Special report: Safer drinking water for millions
In recent years, the University has taken to summing up its essential purposes in three words: learning, discovery, enterprise. This issue of *Nonesuch* concentrates on the last of these.

In reality, of course, it is no more possible to separate ‘enterprise’ from ‘learning’ or ‘discovery’ than it is to take the words out of a stick of rock. At least, that’s the way we see it at Bristol: enterprise at the University is not a bolted-on extra but an integral part of the institution’s life.

Enterprise seems to be associated with a particular caste of mind – one that is driven by curiosity, drawn to experiment and prepared to take calculated risks. The University is full of people like that, and Bristol alumni are, in my experience, an unusually enterprising lot. Did they choose Bristol because they were always enterprising and sensed that this was the right place for them, or did they catch the spirit of enterprise once they were here? I dare say the answer is ‘a bit of both’.

Some people channel their instinct for enterprise into commercial activities. This may be seen as the ‘entrepreneurial’ dimension of enterprise. Bristol students, academics and alumni are rather good at spotting the business opportunities that can open up through research and through the honing of knowledge and skills.

Sometimes these opportunities bring substantial economic gains. On other occasions the benefits are more obviously societal in nature. Either way, the University seeks to encourage enterprise, innovation and entrepreneurship. They are essential to its commitment to making a positive difference to individuals, communities and the wider world.

I hope you enjoy this issue, even if enterprise is not particularly up your street. The team behind *Nonesuch* works hard at keeping things at the human level so that everyone can relate comfortably to the magazine’s contents.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful summer (or, in the case of our geographically most distant alumni and friends, winter).

Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004)
Vice-Chancellor

P.S. 2009 is Bristol University’s centenary and we are planning a programme of activities to celebrate. The Centenary Alumni Weekend will take place on 3 to 5 July, so mark the date in your diary now. Look out for more information about how you can get involved across the year.
Inside

Features

8 Water, water everywhere
Enterprise at the University is not just about wealth generation. We report on a groundbreaking programme that could provide safer drinking water for millions.

12 Prevision express
Visual effects, industry awards and show-biz parties: Rob Finlay (BA 2003) gives us the low-down on his road to success.

14 The rubber revolution
Two students plan to bring a conscience to the condom market.

18 Born for business
Meet Bristol’s most successful entrepreneurs.

22 Where are the women?
We ask three enterprising Bristol alumnae why there aren’t more female entrepreneurs.

26 You’re hired! Nearly…
The Apprentice runner up Claire Young (BSc 2001) shows us that she doesn’t need Alan Sugar to succeed.

Regulars

2 The big picture
4 News
28 How I became a pie-shop owner
29 From the collections
A different take
36 This is my Bristol:
Nigel Wray (BSc 1970, Hon LLD 2005)
37 Parting shot

Alumni update

30 Obituaries
31 Your news
32 Alumni news
33 Legacy
34 Events

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‘State of the Art’, a student team from Bristol, won this year’s Profitunity, a national entrepreneurial competition run by Ernst and Young. The team set up a student art competition, exhibition and auction, which received over 400 entries and raised £25,000 for The Prince’s Trust.

Dental School celebrates expansion
The University’s Dental Hospital and School celebrated a £15-million expansion on 23 April. The state-of-the-art facility – the most advanced of its kind in the country – will accommodate new dental students who, when qualified, will provide much-needed NHS dental treatment to an estimated 63,000 patients a year.

Law students win Pro Bono Award
A team of seven students in the School of Law who form part of the University of Bristol Innocence Project have received an award from the Attorney General at the House of Lords. The Attorney General’s Pro Bono Awards celebrate the best legal pro bono activities undertaken by students and law schools, and the positive impact that this work has had on those helped.

Missing live
James Burstall’s (BA 1987) TV production company Leopard Films was behind the BBC series Missing Live, which followed the work of the police and charity Missing People as they search for some of the 200,000 who go missing each year.

The problem of keeping track of thousands of near-identical African penguins may have been solved. Bristol scientists have developed surveillance technology that can identify individual birds and then monitor them over long periods of time. It could also be used to track and monitor other endangered species, from butterflies to whales.

Until now, if you wanted to follow penguins you would use metal flipper bands, which have an ID code. To read them, ecologists need to capture the animals and record the tag number. But this is time-intensive and error-prone, especially when dealing with large numbers of birds such as the 20,000-strong population of African penguins that live on Robben Island, South Africa, that have been the focus of this study. African penguins carry a pattern of black spots on their chests that does not change from season to season during their adult life. As far as scientists can tell, no two penguins have exactly the same pattern. The researchers have developed a real-time system that can locate African penguins whose chests are visible within video sequences or still images. An extraction of the chest-spot pattern allows the generation of a unique biometrical identifier for each penguin.

Peter Barham (MSc 1973, PhD 1975), Professor of Physics at Bristol and penguin fanatic, developed the Penguin Recognition System. He said: ‘Once achieved, these systems will revolutionise the precision, quantity and quality of population data available to ecologists and conservationists.’

Visit www.spotthepenguin.com for more information.

Public-sector ethos
Employees in the public sector do not face the same level of financial incentives as those in the private sector. This public-service ethos, whereby employees are driven to serve the greater public good rather than financial reward, is considered essential for these key services. Privatisation of these services and the introduction of financial incentives could threaten to undermine that ethos.
A remarkable archive of previously unseen images of some of the ‘60s greatest rock ‘n’ roll stars has been brought to light with the help of a Bristol student.


The pictures were taken by Wright when he was a staff photographer on the Northern Echo in the 1960s and document the early days of rock ‘n’ roll – from the beginnings of the Geordie Mafia to Gerry and the Pacemakers.

While studying for his MA, Chase also worked on the editing and publication of the book. ‘Living in England has allowed me to appreciate the dynamic history of the nation and its contributions to rock ‘n’ roll,’ he said. ‘The opportunity to collaborate on a book that is indeed a magnificent snapshot of the social, cultural and political history of the era has been fulfilling for me as an aspiring author and editor.’

Bristol graduate Jayne Pearce (BA 1986) will be heading up the press operations for the 2012 Olympics. She was appointed Press Chief in May this year.

Jayne, who was President of Bristol’s Athletic Union in 1986/87 and was honoured with a University of Bristol Red for netball, is founder and co-director of Pearce International, a company that specialises in media operations for sporting events. ‘This is a dream come true for me,’ said Jayne. ‘It is the culmination of a career and a challenge I relish. To be responsible for providing the press operations service for over 21,000 media in London in 2012 is an incredible prospect but one that I am ready for.’

The University’s Big Band, the Hornstars, has won a gold award in the National Concert Band Festival Finals in Warwick – their third gold win in a row. The Hornstars also scooped a black award for their hat-trick.

In January the Hornstars performed on ITV’s *Britain’s Got Talent* at Cardiff’s Millennium Centre. The band got through to the next stage of the competition but reluctantly turned down the opportunity to go through to the next round, fearing that it would detract too much from their university studies.

You can find out more about the Hornstars, book the band or listen to them online on their website: www.bristolhornstars.co.uk.
IN BRIEF

Heading down right Africa
Two Bristol graduates are organising a 6,000-mile bike rally to raise money for rural Kenyan schools. Down Right Africa is the brainchild of Simon Thompson (BSc 2001) and Adam Robinson (PhD 2005) and they hope it will raise £60,000 – enough money to build a primary school for 700 children. The pair is looking for other cyclists to join them on this adventure of a lifetime. The rally will set off from Cambridge in September this year. You can find more information at www.downrightafrica.org.

Summit special
2008 saw Matt Williams (MSc 2002) (pictured below) take a break from his work in renewable energy to climb Mount Everest. Matt reached the summit on 23 May, after two gruelling months climbing and living in base camp. He raised money from his climb for S.O.S. Children’s Villages.

Alum appointed Chief Scientific Advisor
Professor Mark Welland FRS FREng (MSc 1981, PhD 1984) was appointed Chief Scientific Adviser at the Ministry of Defence this year. He will be responsible for providing high-quality scientific advice to Ministers, senior officials and the Armed Forces.

Looking into our bodies
Bristol is already world-famous for its biomedical research, but now it will be able to advance techniques that look in even greater detail at what’s going on in our bodies. The Wolfson Bioimaging Facility opened in June thanks to an investment of £1 million from the Wolfson Foundation and £300,000 from the Medical Research Council.

Music student scores at Cannes
A short film scored by Bristol music student Nathan Britton (Music 2006-) and screened on Channel 4 was shown at this year’s Cannes Film Festival. Nathan played and recorded a jazz piano improv for the film, entitled Looking for Marilyn, given only the directors’ guidelines, timings and suggestions.

In a spin
Amateur astronomer Richard Miles (BSc 1973, PhD 1976) has discovered the fastest rotating natural object known in our solar system. His observations, made using a telescope normally shared by school students and professional scientists, have proved that the newly discovered asteroid, 2008 HJ, is revolving once every 42.7 seconds.

Rowing for gold
Zoology graduate Niall McCann (BSc 2004) and his friend James Burge have been awarded the Evening Post Bristol Gold Star Award for their charity work for Bristol Zoo. They will receive the award at a ceremony in December.

The pair, both recruitment consultants, rowed 3,000 miles across the Atlantic to raise funds for Bristol Zoo Gardens’ primate projects in Cameroon. They finished the 2007 Atlantic Rowing Race on 5 February in fifth place out of 15 pairs making the crossing.

With no prior rowing experience, the boys trained for up to 20 hours per week for a year in the University’s Centre for Sports Exercise and Health. As a part of their training they smashed the world record for rowing one million metres on an indoor rowing machine by almost five hours.

Bristol reunited
Over 600 alumni returned to Bristol in July from as far away as Australia, Barbados and Canada for this year’s Convocation Reunion Weekend.

Graduates from the classes of 1958, 1968, 1978 and 1983 celebrated the 50th, 40th, 30th and 25th anniversaries of their graduation. Other highlights included a visit to ChemLabS and a harbourside boat trip.

Next year’s Centenary Alumni Weekend will take place during the weekend of Friday 3 to Sunday 5 July 2009.
Archaeologists explore Peruvian mystery

Indian Jones may be flying over the Nazca Lines in Peru in his latest Hollywood adventure, but two British archaeologists have been investigating the enigmatic desert drawings for several years.

Dr Nick Saunders from Bristol and Professor Clive Ruggles from the University of Leicester are locating and measuring the lines with high-precision GPS, photographing the distribution of 1,500-year-old pottery, and painstakingly working out the chronological sequence of overlying lines and designs.

Funded by the Anglo-Peruvian Cultural Association in Lima, their research hopes to unlock the purpose of the dazzling but confusing array of desert drawings. ‘Identifying which lines came first, whether they were spiritual or functional, and exactly how they were used during a thousand years of prehistory is a great challenge,’ said Dr Saunders. ‘The treasure is not gold but insight, and the mystery is cultural not extraterrestrial.’

Oldest parrot fossil found in Scandinavia

Fossil expert and Bristol graduate Dr David Waterhouse (BSc 2000, PGCE 2001, MSc 2002) has established for the first time that parrots lived in Scandinavia about 55 million years ago.

David, who is the Assistant Curator of Natural History at Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, made his discovery three years ago in Denmark when he spotted the remains in a small museum on the Isle of Mors in Jutland. He was able to establish that the fossilised 6cm long humerus, or upper wing, had all the hallmarks of the parrot family.

The species has been given the scientific name Mopsitta Tanta; however, David has nicknamed the bird ‘Danish Blue’, a term derived from the famous Monty Python comedy sketch about a Norwegian blue parrot.

IN BRIEF

Engineering students ride high in national awards
Four students from Bristol have been selected as ‘inspirational role models to the next generation of engineers’ by the Royal Academy of Engineering. Thomas Greenhill (Mechanical Engineering 2006–), Eleanor Heath (Civil Engineering 2006–), Alexander Martin (Civil Engineering 2006–) and Alexey Likhoded (Avionic Systems 2006–) competed in a challenging selection event against 167 students from UK universities to win the national Royal Academy of Engineering Leadership Advanced Awards.

Best for visual effects
Bristol graduate Ben Morris (BEng 1993) 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. Framestore provided many of the digital effects used in the film, including giant polar bear Iorek, his evil arch-enemy Ragnar and the icy environment in which they all live.

Whopping wind tunnel
Skydiving enthusiasts will soon be able to enjoy the adrenaline-pumping sport in the world’s largest vertical wind tunnel. The skydiving simulator – iFly Singapore – will measure five metres in diameter and have a flying height of 17 metres. The transparent wind tunnel will offer flyers spectacular views of the South China Sea and Sentosa’s Siloso Beach. Bristol graduate Lawrence Koh (BEng 2002), managing director of iFly Singapore, said: ‘The simulator will play a key role in promoting this unique sport in Asia while attracting world-class skydivers and international skydiving events to Singapore.’
Water, water everywhere

There is water everywhere, but a lot of it isn’t safe to drink. This could soon change thanks to a groundbreaking programme which aims to tackle water-borne disease head on.

“I knew that there had to be a way to develop something cheap and effective that could be used in the field.”

Professor Stephen Gundry

The Bristol chemists involved in the project. From left to right: Dr Claire Woodall, Professor Anthony Davis and Dr Germinal Magro
The statistics are stark. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that waterborne disease causes 1.8 million deaths annually, of which 1.5 million are children under five. Over one billion people lack access to safe water. Most do not even know their water is unsafe.

For Professor Stephen Gundry, Director of the University’s Water and Health Research Centre, a key element seemed to be missing in the effort to bring clean water to the poor: a low-cost device that can test whether water is actually safe to drink. The thought first occurred to him back in 2004 while he was researching water contamination in Zimbabwe. He was struck by the fact that no water testing was taking place. He soon realised the reason why: the testing devices on the market just didn’t suit developing countries. For a start, the tests needed to be carried out in a lab, which in the middle of Africa could be hundreds of miles away. You have to send the sample on ice, which needs electricity. ‘I knew that there had to be a way to develop something cheap and effective that could be used in the field,’ Professor Gundry says.

Fast forward five years and this seed of an idea has grown into the Aquatest Research Programme, which aims to deliver the first low-cost, easy-to-use water test that can help people in developing countries to identify unsafe water and empower them to work toward improvements in water supply. In October last year, the programme got a huge boost when it secured a $13 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Global Development Program.

Aquatest is a simple concept: a handheld device that indicates whether or not water is safe to drink by displaying the test results as coloured bands, indicating the degree of contamination. A simple concept, yes, but the reality is more complex. The device has to work in developing countries, and it has to change people’s behaviour. To this end, the programme has brought together a huge range of expertise – engineering, product development, microbiology, consumer preferences and behaviours, water policy and regulation – from Bristol and beyond. Bristol is leading this international consortium, which includes WHO, University of California, Berkeley and other research institutes.

The device is still being developed but is expected to work like this: a small sample of water (100ml) is collected directly in the device, a small cylinder containing ten separate tubes. The sample is then left to rest at ambient temperature for 24-48 hours to allow micro-organisms in the water to be detected. After this period, if the central tube changes colour, this indicates that the water is contaminated. Colour changes in the outer tubes give information about the level of contamination – the more tubes that change colour, the greater the contamination. These bands of quality are important: they can show, for example, that the water might be safe for healthy adults to drink, but not safe for children or the sick.

So who would use the device? There are three main categories: professionals, communities and households. Although water is provided in some areas by government or water utilities, it can still become contaminated before being drunk. If a cheap test could produce reliable results without the need for a laboratory or special training, water engineers could arrange for their staff to test the water regularly. Even in remote areas, visiting health workers or community volunteers could undertake water testing to ensure safe water is arriving in villages.

Where no water is piped into a village, communities arrange their own water supply. This could be a naturally occurring source of water (a spring, river, lake or pond) or a well or borehole. These communities have a strong interest in ensuring water quality for their families, but at the moment they have no way of knowing whether the water is clean. Households could also test the water they store at home in containers.

Aquatest is not intended to be a health education programme, although there are plans for accompanying advice about water safety management and checking for contamination. What it does intend to do is give people the information they need to identify unsafe water, encourage treatment before use and motivate changes in water management and sanitation. ‘Without water testing it is very difficult for communities to look after their water supply,’ says Professor Gundry. ‘If you don’t know it’s contaminated why would you make changes? And you need to see improvements to motivate change.’

Scientifically, the device will detect the micro-organism E. coli in water and will be sensitive enough to detect ten E. coli colonies in the 100ml sample. The presence of E. coli indicates that the water is contaminated with faeces, which means that there are likely to be other pathogens present.

The School of Chemistry’s Professor Anthony Davis and Drs Claire Woodall and Germinal Magro are responsible for the bacterial growth mixture used in the device. The mixture will be designed to promote the selective growth of E. coli, while signalling that the bacteria are present by a change in colour.

This in itself isn’t difficult science – it has been done before. Professor
Davis already knows he can make a mixture that works. But the next stage is where the more challenging work lies: optimising the mixture to make it as sensitive and appropriate as possible for use in developing countries.

One of the challenges is to get the product to work in the field over the range of variable ambient temperatures that are found in different regions. *E. coli* incubates at 37 degrees centigrade. It’s easy to get this exact temperature in a laboratory, but the device needs to work without electricity. Professor Davis has to find a way to allow the *E. coli* to grow fast enough, even at lower temperatures, to produce a colour change. This could mean a temperature control device, but that would be costly, or it could mean making it possible for a tiny bit of *E. coli* growth to produce a strong colour.

But it’s the time it takes for the test to work that Professor Davis sees as the most crucial challenge in the long term. In the laboratory, the process currently takes 24 hours. He wants to cut this down to six.

He admits that this is not the kind of science that leads to papers in high-profile chemical journals, but this isn’t what motivated him to get involved. ‘It’s clearly something that needed doing,’ he explains. ‘The people who need this product haven’t got the money to pay for it and industry isn’t going to develop it because there’s no serious profit in it.’

Meanwhile, the team in the Faculty of Engineering is leading the research into the design and technological development of the device. Professor Gundry came up with the initial outline and is now working with a design house in Bristol to turn this engineering model into a consumer product – one that lasts. ‘Getting consumable supplies to the places of need in developing countries can take time, particularly with extended distribution channels to the remoter districts,’ says Professor Gundry. ‘It’s not good having something with a short shelf life. It needs to last for a minimum of three years.’

The team is considering developing a slightly more complicated device for professionals to use. It would involve incubation (possibly solar-powered) and would enable professionals to get a quicker result.

Of course, it’s all very well developing the device, but if people don’t use it, or fail to change their behaviour as a result of it, it’s useless. Professor Gundry is keen to emphasise this. ‘It doesn’t matter how good the technology is, it has to work in the field. The device has to be affordable, available and usable.’

This is where the involvement of Dr Patricia Lucas and Professor Dave Gordon (PhD 1988) from the School for Policy Studies and Professor Alan Emond from the Centre for Child and Adolescent Health is so crucial. They are collaborating with the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Cape Town, the Aquaya Institute, the University of Southampton and Indian partners to carry out field studies in South Africa and India.

They will assess users’ needs and responses to the device, including the impact the device is having on water management and behaviour change. If you give someone the device, what do they do with it? Could people be persuaded to walk further to the standpipe to collect their water if you showed that the water they are collecting from the nearby river is contaminated? This information will in turn inform the device design process.

Dr Lucas emphasises the importance of the in-country partners. ‘We
don’t want to parachute in solutions. Feedback from our partners is key to the whole project – from design and implementation to the assessment of impact.’

So why did Dr Lucas get involved in the programme? ‘My research interest is children,’ she explains. ‘I look at the evidence for effective interventions to improve child health. If you’re interested in child health, you have to be interested in clean water. So many children die because of contaminated water and we could prevent so many deaths with better supply and treatment of water.’

An integral component of the project is to develop a sustainable basis for the manufacturing, distribution and marketing of the device and an action plan to promote uptake. Dr Lucas, Professors Gordon and Emond and Professor Bronwen Morgan from the School of Law will also work alongside WHO to look at the policy implications at national and international levels. PATH, a not-for profit technology transfer organisation based in Seattle, USA, will lead on market analysis and licensing and will work with researchers and Bristol’s Research and Enterprise Development Office to prepare for commercialisation of the Aquatest device.

These are exciting times for everyone involved in the programme. The device is expected to be ready for launch in 2010 and the programme’s long-term vision is that low-cost water-testing devices will be in widespread use in 80 per cent of developing countries within ten years, leading to improved water management and a decline in water-borne diseases.

That could make a very real difference to the lives of millions of people in the developing world.

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* Preparatory research on Aquatest was funded by the European Union’s Global Change and Ecosystems Programme.

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### Ten facts about water and sanitation

1. Over one billion people (one-sixth of the world’s population) lack access to improved water sources. Over 2.4 billion people (two-fifths of the world’s population) lack access to basic sanitation. (WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme)

2. Almost 425 million children under the age of 18 lack access to an improved water supply and over 980 million lack access to improved sanitation. (UNICEF)

3. Diarrhoea occurs worldwide and causes 4 per cent of all deaths and 5 per cent of health loss to disability. Diarrhoeal diseases kill an estimated 1.8 million people each year, the vast majority children under five. Diarrhoeal disease is the third biggest killer among communicable disease after respiratory infections and HIV/AIDS. (WHO)

4. Hygiene interventions including hygiene education and the promotion of hand washing can lead to a reduction of diarrhoea by up to 45 per cent. Improvements in drinking water quality through household water treatment, such as chlorination at point of use, can lead to a reduction of diarrhoea by between 35 per cent and 39 per cent. (WHO)

5. The weight of water that women in Africa and Asia carry on their heads is commonly 20kg, the same as the average UK airport luggage allowance. (WaterAid)

6. 2005 to 2015 is the UN’s International Decade for Action on ‘Water for Life’. 2008 is designated as the UN’s International Year of Sanitation. (IYS)

7. Poor countries with improved water and sanitation enjoy a 3.7 per cent average annual growth as opposed to 0.1 per cent for those without. (Sachs, 2001)

8. Achieving the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target would bring economic benefits, ranging from £1.50 to £17 per £1 invested, depending on the region of the world. From a health point of view, achieving the water and sanitation MDG target, by using simple technologies, would lead to a global average reduction of 10 per cent of episodes of diarrhoea. (WHO)

9. The average cost per water quality test with currently available field kits is £1.

10. A Department for International Development-funded project in Bangladesh has reduced the cost of arsenic testing to the point that it has created a private market where the poor are willing to pay to test their own wells. (DFID/Emerging Markets Group, 2006)
Prevision express

In 2003, fresh out of University, Rob Finlay (BA 2003) set up Previsualisation Ltd. He thought it would be a good way to gain experience in the film and TV world and make a bit of money. Four years on, he and business partner Martin Calder have turned it into an award-winning visualisation company based in the world-famous Elstree Film Studios. Rob fills us in on the road to success.
Previsualisation is a technique that was developed in the US. It is used to plan visual effects sequences, set design and shots for film and TV. We saw that there was an opportunity to bring this technique into the UK and offer it outside of the film and TV world, for example in architectural design. It’s a way of planning complex visuals in a low-cost, computer-generated environment.

We offer previsualisation alongside more conventional visualisation services, such as story boarding, concept art and 3D animation, as well as web virals, filming and photography and corporate DVD production.

When we first set up, a lot of industry people said how difficult it would be. The film and TV industry is particularly tight knit. This can make it a friendly and familiar place to work, but also means that good news or bad news travels quickly.

We love what we do for lots of reasons. Working with visual media is exciting – you get to be creative and to solve problems. Every day is different and you meet all kinds of people.

Our work has many positive applications, most notably through our architectural visualisation services. We believe that good planning and design can have a really positive impact on the world’s built and natural environment, and its continued sustainability.

We get our fair share of glamour and invitations to great parties. We met Matt Damon at the Bourne Ultimatum wrap party, Tim Burton at the Sweeney Todd wrap, Ian McKellen, Roger Moore and Lord Attenborough this year and we previously worked on Mr Bean’s Holiday with Rowan Atkinson.

Some of the work we’ve done in the art and fashion world is very high profile. We worked for the artists Noble and Webster on two art installations called Sacrificial Heart and Electric Fountain. The latter was unveiled in New York’s Rockefeller Plaza in February.

I don’t see a huge amount of separation between work and my personal life because I love my work so much. I am often to be found at events and parties shamelessly promoting the company.

To succeed in this industry, you need to be very proactive. An established industry friend once told me, ‘You’ve got to keep banging the drum’.

We’ve learned from some of the best in the industry. One of the first people we met after establishing the company was Vic Armstrong. He invited us to the set of Tomorrow Never Dies where he was directing the Vietnam BMW motor bike action sequences. He even told Tom Cruise about us when they were prepping for Mission Impossible III.

We produced an educational DVD called Recycling Land, which won Best Non-Broadcast Production Award at the Creative East Awards 2007. It looks at the history of the Bowers and Pitsea Marshes in south Essex. It’s a journey through time in which the audience encounters animated and live action historical characters. Tony Robinson (Hon MA 1999) did the voice-over.

I get a kick out of getting a new contract. When a client phones us and says how happy they are with what we have done, it feels great and keeps you going.

You need to be on your toes in this job. Recently a client had a last-minute request to produce a short film highlighting the benefits of their charity to potential investors. One week after our initial meeting we delivered the film, which they screened in parliament that week.

You also need to be hugely flexible. One minute you might be on a movie set and the next in protective gear on an industrial landfill site.

You need to know what you are talking about and be honest with people about what you are capable of achieving. Most projects have fixed deadlines and there is nothing worse than letting someone down. Reputation is of key importance. Surround yourself with positively minded people and you’re in with a good chance.

The future looks exciting. We’ve been offered the job of running the visual effects department for a series of new feature films in the UK. We’re also looking to get involved in more government contracts.

Enterprise opportunities are everywhere. You just have to keep your eyes open and be prepared to go and get them.

Bristol gave me a lot of skills. The most special thing for me was the varied people I met living in halls. People would meet in my room after lectures to discuss their courses and we would all read each other’s work. I learnt a lot about a variety of other disciplines in this way, which I’ve definitely found useful in running this business. Bristol undoubtedly provided me with a fantastic network for life in terms of business and friendship.

If you would like to contact Rob, you can email him at info@previsualisation.com or call +44 (0)208 324 2297 or download the show reel at www.previsualisation.com.
The rubber revolution

Students Nick Verkroost and Reagan D’Mello (both Engineering Design with Study in Industry 2003- ) have big plans to bring a conscience to the condom market. Eve MacFarlane finds out more.
The more I researched the market, the more convinced I became that we needed products that give something back to those less fortunate than ourselves.”
With their smart shirts, chinos and firm handshakes, they have the look of young men about to embark on careers in the City. Yet all is not as it seems. Nick and Reagan are graduating this summer, but instead of hot-footing it to London to make their millions in the square mile, they plan to save the world ‘one shag at a time’. Ahem, let me explain.

The pair is the brains behind Standup Condoms, which, if all goes to plan, will be the world’s foremost ethical condom company. It’s a brilliant, yet simple, idea: a new, funky condom brand with a conscience. The aim is to plough all profits from the sale of the condoms into HIV/AIDS prevention programmes overseas and sexual health education in the UK, making the purchase of a pack of condoms an ethical and emotional decision, rather than just a practical one.

And their plans for a rubber revolution haven’t gone unnoticed by the University – the boys have made it through to the finals of this year’s New Enterprise Competition, the annual contest designed to inspire business ideas and entrepreneurial talent. They saw off stiff competition from other students, staff and alumni to become one of only two undergraduate entrants in the final ten. It was a close call, however; in an interesting twist to the competition, student-run company Bristol University Business Angels (BUBA) gets to choose one ‘wildcard’ – an entrant that didn’t make it into the initial shortlist – to go through to the final. Last year, the wildcard won. This year, BUBA backed Standup Condoms.

I meet up with Nick and Reagan in late June, a few weeks before the results of the competition are due to be announced. My first question: how did two engineering students end up in the business of condoms? Luke Aikman (LLB 2006), an old friend of Nick’s from a gap-year ski season, persuaded the pair to take part in SPARK, a week of workshops Luke runs for the University on entrepreneurship. It’s a whistle-stop tour, covering everything from idea generation to branding. Participants work in teams of five to develop a business idea and the week culminates in a Dragon’s Den-style scenario. Each group pitches their idea to the ‘dragons’, which include some well-established entrepreneurial alumni such as Mike Bennett (BSc 1997). Standup Condoms won, bagging themselves £3,500 in prize money.

‘The idea came out of the process,’ says Reagan. ‘We were encouraged to be open-minded; to build on every idea to see how far we could take it. As soon as ethical condoms came up, we knew we had something. Everyone in the team felt it.’

Fired up by their success at SPARK, Nick and Reagan decided to have a stab at the New Enterprise Competition under guidance from BUBA; it was just too good an idea to ditch. At this point Luke, an experienced entrepreneur, came on board. This was a real coup for the boys. ‘Luke was keen to be part of Standup’, explains Nick. ‘And we recognised that we needed someone with his know-how on the team. We’ve really fed off his experience.’

In March, all applicants were invited to a networking lunch when the ten finalists were announced. Then, with three months to wait until the final results, the now-trio busied themselves developing their business plan and pitch and forging key contacts. They met with a number of leading charities to see how Standup Condoms can help. They’re taking a humble approach to this. ‘We’ll let the charities guide us,’ says Nick. ‘We want aid to be delivered in the best way possible and they’re the experts in this field.’

So how important is it for Standup to win the competition? ‘It will prove to us that the idea is concrete,’ replies Reagan. It will also mean a lot in practical terms – access to mentors and seed funding, for example – something they are acutely aware of. ‘The prize money will enable us to take the next step,’
explains Reagan. ‘But if we don’t win, it won’t be disastrous. One of the things we’ve learnt is to always leave our options open.’

They point out that, whether they win the competition or not, the whole process has been an invaluable experience – they’ve learnt a huge amount about business and about themselves in a very short space of time. ‘It’s made us believe that we can succeed as entrepreneurs,’ Nick explains. ‘We’ve drawn confidence from our experiences.’

Nick’s strength of feeling about doing something ethical surprised him. ‘I never saw myself as someone who would work for a not-for-profit organisation. I didn’t think it was for me,’ he says with refreshing honesty. ‘But the more I researched the market, the more convinced I became that we needed products that give something back to those less fortunate than ourselves. Something just clicked in me.’

Reagan nods his agreement. ‘This is an opportunity for us to make a real difference,’ he says. ‘In the real world you might not be in the position to take risks.’ ‘It’s been a fantastic experience,’ adds Reagan. ‘I’m groping for adjectives to try and describe how exciting it’s been for us.’

As the interview comes to a close, Nick and Reagan emphasise how grateful they are to the University for enabling all this to happen. ‘University is such a safe place to give business a go,’ explains Nick. ‘In the real world you might not be in the position to take risks.’ ‘It’s been a fantastic experience,’ adds Reagan. ‘I’m groping for adjectives to try and describe how exciting it’s been for us.’

Any regrets? ‘Only that we didn’t get involved in the University’s enterprise activities earlier. Imagine if we’d done all this in our second year. Our condoms might already be on the shelves.’

It sounds like the rubber revolution may well be on its way.

Standup Condoms didn’t win the New Enterprise Competition 2008. The first prize went to Professor Christian Allen (BSc 1985, PhD 1993), Asa Morris (MEng 2004, PhD Aerospace Engineering 2005–) and Thomas Rendall (PhD Aerospace Engineering 2005–) from the Department of Aerospace Engineering for Eclat Solution Ltd. Eclat has developed a new technology based on Computational Fluid Dynamics.

Both Nick and Reagan graduated on 11 July with first-class Honours as Masters of Engineering (MEng) in Engineering Design with Study in Industry.

Research and Enterprise Development (RED)
Works with staff, students and industry to ensure that the University’s research and innovation is combined with a vibrant enterprise culture.

SETsquared Business Acceleration Centres
Part of the enterprise partnership between the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Southampton and Surrey. The centres support early-stage, technology-based ventures and provide business mentoring and office space.

Bristol University Business Angels (BUBA)
A student-run consultancy group that provides funding and mentoring support to student entrepreneurs.

Bristol Enterprise Network (BEN)
A network run by the University that supports knowledge transfer among the high-tech, high-growth business community.

Bristol Entrepreneur’s Society
A new society that develops students’ business skills and nourishes entrepreneurship.

New Enterprise Competition
An annual competition designed to inspire and generate new businesses and to stimulate entrepreneurial talent. It’s open to staff, students and graduates of the last five years.

Visit www.bristol.ac.uk/research for more information.

info@standupcondoms.com
Born for business

Bristol has helped produce generations of enterprising alumni. To celebrate their success, the University launched its Enterprise Roll of Honour.

Wolfson Microelectronics designs and supplies the microchips that process digital information into signals we can hear. Its products are at the very heart of some of the world’s most iconic digital consumer products, including Apple’s iPod range.

‘Physics is a great background for business. An analytic approach with an entrepreneurial spirit is an excellent combination for high-tech success.’

Complinet is the market-leading publisher of information and provider of software solutions to the international financial services industry.

‘I think that the hardest obstacle to overcome is lack of belief in your own ideas. Seek counsel from smart people but beware negativity – I remember the general response being that it would never work! Once you have the courage to start, it all seems very natural and you will learn so much on your journey however successful you are.’

Andy Law is the UK’s foremost innovator in the application of creativity to business. He’s worked on some of the country’s most successful ad campaigns, including IKEA (Chuck Out Your Chintz), BT (Connections/Possibilities) and Clarks Shoes (Act Your Shoe Size Not Your Age).

‘I’m a businessman who has chosen to experiment with a group of like-minded experimenters. I’m someone who has chosen to discover whether all the tools we have at our disposal today can make our work lives – such a fundamental part of life itself – more enriching, thought-provoking, interesting, rewarding and fun for everyone.’

Jolly Phonics is used in schools around the world, including some 80 per cent of UK primary schools. It teaches children to read using the 42 main sounds of the English language, not just the 26 letters of the alphabet. Jolly Learning has also developed Jolly Grammar and Jolly Readers.

‘I remember Bristol as a great encourager of enterprise and initiative.’
Hush restaurant, set up by Jamie in 1999, became one of London’s hotspots. In 2005 Jamie purchased Villandry Foodstore and Restaurant in London, a combination of restaurant, bar, foodhall and delicatessen.

‘Take time out to ask yourself this: “Do I really want to be an entrepreneur?” If it’s a question of money, there’s more money in the City. If it’s the flexibility of being your own boss, forget it. But if you still answer yes, if you feel business in your blood and have the courage of your convictions, then go for it!’

John has held Chairmanships and Non-Executive Directorships with a number of companies, including Higham Dunnett Shaw, Druid Group plc and Vamosa Ltd. In addition, John runs his own music production business, Crazeltown Ltd, which focuses on bringing new artists into the market.

‘Without the right support, even the best ideas can become commercial failures. The University’s initiatives for entrepreneurs are there to give that critical support.’

The first Rough Guide to Greece, published in 1982, became a phenomenon. The immediate success of the book spawned a series that rapidly covered dozens of destinations. These days the guides include recommendations from shoestring to luxury and cover more than 200 destinations around the globe.

‘There really are no rules. Just your imagination. And of course, a sense of what’s right.’

Mike started e3media while he was studying at Bristol. It is now the South West’s leading internet and digital agency, working with Orange, BBC, French Connection, Peugeot and several major government agencies.

‘If we can give at least one of the University’s students the drive and inspiration to go and set up their own business on graduation, then we will have succeeded.’

Nick sold his first shirt in 1986 from his room in Bristol’s Victoria Square. The business has since grown to become England’s largest maker of quality shirts through the internet and mail order.

‘Believe. Believe in your business. Believe in yourself. If you keep believing, you will always win. It’s amazing where a load of belief and a little ability can take you.’
Peter Owen is a renowned wigmaker and make-up artist. The big hits from his CV include *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Sleepy Hollow*, and, most famously, *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, which won him an Oscar for ‘Best Makeup’.

‘Being at university showed me it was possible to have a career in the arts. Passion for my work and being able to inject others with this passion has been a great educator and has fed my success and fuelled me for ridiculously hard work in a way ambition never could have.’

Richard Cunningham currently works for a number of developing technology companies in software and intellectual property. He is Chairman of OnRelay Ltd and Octium Ltd. He is also on the investment committee of Herald Ventures II, an early-stage technology fund.

‘Bristol University gave me a sound academic base on which to start my career in the electronics and telecommunications industries. There are plenty of people with great ideas; the trick is to make them into great businesses.’

Coffee Republic, founded by Sahar and her brother in 1995, has grown to be one of the best-known independent espresso bar brands in the UK.

‘There is very much a myth out there that entrepreneurs are these superhuman individuals and that entrepreneurship is this mysterious alchemy practised by a chosen few. Entrepreneurs come in all shapes and sizes – anyone can do it!’

In 1990 Tony had the idea for ‘Quick Address’, which enters your full address when you are asked ‘What is your postcode?’. Tony wrote the software and set up QAS. Address management solutions from QAS now maintain accurate address data for over 9,000 organisations across the globe.

‘True entrepreneurship is about making it happen. We all have a dormant entrepreneur within us – the key to success is working with really good people.’
Emerging entrepreneurs

Rubberductions is an award-winning film company that writes and produces top-quality films, commercials and music videos. Working in both live action and animation, it caters to a modern media market, with films for TV, internet, DVD and cinematic release.

‘I knew I was going to set up my own business before I left university. It was hard, and having no track record or experience of business is always an obstacle for graduate entrepreneurs. But now I relish the freedom and opportunities that running a business brings.

VEQTER Ltd is a leading-edge spin-out company from the University employing a unique technology and expertise for the measurement of stress within large engineering components.

‘I was able to turn my PhD studies into a profitable business, combining my academic vocation with enterprise development. There are huge opportunities for others at the University, both staff and students, to do the same.’

The SpiderGroup team shares a common belief in the ability of leading-edge technology to deliver competitive advantage to the small and medium enterprise market.

‘My business has had huge support from the University’s SETsquared business incubator. Even in the short time I have been in business I can see the step-change in enterprise support here at Bristol and I hope future graduates will take advantage of the range of support available.

Bristol-based nameless Digital Creatives specialises in web and digital media. It’s worked with some pretty big names, including Orange, the NHS, Channel 4, British Airways and Virgin.

‘I came to Bristol as a spod with little life experience and an understanding only of success in academia. When I finally left the University two-and-a-half decades later, I emerged with a much healthier perspective on the difference between wisdom and knowledge, and the courage to take my future into my own hands. As for words of advice, good businesses are built by people who challenge the status quo. Comfort zones are bad. If you can learn to identify when you’re in one, you stand a pretty good chance of breaking out of it and doing something that actually makes a difference.’

Whitepod is a super-stylish, eco-friendly camp perched high in the Swiss Alps. In 2005, Sofia was awarded the Responsible Tourism Award for Innovation and now has plans to develop and expand the Whitepod concept to other areas.

‘My years at Bristol were a memorable and deeply enriching experience. In many ways, they convinced me that anything in life could be achieved with endless belief and passion.

Sofa de Meyer (LLB 1996)
Founder, Whitepod

Jaya Chakrabarti (MSc 1995)
Founder and Managing Director, nameless Digital Creatives

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Jaya Chakrabarti (MSc 1995)

Dale Pratt

nonesuch summer 2008
Where are the women?

Glancing through Bristol’s Enterprise Roll of Honour on the previous pages, one thing is striking: the lack of female faces. So we asked some of our enterprising Bristol women why there aren’t more female entrepreneurs.

Jaya Chakrabarti (MSc 1995), Founder and Managing Director, nameless Digital Creatives

It’s worth saying that I’ve never considered that being a woman has put me at a disadvantage in business compared with my male counterparts. The issues I’ve faced in growing the business have been the same as everyone else and I attribute my success to my ability to take good advice and listen to my gut (as well as my head), while my failures have usually been caused by my lack of experience.

Sure, some men found a technically-literate girl a little too intimidating to do business with (that whole dominant-male hand-shake thing was quite amusing for a time!), but an equal number of savvy business people were able to deal with me far more maturely.

People do business with people they like and trust and I had no more desire to do business with men who could not take advice from women than they would want to do business with me.

OK, back to the point. Why do I think there are so few women entrepreneurs, especially in the high-technology sector?

It’s probably fair to say that the number of girls involved with high technology at degree level is still disproportionately low, so it inevitably means less flow-through to high-technology private sector ventures.

Women in academia still have to work ten times as hard as a man to go up the career ladder – I have this direct from friends still working within the system. So you would think that more would get out and think about doing their own thing. Academia is very seductive, however, and this means the little niggles get overlooked.

While the women who make it in academia would make outstanding entrepreneurs, they seem to stay within the cocoon, as I nearly did. I was lucky in that I was unhappy enough during my PhD years to start to wonder what life would be like on the outside. Getting a part-time job with a digital creative company allowed me to discover that I actually had transferable skills, including ones that I’d never been given the scope to exercise before. I learned then that running a company was not rocket science and with a passion for creativity, and probably a lot of naivety on my part, we were able to start our dream company.

If we want more women running businesses, high-technology or otherwise, we need to look at what schools are teaching our kids, and where their role models are coming from. My inspiration for science was born out of having a doctor and a mathematician for parents, the Feynman Lectures on Physics and, more embarrassingly, MacGyver. My business inspiration came from tasting the freedom of running a small sub-company on a part-time basis. Not everyone is blessed with this sort of experience, but access to role models makes a real difference to aspirations.

I don’t believe that most women are out there thinking, ‘I want to start a business but I can’t because I’m a woman’. It is all about awareness of what is possible. Thanks to business-related reality shows and business-savy universities with growing facilities for spin-outs, I think there is a much greater awareness of entrepreneurialism – not aimed just at women but at the whole population. The worm is slowly turning, and I’m pretty certain there will be more and more women jumping out of their comfort zones and into the adrenaline rush that comes with starting and growing a business. The hat-trick would be if we can get more women into the sciences at the same time.
Women and Equality, the biggest motivating factor that participants identified for going it alone was to achieve a better work–life balance. Many also reported increased independence and confidence and a greater sense of self-worth. And, in truth, female entrepreneurship is rising – there are now more than a million self-employed women in Britain – a 17 per cent rise since 2000. But men are still twice as likely as women to start a new business.

Work, for both men and women, is one of the defining attributes of adult life: it is associated with well-being, social identity, social connection, physical and mental activity, a sense of purpose, personal fulfilment and so on. And, as an executive coach and educator, I want to see more women (as well as more men) achieve their fullest potential as organisational leaders – whether they work for others or for themselves.

Most established organisations have long recognised that it makes good business sense to ensure that their boardroom is representative of their wider stakeholder base. Realising that early progress towards achieving gender equality is not being sustained, they are introducing new measures (such as open recruitment processes, mentoring schemes and family-friendly policies) to encourage more women to step forward for executive roles. Now we need to think creatively about what support is necessary for those women whose life choice is self-employment. Entrepreneurship makes a huge contribution to the UK economy as well as providing those many personal benefits that successful women entrepreneurs enjoy: it is therefore in everyone’s interest that we unlock the UK’s productivity potential by promoting these women-led enterprises.

So, back to the question of why there are not more female entrepreneurs. We know from the Government’s survey that women who do set up a business often find it difficult to secure finance for their project, and that they would appreciate a mentor to guide them during the early months of their new career. Harriet Harman has therefore committed to introduce measures to attend to these needs. But we also know that fear of failure is a major concern to women who aspire to go it alone. I know, from my personal experience of becoming my own boss, how easy it is to theorise an opportunity away to nothing, by focusing too much on the risks. If fear of failure is preventing women from even daring to dream the good idea that is necessary to found any successful business, then we need to find ways to build their confidence at a much earlier stage of their entrepreneurial journeys. The statistics are encouraging: enterprises led by women are no more likely to fail than those led by men, and nine out of ten women who have set up a business report that, having done it once, they would do it all over again. So, to any women with entrepreneurial flair who are contemplating taking what is undoubtedly a courageous step to venture out alone, I would say: ‘Steel yourself for a large measure of hard work and then dream that good idea!’. Just the business of dreaming may be all that it takes to move from possibility to reality.

The Chaos Game is an Aberdeen-based consultancy which designs and delivers leadership development programmes in association with the NTL Institute for Applied Behavioural Science. Kate is co-writing a book on the adult development journey, Finding Merlin, which is due for publication in 2009.
Sophie Coleman (BSc 2007), winner of the undergraduate prize in the University’s New Enterprise Competition 2007

It may be surprising to some that as little as 14 per cent of all small businesses in the UK are majority owned by women (Annual Small Business Survey 2006). Perhaps a more telling statistic is that less than two per cent of all venture capital in the UK is committed to business start-ups advanced by women.

Is this because women are underdogs in the world of UK business fighting against a glass ceiling, or is it more closely related to the need for women to embark on an entrepreneurial career at an earlier age than men?

Many under-25-year-olds have yet to focus on their long-term goals. For most, the first five to ten years of their careers are spent developing business and potential entrepreneurial skills. This seems to be evidenced by the findings of the Annual Small Business Survey 2006, which recorded that just nine per cent of all entrepreneurs in the UK were aged under 35. It could be argued that this state of affairs directly contributes to women not becoming entrepreneurs because by the time they are ready to start their own businesses, they are having to address the necessary compromise of their work–life balance, particularly in relation to children, and may well choose a career in a more flexible corporate environment.

As the last of the ‘baby boomers’ set off into retirement, savvy companies, many previously thought to have been male-dominated, are now highly committed to attracting, maintaining and developing the most talented people regardless of their race, age or gender. In particular, many companies are tackling the lack of female role models for young women moving up the business ladder in their organisations in an attempt to leverage their talent more effectively.

Happily, things are also changing on the entrepreneurial front. Networks of organisations have developed which have as their focus the support and growth of women’s business ownership.

Even the Government has come on board and Alistair Darling has recently announced a £12.5 million capital fund to encourage women entrepreneurs.

There has never been a better time for strong-minded women with a positive attitude to overcome life’s obstacles to get networking and set up shop.
Main picture: Claire Young (BSc 2001); inset: Sir Alan Sugar and *The Apprentice* hopefuls
How would you describe your *Apprentice* experience? 

*The Apprentice* was an amazing experience for me. It was life-changing. I entered the show to be challenged, to be tested and to learn, and feel that I got ten times more out of it than I expected.

Why do you think you did so well? 

I’m very honest and I think people like the fact that I was straightforward, genuine and not playing a game. I also changed during the 12 weeks and lots of people have commented that they enjoyed watching this.

How did you feel when you lost to Lee in the final? 

Initially I was devastated. I fought blood, sweat and tears to get to the final. Being so close to winning and then coming second was hard. But then after a day of tears I got myself together and started planning the future!

Why do you think Sir Alan didn’t pick you to become his apprentice? Do you think he made a mistake? 

Lee and I are like chalk and cheese and I think Sir Alan felt Lee was more suitable for the job he had planned. I don’t think he made a mistake; he knows what works in his office and the guy is worth £830 million so I’m not going to argue with him!

You have said that Sir Alan didn’t pick you because you are a woman. Have you come up against much discrimination as a woman in business? 

What I’ve said has been taken out of context. In the series to date, Sir Alan has employed three men and only one woman, but I don’t think gender has anything to do with it – he just chooses the best person he has in mind for the job.

What was the high point? And low point? And what was the biggest challenge for you? 

The highest point was winning the ice-cream task. If we’d lost I would have got fired. The lowest point was the photography task and being thrown out of the boardroom. The biggest challenge was living with 15 other people 24/7 and having no time to myself.

What has it been like since the end of the show? How have you coped with the media attention? 

Life has been crazy since the show finished. In the past four weeks, I’ve only had one day off. I’ve had hundreds of offers for business and media work. I’m very thankful that the media have been kind to me, though I’m still not used to them following me!

Did your time at University teach you anything that helped you on *The Apprentice*? 

We were always challenged to really think outside the box and push ourselves, and ultimately this is what *The Apprentice* does for 12 intense weeks. Studying requires focus, drive, logic, discipline and passion – all of which helped in the show.

What next? What does the future hold for you? 

Over the next few months I’m going to have a holiday, focus on charity work (I’m currently helping a charity called the Kids Company) and suitable media before relocating to Birmingham and going to work for Karren Brady at Birmingham City.

Do you see yourself as an entrepreneur? Have you ever thought about starting your own business? 

In my last role as a retail buyer I treated my category as my own business and used new ideas and processes which delivered positive results. By the time I’m 35 I’ll have my own business.

Any tips for *Nonesuch* readers who fancy themselves as the next apprentice? 

Go on the BBC website and apply – go for it! It’s an amazing experience. Be prepared that it will probably be one of the toughest things you’ll ever do.

Do you have fond memories of your time at Bristol? 

I love Bristol and often come back to see friends still there. It’s a great University with excellent lecturers in a fun city. It was nice to have students from overseas. Outside of London it’s probably the best city I’ve lived in – it has it all.

*The Apprentice* is a multi-award-winning BBC One series. Self-made millionaire, Sir Alan Sugar, challenges 16 aspiring tycoons to battle it out for the prize of a six-figure salary and the opportunity to work for him. Over 20,000 people applied to take part in series four and 7.9 million people tuned in to watch the final.
The highs are being your own boss and getting to steer and manage the project in every last detail, seeing your idea take shape and building the business.

The initial idea
Having completed my politics degree, I was uncertain as to what career path to follow. I knew I wanted to start my own business, but without any relevant experience I found it hard to think of a good idea. A year or two out of university I got talking to my now business partner, Tom Cull, a talented chef with whom I had become friends while at Bristol. He was running a wedding and events catering company called Dartmoor Kitchen and had also developed a range of gourmet pies, hand-made using only the best ingredients. Dartmoor Kitchen already supplied these pies to a large number of pubs and delis in Devon, so we thought it would be a great idea to start retailing them to the public ourselves.

Starting out
It took about 12 months after having the original idea to open the shop. Raising the necessary money was tough and after that we had to find a good location, which meant an agonising wait as we were raring to go. This done, we employed a team of shopfitters, started recruiting staff and worked closely with a friend, a graphic designer, to complete the website and shop interior.

The highs and lows
The highs are being your own boss and getting to steer and manage the project in every last detail, seeing your idea take shape and building the business. We have a great team in the shop and I’m proud of how the place runs now. The lows are long hours and high levels of stress and uncertainty while you find your feet and establish yourself in what is a particularly competitive area for food. There are numerous obstacles to overcome but at least this means it’s never boring!

The skills you need to make it
It helps to be flexible and willing to observe and adapt as necessary. I didn’t have any experience in this area and so made a number of mistakes, but you learn quickly and move on. With any business you need to be prepared to risk pretty much everything and above all you need to really want a successful business, otherwise the drive and energy needed isn’t there.

Tom’s Pies serves award-winning pies, gourmet coffee and a lovingly prepared range of hand-made Devonshire dishes and desserts. Wherever possible, the produce is local, seasonal and ethically sourced in the West Country. The first outlet opened on Clifton Triangle at the top of Bristol’s Park Street earlier this year. www.toms-website.co.uk.
A different take

Third-year computer science students produced some spectacular images when they were asked to ‘previsualise’ a sculpture based on the University’s logo. After selecting a digital photograph of a location in the world, they rendered the geometry such that when merged with the photograph the sculpture appears to be real.

From the collections

Illustration of a fire engine, 1751.
It was included in an advert that promoted the range of engines made by Adam Nuttall, ‘Engine-maker to His Majesty’s Royal Navy’.

Mr Nuttall describes his engines as able to ‘sooner extinguish the flames in buildings than any engines hitherto contrived’. ‘All that is possible to be required of an engine is performed by mine,’ he continues. ‘The parts being made of the best and most substantial materials; the cisterns are made of good large English oak quartered and well seasoned, the joints of the cisterns are lined with copper and nailed with brass nails and the wheels are completely shod with iron.’

The advert is part of the Pinney Papers, deposited by the Pinney family in the University’s Special Collections Library.
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.

Alumni (in order of degree date)

Bressington (née Weston), Mrs Ella (Education 1927) died 29 May 2008, aged 100.

Hall, Miss Mabel (BSc 1932, Diploma 1932) died 18 May 2008, aged 97.

Sagar, Mr John (BA 1933, MA 1935) died 21 February 2007, aged 95.

Evans, Mr Harold Osborne (BSc 1937) died 13 March 2008, aged 94.

Molyneux (née Spiller), Mrs Isabel (BA 1938, Diploma 1939) died 15 August 2007, aged 89.

Symmons, Mr Harold Furze (BSc 1940) died 2008, aged 90.


Carey, Mr Peter Beauchamp (BDS 1941) died 1 March 2008, aged 88.

Orchard, Mr David Robert (BSc 1942) died 2008, aged 85.

Burge, Mr Eric Johnston (BSc 1948) died 6 June 2008, aged 81.

Sutcliffe (née Jones), Mrs Nona Marjorie Hunt (BA 1948) (Certificate in Education 1950) died 11 November 2007, aged 79.

Bennett, Mr William (BA 1949, Certificate in Education 1954) died 11 February 2008, aged 79.

Marder (née Best), Miss Joan Vera (BA 1949) died 22 February 2008, aged 79.

Berry (née Morgan), Dr Elizabeth Mary (MB ChB 1949) died 17 February 2008, aged 83.

Armstrong, Dr Edwin Keith (BSc 1950) died 2008, aged 79.

Bellhouse (née Jeffery McCrae), Mrs Sheila Margaret (BA 1951) died 14 March 2008, aged 78.

Attree, Mr Hugh Grimshaw (BSc 1951) died 7 April 2008, aged 85.

Olive, Mr Lloyd William (BSc 1951) died 22 March 2008, aged 82.

Thomas, Mr Antony Talbot (BSc 1951) died 26 February 2008, aged 80.

Willis, Mr Ernest Cyril Edwin (BSc 1951, Certificate in Education 1952) died April 2008, aged 86.

Fairbank, Mr Brian John Carol (LLB 1951) died 6 February 2008, aged 82.

Barnes, Dr Robert Michael (MB ChB 1951) died 31 January 2008, aged 81.


Whiteside, Professor Derek Thomas (BA 1954) died April 2008, aged 76.


Maddrick, Mr Bernard Donovan (BSc 1957) died 1 January 2008, aged 72.

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

Zamodits (née Corner), Mrs Josephine Janet (BSc 1957) died 20 February 2007, aged 71.

Milling, Dr Hugh Edgar (MB ChB 1957) died 4 May 2007, aged 81.

Sharpe (née Lavigne), Mrs Stella (BSc 1958, MSc 1962) died 27 February 2008.

Telford, Mr Alan John (LLB 1958) died 2005, aged 71.

Artfield (née Brentnall), Mrs Janet Ruth (Testamur 1958) died 2007, aged 71.

Swainston, Mrs Isabel Mary (BA 1961), died 7 June 2008, aged 68.


Hooper, Mr Timothy Douglas (BSc 1963) died 13 February 2006, aged 66.

Higgs, Sir Derek Alan FCA LLD (BA 1965, Honorary LLD 2005) died 28 April 2008, aged 64.

Dalton (née Blanchford), Mrs Anne Veronica (BSc 1965, BSc 1967) died 14 March 2008, aged 63.

Field (née Hauskind), Lady Lynne (BA 1968) died December 2007, aged 60.

Patient (née Ridgers), Mrs Kathleen Anne (BA 1968) died 11 April 2008, aged 61.

Richards (née Gates), Mrs Lorna Frances (BA 1968) died 7 April 2008, aged 61.

Pearson, Mr Geoffrey Windsor (MEd 1968) died 31 May 2006.

Thomas, Mr Simon (BSc 1969, MSc 1971) died 12 April 2008, aged 60.

Cooper, Mr Steven William (BSc 1970) died October 2007, aged 58.

Wardley, Dr Richard Calvert (BVSc 1970, PhD 1975) died April 2008.

Hewitt, Judge Timothy (LLB 1972) died 24 November 2007, aged 56.

Rosser, Mr Brian Leonard (PhD 1972) died 12 April 2008, aged 61.

Jackson, Mr Thomas Stuart (BSc 1973) died 14 May 2008, aged 71.

Singer, Mr Jeremy Paul (BSc 1973) died 2007, aged 67.

Wrigley (née O’Driscoll), Mrs Geraldine Mary (BSc 1974) died 5 April 2008, aged 55.

Corkill, Dr Michael John (BSc 1975, PhD 1979) died 27 March 2008, aged 53.

Sacey, Mr Richard Nicholas (BSc 1978) died August 2005, aged 48.

Weir, Jacqueline (BVSc 1978) died 2007, aged 53.

Mayer, Dr Robert David (MB ChB 1983) died 4 June 2008.

Freeland (née Harrison), Mrs Mary Elizabeth (Certificate 1983) died 2005, aged 62.

Richardson, Mr Colin (Certificate 1983).

Chanarin, Dr Nicholas (MB ChB 1987) died 2008, aged 47.


Fell (née Hilton), Mrs Carolyn Jane (BA 1991) died 12 August 2007, aged 37.

Hetherington, Dr Karen Jean (BSc 1994, PhD 1998) died 28 April 2008, aged 36.

Taleb, Dr Khalil (PhD 2002) died 5 September 2007, aged 49.

Farage, Mr Shadie Ebrahim (BSc 2002) died 26 March 2007, aged 26.

Trusselle (née Hooper), Dr Melanie (BSc 2002) died 26 March 2007, aged 26.

Hetherington, Dr Karen Jean (BSc 1994, PhD 1998) died 28 April 2008, aged 36.

Taleb, Dr Khalil (PhD 2002) died 5 September 2007, aged 49.

Farage, Mr Shadie Ebrahim (BSc 2002) died 26 March 2007, aged 26.

Trusselle (née Hooper), Dr Melanie (BSc 2002) died 26 March 2007, aged 26.
Your news

Janet Davis (née Barrell) (BA 1958) went to the US on a graduate fellowship, married an American lawyer and has lived there ever since. When their two children were in their teens, she returned to graduate school and earned an MA and PhD. She has enjoyed a second career as a college teacher.

Michael Dixon (BSc 1959, Cert Ed 1960) has been elected Mayor of Cambridge for 2008/09.

Mary Knight (BA 1960) is married to a mathematician and they have two children. She is a writer and printer maker.

Jim Fussell (BSc 1968, MSc 1977) is now also known as James Gale, singer-songwriter. See www.myspace.com/jamesgale1.

Maura High (née Lauder) (BA 1968) is a freelance editor and a trained wildland fire-fighter living in the US. She returns to the UK for reunions with friends from the Bristol Speleological Society.

Michael Luke (BA 1968) teaches part time in the School of Education at Boston University. A former member of the University rugby team, Michael went on to play for, and captain, the Canadian team. He is now Regional Training Coordinator for the International Rugby Board in North America.

Sarah Maitland (BA 1968) spent a year post graduation working on an African Primate Project in Senegal’s Niokola Koba Park. She then worked in the City as an investment analyst. She lives on a small farm near Eastbourne.

Helen Poole (BA 1968) currently works for the Sussex Archaeological Society. For the last four years her holidays have been taken up with a new line as a lecturer on cruises in the Mediterranean and Red Sea.

Jenny Rees (BSc 1968, PhD 1971) lives on a farm near Hay-on-Wye. She is a director of a biotechnology company and a recycling company. In collaboration with illustrator Nerys Davies, she is bringing out a book of collected articles about the farm.

Roger Wood (BSc 1968) is married to Thomasine Thomas (BA 1970) and has three children and five grandsons. Roger has spent 36 years in business as a finance director of international FTSE 100 companies. In the past eight years, he has invested in selected small companies.

Philip Corsano (BSc 1978) will move to Seattle in September to launch a second hedge fund in the US.

Sister Ruth Furneaux (formerly Avril Furneaux, née Lord) (BA 1978) is Spiritual Director of the Archbishop Rowan Williams Hermitage Trust. She will shortly move to a hermitage in the Welsh mountains. She is in life vows as a hermit.

Paul Mundy (BSc 1978) is an independent consultant in development communication, working mainly in Asia and Africa. After graduating from Bristol, he taught English with VSO in Egypt and Indonesia before studying for his MA and PhD in communication in the USA.

Joanna Nyirenda (née Middleton) (BA 1978) is a manager in the Student Services Centre at the University of Reading. She recently celebrated her silver wedding anniversary.

Margaret Eleanor Pugh (née King) (BA 1978) is married to Vyvyan Pugh and has two children. Since her children left for university she has returned to work in administration.

Gary Storey (BSc 1978) lives in Neuquen, Patagonia, Argentina, where he started his own oilfield service company five years ago.

Mark Tringham (PhD 1978) has worked as a petroleum geologist since graduating. He currently works for Venture Production in Aberdeen.

Jeremy Thomas (BSc 1983) will be leaving Blundell’s School, Tiverton at the end of this term to take up a new post teaching physics at Portsmouth Grammar School.

Paul Vittles (BSc 1983) lives and works in Sydney. He was recently appointed Director and Executive Coach with the global research firm TNS. He is active within the Australian Market and Social Research Society.

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

Matt Ashley (LLB 1999) is secretary of the Bristol Bridge Rotary club (www.bristolbridgerotary.org.uk). Formed in 2007, the club aims to provide networking opportunities for Bristol’s young professionals.

Ben Holt (LLB 2000) and Clare Lomas (BSc 2000) are getting married on 16 August 2008 at Westonbirt Arboretum.


Georgios Papadakis (MSc 2002) and Matina Kalyveza (MB ChB 2002) married and recently became parents.


Frances Morton (PhD 2005) is Acting Head of the Scottish Music Department at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Lost friends

Kate Wong (Née Innes) is looking for Lorna Bennett (BA 1967).

Alfred James Martin (MB ChB 1972) would like to regain contact with Ken Gould (BSc 1969).

Anthony Pelopida (LLB 1958) and Paul Batterbury (LLB 1958) would like to regain contact with Beryl Jenkins (LLB 1958).

Moti Gokulsing (BA 1961) would like to regain contact with Ian Falconer (BA 1959) and Brian Davies (BA 1959).

Ivor P Morgan (BSc 1961) would like to regain contact with Peter Le Feuvre (BA 1961).

Marco Marsh (Electrical and Electronic Engineering 2007-) would like to make contact with alumni who knew his father, Clive W Marsh (BSc 1972, PhD 1978). Email alumni@bristol.ac.uk and the alumni relations team will forward your message.
Alumni news

An enterprising evening
Nigel Wray (BSc 1970, Hon LLD 2005), owner of Saracens Rugby Club, hosted a drinks party for Bristol’s entrepreneurial alumni in May. Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004) and David Langley, the University’s Director of Research and Enterprise Development, were also present to celebrate entrepreneurial talent. Members of the University’s student-run investment company, Bristol University Business Angels, came along to gain expert advice.

Back together in the Baltic
They had not seen each other for 45 years until a trip of a lifetime to the Baltic resulted in a surprise reunion for David Gibby (BSc 1962) and his wife Jeannette (née Pope) (BA 1963) with fellow Bristol graduate John Robinson (BA 1963). The trip was part of the Cruising Association’s centenary celebrations.

Blake family engineering legacy
David Blake, Professor of Bone and Joint Medicine at the University of Bath, recently visited the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering to meet past and present recipients of the Professor Leslie Reginald Blake Memorial Fund. The legacy, awarded to the department in 2004 by the Blake family in memory of Professor Leslie Reginald Blake (BSc 1945, DSc 1967), is used to support student bursaries.

Media in the digital age
A panel of experts including Josh Burrows (Classics 2005– ), Editor of the student newspaper Epigram, Alexandra Frean (BA 1985), Education Editor, The Times, and Simon Waldman (BA 1988), Director of Digital Strategy and Development with Guardian Media Group, discussed ‘media in the digital age’ at an event in London for Bristol alumni in April. The evening was hosted by BP plc at its St James’s Square offices.

Hong Kong Club
April saw a visit to Hong Kong by Tania-Jane Rawlinson, Bristol’s Director of Campaigns and Alumni Relations. It was her first trip to Hong Kong and she marked it in style by hosting a reception for Bristol alumni at the Hong Kong Club. Around 100 people attended, representing alumni from the 1940s through to 2008.

VC in the US
Over 40 alumni, guests and prospective students attended a presentation and reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004), at the Sofitel, New York. The event attracted an impressive cross-section of alumni, from recent graduates posted in the US to ex-pats now settled in the States. The headquarters of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education in Washington DC was the venue for another gathering of US alumni and prospective students.
The **Bristol Heart Institute** is a recognised international centre of excellence for cardiovascular research and its work is leading to improvements in cardiac surgery, in the treatment of high blood pressure, heart failure and coronary heart disease and in the prevention of potentially dangerous disturbances in heart rhythm.

Heart disease accounts for almost half of all deaths in the UK – 250,000 people a year – and affects both women and men. Worryingly, the number continues to increase year after year.

**Professor Gianni Angelini**  
BHF Professor of Cardiac Surgery

By leaving a **gift in your will** to the **Bristol Heart Institute** you can make a much-needed contribution towards confining heart disease to history.

**Anyone can leave a legacy. Think about it.**

For further information please contact:  
Laura Serratrice, Planned Giving Manager, University of Bristol  
Tel: +44 (0)117 331 7560, email: laura.serratrice@bristol.ac.uk
Event: Western Canada and US West Coast Alumni Joint Reunion

Where: Vancouver BC

Who’s invited: Alumni living in Western Canada and the US West Coast

When: Saturday 20 September 2008

Tell me more: John Weaver (BSc 1953) from the Western Canada Alumni group, and John Binsted (BA 1954) and Jane Camblin (BA 1973) from the Western US group, have decided to hold a joint reunion weekend in Vancouver BC.

While the Canadians will be hosting the event, it is hoped that alumni from south of the border will join the celebrations. For more information, or to register your interest, contact John Binsted at jbinsted99@cs.com or John Weaver at jtweaver@shaw.ca.

Event: ‘What it Takes’ with Niall McCann, Atlantic rower

Where: Officer Training Corps, Whiteladies Road, Bristol

Who’s invited: All alumni, staff, students and friends of the University

When: Thursday 16 October 2008, 6pm

Tell me more: Come and hear Niall McCann (BSc 2004) talk about what it takes to row across the Atlantic Ocean as part of a two-man team that overcame a medical emergency, storms and failing equipment.

Niall has also led a scientific expedition into the Amazon, cycled the highest paved pass in the world between China and Pakistan, and mountaineered all over the world. Niall will embark on a PhD studying the population genetics of the Western Lowland Gorilla in the spring of 2009. The lecture is free, but please book your place online.
Events diary

Sunday 17 August
Behind the Scenes: Aveline’s Hole Mesolithic cemetery, Mendip Hills, Somerset
A rare opportunity to visit the oldest Mesolithic cemetery in Europe.

Wednesday 10 September
Gathering for alumni in and around Chicago
Contact Odette Cann (BA 1997) at ocann@carvill.com.

12-14 September
Eastern Canada Reunion weekend
A weekend at Brown’s Bay Inn on Wolfe Island, Lake Ontario. Contact John Bull (BSc 1958) at john_bull@sympatico.ca.

Saturday 20 September
Western Canada and US West Coast Alumni Joint Reunion in Vancouver BC

Monday 22 September
Birmingham alumni evening
Talk by Nick Paul (BSc 1966), Chairman of Advantage West Midlands, followed by a drinks reception

Monday 13 October
London 2012
What will the Olympic games in 2012 mean for London? What does working for the Olympic committee entail? These topics will be discussed by our panel, to include Neil Wood (BSc 2008), Finance Director, London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games.

Thursday 16 October
‘What it Takes’ with Niall McCann, Atlantic rower

Friday 24 and Saturday 25 October
Celebrating 75 years of Law at Bristol
The Right Honorable Baroness Hale of Richmond (Hon LLD 2002), will give a talk on Friday evening. A range of activities are on offer on Saturday afternoon followed by an evening drinks reception and dinner. For further information, contact Shirley Knights at shirley.a.knights@bristol.ac.uk, tel +44 (0)117 954 5344, or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/law/news/2008/18.html.

Thursday 30 October
Lecture by Lord David Hunt
The third annual lecture to the London Branch of Convocation will be given by former Conservative Cabinet Minister, Lord (David) Hunt (LLB 1965, Hon LLD 2008) in the House of Lords. For further information, contact lords@4088.co.uk.

Wednesday 26 November
Bristol alumni networks
A panel discussion on Emerging Markets.

Wednesday 3 December
Behind the Scenes: Evening tasting of Cockburn’s Port

Thursday 11 December
Annual Convocation Reception

Tell me more:
Go behind the scenes with this Cockburn’s Port evening. This tasting session with Port expert, Matthew Hudson, will feature the history of the drink, a journey of the imagination up the magical Douro river where Port is made, and, of course, a tasting of the styles and qualities of Port from the house of Cockburn’s, founded in 1815. Tickets £18 each. This event has been kindly supported by John Harvey & Sons.

Event: Behind the Scenes: Evening tasting of Cockburn’s Port
Where: London Capital Club
Who’s invited: All alumni
When: Wednesday 3 December 2008, 7.30pm

Centenary celebrations
2009 is a historic year for the University and you are all invited to a very special Centenary Alumni 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 and ask your friends to do the same.

Unless otherwise stated, find out more information about events at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events
This is my Bristol

Nigel Wray (BSc 1970, Hon LLD 2005)

Were there any academics or other members of staff who made a particular impression on you?
Absolutely none.

What do you think Bristol’s role is today?
We live in a hugely competitive world and this applies to universities. Bristol has to be among the best and has to have big ambitions. Bristol’s up there where it deserves to be – among the best – but it needs to fight to stay there and move forward.

Where did you live?
Wills Hall in the first year, which was a bit old-fashioned. In the third year I lived on Royal York Crescent. It wasn’t grand back in those days – it was dilapidated and cost £6 a week in rent. But it was amazing. The name evokes what is so special about Clifton.

Do you ever come back to Bristol?
I do – lots. I’m very involved in sport at the University and support the high performance programme. I came back a month or so ago for a sports dinner. The sun was shining and Clifton was just a joy. My daughter studied at Bristol as well.

What were your first impressions?
I was fortunate enough to be based in Clifton, which is just stunning.

Do you have any tips or words of advice for Bristol freshers?
Go for it. And try not to use the word ‘can’t’.

What kind of student were you?
Absolutely normal. I remember going to a 9am lecture on a Friday and thinking that I must be the only person in Britain up at that time of the day! Of course, you soon learn that you’re not!

Sum up your Bristol experience in three words
I can do it in two words: great memories. I wouldn’t be surprised if most Bristol graduates said the same thing. It’s that sort of place.

Why did you choose Bristol?
To be perfectly honest, I didn’t get into Cambridge! Bristol had a great reputation and I just liked the feel of the place.

And were there any lowlights?
None. Absolutely none. It was a great period of my life. It was when I grew up.

What were your highlights?
All the people I met and the friends I made. I now recognise what an enormous privilege it was to go to a place like Bristol.

And away from study?
Sport. I played lots of rugby. I’ve always loved team sports and that great spirit of camaraderie.

What are the key things that your time at Bristol gave you?
It’s subliminal really. Time at university is one of the building blocks that makes you who you are. Bristol gave me something. I can’t really define it, but it’s there and it’s important.

How has your time at Bristol influenced your career?
Similar to my answer to the above. I could say it gave me huge discipline and helped me develop wonderful concentration, but it didn’t; it’s just a huge part of who I am.

Nigel Wray (BSc 1970, Hon LLD 2005) is widely recognised for his entrepreneurship. A well-known property investor, he holds directorships of around 25 companies, including Domino’s Pizza UK and Ireland. He is the owner of Saracens Rugby Club.
Parting shot


LARS was established in 1903 to study and improve the West Country cider industry. Although its work expanded into fruit and arable crop research, its Cider House remained a central focus – over 80 years, its work transformed cider from a farmhouse drink into one of much wider appeal.

For a long time its Long Ashton Cider was only available through a few outlets within the University. In 1982, facing closure, the Cider House ramped up its production with the aim of becoming self-financing.
University of Bristol spin-out companies have raised over £25 million of investment in the last year alone.