winning entries have been announced. The winners, selected ahead of five other finalists, are the Ruffled Umbrella theatre company and a dance company called Nice as Pie.

Each group has been awarded a start-up prize of £750 and a wide range of other assistance. This will include intensive business skills training and mentoring from industry professionals, rehearsal and office space, help with marketing and introduction to a network of business contacts. The package amounts to more than £10,000 worth of in-kind support.

The graduate entrepreneurs will be expected to create and sell their own show for a tour in the South West and to perform it at the Edinburgh Festival in 2010.

One of the companies, Ruffled Umbrella, recently landed a prestigious international prize. Its production of *Dinner* by Moira Buffini won the Best Show award at the Festival d'Hiver, a student drama festival in Paris..

Nice as Pie will be performing their current show, 'Eat your Own Words', on 6 and 7 June at the Chapel Arts Centre, as part of the Bath Fringe Festival.

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*EUCLID Seminar*

## Guide to European Funding Opportunities

Artswork and the Graduate School hosted an important forum for cultural organisations on funding from Europe. The UK contact point for the EU Culture Programme, EUCLID, presented the half-day seminar and workshop at Newton Park.

This useful introduction to maximising opportunities from EU funding sources was attended by local arts organisations including Theatre Royal Bath, the Holburne Museum and Bath Fringe. They were joined by cultural bodies from further afield such as English Heritage, the Science Museum and the Oxford Playhouse.

Staff from four of the University's Schools (English & Creative Studies, Historical & Cultural Studies, Music & Performing Arts and Art & Design) took part in the seminar, which also involved representatives from the Universities of Gloucestershire, Bournemouth and Newport.



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## Race Equality in the University

All Bath Spa staff and students are invited to a talk on race equality in the University by a leading expert in the field. The event is entitled: 'Institutional Racism and Education – who's involved and what can we do about it?'

The talk will be delivered by David Gillborn, Professor of Critical Race Studies at London Institute of Education, from 12.15 to 1.45pm on Wednesday May 27 in Newton 101. A sandwich lunch is available.

Part of the race equality plan at Bath Spa is to eliminate racism from the University's practice. Professor Stephen Ward, Dean of the School of Education and Race Equality Champion, said:

"It is often difficult to identify those factors which disadvantage minority ethnic groups and an understanding of institutional racism is important. David Gillborn's talk will be accessible, but provocative, in challenging our thinking about what we can do."

Professor Gillborn has written widely on race and education. His latest book, *Racism and education: Coincidence or conspiracy*, was published last year by Routledge.

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## Bath Spa's First Professional Fashion Show

Bath Spa University is to stage its first ever professional fashion show. The catwalk show, at the Assembly Rooms in Bath in June, will showcase collections designed by graduates and students from the Fashion course at the University's School of Art and Design.

The event is being organised by a London show producer, John Walford, who has worked with leading clothes designers such as Vivien Westwood and for many years has produced catwalk shows for London, New York and Hong Kong Fashion Weeks. The collections will be modelled by professional London-based models.

The BA Fashion Design course at Bath Spa University was set up five years ago and this will be the first time the University has exhibited its graduates' work in a live professional show.

On the catwalk there will be 19 graduate collections, each consisting of five outfits. Another section will feature the work of Bath Spa's current fashion students, with 15 collections by second year designers.

The Bath Spa University Fashion Show takes place at the Assembly Rooms in Bath on Tuesday 16 June, with two shows at 3pm and 7pm.

In the build-up to next month's show there will be an exhibition of black outfits designed by last year's graduates, as shown at Graduate Fashion Week in London in June 2008. This exhibition will take place at Milsom Place in Bath.

Tickets, costing £16 each, can be booked online at: <http://fashionshow.artbathspa.com> or phone 01225 875393.

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## Band of Former Students Release Debut Single

A band who formed at Bath Spa University, Kill It Kid, have released their debut single with the leading UK record label One Little Indian. The track, *Send Me An Angel Down*, is a precursor to their first album, which is due out next autumn. Both were recorded in Seattle.

The five members of Kill It Kid are Chris Turpin (vocals and guitar), Stephanie Ward (vocals and piano), Adam Timmins (bass), Marc Jones (drums) and Richard Jones (violin). They met at Bath Spa while four of them were studying music and attracted the attention of visiting producer John Parish, who is best known for his work with PJ Harvey.

The quintet's blend of delta blues and many other musical influences has won them rapturous acclaim from audiences in the Bath area, leading to tour dates and festival bookings across the country this summer.

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*Kill It Kid*



*Felicity Gower receives student volunteer award from Councillor Francine Haerberling*

## Awards for Student Volunteers

The University's inaugural Volunteer & Society Awards took place on 30 April. Arranged by Just V (BSU's volunteer function), the event recognised specific students who have made outstanding contributions to volunteering in the past academic year, whether on or off campus.

More than a dozen students received awards under categories such as 'Excellence in a Student Volunteer Project', 'Campaigner of the Year' and 'Community Volunteer of the Year.' They were presented by a selection of guests including Councillor Francine Haerberling (Leader of Bath & North East Somerset Council), Professor Tim Middleton (Head of English & Creative Studies) and Amanda Leon (Head of Student Support Services).

There were also cheque presentations to three local community organisations – Bath Area Drugs Advisory Service, Bath Junior Gateway Club and Sue Ryder Care – for which the University's RAG society has raised funds throughout the year.

As well as celebrating the work of individual student volunteers, the event was an opportunity to celebrate the huge growth in volunteering at Bath Spa. Numbers involved have risen from just 25 in 2007 to over 450 this academic year. This puts BSU's volunteer provision in the same league as far larger universities.

Ed Stevens, Just V Coordinator, said: "The evening was a fantastic opportunity to thank specific volunteers for the amazing selfless work that they undertake in the community and also to thank local organisations and the council for their support. So many of our students are making a real difference to the lives of local individuals in a diversity of ways and their efforts are well worth celebrating."

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## New Bath Spa Gym Opens its Doors

If you want to get into shape for your summer holiday look no further than the brand new BSU gym. The fully air conditioned facility is now open for all Bath Spa staff and students. You'll find it upstairs in the Newton Park Students' Union building.

The gym is a light and airy space kitted out with the latest Life Fitness cardiovascular and strength equipment, fixed and loose weights and a matted stretch area. There are also two large plasma screens showing your favourite channels and music videos.

All new members receive an induction class on the use of all equipment. The gym is open all year apart from University closure days at Christmas and Easter. Opening hours are 7.30 am to 7.30 pm on weekdays and 1pm to 7.30 pm at weekends.





The annual membership fee is a very reasonable £120 for staff and £95 for students – a third of the cost in many commercial gyms. However if you join now you will have membership until the end of July 2010. That's 14 months for the price of 12!

To join call into the Students' Union or visit [www.bathspasu.co.uk/gym](http://www.bathspasu.co.uk/gym)

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### **Award for BSU Administrators**

Bath Spa's branch of the Association of University Administrators (AUA), launched only last October, has made a flying start. It won an award for good practice as recognition of its activities in raising awareness of the AUA and fostering professionalism and excellence in the sector.

The award was presented to branch co-ordinator Jan Hanley, who is admin manager for BSU School of Social Sciences, at the AUA annual conference in Exeter.

Jan has promoted the AUA by organising regular branch meetings, various events with external speakers and a visit to UCAS for a 'behind the scenes' tour of the institution. As a result membership at Bath Spa trebled in six months – a great achievement for the new branch.



*Jan Hanley receiving admin  
branch good practice award*