



## November 2009



*Tony Dewberry with the Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Governors Stella Pirie*

### Long-Serving Deputy Vice-Chancellors Retire

The University will start 2010 without two long-serving figures, both of them Deputy Vice-Chancellors, from its senior management. Tony Dewberry has taken ill health retirement and Prof David Timms is retiring at the end of December. A tribute to Prof Timms will appear in next month's Online.

Tony Dewberry has worked for BSU for over 20 years and, at the helm of Property Services and Estates for much of that time, made a huge contribution to the development of our campuses as we know them today. A less well-known fact is that he deserves the credit for coming up with the name Bath Spa University!

An architect by profession, Tony joined BSU (then Bath College of Higher Education) in 1989 from Wandsworth Borough Council as Corporation Secretary and Clerk to the Board of Governors. He was appointed Assistant Director in 1995 and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 2005.

This month the Academic Board awarded Tony an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his outstanding service to Bath Spa. This is the highest award which the University can make. He was also recently presented with a certificate on behalf of the Board of Governors by its Chair, Stella Pirie.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Frank Morgan, said: "Tony has shown the same energy, diligence and task orientation whether he has been working on governance, land and buildings, health and safety or any of a dozen other matters."

The VC was joined by colleagues throughout the University in extending best wishes to Tony and his family. A farewell lunch was held on 12 November and the sheer number of friends and colleagues who joined Tony shows how greatly he will be missed.

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### Students Help Organise Conference at Windsor Castle

A group of Bath Spa students and graduates were given key organising roles for a major conference at Windsor Castle, hosted by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and attended by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The five students were all on work placements, arranged by the University, with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC). ARC, a small charity based at Kelston Park near Bath, held the summit of 230 religious and secular leaders from 2 to 4 November, in partnership with the UN Development Programme.



*HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and Ban Ki-moon at the conference*



*The students on their work placements at Kelston Park*

The Windsor Castle event involved leaders from nine faiths: Baha'ism, Buddhism, Christianity, Daosim, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Shintoism and Sikhism. They were meeting to commit to their own long-term practical initiatives for protection of the environment.

The Bath Spa students, on a variety of degree-related placements lasting between one and ten weeks, all had responsibility for management of the three-day event. Lucy Glendinning, who is in the third year of her Bath Spa course, Study of Religions, organised all the delegates' security documents and accommodation. Laura Jackson, who recently graduated with a first in Study of Religions, wrote most of the material on ARC's special event website and facilitated media interviews during the conference.

A graduate in Theatre Production, Kim Missen, designed everything from event stationery to table plans for a dinner where the keynote speech was delivered by the UN Secretary-General. A Performing Arts graduate, Duncan Roe, was in charge of the audio-visual technology for presentations during the conference.

You can view a photo gallery on the conference website supervised by Laura: [www.windsor2009.org](http://www.windsor2009.org)

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### **Ceramics Graduates Shine at British Biennial**

BA Ceramics graduate Louisa Taylor has won a top prize at the British Ceramics Biennial in Stoke-on-Trent. Louisa and fellow Bath Spa graduates Lucy Whiting and Aimee Lax were all selected, from over 300 international applicants, for the Award Show during the Biennial.

Louisa won the Batch Award, for which Lucy had been shortlisted, while Aimee was shortlisted for the One-Off Award.

The Biennial, which continues until 13 December, also includes a section called 'Fresh' showing work by new Bath Spa graduates Ai Ono, Esther Hubert, Pippa Galpin and Ann Claxton. You can find out more at [www.britishceramicsbiennial.com](http://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com)

Louisa Taylor was also one of four Ceramics graduates from Bath Spa who featured at Origin, the London craft fair, at Somerset House. She, Hans Borgonjon, Jo Davies and Matthew Chambers all reported high levels of interest and sales at the fair. Louisa won the UK Trade and Investment award for 'creativity and export potential' and the Homes and Property award for 'Best Product 2009' with her 'Oriole' supper set.

A 2009 Ceramics graduate from Bath Spa, Catherine Gray, had her vases chosen by Paul Smith for the designer's Autumn Collection. She was also accepted by Design Gap to exhibit at Top Drawer Olympia, where she won 'Best New Product for the Home' and a £1,000 grant.



*Louisa Taylor's award-winning supper set*



*Catherine Gray's vases*



*Graham McLaren with the  
President of Xi'an Academy of  
Fine Art*

## Visit to China Expands Art & Design Partnership

Bath School of Art and Design is building on its strong links with the Far East. Head of School Pradeep Sharma and Head of Research Graham McLaren have visited Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts (XAFA) in China.

The academy, one of China's leading art and design institutions, invited them to join its 60th anniversary celebrations. Events included a symposium at which Pradeep spoke on the challenges facing art and design education in an era of globalisation.

The School of Art and Design has enjoyed a collaborative partnership with XAFA since 2006. Arrangements are in place for staff and student exchanges, a '2+2' agreement for XAFA undergraduates to complete their degree at Bath Spa, and exciting plans for web-based collaborations and joint exhibitions. The visit to XAFA enabled details of this collaboration to be re-confirmed and plans for a joint pedagogical research project to be initiated.

At the end of November Pradeep is returning to the Far East, this time with Textiles lecturer Tim Parry-Williams. The pair will visit Taiwan and Japan to meet senior academics from other leading institutions and develop new partnerships for research and exchanges.

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## Record Attendance at Open Days

Over 2500 potential students attended Bath Spa's pre-application Open Days in September and October – the biggest number so far.

Market research confirms that Open Days are one of the most important factors in determining whether or not potential students will apply to the University, and as such they form a key element of the University's marketing strategy.

Feedback from the event showed that all visitors who completed visitor evaluations found the day either very enjoyable or enjoyable, and 94% were more likely to apply to us following their visit. Many visitors commented on how helpful and friendly they found both staff and students, and a range of different presentations were singled out as 'highlights' of the day, with the enthusiasm of academic staff making hugely positive impressions. Our student helpers, as ever, played a vital role and demonstrated the importance of their ambassadorial role.

Our thanks go to all staff who helped make the days a success.

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Snail's progress: *Physella acuta*  
(in foreground)

### How Foreign Snails Invaded UK – by Bath Spa Expert

Prof Paul Davies, Head of Graduate Studies and Research Management, is an expert on snails – and recently he was given an opportunity to display that knowledge on national television.

On 23 October he appeared on the BBC's One Show in a report about the arrival of non-native snail species in the UK. One species in particular, *Physella acuta*, probably reached this country by accident from North America and is now widespread here. It lives in the Great Bath at the Roman Baths, tolerating a water temperature of about 40 degrees C.

In an interview for the One Show, recorded by the lake at Newton Park, Paul explained how other non-native species of freshwater snails have also become established in Britain and gave his opinion on whether any of them pose a threat to the indigenous fauna.

Paul specialises in snail ecology, with 20 years' experience of researching it in the UK, Europe and Africa. He has written around 30 journal papers on snail-related topics and last year published *Snails: Archaeology and Landscape Change* – the first book of its kind for 35 years.

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### Learn Italian by Playing Rugby

A group of boys at Culverhay School in Bath will go on a rugby tour to Italy next year. To prepare the team Bath Spa's Philip Campagna is coaching them entirely in Italian.

As well as being PGCE Modern Languages course leader in our School of Education and a native Italian speaker, Philip is a qualified junior rugby coach. He has discovered that mixing these ingredients together is a great way to motivate young language learners.

At each training session with the 14 to 16-year-old players Philip shouts out all his instructions in basic Italian and has found their response to be very positive because it gives the language a real purpose.

As a result Philip was invited to present his novel approach at an international conference on learning languages through sport – the first of its kind. The gathering, 'Languages Meet Sport', took place at Trieste in Italy and included delegates from Arsenal and Inter Milan football clubs.

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### Writing Graduate Shortlisted for Guardian Book Award

Samantha Harvey, a graduate from Bath Spa's MA Creative Writing course, has been shortlisted for the Guardian First Book award. Her debut novel, *The Wilderness*, is one of five titles nominated for the £10,000 prize, which is for works of fiction or non-fiction by newcomers.



Italian the Campagna way



Samantha Harvey

The shortlist was drawn up by a judging panel that included the novelist Tobias Hill, broadcaster Martha Kearney and Waterstone's reading groups in Bath, Oxford, London, Leeds and Edinburgh.

Samantha gained an MA with distinction in Creative Writing in 2005 and is now back studying at the University for a PhD.

This year she has already won the Betty Trask Prize for first-time young Commonwealth novelists. She was also shortlisted for the 2009 Orange Prize for Fiction and, most recently, longlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

*The Wilderness*, published by Jonathan Cape, tells the powerful and moving story of an architect in his sixties with Alzheimer's. He cannot remember whether his daughter is alive or dead or why his son is in prison.

The winner of the Guardian First Book award will be announced on Wednesday 2 December.

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### Barbara's Guide to Finding Love

Barbara Bloomfield, a lecturer in Creative Writing at Bath Spa and supervisor with the counselling service Relate, has used her own dating experience to write a new book on the quest for romance.

Barbara spent a year researching *The Relate Guide to Finding Love* and interviewed hundreds of romance seekers and matchmakers to discover the best advice on meeting an ideal partner.

She also refers in the book to her own past misfortunes with dating agencies. A leading national newspaper once commissioned her to join six introduction agencies and go on 27 dates to test the effectiveness of their matchmaking.

Barbara says: "I didn't find Mr Right or even Mr Not Too Bad, and no-one seemed to think I was Ms Right either. Instead I spent one long evening in a pub with a man who compiled telephone directories for a living. He had brought along the Bs to Ds so that we could look at them together!"

"Another surreal afternoon was spent with someone who showed me pictures of all his mansions in California and the helicopters he kept there for his international travel."

*The Relate Guide to Finding Love*, published by Vermillion, tells many true stories about people's dating disasters, some of them funny and others painful. Alongside the entertaining anecdotes it gives practical tips on the best chance of success in finding love.

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Barbara Bloomfield



## Students Select Sporty Films for Bath Film Festival



*Buster Keaton: Celluloid Games*

Students from Bath Spa University teamed up with Bath Film Festival to choose a series of films about sport, shown during the festival from 12 to 21 November.

The four student film buffs are: Anastasia Hellewell, Elspeth Hinde, Gemma James and Jet Winyard (studying Media Communications, English Literature and Film and Screen Studies). They spent months researching and selecting films, liaising with distributors, booking venues, writing film notes and promoting the screenings.

The series, called Celluloid Games, kicked off with Running Shorts – a programme of short films including *College*, with Buster Keaton, and Jan Svankmajer's *Virile Games*. Among the other films chosen were British classic *The Belles of St Trinian's*, Australian cricket horror spoof *I Know How Many Runs You Scored Last Summer* and American skateboard biog *Lords of Dogtown* featuring the late Heath Ledger.

The project was supported by RELAYS, a scheme encouraging young people to participate in and create cultural and sporting activities during the run-up to the 2012 Olympics.

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## Mike's Taste of Africa on Safari Day



*Safari Day at Moreton*

Life on the African plains was brought to the lunch counter at Moreton Refectory, thanks to sous chef Mike Currie. He organised a safari day on 21 October with his special 'Taste of Africa' menu, featuring dishes like Zimbabwe Beef and Bean Mahobho and Kenyan Rohu Giriama Gourmet (a spicy fish recipe).

The Moreton staff also put together a spectacular African backdrop of artefacts from Mike's own private collection and a huge safari-themed banner on the wall. Tribal music played, while head chef Mike Gould's son dressed up in an orangutan suit in support of the Orangutan Appeal UK to protect this great ape and its habitat across the globe.

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## Employee Wellbeing Update

At the end of the first year with Lifeworks, our employee assistance programme, HR is delighted with the number of staff who have taken advantage of the service. During that period 8.4% of staff telephoned for advice and online usage was 53%. Both those figures are higher than at other organisations using the same provider. The HR team meet with Lifeworks on a quarterly basis, so if you have any feedback or suggestions please contact Helen Jones.



As part of the university wellbeing strategy a variety of events have been run throughout the year - including No Smoking Day, National Men's Health Week, health MOTs, flu jabs and Back Care Week. The most recent was National Stress Awareness Day on 4 November. If you haven't yet signed up for one of our stress management courses there is still time to do so [here](#). If there is a wellbeing topic you would like to see covered please contact Helen Jones.

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### Starters and Leavers

The following staff joined the University in October:

David King (Marketing & Communications): Student Recruitment Officer  
Julian Greaves (Property Services): Carbon Reduction & Energy Manager  
Emma Tuckley (Student Services): Dyslexia Coordinator

The following staff left the University in October:

James Chapman (Computing Services): Server Analyst  
Vincent Smith (Student Housing): Site Manager  
Anna Hamilton (Student Services): Admissions Administrator  
Lauren Wardle (School of Education): CDP Administrator  
Susan Ralph (School of Art & Design): Technical Demonstrator  
Katy Hillier (Central Services): Administrative Assistant  
Linda Gadsden (Finance): Finance Administrator  
Richard Francis (School of Humanities & Cultural Industries): Principal Lecturer Creative Studies.

Recent name changes:

Nadine Hurst, HR Manager, is now Nadine Hennessy  
Viv Weston, Events Manager – Bath Spa Live, is now Viv Kuh  
Chloe Peel, Student Support Services Assistant, is now Chloe Spindlove