TIME CAPSULE
DO NOT OPEN
UNTIL 2109
The big picture

You’ve lifted the lid on the first Nonesuch of a new decade and of the University’s second century. To mark these milestones, this issue looks a little different to those which have gone before it. That’s because we’ve turned it into a time capsule; now you’re inside you’ll find many things which the University of Bristol can be proud of in 2010.

Experts from around the University have contributed to our Nonesuch time capsule by predicting how their fields of expertise will develop in the next 100 years. We’ve represented their thoughts, ideas and analogies in this issue’s ‘Big picture’, alongside a letter written by the current Vice-Chancellor to a future Vice-Chancellor (the original letter is to be sealed in the University archives).

Can you match each object inside the box to its prediction? Turn to page 8 onwards to give it a try!
The Vice-Chancellor
To be opened in 2109
Welcome

As the University enters its second century, this issue of Nonesuch is focusing firmly on the future. The current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Thomas (Hon LLD 2004), has written a letter which will be opened by the University’s Vice-Chancellor in 100 years’ time (find out more on page 8), University experts make predictions for the future and some of our high-flying younger alumni are profiled as well.

In a nod to recent University milestones, Nonesuch also spoke to Lady Soames, daughter of Sir Winston Churchill, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the founding of Wills Hall (see page 22). Last December, Lady Soames and the Chancellor were guests of honour at a commemorative ceremony which was organised superbly by the Wills Hall Association.

Finally, as we venture into the University’s new century, many conversations with alumni around the world have made it clear that how we communicate with each other – now and in the future – is of huge relevance to the University, to Bristol graduates and, of course, to Nonesuch. The web, email and a variety of social networking tools are fundamentally changing the ways in which we exchange news and stay in touch. As the University and Convocation work to build an engaged network of alumni all over the world, we will strive to use these tools effectively and hope for your active participation. In the meantime, please do share your thoughts and comments with us at alumni@bristol.ac.uk.

Bill Ray (BSc 1975)
Chairman of Convocation, the University of Bristol’s Alumni Association
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PS: We would love to see you back in Bristol for the Alumni Reunion Weekend, 2-4 July 2010. You can find details of all the weekend’s events on page 28.
Inside

Features

8 Bristol’s time capsule
The Vice-Chancellor puts pen to paper and University experts predict how their fields will change in the next 100 years

16 Take five
Laura Blake (BA 2009) meets five young alumni who are pushing boundaries in very different directions

22 Family ties
Lady Soames, daughter of Sir Winston Churchill, in conversation with Rachel Skerry

24 Bristol Red
Squadron Leader Graham Duff (BEng 1996) on flying with the Red Arrows

26 A global centenary
Bristol’s international centenary celebrations in pictures

Regulators

4 News
21 How to … shine at interview
28 Events, including Bristol Alumni Reunion Weekend
36 This is my Bristol
37 Parting shot

Alumni update

30 Leaving a legacy
31 Alumni news
34 Obituaries

If you need this publication in Braille, in larger print or on tape, please contact the Campaigns and Alumni Relations team.
Tel: +44 (0)117 331 7496.
News

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

Campaign tackles teen domestic violence

A pioneering NSPCC study, led by Christine Barter in the University’s Centre for Family Policy and Child Welfare, has prompted the launch of a new £2 million government advertising campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence within teenage relationships.

The study – the first in Great Britain to provide a detailed overview of the incidence and impact of teenage partner violence – suggested that a quarter of young women aged 13 to 17 had experienced physical violence from a boyfriend and a third had experienced pressure to engage in unwanted sexual acts. The NSPCC said it was alarmed by the number of young people who viewed abuse in relationships as normal.

The TV, radio, internet and poster campaign forms part of a government strategy to reduce violence against women and girls. Home Secretary Alan Johnson said: ‘We hope this campaign will help teenagers to recognise the signs of abuse and equip them with the knowledge and confidence to seek help, as well as understanding the consequences of being abusive or controlling in a relationship.’

Dinosaurs’ true colours revealed

An exciting new discovery by a team of scientists, including experts from Bristol University, has identified the colour of some feathers on dinosaurs and early birds. The sinosauropteryx had feather-like bristles in white and orange rings down its tail, which may have been used for camouflage, while the early bird Confuciusornis had patches of white, black and orange-brown colouring.

The international research team isolated the pigment granules found in the feathers of numerous birds and dinosaurs from the world-famous Jehol beds of north-east China.

Mike Benton, Professor of Palaeontology at the University, said: ‘Our research helps to resolve a long-standing debate about the original function of feathers – whether they were used for flight, insulation or display.

We now know that feathers came before wings. We therefore suggest that feathers first arose as agents for colour display and only later in their evolutionary history did they become useful for flight and insulation. Feathers are key to the success of birds and we can now dissect their evolutionary history in detail and see how each feather type – and the fine detail of feather structure – was acquired through time. This will link with current work on how the genome controls feather development.’

Bristol’s got talent

A research team from the University has beaten 13 other teams to win the ‘best healthcare business plan’ award in a national competition that rewards exceptional entrepreneurial skills. The annual Biotechnology YES competition involved teams of early-career researchers pitching their ideas for a hypothetical product and company to a panel of investors.

Bristol’s team, made up of mathematician Chris Joyner, bioscientist Graham Britton (BSc 2008) and chemists Daniel Carew and Rebecca Rice (BSc 2008), pitched their ideas for the AviFilter, a device to treat multiple sclerosis. The appliance works by removing disease-causing white blood cells from the blood without any of the side effects associated with existing therapies.
Rhiannon Holder (BSc 2009) has become one of the youngest people to be awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List, for services to young people’s healthcare. Rhiannon, 22, graduated from Bristol with a First Class Honours degree in Deaf Studies.

At the age of 15, Rhiannon began volunteering at the Bread Youth Project in St Werburghs, Bristol, as a sexual health peer educator and she is now one of the charity’s trustees. For three-and-a-half years she also served as a young adviser on the Government’s Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group. She now works in Bristol’s Brook Clinic and for South Gloucestershire Council, educating young girls on sexual health and relationships.

A new device that tracks portion size and how fast people eat is more successful in helping obese children lose weight than standard treatments, according to University-led research. The Mandometer, a portable computerised weighing scale, was developed at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and helps to retrain individuals to eat less and more slowly by providing real-time feedback during meal times.
If you would like regular news updates, why not sign up for our enewsletter? Email ‘enewsletter’ to alumni@bristol.ac.uk.

Vaccine study to combat meningitis

University scientists have embarked on a ground-breaking study to help protect people from the killer disease meningitis B. The four-year research programme is being led by Professors Neil Williams and Robert Heyderman, who have been awarded £200,000 by Bristol-based organisation Meningitis UK. University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust is handling the management of the trial.

Professor Williams explained: ‘It’s very common to have meningococcal bacteria living in our throats. In most of us that is where they stay, but in a very few they can enter the body and cause disease. This is why we’re looking at how people’s throats react to a vaccine. Scientists tend to study what goes on in the blood but we hope this new method will help us understand better how vaccines need to be delivered.’

Meningitis B is the most common and complex form of the disease in the UK and is a major threat to children under five and students.

More cat owners have degrees, study says

UK cat owners are more likely than dog owners to be qualified to degree level, according to a new study. Dr Jane Murray and colleagues from the Department of Clinical Veterinary Science aimed to estimate the number of UK domestic cats and dogs and identify the characteristics of their owners.

Dr Murray commented: ‘The reason for this association is unclear. It is unlikely to be related to household income as this variable was not shown to be significant but it could be related to household members with longer working hours having less time available to care for a dog.’

The study also found that the UK domestic cat and dog population is larger than previously thought, with cats owned by over a quarter of households and dogs owned by just under a third. The results of the study are useful to the animal health and welfare professions, including rescue charities, which can use these and future estimates to assess population changes.

Centenary Portraits

The University has rounded off its centenary celebrations with a unique short film. *Centenary Portraits* was made by Terry Flaxton, an award-winning video artist and cinematographer and an Arts and Humanities Research Council Creative Research Fellow in the University’s Drama Department.

The 12-minute film, captured using an ultra-high-definition camera, features around 200 of the 23,000 students and staff who make up the University community. Echoing Victorian photography, all participants held a pose while they were filmed, and brought along props – from a skeleton to a chainsaw – to indicate who they are or what they do, as was common in 18th-century portraiture. The musical accompaniment is *The Chairman Dances* by the Pulitzer prize-winning American composer, John Adams.

The film premiered at the Arnolfini gallery on Bristol’s Harbourside and will be shown at galleries and festivals in the UK and abroad during 2010. Watch it at www.bristol.ac.uk/centenary/look/art/portraits-film.html.

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A film project funded by alumni is providing extraordinary insights into the research carried out by Bristol mathematicians.

Chrystal Cherniwchan, Azita Ghassemi and Professor Jon Keating from the University’s Department of Mathematics have filmed five short documentaries exploring how mathematicians think and work, their passion for the subject, what their motivations are and how they view themselves. The films aim to inspire people about maths and will be shown at schools, galleries and festivals around the country.

Chrystal said: ‘The interviews begin from the first spark of childhood interest in maths and cover the research process, ideas and that elusive moment when it all comes together. Some people call it the “Aha! moment”. I wish I could know what it feels like to work on something for years and then finally solve it. If more people thought about that, maybe they would be more interested in mathematics and the sciences.’

Watch the films at www.maths.bris.ac.uk/research/videos

Alumni receive honorary degrees

The University presented two of its alumni with honorary degrees in February 2010. Tony award-winning theatre director Matthew Warchus (BA 1988) was honoured with the degree of Doctor of Letters. Professor Patricia Broadfoot CBE (DSc 2000), Vice-Chancellor at the University of Gloucestershire and former Dean of Social Sciences and Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Bristol, was honoured with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Films explore the pain and the pleasure of maths

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Bristol’s time capsule

“
I don’t think how you run a university is going to change materially, because universities don’t change what they do — they teach and they research.”
Vice-Chancellor, how did you approach the task of writing a letter to your successor in 100 years’ time?

I had to envisage somebody – not necessarily in this office but obviously somewhere like this – who opens a box, removes a letter which hasn’t been opened before, sits down and starts to read. It’s a personal communication, one to one.

Can you give any hints about what it says?

The contents of the letter should be a surprise for the individual when they open it in a 100 years’ time, so I can’t be very specific. I felt there was little point in trying to make any allusion to their world – it would be like asking my granddad in 1909 to talk to me in 2009. Instead, the letter talks about the current environment, what Bristol is planning to do, what its core values are, what I think will be long-lived about the University, what it is like being head of the University and little bits of advice that may be relevant then as they are now.

My base position is that something called the University of Bristol will exist in 100 years’ time; that it will still be teaching and researching; that it is likely still to be recognisable as a university in the way that we understand universities; and that its students and staff are likely to be fundamentally unchanged too. And, if that is the case, it will also have to have a leader, because organisations like this do need one.

What is useful for a new Vice-Chancellor to know? What advice might you have liked to have been given?

I got plenty of advice. Much of what happened to me was what I expected to happen, but there were a few things I would like to have known.

First, that your senior team – including your Pro Vice-Chancellors and your Deans – turns over quite quickly. The only person who has been in the senior team ever since I arrived in 2001 is the University’s Registrar.

Also I don’t think I fully understood the really important relationship one should have with the governing body and the role of that body within the University.
Finally, I should have had printed on my forehead that famous statement by Harold Macmillan: “Events, dear boy, events”, because events can blow you out of the water.

What’s the best advice you’ve been given since you became Vice-Chancellor?
The single most useful piece of advice was given to me over dinner by the Chair of Council at the University of Exeter. He said to me: “What you have to know, as chief executive of a large organisation, is that there will never be a time when you don’t have at least one apparently unsolvable and intractable problem on your table. And you have to learn to live with that situation. There is no sunlit upland – no problem-free zone where you can relax and drink Sundowners and it’s all right. Once an organisation is large enough, the chief executive will always have something of weight and difficulty on their table, so learn to cope with that, personally.” That was a great piece of advice.

If you had inherited a letter, written in 1909, to be opened and read at Bristol’s centenary, what might it have said?
I’m sure that the then-founding Vice-Chancellor would have written about the importance of scholarship, and of students, and that he would have referred to the city of Bristol with great pride. I presume he would have written in hope that the University would still exist in 100 years, whereas I can be much more confident about that. I don’t think he would ever have thought it was going to look like it does, or that within a single century the University would have got to such a high position with such a reputation.

How do you assess the challenges to come for UK higher education?
It’s going to be tough. I don’t think you’ll see a significant expansion in student numbers because it’s not really affordable. I think that universities are going to be squeezed because public funding is going to be squeezed, so the art of the game will be steering our way through what will be quite turbulent rapids over the next few years.

However, I don’t think how you run a university is going to change materially, because universities don’t change what they do – they teach and they research. Some universities may not exist in 10 years time or, with mergers and closures, they may not exist in their current form. So structural change may come in the number or type of institutions, rather than the way institutions are run.

Many universities will define their mission more clearly – perhaps gravitating towards different models. Some will be about delivering teaching, predominantly to their localities and responding to those localities’ business needs. Others will be dense research institutions, with a very highly circumscribed teaching offering.

Which way will Bristol go?
We’re strong in both, currently. We draw students nationally rather than locally and I think we’ll continue to do that. I think our teaching offering will be traditional as a broad rule and we will continue with a very substantial research base.

How do you see the student experience changing in 100 years’ time?
I think that the typical Bristol student – aged between 18 and 22, having a residential experience in Bristol – will be here in 2025. I would hazard a guess that they’ll still be here in 2035, but in 100 years’ time? There’s so much potential for major, societal, structural change – whether evolutionary or revolutionary – in 100 years that it’s just impossible to say.

If you could have one wish for the University of Bristol in 2109, what would it be?
That people will still think it’s a great university. That when someone says, “I go to the University of Bristol” people will reply, “That’s a really fine university”, just as they do now. And that will mean that, however the University had to change to meet the challenges that confront higher education, it will have adapted successfully.
It’s generally not a good idea to try to predict the future because it’s so easy to be proven wrong. However, my first prediction is that I will not be around in 100 years’ time, despite the advances in medical care that will have been made during the intervening period, leaving me free to speculate without fear of having 22nd-century egg on my face. While average life expectancy may increase, immortality is not on the menu. What we can hope for is to live out our allotted four score years and ten with minimal suffering and excellent cognitive function. We should strive for a full and healthy life with a rapid and pain-free decline.

Stem cell biology is a rather young science, so there is not much to go on when trying to extrapolate forwards. What we can do, however, is to look at other areas of medicine that have a richer vein of history. What would a professor of medicine have predicted in 1909 about the future of healthcare? Vaccines and anaesthetics were in use. Felix Hoffman had already synthesised acetylsalicylic acid, the active ingredient in aspirin, in the 1890s, which can be seen as the birth of the modern pharmaceutical industry. However, penicillin, antidepressants, anti-cancer agents and drugs to reduce blood pressure were all the stuff of fantasy. Our Edwardian professor may well have predicted a new wave of medical advances but is unlikely to have had any insight into the explosion in availability of purpose-designed pharmaceuticals that have transformed our capacity to control and occasionally eradicate the symptoms of chronic disease.

With the lesson of the past 100 years in mind, my second prediction is that the types of medicine we use a century from now will be unrecognisable to those of us alive today. I hope and believe that our current work in the field of stem cell biology will still be benefiting patients in 2109. However, it is equally possible that a whole new branch of medicine will have emerged, based on a new scientific paradigm that we cannot presently guess at.

So the professor of 1909 had little idea of the medicines that would be widely available today and I have little idea what will be available in 2109. What I can predict, however, is a step-change in the types of disease that can be treated. Whereas the past 100 years has been about using drugs to control symptoms, the next 100 years will be about removing a previously chronic or deadly disease from a person’s life. It will be about killing the illness rather than the patient. Got a dodgy heart? Let’s get a new one from the catalogue. Liver failing? We’ll grow you a new one. Onset of Alzheimer’s disease? Not to worry, we’ll repair your neurones. Osteoarthritic knee? Here’s one I made earlier!

Of course, my first prediction may be wrong, in which case you and I may be around in 2109 and if my other predictions are all wrong, you will be able to see that egg on my face after all. It will be quite an omelette.
‘Reception’ explores the relationship between past and present, and the role of the receiver (the reader, viewer or listener) in the transmission of culture. This is partly about the way that texts from other cultures are reinterpreted in the light of current circumstances: the way that John Milton read Vergil or Sigmund Freud drew on Greek mythology. But it is also concerned with the impact of these changing ideas on the present, as they shape people’s conceptions and influence their decisions. For example, I’m currently researching the modern reception of the Greek historian Thucydides, whose account of politics and international relations had a significant influence on the American neocons, among others. The past continues to shape the present, in ways that aren’t always obvious, and we need to understand this.

As long as people continue to draw on the past as a way of making sense of the world – and this seems to be a fairly standard trait of human behaviour – then reception studies will remain important. Indeed, the more the world becomes globalised, and different cultures confront one another, the more important these studies become. One of the classic theoretical statements in the field is that ‘meaning is realised at the point of reception’; in other words, we can’t assume that a text or a practice has a single fixed meaning, but always have to be aware of the possibility of multiple interpretations. This may seem obvious, but it’s all too easily forgotten or ignored.

Take modernity. We tend to take it for granted that we are modern, and that we live in a modern society, whereas other areas of the world are still undergoing modernisation. We have a sense of what modernity involves, even if only a fuzzy one – technology, capitalism, democracy, the music of Kraftwerk and so on – and we assume that this is what everyone else in the world is experiencing. However, ‘modernity’ is an idea, a way of interpreting the world, rather than a tangible or stable thing: further, it’s an idea which, in our case, was developed through dialogue with the classical past, as writers like Adam Smith and Karl Marx made sense of their own society by contrasting it with Greece and Rome. Why should we assume that ‘modernity’ is understood in the same way in China or India? Those societies don’t have the same relationship with their past as we Europeans have with ours, and in any case their past is different; the changes their societies are undergoing may look similar to our experiences, with large-scale industrialisation and the impact of globalisation, but they have a different meaning because of the way they are received and interpreted.

I have no idea whether ‘reception studies’ will still exist as a distinct tradition in 100 years’ time, but the issues we study will continue to be important. There may well be less emphasis on the reception of classical antiquity; reception studies already cover a much wider field, but Greece and Rome have played a particularly important role in the European tradition and so have been the focus of attention so far. There are entire traditions of thought where the study of the process of reception has barely begun. However, writers like Homer, Thucydides and Vergil have demonstrated their openness to infinite reinterpretation by generation after generation, so whatever happens I doubt that people will stop reading them altogether – and as long as they’re being read, there will be something interesting to be said about their reception.
In the early 1980s, we imagined that schools and education would be completely transformed by computers. We now understand that the introduction of information and communication technologies (ICT) into schools does not necessarily ‘lead to’ changes in teaching and learning. Similarly, newly designed schools that incorporate the latest technologies do not necessarily transform learning for young people. But this does not mean that there is no relationship between the design of space, the use of ICT and the educational experiences of young people. Learning in schools is best understood as a complex dynamic social system, in which many factors interrelate, and in which teachers, school leaders and young people themselves are key players.

When thinking about the future of schooling I am fascinated by the fact that four generations of my own family are alive today, and there are qualitative differences between the education of my mother, myself, my daughter and (in the future) my granddaughter. So, naturally, when I envisage the future of schooling I imagine the education of my own great great grandchildren. However, this also makes me aware of how privileged they are likely to be. This privilege has been brought about by the transformative potential of education. The great grandmother of my grand-daughter (my mother) came from a very poor family. While her own great grandmother was illiterate, she herself passed an examination to attend high school and then won a state scholarship to university, thus starting a process of changing the educational opportunities and life chances for myself and future generations. It’s a stark contrast to the situation facing many young people in England today. In Bristol, for example, only around one in 20 young people from some areas of south Bristol are in higher education, compared with about half in Clifton. For these reasons social justice has to be at the core of future thinking about education and schooling in England.

A social justice perspective leads to a rather different vision of schooling from that which is commonly expressed today. A report on 21st century schooling suggests that ‘home-based study using computers will probably result in part-time attendance at school … As young people spend more and more time surfing the net, accessing virtual libraries, conferencing with their teachers via the web and publishing their work electronically, the traditional classroom as a setting for learning is quickly becoming redundant’.

The view that students will increasingly be able to learn from the internet equates knowledge with facts and information. Such a view of a ‘lone learner’ sitting at home with a computer does not consider that we learn from social interaction with people, and that the already disadvantaged are likely to be even more disadvantaged if they cannot use schools to interact with others with greater knowledge.

So to my predictions. In 100 years’ time, I predict that schools as institutions will still exist, as places where children and young people gather together to gain knowledge that is valued by society, knowledge that they are not likely to encounter outside school. The slate of the early 20th century will be replaced by a handheld computer, which will be more like an iPhone than a portable computer. But paper, pencils and books will still be valued. Schools will still need spaces for focused learning: the ‘classroom of the future’. But schools will also be designed to allow for more informal learning to take place outside classrooms. The boundaries between out-of-school and in-school will be permeable and students will engage with virtual learning communities as well as the physical learning communities in school. Finally, I believe that forms of assessment will see the most radical change. We will no longer measure individuals with paper and pencil examinations but instead will have found ways of assessment that allow students to use technology to construct and produce knowledge.

Special Collections embraces the evidence of a huge range of human endeavour and serves as the institutional memory of the University.

As we write, Hannah (pictured with Michael) has 500-year-old court rolls on her desk and Michael has been cataloguing 18th-century printed music. Wherever the Special Collections find a resting place in 2109, we expect these venerable treasures to be part of them. Parchment and rag-based paper have a proven record of longevity. Having said that, collections are not immune to the effects of ideological or technical revolution, as so many fragments of once splendid manuscripts, found in the bindings of 16th-century printed books, testify.

Certainly then, accumulations of evidence would imply users waiting to sift them. In this context, it is interesting to be able to report that, some years into the digital revolution, demand for access to historic materials remains strong, both for the purposes of inspirational teaching and for original research. Indeed, the Library’s oldest dated document, a charter of 1190, was acquired only last year as part of an effort to expand the range of medieval documents available as a teaching resource.

Not that we will ignore the benefits, in terms of preservation and accessibility, offered by digital formats and delivery through the internet. Thanks to donations from University of Bristol alumni and friends, work is proceeding in Special Collections on the incorporation of digital images in computerised archive catalogue records. A hundred such images appeared in the Library’s online Centenary Gallery, attracting nearly 24,000 visits by mid-December 2009. There will be much more of this to do in the coming years. Increasingly, for the most heavily used and fragile materials, a large percentage of consultations will be through high-quality digital facsimiles.

A future in which everything worthy of digitisation has been digitised seems to us improbable, however. Ask a new question and the most underrated classes of document are almost bound to prove among the most transparent witnesses. Paper and digital record formats will continue to co-exist. For example, our collection of general election campaign materials, already over a century old, provides us with a glimpse of an archival diversity, that the coming century will accentuate. In 2005, some candidates preferred to send us a PDF or a promotional DVD rather than the conventional printed address to the electors. Again, we saw a rise in referrals to party websites, which, being constantly updated, offer new challenges to those endeavouring to maintain a record. Although national libraries may be contemplating a future of automated downloading and storage of vast tracts of the web, the librarians and archivists in Bristol will continue to use their skills and knowledge to decide what to collect and how to catalogue and present it to readers. A special collection is, by definition, a selective harvest from the information jungle.

We are convinced that a continuing tradition of high-quality teaching and research in the University in 2109 will be founded on more than two centuries of growth in the Special Collections.

Special Collections has a fine collection of general election campaign materials, covering all constituencies and parties, which are used by academics, students, the public, parliamentarians and the media. With readers’ assistance, we hope to collect a broad range of election addresses, manifestos and other publicity for the forthcoming UK general election. If you feel able to help, please send donations of election addresses in your constituency to Special Collections, Arts and social Sciences Library, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TJ. For further information, contact us on +44 (0)117 928 8014 or at special-collections@bristol.ac.uk. Thank you.
The world-famous mathematician David Hilbert said that if he woke from a sleep of 500 years, the first thing he would ask is: “Has the Riemann Hypothesis been solved?”. Hilbert set the agenda for 20th-century mathematics in his 1900 Paris lecture to the International Congress where he first unveiled his list of 23 then-unsolved problems. Included in this list was the Riemann Hypothesis, the world’s biggest unsolved maths challenge and the only one of the 23 still wide open.

Just what is the Riemann Hypothesis? One hundred and fifty years ago Bernhard Riemann discovered that the secret to understanding prime numbers is to encode them into a collection of points called the Riemann zeros. Riemann’s hypothesis is that these zeros line up, like planting a straight row of trees instead of the random scatter produced in a wood by nature.

Mathematicians rose to the challenge but no solution has been found in the 100 years since Hilbert’s grand speech. In fact, in 2000 the Clay Mathematics Institute returned to Paris to announce a challenge for the 21st century – seven problems, each with a reward of $1 million dollars. And yes, the Riemann Hypothesis is on the list.

So, what will happen in the next 100 years? It’s notoriously difficult to predict how hard a maths problem is. Hilbert once made just such a prediction about three problems on his list. For one he predicted the solution was just around the corner, another within the lifetimes of his audience and the third not for 1,000 years. The third one took only a few years to solve, the second one (Fermat’s Last Theorem) was cracked in 1996. The first one was the Riemann Hypothesis.

In the past few years, quantum physicists experienced in random matrix theory (RMT) have teamed up with mathematicians to investigate the spacings between the trees in Riemann’s row. RMT had already been successful in solving a similar spacing problem arising in quantum energy levels. Calculations show that the first 10 trillion Riemann zeros do line up and the spacings are exactly as predicted by RMT.

So, can RMT point the way to solving the Riemann Hypothesis? It’s not the whole answer, but it does give support to an idea first proposed in the 1920s. RMT involves averages over many matrices, but long before the subject was invented Hilbert and Hungarian mathematician George Pólya suggested that there might be just one matrix that controlled the Riemann zeros. If this matrix were to have appropriate symmetries, it would force the Riemann Hypothesis to be true. Mathematicians are now hunting for this matrix using the clues given by RMT.

It turns out that Riemann’s problem is replicated in many other fields of mathematics, which means the solution would have momentous implications for the mathematics of the future.

We can’t say for sure if the Riemann Hypothesis will be solved in the next 100 years, but let’s hope that when Hilbert awakes the answer to his question will be yes!
Take five

Art-curating, t-shirt-shifting, word-smithing, quantum-computing ... Laura Blake (BA 2009) meets five young alumni pushing boundaries in very different directions.

PHOTOS BY DAVE PRATT
Claire Lewis (LLB 2005)

After a trip to the Big Apple when she was 21, Claire Lewis stumbled across a big business idea.

It began with a *Dukes of Hazzard* t-shirt bought by her fiancé, Pat, in New York: ‘He wore it to the pub when we got home, and after several fellow drinkers asked where they could get something similar, we realised there was a gap in the UK market for licensed, retro tees.’

In a contemporary twist on flogging jeans from the back of a van, Claire and Pat started selling a few t-shirts on eBay from their student flat. Their first £10 profit bought their domain name, inspired by the famous dance from the 1985 film, *The Goonies*. They built a basic website, sourced some t-shirts from the US and with that, TruffleShuffle.com was born.

Most students find it tough enough balancing their studies with a part-time job, but during an intensive final year at Bristol, Claire managed to run a growing online business *and* hold down a social life. So what was her secret? ‘Lots of late nights! Pat and I – and any friends we could rope in – would sit up till the early hours packing t-shirts and answering emails. My studies and social life probably did suffer, but I finished my degree and ended up in a job I love, so it was 100 per cent worth it.’

Multi-tasking wasn’t the only challenge; with zero business experience, running a retail business was a huge learning curve. Inevitably, there are things Claire would have done differently. ‘I wish we had better anticipated our growth in later years – we’ve had to move warehouse four times in six years, which isn’t much fun with hundreds of thousands of t-shirts!’

What lessons have been learned along the way? ‘Think very, very carefully before borrowing money. Amaze your customers with great service; repeat business is responsible for a third of our turnover. Most importantly, do something you love; it makes all the hard work a lot easier.’ Inspired by Google’s motto ‘don’t be evil’, Claire believes firmly in playing fair and treating customers, staff, suppliers and even competitors the way you would like to be treated yourself.

It’s certainly paid off. Six years on, TruffleShuffle.com is an online mecca for lovers of all things retro and has spawned two other online stores. ‘We never imagined it would be anything more than a way to earn some extra pocket money. If you had told us then that we’d be operating from a 7,500-square-foot warehouse and shipping between 10-20,000 products a month, we never would have believed you!’

Harry Byford (BA 2008)

Harry graduated in 2008 with a degree in English and a coveted *Guardian* Student Media Award for Columnist of the Year for his work on Bristol’s *Epigram*. Startlingly frank, and acerbically funny, it is easy to see why he made an impact on Bristol’s student population. His style leans naturally towards satire, and to the punchy, no-holds-barred approach *Epigram* has aimed for in recent years.

‘One of my first articles was a first-person exposé on dogging out on the Downs,’ he says. ‘I took along a friend to keep me company and we spent the night watching steamed-up cars, shady-looking blokes peering into said cars, and finally, said blokes beckoning us into the trees. Politely, we declined, but it was great fun all the same.’ Other highlights from his *Epigram* days included a two-day Guinness and tomato diet and a sex toy article which is, he stresses, thankfully no longer available online.

Not shy of controversy, Harry turned investigative journo in the guise of ‘Societies Slut’, with a fortnightly foray into a different Bristol student society, from morris dancing to fine wine. His reporting style gained him a cult student following, and an angry mob of offended members – not to mention his *Guardian* award. Writing for *Epigram* and the city’s *Venue* magazine was a platform to getting into the broadsheets; his work has since appeared in *The Times*, *Guardian* and *Independent*.

Harry’s line of work means he gets the chance to meet some colourful characters. He says his most
Not shy of controversy, Harry turned thankfully no longer available online. sex toy article which is, he stresses, day Guinness and tomato diet and a his all the same. Other highlights from we declined, but it was great fun beckoning us into the trees. Politely, into said cars, and finally, said blokes cars, shady-looking blokes peering spent the night watching steamed-up friend to keep me company and we the Downs, he says. I took along a person exposé on dogging out on one of my first articles was a first- has aimed for in recent years. Epigram punchy, no-holds-barred approach naturally towards satire, and to the why he made an impact on Bristol’s and acerbically funny, it is easy to see on Bristol’s Columnist of the Year for his work Guardian Student Media Award for degree in English and a coveted Harry Byford (BA 2008)

Harry’s line of work Independent. his work has since appeared getting into the broadsheets; magazine was a platform to and the city’s Epigram n award. Writing for – not to mention his mob of offended members following, and an angry gained him a cult student wine. His reporting style morris dancing to fine investigative journo in the

interesting encounter to date was with ‘an Iranian engineer who had built his vision of the future: a Perspex, six-wheeled vehicle powered by a horse on a treadmill. He seemed adamant it would work, and never saw the obvious problems of smell, inefficiency and, well, everything else about it. It was quite mad, but entertainingly so.’

While he agrees that ‘the usual covering letter classics’ of tenacity, commitment, hunger and, of course, accuracy, are part and parcel of being a good journalist, Harry believes there’s one key ingredient to being a successful writer: ‘I think it all comes down to being able to tell a good story. If you can engage the reader, you’ve succeeded, regardless of what kind of writing you’re doing.’

When asked how he sees his future, he tells me that ideally he’d be a columnist on a national newspaper or magazine. Then that storytelling instinct kicks in: ‘In reality, I’ll probably be a deputy features assistant at somewhere like Practical Caravan magazine.’

Holly Lopez (BA 2009, currently studying for an MA in History of Art)

As alumni know, Bristol is renowned as a vibrant city filled with culture. The new kid on the block is The Bristol Gallery, which sits within the dynamic Harbourside area and is the location for the photo shoot (see pages 16 and 17). Cool and minimalist without being pretentious, it looks like it’s going to fit in well.

Managing the gallery is 21-year-old Holly Lopez, who graduated just last summer. After working as a research assistant to a senior lecturer in Bristol’s Department of History of Art department, who was in turn curating the gallery’s inaugural exhibition, Holly was scouted by the gallery’s director.

Holly completed a work experience placement in the urban art department of an auction house while still an undergraduate. It seems fitting that she now manages Bristol’s most down-to-earth gallery.

We’re really trying to break down some of the stereotypes surrounding contemporary galleries, says Holly. ‘We don’t believe that the elitist atmosphere often found in galleries is the most productive for experiencing or purchasing artwork, and want to make the viewing of contemporary art an inclusive, rather than exclusive, experience.’

The gallery hosts numerous initiatives with inclusion in mind, including free talks by artists and academics, live painting events and even activities for children, all of which aim to demystify contemporary art and bring it to a wider audience. ‘I’m keen to prove that you don’t need a degree in the history of art to enjoy it,’ she says.

If managing an art gallery isn’t enough to keep her busy, simultaneously studying for an MA in History of Art, certainly is. Although Holly freely admits she found the responsibility and co-ordination of both overwhelming at first, she believes juggling her studies and her career is worthwhile: ‘It takes a lot of energy and self-discipline, but I have confidence in my knowledge and abilities and have really grown into my position here. Being able to meet an amazing array of artists and co-curate exhibitions really is an Art History student’s dream.’

It’s easier to exercise self-discipline when you’re pursuing something about which you’re passionate, which Holly evidently is: ‘I was cataloguing an original, hand-signed lithograph by Picasso recently and I just thought – I love my job!’

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni
Jonathan Matthews (MSc 2005 and 2008, studying for a PhD in Maths) and Alberto Politi (studying for a PhD in Electrical Engineering)

At a time when a world of information is accessible at the touch of a heat-sensitive button on a device which fits in the palm of your hand, it is difficult to imagine how computers will evolve further. Helping to shape this technological evolution – and the future of quantum computing – are two members of the Centre for Quantum Photonics affiliated to Bristol’s world-leading Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information (NSQI), Jonathan Matthews (pictured left) and Alberto Politi.

Quantum computers may sound like something from a sci-fi film, but in generations to come they could become commonplace. So what are they? Well, they’re not what you might call ‘supercomputers’. ‘Within computer science,’ says Jonathan, ‘there exist problems, such as exactly simulating large molecular systems, for which even the fastest classical supercomputer couldn’t find a solution.’ That’s where quantum computers – fundamentally faster machines, which aim to solve otherwise impossible problems – come in.

Beneath this mysterious description, there lies a practical application with the potential to revolutionise technology which plays a crucial role in our ever-changing world. It was this that led Jonathan and Alberto to pursue their passion for quantum physics.

For Jonathan, the realisation came while studying for his undergraduate degree in maths at Bristol: ‘I was drawn by the potential impact of applying the unique properties of the quantum model of physics to other disciplines. What surprised me was that these predicted quantum technologies don’t stop at computers; quantum mechanics can also surpass certain other important technologies, such as information security, in a way that can’t be achieved with any other current understanding of physics.’

You may be wondering just how quantum technology will impact on your life; well, if you bank online, send emails or shop online for anything from groceries to gadgets, the work of researchers like Alberto and Jonathan into areas such as information security is likely to affect you in some way in the future.

Just one area of Bristol’s pioneering research is quantum cryptography, which uses quantum mechanics to guarantee secure communication. ‘As the global reliance on information increases rapidly, the complete security this technique promises is becoming increasingly important,’ says Alberto, ‘particularly in the commercial realm.’

Jonathan’s proudest achievement to date has been creating and manipulating quantum states of light directly on an integrated optical chip. It’s brought them a step closer to realising large-scale quantum circuits for a wide range of future applications, one of which is in the area of bio-sensing, which could see quantum technology playing a significant role in the healthcare, agriculture and environmental sectors.

The pair see Bristol as a fantastic and stimulating environment in which to study science. ‘The high technical specifications of the new NSQI building itself have given us a tremendous advantage in our work,’ adds Jonathan. ‘I’m always looking to the next experiment.’

Want to know more?

Shop till you drop at www.truffleshuffle.com

Read Harry’s articles (and check out the Tintin resemblance) at www.harrybyford.co.uk

Browse for art at www.thebristolgallery.com

Discover more mind-blowing work going on at www.bristol.ac.uk/nsqi-centre
Be prepared
Tim: ‘Be thorough and look through any publicly available material, particularly about the current key issues for the organisation you’re applying to. I look for candidates who have studied Barclays, have done their research, and are sufficiently knowledgeable to ask basic questions about our business – though I’d never expect them to be experts.’

Be honest
Tim: ‘I think one of the biggest traps people fall into is to start talking about things or get sucked into a discussion topic which they don’t understand, and that’s a slippery slope – if you don’t understand something, say so, don’t pretend you do. Be open and honest about what you know, otherwise it can lead to a disappointing outcome.’

Ask questions, but only if you’re genuinely interested in the response
Robert: ‘I get frustrated when interviewees have the opportunity to ask a sensible question, but then simply do not listen to the answer, and no conversation or reaction flows from it. It looks too much like “going through the motions”.’

Be yourself
Robert: ‘Focus on enjoying the interview process and remember that it is your opportunity to promote yourself and also to find out – to a certain extent – whether you would fit into the firm.’

Tim: ‘You may be tempted to try to live up to an image and to leave your personality at the door, but you’re not likely to be very successful. It can be helpful to show a bit of humour, personality, and even – to a degree – own up to a weakness, in order to engage with the interviewer.’

Tips for new graduates
Finally, we asked our experts what qualities they think are essential for top graduates to stand out at interview:

Robert: ‘Our aim at interview is to find out about the candidate and, in particular, how they think and reason – clearly thought-out answers and reasoned arguments are key for us, together with a balance of humility and realism. Our first focus is intellect – we focus, therefore, on academic results (both the actual marks, the type of subjects studied, and the route to those results), but we’re also looking for rounded people who have made the most of their time at university in whatever pursuits they are interested in.’

Tim: ‘Someone who has thought about themselves, their strengths and weaknesses, and also, someone who’s got a bit of a game plan – they’re not fishing around for ideas, they’ve actually got ideas for themselves and can express them in a reasoned way that shows their self-confidence.’

Tired of putting your foot in it and want to get your foot in the door instead? Robert Byk (LLB 1996), Partner at law firm Slaughter and May, and Tim Ritchie (BA 1978), Managing Director and Head of Global Loans at Barclays Capital, have plenty of interview experience – from both sides of the table. Here are some of their top tips for making the right impression.

Read the full article at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/featured/insights.
If you’ve got some advice, expertise or insight to offer, please get in touch by emailing alumni@bristol.ac.uk.

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni
What do you remember about your visits to Bristol?
The visit that stands out is the one where I accompanied my parents, after a terrific air raid on 12 April 1941. It was Easter Saturday and I remember it vividly. The train drew very slowly into the platform, where the Lord Mayor and the dignitaries of the city were waiting. It was tremendously impressive: people had come from fire-fighting, and the ARP wardens were still in their uniforms, some of them soaking wet. They were determined that, despite the air raid, the degree ceremony would go on as planned.

We went into the Great Hall for the giving of degrees. My father made a speech pointing out that degrees were given for the things we were really fighting for. When we came out, word had got around and there was an enormous crowd – people were perched on the roofs of ruined houses, cheering. They seemed to be affirming that, despite the air raid, the degree ceremony would go on as planned.

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My father didn’t talk that much about it, but he was always very pleased about his link with Bristol. He was Chancellor from 1929 until his death and he relished the connection.

You accompanied your father all over the world. Which trips stand out?
In the war, after my father had been ill on a trip abroad, the Cabinet wanted a member of his family to accompany him on trips. My sister Sarah was in the Women’s Air Force, a very technical job identifying and interpreting the aerial photographs taken by the RAF, and I was in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the anti-aircraft battery in Hyde Park. When a trip was coming up, Sarah and I used to confer about which of us could go with him. I think we made ourselves quite useful one way or another. Looking through papers the other day, I found the order making me officially attached to the staff of the Minister of Defence. I like to feel I was properly ’scheduled’.

I accompanied him in November 1944 on his first visit to Paris after liberation, which was amazing. We had been brought up to be very pro-French and had met General de Gaulle during the war, so when de Gaulle invited my parents he also very kindly asked me. I also went to the first Quebec conference in 1943. I’ll never forget driving into Quebec, I couldn’t take in how extraordinary it was to see a whole city lit up – we’d got so used to the ‘blackout’.

What are your happiest memories of your father?
I was much younger than my siblings and was brought up entirely at Chartwell, in Kent. I hardly went to London before the war and spent time with my father at weekends and on holidays. Chartwell is built on a hill and there’s a spring near the top. In the 1930s my father was forever tinkering around making waterfalls or diverting brooks – as a young girl, I found this absolutely fascinating and would follow him around. I can’t think that I was being much help but I enjoyed being there and he liked company.

If you had had the chance to take a university degree, which subject would you have studied?
I would have chosen English or history. Growing up in my father’s house, you could hardly fail to be interested in English and history and they are subjects I’ve always been very interested in.
My father had a formidable memory; into his old age he could recite long passages of Byron, for instance, that he’d learned at Harrow as a schoolboy. I think learning by heart is very important; were I to be chucked into prison or some terrible thing like that, and if there were no books or newspapers, I would find comfort and resource from delving into one’s larder of remembered things. I find I read less poetry now that I’m older – I can remember it but I tend not to read it. I’ve got some good anthologies and I revive my memories.

How protective do you feel of your father’s legacy?
To an extent, I accept that my father was a public political figure and, as such, is open to controversy and criticism. Sometimes my blood boils when things are said that are incorrect, but I try not to be the overexcited daughter who rushes wildly to his defence because I think his own record stands. I also think that he has plenty of advocates – independent people – who can argue his case. Also he has written amply about his views and actions.

How will your father be remembered in the next 100 years?
It’s difficult to tell because reputations, and the ways of looking at people, go in and out of fashion. Also public figures are under constant scrutiny. Some people reading history, and his part in it, will disapprove of the view or actions he took at various times.

What hopes do you have for the century to come?
I’m a keen European. My husband was one of the first British Commissioners to join the European Commission; he believed in it very strongly, and so do I. I hope that our links with Europe will be ever stronger. I’m the opposite of UKIP (the UK Independence Party)! If you join anything, you have to make concessions and come to agreements, but I don’t believe that by going further into Europe we’ll lose our status or our standing. And it’s also the greatest guarantee against another European war.

The ‘Good Friday raid’ on the night of 11 April 1941 was one of the worst bombing raids of the ‘Bristol Blitz’, in which 180 people were killed and 382 were injured.

On Easter Saturday, 12 April, Winston Churchill conferred honorary degrees on the American ambassador to Britain, John Winant, and the Australian prime minister, Robert Menzies.

To mark its 80th anniversary, Lady Soames was the guest of honour at a dinner held in Wills Hall on 12 December 2009 and attended by university and city dignitaries, the Senior Common Room and students of hall, members of the Wills Hall Association and their guests.

During her visit, Lady Soames unveiled a commemorative plaque in the entrance hall and was presented with a framed copy of the declaration in praise of Wills Hall which her father signed on its opening and which now hangs in the Warden’s house. The declaration states: “I, Winston Spencer Churchill MP CH, Chancellor of the University of Bristol, declare there to be no finer hostel than Wills Hall among the universities of the British Empire.”

If you would like to know more about, or become a member of, the Wills Hall Association, please email wills-hall-association@bristol.ac.uk

Churchill pictured with students and members of the Senior Common Room at the opening of Wills Hall in December 1929.
Bristol Red

Squadron Leader Graham Duff (BEng 1996) is ‘Red 8’ for the Royal Air Force aerobatics team, the Red Arrows.
I’ve wanted to be a pilot for as long as I can remember. My stepfather got me interested in model airplanes and we used to go and fly remote-controlled airplanes together.

I grew up in the Lake District, where there used to be a lot of military low flying; I would sit in the back garden in the summer holidays watching the jets fly over. The only way I could become a fast jet pilot was to join the Royal Air Force.

The RAF gets around 10,000 applicants for 100 places. I applied to join before I went to university, but didn’t get in, so I then looked for the best degree I could find that suited what I was good at and what I liked: Aeronautical Engineering.

In first year I lived at Bracken Hill, the Wills’ family former home, and the old site of the University’s Botanic Garden just across Clifton Suspension Bridge. We had a fantastic walk across the bridge to get to university and back.

I wasn’t the most academic of students – I think I drove my tutor spare! The practical work – building things or finding out how things worked – I really got my teeth into but learning theories and how those theories were applied left me spaced out!

I joined the University Air Squadron (BUAS) and went out to Colerne three or four times a week to learn to fly. BUAS teaches people aerobatics and you also get involved in the RAF proper. In the holidays I went away to different airbases on work experience placements, watching what the pilots did and occasionally flying in proper aeroplanes.

My proudest moment was the day I was accepted into the RAF, towards the end of my second year. The whole reason for doing my degree was to get in to the RAF, so it was a big deal to find out I had made it.

We had our last display of the year last September and ended up in Bristol for the night. I guided the team around Clifton – we went to my old cider haunt, the Coronation Tap, and the Avon Gorge hotel. It was great to be back.

To become a member of the aerobatics team you need to be a fast jet pilot, to have reached a certain rank and to have done one operational tour in a frontline plane. You also need to have been assessed as ’above average’ by your peers in the role that you do.

We go out to Cyprus for two months in the spring to train in the good weather – it means we can practise our vertical manoeuvres very high up.

Every year we recruit three new pilots. Selection is a week-long epic. We invite nine potential candidates out to Cyprus for interview. They fly with us, sitting in the second seat of the aeroplane watching what we do. Then they go home and the team chooses the three successful applicants. The first female Red Arrows pilot ever – Flight Lieutenant Kirsty Moore – joined the team this year.

Until May we wear green flying suits, so you wouldn’t know we were any different from other RAF pilots. In May, if we pass the brothers’ seal of approval from the senior commanders (which we generally do), we become the Red Arrows display team and put on our red flying suits.

I’m number 8 in the formation. This means that I’m on the far right-hand side.

Flying is like driving down a motorway and forgetting to put the brakes on. You get a flash of brake lights and a massive pump of adrenalin. That probably happens about four times a day when we start our training! But in the summer everything’s very smooth and people know what their responsibilities are, so doing the display should be a gentle experience.

Up until the 2003 Iraq war, I flew a Jaguar, patrolling the no-fly zone to the north of Iraq to protect the Kurds from Iraqi incursions. Then I worked with the army in a ground role, helping to co-ordinate the air power as they moved through Iraq.

I will have finished my three years with the Red Arrows next September, after which I’ll almost certainly be going to Afghanistan.

I have fantastically fond memories of Bristol. I’d love to go back to live there when I’m not in the RAF any more.

“Flying is like driving down a motorway and forgetting to put the brakes on.”
A global centenary

The international centenary celebrations were in full swing as the last issue of *Nonesuch* went to print. Alumni celebrated with us at a dozen events, in nine countries, over three months – here are just some of the highlights.
We would like to thank all alumni who worked so hard to organise centenary celebrations in your area – we couldn’t have done it without you! If you’d like to find out about Bristol alumni groups in your country, please go to www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/get-involved/groups/overseas.

Remember, you can keep up to date with University alumni events at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni and at our Facebook page ‘Bristol alumni and friends’.
Events calendar 2010

2009 saw record numbers of Bristol alumni get together for events all over the world. We hope you can join us again in 2010. Unless otherwise stated, booking details are available from www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events or by calling +44 (0)117 928 7939. New events are added regularly so please check the website.

**APRIL**

**Tuesday 13 April 2010**


Greg Spencer (BSc 2006) will talk about his experiences of cycling 907 miles from Land’s End to John O’Groats.

**Thursday 22 April 2010**

Bristol Alumni Forum, London.

Professor Anthony Hollander (PhD 1990), from Bristol’s Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, will debate the future of stem cell research.

**Saturday 24 April 2010**

Midlands Branch: Bletchley Park visit

Visit the UK’s famous World War II decryption site with fellow alumni in the Midlands area. Email timdrakeford@btinternet.com or south-1beam._@tiscali.co.uk or phone +44 (0)121 705 4958 for information.

**Thursday 29 April 2010**

New York Branch network event, O’Caseys, 22 E 41 St, New York.

Drinks take place on the last Thursday of every month. Contact jimruc1@aim.com or wp_vandame@yahoo.com for details.

**Friday 30 April 2010**

Bristol Branch: Golf challenge, Henbury Golf Club, Bristol.

The Bristol Branch is organising a golf tournament where alumni will take on students and staff. Email john.bramhall@bristol.ac.uk for details.

**MAY**

**Wednesday 5 May 2010**


Professor Brenda Sufrin from the School of Law and John Davies (LLB 1977) will discuss competition law.

**Tuesday 11 May 2010**

London Branch: Old Palace Quarter guided walk, London.

The London Branch is organising a historic walk from 6.15 pm, finishing with a pub supper. Email walk@4088.co.uk for further details and booking.

**Tuesday 18 May 2010**

Zutshi-Smith Memorial Lecture, Bristol. The first Zutshi-Smith Memorial Lecture will take place at 5.50 pm in the Banton Lecture Theatre, Social Sciences, Priory Road. Professor the Lord Plant of Highfield will speak on ‘Religion in a liberal state’.

**Wednesday 26 May 2010**


Professor Ronald Hutton considers how the ritual monuments of the British Neolithic and Bronze Age have inspired people since the Middle Ages. Followed by a buffet supper.

**JUNE**

**Tuesday 22 June 2010**

London Branch: Supreme Court visit, London.

The Right Honourable the Baroness Hale of Richmond (Hon LLD 2002), a Justice of the Supreme Court and the University’s Chancellor, will give a private tour of the Supreme Court.

A full weekend programme of events is planned for 2010 to showcase some of the University’s remarkable achievements and continuing excellence.

This weekend provides the ideal opportunity to catch up with old friends, to reminisce and learn about the University today. All alumni are invited to join the celebrations in Bristol. A special invitation is extended to those who graduated in 1985, 1980, 1975, 1970, 1965, 1960, 1955 and 1950.

Find more information about events, including booking details, at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events
Reunion Weekend
4 July 2010

Talks, lectures and conversations
‘Eccentrics and the English Landscape’, ‘Follow Me’ (centenary public artwork tour and talk) and ‘The world’s quietest building’. Talks and tours will also be given by the following schools and departments: Archaeology and Anthropology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Clinical Veterinary Sciences, Earth Sciences (Geology), Humanities, Law, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Music, Physics, Physiology and Pharmacology and Politics.

Lunches, dinners and receptions

Tours and trips
Badock Hall, Botanic Gardens, Clifton Hill House, Goldney Hall gardens and grotto, Wills Hall, Special Collections of the University Library, Wills Memorial Building, bus tour of the precinct, Royal Fort House and the Theatre Collection.

Meetings and ceremonies
Join other alumni, students and staff in the Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building for a special reunion ceremony, where the Vice-Chancellor will speak on the future of education. You can get more involved with the University by attending the Annual General Meeting of Convocation and members of the Wills Hall Association are invited to its Annual General Meeting.

SEPTEMBER
Saturday 18 September 2010
Midlands Branch: visit to the Shugborough Estate.
Email timdrakeford@btinternet.com or south-1beam._@tiscali.co.uk or phone +44 (0) 121 705 4958 for information.
Sunday 19 September 2010
West Coast branch: drinks reception, San Francisco, USA. All West Coast-based alumni are welcome. Contact jbinsted99@comcast.net for details.

OCTOBER
Wednesday 6 October 2010
London Branch: Fifth Annual Lecture Royal College of Pathologists, London.
Professor Dame Carol Black CBE, DSc (BA 1962, MB ChB 1970, MD 1975, Hon DSc 2003), National Director for Health and Work, and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Bristol, will talk about health at work. Drinks and canapés will follow.

NOVEMBER
Thursday 25 November 2010
Pub night for recent graduates, London.
If you graduated between 2000 and 2010, come along for drinks and networking with fellow alumni.

DECEMBER
Thursday 9 December 2010
Convocation reception and awards ceremony, Bristol.
The annual Convocation reception will take place in the Reception Room of the Wills Memorial Building. All alumni, their guests, staff and students are welcome.

The full programme of international events has not yet been confirmed, but will be appearing on the web. If you would like our help to publicise a reunion event you are organising, please contact alumni@bristol.ac.uk.
As the University of Bristol enters its second century, it is crucial that we continue to protect its long term financial independence and security.

By leaving a gift in your Will to the University of Bristol Endowment Fund you can help your University to grow, and you will ensure that future student and academic priorities will never be restricted by lack of funds.

Regardless of its size, your legacy will live on forever, and it will continue to make a significant impact on Bristol University generation after generation.

Anyone can leave a legacy.
Think about it.

For further information, please contact:
Laura Serratrice, Planned Giving Manager, University of Bristol
+44 (0)117 331 7560  laura.serratrice@bristol.ac.uk
www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/planned-giving
Alumni news

Margaret Dews (BA 1965) leads two University of the Third Age (U3A) Latin groups, whose project to translate the London Underground map into Latin recently made the cover of U3A News. *Latinum Subterraneum*, the English-Latin key is available from the Shakespeare Hospice Bookshop, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Mansel David (BA 1974) appeared in his own stage production of *Heidegger's Shadow* at London’s Courtyard Theatre in February and March 2010. He is presenting *Take Desire Away*, about A E Housman, in Dublin from 3 to 8 May.

Helen Overell (née Morrison) (BSc 1975) has published her first poetry collection, *Inscapes & Horizons* is published by St Albert’s Press and is available from Abebooks.

Dr Paul Hainsworth (PhD 1975) is Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of Ulster. His new book, *The Extreme Right in Western Europe*, is published by Routledge.

Julia Jones (BA 1983) has made her British debut conducting at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in a production of Mozart’s *Così Fan Tutte*, produced by Jonathan Miller. Julia has conducted in opera houses all over the world.

Matthew Curry (BA 1991) has launched his first poetry collection, *The Fountain Said*, which is published by Carnforth Press.

Louise Acton (née Cumber) (BA 1994) has worked in PR and as a journalist since leaving Bristol. Recently she has been involved in publicity for the BBC TV series *Victorian Farm*, *Victorian Christmas* and *Escape in Time*. All three programmes were filmed on the family estate of Acton Scott in South Shropshire, where Louise lives with her husband and daughter.

Sam Roberts (BA 2001) has been working on a project called ‘Ghostsigns’ with the History of Advertising Trust, a charity which is creating the first-ever photographic archive of hand-painted advertising. The archive launched in March – find out more at www.ghostsigns.co.uk.

Jeff Rosenspan (Study Abroad 2002-03) is a judicial intern for the Massachusetts Courts of Appeals. A recent graduate of the Commonwealth Seminar at the Massachusetts State House, Jeff is part of the congressional committee writing the state budget. Jeff lives in Boston, MA, where he teaches seminars about successful techniques for the LAST and GMAT exams.

Sue Shephard’s (MA 2004) new book *The Surprising Life of Constance Spry* is published on 16 April by Macmillan.

Dr David Evans (PhD 2006) has co-edited *Ten Years of Triumph of the Moon*. The book addresses academic approaches to studying magic and the occult, 10 years after the publication of Professor Ronald Hutton’s *Triumph of the Moon*. Find out more at www.hiddenpublishing.com.

Anne-Marie Rawden (BA 2006) is the founder of Bristol Tutors, which has become an official sponsor of Let’s Stop Bullying, an awareness campaign to address bullying in the UK. More information can be found at www.letstopbullying.co.uk.

Thai Prime Minister meets Bristol alumni

An event in Bangkok on 14 December 2009 was organised by alumni in Thailand and the Old England Students’ Association and attended by over 100 Bristol alumni. Thailand’s Prime Minister, Abhisit Vejjajiva, was guest of honour and gave a talk entitled ‘Towards the ASEAN community’ (ASEAN stands for the Association of South-East Asian Nations).

Alumni attending ranged from 1955 graduates to one postgraduate student who flew to Thailand just for the evening. Other guests included government ministers, politicians, high-profile members of Thai society and members of the Old England Students’ Association.
Volunteering opportunities

Would you like to support Bristol University and its alumni community?

Expressions of interest/nominations are sought for the voluntary roles of:

Deputy Chairman of Convocation

Candidates should have senior management or leadership experience, and/or other specialist professional skills. Some travelling is required, including attending approximately four meetings in Bristol per year. The new Deputy Chairman is elected at the AGM for a three-year term. For more information contact Bill Ray, Chairman of Convocation, at bill.ray@bristol.ac.uk

Member of Convocation Committee (multiple volunteer posts)

Convocation Committee is the executive body of Convocation, which determines and shapes its activities. Volunteer responsibilities include: nominating representatives to various University committees; encouraging and supporting alumni groups; and providing advice to the University’s Alumni Relations team. The Committee meets two or three times a year and is currently made up of 16 members. New members are elected at the AGM for a three-year term.

Convocation representative on Court (multiple volunteer posts)

Each year the Annual General Meeting of Convocation elects 25 members of Convocation to serve for four years on Court, the body that comprises representatives of all the stakeholders of the University, which has total membership of about 500. Members commit to attend the annual meeting of Court, which is traditionally held on a Friday in December.

The deadline for applications/nominations for all roles is 1 June 2010. For more information and application/nomination forms please visit www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni or contact alumni@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 331 7139.

Convocation is the University of Bristol’s Alumni Association. For more information about Convocation and Convocation Committee visit www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni.
Every year, Convocation, the University’s Alumni Association, awards students who have made an outstanding contribution to University life. This contribution may be to fellow members of the University or to persons outside the University through community actions, or it may reflect the overcoming of personal difficulties such as severe disability.

Nominations are submitted by fellow students and the award winners receive £500 and a Bristol Blue Glass paperweight, presented at the Convocation Reception in December.

Three winners were selected in 2009: Alex Goater (BSc 2008, PhD Mathematics 2008–), Laura Marquez Perez (Maths 2007–) and Matthew Nash (BA 2009).

You can find out more about the Convocation Awards and the winners at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/get-involved/groups/convocation/

Alumni Outreach Project in New York and Tri-State

The Alumni Outreach Project was launched in June 2009 as a way for the British Consulate to connect with Tri-State-based alumni. The project aims to build a network of alumni contacts who can be called on to promote the UK, attend UK trade and investment events and offer great networking opportunities. The launch event, hosted by HRH the Duke of York at the Consular Residence, was attended by representatives of the Fortune 500 companies, with finance, academic, communications, scientific and creative sectors strongly represented.

To support this work, a social media group has been set up using the networking website LinkedIn, which allows alumni to connect with one another and communicate quickly and easily. Bristol has joined this initiative, creating a sub-group for University of Bristol alumni based in New York and Tri-State. This is an excellent business opportunity for Bristol alumni and will be an additional vehicle for promoting Bristol alumni events in the region.

To sign up, please go to www.linkedin.com and join the University of Bristol New York Alumni group.
William Stone (BSc 1936) died 13 November 2009, aged 93.
Dr Mary Corbin (née Leyborne Popham) (BSc 1937, PhD 1939) died 10 September 2009, aged 94.
Grace Butcher (née Ashton) (BA (Comm) 1938, Testamur in Social Studies) died 19 October 2009, aged 92.
Marjorie Emery (née Mytton) (BA 1939) died 2007.
Roy Orford (BSc 1943, MSc 1952) died 20 October 2009, aged 86.
Norman Cannon (BSc 1944) died 29 November 2009, aged 85.
Professor Geoffrey Burbidge (BSc 1946) died 26 January 2010, aged 84.
Professor Philip Bradley (BSc 1948) died 2009, aged 90.
Group Captain E Martyn Allies MBE (BA 1949) died February 2010, aged 89.
Alfred James (BA (Comm) 1948, Certificate in Education 1949) died December 2009, aged 90.
Sister Eileen Hewlett (BA 1949) died 21 November 2009, aged 86.
Richard Owen (BSc 1949) died October 2009, aged 85.
Colin Bolley (BSc 1950) died May 2007, aged 81.
Keith Driscoll (BA 1950) died 24 October 2009, aged 80.
Dr Frederick Appelbe (MB ChB 1952) died 14 December 2009, aged 95.
Dr Alan Otlet (MB ChB 1952) died 15 August 2009, aged 80.
Dr Edward Sayer (BSc 1952, PhD 1955) died 30 December 2009, aged 79.
Joyce Blackshaw (née Rixton) (BA 1954) died 7 October 2009, aged 76.
Derek McLauchlan (BSc 1954) died 7 October 2009, aged 76.
Dr Ennis Bosworth (BA 1955) died 3 December 2009, aged 76.
The Revd Dr Frederik Kaan (BA 1955) died 4 October 2009, aged 80.
Dr Penelope Neville (née Heron) (MB ChB 1956) died 2009, aged 79.
Evelyn Inglis (née Down) (BA 1958) died 31 October 2009, aged 72.
Sheila Hitch (née Railton) (BA 1959) died 9 July 2009, aged 70.
Dr John Williams (BSc 1959, PhD 1963) died 26 November 2009, aged 71.
Dr Norman Edwards (BSc 1961) died 9 October 2009, aged 70.
Antony Messervy (LLB 1959) died 15 September 2009, aged 73.
Dr Anthony Morgan (MB ChB 1961, MD 1968) died 2009, aged 72.
Keith Upton (PhD 1962) died January 2010, aged 73.
Christopher Collier-Wright (BA 1963) died 8 February 2009, aged 67.
Shirley Robinson (née Stocks) (BA 1963) died November 2009.
Sidney John Abbots (BDS 1965) died 2009, aged 68.
John Davey (BSc 1965, MSc 1972) died 29 August 2009, aged 65.
Dr Sheila Malm (PhD 1969) died 20 December 2008, aged 65.
Dr David Dawbarn (PhD 1983) died 20 November 2009, aged 67.
Dr Roland Su (BSc 1992, PhD 1997) died 16 November 2009, aged 39.
Dr Jason Pycroft (MSc 1996) died June 2009, aged 37.

The University extends its sincere condolences to the families and friends of those alumni listed below, for whom the University has received notification of death.
Sun, sea and sultans

Dr Frank Martin (BSc 1967) travelled to Turkey with a group of Bristol alumni on a relaxing holiday with an archaeological theme.

“That looks interesting”!

Presumably, all 12 of us had come to the same conclusion as we saw the advert in Nonesuch for a guided archaeological cruise along Turkey’s Lycian coast. Organised for Bristol alumni by travel company IMA, it promised a perfect mix of culture, sun, sea and sailing. Thus we arrived at Göcek where Ophius, a twin-masted gulet, was waiting for us.

We soon started to get to know each other. “What’s your connection with Bristol?” became the standard conversation-opener.

‘We were introduced to Dr Tamar Hodos, Senior Lecturer at the University of Bristol and specialist in Mediterranean archaeology. We also met the superb local team: tour manager Jemma and our guide Suleyman (the Magnificent!).

The boat would set off early and cruise along the coast. We might then swim, have lunch and perhaps laze under the boat’s awning during the hottest part of the day. Then on to the shore in the late afternoon. We saw the fascinating sites of Xanthos and Lycia and one day took a minibus up to Çatalhüyük. This is where Dr Hodos is looking at the archaeology of the late Bronze Age.

We were encouraged to wander over the site looking for pottery fragments. The locals laid on a wonderful tea, with herb and cheese flatbread made from spelt flour. Upon our return to Fethiye most of the group went to the local Turkish baths.

In between the sightseeing, there was plenty of time for swimming and snorkelling. And on the last day, the sails were unfurled – bliss. At a rather emotional last dinner Jemma read us from Pliny the Younger’s letters to the Emperor. I promised not to mention the belly-dancing!

Dr Tamar Hodos will be leading another alumni tour June 2011. Details below.

University of Bristol Alumni travel programme 2010-11

Galapagos Islands Cruise & Ecuador 18-30 November 2010 £4,350

We are delighted to offer this popular tour once again. After visiting Colonial Quito, with its multitude of churches and UNESCO protected buildings, we travel along the Avenue of the Volcanoes among stunning scenery. Next, fly to the Galapagos Archipelago for an exciting eight-day cruise through the Islands on board a privately chartered yacht, Coral I. The Galapagos are home to an amazing variety of wildlife and birds – red and blue footed boobies, frigate birds, giant tortoises, marine iguanas, sea lions and many more. And you can combine this with a visit to the Ecuadorian Amazon Rainforest, a world of verdures, colourful bird life and ecological adventure.

Trip Scholar: Professor Chris Periss FRS, University of Oxford.

IMA pioneered alumni travel in the UK, and is proud to have provided an exciting travel programme for University of Bristol alumni for over eight years.

Travel with like-minded individuals in the company of an expert lecturer, while helping the University at the same time – a proportion of the tour price goes directly to the University as a donation.

For a full-colour brochure contact:

IMAtravel
13 The Avenue
Kew
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 2AL
TEL: +44 (0) 20 8940 4114
Email: ima@templeworld.com
Website: www.imatravel.com

Turkey: The Coast of Ancient Lycia
20-27 June 2011 £1,590

This cruise is full of theatres, tombs and the beautiful Taurus Mountains which in Lycia rise from the sea to heights of over 10,000 feet. The area has wonderful classical cities like Xanthos, Letoon and Patara which feature widely in the history of the eastern Mediterranean. The pretty coastal towns of Kaş and Kalkan are littered with Lycian remains. Other lovely places include Kekova, probably the most beautiful part of the Mediterranean, with a host of islands making it a water wonderland. For those who enjoy the cruising life there is plenty of relaxation and swimming and the daily explorations ashore can be gentle or adventurous as you wish.

Trip Scholar: Dr Tamar Hodos, University of Bristol.
This is my Bristol

Greg Spencer (BSc 2006), fundraising manager in the University of Bristol’s Campaigns and Alumni Relations Office.

Why did you choose Bristol?
Bristol’s excellent reputation was without a doubt the main draw. I also saw my acceptance offer of AAA to study Politics as a challenge – nowhere else was as tough to get into!

What were your first impressions?
That Bristol was very different to Aberystwyth where I grew up! Overwhelming in an entirely positive way; being surrounded by so many bright students and beautiful buildings made me feel proud, but also made me realise that this was a special place where my degree wasn’t going to come easily.

What kind of student were you?
Pretty typical – scruffy and poor! Hand on heart, I’m sure I could have worked harder, but Bristol – both the University and the city – had so much to offer that my academic work always had tough competition!

And away from study?
Much of my time was taken up with playing football, writing for the University newspaper Epigram and working on the University’s fundraising telethon. I also rode my bike a great deal, touring around North Wales every summer with friends. It was during one of these rides that I had the idea to cycle from Land’s End to John O’Groats for the Bristol University Cancer Research Fund.

Were there any academicians or other members of staff who made a particular impression on you?
Jenny Szewiel, who was my first boss in the Campaigns and Alumni Relations Office, was an inspiration.

Looking back, would you have done anything differently?
I would have tried to do more of everything, though I think I gave it a pretty good shot as it was. That’s what was so great about Bristol, there was always so much opportunity to do as many different things as you wanted.

What are the key things that your time at Bristol gave you?
My girlfriend, my degree, my job.

How has your time at Bristol influenced your career?
It has had a huge influence. What began as a student job fundraising for the University has now developed into a career that I love.

What do you think Bristol’s role is today?
To continue being a centre for excellence, giving people like myself an outstanding start to their grown-up lives. And to encourage world-class research that enhances our understanding of the world around us.

Do you have any tips or words of advice for Bristol freshers?
Try to do everything (within reason and the law!).

Sum up your Bristol experience in three words.
Magnificent + Brilliant = Bristol.

Last year Greg cycled from Land’s End to John O’Groats in 13 days; he’ll reveal all at a special alumni event on 13 April 2010 at Corney and Barrow in London. Greg’s talk ‘2009: a two-wheeled odyssey’ is the latest instalment in the London Branch of Convocation’s series of events showcasing alumni who have taken on extreme physical challenges. Tickets are priced £20. To book, please email cyclist@4088.co.uk.
Every year the University produces a calendar to say thank you to its donors, which features arresting images of Bristol. For 2011’s calendar, we’d like to focus the camera lens further with our theme ‘Bristol alumni around the world’.

We want to feature some of the beautiful places around the world where Bristol alumni live and we want you to supply the photos. Whether home is the bustling streets of Bangkok or the sun-drenched Californian coast, we want to hear from you.

All entries will be considered by a panel of students and 14 will be chosen for the 2011 calendar. All winners will receive a calendar to keep.

The competition closes on 31 August 2010, so get your entries in now!
Send your photos to us at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/calendar.

Calling all photographers!