Welcome

Discovery lies at the very heart of Bristol. From its world-class research to its vibrant student life, Bristol is a hub for new ideas and creative thinking. And Bristol alumni take this thirst for knowledge and discovery into the wider world, going on to become innovators and influencers.

This issue of Nonesuch has the theme of discovery running through it, giving just a snapshot of the vast range of Bristol discoveries.

I particularly enjoyed Michelle Ruda’s article on student self-discovery. It rang very true. I know that I developed interests and passions as a student at Bristol that have remained with me all my life and I’m sure that is the case for many of you as well.

Continuing with the theme of discovery, the Convocation Reunion Weekend in July is a great opportunity to rediscover Bristol and your old university friends (or perhaps discover some new ones). I attend every year and it’s always a pleasure to watch as old friends meet up with cries of ‘you haven’t changed a bit’. Living in the community of a hall of residence and being part of an academic department both give rise to lifelong friendships and the Reunion Weekend offers an opportunity to become reacquainted with some of the academic departments and halls of residence – and sometimes it is even possible to stay in your old room!

The Reunion Weekend is also the time when you can find out what is happening at the University today. After the formal business of the Convocation Annual General Meeting the Vice-Chancellor gives an address that provides an insight into the current successes and issues.

I hope that you enjoy the magazine and our theme of ‘discovery’. Remember that you can catch up on all the latest Bristol discoveries via the online news service at www.bristol.ac.uk/news. I also look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on 4 or 5 July at the Reunion Weekend.

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Eocarcharia dinops or ‘fierce-eyed dawn shark’, so called for its blade-shaped teeth and prominent bony eyebrow. Bristol student Steve Brusatte (MSc 2008, MSc Earth Sciences 2008– ) recently named the new 110 million-year-old dinosaur following the discovery of its fossils in the Sahara Desert. *Eocarcharia* would have made a terrifying adversary. A swollen bony brow over its eye gave it a menacing appearance and may have been used as a battering ram against rivals for mating rights.

The big picture
News

If you would like regular news updates, why not sign up for our enewsletter? Email 'enewsletter' to alumni@bristol.ac.uk.

IN BRIEF

Top trader
Student Alex Edge (Electrical and Electronic Engineering 2004- ), has won the monthly ifs School of Finance Uni Investor Challenge Prize for the impressive performance of his investment portfolio. Students from around 100 higher education institutions across the UK participate in the challenge, which gives students a practical insight into stock markets, savings and investments by providing real-life skills in a risk-free but competitive setting.

Crossing Bordes
Students celebrated Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American culture during the University’s Semana Cultural (Cultural Week) held this March. This year’s events include a special programme of short films and culminated in two performances of Bordes, a play in Spanish devised, written and performed by students on the award-winning Language Through Theatre course.

MBE for mystery plays
A Bristol graduate’s life work, which was inspired by her time at Bristol, has been recognised by the Queen. Jane Oakshott (BA 1968) was appointed MBE in the New Year’s Honours List for her work in reintroducing the lost medieval staging method for the great English Mystery Plays.

Visualise the future
Have you ever been at a concert and felt like you’re missing out on the action? You’re right at the back and the band is a speck in the distance? Thanks to a team of engineers at Bristol, this could soon be a thing of the past. Working closely with industrial partners, including BT and International Sportsworld Communicators, the team from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering has developed a way of providing spectators with near real-time access to events as they unfold via Smart mobile phones.

Large-scale events, such as motor sport (World Rally Championship), athletics (Olympics) and festivals (Glastonbury) use a huge infrastructure of production and transmission equipment with many fixed and portable cameras. Most of the content is never made available to local spectators except through a single feed of edited output to portable TVs or large screen displays.

The project, called VISUALISE, aims to provide spectators with access to this rich range of content via hand-held devices. This will include non-viewable events or locations, archive material and real-times statistics.

Harry Patch, 109, WWI veteran, lights up Wills
Bristol’s skyline lit up on 20 February when Harry Patch (Hon MA 2006), a 109-year-old veteran of the Great War and a member of the workforce which constructed the University’s Wills Memorial Building in the 1920s, switched on the new Wills Tower floodlights. It was part of a special ceremony celebrating the completion of the tower restoration.

The project, which has taken two years to complete, has restored the 68-metre-high tower of the Grade II* listed building to its original sandy colour using the latest environmentally friendly techniques. The lights are energy-efficient and will turn on at dusk and switch off at midnight.
Hidden cost of cheap chicken

The huge increase in growth rates of broiler chickens means that more than a quarter of these intensively reared birds have difficulty walking, according to a survey carried out by Bristol scientists.

The study, funded by Defra, identifies a range of management factors that could be altered to reduce leg health problems but warns that implementation of these changes would be likely to reduce growth rate and production.

Dr Toby Knowles of the University’s Division of Farm Animal Science said: ‘The welfare implications of this study are profound. Research shows that consumers currently know little about how broiler chickens are reared but can be shocked when presented with information about current commercial practices. Since the sustainability of intensive broiler production depends on continued consumer acceptance of the farming practices involved, the broiler industry will need to work with the scientific community to develop more robust and healthier genotypes and to ensure that optimal husbandry and management practices are fully implemented.’

Student discovers new mathematical object

A new mathematical object has been discovered by Bristol maths student Ce Bian (PhD Mathematics 2006- ). The news caused great excitement when it was announced at a workshop attended by the world’s leading analytic number theorists.

The work is a joint project between Bian and his supervisor, Dr Andrew Booker. The two researchers exhibited the first example of a ‘third degree transcendental L-function’. These L-functions encode deep underlying connections between many different areas of mathematics. The Riemann zeta-function is the granddaddy of all L-functions and it holds the secret of how the prime numbers are distributed.

Vice-Chancellor in national debate on fees

The thorny issue of university fees was tackled by the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004), in the Guardian debate ‘Should we charge students higher fees?’. Professor Thomas outlined his position in an article published in the newspaper on 4 March and went head to head with Labour MP John McDonnel the following week at a public debate. He argued that politicians must bite the bullet and give universities the freedom to charge higher fees. The debate was part of a series on the future of education hosted by the think-tank Agora and Education Guardian.

Bristol academic will ‘shape the future’

David May, Professor of Computer Science and Chief Technology Officer at start-up XMOS Semiconductor Ltd, has been named as one of the ‘35 people, places and things that will shape the future’ by EE Times, the electronics industry’s online newspaper. The article celebrates what and who its editors think will have the biggest influence on the way this century develops. Professor May is at the forefront of research into parallelism, a form of computing in which many instructions are carried out simultaneously.

P-P-P-Publish a Penguin

A wealth of material relating to the remarkable history of Penguin Books, housed in the University Library’s Special Collections, will be studied and catalogued online.

The Penguin Archive consists of more than 2,300 boxes of letters, notes and other papers spanning the history of the company. Various events are planned, including a major event and exhibition to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Penguin Books and the centenary of the University in 2009.

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IN BRIEF

Another league
Bristol student Dave Attwood (Physics and Philosophy 2005-) has been chosen for the England Saxons squad. England Saxons is England’s men’s second national rugby union team. This is an exceptional achievement, as the England Saxons normally only select full-time professional rugby players.

A primal urge
Inspired by her research findings on great apes, psychologist Penny Morgan (BSc 1976) has written her first novel Prime Witness, which she describes as ‘a thriller with a primate slant’. The book begins with the murder of a researcher who was studying primate behaviour. Penny, a post-doctoral research fellow at Southampton University, has written articles for academic journals, but this is her first venture into novel writing.

Inspired giving
An alumnus inspired his fellow US alumni to give with a generous offer to match donations. For every ten gifts made to the University by Bristol alumni living in the US, Geoffrey Rowley (BA 1958) contributed an additional $1,000 dollars. In total 195 donors enabled $29,000 worth of matched funds from Geoffrey. The total donated was more than $75,000.

Enormous new dinosaur discovered
The remains of one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs ever found were recognised as representing a new species by Bristol student Steve Brusatte (MSc 2008, MSc Earth Sciences 2008-) (pictured above). The new species is one of the largest carnivorous dinosaurs ever to have lived. Carcharodontosaurus iguidensis was probably 13-14 metres long, making it taller than a double-decker bus. It had a skull about 1.75 metres long and its teeth were the size of bananas. See ‘the big picture’ on page two for details about another dinosaur, which Steve recently named.

Team triumphs in Atlantic challenge
A Bristol graduate and his three team-mates have won the 2007 Wood vale Atlantic Rowing Race. The 3,000-mile course is reputed to be the toughest rowing challenge in the world. After seven weeks of rowing, Tom Harvey (MSc 2003) and his fellow Atlantic adventurers, Robbie Grant, John Cecil-Wright and Carl Theakston, arrived in Antigua on 20 January 2008 ahead of the rest of the field.

Twenty-five metre waves, violent storms and blisters were just some of the challenges the lads faced along the way. The team braved the high seas in a bid to raise money for homeless charities. So far they have raised £20,000 and hope to sell the boat for £30,000, which will also be donated to charity.
Can you play it?

A busy corporate lifestyle and a love of music inspired Andrew Jenkins (BSc 1977) (pictured below) to leave his high-flying job and launch online music tutorial www.icanplayit.com.

Andrew was European Chief Operating Officer for JLS for many years and during this time came to realise that there were many executives out there who would love to learn music but don’t have time to attend regular music classes. What they needed was a flexible resource.

Teaming up with Ian Singleton, a renowned BAFTA-winning film maker, Andrew enlisted numerous well-known musicians to take part in this venture and teach students online. Pink Floyd and Bryan Ferry bass guitarist, Guy Pratt, teaches bass guitar while beginner rock guitar is taught by legendary guitarist Hugh Burns. Internationally acclaimed classical guitarist Gary Ryan teaches classical guitar and the clarinet module is taught by Emma Johnson MBE.

The real veal

Husband-and-wife team Jonathan Brown (BA 1997) and Vicky Brown (née Maiklem) (BSc 1996) have launched an ethical veal mail-order service in response to the huge demand for their product.

The duo founded Bocaddon Farm Veal in late 2006. Within six months they were selling at three farmers’ markets a week and supplying some of Cornwall’s top restaurants, including Jamie Oliver’s Fifteen Cornwall. They have expanded slowly since then, still rearing all the calves themselves. Jonathan said: “We’re passionate about what we do, as veal is still something of a taboo in this country and we would like to break down people’s misconceptions about this much misunderstood product.”

Full details are available at www.bocaddonfarmveal.com.

Double award whammy

Bristol graduate Ben Morris (BEng 1993) has scooped an Academy Award for his company’s effects work on the Philip Pullman adaptation The Golden Compass.

Ben picked up the Oscar for Best Visual Effects on behalf of Framestore CFC, the digital effects company for which he works as visual effects supervisor. Framestore provided many of the digital effects used in the film, including giant polar bear lorek, his evil arch-enemy Ragnar and the icy environment in which they all live.

The visual effects used in The Golden Compass were also recognised at the BAFTA awards several weeks earlier. The double victory came against stiff competition, with the film beating Transformers and Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End.
Michelle Ruda enjoying a coffee at the Primrose Café
Student discoveries uncovered

Everyone knows that university is about much more than academic learning. Michelle Ruda (Chemistry 2006-) takes us on a personal journey into the realms of student discovery.
Angelina Schliephake (Law 2006- ) experiencing Bristol’s pub culture
University. The best years of your life. You’ll meet so many people. Some of them will be friends for life. You’ll go out every night and eat beans on toast every day. You’ll discover yourself.

I’d just secured my place at Bristol and everyone had an opinion on university life for this fresh-faced sixth-former. Months later, as I packed my suitcase ready to make the move to Bristol, these endless promises swirled around in my head.

Two years on and I’m an old hand at student living. Weighing up the typical university anecdotes against the real deal of living this student life, I’ve learnt that the most valuable discoveries are the ones I hadn’t expected; the bits in between that no one could have predicted.

Nothing could have prepared me for trying haggis at Wills Hall’s Scottish Formal, or for the conversations about life and the future that went on late into the night as we sat huddled in our hall bedrooms, or for the time ten of us hopped into cars and took a spontaneous road trip to Oxwich Bay, Swansea, singing along to the radio as we raced down the M4. And who would have thought that this scientist would be writing music reviews for *Epigram* and this article for *Nonesuch*?

Some discoveries crept up on me. Like the thrill of discovering my independence when I moved into my flat last year and went from being a novice at cooking to whipping up risotto con il pollo. Even discovering the sour ache of homesickness in my first term, which I was positive was never going to happen. Yet it hit me like a blow all the same. But best of all was discovering the people: the friends that have witnessed me at my best and my worst, with whom I’ve shared laughter and tears in these two short years.

Reflecting on my own experiences made me think about these friends. Was their experience different from mine? I decided to find out. I posted messages on Facebook, emailed societies and spread the word. It wasn’t long before tales of discovery began to trickle in.

One of the first to reply was a friend I’d met in hall last year. Martin Soullier (Geography 2006-) discovered – most unexpectedly – a love of ballroom dancing. Although initially reluctant to give it a go, Martin, spurred on by his girlfriend, joined the Bristol University Latin American and Ballroom Dancing Society. It wasn’t long before he’d mastered the cha cha cha, rhumba, quickstep, jive, waltz and tango. ‘Such was the thrill of that first class that is soon became a permanent fixture in my diary,’ Martin tells me proudly.

The following evening I gathered my flatmates in our living room and harvested a collection of discoveries from them. Lizzie Kent (Psychology 2006-) shared her passion for music and her urge to try something new. ‘Having never sung before, I decided to sign up for both the Choral Society and the University Church Choir,’ she says.

A different kind of music inspired Timothy Wong (Computer Science 2006-), who discovered DJ-ing. ‘I spent about two years at school making electronic dance music,’ Tim recalls. ‘I started to think – where else can I go with this?’ DJ-ing seemed the obvious direction and university offered Tim the opportunity to make it happen. He started out playing short sets for halls and worked his way up, finally to DJ-ing for huge parties and Freshers’ Fair 2007.

Sport is a big part of student life. With such a range on offer, from snooker to extreme mountain biking, any student can find ‘their’ sport. Adam Wallin (Law 2007-) got in touch to tell me that he’d fallen in love with orienteering. He confessed that before coming to Bristol he didn’t think too highly of the sport. ‘But university is all about having new experiences and trying new things,’ he points out sagely. ‘Orienteering has proved to be one of the best things I’ve tried. Sprinting, scrambling and sliding around the forest have added new, exciting dimensions to the much-loved traditional Sunday stroll.’

Less healthy pastimes also feature in student life and booze is a big player. For many students, however, a love of alcohol is something discovered long before Bristol. ‘How am I going to find someone who’ll admit that their first experience of a pub was at university?’, I moaned to my flatmate, Angelina Schliephake (Law 2006-). ‘It’s not that unusual,’ replies Angelina. She comes from Canada, where youth culture is quite different. ‘In Canada we don’t really have pubs. The drinking age is 19 and if you wanted to hang out with friends you’d probably go to Starbucks which is open 24 hours,’ she explains and then reveals that the first pub she had ever been to was the Highbury Vaults in Bristol.

It was great to see that people have discovered lots of fun pastimes and passions. But I wanted to find out about some deeper, more meaningful discoveries as well. So I was pleased to bump into RAG veteran, Adam Lewis (Accountancy 2006-). He told me about how he – accidentally – discovered his
Witnessing discovery

Steve Wray, Chaplain

It has been amazing to see hundreds of students wrestle with issues like ‘Does God exist?’; ‘Is God interested in me?’ and ‘Is God interested in the world around me?’ I have had the pleasure of journeying with many students who have been prepared to ask these questions and others in a quest to find a deeper reality other than just self.

Through prayer, discussion, Bible reading and community it has been a joy to see people changed not only intellectually but even more so inwardly. Students find purpose to life, an understanding of the love of God that allows them to accept themselves and an ability to love others confidently without fear.

We might live in an era of post-Christendom but in my experience students at Bristol who are prepared to wrestle with issues of faith find an inner transformation that produces a noticeable outward difference.

Annie Burnside, Warden of Clifton Hill House

Getting a place at university is a great achievement and opens the way to self-discovery as well as discovery of others. It is always gratifying to see how much students change in their first year in hall. They become more confident, some will have acquired skills by having responsibilities in the running of the Junior Common Room, others will have learnt independence and the ability to coexist with their peers to everybody’s advantage. One wonders if a year spent in a bed-sitting room would have achieved as much.

Of course, Bristol’s freshers are exposed to much more than just different faiths. Country meets city, black meets white, gay meets straight. And there’s that British favourite: class. I bumped into my friend Aidan Cottrell-Boyce (Theology 2007-) in Clifton one morning. We got chatting and I asked him about his experience in his hall, Wills. Aidan is from a state school and had never met anyone from a public school before coming to university. When he first arrived at Wills Hall he felt somewhat apprehensive. ‘I come from a northern, left-wing background and had been regaled with horror stories about the strange collection of inbreds and fox-hunters who inhabit Wills,’ Aidan says. ‘But, of course, the moral of the story is that we’re all just people. I’ve made great friends at Bristol – both state-schooled and public-schooled.’

Peter Vuni (Master of Education 2007-), a student from Sudan, has made a similar discovery. Initially Peter thought that the UK was going to be a hard place to fit in, ‘because of the stereotype that people here are a bit reserved,’ he explains. ‘This isn’t the case. I’ve learnt that until you get to the heart of the issue you don’t have a proper picture of it.’

University. My four years are not up yet, but two years have flown by. As for the promises? Although I can’t decide if these have been the best two years of my life, they have definitely been the most significant. I’ve experienced more than I could ever have imagined and discovered strengths and passions I never thought possible. Writing this article had given me an insight into a fraction of the student experience, but it’s left me certain about one thing: university is a time teeming with people and experiences just waiting to be discovered. What an incredible ride.
Timothy Wong (Computer Science 2004- )
sifting through CDs at Clifton Arcade Music
The nature of things

Dr Philip Campbell (BSc 1972) is Editor-in-Chief of *Nature*, the international weekly journal of science.

“My fascination for science is boundless. I find anything important in science interesting. That’s the reason I do my job.”
When I was seven or so somebody gave me a book about the stars. After reading it I saw – and understood – Earthshine on the crescent moon. I also recognised the constellations. That moment switched me on to nature.

Bristol was my first choice of university. It had a good reputation and I liked the feel of the place. I chose to study aeronautical engineering because I was keen on flying.

My time there confirmed that engineering wasn’t for me. I was never terribly motivated – in spite of, rather than because of, the course.

Socially it was eye-opening. I’d been to an all-boys’ school, so it was good to discover that women are human too. I encountered radical politics. I discovered true independence and how to make good, lasting relationships.

I was hooked by music at Bristol. I played in the orchestra, sang in a choir and conducted the Bristol University Music Society Choir. Music is still a big passion of mine. I had to take a break from it when I started at Nature but I’m rediscovering it again now.

I was tempted to stay in academia. After my post-doc at Leicester University I was offered the chance to stay on to use a new international facility relating to my work on the upper atmosphere. But at the same time a job at Nature came up.

Occasionally I feel envious of the degree of focus afforded in academic research. But then, very few researchers of my age can actually maintain that degree of focus because of other work pressures.

I was always a good writer. I wrote music reviews for the Leicester University paper, though I shudder to think about them now. I remember conducting a piece of experimental avant garde music. I got fed up with it half way through and walked out but the orchestra carried on playing. I wrote a damning critique of the piece for the paper!

My fascination for science is boundless. I find anything important in science interesting. That’s the reason I do my job.

With science you can be confident that if you ask the right questions about the way the world works you can find gold.

Astronomy and physics are my first scientific loves.

I hated biology at school mainly because of all the slimy things you had to cut up. It’s only since working at Nature that I’ve become fully inspired by the sciences of living organisms.

I’ve also got to grips with earth sciences. The scientific challenges of global change have been a tremendous source of inspiration and stimulation for me.

Nature has published some extraordinary discoveries over the years: the discovery of fullerenes – the molecules made from carbon atoms; the analyses of supernovae, which led on to the discovery of dark energy; the discovery of Homo floresiensis – a new species of human; the discovery of the Antarctic ozone hole.

Sometimes things we publish cause a sensation. The paper on Dolly the sheep certainly did. But it was a great paper: it revealed fundamentals about the way cells behave, proved you could clone a mammal and raised big ethical issues.

Nature’s role is to communicate. We select the greatest science and communicate it to a wide audience. Last year we won the Príncipe de Asturias award, the Spanish equivalent of the Nobel Prize, for communications and humanities.

The feeling of trust in Nature that I believe is out there in the scientific community is hard to beat, though people sometimes worry about the big influence of journals too.

The public’s interest in science has been consistently strong. But what has changed is the public’s willingness to challenge science and engage with it when it personally affects them.

Many scientists aren’t excited by blogging. I think it’s a great opportunity for scientists to get their messages across without depending on a gatekeeper such as Nature. Who to trust on the web? After a while you get to recognise and trust your sources.

If I had to stop being Editor of Nature tomorrow my dream job would be to write music, funded, of course, by a foolish philanthropist.

My advice for aspiring science writers is to just do it, but do it professionally. The people who stand out are the proactive ones; the ones who’ve written for their student newspapers, who’ve written for the local press.
A different take

Jemimah Kuhfeld (BA 2002, MA 2004) is discovering and tracking the connections between modern poets with her unique photography venture, the Poet Project. Jemima is photographing a number of modern poets. But there’s a twist. After having their photo taken, each poet must nominate another poet to be photographed, creating a chain. Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, Les Murray, Anne Stevenson and Wendy Cope are just some of the poets who have participated so far.

Bristol-based poet Philip Gross (pictured above), who is well known for his book of poems The Wasting Game about his daughter’s anorexia, nominated Sylvia Kantaris.

Find out more at www.jemimahkuhfeld.co.uk.

From the collections

Sir John Ross’s Narrative of a second voyage in search of a North-West Passage 1829–1833.

This chronicle from the heroic era of polar exploration records more than four years spent in the Arctic. Before the navigators returned home it was widely believed that they must have perished. Their escape, after abandoning their vessel and trekking over the ice, was made in small boats left behind by a previous expedition. The account is enlivened by some very appealing illustrations. The explorers took pleasure in their encounters with the inhabitants of the region. The menfolk were entertained on board and the igloos of ‘North Hendon’ were visited. Ross noted that the native homes were lighted by a large oval of clear ice. His attempt to draw the village ‘excited much uneasiness at first: but they were satisfied as soon as the purpose was explained, and were delighted … when the sketch was finished; each recognising his own house’.

This valuable work forms part of the extensive bequest of materials made by Alice Maud Allen in 1936. It complements several other accounts of expeditions in search of the elusive North-West Passage presented to the Special Collections Library.
I heard of the Riemann hypothesis as an undergraduate at Santa Clara University. My advanced calculus professor, Vladimir Drobot, was the first one to tell me about this incredible challenge.

It is arguably the most compelling unsolved problem in all of mathematics. It is old, having been proposed in 1859 by Bernhard Riemann in his inaugural lecture; it is ubiquitous, in that it and its generalisations are behind practically every problem in number theory; and it is basic, in that at its most fundamental level it represents an essential relationship between the two most basic operations, addition and multiplication, that we still, with all of the wisdom and powerful machinery of mathematics developed over the last several millennia, do not comprehend.

The origin of the Riemann hypothesis lies in an innocent question about prime numbers: how many are there up to a given quantity? Numbers such as 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23 ... are all prime numbers: they are divisible only by themselves and one. Prime numbers are the building blocks of the natural numbers, that is numbers that are used for counting: 1, 2, 3 .... The distribution of such prime numbers among all natural numbers does not follow any regular pattern; however, Riemann observed that the frequency of prime numbers is very closely related to the behaviour of an elaborate function called the Riemann zeta function.

\[
\zeta(s) = 1 + 1/2^s + 1/3^s + 1/4^s + \ldots
\]

The Riemann hypothesis asserts that all interesting solutions of the equation

\[
(s) = 0
\]

lie on a certain vertical straight line. This has been checked for the first ten trillion solutions. A proof that it is true for every interesting solution would shed light on many of the mysteries surrounding the distribution of prime numbers. However, as Riemann also showed, the number of zeros is infinite, and so no amount of verifying one by one will ever lead to the desired conclusion.

As a graduate student at the University of Michigan I was fortunate to be able to work on the Riemann hypothesis. In my thesis work and its follow-ups I was able to show that at least 40 per cent of the zeros of the zeta function are on the 1/2-line, which is still today the best that is known.

My PhD advisor, Hugh Montgomery, had himself made a significant breakthrough in our understanding of the zeta function when he showed that there was a connection with physics; namely, the zeros of the zeta function along the 1/2-line are distributed in the same way as are energy levels of large collections of excited nuclei.

Lots of mathematicians have worked on this challenge over the past 150 years. We now know a great deal about the zeta function. But we have no clear idea of a good way to approach the proof of the Riemann hypothesis. It could be the case that the critical idea is just around the corner, or it might be that the solution lies so deep that another 150 years of mathematics must first be developed before we can understand why the Riemann hypothesis is true. Or false. There could be a zero off of the 1/2-line, but I don’t think that any serious mathematician doubts the truth of this beautiful hypothesis; mathematics is just too good for something so contrary to happen. I would love to see its proof in my lifetime, and even better, to play a part in it.
After graduating Philip Skeens (BA 1948, Cert in Education 1949), like many others, lost contact with the University. So it was quite a surprise (a nice one) when out of the blue in 2006 the University got back in touch with him. And what timing! A special reunion was being organised for everyone who graduated between 1947 and 1953. Philip put the date in his diary and, the following April, found himself back at the University for the first time since 1949. *Nonesuch* took the opportunity to catch up with Philip at the reunion.
Like many of the other men who graduated during those years, Philip came to Bristol as an ex-serviceman after the Second World War. During the war, he had served as a Desert Rat and was awarded the King George VI Decoration for Loyalty. ‘When I came back to study, I had a wife and child,’ says Philip. ‘My days and nights were taken up with my family or studying. It was hard, but it set me up for my life of teaching.’

Returning to the University after all those years was a wonderful experience for Philip. ‘I had a great day,’ he enthuses. ‘It’s this sense of my connection with the University never ending; going on and on.’

He was surprised by the number of his old friends at the reunion. ‘I thought that there’s no way that people are going to recognise each other, but as soon as I arrived an old classmate of mine spotted me. I hadn’t seen her – Beryl Phipps (née Wheeler) (BA 1948) – since we studied together all those years ago. I managed to talk to a number of people I studied French with and we exchanged notes about lecturers and professors with a certain amount of amusement!’

Before the war, Philip had worked as student gardener in the Botanic Garden, so the tour of the Garden, part of the reunion celebrations, was an added delight. ‘It was fascinating,’ he says. ‘Today it’s much more advanced. The greenhouses are so different. Everything is controlled by computers. Back in my day we had to do it all by hand.’

And were there any other surprises? ‘Well my wife was very surprised to find out how much I still know about botany,’ he laughs. After a long day Philip and his wife both went home smiling. ‘I’m so pleased that the University got back in touch with me,’ he says. ‘And I certainly hope to come back for the centenary celebrations in 2009 when I’ll be 94!’

Head of Alumni Relations, Karen Lippoldt, introduces the Together Again campaign

The University’s centenary in 2009 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get back in touch with friends from your student days and together celebrate your time and achievements at Bristol and your lives and careers since. Alumni events in the UK and around the world will be your chance to be part of this important milestone. Revive old friendships, (re)discover Bristol, get involved in plans for the future and benefit from all the services that Bristol can offer you as a graduate of the University.

To celebrate the centenary with as many alumni and friends as possible, we are launching the Together Again campaign. Aiming to re-establish links with those alumni with whom the University has lost touch over the years, this initiative depends on the support of all of Bristol’s former students.

How can you help? Please get in contact with your friends or colleagues who are Bristol graduates, tell them about the centenary, invite them to be part of the celebrations and encourage them to give their current contact details. Let us know if you are in touch with any alumni who haven’t received Nonesuch or event invitations lately, but would like to renew their connection with the University. Send us your stories of rediscovering friendships – be it at alumni events, with the help of the Alumni Relations team or through online communities. A selection of your stories and photos will be featured in the next edition of Nonesuch.

Philip Skeen’s reunion story of rediscovery embodies the strong sense of community Bristol alumni share. Please help the University encourage all members of the Bristol family to join in the centenary and, together again, celebrate Bristol’s achievements over the past 100 years.

For updates of contact details and lists of alumni with whom the University has lost contact, visit www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni.

To submit your story of rediscovery, email alumni@bristol.ac.uk.
Think again

We take a look at some Bristol discoveries that have shed new light on what we thought we knew. It's time to turn conventional wisdom on its head.
Dr Alwyn Ruddock, a former reader in history at the University of London, was the world expert on John Cabot’s discovery voyages from Bristol to North America (1496-98). What she was said to have found out about these voyages looked set to rewrite history. Yet, when Dr Ruddock died in December 2005, having spent four decades researching this topic, she ordered the destruction of her research. And so, last year, 78 bags of research material were shredded.

Scholars around the world thought that all her research was lost. But Dr Jones discovered a way of recovering some of the lost work. Over the past two years, he has tracked down letters in the US Library of Congress written by Ruddock to the late British scholar David Beers Quinn and a book proposal sent by Ruddock to the University of Exeter Press. Using this correspondence, Dr Jones has investigated the research that Dr Ruddock had worked on, and kept secret, for so many years.

‘To describe Alwyn Ruddock’s claims as revolutionary is not an exaggeration,’ says Dr Jones. ‘Her findings are so extraordinary that they will, if proved correct, transform our entire conception of the scale, nature and importance of John Cabot’s achievements.’

Dr Ruddock’s most exciting claims involve John Cabot’s 1498 voyage to America. While Cabot is commonly credited as being the first early modern European to land on the North American mainland, aboard the Matthew, which set sail from Bristol in 1497, the fate of his 1498 expedition remains a mystery. However, Dr Ruddock appears to have found evidence of a long and complex exploration of the American coastline. During this voyage, Dr Ruddock suggests, Cabot explored a large section of the coastline of North America, claiming it for England in the process.

The research also suggests that Cabot was financed mainly by Italian rather than English backers, that the aim of his transatlantic operation was at least partly to carry out missionary activity and that, contrary to received wisdom, he successfully returned to England after his final voyage. Up until now the world had believed that Cabot and all or most of his ship had perished in the New World or in the Atlantic and never made it back.

Dr Ruddock’s claims are clearly extraordinary, but are they all correct? This is an issue that remains, in large part, to be resolved. Dr Jones shows that in many cases Alwyn Ruddock’s claims can be substantiated by reference to previously unknown material. While her correspondence does not give all the answers, it does provide many clues that historians can use to investigate her claims.

‘Her findings are so extraordinary that they will, if proved correct, transform our entire conception of the scale, nature and importance of John Cabot’s achievements.’

Dr Jones says: ‘If Ruddock is right, it means that the remains of the only medieval church in North America may still lie buried under the modern town of Carbonear.’

Fra Giovanni, was establishing a religious colony in Newfoundland. Having disembarked from his ship, the Dominus Nobiscum, Fra Giovanni apparently established a settlement and built a church. This church, the first to be built in North America, was named after the Augustinian church of San Giovanni a Carbonara in Naples.

The true story of the discovery of the Americas?

In what must be one of the most unusual historical investigations of our time, Bristol’s Dr Evan Jones is exploring the revolutionary claims made by a dead historian that could reveal the true story of the European discovery of North America.

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Continued over page >
Chatterton – a neglected genius?

The premature death of Bristol-born poet Thomas Chatterton (1752-1770) at the age of 17 sealed his image as the archetypal neglected genius of Romantic poetry. He died in a London garret. The cause of his death was established as arsenic poisoning and the inquest declared he had committed suicide in a fit of madness. But when Dr Nick Groom from the Department of English examined, for the first time, all the evidence relating to the poet’s death, he deduced something quite different. He concluded that the overdose of poison that killed Chatterton was accidental, challenging belief that Chatterton committed suicide, driven by despair at his poverty and bitterness at his failure to get published. Far from being a poverty-stricken poet struggling for recognition, Chatterton was earning decent sums of money at the time of his death.

Bristol’s island dwarf

The celebrated Bristol dinosaur, *Thecodontosaurus*, has been extensively studied since its discovery over 150 years. Until now, it was widely believed to have lived in a desert on the mainland during the late Triassic period.

However, a unique collaboration between Bristol’s Dr David Whiteside, an authority on extinct reptiles, and Professor John Marshall, a University of Southampton expert on fossil pollen, has transformed our understanding of where and when this dinosaur lived.

By carrying out a study of marine algae and fossil pollen, Dr Whiteside and Professor Marshall found out that the dinosaur actually lived just before the Jurassic period – much earlier than previously thought – in a series of lushly vegetated islands around Bristol. This could explain the dinosaur’s small size in relation to its giant mainland equivalent, *Plateosaurus*; like many species trapped on small islands, the Bristol dinosaur may have been subjected to island dwarfing.

Professor Marshall says: “By looking at new deposits with a fresh mind, we have been able to change radically the environmental interpretation.”

A state of equilibrium?

Since the time of Darwin, biologists have often seen diversity change as an equilibrium-controlled phenomenon. Darwin himself referred to the ‘barrel of apples’ analogy, where new species were like apples floating in a barrel of water. The surface of the barrel contains a fixed number of apples, and if a new one is to rise, it has to force another under the water. So too with species, Darwin argued. The Earth, or any habitat, has pretty much a fixed maximum number of species, the equilibrium number; as new species arise, old ones have to succumb.

However, Professor Mike Benton from the Department of Earth Sciences has discovered that, in fact, the pattern of diversification of life on land follows an apparently exponential curve, with no sign of any historical levelling off.

‘The contrast in viewpoints is quite striking,’ says Professor Benton. ‘The classic equilibrial view suggests limits and controls, and it is mathematically tractable. The exponential view is more scary: biodiversity has apparently not reached a ceiling, and could continue ever upwards.’
New thinking on Neanderthals

For many people, Neanderthals conjure up mental images of hairy brutes with more brawn than brains. However, an examination of finds from a famous cave site by Bristol archaeologist Professor Joao Zilhao and his French colleagues has shown that Neanderthals were much more like modern humans than has been previously thought.

Neanderthals lived in Europe long before the early modern humans, appearing some 350,000 years ago. The two sub-species existed side by side for about 10,000 years, after which the Neanderthals vanished. They used stone tools, but were not thought capable of abstract thought associated with signs of creativity, such as art works and decoration.

Professor Zilhao’s research centred on a cave, Grotte des Fées, at Chatelperron in central France first excavated in 1840. Here, the archaeological evidence had been interpreted as indicating that a late population of Neanderthals returned to the cave after modern humans had been living there for some time. This was thought to explain the sophisticated artefacts found among the remains: it was assumed that such ornaments were ‘borrowed’ or copied from nearby modern humans.

However, the stratigraphic pattern of Grotte des Fées proved to be false; the supposedly Neanderthal levels, from above those belonging to the modern human Aurignacian culture, were in fact back dirt from 19th-century fossil hunting. Professor Zilhao argues that the ornaments from Chatelperron genuinely belonged to Neanderthals who lived there 44,000 years ago. That would mean they were making decorated bone points and items of jewellery before modern humans arrived in Europe from Africa.

Debunking junk

Dopamine, the neurotransmitter commonly associated with the pleasure system of the brain, has long been thought to be central to the rewarding or ‘positive’ effects of drugs, such as feeling ‘high’.

Professor David Nutt and Dr Anne Lingford-Hughes from the Department of Community-based Medicine, challenge this notion in relation to opioids – that is, drugs derived from the opium poppy, including heroin and hydromorphone.

Their study shows that in fact there was no link between the subjective ‘high’ and functional impairment, such as slow eye movements, induced by heroin and a dopamine response. The absence of a dopamine response contrasts with that found with stimulant drugs and suggest that dopamine may not play the same role in addiction to opioids. Professor Nutt proposes that dopamine is more associated with anticipatory desire and motivation (commonly referred to as ‘wanting’) than with actual consummatory pleasure or ‘reward’.

Back to basics

In a recent study, Dr Mike Adams and his wife Dr Trish Dolan have questioned our understanding about the causes of senile kyphosis, also known as ‘Dowager’s Hump’. In this condition, the front part of one or more vertebrae collapses, causing a humped back deformity.

Conventionally, it has been assumed that a humped back is one of the manifestations of osteoporosis (brittle bone disease) and is more or less inevitable in old age. On the contrary, research from the anatomy team suggests that posture and exercise have the potential to prevent senile kyphosis. Future work will explore the possibility of using exercise and postural advice to help prevent senile kyphosis.
What lies beneath?

Hilary Brown goes underground with Dick Willis (BSc 1974, Cert in Education 1975) and his UBSS colleagues, the unsung champions of the caving world.
Dick Willis has never understood the lack of interest outside the caving community in some of the most astounding underground discoveries by UK cavers in the past 30 years. It all started in 1978, when the Royal Geographical Society organised a multidisciplinary expedition to Mulu that included six cavers. Over a period of just a few weeks, the group had surveyed 42 kilometres of cave – remarkable to a UK caving audience that was more accustomed to discovering metres of new cave rather than kilometres. The findings set the tempo for a series of expeditions that continues to this day.

A member of UBSS since his university days, Dick joined the 1980 expedition and has been involved in the exploration and mapping of Mulu’s caves ever since. As well as being a member of the early expeditions throughout the ’80s and ’90s, he has co-ordinated or led teams to Mulu since 2000.

Although Sarawak Chamber was the biggest discovery Dick himself never made (he was on the expedition, but made way for three team-mates and a local guide in the small dinghy that was to take them to the chamber via an underground river), it is only one of numerous marvels uncovered during the Mulu expeditions. The other jewel in the crown is the Clearwater-Blackrock-Whiterock system, the longest cave system in south-east Asia, boasting 150 kilometres of passage and growing, because every subsequent trip finds more passage that links into the current mapped system. Then there is Deer Cave, the largest single cave passage on Earth, with an entrance that is over 170 metres wide. The arch of the roof rises to 120 metres, and nowhere in the cave is the roof less than 90 metres high.

The area is also home to some of the finest tropical ‘karst’ landscapes in south-east Asia, thanks to its extraordinary geology. The Park is dominated by Gunung Mulu, a sandstone mountain rising to 2,377 metres. To the west is a ridge of limestone that has been cut into separate peaks by the rivers that drain off the mountain. As limestone is soluble, the action of water over time creates what is known as a karst landscape, with many classic features peculiar to limestone terrains, including caves, disappearing rivers, sinkholes, springs and pinnacles. Many of the cave systems are formed where acidic water sinks underground on meeting the limestone.

Less than a quarter of the caves in Mulu have so far been discovered, according to best estimates, and Dick is busy setting up the next expedition for 2009. He may be, by his own admission, one of the UBSS ‘old guard’, but he’s as keen as ever. ‘You never get bored with caving,’ he says. ‘There’s tremendous variation, both in the passages themselves and the technical skills you need to explore them. Some caves are completely barren, some contain stunning limestone formations, and others are home to huge populations of bats and swiftlets, not to mention the cockroaches that feed on their droppings, the spiders that feed on the cockroaches and the racer snakes that prey on the bats and swiftlets. You may be strolling along a wide, flat cave floor, dangling on a rope in a vertical shaft or tackling a passage deep in the mountain side, where the water runs fast and deep and there’s a high risk of flooding.’

The challenges faced by the cavers vary as the shape of the expeditions changes. ‘Logistically it’s now much easier to get into the Park,’ says Dick, remembering the days when you had to pile into a couple of dug-out canoes to get upriver to base camp in the heart of the rainforest. Now you fly straight into the heart of the Park, there’s a 180-room hotel on the site of the old base camp and there are marked trails through the forest. You can be caving within 24 hours of leaving the UK.

By contrast, however, the caves are much more difficult to find. ‘In the old days you’d just walk along the margin between the rainforest and the limestone mountains, spot an enormous cave entrance, and you’d be off,’ says Dick. Now you either have to work your way across the sharply eroded limestone or – much less dangerously – sniff the air, and if you’re lucky, you’ll smell the bat poo.

Because the Park is easier to
get to, the expeditions tend to be smaller these days, with fewer people going out for shorter periods. ‘Each new expedition is triggered by unfinished business from the previous survey,’ explains Dick. ‘Once that’s been dealt with there’s an opportunity to go out tracking through the forest, climbing up into the limestone, sniffing the air and generally following your intuition. Or you may revisit a cave because something tells you there’s another entrance or an unexplored alcove, and, bingo, you come across a whole new passage that no human being has ever been in before and in some cases never will be again. It gives you a phenomenal buzz.’

Dick maintains that caving is the only true remaining exploration frontier, because while technology has allowed us to explore more or less everything on the surface of the Earth, including the deep oceans and space, the same isn’t true of the world beneath our feet. ‘If you want to go up Everest, you can fly over the Himalayas, get aerial photographs, get your maps and satellite images from the Google Earth website and get a good idea of what you’re going to. With caving you can’t do that – there are places that are still completely unknown.’

This is not to say that there’s no serious scientific side to caving and this is where other UBSS members have made key contributions to the expeditions. Philip Chapman (BSc 1974) was responsible for establishing the importance of Mulu’s underground fauna through his biospeleological work in 1980 and 1984; Professor Pete Smart (BSc 1970, PhD 1985) of the School of Geographical Sciences and his wife, Dr Fiona Whittaker, have researched the geomorphology of the caves; Dr Hans Friederich (PhD 1982) and Dr Andrew Farrant (BSc 1991) have been instrumental in elucidating the development history of the vast, ancient systems (some of which are more than two million years old); and Andrew Atkinson (Cert in Education 1997) has helped develop computerised survey techniques that are now used extensively during exploration.

Thanks partly to the Mulu Caves Project, the Park has now been designated a UNESCO World Heritage conservation site. ‘One of the great things about going to Mulu over an extended period of time is that you’re not just a tourist, you’re working with the local people,’ says Dick. ‘We’ve been very involved in the development of the National Park. Our surveys have been used as the basis for the interpretative information given to visitors to Mulu, and some of our team members have helped develop bespoke training programmes for local national park guides throughout the whole of Malaysia.’

UBSS’s presence has provided continuity and support for the cavers throughout the project. ‘University clubs are the heart of caving in the UK,’ says Dick, ‘and UBSS is one of the leading clubs for exploration.’ It’s also one of the oldest caving clubs in the world, and exemplifies the link between sporting activity and science, producing an annual journal, Proceedings of the UBSS, which has been published since 1919. In recent years, members of the club have also discovered rare Mesolithic and Palaeolithic engravings in caves in Somerset, which makes caving’s low profile all the more mystifying.

‘It’s partly because caving is neither a competitive sport nor a science, but a mixture of the two, and partly because there’s a perception that caving is dangerous,’ explains Dick. ‘In fact, it’s probably far less dangerous than most competitive sports, provided that you train adequately, are accompanied by an experienced individual and understand the risks – for example, you’d always acquaint yourself with the weather patterns of the region you’re caving in before you undertake an expedition, particularly in tropical areas.’

For all that, UBSS remains a thriving club, perhaps because it manages successfully to combine both the scientific and the sporting aspects of caving, giving it wide appeal – to the biologists, the archaeologists, the geologists, the explorers, the expedition planners, and the ones who just want a jolly good workout and a laugh with their mates. And if anyone can raise the profile of caving, it’s people like Dick, with their unfailing enthusiasm and long-standing support – the backbone of our university clubs.

For more information on the Mulu Caves Project, visit www.mulu caves.org.
You may revisit a cave because something tells you there’s another entrance or an unexplored alcove, and, bingo, you come across a whole new passage that no human being has ever been in before and in some cases never will be again. It gives you a phenomenal buzz.
How to discover what you want in life (and then get it)

Our expert: Claire Giraldo (née Evans) (BSc 1999), life coach and founder of Green Mango Coaching

As the first half of 2008 draws to a close, take a few moments to reflect on the past few months and specifically how things have gone for you personally. Are you on track, everything ticking along nicely or are resolutions and motivation beginning to wane a little? If it’s the latter, you’re definitely not alone and the good news is that there is still plenty of time to get back on course and make 2008 great.

But before we go any further, take a minute to ask yourself: what is it that you really want this year? Then follow these ten simple steps.

Be curious about ‘your lot in life’ and challenge areas that don’t feel right.

Be bold in what you ask for. Focus on the ‘what’ not the ‘how’.

Be clear and specific about what it is that you want (rather than what other people want or expect) and define a realistic timeframe for achievement. It sounds obvious but unless you know exactly where you want to get to, how will you know what to aim for or know when you’ve arrived?

Be passionate about what it is that you want. Visualise already having it and generate the feelings and thoughts associated with having it.

Be courageous. Step outside of your comfort zone, and face any fears and disabling beliefs head on. Refuse to let them stop you.

Be experimental and creative and approach your goal from a number of different angles. View the process as a series of experiments; one will give you what you want but until you try you don’t know which one.

Be kind to yourself. Celebrate your successes in style. Acknowledge and learn from setbacks, without letting them slow you down.

Be patient; ‘the best things come to those who wait’ after all. Trust that your efforts will yield fruits; some just take a little longer than others.

Be grateful when the harvest arrives and brings you what you want.

But, most importantly, be yourself. By being you, you will know ‘how to discover what you want and get it’ again and again.

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Green Mango Coaching provides results-orientated and highly effective coaching solutions, training and HR services for individuals and businesses. Twenty per cent off sale now on, free initial consultation.

Are you a whizz at whist or a gardening guru? ‘How to ...’ is a regular feature in Nonesuch. So whatever your area of expertise, we’d love to hear from you. Email alumni@bristol.ac.uk.
Alumni news

Hong Kong alumni take to the rooftops

Around 30 alumni enjoyed a rooftop barbecue on 21 January this year at the home of Dr Charles Wong (MB ChB 1973, MD 1982). The group was joined by Alastair Scott (BSc 1965), Chair of Convocation Branches and Associations Sub-Committee, and by one of Hong Kong’s most respected barristers, Dr Denis Chang, QC SC (LLB 1967, Hon LLD 2005).

The gathering celebrated the branch’s achievement of having supported a postgraduate scholar annually to study at Bristol for nearly a decade, financed by the income from the branch’s scholarship fund donated by local alumni.

Behind the scenes at Bristol Zoo

Bristol alumni and their families enjoyed a visit to Bristol Zoo Gardens, where Simon Garrett (BSc 1988), Head of Education, explained the role of zoos and the impact they can have on society.

California dreaming

It may have taken place in sunny southern California, but the reunion at the King’s Head in Santa Monica was a very British affair.

The 40 or so participants got together for a ‘nostalgic wallow in Bristol reminiscences’. Fish and chips, bangers and mash, Cornish pasties and baked beans were on the menu, all washed down by a pint or two of Boddington’s bitter.

The West Coast Group’s new convenor, Jane Camblin (BA 1973), introduced the subject of Geoff Rowley’s (BA 1958) generous matching offer of $1,000 for every ten donations made by US alumni to the University. The offer had expired on 31 December, but Geoff agreed to extend the deadline by a month so that participants at this reunion could take part.

An arty party

Over 130 history of art alumni attended a reception at Bonhams auctioneers on 13 January. The evening was hosted by Caroline Oliphant (BA 1979), Director of Bonham’s picture department.

The event celebrated the History of Art Department and its achievements, as well as looking forward to future developments, with speeches from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004), Professor Liz Prettejohn, Professor Stephen Bann and Michael Liversidge. As well as meeting fellow graduates, staff and students, alumni took the opportunity to view exhibits from Bonham’s forthcoming marine sale.
Your news

Ella Weston (BEd 1929) will be celebrating her 100th birthday in May this year.

Roy Fuller (BSc 1955, MSc 1958) will be guest of honour at the International Probiotic Conference to be held in Slovakia in June this year.

Kenneth Tyrrell (BDS 1958) is planning a 50th anniversary reunion for 1958 dentistry graduates. To express an interest, please email Kenneth at anne@atyrrell.fsnet.co.uk.

Jacqueline Davies (née Jeffries) (BA 1964, Cert in Education 1965) has celebrated her retirement by publishing her first novel, About Elin. It was nominated ‘Wales Book of the Month’ for October 2007.

Professor Anthony Rest (BSc 1965, PhD 1968, DSc 1985) has been appointed to a Visiting Professorship at the University of Southampton’s School of Chemistry.

Foad Nahai (BSc 1966, MB ChB 1969) is a plastic surgeon practising in Atlanta, Georgia. He is Professor of Plastic Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, a Director of the American Board of Plastic Surgery, President of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery and President-elect of the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. He has authored and co-authored eight books dealing with all aspects of plastic surgery.

Phil Dunnington (BA 1968) is a professional balloonist who has flown hot-air balloons in 94 countries – a world record. He also runs a tourism consultancy business. Phil lives in Clifton with his wife, Allie.

Jeremy Peat (BA 1968) runs a small think-tank in Edinburgh – the David Hume Institute. He also serves as BBC National Trustee for Scotland, is a member of the Competition Commission and writes a couple of newspaper columns on economic and financial matters. He lives near Edinburgh with his wife and two dogs. Their two daughters live in London and Toronto.

Mary Sanders (née Whittaker) (BSc 1968) is planning a reunion lunch for 1968 chemistry graduates during this year’s Convocation Reunion Weekend. To express an interest, please email marysan@waitrose.com.

Gillian Stevens (née Budge) (BA 1968) has recently retired as Head of International Admissions at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. She remarried in May 2007 and now lives in Gravedona, Lago di Como, Italy.

Bob Twitchin (BSc 1968) has become a Fellow with Chartered Status of the British Computer Society. He is also Chair of IT-Can-Help, a network of IT volunteers offering free assistance with home computer problems to disabled people, and is a member of Ofcom’s Consumer Panel.

Peter Wall (BA 1968) will be hosting the lunch for 1968 graduates at this year’s Convocation Reunion Weekend on 4 to 6 July 2008.

Susan Webb (BA 1968, Cert in Education 1969) is the programme co-ordinator for postgraduate counselling programmes at Massey University, New Zealand. After 29 years, she is due to retire on 1 May to set up her own private practice.

Vincent Thompson (BSc 1970, Cert in Radio, Film & TV 1971) has won an award at the New York International Film and Video Festival for his cartoon As Old As You Feel. The ten-minute production promotes a positive approach to age in the workplace.

Roger Wood (BSc 1970) is a financial consultant, with particular strengths in funding and developing business strategies in financial services, property, automotive and leisure industries. He is married to Thomasinne Thomas (BA 1970) and has three children and five grandchildren.

Jini Rawlings’ (Advanced Cert in Radio, Film & TV 1972) installation ‘As the Crow Flies’ was on show at the London Gallery West this year.

Sarah Saunders’ (BSc 1974) business, Electrical Lane, has been given Skillset Accreditation for short courses in digital imaging. Sarah has worked in the photographic and picture library industry for the past 25 years.

George Bancroft (BSc 1978) is planning a reunion for 1978 geology graduates during this year’s Convocation Reunion Weekend. Of the 31 students on the course, the whereabouts of 25 is known. If anyone has contact details for other students from the course, including Helen Nuttall, Bryan Deacon, Tim Clyburn, Mary Humpreys, Lorna Thomas and Pete Robinson (all BSc 1978), please email George at fmgbancroft@hotmail.com.

Nigel Cooper (BSc 1978) has relocated to Buenos Aires, Argentina with wife Kate and two sons, Adam, 17, and Simon, 15. Nigel is also developing a small vineyard near Mendoza. He is still in touch with ex-Bristol BrewSoc members Pete Harding (BSc 1978) and Martin Walsh (BSc 1977), and would like to hear from anyone from his graduating class or members of the Bristol
University football team. Email: nigelco2@Comcast.net.

Nick Inman (BSc 1978) has had two books published, Politipedia and The Optimist’s Handbook. Nick lives in south-west France with his wife and two children and is a professional writer, mainly producing travel guides to France and Spain (www.nickinman.com). Last year, Nick took the first steps towards becoming a publisher using print-on-demand technology (www.mimbellebooks.com).

Henry Kambo (BSc 1978) has a son, 23, studying in San Francisco, and a daughter, age 22, who will be graduating from University of York in July 2008. He plans to visit Bristol in mid July this year and he would love to meet anyone who still remembers him.

Sarah Maitland-Jones (née Broadbent) (BSc 1978) has spent the past 15 years working as an investment analyst and during this time has travelled widely. Recently she has moved into property management and has restored a Jacobean house.

Kevin Chamberlain (BSc 1983) is a partner at KPMG, where he works in transaction services. He is based in Sydney, Australia, and is married with two children.

Christopher Gerrard (BA 1983, PhD 1987) has recently published two archaeology and historic landscape books: Clarendon. Landscape of Kings and The Shapwick Project, Somerset: A Rural Landscape Explored. He is a Reader in Archaeology at Durham University and Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Paul Johns (MB ChB 1983) moved to New Zealand in 1985. A GP and sports doctor, he recently attended the Special Olympics World Games in Shanghai as the doctor for Team New Zealand. He lives by the beach in Dunedin and would be pleased to host any of his Bristol classmates or friends visiting New Zealand.

Dr David Lane (BSc 1983) has been awarded the 2007 Jay Wright Forrester Award, the top international honour in his field. The award is given by the System Dynamics Society for the ‘Best Contribution to the Field of System Dynamics in the Preceding Five Years’. David is Reader in Management Science at the London School of Economics.

Jane Nickalls (BSc 1983) has been appointed the first Chief Executive of Directgov, the government’s web portal for the UK public sector. Jane is married to Anthony and has two children, Tom, 21, and Kate, 18.

Colin Piper (LLB 1983) has recently published Patriarch, a novel which retells the story of Abraham. Colin and his wife Melissa split their time between Europe, where they are the European Evangelical Alliance Youth Advisers, and the US where they head up International Christian Youthworks.

Anne Wilson (BA 1986) has recently taken up the post of head teacher in a small primary school on the west coast of Scotland. Previous to this, she worked as an archaeological supervisor, teacher and museum educator.

Dan Sumption (BSc 1991) has started hosting and producing his own radio show on newly licensed community radio station Sheffield Live! 93.2FM. The show is called Empty Space and covers contemporary visual and sonic arts in Sheffield, including interviews with artists, features and music.

Kath Kulczyk (BDS 1992) has had a baby daughter, Eve, born 5 Feb 2007.

Stephen Lovatt (PhD 1994) has recently published New Skins for Old Wine: Plato’s Wisdom for the Modern.

Gunnar Klatt (MA 1997) was awarded a PhD in German literature from Lancaster University in 2005.

Catriona Finlayson-Wilkins (Cert in Education 2001) lives in Hong Kong but her work takes her all over the world. She returned to Bristol last year for the UK International Face and Body Art Convention, where she won UK Face Painter of the Year 2007.

Lisa Schlesinger (BSc 2001) set up, and now runs, a charity in London that enables volunteers to find free and low-cost placements worldwide (www.worldwidehelpers.org).

Jean Hasse (MA 2006) has been commissioned to write scores for three silent films following the successful Bristol and London performances of her score to the film Faust last year. Jean teaches music composition at Bristol.
Obituaries

The University extends its sincere condolences to the friends and families of those listed below for whom the University has received notification of death. Further information about some of those named below may be available from the Campaigns and Alumni Relations office. Please email any notifications of deaths to alumni@bristol.ac.uk, or write to Campaigns and Alumni Relations, Senate House, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol, BS8 1TH.

Alumni (in order of degree date)

Ling, Miss Hilda Maude (BA 1927, Dip in Education 1928) died 13 January 2008, aged 102.

Gibbins, Mr Norman Henry (BSc 1931) died 26 September 2007, aged 96.

Bryant, Mr James Jackson (BSc 1931, Dip in Education 1962)

Thomas, Mr Norman Edgar (BSc 1934) died 31 October 2007, aged 94.

Walker, Mr Alexander Robert Pettigrew (BSc 1934, MSc 1937, Diploma 1938) died 22 May 2007, aged 93.

Harris (née Rickwood), Mrs Ethel Mary (BA 1937, Dip in Education 1938) died August 2007, aged 92.

Laurie, Mr John Bruce (BSc 1937) died 25 December 2007.

Lawlers, Mrs Beryl Doris (BSc 1938) died August 2007, aged 85.

Arnold, Dr William Exton (MB ChB 1945) died 24 October 2007, aged 84.

Bowie (née Andrews), Dr Margaret Jean (MB ChB 1947) died 08 October 2007, aged 83.

Ellis (née Lewis), Mrs Dorothea Betty (BA 1947, Cert in Education 1948) died 03 June 2006, aged 80.

Howe, Dr Raymond John (BSc 1948, PhD 1952) died 20 November 2007, aged 80.

Cheston, Mr John Anthony (BA 1949) died 27 December 2007, aged 82.

Sutcliffe, Mr Antony John (BSc 1951) died 2004.

Jester, Mr Harold Arthur (BA 1951, Cert in Education 1954) died 19 September 2007, aged 80.

Watts, Mr John Francis (BA 1952, Cert in Education 1953) died October 2007, aged 81.

Amos, Dr Charles Edward (BDS 1952) died 24 August 2007, aged 90.

Copland, Mr William Oswald (BSc 1952) died 25 March 2007, aged 76.

Kirby (née Kiln), Mrs Joan Margaret (BSc 1952) died 2007, aged 76.

Savory, Mr Henry Jarvis (MSc 1952) died 4 January 2008, aged 93.

Price, Mr Anthony John (BSc 1953) died 26 December 2007, aged 75.

Keiller, Mr Francis Edwyn (MB ChB 1954) died 09 June 2007, aged 79.

Stoneham (née Martin), Mrs Patricia Ann (BA 1955, Cert in Education 1956) died 27 September 2007, aged 73.

Warren (née Maxted), Dr Stella Avis Frida (MB ChB 1955) died January 2008, aged 88.

Price, Mr Leighton Hugh (BDS 1956).

Reynolds, Dr John James (BSc 1957, PhD 1960) died June 2007.

Kelly, Dr David Arthur (BSc 1957, MSc 1959) died 11 December 2007, aged 73.

Doney, Dr Ivor Ernest (MB ChB 1957) died 8 February 2008, aged 87.

Philips, Mr William Thomas Gordon (LDS 1958) died June 2007, aged 73.

Martin, Mr David Ralph (BA 1958) died 3 July 2007, aged 72.

McKilgan (née Duffy), Ms Sheila Patricia Mary (BA 1959) died 17 November 2007, aged 69.

De Grey-Warter, Mrs Caroline (BSc 1961) died 22 October 2007.


Taylor (née McConachy), Mrs Susan Jennifer (BA 1963) died 16 November 2006.

Gorbould, Mr Barry Arthur (BA 1963) died 19 December 2007, aged 65.

Karger, Dr Michael Howard (BSc 1964) died September 2007, aged 64.

Johnson, Mr Dennis Charles (BA 1964) died 30 August 2007, aged 64.

Wallace, Mr George Pitcairn (LLB 1964) died 2005, aged 63.

Cole (née Vaughan-Shaw), Mrs Elizabeth Mary (BA 1964) died 23 December 2007, aged 64.

Krakauer, Dr Martin Jay (PhD 1964) died 9 September 2006, aged 84.

Bristow, Mr David William (BA 1965) died 4 January 2008, aged 63.

Anderton, Dr Graham Ellis (BSc 1967) died 22 November 2007, aged 62.

Simonds, Mr John Richard (BSc 1968) died 22 October 2007, aged 61.

Garnons Williams, Mr John Shearme (BSc 1968) died February 2007, aged 60.

Wild, Mr Roderick Thomas (BSc 1969) died 2007, aged 61.

Button, (née Belgrove), Mrs Denise Lydia (BSc 1969) died 9 September 2007, aged 59.


Fuller, The Rev Dr Frederick Walter, Tom (MLitt Ed 1972) died 16 December 2007, aged 90.

Myrvold, Mr Jon (BDS 1973) died 21 August 2007, aged 58.

Stone, Dr Michael John (MB ChB 1977) died June 2005, aged 51.

Heard, Mr Steven John (BSc 1980) died 8 December 2007, aged 49.

Smith, Mr Colin Richard (BSc 1983) died June 2007, aged 45.

Bennett, Mr Ian Richard (MED 1987) died July 2007, aged 60.

Corcoran, Dr Robin Craig (BSc 1990, PhD 1994) died 30 January 2008, aged 39.

Brandt, Emeritus Prof George William (PhD 1994) died 24 September 2007, aged 86.

O’Neill, Dr Teresa Mary (PhD 1999) died 19 September 2007, aged 55.

Mcculloch, Mr Daniel Robert (MEng 2005) died 1 February 2008, aged 25.

Friends and supporters of the University

Ramsey, Dr Peter died 7 December 2006.
Liv Sidse Jansen was a bright and enthusiastic student who thrived during her time at Bristol. After graduating, she left Bristol with fond memories and lots of plans for the future.

Sadly, only six months after her graduation Sidse was hit by a car driven by a drunk driver. She was in coma for nine days and on 29 December 1997, the day before her 22nd birthday, she died. Her tragic death was a terrible blow to her parents, Steen and Hanna. In time, they considered how best to remember Sidse and they decided that, since Bristol had played such an important part in the last years of her life, the University would be a fitting memorial for their daughter. Steen and Hanna established the Liv Sidse Jansen Memorial Foundation to support the Schools of Biological and Geographical Sciences and for environmental studies.

‘Sidse was our only child. She loved her time in Bristol and was extremely happy graduating from Bristol University. All that was lost by her untimely death and, after long consideration, we felt that the only way we could still try to get some of her plans and wishes through would be to support Bristol University in helping others to achieve a good education. We did this by establishing the Foundation with an initial gift and then by pledging a legacy to the University leaving all our belongings to grow the Foundation.’

The Foundation has been going for almost eight years now, and in that time it has provided support to many students.

There is a tree in the University grounds, which was planted in spring 1998 by a group of friends to commemorate Sidse. Clare Bowen remembers her best friend: ‘Sidse and I met in 1994 when we found ourselves on the same course and in hall together. Our friendship was cemented while on geography field trips and our tightly-knit group of friends shared some priceless moments and all laughed so much together. I count myself so lucky to have been best friends with such a beautiful, caring and energetic person.’

This year it fell to me to attend to the bittersweet task of placing the ten red roses by Sidse’s tree on her birthday. I read the words on the plaque placed by the tree: ‘Those, whom the gods love, die young’. Another quote came to mind then which seemed to me to sum up the commitment that Steen and Hanna have made through their exceptional legacy: ‘The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit’.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Liv Sidse Jansen Memorial Foundation, or wishing to receive information about legacies, should contact Laura Serratrice on +44 (0)117 331 7560, at laura.serratrice@bristol.ac.uk or by post via the editorial office.

Corrections to the article ‘A dramatic legacy’ on page 30 of Nonesuch, Winter 2007 issue:

The 1952 UBDS trip was in fact the second and not the first-ever tour, and many more than six tours were to follow this one. Derek’s photos are from the 1952 tour.

The photograph caption should read: ‘1952 UBDS Tour, a scene from On the Slant. From left to right: Norman Lloyd Edwards, Gerry Matthews, Derek Thorpe, Derek Forbes and Jean Bell.’
Alumni Travel Programme

IMA has pioneered alumni travel in the UK, and alumni from Bristol have travelled with us all over the world. Our tours are designed for people with a general interest in the country that’s featured, but all our itineraries have a strong educational element which is provided by our accompanying expert lecturers.

Egypt and the Western Desert
21 September - 6 October 2008, £1,950
Beginning with a visit to St Anthony’s and St Paul’s monasteries in the Eastern Desert, the tour continues with a cruise along the Upper Nile. Included in the tour are visits to the Pyramids - Luxor, Karnak and the Valley of the Kings. We also feature a unique excursion through the oases of the Great Sand Sea of the Western Desert.

A Private Mediterranean Cruise of Turkey
21 June - 2 July 2008, £1,390
This is an excellent value 12-day cruise in Asia Minor using our own private yachts. It features the mountainous shores of ancient Lycia, southern Turkey, which preserve the best archaeological sites of the classical world amid spectacular scenery.

Galapagos Islands Cruise and Ecuador
1 - 13 January 2009, £3,250
After a visit to colonial Quito, with its many churches and protected buildings, and a tour along the Avenue of the Volcanoes, the group will fly to the Galapagos Archipelago for an eight-day cruise through the islands. You can combine this with a visit to the Ecuadorian Amazon Rainforest.

For a full brochure contact IMA, 13 THE AVENUE, KEW, RICHMOND, SURREY TW9 2AL
TEL: +44 (0) 20 8940 4114  Email: ima@templeworld.com  Website: www.imatravel.com  ATOL 2903
Events

Unless otherwise stated, get more information about all Bristol events at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events or call +44 (0)117 928 7939.

Wednesday 23 April
'Bristol in the City' event: 'Media in the digital age'
This event for Bristol alumni working in London in law, corporate finance, investment banking, accountancy or commercial ventures will be hosted by BP. The evening will feature a panel discussion, 'Media in the digital age', followed by drinks and canapés. Tickets £20 each.

Saturday 26 April
Sports weekend to include the annual University boat race
There will be alumni matches in many sports. All alumni are welcome to come and cheer on the teams.

Tuesday 13 May
'Secret London: from Chancery Lane to Blackfriars'
Meet at Chancery Lane tube station at 6.15 pm for a 6.30 pm prompt start. The walk will finish at approximately 8 pm near Blackfriars tube with a pub supper. The cost for the evening is £10. To book a place, please send a cheque for £10 payable to London Branch of Convocation to David Clarke, 13 Howard Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6PE. Email Davidfasb@aol.com.

Thursday 15 May
Golf day at Bristol and Clifton Golf Club
Jane Thompson (Chairperson for Bristol-based events) is organising a golf day for Bristol alumni and their guests. Email alumni-events@bristol.ac.uk for more information.

Thursday 5 June
Visit to Museum in Docklands and Jack the Ripper exhibition, Canary Wharf, London
This evening visit will include the Museum’s new temporary exhibition, Jack the Ripper and the East End. Entry is free as the visit will be part of late@museum in Docklands. If you plan to attend, please email docklands@4088.co.uk.

Saturday 7 June
Behind the Scenes: visit to St George’s Chapel Archives and Chapter Library, Windsor
The Archives and Chapter Library house the collections of books, manuscripts and archival material belonging to the Dean and Canons of Windsor. This is a unique opportunity to learn about the history of the archives, as well as a chance to view some of the collections. Tickets cost £27 per person and include lunch.

Friday 4 to Sunday 6 July
Convocation Reunion Weekend
All alumni are invited to return to Bristol for the annual Convocation Reunion Weekend. Further details can be found in the enclosed brochure, or at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/reunion2008.

Friday 4 and Saturday 5 July
Two reunions for the price of one
Roger Savage (BA 1962), president of OpSoc 1961-62, is organising a reunion principally for OpSoc members from 1959-63 on Saturday 5 July. Roger was also co-director of UBDS Players Tour 1962 and he is suggesting an additional get-together on the Friday. Contact Roger Savage on +44 (0)1785 850967 or email roger.savage@homecall.co.uk.

Friday 24 and Saturday 25 October
Celebrating 75 years of law at Bristol
The School of Law is proud to announce its 75th birthday this year. A lecture by the Chancellor, The Right Honorable Baroness Hale of Richmond, will launch the celebrations, followed by a drinks reception on Friday evening. Tickets £25 per person.

During Saturday afternoon there will be sporting activities, a tour of the Wills Memorial Tower and a University Law Challenge.

A drinks reception on Saturday evening in the Wills Memorial Building will be followed by a Celebration Dinner at Bristol Grammar School. Tickets £50 per person.

All Law alumni and their guests are welcome. For further information contact Shirley Knights at shirley.a.knights@bristol.ac.uk, tel +44 (0)117 954 5344.

Centenary Celebrations
2009 is a very special year for the University and you are all invited to a very special Centenary Reunion Weekend. There will be an extended programme of activities during the weekend of Friday 3 to Sunday 5 July 2009, so mark the date in your diary now.

Find out more about events at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events
Why did you choose Bristol?
I grew up in Oxford and went to Cambridge for my PhD. Bristol was therefore a refreshing home from home between the two.

What were your first impressions?
I was struck by what a beautiful city Bristol was with amazing architecture entirely unknown to me previously.

What kind of student were you?
I was not that diligent in the first two years, but became a driven swot in my final year. The turning point was the programme in zoology, which allowed you to pursue two ‘special’ projects in the third year – that’s when I got interested in research.

And away from study?
I liked the social life and never had anything against parties. However, looking back, I really preferred hanging out with small groups of friends.

Were there any academics or other members of staff who made a particular impression on you?
Oh yes, I remember them well! I suppose I hero-worshipped Professor John Harris and doted on Dr Bob Clark, and I remember exact bon mots from many of the Department of Zoology staff.

Where did you live?
First in Clifton Hill House, then in apartments with my roommate Wendy. We had fun, but I think we had a dreadfully monotonous diet: fish cakes and something we called ‘cuckoo plate’. It was scrambled eggs with something added – I forget what. It might have been ketchup!

What were the highlights?
Highlights were numerous. Perhaps graduation day was the best; it made me think wistfully of how much I had learned, how many friendships I had made and how inadequately I had appreciated it all until that moment. I loved, and miss, field trips and the concept of observational biology in the wild.

Were there any lowlights?
Some, but now they amuse me. I was once reprimanded at a Saturday lecture for wearing trousers (nice trousers, nothing scruffy). I was told by our female lecturer that ‘ladies dress properly for class’.

Looking back, would you have done anything differently?
If I were 20 again, probably not! At my current age I would read more and enjoy the city’s history more.

What are the key things that your time at Bristol gave you?
All the things that matter: boundless enthusiasm, dogged perseverance and the sense that it is possible to contribute to the world as you find it.

How has your time at Bristol influenced your career?
Bristol set me on the path for my lifelong career. I learned the basic biology on which I could build my subsequent research. Now I am in the phase of my life where my childhood dreams have come true.

What do you think Bristol’s role is today?
Bristol needs to stand tall and take its place among the world’s great universities. I am always proud to say that I got my BSc at Bristol and it was the springboard for all I have been able to do since. Bristol needs to ‘shout from the rooftops’.

Do you ever come back to Bristol?
I am enormously excited to be returning next year to receive an Honorary Doctorate. It will probably be hard to choke back the tears!

Do you have any tips or words of advice for Bristol freshers?
Lap it all up!

Sum up your Bristol experience in three words
Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Dr Una Ryan is Chief Executive Officer of the American biotechnology company Avant Immunotherapeutics. She received her OBE in 2002 for services to the research, development and promotion of biotechnology. In 2007 she was awarded the Albert Einstein Award for her leadership in the development of new vaccines for serious global infectious diseases.
In 1988 eight Bristol students, alarmed by the destruction of tropical rainforests, organised an expedition to a remote Malaysian archipelago. Their aim? To study the flora and fauna of the area’s tropical rainforest and so help preserve this threatened habitat. The team’s zoological research added 25 species of reptiles, amphibians and fish to the island’s species list, including the discovery of one snake, one lizard and a blind cave fish which were all previously unknown to science. The botanical collection included 14 species of new flowering plants and ferns. The team was able to photograph, for the first time, an orchid found only on Tioman.

Team members arriving on Tioman Island

Stephen Dunleavy collecting water in a cave on top of Kajang mountain. This is the cave where the team discovered a completely new species of blind fish.

The team from left to right: Theresa Mowbray, Max Coleman, Rachel Harding-Hill, Stephen Dunleavy, Dee Brecker, Andy Shillabeer and Mark Day (all BSc 1989).
Research revealing the first fossil evidence that modern humans left Africa between 65,000 and 25,000 years was named number eight in *Time* magazine’s ‘Top 10 Scientific Discoveries of 2007’. The work was carried out by an international team of scientists, including Bristol’s Dr Alistair Pike.